

LEGISLATIVE BILL 835

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2016

Introduced by Mello, 5; Coash, 27.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to consumer protection; to amend sections 8-2601, 8-2602, 8-2603, 8-2604, 8-2605, 8-2606, 8-2608, 8-2609, 8-2610, 8-2611, 8-2612, 8-2613, 8-2614, 8-2615, 20-149, 59-1611, 59-1614, 87-301, 87-302, 87-303, 87-802, 87-803, and 87-804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to the Credit Report Protection Act, Consumer Protection Act, Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and Financial Data Protection and Consumer Notification of Data Security Breach Act of 2006; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 8-2601, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2601 Sections 8-2601 to 8-2615 and sections 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 19 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Credit Report Protection Act.

Sec. 2. Section 8-2602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2602 For purposes of the Credit Report Protection Act:

(1) Consumer reporting agency means any person which, for monetary fees, for dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties and which uses any means or facility of interstate commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer reports;

(2) Credit report has the same meaning as consumer report as defined in 15 U.S.C. 1681a(d);

(3) ~~(2)~~ File, when used in connection with information on any consumer or protected consumer, means all of the information on that consumer or protected consumer recorded and retained by a consumer reporting agency regardless of how the information is stored. File does not include a record;

(4) Protected consumer means an individual who is (a) under sixteen years of age at the time a request for the placement of a security freeze is made or (b) an incapacitated person for whom a guardian or guardian ad litem has been appointed ~~(3) Minor means a person who is under nineteen years of age;~~

(5) Record means a compilation of information that (a) identifies a protected consumer, (b) is created by a consumer reporting agency solely for the purpose of complying with section 4 of this act, and (c) may not be created or used to consider the protected consumer's credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living;

(6) Representative means a person who provides to a consumer reporting agency sufficient proof of authority to act on behalf of a protected consumer;

(7) ~~(4)~~ Security freeze means:

(a) A a notice placed in a consumer's file as provided in section 8-2603 that prohibits the consumer reporting agency from releasing a credit report, or any other information derived from the file, in connection with the extension of credit or the opening of a new account, without the express authorization of the consumer; and

(b) If a consumer reporting agency does not have a file pertaining to a protected consumer, a restriction that:

(i) Is placed on the protected consumer's record in accordance with section 4 of this act; and

(ii) Prohibits the consumer reporting agency from releasing the protected consumer's record except as provided in the Credit Report Protection Act; or

(c) If a consumer reporting agency has a file pertaining to the protected consumer, a restriction that:

(i) Is placed on the protected consumer's credit report in accordance with section 4 of this act; and

(ii) Prohibits the consumer reporting agency from releasing the protected consumer's credit report or any information derived from the protected consumer's credit report except as provided in section 9 of this act;

(8) Sufficient proof of authority means documentation that shows a representative has authority to act on behalf of a protected consumer. Sufficient proof of authority includes, but is not limited to, an order issued by a court of law, a lawfully executed and valid power of attorney, or a written notarized statement signed by a representative that expressly describes the authority of the representative to act on behalf of a protected consumer. A representative who is a parent may establish sufficient proof of authority by providing a certified or official copy of the protected consumer's birth certificate;

(9) Sufficient proof of identification means information or documentation that identifies a consumer, a protected consumer, or a representative of a protected consumer. Sufficient proof of identification includes, but is not

limited to, a social security number or a copy of a social security card, a certified or official copy of a birth certificate, a copy of a valid driver's license, or any other government-issued identification; and

(10) (5) Victim of identity theft means a consumer or protected consumer who has a copy of an official police report evidencing that the consumer or protected consumer has alleged to be a victim of identity theft.

Sec. 3. Section 8-2603, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

~~8-2603 A consumer, including a minor at the request of a parent or custodial parent or guardian if appointed, may elect to place a security freeze on his or her file by submitting a request at the address or other point of contact and in the manner specified by making a request by certified mail to the consumer reporting agency.~~

Sec. 4. (1) A consumer reporting agency shall place a security freeze for a protected consumer if:

(a) The consumer reporting agency receives a request from the representative for the placement of the security freeze under this section; and

(b) The representative:

(i) Submits the request to the consumer reporting agency at the address or other point of contact and in the manner specified by the consumer reporting agency;

(ii) Provides to the consumer reporting agency:

(A) Sufficient proof of identification of the protected consumer and the representative; and

(B) Sufficient proof of authority to act on behalf of the protected consumer; and

(iii) Pays to the consumer reporting agency a fee as provided in section 13 of this act.

(2) If a consumer reporting agency does not have a file pertaining to a protected consumer when the consumer reporting agency receives a request described in subdivision (1)(a) of this section, the consumer reporting agency shall create a record for the protected consumer.

(3) Within thirty days after receiving a request that meets the requirements of this section, a consumer reporting agency shall place a security freeze for the protected consumer.

Sec. 5. Section 8-2604, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2604 If a security freeze is in place with respect to a consumer's or protected consumer's file, the consumer reporting agency shall not release a credit report or any other information derived from the file to a third party without the prior express authorization of the consumer, protected consumer, or representative. This section does not prevent a consumer reporting agency from advising a third party that a security freeze is in effect with respect to a consumer's or protected consumer's file.

Sec. 6. Section 8-2605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2605 (1) A consumer reporting agency shall place a security freeze on a file no later than three business days after receiving a request under section 8-2603 by certified mail.

(2) Until July 1, 2008, a consumer reporting agency shall, within ten business days after receiving a request under section 8-2603, send a written confirmation of the security freeze to the consumer and provide the consumer with a unique personal identification number or password to be used by the consumer when providing authorization for the release of a credit report or any other information derived from his or her file for a specified period of time. Beginning July 1, 2008, a consumer reporting agency shall send such confirmation and provide such identification number or password to the consumer within five business days after receiving a request under section 8-2603.

(3) The written confirmation required under subsection (2) of this section shall include a warning which shall read as follows: WARNING TO PERSONS SEEKING A CREDIT FREEZE AS PERMITTED BY THE CREDIT REPORT PROTECTION ACT: YOU MAY BE DENIED CREDIT AS A RESULT OF A FREEZE PLACED ON YOUR CREDIT.

Sec. 7. Section 8-2606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2606 (1) When a consumer requests a security freeze under section 8-2603, the consumer reporting agency shall disclose the process of placing and temporarily lifting the security freeze, including the process for allowing access to his or her credit report or any other information derived from his or her file for a specified period of time by temporarily lifting the security freeze.

(2) If a consumer wishes to allow his or her credit report or any other information derived from his or her file to be accessed for a specified period of time by temporarily lifting the security freeze placed under section 8-2603, the consumer shall contact the consumer reporting agency, request that the freeze be temporarily lifted, and provide the following:

(a) Sufficient proof of identification of the consumer ~~Proper identification, which means that information generally deemed sufficient to identify a person. Only if the consumer is unable to provide sufficiently self-identifying information may a consumer reporting agency require additional information concerning the consumer's employment and personal or family history in order to verify the consumer's identity;~~

(b) The unique personal identification number or password provided by the consumer reporting agency under section 8-2605; and

(c) The proper information regarding the specified time period.

(3)(a) Until January 1, 2009, a consumer reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to temporarily lift a security freeze placed under section 8-2603 on his or her file shall comply with the request no later than three business days after receiving the request.

(b) A consumer reporting agency shall develop procedures involving the use of a telephone, the Internet, or other electronic media to receive and process a request from a consumer to temporarily lift a security freeze placed under section 8-2603 on his or her file in an expedited manner. By January 1, 2009, a consumer reporting agency shall comply with a request to temporarily lift a security freeze within fifteen minutes after receiving such request by telephone or through a secure electronic method.

(4) A consumer reporting agency is not required to temporarily lift a security freeze within the time provided in subsection (3) of this section if:

(a) The consumer fails to meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this section; or

(b) The consumer reporting agency's ability to temporarily lift the security freeze within the time provided in subsection (3) of this section is prevented by:

(i) An act of God, including fire, earthquake, hurricane, storm, or similar natural disaster or phenomena;

(ii) An unauthorized or illegal act by a third party, including terrorism, sabotage, riot, vandalism, labor strike or dispute disrupting operations, or similar occurrence;

(iii) Operational interruption, including electrical failure, unanticipated delay in equipment or replacement part delivery, computer hardware or software failure inhibiting response time, or similar disruption;

(iv) Governmental action, including an emergency order or regulation, judicial or law enforcement action, or similar directive;

(v) Regularly scheduled maintenance, during other than normal business hours, of the consumer reporting agency's system or updates to such system;

(vi) Commercially reasonable maintenance of, or repair to, the consumer reporting agency's system that is unexpected or unscheduled; or

(vii) Receipt of a removal request outside of normal business hours.

For purposes of this subsection, normal business hours means Sunday through Saturday, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., in the applicable time zone in this state.

Sec. 8. Section 8-2608, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2608 A consumer reporting agency shall remove a security freeze placed under section 8-2603 within three business days after receiving a request for removal from the consumer who provides both of the following:

(1) Sufficient proof of identity of the consumer ~~Proper identification as specified in subdivision (2)(a) of section 8-2606;~~ and

(2) The unique personal identification number or password referred to in subdivision (2)(b) of section 8-2606.

Sec. 9. A security freeze for a protected consumer shall remain in effect unless removed in accordance with section 10 or 11 of this act. A consumer reporting agency may not release the protected consumer's credit report, any information derived from the protected consumer's credit report, or any record created for the protected consumer.

Sec. 10. If a protected consumer or the representative wishes to remove a security freeze placed under section 4 of this act for the protected consumer, the protected consumer or the representative shall:

(1) Submit a request for the removal of the security freeze to the consumer reporting agency at the address or other point of contact and in the manner specified by the consumer reporting agency; and

(2) Provide to the consumer reporting agency:

(a)(i) In the case of a request by the protected consumer:

(A) Proof that the sufficient proof of authority for the representative to act on behalf of the protected consumer is no longer valid; and

(B) Sufficient proof of identification of the protected consumer; or

(ii) In the case of a request by the representative:

(A) Sufficient proof of identification of the protected consumer and the representative; and

(B) Sufficient proof of authority to act on behalf of the protected consumer; and

(b) Payment of a fee as provided in section 13 of this act.

Within thirty days after receiving a request that meets the requirements of this section, the consumer reporting agency shall remove the security freeze for the protected consumer.

Sec. 11. A consumer reporting agency may remove a security freeze for a protected consumer or delete a record of a protected consumer if the security freeze was placed or the record was created based on a material misrepresentation of fact by the protected consumer or the protected consumer's representative.

Sec. 12. Section 8-2609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2609 (1) A consumer reporting agency may charge a fee of three dollars for placing, temporarily lifting, or removing a security freeze placed under section 8-2603 unless:

(a) ~~The consumer is a minor; or~~

(a) (b)(i) The consumer is a victim of identity theft; and

(b ii) The consumer provides the consumer reporting agency with a copy of an official police report documenting the identity theft.

(2) A consumer reporting agency shall reissue the same or a new personal identification number or password required under section 8-2605 one time without charge and may charge a fee of no more than five dollars for subsequent reissuance of the personal identification number or password.

Sec. 13. (1) A consumer reporting agency may charge a fee of three dollars for each placement or removal of a security freeze for a protected consumer.

(2) A consumer reporting agency shall not charge any fee under this section if:

(a)(i) The protected consumer is a victim of identity theft; and

(ii) The protected consumer's representative provides the consumer reporting agency with a copy of an official police report documenting the identity theft; or

(b)(i) A request for the placement or removal of a security freeze is for a protected consumer who is under the age of sixteen years at the time of the request; and

(ii) The consumer reporting agency has a credit report pertaining to the protected consumer.

Sec. 14. Section 8-2610, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2610 If a security freeze is in place, a consumer reporting agency may not change any of the following official information in a file without sending a written confirmation of the change to the consumer, protected consumer, or representative within thirty days after the change is made: Name, date of birth, social security number, and address. In the case of an address change, the written confirmation shall be sent to both the new address and the former address. Written confirmation is not required for technical modifications of a consumer's or protected consumer's official information, including name and street abbreviations, complete spellings, or transposition of numbers or letters.

Sec. 15. Section 8-2611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2611 (1) A consumer reporting agency may not suggest or otherwise state or imply to a third party that a security freeze on a consumer's or protected consumer's file reflects a negative credit score, history, report, or rating.

(2) If a third party requests access to a credit report or any other information derived from a file in connection with an application for credit or the opening of an account and the consumer, protected consumer, or representative has placed a security freeze on his or her file and does not allow his or her file to be accessed during that specified period of time, the third party may treat the application as incomplete.

Sec. 16. Section 8-2612, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2612 The Credit Report Protection Act does not prohibit a consumer reporting agency from furnishing to a governmental agency a consumer's or protected consumer's name, address, former address, place of employment, or former place of employment.

Sec. 17. Section 8-2613, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2613 The Credit Report Protection Act does not apply to the use of a credit report or any information derived from the file by any of the following:

(1) A person or entity, a subsidiary, affiliate, or agent of that person or entity, an assignee of a financial obligation owing by the consumer or protected consumer to that person or entity, or a prospective assignee of a financial obligation owing by the consumer or protected consumer to that person or entity in conjunction with the proposed purchase of the financial obligation, with which the consumer or protected consumer has or had prior to assignment an account or contract, including a demand deposit account, or to whom the consumer or protected consumer issued a negotiable instrument, for the purposes of reviewing the account or collecting the financial obligation owing for the account, contract, or negotiable instrument. For purposes of this subdivision, reviewing the account includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements;

(2) A subsidiary, affiliate, agent, assignee, or prospective assignee of a person to whom access has been granted under section 8-2606 for purposes of facilitating the extension of credit or other permissible use;

(3) Any federal, state, or local governmental entity, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement agency, a court, or an agent or assignee of a law enforcement agency or court;

(4) A private collection agency acting under a court order, warrant, or subpoena;

(5) Any person or entity for the purposes of prescreening as provided for by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681, as such act existed on September 1, 2007;

(6) Any person or entity administering a credit file monitoring subscription service to which the consumer or protected consumer has subscribed;

(7) Any person or entity for the purpose of providing a consumer, protected consumer, or representative with a copy of the consumer's or protected consumer's credit report or any other information derived from his or

her file upon the consumer's, protected consumer's, or representative's request; and

(8) Any person or entity for use in setting or adjusting a rate, adjusting a claim, or underwriting for insurance purposes.

Sec. 18. Section 8-2614, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2614 The following entities are not consumer reporting agencies for purposes of the Credit Report Protection Act and are not required to place a security freeze ~~on a file~~ under section 8-2603 or section 4 of this act:

(1) A check services or fraud prevention services company that issues reports on incidents of fraud or authorizations for the purpose of approving or processing negotiable instruments, electronic funds transfers, or similar methods of payment;

(2) A deposit account information service company that issues reports regarding account closures due to fraud, substantial overdrafts, automatic teller machine abuse, or similar negative information regarding a consumer or protected consumer, to inquiring banks or other financial institutions for use only in reviewing a consumer's, protected consumer's, or representative's ~~consumer~~ request for a deposit account at the inquiring bank or financial institution; and

(3) A consumer reporting agency that acts only as a reseller of credit information by assembling and merging information contained in the data base of another consumer reporting agency, or multiple consumer reporting agencies, and does not maintain a permanent data base of credit information from which new credit reports are produced. A consumer reporting agency shall honor any security freeze placed on a file by another consumer reporting agency.

Sec. 19. Sections 4, 9, 10, 11, and 13 of this act shall not apply to any person or entity that maintains a data base used solely for the following:

- (1) Criminal record information;
- (2) Personal loss history information;
- (3) Fraud prevention or detection;
- (4) Employment screening; or
- (5) Tenant screening.

Sec. 20. Section 8-2615, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-2615 The Attorney General shall enforce the Credit Report Protection Act. For purposes of the act, the Attorney General may issue subpoenas, adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, and seek injunctive relief and a monetary award for civil penalties, attorney's fees, and costs. Any person who violates the act shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars for each violation. The Attorney General may also seek and recover actual damages for each consumer or protected consumer injured by a violation of the act.

Sec. 21. Section 20-149, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

20-149 Any consumer reporting agency doing business in this state which is required to furnish information to a consumer, protected consumer as defined in section 8-2602, or representative as defined in section 8-2602 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1681g to 1681j as such sections existed on January 1, 2016 ~~they exist on August 26, 1983~~, shall, upon the request of such the consumer, protected consumer, or representative and at a reasonable charge, provide such the consumer, protected consumer, or representative with a typewritten or photostatic copy of any consumer report, investigative report, or any credit report or other file information which it has on file or has prepared concerning such consumer or protected consumer, if such consumer, protected consumer, or representative has complied with 15 U.S.C. 1681h as such section existed on January 1, 2016 ~~it exists on August 26, 1983~~. If such report uses a code to convey information about such the consumer or protected consumer, such the consumer, protected consumer, or representative shall be provided with a key to such code. For the purposes of this section, the definitions found in 15 U.S.C. 1681a as such section existed on January 1, 2016 ~~it exists on August 26, 1983~~, shall apply. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor.

Sec. 22. Section 59-1611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

59-1611 (1) Whenever the Attorney General believes that any person may be in possession, custody, or control of any original or copy of any book, record, report, memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, map, chart, photograph, mechanical transcription, or other tangible document or recording, wherever situated, which he or she believes to be relevant to the subject matter of an investigation of a possible violation of sections 59-1602 to 59-1606, the Attorney General may, prior to the institution of a civil proceeding thereon, execute in writing and cause to be served upon such a person a civil investigative demand requiring such person to produce such documentary material and permit inspection and copying thereof. This section shall not be applicable to criminal prosecutions.

(2) Each such demand shall:

(a) State the statute and section or sections thereof the alleged violation of which is under investigation, and the general subject matter of the investigation;

(b) Describe the class or classes of documentary material to be produced thereunder with reasonable specificity so as fairly to indicate the material demanded;

(c) Prescribe a return date within which the documentary material shall be produced; and

(d) Identify the members of the Attorney General's staff to whom such documentary material shall be made available for inspection and copying.

(3) No such demand shall:

(a) Contain any requirement which would be unreasonable or improper if contained in a subpoena duces tecum issued by a court of this state; or

(b) Require the disclosure of any documentary material which would be privileged, or which for any other reason would not be required by a subpoena duces tecum issued by a court of this state.

(4) Service of any such demand may be made by:

(a) Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the person to be served, or, if such person is not a natural person, to any officer of the person to be served;

(b) Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the principal place of business in this state of the person to be served; or

(c) Mailing by certified mail a duly executed copy thereof addressed to the person to be served at the principal place of business in this state, or, if such person has no place of business in this state, to his or her principal office or place of business.

(5) Documentary material demanded pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be produced for inspection and copying during normal business hours at the principal office or place of business of the person served, or at such other times and places as may be agreed upon by the person served and the Attorney General.

(6) No documentary material produced pursuant to a demand, or copies thereof, shall, unless otherwise ordered by a district court for good cause shown, be produced for inspection or copying by, nor shall the contents thereof be disclosed to, other than an authorized employee of the Attorney General, without the consent of the person who produced such material, except that:

(a) Under ~~under~~ such reasonable terms and conditions as the Attorney General shall prescribe, the copies of such documentary material shall be available for inspection and copying by the person who produced such material or any duly authorized representative of such person; -

(b) The Attorney General may provide copies of such documentary material to an official of this or any other state, or an official of the federal government, who is charged with the enforcement of federal or state antitrust or consumer protection laws, if such official agrees in writing to not disclose such documentary material to any person other than the official's authorized employees, except as such disclosure is permitted under subdivision (c) of this subsection; and

(c) The Attorney General or any assistant attorney general or an official authorized to receive copies of documentary material under subdivision (b) of this subsection may use such copies of documentary material as he or she determines necessary in the enforcement of the Consumer Protection Act or any state or federal consumer protection laws that any state or federal official has authority to enforce, including presentation before any court, except that any such material which contains trade secrets shall not be presented except with the approval of the court in which action is pending after adequate notice to the person furnishing such material.

(7) At any time before the return date specified in the demand, or within twenty days after the demand has been served, whichever period is shorter, a petition to extend the return date for or to modify or set aside a demand issued pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, stating good cause, may be filed in the district court for Lancaster County, or in such other county where the parties reside. A petition by the person on whom the demand is served, stating good cause, to require the Attorney General or any person to perform any duty imposed by the provisions of this section, and all other petitions in connection with a demand, may be filed in the district court for Lancaster County or in the county where the parties reside.

(8) Whenever any person fails to comply with any civil investigative demand for documentary material duly served upon him or her under this section, or whenever satisfactory copying or reproduction of any such material cannot be done and such person refuses to surrender such material, the Attorney General may file, in the district court of the county in which such person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon such person a petition for an order of such court for the enforcement of this section, except that if such person transacts business in more than one county such petition shall be filed in the county in which such person maintains his or her principal place of business or in such other county as may be agreed upon by the parties to such petition. Whenever any petition is filed in the district court of any county under this section, such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter so presented and to enter such order as may be required to carry into effect the provisions of this section. Disobedience of any order entered under this section by any court shall be punished as a contempt thereof.

Sec. 23. Section 59-1614, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

59-1614 Any person who violates section 59-1603 or 59-1604 or the terms of any injunction issued as provided in the Consumer Protection Act shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of not more than five hundred twenty-five ~~twenty-five~~ thousand dollars.

Any person who violates section 59-1602 shall pay a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars for each violation, except that such penalty

shall not apply to any radio or television broadcasting station which broadcasts, or to any publisher, printer, or distributor of any newspaper, magazine, billboard, or other advertising medium who publishes, prints, or distributes advertising in good faith without knowledge of its false, deceptive, or misleading character and no such good faith publication, printing, or distribution shall be considered a violation of section 59-1602.

For the purpose of this section, the district court which issues any injunction shall retain jurisdiction, and the cause shall be continued, and in such cases the Attorney General acting in the name of the state may petition for the recovery of civil penalties.

With respect to violations of sections 59-1603 and 59-1604, the Attorney General, acting in the name of the state, may seek recovery of such penalties in a civil action.

Sec. 24. Section 87-301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-301 For purposes of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Access software provider means a provider of software, including client or server software, or enabling tools that do any one or more of the following: (a) Filter, screen, allow, or disallow content; (b) pick, choose, analyze, or digest content; or (c) transmit, receive, display, forward, cache, search, subset, organize, reorganize, or translate content;

(2) Appropriate inventory repurchase program means a program by which a plan or operation repurchases, upon request and upon commercially reasonable terms, when the salesperson's business relationship with the company ends, current and marketable inventory in the possession of the salesperson that was purchased by the salesperson for resale. Any such plan or operation shall clearly describe the program in its recruiting literature, sales manual, or contract with independent salespersons, including the disclosure of any inventory that is not eligible for repurchase under the program;

(3) Article means a product as distinguished from its trademark, label, or distinctive dress in packaging;

(4) Attorney General means the Attorney General of the State of Nebraska or the county attorney of any county with the consent and advice of the Attorney General;

(5) Cable operator means any person or group of persons (a) who provides cable service over a cable system and directly or through one or more affiliates owns a significant interest in such cable system or (b) who otherwise controls or is responsible for, through any arrangement, the management and operation of such a cable system;

(6) Certification mark means a mark used in connection with the goods or services of a person other than the certifier to indicate geographic origin, material, mode of manufacture, quality, accuracy, or other characteristics of the goods or services or to indicate that the work or labor on the goods or services was performed by members of a union or other organization;

(7) Collective mark means a mark used by members of a cooperative, association, or other collective group or organization to identify goods or services and distinguish them from those of others, or to indicate membership in the collective group or organization;

(8) Commercially reasonable terms means the repurchase of current and marketable inventory within twelve months from the date of purchase at not less than ninety percent of the original net cost, less appropriate setoffs and legal claims, if any;

(9) Compensation means a payment of any money, thing of value, or financial benefit;

(10) Consideration means anything of value, including the payment of cash or the purchase of goods, services, or intangible property. The term does not include the purchase of goods or services furnished at cost to be used in making sales and not for resale or time and effort spent in pursuit of sales or recruiting activities;

(11) Covered file-sharing program means a computer program, application, or software that enables the computer on which such program, application, or software is installed to designate files as available for searching by and copying to one or more other computers, to transmit such designated files directly to one or more other computers, and to request the transmission of such designated files directly from one or more other computers. Covered file-sharing program does not mean a program, application, or software designed primarily to operate as a server that is accessible over the Internet using the Internet Domain Name System, to transmit or receive email messages, instant messaging, real-time audio or video communications, or real-time voice communications, or to provide network or computer security, network management, hosting and backup services, maintenance, diagnostics, technical support or repair, or to detect or prevent fraudulent activities;

(12) Current and marketable has its plain and ordinary meaning but excludes inventory that is no longer within its commercially reasonable use or shelf-life period, was clearly described to salespersons prior to purchase as seasonal, discontinued, or special promotion products not subject to the plan or operation's inventory repurchase program, or has been used or opened;

(13) Information content provider means any person or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet or any other interactive computer service;

(14) Interactive computer service means any information service, system,

or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions;

(15) Inventory includes both goods and services, including company-produced promotional materials, sales aids, and sales kits that the plan or operation requires independent salespersons to purchase;

(16) Inventory loading means that the plan or operation requires or encourages its independent salespersons to purchase inventory in an amount which exceeds that which the salesperson can expect to resell for ultimate consumption or to a consumer in a reasonable time period, or both;

(17) Investment means any acquisition, for a consideration other than personal services, of personal property, tangible or intangible, for profit or business purposes, and includes, without limitation, franchises, business opportunities, and services. It does not include real estate, securities registered under the Securities Act of Nebraska, or sales demonstration equipment and materials furnished at cost for use in making sales and not for resale;

(18) Mark means a word, a name, a symbol, a device, or any combination of a word, name, symbol, or device in any form or arrangement;

(19) Person means a natural person, a corporation, a government, ~~or~~ a governmental subdivision or agency, a business trust, an estate, a trust, a partnership, a joint venture, a limited liability company, an unincorporated association, a sole proprietorship, or two or more of any of such persons the ~~foregoing~~ having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity;

(20) Pyramid promotional scheme means any plan or operation in which a participant gives consideration for the right to receive compensation that is derived primarily from the recruitment of other persons as participants in the plan or operation rather than from the sales of goods, services, or intangible property to participants or by participants to others. A limitation as to the number of persons who may participate, or the presence of additional conditions affecting eligibility, or upon payment of anything of value by a person whereby the person obtains any other property in addition to the right to receive consideration, does not change the identity of the scheme as a pyramid promotional scheme;

(21) Referral or chain referral sales or leases means any sales technique, plan, arrangement, or agreement whereby the seller or lessor gives or offers to give a rebate or discount or otherwise pays or offers to pay value to the buyer or lessee as an inducement for a sale or lease in consideration of the buyer or lessee giving to the seller or lessor the names of prospective buyers or lessees or otherwise aiding the seller or lessor in making a sale or lease to another person if the earning of the rebate, discount, or other value is contingent upon the occurrence of an event subsequent to the time the buyer or lessee agrees to buy or lease;

(22) Service mark means a mark used in the sale or advertising of services to identify the services of one person and distinguish them from the services of others;

(23) Telecommunications service means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used;

(24) Trademark means a any word, a name, a symbol, a ~~or~~ device, or any combination of a word, name, symbol, or device thereof adopted and used by a person to identify goods made or sold by such person and to distinguish such goods from goods made or sold by others;

(25) Trade name means a word, ~~or~~ a name, or any combination of a word or name the foregoing in any form or arrangement used by a person to identify such person's business, vocation, or occupation and distinguish such business, vocation, or occupation from the business, vocation, or occupation of others; and

(26) Use or promote the use of, for purposes of subdivision (a)(13) ~~(a)(12)~~ of section 87-302, means contrive, prepare, establish, plan, operate, advertise, or otherwise induce or attempt to induce another person to participate in a pyramid promotional scheme, including a pyramid promotional scheme run through the Internet, email, or other electronic communications.

Sec. 25. Section 87-302, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-302 (a) A person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of his or her business, vocation, or occupation, he or she:

(1) Passes off goods or services as those of another;

(2) Causes likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services;

(3) Causes likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection, or association with, or certification by, another;

(4) Uses deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection with goods or services;

(5) Represents that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection that he or she does not have;

(6) Represents that goods or services do not have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they have or

that a person does not have a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection that he or she has;

(7 6) Represents that goods are original or new if they are deteriorated, altered, reconditioned, reclaimed, used, or secondhand, except that sellers may repair damage to and make adjustments on or replace parts of otherwise new goods in an effort to place such goods in compliance with factory specifications;

(8 7) Represents that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another;

(9 8) Disparages the goods, services, or business of another by false or misleading representation of fact;

(10 9) Advertises goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised or advertises the price in any manner calculated or tending to mislead or in any way deceive a person;

(11 10) Advertises goods or services with intent not to supply reasonably expectable public demand, unless the advertisement discloses a limitation of quantity;

(12 11) Makes false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions;

(13 12) Uses or promotes the use of or establishes, operates, or participates in a pyramid promotional scheme in connection with the solicitation of such scheme to members of the public. This subdivision shall not be construed to prohibit a plan or operation, or to define a plan or operation as a pyramid promotional scheme, based on the fact that participants in the plan or operation give consideration in return for the right to receive compensation based upon purchases of goods, services, or intangible property by participants for personal use, consumption, or resale so long as the plan or operation does not promote or induce inventory loading and the plan or operation implements an appropriate inventory repurchase program;

(14 13) With respect to a sale or lease to a natural person of goods or services purchased or leased primarily for personal, family, household, or agricultural purposes, uses or employs any referral or chain referral sales technique, plan, arrangement, or agreement;

(15 14) Knowingly makes a false or misleading statement in a privacy policy, published on the Internet or otherwise distributed or published, regarding the use of personal information submitted by members of the public;

(16 15) Uses any scheme or device to defraud by means of:

(i) Obtaining money or property by knowingly false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises; or

(ii) Selling, distributing, supplying, furnishing, or procuring any property for the purpose of furthering such scheme;

(17 16) Offers an unsolicited check, through the mail or by other means, to promote goods or services if the cashing or depositing of the check obligates the endorser or payee identified on the check to pay for goods or services. This subdivision does not apply to an extension of credit or an offer to lend money;

(18 17) Mails or causes to be sent an unsolicited billing statement, invoice, or other document that appears to obligate the consumer to make a payment for services or merchandise he or she did not order;

(19)(i) ~~(18)(i)~~ Installs, offers to install, or makes available for installation or download a covered file-sharing program on a computer not owned by such person without providing clear and conspicuous notice to the owner or authorized user of the computer that files on that computer will be made available to the public and without requiring intentional and affirmative activation of the file-sharing function of such covered file-sharing program by the owner or authorized user of the computer; or

(ii) Prevents reasonable efforts to block the installation, execution, or disabling of a covered file-sharing program; ~~or~~

(20 19) Violates any provision of the Nebraska Foreclosure Protection Act; ~~or~~

(21) In connection with the solicitation of funds or other assets for any charitable purpose, or in connection with any solicitation which represents that funds or assets will be used for any charitable purpose, uses or employs any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, unfair practice, or concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact.

(b) In order to prevail in an action under the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, a complainant need not prove competition between the parties.

(c) This section does not affect unfair trade practices otherwise actionable at common law or under other statutes of this state.

Sec. 26. Section 87-303, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-303 (a) A person likely to be damaged by a deceptive trade practice of another may bring an action for, and the court may grant, an injunction under the principles of equity against the person committing the deceptive trade practice. The court may order such additional equitable relief as it deems necessary to protect the public from further violations, including temporary and permanent injunctive relief. Proof of monetary damage, loss of profits, or intent to deceive is not required. Relief granted for the copying of an article shall be limited to the prevention of confusion or misunderstanding as to source.

(b) Costs shall be allowed to the prevailing party unless the court otherwise directs. The court in its discretion may award attorneys' fees to the

prevailing party if (1) the party complaining of a deceptive trade practice has brought an action which he or she knew to be groundless or (2) the party charged with a deceptive trade practice has willfully engaged in the trade practice knowing it to be deceptive.

(c) A claim filed for a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act shall be proved by a preponderance of the evidence.

(d) The relief provided in this section is in addition to remedies otherwise available against the same conduct under the common law or other statutes of this state.

(e) Subdivision ~~(a)(13)~~ ~~(a)(12)~~ of section 87-302 shall not be construed to authorize a civil action against an interactive computer service, provider of telecommunications service, or cable operator for the actions of an information content provider.

Sec. 27. Section 87-802, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-802 For purposes of the Financial Data Protection and Consumer Notification of Data Security Breach Act of 2006:

(1) Breach of the security of the system means the unauthorized acquisition of unencrypted computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of personal information maintained by an individual or a commercial entity. Good faith acquisition of personal information by an employee or agent of an individual or a commercial entity for the purposes of the individual or the commercial entity is not a breach of the security of the system if the personal information is not used or subject to further unauthorized disclosure. Acquisition of personal information pursuant to a search warrant, subpoena, or other court order or pursuant to a subpoena or order of a state agency is not a breach of the security of the system;

(2) Commercial entity includes a corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, association, organization, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal entity, whether for profit or not for profit;

(3) Encrypted means converted by use of an algorithmic process to transform data into a form in which the data is rendered unreadable or unusable without use of a confidential process or key. Data shall not be considered encrypted if the confidential process or key was or is reasonably believed to have been acquired as a result of the breach of the security of the system;

(4) Notice means:

(a) Written notice;

(b) Telephonic notice;

(c) Electronic notice, if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures set forth in 15 U.S.C. 7001, as such section existed on January 1, 2006;

(d) Substitute notice, if the individual or commercial entity required to provide notice demonstrates that the cost of providing notice will exceed seventy-five thousand dollars, that the affected class of Nebraska residents to be notified exceeds one hundred thousand residents, or that the individual or commercial entity does not have sufficient contact information to provide notice. Substitute notice under this subdivision requires all of the following:

(i) Electronic mail notice if the individual or commercial entity has electronic mail addresses for the members of the affected class of Nebraska residents;

(ii) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the web site of the individual or commercial entity if the individual or commercial entity maintains a web site; and

(iii) Notice to major statewide media outlets; or

(e) Substitute notice, if the individual or commercial entity required to provide notice has ten employees or fewer and demonstrates that the cost of providing notice will exceed ten thousand dollars. Substitute notice under this subdivision requires all of the following:

(i) Electronic mail notice if the individual or commercial entity has electronic mail addresses for the members of the affected class of Nebraska residents;

(ii) Notification by a paid advertisement in a local newspaper that is distributed in the geographic area in which the individual or commercial entity is located, which advertisement shall be of sufficient size that it covers at least one-quarter of a page in the newspaper and shall be published in the newspaper at least once a week for three consecutive weeks;

(iii) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the web site of the individual or commercial entity if the individual or commercial entity maintains a web site; and

(iv) Notification to major media outlets in the geographic area in which the individual or commercial entity is located;

(5) Personal information means either of the following:

(a) A Nebraska resident's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following data elements that relate to the resident if either the name or the data elements are not encrypted, redacted, or otherwise altered by any method or technology in such a manner that the name or data elements are unreadable:

(i) a) Social security number;

(ii) b) Motor vehicle operator's license number or state identification card number;

(iii) e) Account number or credit or debit card number, in combination with

any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to a resident's financial account;

(iv d) Unique electronic identification number or routing code, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password; or

(v e) Unique biometric data, such as a fingerprint, voice print, or retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation; or -

(b) A user name or email address, in combination with a password or security question and answer, that would permit access to an online account.

Personal information does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state, or local government records; and

(6) Redact means to alter or truncate data such that no more than the last four digits of a social security number, motor vehicle operator's license number, state identification card number, or account number is accessible as part of the personal information.

Sec. 28. Section 87-803, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-803 (1) An individual or a commercial entity that conducts business in Nebraska and that owns or licenses computerized data that includes personal information about a resident of Nebraska shall, when it becomes aware of a breach of the security of the system, conduct in good faith a reasonable and prompt investigation to determine the likelihood that personal information has been or will be used for an unauthorized purpose. If the investigation determines that the use of information about a Nebraska resident for an unauthorized purpose has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur, the individual or commercial entity shall give notice to the affected Nebraska resident. Notice shall be made as soon as possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement and consistent with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and to restore the reasonable integrity of the computerized data system.

(2) If notice of a breach of security of the system is required by subsection (1) of this section, the individual or commercial entity shall also, not later than the time when notice is provided to the Nebraska resident, provide notice of the breach of security of the system to the Attorney General.

(3 2) An individual or a commercial entity that maintains computerized data that includes personal information that the individual or commercial entity does not own or license shall give notice to and cooperate with the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of the security of the system when it becomes aware of a breach if use of personal information about a Nebraska resident for an unauthorized purpose occurred or is reasonably likely to occur. Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, sharing with the owner or licensee information relevant to the breach, not including information proprietary to the individual or commercial entity.

(4 3) Notice required by this section may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notice will impede a criminal investigation. Notice shall be made in good faith, without unreasonable delay, and as soon as possible after the law enforcement agency determines that notification will no longer impede the investigation.

Sec. 29. Section 87-804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

87-804 (1) An individual or a commercial entity that maintains its own notice procedures which are part of an information security policy for the treatment of personal information and which are otherwise consistent with the timing requirements of section 87-803, is deemed to be in compliance with the notice requirements of section 87-803 if the individual or the commercial entity notifies affected Nebraska residents and the Attorney General in accordance with its notice procedures in the event of a breach of the security of the system.

(2) An individual or a commercial entity that is regulated by state or federal law and that maintains procedures for a breach of the security of the system pursuant to the laws, rules, regulations, guidances, or guidelines established by its primary or functional state or federal regulator is deemed to be in compliance with section 87-803 if the individual or commercial entity notifies affected Nebraska residents and the Attorney General in accordance with the maintained procedures in the event of a breach of the security of the system.

Sec. 30. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 31 of this act become operative on January 1, 2017. The other sections of this act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment of this legislative session.

Sec. 31. Original sections 8-2601, 8-2602, 8-2603, 8-2604, 8-2605, 8-2606, 8-2608, 8-2609, 8-2610, 8-2611, 8-2612, 8-2613, 8-2614, 8-2615, and 20-149, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 32. Original sections 59-1611, 59-1614, 87-301, 87-302, 87-303, 87-802, 87-803, and 87-804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.