

467

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

---

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- 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 providing telephone equipment with voice dialing functions to certain persons with disabilities

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     399-zz-1 to read as follows:  
3     S 399-ZZ-1. RESIDENTIAL VOICE DIALING TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT. 1. FOR THE  
4     PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION: (A) "VOICE DIALING TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT" SHALL  
5     MEAN CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TELEPHONE HANDSETS, DESIGNED  
6     FOR USE ON THE RESIDENTIAL PREMISES OF A VISUALLY-IMPAIRED PERSON TO  
7     ORIGINATE, ROUTE OR TERMINATE A TELEPHONE CALL;  
8     (B) "CONSUMER" OR "PURCHASER" SHALL MEAN: (I) A CERTIFIED VISUALLY-IM-  
9     PAIRED RETAIL CUSTOMER WHO PURCHASES SUCH EQUIPMENT FOR PERSONAL USE IN  
10    A PLACE OF RESIDENCE WHERE THE ADDITION OF SUCH EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY  
11    TO ENABLE SUCH CONSUMER TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL AND THAT (II) MEETS THE  
12    INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW YORK LIFELINE PROGRAM; AND  
13    (C) "SELLER" SHALL MEAN ANY RETAILER, DISTRIBUTOR OR MANUFACTURER WHO  
14    SELLS OR OFFERS FOR SALE RESIDENTIAL VOICE DIALING TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT  
15    DIRECTLY TO A CONSUMER OR PURCHASER OR PLACES IN THE CHAIN OF DISTRIB-  
16    UTION SUCH EQUIPMENT TO BE ULTIMATELY SOLD TO A CONSUMER.  
17    2. ANY MANUFACTURER OF RESIDENTIAL VOICE DIALING TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT  
18    SHALL OFFER FOR SALE SUCH EQUIPMENT TO CONSUMERS, AS DEFINED IN THIS  
19    SECTION, AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE ACTUAL COST OF MANUFACTURING THE  
20    EQUIPMENT.  
21    S 2. Every telephone corporation, as defined in section 2 of the  
22    public service law, and every cable television company, as defined in  
23    section 212 of public service law and any other provider of telephone

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

LBD01474-01-5

1 service that provides telephone service to customers in New York state  
2 shall provide notice to its customers that voice dialing telephone  
3 equipment is available from manufacturers at cost.  
4 S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
5 it shall have become a law.