

5576--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

May 22, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. O'BRIEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection -- recommitted to the Committee on Consumer Protection in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to providing that no cell phone retailer shall sell or lease a cell phone in New York state which does not contain geofencing technology

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

1     Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new article  
2     39-H to read as follows:

3                                 ARTICLE 39-H

4                                 GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED

5     SECTION 899-AAAA. GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED.

6     S 899-AAAA. GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED. 1. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN  
7     THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT REQUIRES OTHERWISE:

8     A. "PERSON" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, FIRM, COMPANY, ASSOCIATION, PARTNER-  
9     SHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OR CORPORATION.

10    B. "TO ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING, OR LEASING CELL PHONES"  
11    MEANS AND REFERS TO A PERSON WHO HOLDS HIMSELF OUT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECT-  
12    LY, AS BEING ABLE, OR WHO OFFERS OR UNDERTAKES, BY ANY MEANS OR METHOD,  
13    TO SELL, OR LEASE A MOBILE PHONE.

14    C. "CELL PHONE" MEANS A PORTABLE WIRELESS TELEPHONE DEVICE THAT IS  
15    DESIGNED TO SEND OR RECEIVE TRANSMISSIONS THROUGH A CELLULAR RADIO TELE-  
16    PHONE SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22.99 OF TITLE 47 OF THE CODE OF  
17    FEDERAL REGULATIONS. A CELL PHONE DOES NOT INCLUDE A WIRELESS TELEPHONE  
18    DEVICE THAT IS INTEGRATED INTO THE ELECTRICAL ARCHITECTURE OF A MOTOR  
19    VEHICLE.

20    D. "CELL PHONE RETAILER" MEANS A PERSON AS HEREIN DEFINED THAT ENGAGES  
21    IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING OR LEASING CELL PHONES UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

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

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1 E. "GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY" MEANS SOFTWARE, APPLICATION, OR DEVICE  
2 WHICH TOGETHER WITH DATA FROM A CELL PHONE INDICATES THAT THE USER OF  
3 THE PHONE IS DRIVING, AND DISABLES USE OF THE CELL PHONE UNDER THESE  
4 CONDITIONS AND WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE A PERSON TO VIOLATE SECTIONS  
5 TWELVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE-C OR TWELVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE-D OF THE  
6 VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW TO ENABLE OR ACTIVATE SUCH SOFTWARE, APPLICATION  
7 OR DEVICE.

8 F. "DISABLE" SHALL MEAN, PREVENTING THE USING OF A CELL PHONE IN A  
9 MOTOR VEHICLE MOVING AT SPEEDS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TEN MILES PER  
10 HOUR.

11 G. "USING" SHALL MEAN HOLDING A CELL PHONE WHILE VIEWING, TAKING OR  
12 TRANSMITTING IMAGES, PLAYING GAMES, OR COMPOSING, SENDING, READING,  
13 VIEWING, ACCESSING, BROWSING, TRANSMITTING, SAVING OR RETRIEVING E-MAIL,  
14 TEXT MESSAGES, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DATA.

15 2. ON OR AFTER JANUARY TWENTY-NINTH, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN NO CELL  
16 PHONE RETAILER SHALL SELL OR LEASE ANY CELL PHONE IN THE STATE OF NEW  
17 YORK WHICH DOES NOT CONTAIN GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS ACTIVATED AND  
18 OPERATIONAL ON SUCH CELL PHONE.

19 3. ANY CELL PHONE RETAILER THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ENGAGES IN THE  
20 BUSINESS OF SELLING OR LEASING CELL PHONES, THAT VIOLATES ANY OF THE  
21 PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, OR DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EMPLOYS, PERMITS  
22 OR AUTHORIZES THE SALE OR LEASE OF CELL PHONES, IN VIOLATION OF ANY  
23 PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON  
24 CONVICTION, SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND  
25 DOLLARS OR BY IMPRISONMENT OF NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR OR BY A FINE OF NOT  
26 LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS UPON  
27 A SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION. EACH VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE DEEMED  
28 A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

29 S 2. This act shall take effect January 29, 2015.