

3803

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 17, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to prohibiting the use of social media websites for the purposes of collecting debts

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

- 1     Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 601 of the general business law,  
2     as added by chapter 342 of the laws of 2011, is amended and a new subdi-  
3     vision 11 is added to read as follows:  
4     10. If such principal creditor or agent sends more than fifty informa-  
5     tion subpoenas per month, fail to keep complete records concerning all  
6     information subpoenas sent by such principal creditor or agent. Such  
7     records shall be maintained for five years. Contemporaneous records  
8     shall be kept that set forth with specificity the grounds for such prin-  
9     cipal creditor or agent's reasonable belief, which must be certified and  
10    accompany each information subpoena pursuant to rule fifty-two hundred  
11    twenty-four of the civil practice law and rules, that the party receiv-  
12    ing the subpoena has in its possession information about the debtor that  
13    will assist the creditor in collecting his or her judgement. In addition  
14    to any other penalty that [my] MAY be imposed, failure to maintain  
15    records in accordance with this subdivision shall subject such principal  
16    creditor or agent to a civil penalty of not more than fifty dollars per  
17    subpoena, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars per violation, in an  
18    action brought by the attorney general[.]; OR  
19    11. USE A SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITE AS A MEANS TO COLLECT ON A CONSUM-  
20    ER CLAIM FROM A DEBTOR. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "SOCIAL  
21    NETWORKING WEBSITE" MEANS AN INTERNET-BASED SERVICE THAT ALLOWS INDIVID-  
22    UALS TO: (A) CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC PROFILE WITHIN A BOUNDED  
23    SYSTEM, CREATED BY THE SERVICE; (B) CREATE A LIST OF OTHER USERS WITH  
24    WHOM THEY SHARE A CONNECTION WITHIN THE SYSTEM; AND (C) VIEW AND NAVI-  
25    GATE THEIR LIST OF CONNECTIONS AND THOSE MADE BY OTHERS WITHIN THE  
26    SYSTEM. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT "SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITE" SHALL NOT  
27    INCLUDE ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL).  
28    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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