

ment which are substantially similar to those provided in section 1673(a) and (b)(2) of this title. (Pub. L. 90-321, title III, §305, May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 95-30, title V, §501(e)(4), May 23, 1977, 91 Stat. 162.)

AMENDMENTS

1977—Pub. L. 95-30 substituted “section 1673(a) and (b)(2) of this title” for “section 1673(a) of this title” in two places.

§ 1676. Enforcement by Secretary of Labor

The Secretary of Labor, acting through the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, shall enforce the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title III, §306, May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 164.)

§ 1677. Effect on State laws

This subchapter does not annul, alter, or affect, or exempt any person from complying with, the laws of any State

- (1) prohibiting garnishments or providing for more limited garnishment than are allowed under this subchapter, or
- (2) prohibiting the discharge of any employee by reason of the fact that his earnings have been subjected to garnishment for more than one indebtedness.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title III, §307, May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 164.)

SUBCHAPTER II—A—CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS

§ 1679. Findings and purposes

(a) Findings

The Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) Consumers have a vital interest in establishing and maintaining their credit worthiness and credit standing in order to obtain and use credit. As a result, consumers who have experienced credit problems may seek assistance from credit repair organizations which offer to improve the credit standing of such consumers.
- (2) Certain advertising and business practices of some companies engaged in the business of credit repair services have worked a financial hardship upon consumers, particularly those of limited economic means and who are inexperienced in credit matters.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are—

- (1) to ensure that prospective buyers of the services of credit repair organizations are provided with the information necessary to make an informed decision regarding the purchase of such services; and
- (2) to protect the public from unfair or deceptive advertising and business practices by credit repair organizations.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title IV, §402, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, §2451, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-455.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior title IV of Pub. L. 90-321, May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 164, as amended by Pub. L. 91-344, July 20, 1970, 84 Stat.

440; Pub. L. 92-321, June 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 382, which was set out as a note under section 1601 of this title, established a bipartisan National Commission on Consumer Finance to study the functioning and structure of the consumer finance industry as well as consumer credit transactions generally. The Commission was to submit a final report by Dec. 31, 1972, and was to cease to exist thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 90-321, title IV, §413, as added by Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, §2451, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-462, provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter] shall apply after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Credit Repair Organizations Act [Sept. 30, 1996], except with respect to contracts entered into by a credit repair organization before the end of such period.”

SHORT TITLE

This subchapter known as the “Credit Repair Organizations Act”, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title.

§ 1679a. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) Consumer

The term “consumer” means an individual.

(2) Consumer credit transaction

The term “consumer credit transaction” means any transaction in which credit is offered or extended to an individual for personal, family, or household purposes.

(3) Credit repair organization

The term “credit repair organization”—

(A) means any person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails to sell, provide, or perform (or represent that such person can or will sell, provide, or perform) any service, in return for the payment of money or other valuable consideration, for the express or implied purpose of—

- (i) improving any consumer’s credit record, credit history, or credit rating; or
- (ii) providing advice or assistance to any consumer with regard to any activity or service described in clause (i); and

(B) does not include—

- (i) any nonprofit organization which is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of title 26;
- (ii) any creditor (as defined in section 1602 of this title), with respect to any consumer, to the extent the creditor is assisting the consumer to restructure any debt owed by the consumer to the creditor; or
- (iii) any depository institution (as that term is defined in section 1813 of title 12) or any Federal or State credit union (as those terms are defined in section 1752 of title 12), or any affiliate or subsidiary of such a depository institution or credit union.

(4) Credit

The term “credit” has the meaning given to such term in section 1602(e)¹ of this title.

¹ See References in Text note below.