



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 88

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 6800

House of Representatives, March 20, 2007

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. STONE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF FREE NEWSPAPERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) All free newspapers
2 delivered to a residential or commercial address in the state shall
3 contain a conspicuous notice on the first or second page of the
4 newspaper regarding how to stop delivery of the newspaper. The
5 notice shall inform any person who chooses not to continue to receive
6 delivery of the paper that such person may call a telephone number
7 listed in the notice to stop delivery of the paper.
- 8 (b) Failure to publish the notice required by subsection (a) of this
9 section shall be an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection
10 (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
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GL *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Revenue	Potential	Potential
	Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

To the extent that the bill results in numerous complaints related to violations of the bill’s requirement to publish a notice, additional staff resources could be required to handle them. The extent, if any, of the need is unknown at this time.

There could also be a revenue gain from additional penalties.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above could continue into the future, subject to the number of complaints and violations, which are unknown at this time.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6800*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF FREE NEWSPAPERS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all free newspapers delivered to residential or commercial addresses to include a conspicuous notice on the first or second page about how to stop delivery by calling a listed telephone number.

The bill makes failure to publish the notice an unfair trade practice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA)***

The law prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. CUTPA allows the consumer protection commissioner to issue regulations defining what constitutes an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary compliance statements. The act also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and \$25,000 for violation of a restraining order.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/06/2007)