

1127--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 8, 2015

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- 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 smart phone antitheft protection

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that:

2 (a) According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), one in
3 three robberies in the United States involves the theft of a mobile
4 device, making it the number one property crime in the country. Many of
5 these robberies often turn violent with some resulting in the loss of
6 life.

7 (b) The FCC estimates that between thirty to forty percent of United
8 States street theft involves a mobile device. In fact, more than forty
9 percent of all robberies in New York city involve smartphones and other
10 cell phones.

11 (c) Consumer reports projects that 1.6 million Americans had their
12 smartphones stolen in 2012.

13 (d) According to the New York Times, one hundred thirteen smartphones
14 are lost or stolen every minute in the United States.

15 (e) Major cities are home to the highest concentrations of cell phone
16 theft, and officials in New York and California have been pushing for a
17 cellphone kill switch in those states since April 2012. According to New
18 York state attorney general, Eric Schneiderman, the United States Senate
19 proposal would force the mobile industry to "stop dragging its feet and
20 join us in protecting consumers."

21 (f) In April of 2012, U.S. senator Charles Schumer, D-New York, and
22 New York city police commissioner Ray Kelly announced that the major

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

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U.S. cell phone carriers and the Federal Communications Commission have agreed to set up a national database to track reported stolen phones. Senator Schumer also introduced a bill called the mobile device theft deterrence act, which proposes a five-year prison sentence for tampering with the ID numbers of a stolen cell phone.

(g) According to press reports, the international trafficking of stolen smartphones by organized criminal organizations has grown exponentially in recent years because of how profitable the trade has become.

(h) Replacement of lost and stolen mobile devices was an estimated thirty-billion-dollar business in 2012 according to studies conducted by mobile communications security experts. Additionally, industry publications indicate that the four largest providers of commercial mobile radio services made an estimated seven billion eight hundred million dollars from theft and loss insurance products in 2013.

(i) Technological solutions that render stolen mobile communications devices useless already exist, but the industry has been slow to adopt them.

(j) In order to be effective, these technological solutions need to be ubiquitous, as thieves cannot distinguish between those mobile devices that have the solutions enabled and those that do not. As a result, the technological solution should be able to withstand a hard reset or operating system downgrade, and be enabled by default, with consumers being given the option to affirmatively elect to disable this protection.

(k) Manufacturers of mobile devices and commercial mobile radio service providers should make efforts to protect their customers from being targeted as a result of purchasing their products and services.

(l) It is the intent of the legislature to require all smartphones and other mobile devices offered for sale in New York to come with a technological solution enabled in order to deter theft and protect consumers.

S 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-zzzz to read as follows:

S 399-ZZZZ. SMART PHONE ANTITHEFT PROTECTION. 1. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "SMART PHONE" MEANS A CELLULAR PHONE OR OTHER MOBILE DEVICE THAT: (A) IS BUILT ON A SMART PHONE MOBILE OPERATING SYSTEM; (B) POSSESSES ADVANCED COMPUTING CAPABILITY; (C) ENABLES NETWORK CONNECTIVITY; AND (D) IS CAPABLE OF OPERATING ON A LONG-TERM EVOLUTION NETWORK AND SUCCESSOR WIRELESS DATA NETWORK COMMUNICATION STANDARDS. CAPABILITIES A SMART PHONE MAY POSSESS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, BUILT-IN APPLICATIONS, INTERNET ACCESS, DIGITAL VOICE SERVICE, TEXT MESSAGING, E-MAIL, AND WEB BROWSING. "SMART PHONE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PHONE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS A FEATURE OR MESSAGING PHONE, A LAPTOP COMPUTER, A TABLET DEVICE, OR A DEVICE THAT HAS ONLY ELECTRONIC READING CAPABILITY.

2. ANY NEW SMART PHONE MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JULY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, SOLD OR PURCHASED IN THIS STATE MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH PRELOADED ANTITHEFT FUNCTIONALITY OR BE CAPABLE OF DOWNLOADING THAT FUNCTIONALITY. THE FUNCTIONALITY MUST BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASERS AT NO COST.

3. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS, OPERATING SYSTEMS PROVIDERS, AND WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR JOINTLY, BY JANUARY FIFTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE CHAIRS AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES WITH PRIMARY JURISDICTION OVER TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUES. THE REPORT SHALL DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF A TOOL THAT MANUFACTURERS AND OPERATING SYSTEM PROVIDERS WILL UTILIZE ON NEW MODELS OF SMART PHONES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH SUBDIVISION ONE OF

THIS SECTION, AND MUST DESCRIBE THE TECHNOLOGY OR FUNCTIONS INCLUDED TO ENSURE THE BASELINE ANTITHEFT TOOL IS EASILY OPERABLE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

4. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

(A) "CMRS PROVIDER" MEANS A PROVIDER OF COMMERCIAL RADIO SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47, SECTION 332, AND INCLUDES ITS AUTHORIZED DEALERS.

(B) "INTERNET MARKETPLACE" OR "ONLINE PLATFORM" MEANS A DIGITALLY ACCESSIBLE PLATFORM THAT FACILITATES COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN BUYERS AND COMMUNITY-RATED SELLERS WHERE THE OPERATOR OR THE PLATFORM DOES NOT TAKE POSSESSION OF, OR TITLE TO, THE GOODS BOUGHT OR SOLD.

(C) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" OR "AGENCY" MEANS A DULY AUTHORIZED MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, CAMPUS, TRANSIT, PARK, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(D) "REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM, OFFERED BY A CMRS PROVIDER, MANUFACTURER, OR RETAILER WHO IS NOT PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN PURCHASING PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ANY TYPE FROM A PERSON WHO IS NOT A WHOLESALE, THROUGH WHICH USED OR PREVIOUSLY OWNED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ARE RESTORED TO GOOD WORKING ORDER.

(E) "TRADE-IN PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM OFFERED BY A CMRS PROVIDER, MANUFACTURER, OR RETAILER WHO IS NOT PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN PURCHASING PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ANY TYPE FROM A PERSON WHO IS NOT A WHOLESALE, PURSUANT TO WHICH USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ARE ACCEPTED FROM CUSTOMERS IN EXCHANGE FOR EITHER: (1) A NONCASH CREDIT USABLE ONLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS OR SERVICES FROM THE CMRS PROVIDER, MANUFACTURER, OR RETAILER; OR (2) A REBATE FROM A MANUFACTURER ON THE PURCHASE OF ONE OF THE MANUFACTURER'S WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES.

(F) "WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER" OR "DEALER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CORPORATION, OR OTHER ENTITY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF BUYING OR SELLING USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES.

(G) "WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE MANUFACTURER" OR "MANUFACTURER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CORPORATION, OR OTHER ENTITY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF MANUFACTURING WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES.

5. (A) EVERY WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, INCLUDING AN AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEALER, BUT NOT AN INTERNET MARKETPLACE, SHALL KEEP A WRITTEN RECORD AT THE TIME OF EACH PURCHASE OR ACQUISITION OF A USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE FOR RESALE. THE RECORD SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AND MAY BE KEPT IN ELECTRONIC FORM:

(1) AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OR DESCRIPTION OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED;

(2) THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OR THE ONLINE PLATFORM THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE WAS PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED;

(3) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON SELLING OR DELIVERING THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE;

(4) THE NUMBER OF THE CHECK OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER USED TO PURCHASE THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE;

(5) THE NUMBER OF THE SELLER'S DRIVER'S LICENSE, NEW YORK STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD NUMBER, OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FROM AN IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT ISSUED BY ANY STATE, FEDERAL, OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IF THE DOCUMENT INCLUDES THE PERSON'S PHOTOGRAPH, FULL NAME, BIRTH DATE, AND SIGNATURE; AND

(6) A STATEMENT SIGNED BY THE SELLER, UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, ATTESTING THAT THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IS NOT STOLEN AND IS

1 FREE OF ANY LIENS OR ENCUMBRANCES AND THE SELLER HAS THE RIGHT TO SELL
2 IT.

3 (B) RECORDS REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE
4 RETAINED BY THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER FOR A PERIOD OF
5 THREE YEARS.

6 (C) THE RECORD, AS WELL AS THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE
7 PURCHASED OR RECEIVED, SHALL AT ALL REASONABLE TIMES BE AVAILABLE FOR
8 INSPECTION BY ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

9 (D) NO RECORD IS REQUIRED FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES
10 PURCHASED FROM MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, OR WHOLESALE DEALERS HAVING AN
11 ESTABLISHED PLACE OF BUSINESS, BUT A BILL OF SALE OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF
12 OPEN OR LEGITIMATE PURCHASE OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE SHALL
13 BE OBTAINED AND KEPT BY THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, WHICH
14 SHALL BE SHOWN UPON DEMAND TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

15 (E) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, A WIRELESS
16 COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER OR THE DEALER'S AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE MAY NOT DISCLOSE PERSONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED PURSUANT TO
17 PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION CONCERNING A CUSTOMER WITHOUT THE
18 CUSTOMER'S CONSENT UNLESS THE DISCLOSURE IS MADE IN RESPONSE TO A
19 REQUEST FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE
20 DEALER SHALL IMPLEMENT REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF
21 THE PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO OR DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PERSONAL
22 INFORMATION" IS ANY INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION GATHERED IN
23 CONNECTION WITH A RECORD UNDER PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

26 6. A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, INCLUDING AN AGENT,
27 EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEALER, SHALL NOT:

28 (A) MAKE ANY FALSE ENTRY IN THE RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING A
29 USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE;

30 (B) FALSIFY, OBLITERATE, DESTROY, OR REMOVE FROM THE PLACE OF BUSINESS
31 THE RECORDS, BOOKS, OR ACCOUNTS RELATING TO USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
32 DEVICE TRANSACTIONS;

33 (C) REFUSE TO ALLOW THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO INSPECT
34 RECORDS OR ANY USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IN THE DEALER'S
35 POSSESSION DURING THE ORDINARY HOURS OF BUSINESS OR OTHER TIMES ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES;

36 (D) FAIL TO MAINTAIN A RECORD OF EACH USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
37 DEVICE TRANSACTION FOR THREE YEARS; OR

38 (E) PURCHASE A USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE FROM A PERSON UNDER
39 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

41 7. A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER SHALL PAY FOR PURCHASES OF
42 ALL USED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES BY CHECK MAILED TO A SPECIFIC
43 ADDRESS OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSFER.

44 8. (A) WHENEVER A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL FROM ANY AGENCY HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IN THE
45 POSSESSION OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER IS STOLEN OR IS
46 EVIDENCE OF A CRIME AND NOTIFIES THE DEALER NOT TO SELL THE ITEM, THE
47 DEALER SHALL NOT: (1) PROCESS OR SELL THE ITEM; OR (2) REMOVE OR ALLOW
48 ITS REMOVAL FROM THE PREMISES. THIS INVESTIGATIVE HOLD MUST BE CONFIRMED
49 IN WRITING BY THE ORIGINATING AGENCY WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AND WILL
50 REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF INITIAL NOTIFICATION,
51 UNTIL THE INVESTIGATIVE HOLD IS CANCELED OR RENEWED, OR UNTIL A LAW
52 ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION TO CONFISCATE OR DIRECTIVE TO RELEASE IS
53 ISSUED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

54 (B) IF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IS IDENTIFIED AS STOLEN OR AS
55 EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL MAY:

1 (1) PHYSICALLY CONFISCATE AND REMOVE THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
2 DEVICE FROM THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, PURSUANT TO A
3 WRITTEN NOTIFICATION;

4 (2) PLACE THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE ON HOLD OR EXTEND THE
5 HOLD UNDER PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, AND LEAVE THE DEVICE AT
6 THE PREMISES; OR

7 (3) DIRECT ITS RELEASE TO A REGISTERED OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT.

8 (C) WHEN AN ITEM IS CONFISCATED, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DOING SO
9 SHALL PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION UPON REQUEST OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
10 DEVICE DEALER, AND SHALL PROVIDE THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE
11 CONFISCATING AGENCY AND INVESTIGATOR, AND THE CASE NUMBER RELATED TO THE
12 CONFISCATION.

13 (D) A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER MAY REQUEST SEIZED PROPER-
14 TY BE RETURNED.

15 (E) WHEN AN INVESTIGATIVE HOLD OR NOTIFICATION TO CONFISCATE IS NO
16 LONGER NECESSARY, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL OR DESIGNEE SHALL NOTIFY
17 THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER.

18 (F) A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER MAY SELL OR OTHERWISE
19 DISPOSE OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IF:

20 (1) A NOTIFICATION TO CONFISCATE IS NOT ISSUED DURING THE INVESTI-
21 GATIVE HOLD; OR

22 (2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL DOES NOT PHYSICALLY REMOVE THE WIRELESS
23 COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE FROM THE PREMISES WITHIN FIFTEEN CALENDAR DAYS
24 FROM ISSUANCE OF A NOTIFICATION TO CONFISCATE.

25 (G) IF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER IS REQUIRED TO HOLD A
26 WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE AT THE DIRECTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR
27 PURPOSES OF INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION, OR IF THE DEVICE IS SEIZED BY
28 LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER AND ANY OTHER
29 VICTIM IS ENTITLED TO SEEK RESTITUTION, INCLUDING ANY OUT-OF-POCKET
30 EXPENSES FOR STORAGE AND LOST PROFIT, IN ANY CRIMINAL CASE THAT MAY
31 ARISE FROM THE INVESTIGATION AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SOLD THE WIRE-
32 LESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE TO THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER.

33 9. (A) EACH WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER SHALL INSTALL AND
34 MAINTAIN AT EACH PHYSICAL LOCATION VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, STILL
35 DIGITAL CAMERAS, OR SIMILAR DEVICES POSITIONED TO RECORD OR PHOTOGRAPH A
36 FRONTAL VIEW SHOWING A READILY IDENTIFIABLE IMAGE OF THE FACE OF EACH
37 SELLER OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE WHO ENTERS THE PHYSICAL
38 LOCATION.

39 (B) THE VIDEO CAMERA OR STILL DIGITAL CAMERA SHALL BE KEPT IN OPERAT-
40 ING CONDITION AND MUST BE SHOWN UPON REQUEST TO A PROPERLY IDENTIFIED
41 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR INSPECTION. THE CAMERA MUST RECORD AND
42 DISPLAY THE ACCURATE DATE AND TIME. THE VIDEO CAMERA OR STILL DIGITAL
43 CAMERA MUST BE TURNED ON AT ALL TIMES WHEN THE PHYSICAL LOCATION IS OPEN
44 FOR BUSINESS AND AT ANY OTHER TIME WHEN WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES
45 ARE PURCHASED OR SOLD.

46 (C) RECORDINGS AND IMAGES REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVI-
47 SION SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER FOR
48 A MINIMUM PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AND SHALL AT ALL REASONABLE TIMES BE OPEN TO
49 THE INSPECTION OF ANY PROPERLY IDENTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

50 10. A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, OR THE AGENT, EMPLOYEE,
51 OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DEALER, WHO
52 INTENTIONALLY VIOLATES A PROVISION OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDE-
53 MEANOR.

54 11. (A) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY WITH RESPECT TO A WIRELESS COMMU-
55 NICATIONS DEVICE RETURNED TO THE STORE WHERE IT WAS ORIGINALLY PURCHASED

1 PURSUANT TO THE RETURN POLICIES OF THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE
2 DEALER, CMRS PROVIDER, MANUFACTURER, OR RETAILER.
3 (B) THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY WITH RESPECT TO WIRELESS COMMUNI-
4 CATIONS DEVICES ACQUIRED BY A: (1) CMRS PROVIDER AS PART OF A TRADE-IN
5 OR A REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM; (2) MANUFACTURER AS PART OF A
6 TRADE-IN PROGRAM; OR (3) RETAILER WHOSE TRADE-IN PROGRAM: (I) REPORTS TO
7 OTHER NATIONAL OR REGIONAL TRANSACTION REPORTING DATABASE AVAILABLE TO
8 LAW ENFORCEMENT; OR (II) REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY LOCAL ORDINANCE.
9 S 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017 and shall apply to
10 smart phone sales made on or after that date.