

2012 -- H 7798

=====  
LC01892  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --  
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES -- CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT AND IDENTITY THEFT  
PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representative Brian C. Newberry

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 6-13-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 6-13 entitled "Unfair Sales  
2 Practices" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **6-13-17. Requiring consumers to furnish social security numbers.** -- (a) Unless  
4 otherwise required by federal law, no person shall require that a consumer of goods or services  
5 disclose all or part of a social security number incident to the sale of consumer goods or services;  
6 provided, however, that:

7           (1) Insurance companies and institutions licensed by the state or federal government for  
8 financial services may require applicants for those services to disclose their social security  
9 number;

10           (2) Social security numbers may be required for the providing and billing of health care  
11 or pharmaceutical-related services, including the issuance of identification cards and account  
12 numbers for users of health care or pharmaceutical-related services; and

13           (3) Disclosure may be required of a consumer as a condition of applying for a credit card  
14 [or the extension of credit](#) for the purchase [or rental](#) of goods or services.

15           (b) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,  
16 and upon conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

17           (c) In any civil action alleging a violation of this section, the court may award damages,  
18 reasonable attorney's fees, and costs to a prevailing consumer, and afford injunctive relief against

1 any person or business that commits or proposes to commit a violation of this section.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC01892  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --  
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES -- CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT AND IDENTITY THEFT  
PREVENTION ACT

\*\*\*

- 1           This act would add requests for the extension of credit and rentals to the instances where
- 2           social security numbers may be requested.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC01892  
=====