

STATE OF NEW YORK

2678

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2019

Introduced by Sens. MAYER, BROOKS, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, LIU, MAY, METZGER
-- 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 requiring the
release of individuals from shared or family wireless telephone plans
in instances of domestic violence

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

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section
2 399-cccc to read as follows:

3 § 399-cccc. Wireless telephone services; domestic violence victims.
4 Every provider of wireless telephone service, as defined in paragraph
5 (b) of subdivision one of section twelve hundred twenty-five-c of the
6 vehicle and traffic law, shall allow a person who is under a shared
7 phone plan contract with such provider and who is a victim of domestic
8 violence involving another person under such shared phone plan contract,
9 to opt-out of such contract without charge when such person requests to
10 opt-out in writing and provides to such provider of wireless telephone
11 service any of the following documents, which shall relate to such
12 domestic violence, within six months of the document's issuance: (a) a
13 valid domestic violence incident report form, as such term is defined in
14 subdivision fifteen of section eight hundred thirty-seven of the execu-
15 tive law; (b) a valid police report; (c) a valid order of protection;
16 (d) a signed affidavit from a licensed medical or mental health care
17 provider, employee of a court acting within the scope of his or her
18 employment, social worker, a rape crisis counselor, as defined in
19 section forty-five hundred ten of the civil practice law and rules, or
20 advocate acting on behalf of an agency that assists domestic violence
21 victims. A claim for opting-out of such contract without charge shall be
22 made in good faith. Such provider shall waive the otherwise applicable
23 charges for such person requesting to opt-out of such contract. Any

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

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1 person requesting an accommodation pursuant to this section may request,
2 and if requested shall be provided at no cost to such person, a new
3 telephone number within twenty-four hours from the request for such
4 accommodation.

5 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
6 contracts entered into or renewed on and after such effective date.