

SENATE BILL No. 657

August 13, 2003, Introduced by Senators BROWN, GARCIA, CHERRY, CASSIS, GEORGE, BIRKHOZ, CROSEY, BRATER, VAN WOERKOM and HARDIMAN and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 331, entitled "Michigan consumer protection act," by amending section 3 (MCL 445.903), as amended by 2002 PA 613.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 3. (1) Unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive methods,
2 acts, or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce are
3 unlawful and are defined as follows:

4 (a) Causing a probability of confusion or misunderstanding as
5 to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods
6 or services.

7 (b) Using deceptive representations or deceptive designations
8 of geographic origin in connection with goods or services.

9 (c) Representing that goods or services have sponsorship,
10 approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or
11 quantities that they do not have or that a person has

1 sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection that he
2 or she does not have.

3 (d) Representing that goods are new if they are deteriorated,
4 altered, reconditioned, used, or secondhand.

5 (e) Representing that goods or services are of a particular
6 standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular
7 style or model, if they are of another.

8 (f) Disparaging the goods, services, business, or reputation
9 of another by false or misleading representation of fact.

10 (g) Advertising or representing goods or services with intent
11 not to dispose of those goods or services as advertised or
12 represented.

13 (h) Advertising goods or services with intent not to supply
14 reasonably expectable public demand, unless the advertisement
15 discloses a limitation of quantity in immediate conjunction with
16 the advertised goods or services.

17 (i) Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning
18 the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions.

19 (j) Representing that a part, replacement, or repair service
20 is needed when it is not.

21 (k) Representing to a party to whom goods or services are
22 supplied that the goods or services are being supplied in
23 response to a request made by or on behalf of the party, when
24 they are not.

25 (l) Misrepresenting that because of some defect in a
26 consumer's home the health, safety, or lives of the consumer or
27 his or her family are in danger if the product or services are

1 not purchased, when in fact the defect does not exist or the
2 product or services would not remove the danger.

3 (m) Causing a probability of confusion or of misunderstanding
4 with respect to the authority of a salesperson, representative,
5 or agent to negotiate the final terms of a transaction.

6 (n) Causing a probability of confusion or of misunderstanding
7 as to the legal rights, obligations, or remedies of a party to a
8 transaction.

9 (o) Causing a probability of confusion or of misunderstanding
10 as to the terms or conditions of credit if credit is extended in
11 a transaction.

12 (p) Disclaiming or limiting the implied warranty of
13 merchantability and fitness for use, unless a disclaimer is
14 clearly and conspicuously disclosed.

15 (q) Representing or implying that the subject of a consumer
16 transaction will be provided promptly, or at a specified time, or
17 within a reasonable time, if the merchant knows or has reason to
18 know it will not be so provided.

19 (r) Representing that a consumer will receive goods or
20 services "free" or "without charge", or using words of similar
21 import in the representation, without clearly and conspicuously
22 disclosing with equal prominence in immediate conjunction with
23 the use of those words the conditions, terms, or prerequisites to
24 the use or retention of the goods or services advertised.

25 (s) Failing to reveal a material fact, the omission of which
26 tends to mislead or deceive the consumer, and which fact could
27 not reasonably be known by the consumer.

1 (t) Entering into a consumer transaction in which the
2 consumer waives or purports to waive a right, benefit, or
3 immunity provided by law, unless the waiver is clearly stated and
4 the consumer has specifically consented to it.

5 (u) Failing, in a consumer transaction that is rescinded,
6 canceled, or otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of
7 an agreement, advertisement, representation, or provision of law,
8 to promptly restore to the person or persons entitled to it a
9 deposit, down payment, or other payment, or in the case of
10 property traded in but not available, the greater of the agreed
11 value or the fair market value of the property, or to cancel
12 within a specified time or an otherwise reasonable time an
13 acquired security interest.

14 (v) Taking or arranging for the consumer to sign an
15 acknowledgment, certificate, or other writing affirming
16 acceptance, delivery, compliance with a requirement of law, or
17 other performance, if the merchant knows or has reason to know
18 that the statement is not true.

19 (w) Representing that a consumer will receive a rebate,
20 discount, or other benefit as an inducement for entering into a
21 transaction, if the benefit is contingent on an event to occur
22 subsequent to the consummation of the transaction.

23 (x) Taking advantage of the consumer's inability reasonably
24 to protect his or her interests by reason of disability,
25 illiteracy, or inability to understand the language of an
26 agreement presented by the other party to the transaction who
27 knows or reasonably should know of the consumer's inability.

1 (y) Gross discrepancies between the oral representations of
2 the seller and the written agreement covering the same
3 transaction or failure of the other party to the transaction to
4 provide the promised benefits.

5 (z) Charging the consumer a price that is grossly in excess
6 of the price at which similar property or services are sold.

7 (aa) Causing coercion and duress as the result of the time
8 and nature of a sales presentation.

9 (bb) Making a representation of fact or statement of fact
10 material to the transaction such that a person reasonably
11 believes the represented or suggested state of affairs to be
12 other than it actually is.

13 (cc) Failing to reveal facts that are material to the
14 transaction in light of representations of fact made in a
15 positive manner.

16 (dd) Subject to subdivision (ee), representations by the
17 manufacturer of a product or package that the product or package
18 is 1 or more of the following:

19 (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), recycled,
20 recyclable, degradable, or is of a certain recycled content, in
21 violation of guides for the use of environmental marketing
22 claims, 16 C.F.R. part 260.

23 (ii) For container holding devices regulated under part 163
24 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994
25 PA 451, MCL 324.16301 to 324.16303, representations by a
26 manufacturer that the container holding device is degradable
27 contrary to the definition provided in that act.

1 (ee) Representing that a product or package is degradable,
2 biodegradable, or photodegradable unless it can be substantiated
3 by evidence that the product or package will completely decompose
4 into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of
5 time after consumers use the product and dispose of the product
6 or the package in a landfill or composting facility, as
7 appropriate.

8 (ff) Offering a consumer a prize if in order to claim the
9 prize the consumer is required to submit to a sales presentation,
10 unless a written disclosure is given to the consumer at the time
11 the consumer is notified of the prize and the written disclosure
12 meets all of the following requirements:

13 (i) Is written or printed in a bold type that is not smaller
14 than 10-point.

15 (ii) Fully describes the prize, including its cash value, won
16 by the consumer.

17 (iii) Contains all the terms and conditions for claiming the
18 prize, including a statement that the consumer is required to
19 submit to a sales presentation.

20 (iv) Fully describes the product, real estate, investment,
21 service, membership, or other item that is or will be offered for
22 sale, including the price of the least expensive item and the
23 most expensive item.

24 (gg) Violating 1971 PA 227, MCL 445.111 to 445.117, in
25 connection with a home solicitation sale or telephone
26 solicitation, including, but not limited to, having an
27 independent courier service or other third party pick up a

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1 consumer's payment on a home solicitation sale during the period
2 the consumer is entitled to cancel the sale.

3 (hh) Requiring a consumer to disclose his or her social
4 security number as a condition to selling goods or providing a
5 service to the consumer, unless the transaction includes an
6 extension of credit to the consumer or <<relates to the administration of
a health-related benefit provided by an employer or>> disclosure is
required or
7 authorized by applicable state or federal statute, rule, or
8 regulation.

9 (2) The attorney general may promulgate rules to implement
10 this act under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969
11 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. The rules shall not create an
12 additional unfair trade practice not already enumerated by this
13 section. However, to assure national uniformity, rules shall not
14 be promulgated to implement subsection (1)(dd) or (ee).

<<Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect March 31,
2004.>>