

9768

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 2, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to establishing the class E felony of unlawful procurement of clients, patients or customers

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

1 Section 1. Section 176.00 of the penal law is amended by adding three  
2 new subdivisions 6, 7 and 8 to read as follows:

3 6. "PROVIDER" MEANS AN ATTORNEY, A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, AN OWNER  
4 OR OPERATOR OF A HEALTH CARE PRACTICE OR FACILITY, ANY PERSON WHO  
5 CREATES THE IMPRESSION THAT HE OR SHE, OR HIS OR HER PRACTICE CAN  
6 PROVIDE LEGAL OR HEALTH CARE SERVICES, OR ANY PERSON EMPLOYED OR ACTING  
7 ON BEHALF OF ANY SUCH PERSON.

8 7. "PUBLIC MEDIA" MEANS TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, PROFESSIONAL DIRECTO-  
9 RIES, NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PERIODICALS, RADIO AND TELEVISION, BILL-  
10 BOARDS, AND MAILED OR ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS  
11 THAT DO NOT INVOLVE IN-PERSON CONTACT WITH A SPECIFIC PROSPECTIVE  
12 CLIENT, PATIENT, OR CUSTOMER.

13 8. "RUNNER" MEANS A PERSON WHO, FOR A PECUNIARY BENEFIT, PROCURES OR  
14 ATTEMPTS TO PROCURE A CLIENT, PATIENT OR CUSTOMER AT THE DIRECTION OF,  
15 REQUEST OF OR IN COOPERATION WITH A PROVIDER WHEN SUCH PERSON KNOWS OR  
16 HAS REASON TO KNOW THAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH PROVIDER IS TO SEEK TO  
17 FALSELY OR FRAUDULENTLY: OBTAIN BENEFITS UNDER A CONTRACT OF INSURANCE;  
18 OR ASSERT A CLAIM AGAINST AN INSURED OR AN INSURANCE CARRIER FOR PROVID-  
19 ING SERVICES TO THE CLIENT, PATIENT OR CUSTOMER. SUCH TERM SHALL NOT  
20 INCLUDE A PERSON WHO PROCURES OR ATTEMPTS TO PROCURE CLIENTS, PATIENTS  
21 OR CUSTOMERS FOR A PROVIDER THROUGH PUBLIC MEDIA OR A PERSON WHO REFERS  
22 CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. NOTHING IN THIS  
23 ARTICLE SHALL BE DEEMED TO PROHIBIT AN AGENT, BROKER OR EMPLOYEE OF A  
24 HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION FROM SEEKING TO SELL HEALTH MAINTENANCE  
25 ORGANIZATION COVERAGE OR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR  
26 GROUP.

27 S 2. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 176.75 to read  
28 as follows:

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

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1 S 176.75 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS.  
2 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR  
3 CUSTOMERS WHEN, HE OR SHE KNOWINGLY:  
4 1. ACTS AS A RUNNER; OR  
5 2. USES, SOLICITS, DIRECTS, HIRES OR EMPLOYS ANOTHER PERSON TO ACT AS  
6 A RUNNER.  
7 UNLAWFUL PROCUREMENT OF CLIENTS, PATIENTS OR CUSTOMERS IS A CLASS E  
8 FELONY.  
9 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-  
10 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.