

2753

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 2, 2009

Introduced by Sen. C. JOHNSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the civil practice law and
rules, in relation to prohibiting individuals from transmitting
misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the
intent to defraud, harass, mislead, or cause harm to any person

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section
2 399-ppp to read as follows:
3 S 399-PPP. PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF DECEPTIVE CALLER IDENTIFICATION
4 INFORMATION. 1. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON WITHIN THE STATE, IN
5 CONNECTION WITH ANY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OR VOIP SERVICE, TO CAUSE
6 ANY CALLER IDENTIFICATION SERVICE TO TRANSMIT MISLEADING OR INACCURATE
7 CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION, WITH THE INTENT TO DEFRAUD, HARASS,
8 MISLEAD, OR CAUSE HARM TO ANY PERSON WHEN MAKING A CALL TO ANOTHER
9 PERSON WITHIN THE STATE.
10 2. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT OR RESTRICT
11 ANY PERSON FROM BLOCKING THE CAPABILITY OF ANY CALLER IDENTIFICATION
12 SERVICE TO TRANSMIT CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.
13 3. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:
14 (A) "CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION PROVIDED TO
15 AN END USER BY A CALLER IDENTIFICATION SERVICE REGARDING THE TELEPHONE
16 NUMBER OF, OR OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORIGINATION OF, A CALL
17 MADE USING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OR VOIP SERVICE.
18 (B) "CALLER IDENTIFICATION SERVICE" MEANS ANY SERVICE OR DEVICE
19 DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE USER OF THE SERVICE OR DEVICE WITH THE TELEPHONE
20 NUMBER OF, OR OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORIGINATION OF, A CALL
21 MADE USING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OR VOIP SERVICE. SUCH TERM
22 INCLUDES AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION SERVICES.
23 (C) "VOIP SERVICE" MEANS A SERVICE THAT:
24 (I) PROVIDES REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTED THROUGH END
25 USER EQUIPMENT USING TCP/IP PROTOCOL, OR A SUCCESSOR PROTOCOL, FOR A FEE
26 OR WITHOUT A FEE; AND

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (II) IS OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC, OR SUCH CLASSES OF USERS AS TO BE
2 EFFECTIVELY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC (WHETHER PART OF A BUNDLE OF
3 SERVICES OR SEPARATELY); AND

4 (III) HAS THE CAPABILITY TO ORIGINATE TRAFFIC TO, OR TERMINATE TRAFFIC
5 FROM, THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK.

6 4. WHENEVER THERE SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICATION
7 MAY BE MADE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW YORK TO A COURT OR JUSTICE HAVING JURISDICTION TO ISSUE AN
9 INJUNCTION, AND UPON NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT, TO IMMEDIATELY ENJOIN AND
10 RESTRAIN THE CONTINUANCE OF SUCH VIOLATIONS; AND IF IT SHALL APPEAR TO
11 THE SATISFACTION OF THE COURT OR JUSTICE, BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE
12 EVIDENCE, THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS, IN FACT, VIOLATED THIS SECTION AN
13 INJUNCTION MAY BE ISSUED BY SUCH COURT OR JUSTICE ENJOINING AND
14 RESTRAINING ANY FURTHER VIOLATION, WITHOUT REQUIRING PROOF THAT ANY
15 PERSON HAS, IN FACT, BEEN INJURED OR DAMAGED THEREBY. THE COURT MAY MAKE
16 ALLOWANCES TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH SIX OF
17 SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION EIGHTY-THREE HUNDRED THREE OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE
18 LAW AND RULES. IN ADDITION TO ANY SUCH ALLOWANCES, THE COURT MAY
19 DIRECT RESTITUTION TO ANY VICTIM UPON A SHOWING OF DAMAGES BY A PREPON-
20 DERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE. IN ADDITION TO ANY SUCH RESTITUTION, WHENEVER
21 THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION HAS OCCURRED,
22 THE COURT MAY IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND
23 DOLLARS PER CALL, UP TO A TOTAL AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF NOT MORE THAN ONE
24 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, FOR ALL CALLS PLACED IN VIOLATION OF THIS
25 SECTION WITHIN A CONTINUOUS SEVENTY-TWO HOUR PERIOD. IN CONNECTION WITH
26 ANY SUCH PROPOSED APPLICATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS AUTHORIZED TO
27 TAKE PROOF AND MAKE A DETERMINATION OF THE RELEVANT FACTS AND TO ISSUE
28 SUBPOENAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.

29 5. IN ADDITION TO THE RIGHT OF ACTION GRANTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
30 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ANY PERSON WHOSE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFOR-
31 MATION WAS USED IN CONNECTION WITH A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION OR WHO
32 HAS RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING AN
33 ACTION IN HIS OR HER OWN NAME TO ENJOIN SUCH UNLAWFUL ACT OR PRACTICE,
34 AN ACTION TO RECOVER THE GREATER OF (A) HIS OR HER ACTUAL DAMAGES, OR
35 (B) AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER CALL, UP
36 TO A TOTAL AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND
37 DOLLARS FOR ALL CALLS PLACED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION WITHIN A
38 CONTINUOUS SEVENTY-TWO HOUR PERIOD; OR BOTH SUCH ACTIONS. THE COURT
39 SHALL AWARD REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES TO A PREVAILING PLAINTIFF.

40 S 2. Paragraph 6 of subdivision (a) of section 8303 of the civil prac-
41 tice law and rules, as amended by chapter 530 of the laws of 2002, is
42 amended to read as follows:

43 6. to the plaintiffs in an action or proceeding brought by the [attor-
44 ney-general] ATTORNEY GENERAL under [articles] ARTICLE twenty-two, twen-
45 ty-two-A, twenty-three-A or thirty-three or section three hundred nine-
46 ty-one-b, THREE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE-PPP, or five hundred twenty-a of the
47 general business law, or under subdivision twelve of section sixty-three
48 of the executive law, or under article twenty-three of the arts and
49 cultural affairs law, or in an action or proceeding brought by the
50 [attorney-general] ATTORNEY GENERAL under applicable statutes to
51 dissolve a corporation or for usurpation of public office, or unlawful
52 exercise of franchise or of corporate right, a sum not exceeding two
53 thousand dollars against each defendant.

54 S 3. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
55 have become a law.