

STATE OF NEW YORK

7024

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 29, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. TITONE, MOSLEY, SEAWRIGHT, LUPARDO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. LOPEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to the manufacture and sale of smartphones that are capable of being decrypted and unlocked by the manufacturer

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-k to read as follows:

§ 399-k. Smartphones. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Smartphone" means a cellular radio telephone or other mobile voice communications handset device that includes the following features:

i. Utilizes a mobile operating system.

ii. Possesses the capability to utilize mobile software applications, access and browse the Internet, utilize text messaging, utilize digital voice service, and send and receive email.

iii. Has wireless network connectivity.

iv. Is capable of operating on a long-term evolution network or successor wireless data network communication standards.

(b) "Sold in New York," or any variation thereof, means that the smartphone is sold at retail from a location within the state, or the smartphone is sold and shipped to an end-use consumer at an address within the state. "Sold in New York" does not include a smartphone that is resold in the state on the secondhand market or that is consigned and held as collateral on a loan.

(c) "Leased in New York," or any variation thereof, means that the smartphone is contracted for a specified period of time to an end-use consumer at an address within the state.

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

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1 2. Any smartphone that is manufactured on or after January first, two
2 thousand eighteen, and sold or leased in New York, shall be capable of
3 being decrypted and unlocked by its manufacturer or its operating system
4 provider.

5 3. The sale or lease in New York of a smartphone manufactured on or
6 after January first, two thousand eighteen that is not capable of being
7 decrypted and unlocked by its manufacturer or its operating system
8 provider shall subject the seller or lessor to a civil penalty of two
9 thousand five hundred dollars for each smartphone sold or leased if it
10 is demonstrated that the seller or lessor of the smartphone knew at the
11 time of the sale or lease that the smartphone was not capable of being
12 decrypted and unlocked by its manufacturer or its operating system
13 provider. No seller or lessor who pays the civil penalty may pass any
14 portion of that penalty on to any purchaser of smartphones by raising
15 the sales or lease price of smartphones.

16 4. The retail sale or lease of a smartphone manufactured on or after
17 January first, two thousand eighteen that is not capable of being
18 decrypted and unlocked by its manufacturer or its operating system
19 provider shall not result in liability to the seller or lessor if the
20 inability of the manufacturer and operating system provider to decrypt
21 and unlock the smartphone is the result of actions taken by any person
22 or entity other than the manufacturer, the operating system provider,
23 the seller, or the lessor so long as such actions were unauthorized by
24 the manufacturer, the operating system provider, the seller, or the
25 lessor unless at the time of sale or lease the seller or lessor had
26 received notification that the manufacturer and operating system provid-
27 er were unable to decrypt and unlock smartphones that had been acted
28 upon in the manner described above.

29 5. A civil suit to enforce this section may be brought by the follow-
30 ing parties and none others: (a) the Attorney General, for any sale or
31 lease of a smartphone in New York, and (b) the district attorney for any
32 sale or lease of a smartphone in the county represented by the district
33 attorney, provided, however that the seller or lessor may be subject to
34 not more than a single penalty for each sale or lease of a smartphone.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.