

5774

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 4, 2015

---

Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to immigration providers

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 section  
2     460-l to read as follows:  
3     S 460-L. LICENSES. 1. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHALL ISSUE LICENSES TO  
4     IMMIGRATION PROVIDERS AND, UPON APPLICATION, TO ISSUE RENEWAL LICENSES  
5     EVERY TWO YEARS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF  
6     THIS ARTICLE GOVERNING THE FILING AND MAINTENANCE OF SURETY BONDS AND  
7     THE APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AND/OR RENEWAL.  
8     2. NO PERSON SHALL ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE  
9     SERVICE AS DEFINED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-A OF THIS ARTICLE, OR  
10    ADVERTISE HIS OR HER BUSINESS TO BE THAT OF IMMIGRATION PROVIDER WITHOUT  
11    HAVING FIRST OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A LICENSE TO DO SO,  
12    PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.  
13    3. NO PERSON SHALL DISSEMINATE BY ANY MEANS ANY STATEMENT INDICATING  
14    DIRECTLY OR BY IMPLICATION THAT THE PERSON ENGAGES IN THE BUSINESS OF  
15    IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE SERVICE AS DEFINED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-A  
16    OF THIS ARTICLE OR ACTS IN THE CAPACITY OF AN IMMIGRATION PROVIDER, OR  
17    PROPOSES TO ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OR ACT IN THE CAPACITY OF AN IMMIGRATION PROVIDER, UNLESS THE PERSON HAS ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF  
18    STATE A BOND AND LICENSE, IN THE AMOUNT AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS  
19    DESCRIBED IN SECTION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-F OF THIS ARTICLE.  
20    4. ANY PERSON INTENDING TO ENGAGE, AS AN IMMIGRATION PROVIDER, IN ANY  
21    ONE OR MORE OF THE ACTIVITIES SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL FILE WITH  
22    THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND DISCLOSURE, ON FORMS  
23    PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION AND  
24    DOCUMENTATION TO BE RETAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS THE SECRETARY  
25

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

LBD04885-01-5

1 OF STATE MAY REQUIRE BY RULE AND REGULATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED  
2 TO: (A) NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, RESIDENCE ADDRESS, BUSINESS ADDRESS, RESI-  
3 DENCE TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER; (B) EXPERIENCE  
4 THE PROVIDER HAS HAD WITH IMMIGRATION; (C) PLACES OF BUSINESS AND  
5 EMPLOYEES, IF ANY; (D) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PROVIDER'S AGENT FOR  
6 SERVICE OF PROCESS IF ONE IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND, IF  
7 APPLICABLE, THE NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, BUSINESS TELEPHONE AND AGENT FOR  
8 SERVICE OF PROCESS OF THE CORPORATION OR PARTNERSHIP EMPLOYING THE IMMI-  
9 GRATION PROVIDER; (E) A RECORD OF ANY PRIOR CONVICTIONS UNDER THIS ARTI-  
10 CLE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL DEVELOP THE DISCLOSURE FORM REQUIRED  
11 TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND BOND PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND SECTION  
12 FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-F OF THIS ARTICLE.

13 5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CHARGE AND COLLECT A FILING FEE AT THE  
14 TIME OF APPLICATION AND/OR RENEWAL TO COVER THE COST OF FILING THE BOND  
15 REQUIRED BY SECTION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-F OF THIS ARTICLE.

16 S 2. Section 460-h of the general business law, as amended by chapter  
17 206 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

18 S 460-h. Enforcement. 1. Upon any violation of this article, an appli-  
19 cation may be made by the attorney general in the name of the people of  
20 the state to a court having jurisdiction to issue an injunction, and  
21 upon notice to the respondent of not fewer than five days, to enjoin and  
22 restrain the continuance of the violation. If it shall appear to the  
23 satisfaction of the court or justice that the defendant has, in fact,  
24 violated this article, an injunction may be issued by such court or  
25 justice, enjoining and restraining any further violation, without  
26 requiring proof that any person has, in fact, been injured or damaged  
27 thereby. In any such proceeding, the court may make allowances to the  
28 attorney general as provided in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of  
29 section eighty-three hundred three of the civil practice law and rules,  
30 and direct restitution. Whenever the court shall determine that a  
31 violation of this article has occurred, the court may impose a civil  
32 penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation.

33 2. A PERSON CLAIMING TO BE AGGRIEVED BY ANY VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE  
34 BY AN IMMIGRATION PROVIDER MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE  
35 RELIEF, DAMAGES OR BOTH. THE COURT SHALL GRANT A PREVAILING PLAINTIFF  
36 REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS. ANY RECOVERY OR PROCEEDING IN A  
37 CIVIL ACTION SHALL NOT PRECLUDE AN ACTION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR  
38 DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO PURSUE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST AN IMMIGRATION  
39 PROVIDER. MINIMAL RECOVERY FOR THE PLAINTIFF SHALL BE FIVE THOUSAND  
40 DOLLARS.

41 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
42 ing the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however,  
43 that if chapter 206 of the laws of 2014 shall not have taken effect on  
44 or before such date then this act shall take effect on the same date and  
45 in the same manner as such chapter of the laws of 2014 takes effect;  
46 provided, further, however that effective immediately, the addition,  
47 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the  
48 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and  
49 directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.