

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3567--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 28, 2025

Introduced by Sens. CLEARE, FERNANDEZ, C. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to enacting the "consumer protection and automotive transparency act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "consumer protection and automotive transparency act".  
3 § 2. Legislative purpose and intent. The purpose of this act is to  
4 mandate transparency in automotive labeling, ensuring consumers are  
5 accurately informed about the materials used in the interiors of autom-  
6 biles. Consumers are often misled by the marketing of different types of  
7 materials used in making seating surfaces, steering wheels and gear  
8 shifters in the automotive industry. This misleading marketing can  
9 result in consumers paying more for products that are not what they were  
10 expecting or buying a product that they assume is a certain material and  
11 it is not. It is important to protect consumers (monetarily, ethically  
12 and health-related) by requiring automotive manufacturers to disclose  
13 the materials used in their interior products. This legislation aims to  
14 protect consumers from deceptive marketing practices and promote trans-  
15 parency across the automotive industry.  
16 (a) The purpose of this legislation is to protect consumers in the  
17 automotive industry by ensuring transparency and accurate labeling of  
18 materials used in automobile interiors.  
19 (b) This legislation aims to prevent misleading marketing practices  
20 and provide consumers with clear and understandable information about  
21 the content of automobile interiors.

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

LBD05727-05-5

1 (c) This legislation mandates transparency in the labeling of automo-  
2 tive interiors to protect consumers from misleading marketing practices  
3 related to leather, fabric and plastic materials.

4 (d) This legislation aims to ensure that consumers can make informed  
5 decisions about the materials used in automotive interiors.

6 (e) This legislation seeks to establish clear and simple labeling  
7 requirements, avoiding unnecessary complexity and ensuring accessibility  
8 for consumers of all educational backgrounds.

9 § 3. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 198-d  
10 to read as follows:

11 § 198-d. Consumer protection and automotive transparency. (a) Defi-  
12 nitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall  
13 have the following meanings:

14 (1) "Leather" means any hide or skin products derived from animals  
15 that possess an intact original fibrous structure, obtained from hides  
16 tanned to prevent decay, that may have been split before or after  
17 tanning into layers or segments, and that may have a coating applied.

18 (2) "Fabric" means any cloth or material produced by weaving or knit-  
19 ting fibers.

20 (3) "Plastic and coated materials" means rolled goods, or sheets of  
21 woven, knit, or non-woven textiles to which a polymer or resin mixture  
22 is applied as a surface coating or layer and makes up the majority of  
23 the base material.

24 (4) "Label" means any tag, label, or other writing that is attached to  
25 or accompanies an automotive product.

26 (b) Labeling requirements. (1) Automotive manufacturers of new motor  
27 vehicles shall clearly label the interior materials of such motor vehi-  
28 cles using terms that are easily understandable to the average consumer.

29 (2) The interior threshold required for defined labeling shall be  
30 based upon the percent of material used on the interactive interior  
31 surfaces of a motor vehicle. Interactive interior surfaces shall mean  
32 seating surfaces in all rows of the motor vehicle, headrests, steering  
33 wheel, and gear shift. Interactive interior surfaces shall not include  
34 seating side and back panels and all other non-seating surfaces in the  
35 motor vehicle.

36 (3) The following terms shall be used to describe the materials used  
37 in motor vehicle interiors: leather, fabric, plastic and coated materi-  
38 als, and any other material that accurately represents the nature of the  
39 interior.

40 (4) The interactive interior surfaces labels shall be clearly visible  
41 and prominently displayed on any marketing materials provided to the  
42 consumer with the motor vehicle and printed in type no less than twelve-  
43 point font.

44 (c) Prohibition of deceptive practices. It shall be unlawful to sell,  
45 market, or advertise motor vehicle interiors using terms such as "leath-  
46 er," "skin," "tanned skin," "coated leather," or any other terms defined  
47 in this section, its derivatives, or synonyms, as well as the other  
48 terms as a means of naming any other materials which do not comply with  
49 the characteristics defined in subdivision (a) of this section, either  
50 as a noun or as an adjective, even if entered as prefixes or suffixes in  
51 other words, regardless of the language used.

52 (d) Enforcement and penalties. (1) Whenever a violation of this  
53 section has occurred, a civil penalty shall be imposed on the manufac-  
54 turer of up to two hundred and fifty dollars per violation for the first  
55 offense and up to five hundred dollars per violation for subsequent  
56 offenses.

1 (2) Any violation of subdivision (c) of this section shall be deemed a  
2 deceptive practice within the meaning of section three hundred forty-  
3 nine of this chapter.

4 § 4. Severability. If any provision of this act is held to be invalid  
5 or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect  
6 the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this act.

7 § 5. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
8 law.