



## **128th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017**

No. 943 **Legislative Document** House of Representatives, March 9, 2017

An Act Regarding the Cancellation of Subscription Services

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick. Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, FECTEAU of Biddeford, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, MOONEN of Portland.

H.P. 671

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 208-C is enacted to read:
3	CHAPTER 208-C
4	<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>
5	§1299. Cancellation of subscriptions
6 7	<b><u>1. Definitions.</u></b> As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
8 9 10 11	<u>A.</u> "Automatic renewal subscription" means an agreement to provide any of the following goods or services for a specified time and price that is automatically renewed at the end of a definite term for a subsequent term unless the consumer cancels the agreement:
12	(1) Online magazines, journals and periodicals;
13	(2) Online media players;
14	(3) Mobile apps:
15	(4) Social networking services; and
16	(5) Internet game services.
17 18 19 20 21 22	B. "Internet game service" means an online service that provides information, software, data, text, photographs, graphics, audio or video that may be accessed by a consumer on a paid subscription basis for the purpose of allowing that consumer to play a single-player or multiplayer game through the Internet or to download a game for that consumer to play offline. "Internet game service" does not include online gambling or other gaming in which a person participates to win money.
23 24	<u>C.</u> "Mobile app" means a software application designed to be operated on a mobile device such as a smartphone.
25 26	D. "Online media player" means an online service that delivers audio or video content.
27 28	<u>E.</u> "Social networking service" means an online service that facilitates the building of social relations and the sharing of information among specified groups of people.
29	2. Method of cancellation of automatic renewal subscription. A business that
30	makes an automatic renewal subscription offer to a consumer in this State shall present
31 32	that consumer with an easily accessible disclosure of the methods that consumer may use to cancel the subscription. One of the methods of cancellation must provide for online
32 33	cancellation of the subscription. One of the methods of cancellation must provide for omme
34	computer network.
35 36	<b>3.</b> Exception. This section does not apply to an entity that provides the host platform on the website of an Internet game service.

- <u>4. Violation.</u> A violation of this section is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade
  <u>Practices Act.</u>
- 3 Sec. 2. Application. This Act applies only to an agreement entered into or 4 renewed after January 1, 2018 under which a business makes an automatic renewal 5 subscription offer to a consumer in this State.
  - **SUMMARY**

7 This bill requires a business that makes an automatic renewal subscription offer of an 8 online magazine, journal or periodical, online media player, mobile app, social 9 networking service or Internet game service to present a consumer in this State with an 10 easily accessible disclosure of the methods that consumer may use to cancel the 11 subscription, which must include online cancellation.

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12 The bill only applies to agreements entered into or renewed after January 1, 2018 and 13 does not apply to an entity that provides the host platform on the website of an Internet 14 game service.