

**§ 298. Violations of law****(a) Criminal prosecutions; penalties; jurisdiction**

Each and every person, firm, corporation, or association, being a manufacturer of or a whole-sale or retail dealer in gold or silver jewelry, gold ware, silver goods, or silverware, who or which shall knowingly violate any of the provisions of sections 294 to 300 of this title, and every officer, manager, director, or managing agent of any such corporation or association having knowledge of such violation and directly participating in such violation or consenting thereto, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any court of the United States having jurisdiction of crimes within the district in which such violation was committed or through which has been conducted the transportation of the article in respect to which such violation has been committed, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than three months, or both, at the discretion of the court. Whenever the offense is begun in one jurisdiction and completed in another it may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, determined, and punished in either jurisdiction in the same manner as if the offense had been actually and wholly committed therein.

**(b) Suits by competitors, customers, or subsequent purchasers for injunctive relief; damages and costs**

Any competitor, customer, or competitor of a customer of any person in violation of section 294, 295, 296, or 297 of this title, or any subsequent purchaser of an article of merchandise which has been the subject of a violation of section 294, 295, 296, or 297 of this title, shall be entitled to injunctive relief restraining further violation of sections 294 to 300 of this title and may sue therefor in any district court of the United States in the district in which the defendant resides or has an agent, without respect to the amount in controversy, and shall recover damages and the cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

**(c) Suits by jewelry trade associations for injunctive relief; damages and costs**

Any duly organized and existing jewelry trade association shall be entitled to injunctive relief restraining any person in violation of section 294, 295, 296, or 297 of this title from further violation of sections 294 to 300 of this title and may sue therefor as the real party in interest in any district court of the United States in the district in which the defendant resides or has an agent, without respect to the amount in controversy, and if successful shall recover the cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. If the court determines that the action has been brought frivolously, for purposes of harassment, or in implementation of any scheme in restraint of trade, it may award punitive damages to the defendant.

**(d) Award of costs to defendant**

Any defendant against whom a civil action is brought under the provisions of sections 294 to 300 of this title shall be entitled to recover the cost of defending the suit, including a reason-

able attorney's fee, in the event such action is terminated without a finding by the court that such defendant is or has been in violation of sections 294 to 300 of this title.

**(e) Jurisdiction of civil actions**

The district courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction of any civil action arising under the provisions of sections 294 to 300 of this title. (June 13, 1906, ch. 3289, §5, 34 Stat. 262; Pub. L. 91-366, §1(a), (b), July 31, 1970, 84 Stat. 690.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1970—Pub. L. 91-366 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) to (e).

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-366 effective three months after July 31, 1970, see section 4 of Pub. L. 91-366, set out as a note under section 297 of this title.

**SEPARABILITY**

For separability provision of Pub. L. 91-366, see section 2 of Pub. L. 91-366, set out as a note under section 297 of this title.

**CONSTRUCTION OF 1970 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-366 to be held to be in addition to and not in substitution for or limitation of the provisions of any other Act of the United States, see section 3 of Pub. L. 91-366, set out as a note under section 297 of this title.

**§ 299. Definitions**

(a) The expression "article of merchandise" as used in sections 294 to 300 of this title shall signify any goods, wares, works of art, commodity, or other thing which may be lawfully kept or offered for sale.

(b) The term "person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or any other form of business enterprise, capable of being in violation of sections 294 to 300 of this title.

(c) The term "jewelry trade association" means an organization, consisting primarily of persons actively engaged in the jewelry or a related business, the purposes and activities of which are primarily directed to the improvement of business conditions in the jewelry or related businesses.

(June 13, 1906, ch. 3289, §6, 34 Stat. 262; Pub. L. 91-366, §1(c), (d), July 31, 1970, 84 Stat. 690.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1970—Pub. L. 91-366 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

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