

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1932--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. CARROLL, ABBATE, STIRPE, REYES, TAYLOR, CYMBROW-ITZ, DICKENS, ENGLEBRIGHT, D. ROSENTHAL, GALEF, GOTTFRIED, DeSTEFANO, RAMOS, MIKULIN, SAYEGH, SMITH, WILLIAMS, COOK, ABINANTI, QUART, SEAWRIGHT, REILLY, B. MILLER, ROZIC, FERNANDEZ, EPSTEIN, CRUZ, STECK, PHEFFER AMATO, PICHARDO, RA, BENEDETTO, BYRNE, JACOBSON, HYNDMAN, PERRY, THIELE, SOLAGES, LAVINE, STERN, GRIFFIN, JONES, BUTTENSCHON, BRAUNSTEIN, FALL, FRONTUS, PAULIN, L. ROSENTHAL, WALLACE, DILAN, AUBRY, JEAN-PIERRE, DARLING, WALKER, ANDERSON, JACKSON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. DE LA ROSA, FITZPATRICK, HEVESI, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, the vehicle and traffic law and the personal property law, in relation to designating new automotive broker businesses

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 736 of the general business law,  
2 as amended by chapter 28 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as  
3 follows:  
4 1. "Automobile broker business" means any person who, for a fee,  
5 commission or other valuable consideration, regardless of whether such  
6 fee, commission, or consideration is paid directly by a consumer, offers  
7 to provide, provides, or represents that he or she will provide a  
8 service of purchasing, arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting  
9 the purchase or lease of an automobile as agent, broker, or intermediary  
10 for a consumer. "Automobile broker business" does not include any person  
11 registered as a new motor vehicle dealer or qualified dealer pursuant to  
12 article sixteen of the vehicle and traffic law nor any bona fide employ-  
13 ee of a registered new motor vehicle dealer or qualified dealer while  
14 acting for such new motor vehicle dealer or qualified dealer, or any

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

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1 person who sells, offers for sale or lease or acts as agent, broker or  
2 intermediary in effecting the purchase or lease of three or fewer auto-  
3 mobiles in any calendar year, any national service which aggregates  
4 information for consumers, but does not otherwise have contact with  
5 consumers, [~~or~~] any motor vehicle franchisor, manufacturer, or distribu-  
6 tor, distributor branch or factory branch registered under article  
7 sixteen of the vehicle and traffic law.

8 § 2. Section 736-a of the general business law, as added by chapter  
9 477 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

10 § 736-a. Registration required. 1. (a) No person shall engage in busi-  
11 ness as an automobile broker business, as defined in section seven  
12 hundred thirty-six of this article, without first having been issued a  
13 certificate of registration for an automobile broker business pursuant  
14 to paragraph c of subdivision seven of section four hundred fifteen of  
15 the vehicle and traffic law. A certificate of registration for an auto-  
16 mobile broker business shall be valid for a period of two years.

17 (b) No automobile broker business shall represent or accept payment  
18 from, either directly or indirectly, a franchisee, dealer, franchisor,  
19 manufacturer, distributor, distributor branch and/or factory branch, as  
20 such terms are defined in sections four hundred fifteen and four hundred  
21 sixty-two of the vehicle and traffic law.

22 (c) No automobile broker business shall perform any services involving  
23 the purchasing, arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the  
24 purchase or lease of an automobile as agent, broker, or intermediary for  
25 a consumer, unless done pursuant to a contract that complies with the  
26 provisions of section seven hundred thirty-eight of this article.

27 2. A certificate of registration for an automobile broker business  
28 shall not permit the registrant to display for sale or lease any new or  
29 used motor vehicles without registration as a dealer under section four  
30 hundred fifteen of the vehicle and traffic law.

31 3. Any person that sells or leases five or more vehicles in a calendar  
32 year to or through one or more automobile broker business shall be  
33 deemed to be dealing in motor vehicles as that term is used in paragraph  
34 a of subdivision one of section four hundred fifteen of the vehicle and  
35 traffic law.

36 4. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall adopt rules and regu-  
37 lations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section, includ-  
38 ing regulations that require the disclosure of the name, address, and  
39 registration number of an automobile broker business that provided the  
40 service of arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the purchase  
41 or lease of any new motor vehicle, and the fee collected by the broker  
42 from the consumer for providing such service. Such rules and regulations  
43 shall require that such information of the automobile broker business  
44 and its fee for service be printed on any invoice, bill of sale, or  
45 buyer's order, and on any application for registration or title submit-  
46 ted by any dealer to the department of motor vehicles on behalf of the  
47 consumer related to such purchased or leased motor vehicle.

48 § 3. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 737-a  
49 to read as follows:

50 § 737-a. Bona fide bid soliciting required. 1. On behalf of each  
51 consumer executing a contract that conforms to the requirements of  
52 subdivision three of section seven hundred thirty-eight of this article,  
53 an automobile broker business shall solicit a bid, from at least new  
54 motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make, that meets the specifica-  
55 tions of such prospective buyer or lessee, including from the new motor  
56 vehicle dealer located in closest proximity to the home address of a

1 prospective buyer or lessee of a new motor vehicle or, in the case of an  
2 entity, the place of doing business of such prospective buyer or lessee  
3 of a new motor vehicle. Whenever an automobile broker business may  
4 choose bid specifications on behalf of a consumer, such automobile  
5 broker business shall solicit a bid matching such specifications from at  
6 least three new motor vehicle dealers of the same line-make, including  
7 from the new motor vehicle dealer located in closest proximity to the  
8 home address of a prospective buyer or lessee of a new motor vehicle or,  
9 in the case of an entity, the place of doing business of such prospec-  
10 tive buyer or lessee of a new motor vehicle.

11 2. At a minimum, an automobile broker business that solicits a bid  
12 pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall request the following  
13 information as part of any solicitation to a new motor vehicle dealer:

- 14 (a) price or lease costs;  
15 (b) down or similar payment;  
16 (c) number of payments;  
17 (d) amount of installment or monthly payments;  
18 (e) make, model, year of production, and color of any available motor  
19 vehicle;  
20 (f) whether the motor vehicle has accessories specifically requested  
21 by the consumer;  
22 (g) fees;  
23 (h) where applicable, finance charges and/or annual percentage rate;  
24 (i) estimated delivery date of the automobile;  
25 (j) statement of whether or not the manufacturer's warranty accompany-  
26 ing the motor vehicle is the same warranty as that furnished to purchas-  
27 ers of the same motor vehicle by an authorized dealer; and  
28 (k) the identity of the new motor vehicle dealer offering a bid.

29 3. The contents of each bid by a motor vehicle dealer, solicited  
30 pursuant to subdivision one of this section, shall be provided to each  
31 consumer on whose behalf such bid has been solicited, regardless of the  
32 particulars or content of any such bid.

33 4. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall adopt rules and regu-  
34 lations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.

35 § 4. The opening paragraph and paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 and  
36 subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 738 of the general business law, the  
37 opening paragraph and paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 as amended and  
38 subdivision 4 as added by chapter 28 of the laws of 2018 and subdivision  
39 3 as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2017, are amended to read as  
40 follows:

41 Every contract between a consumer and an automobile broker business  
42 for the purchase of [~~an automobile~~] a motor vehicle, other than a new  
43 motor vehicle, shall be in writing, shall be dated, shall contain the  
44 street address of the automobile broker business and the consumer and  
45 shall be signed by the consumer and by the automobile broker business.  
46 Every contract shall comply with the requirements set forth in this  
47 section and contain the following:

48 (e) A description of any other services and an itemization of the  
49 charges for each. Such description shall include disclosure of the auto-  
50 mobile dealer from which the automobile was purchased, as well as all  
51 fees, commissions or other valuable [~~considerations paid by an automo-~~  
52 ~~bile dealer~~] consideration owed by the consumer to the automobile broker  
53 business for selling, arranging, assisting or effecting the sale of an  
54 automobile as agent, broker, or intermediary between the consumer and  
55 the automobile dealer.

1     3. Every contract between a consumer and an automobile broker business  
2 for the service of arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the  
3 purchase or lease of a new motor vehicle shall be in writing, shall be  
4 dated, shall contain the street address of the automobile broker busi-  
5 ness and the consumer, and shall be signed by the consumer and by the  
6 automobile broker business. Every such contract shall comply with the  
7 requirements set forth in this section and contain the following  
8 provisions, which shall be printed in at least twelve-point bold type  
9 and shall not be negated or superseded by any additional provision:

10     (a) A title, across the top of the document in at least sixteen-point  
11 bold type, of "Contract for Automobile Brokering Services for a New  
12 Motor Vehicle".

13     (b) A statement of whether a solicited new motor vehicle is or will be  
14 manufactured in accordance with United States specifications and is or  
15 will be certified by the manufacturer as such if the new motor vehicle  
16 is not or will not be manufactured in accordance with United States  
17 safety and environmental specifications, and the consumer has retained  
18 the automobile broker business to arrange for the modification of the  
19 new motor vehicle to meet such specifications, the name and street  
20 address of the modification facility and a statement in immediate prox-  
21 imity to such information that the automobile broker business assumes  
22 full financial responsibility that the new motor vehicle will be proper-  
23 ly modified to meet all United States safety and environmental specifi-  
24 cations.

25     (c) A statement that the consumer may cancel the contract for automo-  
26 bile brokering services for a new motor vehicle for any reason within  
27 three days of the execution of such contract and that the consumer has  
28 the right to a full refund within ten business days following receipt of  
29 the notice of cancellation.

30     (d) A statement that, if the requested new motor vehicle cannot be  
31 procured by the automobile broker business within thirty days following  
32 the date of execution of the contract for automobile brokering services  
33 for a new motor vehicle, the consumer has the right to cancel the  
34 contract and to receive a full refund within ten business days following  
35 receipt of the request for a refund, unless the delay in delivery is  
36 attributable to the consumer.

37     (e) A statement that the consumer shall be provided with the contents  
38 of each bid received by the automobile broker business in response to  
39 its solicitation on behalf of such consumer.

40     (f) The amount of the fee to be paid by the consumer to the automobile  
41 broker business for the service of arranging, assisting, facilitating or  
42 effecting the purchase or lease of a new motor vehicle.

43     (g) A statement that the single fee authorized by such contract for  
44 automobile brokering services for a new motor vehicle is inclusive of  
45 all charges incident to the purchasing, arranging, assisting, facilitat-  
46 ing or effecting the purchase or lease of such new motor vehicle by the  
47 automobile broker business as agent, broker, or intermediary and that no  
48 other charge or expense whatsoever shall be taken, received, reserved or  
49 contracted for by the automobile broker business for such services.

50     4. The contract for automobile brokering services for a new motor  
51 vehicle shall be accompanied by a completed form in duplicate, captioned  
52 "Notice of Cancellation" which shall be attached to the contract and  
53 easily detachable, and which shall contain in at least twelve-point type  
54 the following:

55     "Notice of Cancellation

You may cancel this Contract for Automobile Brokering Services for a New Motor Vehicle, without any penalty or obligation, within three days from the date that a copy of an executed contract is received by you. You may also cancel this contract, without penalty or obligation, if the automobile broker business does not produce a bid meeting your specifications within thirty days of the date of execution of this contract.

To cancel this contract, mail or deliver a signed and dated copy of this cancellation notice, or any other written notice, to (name of automobile broker business) at (address of automobile broker business) not later than midnight of the third day following your receipt of a signed contract.

I hereby cancel this transaction.

(signature of consumer)

(date)"

5. An automobile broker business shall deliver to the consumer or mail to him or her at the address shown on [~~the~~] any contract required by this section , an executed copy thereof.

~~[4.-An] 6. In addition to the brokering services agreement required by subdivision one of this section, an~~ automobile broker business in any transaction involving the lease of a vehicle shall provide the retail lessee with a retail lease agreement as provided for in section three hundred thirty-seven of the personal property law. ~~[The automobile broker shall provide a written disclosure of the amount of any fee, commission or other consideration paid or expected to be paid by the lessor to the automobile broker business in connection with a transaction involving the lease of a vehicle. Such disclosure shall be signed by the retail lessee. The automobile broker business shall provide the retail lessee with a signed copy of such disclosure together with the retail lease agreement referenced herein.]~~ Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the delivery of an executed retail lease agreement to a new motor vehicle by a person other than the prospective lessee.

§ 5. Subdivision 1 of section 740-a of the general business law, as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

1. Automobile broker businesses shall obtain and continue in effect a surety bond in an amount of [~~one~~] two hundred fifty thousand dollars executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in the state by the department of financial services of the state or its successor. The bonds shall be approved as to form by the secretary of state and shall be conditioned on the automobile broker business' payment of all valid bank drafts, including checks, drawn for the purchase of motor vehicles and safekeeping of all customer deposits related to the sale of a motor vehicle between the time of receipt of such customer deposit and the transfer of good title to the vehicle to the customer.

§ 6. Section 741 of the general business law, as added by chapter 616 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

§ 741. Deceptive acts and frauds prohibited. 1. It is hereby declared to be a deceptive trade practice and unlawful for an automobile broker business to misrepresent directly or indirectly in its advertising, promotional materials, sales presentation, or in any manner:

~~[1-]~~ (a) The nature of the services to be performed and that a third party will be paying for any such services;

~~[2-]~~ (b) The time within which the services will be performed;

~~[3-]~~ (c) The cost of the services to be performed; [~~and~~



1 ~~4.]~~ (d) The ability of the automobile broker business to perform the  
2 services; and

3 (e) That the automobile broker business is affiliated with any new  
4 motor vehicle manufacturer, distributor, distributor branch and/or  
5 factory branch including the use of any trademarks or copyrighted mate-  
6 rial without the express, written consent of the owner of such material.

7 2. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
8 business to refuse to disclose its registration number, issued either by  
9 the state or a municipality, to a motor vehicle dealer. Furthermore, it  
10 shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker busi-  
11 ness to make any misrepresentation to a motor vehicle dealer or new  
12 motor vehicle dealer regarding the eligibility of any consumer for any  
13 discounts, reductions or any benefit programs regarding the sale or  
14 lease of a motor vehicle.

15 3. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
16 business to advertise new motor vehicles, through any print, electronic  
17 or digital signal or medium, written or verbal statement or word,  
18 design, device, sound or any combination of any such method or medium,  
19 without disclosing that it is not a licensed motor vehicle dealer and is  
20 not an authorized satellite location for any particular licensed motor  
21 vehicle dealer.

22 4. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
23 business to advertise through any print, electronic or digital signal or  
24 medium, written or verbal statement or word, design, device, sound or  
25 any combination of any such method or medium, that would lead a reason-  
26 able consumer to conclude that the automobile broker business is a  
27 licensed new motor vehicle dealer.

28 5. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
29 business to maintain any website without including a text box with the  
30 following statement in no less than eighteen-point boldface type on the  
31 splash page: "(Broker name) is not a licensed new motor vehicle dealer  
32 in the State of New York, nor is it an authorized affiliate of any  
33 licensed new motor vehicle dealer in the State of New York".

34 6. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
35 business to include any pricing or financing offers or promotions in any  
36 advertisement, including any print, electronic or digital signal or  
37 medium, written or verbal statement or word, design, device, sound or  
38 any combination of any such method or medium.

39 7. It shall be a fraudulent business practice for an automobile broker  
40 business to gain access to or use, or represent or advertise that it may  
41 access or use, a portal, computer, or internet account owned by or  
42 reserved for a new motor vehicle dealer to access or use one or more  
43 finance sources that provide automotive-related loans, or purchases  
44 retail installment contracts or lease contracts for motor vehicles.

45 § 7. Section 741-b of the general business law, as added by chapter 28  
46 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

47 § 741-b. [~~Disclosure~~] Disclosures required by brokers. 1. An automo-  
48 bile broker business shall generate and provide a disclosure at the time  
49 such automobile broker business takes an order to search for a leased or  
50 purchased vehicle meeting the prospective buyer or lessee's specifica-  
51 tions. Such disclosure shall provide the amount of any fees, commissions  
52 or other valuable consideration the automobile broker business expects  
53 to receive, if known, from [~~a dealer, lessor or~~] any [~~other~~] person or  
54 entity for any assistance the automobile broker business provides in  
55 effecting the purchase or lease transaction. If the amount of any such  
56 fees, commissions or other valuable consideration the automobile broker

1 business expects to receive is unknown at the time of the required  
2 disclosure, the automobile broker business shall disclose[~~+(a)~~] whether  
3 it has a contract with any dealer, lessor or any other person or entity  
4 for the provision of assistance in effecting a purchase or lease trans-  
5 action[~~, and (b) whether the automobile broker business may be compen-~~  
6 ~~sated by the dealer, lessor or any other person or entity for any~~  
7 ~~assistance in effecting such lease transaction~~]. Nothing in this subdivi-  
8 vision shall be construed to permit the payment of any fees, commissions  
9 or other valuable consideration to an automobile broker business by any  
10 motor vehicle dealer.

11 2. An automobile broker business shall generate and provide an addi-  
12 tional disclosure to the consumer at the time such automobile broker  
13 business takes an order to search for a motor vehicle meeting the  
14 prospective buyer or lessee's specifications. Such additional disclosure  
15 shall state the following:

16 (a) that the automobile broker business shall make a bona fide attempt  
17 to obtain a bid, quote or offer from at least three unaffiliated dealers  
18 on behalf of the prospective buyer or lessee for a motor vehicle meeting  
19 the prospective buyer or lessee's specifications, including from the new  
20 motor vehicle dealer of such line-make located closest to the home or  
21 place of business of such prospective buyer for a consumer that seeks a  
22 new motor vehicle;

23 (b) that the automobile broker business shall provide to the consumer  
24 all contents of each bid made by a motor vehicle dealer in response to  
25 the solicitation of the automobile broker business; and

26 (c) that the automobile broker business has a duty to act for the  
27 benefit of the prospective buyer or lessee.

28 3. Each disclosure required by this section to be made to a consumer  
29 shall be acknowledged in writing by each consumer.

30 4. At the time an automobile broker business solicits a bid from a new  
31 motor vehicle dealer in the manner described in section seven hundred  
32 thirty-seven-a of this article, such broker shall provide a disclosure  
33 to each solicited dealer as to the provisions of section seven hundred  
34 thirty-nine of this article.

35 5. Prior to the execution of any purchase contract or lease for an  
36 automobile, an automobile broker business shall provide each consumer  
37 with all disclosures required to be made by a dealer.

38 § 8. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 741-c  
39 to read as follows:

40 § 741-c. Private information security. 1. An automobile broker busi-  
41 ness shall report annually to the department of motor vehicles its  
42 compliance with sections three hundred ninety-nine-cc, three hundred  
43 ninety-nine-dd, three hundred ninety-nine-ddd, three hundred ninety-  
44 nine-h, three hundred ninety-nine-oo, three hundred ninety-nine-p, three  
45 hundred ninety-nine-pp, and eight hundred ninety-nine-bb of this chap-  
46 ter. For the purposes of subdivision two of section eight hundred nine-  
47 ty-nine-bb of this chapter, an automobile broker business shall not be  
48 considered a small business as that term is defined in that section and  
49 shall instead be subject to reasonable security requirements that are  
50 equivalent to those applicable to new motor vehicle dealers.

51 2. In addition to the requirements of subdivision one of this section,  
52 an automobile broker business shall:

53 (a) keep and maintain all consumer records containing private informa-  
54 tion in a safe place that is not accessible to persons not employed by  
55 the automobile broker business, including by keeping and maintaining a

1 clear and permanent physical barrier from other businesses that share or  
2 neighbor its place of business;

3 (b) have a mailbox at such place of business dedicated only to the  
4 automobile broker business; and

5 (c) have a method of locking security items, including a locking cabi-  
6 net or safe.

7 3. No transaction for the purchase or lease of a new motor vehicle  
8 that was arranged, assisted, facilitated or effected by an automobile  
9 broker business shall be valid unless the consumer personally delivers  
10 an executed purchase contract or lease, and, where applicable, financing  
11 agreement, to the place of business of the dealer from which such vehi-  
12 cle will be purchased or leased and such dealer verifies the identity of  
13 such consumer.

14 § 9. Section 743 of the general business law, as amended by chapter  
15 372 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

16 § 743. Enforcement [~~by~~]. 1. By attorney general. In addition to the  
17 other remedies provided, whenever there shall be a violation of this  
18 article, application may be made by the attorney general in the name of  
19 the people of the state of New York to a court or justice having juris-  
20 diction by a special proceeding to issue an injunction, and upon notice  
21 to the defendant of not less than five days, to enjoin and restrain the  
22 continuance of such violations; and if it shall appear to the satisfac-  
23 tion of the court or justice that the defendant has, in fact, violated  
24 this article, an injunction may be issued by such court or justice,  
25 enjoining and restraining any further violation, without requiring proof  
26 that any person has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby. In any  
27 such proceeding, the court may make allowances to the attorney general  
28 as provided in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of section eighty-three  
29 hundred three of the civil practice law and rules, and direct restitu-  
30 tion. Whenever the court shall determine that a violation of this arti-  
31 cle has occurred, the court shall impose a civil penalty of not less  
32 than [~~one~~] four thousand dollars and not more than [~~three~~] ten thousand  
33 dollars for each violation. In connection with any such proposed appli-  
34 cation, the attorney general is authorized to take proof and make a  
35 determination of the relevant facts and to issue subpoenas in accordance  
36 with the civil practice law and rules.

37 2. By local authorities. (a) Municipalities may, pursuant to local  
38 law, act upon the business activity that is the subject of this article,  
39 provided that no local government may diminish the protections or  
40 requirements of this article or prevent enforcement of its provisions by  
41 appropriate state officials.

42 (b) The provisions of this article may be enforced in the same manner  
43 as set forth in subdivision one of this section by the director of a  
44 municipal consumer affairs office or a business integrity commission, or  
45 by the town attorney, city corporation counsel, or other lawfully desig-  
46 nated enforcement officer of a municipality or local government, and all  
47 monies collected thereunder shall be retained by such municipality or  
48 local government, provided that no local government may prevent enforce-  
49 ment of its provisions by appropriate state officials.

50 3. By private party. Any persons that are or may be injured by any  
51 violation of this article may bring an action in his or her own name  
52 against an automobile broker business to enjoin such unlawful act or  
53 practice, an action to recover his or her damages and statutory damages  
54 of not less than four thousand dollars and not more than ten thousand  
55 dollars for each violation, or both such actions. Injury shall include,  
56 but not be limited to, lost sales on account of deceptive or unfair



1 advertising and depriving a new motor vehicle dealer located closest to  
2 a lessee or purchaser the opportunity to bid on such lease or purchase  
3 as entitled by this article. Damages shall include, but not be limited  
4 to, lost sales and the value of incentive payments, bonuses, holdbacks  
5 or similar payments that would have been realized had a lessee or  
6 purchaser purchased or leased such vehicle from the new motor vehicle  
7 dealer in closest proximity to such lessee or purchaser but for the  
8 actions of a person who knowingly aided the violation of the provisions  
9 of this article. Nothing in this section shall require a franchisor,  
10 manufacturer, or distributor to grant a new motor vehicle dealer a bene-  
11 fit under an incentive, bonus, holdback or similar payment that the new  
12 motor vehicle dealer did not earn or for which the new motor vehicle  
13 dealer did not qualify. Such actions may be brought regardless of wheth-  
14 er or not the underlying violation is consumer-oriented or has a public  
15 impact. Given the remedial nature of this subdivision, standing to bring  
16 an action under this subdivision shall be liberally construed and shall  
17 be available to the fullest extent otherwise permitted by law. The court  
18 may, in its discretion, award treble damages if the court finds the  
19 defendant willfully or knowingly violated this article. The court shall  
20 award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff.

21 § 10. Paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 415 of the vehicle and  
22 traffic law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2015, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 a. "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of buying, selling  
25 or dealing in motor vehicles, motorcycles or trailers, other than mobile  
26 homes or manufactured homes, at retail or wholesale; except, however,  
27 trailers with an unladen weight of less than one thousand pounds. For  
28 the purposes of this section, a "mobile home" or "manufactured home"  
29 means a mobile home or manufactured home as defined in section one  
30 hundred twenty-two-c of this chapter. Any person who sells, or offers  
31 for sale or lease more than five motor vehicles, motorcycles or trailers  
32 in any calendar year or who displays or permits the display of three or  
33 more motor vehicles, motorcycles or trailers for sale at any one time or  
34 within any one calendar month upon premises owned or controlled by him  
35 or her, if such vehicles were purchased, acquired or otherwise obtained  
36 by such person for the purpose of resale, will be regarded as a dealer.  
37 For the purposes of this section, "offers for sale or lease" shall  
38 include, but not be limited to, the act of drawing the public's atten-  
39 tion to, or the presentation or display of any motor vehicle, including  
40 the posting of images of any such vehicle, together with a suggested  
41 retail price, lease cost or financing rate for such vehicle and an offer  
42 to provide, the provision of, or a representation that such person may  
43 provide a service of arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the  
44 lease of such new motor vehicle, except this meaning shall not apply to  
45 any activity of a cooperative or other advertising program or fund as  
46 described in any franchise, as such term is defined by subdivision six  
47 of section four hundred sixty-two of this title, or the display of  
48 aggregated information and images by a national service that otherwise  
49 does not have contact with consumers. Except as otherwise provided in  
50 subdivisions three, five, six-b, and seven of this section, the term  
51 "dealer" shall include a "new motor vehicle dealer" as defined by para-  
52 graph f of this subdivision and a "qualified dealer" as defined in para-  
53 graph g of this subdivision.

54 § 11. Subdivision 3 of section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law is  
55 amended by adding a new paragraph d to read as follows:

1 d. It is hereby declared to be a fraudulent practice, for the purposes  
2 of paragraph c of subdivision nine of this section, for a dealer to use  
3 any subsidiary corporation, affiliated corporation, or any other  
4 controlled corporation, partnership, association, business or person to  
5 accomplish what would otherwise be unlawful conduct under this article  
6 or article thirty-five-B of the general business law, including request-  
7 ing that an automobile broker business represent such dealer in generat-  
8 ing a sale or lease or making payment to, either directly or indirectly,  
9 an automobile broker business.

10 § 12. Subdivision 3-a and paragraph b-3 of subdivision 5 of section  
11 415 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 477 of the laws  
12 of 2017, are amended to read as follows:

13 3-a. Automobile broker business registration. a. No person shall  
14 engage in the automobile broker business or represent or advertise that  
15 he or she is engaged or intends to engage in the automobile broker busi-  
16 ness in this state, unless there shall have been issued to him or her a  
17 certificate of registration as an automobile broker business by the  
18 commissioner under this section pursuant to an application for registra-  
19 tion submitted pursuant to subdivision five of this section. Such regis-  
20 tration shall be effective for a period not exceeding two years. At the  
21 discretion of the commissioner a registration may be renewed for a peri-  
22 od of up to two years upon application therefor, in such form as the  
23 commissioner may prescribe, and a showing of proof of satisfaction of  
24 the requirements of section seven hundred forty-a of the general busi-  
25 ness law, and upon payment of the fee as herein prescribed.

26 b. The commissioner shall not issue or renew a certificate of regis-  
27 tration authorized by this subdivision to any dealer, franchisee, fran-  
28 chisor, manufacturer, distributor, distributor branch or factory branch,  
29 as such terms are defined in section four hundred sixty-two of this  
30 title, or to any subsidiary, affiliate, employee or controlled person or  
31 entity thereof.

32 c. As a condition of any certificate of registration issued or renewed  
33 pursuant to this subdivision, an automobile broker business shall have,  
34 and continuously maintain, a place of business in this state for which  
35 it shall keep and maintain evidence that all necessary approvals,  
36 licenses and/or permits have been obtained from all local governing  
37 bodies to operate such place of business with customer or client traf-  
38 fic. No more than one automobile broker business shall operate at any  
39 single location and no automobile broker business shall operate at the  
40 same location as a new motor vehicle dealer.

41 d. Every registered automobile broker business shall prominently and  
42 conspicuously post, in such a manner that it is likely to be noticeable  
43 to anyone entering its premises, its official business certificate of  
44 registration and a sign, which sign shall clearly state:

45 "(Name of registered automobile broker) is not a franchised new motor  
46 vehicle dealer. We are not authorized or approved by a manufacturer or  
47 distributor to sell a new motor vehicle or perform recall or original  
48 factory warranty work. If you order a search for a new motor vehicle  
49 from this broker, we must make a bona fide effort to solicit bids from  
50 at least three unaffiliated new motor vehicle dealers for a new motor  
51 vehicle on your behalf, including from your local dealer."

52 e. As a condition of any certificate of registration issued or renewed  
53 pursuant to this subdivision, and before performing any broker services  
54 related to a new motor vehicle, an automobile broker business shall  
55 attest in writing to each consumer, that the broker: (i) is not a fran-  
56 chised new motor vehicle dealer; (ii) is not authorized or approved by a

1 manufacturer or distributor to sell a new motor vehicle or perform  
2 recall or original factory warranty work; and (iii) that the broker  
3 shall make a bona fide effort to solicit bids from at least three unaf-  
4 filiated new motor vehicle dealers that sell a new motor vehicle or any  
5 line or make desired by such consumer, including from the consumer's  
6 local dealer.

7 f. It is hereby declared to be a fraudulent practice, for the purposes  
8 of paragraph c of subdivision nine of this section, for an automobile  
9 broker business to draw the public's attention to, or present or display  
10 any new motor vehicle, including by posting images of any such vehicle,  
11 together with a suggested retail price, lease cost or financing rate for  
12 such vehicle and an offer to provide, the provision of, or a represen-  
13 tation that such person may provide a service of arranging, assisting,  
14 facilitating or effecting the purchase or lease of such new motor vehi-  
15 cle.

16 g. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a fran-  
17 chisor, manufacturer, or distributor from sponsoring activities intended  
18 to generate leads toward the sale or lease of a new motor vehicle by a  
19 franchisee.

20 b-3. In the case of an application for registration as an automobile  
21 broker business, either for initial registration or renewal thereof, the  
22 name and address of the surety company which will issue the bond  
23 required by subdivision one of section seven hundred forty-a of the  
24 general business law, a copy of such bond certified by the secretary of  
25 state or one of his or her agents, and a statement indicating any inter-  
26 est in the applicant's business entity by a person or entity described  
27 in paragraph f of subdivision one or paragraph f of subdivision seven of  
28 this section, or any employee or person, controlling person or entity  
29 thereof. If the bond is to be issued by an authorized agent of the sure-  
30 ty company licensed by the state, then the name and address of that  
31 agent may be provided in lieu of the information concerning the surety  
32 company.

33 § 13. Section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding  
34 two new subdivisions 21 and 22 to read as follows:

35 21. Penalties and rights of action for failure to obtain a certificate  
36 of registration as an automobile broker pursuant to subdivision three-a  
37 and paragraph b-3 of subdivision five of this section. In addition to  
38 any other action authorized by law, the commissioner, or any person  
39 designated by him or her, may proceed against a party who has operated  
40 as an automobile broker without certificate of registration in accord-  
41 ance with the provisions of this article, in any one or more proceedings  
42 and by order to enjoin such unlawful acts or practices and requiring the  
43 offending party to pay the people of this state a penalty in a sum not  
44 less than four thousand dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars  
45 for each violation found to have been committed. Civil penalties  
46 assessed under this subdivision shall be paid to the commissioner for  
47 deposit into the state treasury, and unpaid civil penalties may be  
48 recovered by the commissioner in a civil action in the name of the  
49 commissioner. For the purposes of this subdivision, a "violation" shall  
50 mean each vehicle sold or leased to a consumer for which the party that  
51 failed to obtain certification as an automobile broker has served as an  
52 automobile broker.

53 22. Automobile broker record requirements. a. Automobile brokers shall  
54 maintain a permanently bound book in which shall be recorded the make,  
55 model, year, color and vehicle identification number of all new motor  
56 vehicles for which such broker has provided a service of purchasing,

1 arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the purchase or lease of  
2 such automobile within any preceding six-year period. Such broker shall  
3 also record in such book the name and address of the purchaser or lessor  
4 of such automobile, the date of sale or commencement of lease of such  
5 automobile and the name and address of the dealer from which the automo-  
6 bile was purchased or leased.

7 b. Automobile broker businesses shall maintain a permanently bound  
8 book in which shall be recorded all completed orders to search for a new  
9 motor vehicle within any preceding six-year period. Such broker shall  
10 also record in such book the date of such order, the name and address of  
11 the person or entity ordering such search, the automobile specifications  
12 provided by such prospective buyer or lessee and the name and address of  
13 the dealers solicited for a quote or offer on behalf of such prospective  
14 buyer or lessee.

15 c. Such books shall be open for inspection by the commissioner, or his  
16 or her agent, during reasonable business hours. The commissioner may  
17 establish by rule the form of any such book.

18 d. As an alternative to a bound book, an automobile broker may use a  
19 computer and software approved by the department to maintain the records  
20 required to be kept by this section, provided all information required  
21 by paragraphs a and b of this section are recorded and the records  
22 conform to such additional requirements as determined by the commission-  
23 er.

24 § 14. Subdivision 5 of section 337 of the personal property law is  
25 amended by adding a new paragraph (m) and such section is amended by  
26 adding a new subdivision 4-a to read as follows:

27 4-a. Any credit application, or other request for a determination of  
28 creditworthiness, in furtherance of a retail lease agreement for a new  
29 motor vehicle, that is submitted to a lessor or anticipated assignee  
30 that is a manufacturer, as such term is defined in section four hundred  
31 fifteen of the vehicle and traffic law, a person under contract with a  
32 manufacturer to serve as holder, or a captive finance source, as such  
33 term is defined by subdivision sixteen of section four hundred sixty-two  
34 of the vehicle and traffic law, shall include the name, address, and  
35 department of motor vehicles registration number of the automobile  
36 broker business that provided the service of arranging, assisting,  
37 facilitating or effecting such agreement as agent, broker, or interme-  
38 diary for such retail lessee, and the amount of the fee paid by the  
39 consumer to the automobile broker business, as such term is used in  
40 article thirty-five-B of the general business law, for the service of  
41 arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting the lease of such new  
42 motor vehicle.

43 (m) In the case of a retail lease agreement for a new motor vehicle,  
44 as such term is defined in subdivision eleven of section four hundred  
45 sixty-two of the vehicle and traffic law, where the lessor or antic-  
46 ipated assignee is a manufacturer, as such term is defined in subdivi-  
47 sion nine of section four hundred sixty-two of the vehicle and traffic  
48 law, a person under contract with the manufacturer of such leased new  
49 motor vehicle to serve as holder, or a captive finance source, as such  
50 term is defined by subdivision sixteen of section four hundred sixty-two  
51 of the vehicle and traffic law, the name, address, and department of  
52 motor vehicles registration number of the automobile broker business  
53 that provided the service of arranging, assisting, facilitating or  
54 effecting such agreement as agent, broker, or intermediary for such  
55 retail lessee, and the amount of the fee paid by the consumer to the  
56 automobile broker business, as such term is used in article

1 thirty-five-B of the general business law, for the service of arranging,  
2 assisting, facilitating or effecting the lease of such new motor vehi-  
3 cle.

4 § 15. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application  
5 of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not  
6 affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act,  
7 or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be  
8 given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the  
9 provisions and applications of this act are severable.

10 § 16. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that all auto-  
11 mobile brokers registered on the effective date of this act shall have  
12 ninety days to come into compliance with the provisions of this act.