First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction

LLS NO. 25-0554.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 25-157

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Weissman and Gonzales J., Cutter, Jodeh, Kipp, Kolker

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate CommitteesBusiness, Labor, & Technology

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING REDUCING BURDENS TO ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS
102 PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE ACTS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill establishes that certain evidence that a person has engaged in an unfair or deceptive trade practice constitutes a significant impact to the public. The bill also clarifies that a deceptive trade practice claim cannot be based solely on a claim that a person breached a contract or engaged in negligence or on a claim for damages based on the rendering of professional services, unless the claim for damages involves an allegation of a material misrepresentation of fact, a failure to disclose material information, or an action that cannot be characterized as providing advice, judgment, or opinion.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

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2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly 3 finds and declares that: 4 (a) For more than 100 years, it has been the policy of the United 5 States and of the state of Colorado to promote honest competition among 6 businesses and to discourage unfair competition; 7 (b) In 1914, Congress passed the "Federal Trade Commission 8 Act", 15 U.S.C. sec. 41 et seq., to prohibit "unfair methods of competition 9 in commerce": 10 (c) The "Federal Trade Commission Act" has been continually 11 updated as the economy has evolved and currently prohibits "[u]nfair 12 methods of competition in or affecting commerce, and unfair or deceptive 13 acts or practices in or affecting commerce"; 14 (d) In 1915, the Colorado general assembly passed legislation 15 prohibiting "untrue, deceptive, or misleading" advertising, as codified in 16 C.L. 1921 sec. 6942; 17 (e) In 1969, the Colorado general assembly passed the "Colorado 18 Consumer Protection Act", the first modern consumer protection law to 19 prohibit "deceptive trade practices" and to protect consumers from unfair, 20 unconscionable, and deceptive acts or practices; 21 (f) In 1998, in *Hall v. Walter*, 969 P.2d 224, 234 (Colo. 1998), the 22 Colorado supreme court limited the application of the "Colorado 23 Consumer Protection Act", part 1 of article 1 of title 6, Colorado Revised Statutes, by holding that an injured individual or business must prove that 24

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1	an unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive act or practice "significantly
2	impacts the public", placing a requirement on injured individuals or
3	businesses to prove circumstances far outside their own knowledge or
4	control;
5	(g) The requirement that an injured individual or business prove
6	that an unfair or deceptive trade practice "significantly impacts the
7	public" is nowhere to be found in the text of the "Colorado Consumer
8	Protection Act";
9	(h) According to the most recent 50-state survey from the National
10	Consumer Law Center, Colorado is one of only 7 states that curtail their
11	consumer protection laws with this type of "significantly impacts the
12	public" limitation;
13	(i) According to the federal trade commission, Colorado ranks
14	above the national average for reports of consumer fraud per capita, with
15	the fifteenth highest reporting numbers;
16	(j) Certain populations, including seniors, veterans, active duty
17	military service members, and people with disabilities, are especially
18	targeted and victimized by deceptive acts and practices;
19	(k) By clarifying the availability of remedies available under the
20	"Colorado Consumer Protection Act" for populations especially targeted
21	and victimized by deceptive acts and practices, Colorado can better
22	promote honest competition among businesses, discourage unfair
23	competition, and protect certain consumers who are especially vulnerable;
24	<u>and</u>
25	(1) Under this act, all other persons will maintain the right to
26	pursue claims under the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act" consistent
27	with current law, which considers, among other things, the vulnerabilities

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1	of the people harmed by deceptive acts and practices and the asymmetries
2	of power between the parties.
3	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-102, add (6.5)
4	as follows:
5	6-1-102. Definitions. As used in this article 1, unless the context
6	otherwise requires:
7	(6.5) "PERSON PARTICULARLY TARGETED BY DECEPTIVE ACTS OR
8	PRACTICES" MEANS:
9	(a) A SENIOR CITIZEN SIXTY YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER;
10	(b) An individual currently serving in the United States
11	ARMED FORCES;
12	(c) A VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES;
13	(d) A GOLD STAR MILITARY SPOUSE;
14	(e) A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
15	<u>24-34-301 (7); or</u>
16	(f) A PREGNANT INDIVIDUAL.
17	SECTION <u>3.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-113, add (5) and
18	(6) as follows:
19	6-1-113. Civil actions - damages - other relief - class actions.
20	(5) In an action commenced under this section, a person
21	PARTICULARLY TARGETED BY DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES MAY
22	ESTABLISH THAT AN UNFAIR OR A DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE
23	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTS THE PUBLIC BECAUSE THE ACT OR PRACTICE:
24	(a) VIOLATES A PROVISION OF THIS TITLE 6 THAT IS A DECEPTIVE
25	TRADE PRACTICE; OR
26	(b) INJURED, HAD THE CAPACITY TO INJURE, OR HAS THE CAPACITY
7	TO INITIDE OTHER REPSONS

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1	(6) In an action commenced under this section:
2	(a) A BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM, WITHOUT AN ALLEGATION OF
3	ADDITIONAL CONDUCT, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CLAIM THAT A PERSON
4	ENGAGED IN A DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE;
5	(b) A CLAIM OF NEGLIGENCE, WITHOUT AN ALLEGATION OF
6	ADDITIONAL CONDUCT, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CLAIM THAT A PERSON
7	ENGAGED IN A DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE; AND
8	(c) A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES BASED ON THE RENDERING OF A
9	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, THE ESSENCE OF WHICH SERVICE IS PROVIDING
10	ADVICE, JUDGMENT, OPINION, OR SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL SKILL, WITHOUT
11	AN ALLEGATION OF ADDITIONAL CONDUCT, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A
12	CLAIM THAT A PERSON ENGAGED IN A DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE;
13	EXCEPT THAT THIS SUBSECTION $(6)(c)$ DOES NOT APPLY TO:
14	(I) AN EXPRESS MISREPRESENTATION OF A MATERIAL FACT THAT
15	CANNOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS PROVIDING ADVICE, JUDGMENT, OR
16	OPINION;
17	$(II)\ A\ {\it failure}\ {\it to}\ {\it disclose}\ {\it information}\ {\it concerning}\ {\it goods}\ {\it or}$
18	SERVICES, WHICH INFORMATION WAS KNOWN AT THE TIME OF THE
19	TRANSACTION, IF SUCH FAILURE TO DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION WAS
20	INTENDED TO INDUCE THE CONSUMER INTO A TRANSACTION THAT THE
21	CONSUMER WOULD NOT HAVE ENTERED INTO HAD THE INFORMATION BEEN
22	DISCLOSED;
23	(III) AN ACTION OR COURSE OF ACTION THAT CANNOT BE
24	CHARACTERIZED AS PROVIDING ADVICE, JUDGMENT, OR OPINION; OR
25	(IV) A BREACH OF AN EXPRESS WARRANTY THAT CANNOT BE
26	CHARACTERIZED AS PROVIDING ADVICE, JUDGMENT, OR OPINION.
27	SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly finds,

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- determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
- 3 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 4 institutions.

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