
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1314 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY DRISCOLL, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN,
HOHENSTEIN, SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI, NEILSON, GALLOWAY, ROZZI,
DELLOSO, DEASY, WARREN, ISAACSON AND PISCIOTTANO,
APRIL 30, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, APRIL 30, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387),
2 entitled "An act prohibiting unfair methods of competition
3 and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of
4 any trade or commerce, giving the Attorney General and
5 District Attorneys certain powers and duties and providing
6 penalties," further providing for definitions, for unlawful
7 acts or practices and exclusions and for private actions.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 2(4)(xxi) of the act of December 17, 1968
11 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and
12 Consumer Protection Law, is amended and the clause is amended by
13 adding a subclause to read:

14 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act.

15 * * *

16 (4) "Unfair methods of competition" and "unfair or deceptive
17 acts or practices" mean any one or more of the following:

18 * * *

19 (xxi) Using a contract for the sale of goods or services

1 which states that any of the contract's provisions are or may be
2 void, unenforceable or inapplicable in a jurisdiction without
3 specifying which provisions are or are not void, unenforceable
4 or inapplicable within this Commonwealth. This subclause shall
5 not apply to a health club as defined under section 2 of the act
6 of December 21, 1989 (P.L.672, No.87), known as the "Health Club
7 Act."

8 (xxii) Engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct
9 which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Section 3(a) of the act, amended November 25,
12 2020 (P.L. , No.123), is amended to read:

13 Section 3. Unlawful Acts or Practices; Exclusions.--Unfair
14 methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices
15 in the conduct of any trade or commerce as defined by subclauses
16 (i) through [(xxi)] (xxii) of clause (4) of section 2 of this
17 act and regulations promulgated under section 3.1 of this act
18 are hereby declared unlawful. The provisions of this act shall
19 not apply to any owner, agent or employe of any radio or
20 television station, or to any owner, publisher, printer, agent
21 or employe of an Internet service provider or a newspaper or
22 other publication, periodical or circular, who, in good faith
23 and without knowledge of the falsity or deceptive character
24 thereof, publishes, causes to be published or takes part in the
25 publication of such advertisement.

26 * * *

27 Section 3. Section 9.2(a) of the act is amended to read:

28 Section 9.2. Private Actions.--(a) Any person [who
29 purchases or leases goods or services primarily for personal,
30 family or household purposes and thereby suffers any

1 ascertainable loss of money or property, real or personal, as a
2 result of the use or employment by any person of a method, act
3 or practice] that uses or employs a method, act or practice
4 declared unlawful by section 3 of this act[, may bring a private
5 action to recover actual damages or one hundred dollars (\$100),
6 whichever is greater.] shall be liable for a civil penalty of
7 not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or for actual damages,
8 or both, at the election of the consumer, together with
9 reasonable attorney fees and court costs. The court may, in its
10 discretion, award up to three times the actual damages
11 sustained, but not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), and may
12 provide such additional relief as it deems necessary or proper.
13 [The court may award to the plaintiff, in addition to other
14 relief provided in this section, costs and reasonable attorney
15 fees.] Actual damages may be recoverable by a consumer in a
16 private action or as part of a counterclaim by a consumer
17 against a seller, lessor, creditor, lender, bailee or assignee
18 which used or employed a method, act or practice declared
19 unlawful by section 3 of this act. A consumer shall have the
20 right to petition the court to terminate a contract which
21 violates section 3 of this act.

22 * * *

23 Section 4. The amendment of section 2(4)(xxi) shall apply to
24 contracts entered into or renewed on or after the effective date
25 of this section.

26 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.