STATE OF NEW YORK

166

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. GIANARIS, ADDABBO, BIAGGI, GAUGHRAN, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, LIU, PARKER, SERRANO, STAVISKY, STEWART-COUSINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Banks

AN ACT to amend the banking law, in relation to requiring transmitters of money to provide a certain warning to consumers

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

Section 1. The banking law is amended by adding a new section 652-c to read as follows:

§ 652-c. Required warning. 1. A person engaged in the business of receiving money for transmission or transmitting money by wire or electronic transfer which, at the request of an individual who in person, by telephone or electronic means transmits funds to another person, business or entity, shall clearly and prominently warn the person requesting the transmission prior to completing such transmission of funds. Such warning shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(a) a title in bold, capital letters saying "Warning: do not fall victim to consumer fraud.";

(b) questions or information that alert a consumer about the dangers of sending funds for lottery winnings, credit card guarantees or loans, internet or phone offers, to persons unknown to the consumer or persons whose identity the consumer cannot verify and any other fraud alert; and

(c) information about how to ask questions of the sales clerk or representative; and

(d) information about how to stop a transfer.

2. For the purposes of this section, "clearly and prominently" means: (a) in written communications, including print and those made through an electronic medium (such as video and interactive media including, but not limited to, the internet, online services, and electronic mail) the

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

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warning shall appear on the same form as the form used to authorize the transmission of funds, shall be in a type size sufficiently noticeable for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend the written warning and shall be in a type that contrasts with the background against which the written warning appears; and (b) in oral communications, the warning shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend. If any communication is presented solely through oral, written or visual means, the warning shall be made through the same means.

3. The warning required by this section shall not apply to an electronic funds transfer in which funds are not transferred directly to another person and are not available for immediate use, nor shall any warning be required in an electronic funds transfer made with a gift certificate as defined in section three hundred ninety-six-i of the general business law.

4. A violation of the provisions of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not more than two hundred fifty dollars for the first violation and five hundred dollars for each subsequent violation.

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