

STATE OF NEW YORK

6884--B

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 23, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ABBATE, HARRIS, TITONE, LENTOL, CYMBROWITZ, CUSICK, COLTON, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring automobile brokers to be licensed

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 736 of the general business law,
 2 as added by chapter 616 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as
 3 follows:
 4 1. "Automobile broker business" means any person who, for a fee,
 5 commission or other valuable consideration, regardless of whether such
 6 fee, commission, or consideration is paid directly by a consumer, offers
 7 to provide, provides, or represents that he or she will provide a
 8 service of purchasing, arranging, assisting, facilitating or effecting
 9 the purchase or lease of an automobile as agent, broker, or intermediary
 10 for a consumer. "Automobile broker business" does not include any person
 11 registered as a dealer pursuant to article sixteen of the vehicle and
 12 traffic law, or any person who sells, offers for sale or lease or acts
 13 as agent, broker or intermediary in effecting the purchase or lease of
 14 three or [~~less~~] fewer automobiles in any calendar year, or any motor
 15 vehicle franchisor, manufacturer, or distributor registered under arti-
 16 cle sixteen of the vehicle and traffic law who sells or leases new motor
 17 vehicles to employees, immediate family members of employees, retirees,
 18 or immediate family members of retirees as authorized by paragraph (y)
 19 of subdivision two of section four hundred sixty-three of the vehicle
 20 and traffic law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
 [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 736-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 736-a. Registration required. 1. No person shall engage in business
4 as an automobile broker business, as defined in section seven hundred
5 thirty-six of this article, without first having been issued a certifi-
6 cate of registration for an automobile broker business pursuant to
7 paragraph c of subdivision seven of section four hundred fifteen of the
8 vehicle and traffic law.

9 2. A certificate of registration for an automobile broker business
10 shall not permit the registrant to display for sale or lease any new or
11 used motor vehicles without registration as a dealer under section four
12 hundred fifteen of the vehicle and traffic law.

13 § 3. Paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) of subdivision 1 and subdivision 3 of
14 section 738 of the general business law, as added by chapter 616 of the
15 laws of 1988, paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 579
16 of the laws of 2011, are amended to read as follows:

17 (e) A description of any other services and an itemization of the
18 charges for each. Such description shall include disclosure of the auto-
19 mobile dealer from which the automobile was purchased or leased, as well
20 as all fees, commissions or other valuable considerations paid by an
21 automobile dealer to the automobile broker business for [~~selling,~~
22 arranging, assisting or effecting the sale or lease of an automobile as
23 agent, broker, or intermediary between the consumer and the automobile
24 dealer.

25 (f) If a consumer elects to cancel the contract pursuant to paragraph
26 (b) or (c) of this subdivision, he or she shall notify in writing the
27 automobile broker business at the address specified in the contract. The
28 automobile broker business shall make a full refund to the consumer
29 within ten business days following receipt of the request for a refund.
30 The contract shall contain a statement, setting forth the consumer's
31 right to cancel the contract under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subdivi-
32 sion and the refund obligations of the automobile broker business.

33 (g) The statements required by paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (f) of
34 this subdivision shall be printed in at least ten point bold type.

35 3. An automobile broker business shall deliver to the consumer or mail
36 to him or her at the address shown on the contract, an executed copy
37 thereof.

38 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 740-a of the general business law, as
39 added by chapter 579 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

40 1. Automobile broker businesses shall obtain and continue in effect a
41 surety bond in an amount of [~~seventy-five~~] one hundred thousand dollars
42 executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in the
43 state by the [~~insurance~~] department of financial services of the state
44 or its successor. The bonds shall be approved as to form by the secre-
45 tary of state and shall be conditioned on the automobile broker busi-
46 ness' payment of all valid bank drafts, including checks, drawn for the
47 purchase of motor vehicles and safekeeping of all customer deposits
48 related to the sale of a motor vehicle between the time of receipt of
49 such customer deposit and the transfer of good title to the vehicle to
50 the customer.

51 § 5. Section 741-a of the general business law, as added by chapter
52 579 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

53 § 741-a. Advertising. Automobile broker businesses shall clearly and

54 conspicuously disclose the following in all advertisements in any medi-
55 um, and in any print advertisement such disclosures shall not appear in

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1 any footnotes and shall be situated in the top half of any such adver-
2 tisement in an easily readable typeface:

3 (a) That the automobile broker business is not a [~~licensed~~] registered
4 new motor vehicle dealer but is a registered automobile broker business
5 as defined in section four hundred fifteen of the vehicle and traffic
6 law;

7 (b) The registration number issued to the automobile broker business
8 pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the vehicle and traffic law;

9 (c) Whether any fees may be imposed by the automobile broker business
10 for services rendered. Details of such compensation shall be provided by
11 the automobile broker business upon request by the consumer; and

12 [~~e~~] (d) That no warranty repair services will be provided by the
13 automobile broker business.

14 § 6. Subdivision 1 of section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law is
15 amended by adding a new paragraph m to read as follows:

16 m. "Automobile broker business" shall have the meaning set forth in
17 subdivision one of section seven hundred thirty-six of the general busi-
18 ness law.

19 § 7. Section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a
20 new subdivision 3-a to read as follows:

21 3-a. Automobile broker business registration. No person shall engage
22 in the automobile broker business or represent or advertise that he or
23 she is engaged or intends to engage in the automobile broker business in
24 this state, unless there shall have been issued to him or her a certif-
25 icate of registration as an automobile broker business by the commis-
26 sioner under this section pursuant to an application for registration
27 submitted pursuant to subdivision five of this section.

28 § 8. Subdivision 5 of section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law is
29 amended by adding a new paragraph b-3 to read as follows:

30 b-3. In the case of an application for registration as an automobile
31 broker business, the name and address of the surety company which will
32 issue the bond required by subdivision one of section seven hundred
33 forty-a of the general business law. If the bond is to be issued by an
34 authorized agent of the surety company licensed by the state, then the
35 name and address of that agent may be provided in lieu of the informa-
36 tion concerning the surety company.

37 § 9. Paragraph d of subdivision 9 of section 415 of the vehicle and
38 traffic law, as amended by chapter 254 of the laws of 2010, is amended
39 to read as follows:

40 d. Has failed to comply with any of the rules and regulations of the
41 commissioner for the enforcement of this article or with any provision
42 of this chapter or article thirty-five-B of the general business law
43 applicable thereto; or

44 § 10. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day
45 after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the commis-
46 sioner of the department of motor vehicles shall take actions necessary
47 to provide for the issuance of registration certificates pursuant to
48 section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by sections six,
49 seven, eight and nine of this act, prior to such date.