

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John D. Keenan

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to rebate reform and consumer protection.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
John D. Keenan	7th Essex
Mary E. Grant	6th Essex
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
David P. Linsky	5th Middlesex
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Cleon H. Turner	1st Barnstable

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 167 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REBATE REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 93A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

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3 Section 12A for the purposes of this section a social referral service contract shall be defined as any
4 service for a fee providing for the matching of members of consenting adults by use of computer or any
5 other means, for the purpose of dating and general social contact. No social referral contract shall
6 extend for a period of time exceeding 2 years. No such contract shall require the purchaser to purchase
7 a good or service which is directly or indirectly related to the social referral service. Such services shall
8 be known as ancillary services which they shall not be required as a condition of the social referral
9 service contract.

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11 If the cost of such contract exceeds \$25, the seller must furnish the consumer with a minimum number
12 of referrals each month. If the minimum number of referrals is not met for 2 successive months, the
13 consumer shall have the option of canceling the contract and receiving a full refund minus a cancellation
14 fee not to exceed 15 percent of the contract price or a pro rata amount based on the number of
15 referrals furnished. Such contracts shall specify the distance the consumer is willing to travel to meet a
16 social referral. Such contracts shall contain a policy to address the situation of the consumer moving
17 outside the area service. Violations of such contracts may be adjudicated in a court of competent
18 jurisdiction.

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20 Such contracts shall provide the consumer the right to place his membership on hold for a period not to
21 exceed 1 year provided, however the agency and consumer may agree to a longer period not to exceed
22 2 years. Each contract shall provide that the consumer may cancel within 3 days of execution without
23 fee. Such cancellation shall be by certified or registered to an address specified in the contract.

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