

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5468--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, ZEBROWSKI, WALLACE, GLICK, SANTABARBARA, BUTTENSCHON, OTIS, SAYEGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to the use of voice recognition features

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

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new article  
2 32-A to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 32-A

#### VOICE RECOGNITION FEATURES

5 Section 676. Use of voice recognition features in products.

6 § 676. Use of voice recognition features in products. 1. For purposes  
7 of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

8 (a) "Connected device" shall mean a television, video game console as  
9 defined in section three hundred ninety-six-~~kk~~ of this chapter, computer  
10 as defined in section three hundred ninety-two-a of this chapter,  
11 computer accessory as defined in section three hundred ninety-two-a of  
12 this chapter, internet-capable device as defined in section five hundred  
13 thirty-eight-b of this chapter, or a toy as defined in paragraph (d) of  
14 this subdivision.

15 (b) "User" means a person who originally purchases, leases, or takes  
16 ownership of a connected device. A person who is incidentally recorded  
17 when a voice recognition feature is activated by a user shall not be  
18 deemed to be a user.

19 (c) "Voice recognition feature" means the function of a connected  
20 device that allows the collection, recording, storage, analysis, trans-  
21 mission, interpretation, or other use of spoken words or other sounds.

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

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1 (d) "Toy" means any product designed or intended by the manufacturer  
2 to be used by children or adults for amusement or play.

3 2. (a) A person or entity shall not provide the operation of a voice  
4 recognition feature within this state without prominently informing,  
5 during the initial setup or installation of a connected device, either  
6 the user or the person designated by the user to perform the initial  
7 setup or installation of the connected device of the functions of the  
8 device, that the device may be recording the user, and that the entity  
9 that makes the device may be retaining these recordings.

10 (b) Any recordings collected through the operation of a voice recogni-  
11 tion feature by the manufacturer of a connected device shall not be sold  
12 or used for any advertising purposes.

13 (c) Any recordings collected through the operation of a voice recogni-  
14 tion feature by a third party contracting with the manufacturer of a  
15 connected device shall not be sold or used for any advertising purposes.

16 (d) The manufacturer of a connected device shall not be liable for  
17 functionality provided by third party applications that the user chooses  
18 to use or are downloaded and installed by a user.

19 3. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize disclosure  
20 of any recordings retained by the manufacturer to any individual or  
21 entity, including a law enforcement agency, or any officer, employee, or  
22 agent of such agency, unless otherwise authorized by law or pursuant to  
23 a judicial order.

24 4. (a) Whenever the attorney general shall believe from evidence  
25 satisfactory to him or her that there is a violation of this section, he  
26 or she may bring an action in the name and on behalf of the people of  
27 the state of New York, in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin  
28 and restrain the continuation of such violation. In such action, prelim-  
29 inary relief may be granted under article sixty-three of the civil prac-  
30 tice law and rules. In such action, the court may award damages for  
31 actual costs or losses incurred by the consumer. Whenever the court  
32 shall determine in such action that a person or business violated this  
33 section, the court may impose a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand  
34 five hundred dollars per violation.

35 (b) The remedies provided by this subdivision shall be in addition to  
36 any other lawful remedy available.

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