

STATE OF NEW YORK

657

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BRAUNSTEIN, ABINANTI, GUNTHER, GOTTFRIED, WEPRIN, L. ROSENTHAL, COLTON, CAHILL, O'DONNELL, PEOPLES-STOKES, STECK, PERRY, OTIS, RODRIGUEZ, SIMON, BUTTENSCHON, CRUZ, EPSTEIN, SEAWRIGHT, GRIF-FIN, MONTESANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, GALEF, GLICK, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to the sale and use of employment information

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

1 Section 1. Section 380-v of the general business law, as relettered
2 by chapter 441 of the laws of 2014, is relettered section 380-w and a
3 new section 380-v is added to read as follows:

4 § 380-v. Sale and use of employment information. (a) No consumer
5 reporting agency or any subsidiary thereof shall sell or resell, or
6 offer for sale or resale or distribute employment information to any
7 principal creditor, as that term is defined in subdivision three of
8 section six hundred of this chapter, or other debt collector without
9 verifying that such sale, resale, or distribution was disclosed to the
10 consumer to whom such employment information pertains in a separate
11 stand-alone document, and that written consent from such consumer was
12 obtained. Employment information shall include, but not be limited to,
13 payroll and earnings information, hours worked, consumer history and
14 health insurance information.

15 (b) Such disclosure and consumer consent shall be given in a separate,
16 stand-alone document and consent shall be limited to the particular use
17 or transaction for which consent is given.

18 (c) Wherever there shall be a violation of this section, an applica-
19 tion may be made by the attorney general in the name of the people of
20 the state of New York to a court or justice having jurisdiction by a

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

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1 special proceeding to issue an injunction, and upon notice to the
2 defendant of not less than five days, to enjoin or restrain the contin-
3 uance of such violation; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of
4 the court or justice that the defendant has, in fact, violated this
5 section, an injunction may be issued by such court or justice, enjoining
6 and restraining any further violation, without requiring proof that any
7 person has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby. In any such
8 proceeding, the court may make allowances to the attorney general as
9 provided in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of section eighty-three
10 hundred three of the civil practice law and rules, and direct restitu-
11 tion. Whenever the court shall determine that a violation of this
12 section has occurred, the court may impose a civil penalty of not more
13 than two thousand dollars for each violation. In connection with any
14 such proposed application, the attorney general is authorized to take
15 proof and make a determination of the relevant facts and to issue
16 subpoenas in accordance with the civil practice law and rules.

17 (d) In addition to any right of action granted to the attorney general
18 pursuant to this section, any person who has been injured by reason of
19 any violation of this section may bring an action in his or her own name
20 to enjoin such unlawful act or practice, an action to recover his or her
21 compensatory damages and one thousand dollars, or both such actions. The
22 court may, in its discretion, award the prevailing plaintiff in such
23 action an additional award not to exceed five thousand dollars, if the
24 court finds the defendant willfully violated the provisions of this
25 section. The court may award reasonable attorneys' fees to a prevailing
26 plaintiff.

27 (e) Nothing in this section shall in any way limit the rights, reme-
28 dies or privileges that are otherwise available to a consumer at law or
29 equity.

30 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
31 it shall have become a law.