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I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 29, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO, SEPULVEDA, RODRIGUEZ, RAMOS, PICHARDO --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and  
Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the banking law, in  
relation to prohibiting a consumer reporting agency or lender from  
using certain information to determine an individual's credit worthi-  
ness

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

1     Section 1. Section 380-a of the general business law is amended by  
2     adding a new subdivision (u) to read as follows:  
3     (U) THE TERM "MEMBERS OF A CONSUMER'S SOCIAL NETWORK" MEANS A GROUP OF  
4     INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED BY A CONSUMER TO BE PART OF HIS OR HER SOCIAL  
5     MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORK.  
6     S 2. Section 380-j of the general business law is amended by adding a  
7     new subdivision (h) to read as follows:  
8     (H) NO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY SHALL COLLECT, EVALUATE, REPORT, OR  
9     MAINTAIN IN THE FILE ON A CONSUMER THE CREDIT WORTHINESS, CREDIT STAND-  
10    ING OR CREDIT CAPACITY OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSUMER'S SOCIAL NETWORK FOR  
11    PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE CREDIT WORTHINESS OF THE CONSUMER; THE AVER-  
12    AGE CREDIT WORTHINESS, CREDIT STANDING OR CREDIT CAPACITY OF MEMBERS OF  
13    THE CONSUMER'S SOCIAL NETWORK; OR ANY GROUP SCORE THAT IS NOT THE  
14    CONSUMER'S OWN CREDIT WORTHINESS, CREDIT STANDING OR CREDIT CAPACITY.  
15    THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE ENFORCED CONCURRENTLY BY THE  
16    SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF  
17    CONSUMER PROTECTION AND EACH SHALL UTILIZE THEIR CONSUMER COMPLAINT AND  
18    ASSISTANCE HOTLINES TO DOCUMENT COMPLAINTS BY CONSUMERS WHO BELIEVE THAT  
19    GROUP CREDIT RATINGS OF THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK ARE BEING USED TO  
20    DENY THEM CREDIT.  
21    S 3. Section 2 of the banking law is amended by adding a new subdivi-  
22    sion 30 to read as follows:  
23    30. MEMBERS OF A BORROWER'S SOCIAL NETWORK. THE TERM "MEMBERS OF A  
24    BORROWER'S SOCIAL NETWORK" MEANS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED BY A

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

LBD13003-01-5

1 BORROWER TO BE PART OF HIS OR HER SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND  
2 NETWORK.

3 S 4. Section 352 of the banking law is amended by adding a new sixth  
4 undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

5 NO LICENSEE SHALL COLLECT, EVALUATE, REPORT OR MAINTAIN IN THE FILE ON  
6 A BORROWER THE CREDIT WORTHINESS, CREDIT STANDING OR CREDIT CAPACITY OF  
7 MEMBERS OF THE BORROWER'S SOCIAL NETWORK FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE  
8 CREDIT WORTHINESS OF THE BORROWER; THE AVERAGE CREDIT WORTHINESS, CREDIT  
9 STANDING OR CREDIT CAPACITY OF MEMBERS OF THE BORROWER'S SOCIAL NETWORK;  
10 OR ANY GROUP SCORE THAT IS NOT THE BORROWER'S OWN CREDIT WORTHINESS,  
11 CREDIT STANDING OR CREDIT CAPACITY. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH  
12 SHALL BE ENFORCED CONCURRENTLY BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE DIRECTOR OF  
13 THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND EACH SHALL UTILIZE THEIR CONSUM-  
14 ER COMPLAINT AND ASSISTANCE HOTLINES TO DOCUMENT COMPLAINTS BY BORROWERS  
15 WHO BELIEVE THAT GROUP CREDIT RATINGS OF THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK ARE  
16 BEING USED TO DENY THEM CREDIT.

17 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.