STATE OF NEW YORK

5294

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, BARRON, COLTON, COOK, DAVILA, DICKENS, EPSTEIN, HEVESI, KIM, McDONOUGH, MONTESANO, MOSLEY, PICHARDO, RAIA, RAMOS, RIVERA, RODRIGUEZ, SIMON, WALLACE, WEPRIN, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the banking law, in relation to prohibiting a consumer reporting agency or lender from using certain information to determine an individual's credit worthiness

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

Section 1. Section 380-a of the general business law is amended by adding a new subdivision (u) to read as follows:

(u) The term "members of a consumer's social network" means a group of individuals authorized by a consumer to be part of his or her social media communications and network.

§ 2. Section 380-j of the general business law is amended by adding a new subdivision (h) to read as follows:

(h) No consumer reporting agency shall collect, evaluate, report, or maintain in the file on a consumer the credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity of members of the consumer's social network for purposes of determining the credit worthiness of the consumer; the average credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity of members of the consumer's social network; or any group score that is not the consumer's own credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity. The provisions of this subdivision shall be enforced concurrently by the superintendent of financial services and the director of the division of consumer protection and each shall utilize their consumer complaint and assistance hotlines to document complaints by consumers who believe that group credit ratings of their social media network are being used to deny them credit.

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

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§ 3. Section 2 of the banking law is amended by adding a new subdivision 31 to read as follows:

31. Members of a borrower's social network. The term "members of a borrower's social network" means a group of individuals authorized by a borrower to be part of his or her social media communications and network.

§ 4. Section 352 of the banking law is amended by adding a new sixth undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

No licensee shall collect, evaluate, report or maintain in the file on a borrower the credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity of members of the borrower's social network for purposes of determining the credit worthiness of the borrower; the average credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity of members of the borrower's social network; or any group score that is not the borrower's own credit worthiness, credit standing or credit capacity. The provisions of this paragraph shall be enforced concurrently by the superintendent and the director of the division of consumer protection and each shall utilize their consumer complaint and assistance hotlines to document complaints by borrowers who believe that group credit ratings of their social media network are being used to deny them credit. The superintendent shall ensure that the credit scoring formulas filed with the department do not contain variables which account for internet viewing history as part of that formula by asking the licensee to certify to that fact.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.