

8718--B

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 13, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to the use of voice recognition features

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 32-A to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 32-A

4 VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURES

5 SECTION 676. USE OF VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURES IN PRODUCTS.

6 S 676. USE OF VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURES IN PRODUCTS. 1. FOR PURPOSES
7 OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL APPLY:

8 (A) "CONNECTED DEVICE" SHALL MEAN A TELEVISION, VIDEO GAME CONSOLE AS
9 DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX-KK OF THIS CHAPTER, COMPUTER
10 AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO-A OF THIS CHAPTER,
11 COMPUTER ACCESSORY AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO-A OF
12 THIS CHAPTER, OR INTERNET-CAPABLE DEVICE AS DEFINED IN SECTION FIVE
13 HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT-B OF THIS CHAPTER.

14 (B) "USER" MEANS A PERSON WHO ORIGINALLY PURCHASES, LEASES, OR TAKES
15 OWNERSHIP OF A CONNECTED DEVICE. A PERSON WHO IS INCIDENTALLY RECORDED
16 WHEN A VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURE IS ACTIVATED BY A USER SHALL NOT BE
17 DEEMED TO BE A USER.

18 (C) "VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURE" MEANS THE FUNCTION OF A CONNECTED
19 DEVICE THAT ALLOWS THE COLLECTION, RECORDING, STORAGE, ANALYSIS, TRANS-
20 MISSION, INTERPRETATION, OR OTHER USE OF SPOKEN WORDS OR OTHER SOUNDS.

21 2. (A) A PERSON OR ENTITY SHALL NOT PROVIDE THE OPERATION OF A VOICE
22 RECOGNITION FEATURE WITHIN THIS STATE WITHOUT PROMINENTLY INFORMING,
23 DURING THE INITIAL SETUP OR INSTALLATION OF A CONNECTED DEVICE, EITHER

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

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1 THE USER OR THE PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE USER TO PERFORM THE INITIAL
2 SETUP OR INSTALLATION OF THE CONNECTED DEVICE.

3 (B) ANY ACTUAL RECORDINGS OF SPOKEN WORD COLLECTED THROUGH THE OPERA-
4 TION OF A VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURE BY THE MANUFACTURER OF A CONNECTED
5 DEVICE SHALL NOT BE SOLD OR USED FOR ANY ADVERTISING PURPOSE.

6 (C) ANY ACTUAL RECORDINGS OF SPOKEN WORD COLLECTED THROUGH THE OPERA-
7 TION OF A VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURE BY A THIRD PARTY CONTRACTING WITH
8 THE MANUFACTURER OF A CONNECTED DEVICE SHALL NOT BE SOLD OR USED FOR ANY
9 ADVERTISING PURPOSE.

10 3. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED SO AS TO PREVENT ANY
11 ACTION PURSUANT TO A SUBPOENA OR BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR ANY
12 OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR AGENT OF SUCH AGENCY, TO OBTAIN RECORDINGS FROM A
13 MANUFACTURER IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICIAL DUTIES
14 THEREOF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.

15 4. (A) WHENEVER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL BELIEVE FROM EVIDENCE
16 SATISFACTORY TO HIM OR HER THAT THERE IS A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, HE
17 OR SHE MAY BRING AN ACTION IN THE NAME AND ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF
18 THE STATE OF NEW YORK, IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO ENJOIN
19 AND RESTRAIN THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH VIOLATION. IN SUCH ACTION, PRELIM-
20 INARY RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED UNDER ARTICLE SIXTY-THREE OF THE CIVIL PRAC-
21 TICE LAW AND RULES. IN SUCH ACTION, THE COURT MAY AWARD DAMAGES FOR
22 ACTUAL COSTS OR LOSSES INCURRED BY THE CONSUMER. WHENEVER THE COURT
23 SHALL DETERMINE IN SUCH ACTION THAT A PERSON OR BUSINESS VIOLATED THIS
24 SECTION, THE COURT MAY IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE
25 HUNDRED DOLLARS PER VIOLATION.

26 (B) THE REMEDIES PROVIDED BY THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO
27 ANY OTHER LAWFUL REMEDY AVAILABLE.

28 S 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
29 have become a law.