



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 322

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6810

House of Representatives, March 31, 2015

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. BARAM of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) The Commissioner of
- 2 Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
- 3 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to protect consumers
- 4 from unfair trade practices.

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

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
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GL *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state as the Department of Consumer Protection has the expertise to develop the required regulations.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6810*****AN ACT PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the consumer protection (DCP) commissioner to adopt regulations to protect consumers from unfair trade practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

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

This law prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. CUTPA allows the DCP commissioner to issue regulations defining unfair trade practices, 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 statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's 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 16 Nay 2 (03/12/2015)