



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 257

LCO No. 2202



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH VOLUME THIRD-PARTY SELLERS ON
ONLINE MARKETPLACES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) For the purposes of this
2 section and section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Consumer product" means any tangible personal property that is
4 distributed in commerce and that is normally used for personal, family
5 or household purposes, including any such property intended to be
6 attached to or installed in any real property without regard to whether
7 it is so attached or installed;

8 (2) "High volume third-party seller" means a participant in an online
9 marketplace who is a third-party seller and who, in any continuous
10 twelve-month period during the previous twenty-four months, has
11 entered into two hundred or more discrete sales or transactions of new
12 or unused consumer products and an aggregate total of five thousand
13 dollars or more in gross revenues. For purposes of calculating the
14 number of discrete sales or transactions or aggregate gross revenues, an
15 online marketplace shall only be required to count sales or transactions

16 made through the online marketplace and for which payment was
17 processed by the online marketplace, either directly or through its
18 payment processor;

19 (3) "Online marketplace" means any person or entity that operates a
20 consumer-directed electronically based or accessed platform that: (A)
21 Includes features that allow for, facilitate or enable third-party sellers to
22 engage in the sale, purchase, payment, storage, shipping or delivery of
23 a consumer product in this state; (B) is used by one or more third-party
24 sellers for such purposes; and (C) has a contractual or similar
25 relationship with consumers governing their use of the platform to
26 purchase consumer products;

27 (4) "Seller" means a person who sells, offers to sell or contracts to sell
28 a consumer product through an online marketplace's platform;

29 (5) "Third-party seller" means any seller, independent of an online
30 marketplace, who sells, offers to sell or contracts to sell a consumer
31 product in this state through an online marketplace, provided "third-
32 party seller" does not include, with respect to an online marketplace:

33 (A) A seller who operates the online marketplace's platform, or

34 (B) A business entity that has: (i) Made available to the general public
35 the entity's name, business address and working contact information;
36 (ii) an ongoing contractual relationship with the online marketplace to
37 provide the online marketplace with the manufacture, distribution,
38 wholesaling or fulfillment of shipments of consumer products; and (iii)
39 provided to the online marketplace identifying information, as
40 described in subsection (a) of section 2 of this act, that has been verified
41 in accordance with subsection (d) of section 2 of this act; and

42 (6) "Verify" means to confirm information provided to an online
43 marketplace, which may include the use of one or more methods that
44 enable the online marketplace to reliably determine that any
45 information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to the
46 seller or an individual acting on the seller's behalf, not misappropriated

47 and not falsified.

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) Each online marketplace
49 shall require any high volume third-party seller that is using the online
50 marketplace's platform to provide the online marketplace, not later than
51 ten days after qualifying as a high volume third-party seller on the
52 platform, with the following:

53 (1) A bank account number or, if such seller does not have a bank
54 account, the name of the payee for payments issued by the online
55 marketplace to such seller, which may be provided either (A) to the
56 online marketplace, or (B) to other third parties contracted by the online
57 marketplace to maintain such information, provided the online
58 marketplace ensures that it can obtain such information on demand
59 from such other third parties;

60 (2) (A) If such seller is an individual, the individual's name, or (B) if
61 such seller is not an individual, either (i) a copy of a valid government-
62 issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that
63 includes the individual's name, or (ii) a copy of a valid government-
64 issued record or tax document that includes the business name and
65 physical address of such seller;

66 (3) A business tax identification number or, if such seller does not
67 have such a number, a taxpayer identification number; and

68 (4) A current working electronic mail address and telephone number
69 for such seller.

70 (b) An online marketplace shall:

71 (1) Not less than annually, notify each high volume third-party seller
72 on such online marketplace's platform of the requirement to keep any
73 information collected under subsection (a) of this section current, and

74 (2) Require each such seller to electronically certify, not later than ten
75 days after receiving the notice under subdivision (1) of this subsection,
76 that such seller has provided the online marketplace with any changes

77 to the information required under subsection (a) of this section or that
78 there have been no changes to such information.

79 (c) If a high volume third-party seller fails to provide the information
80 required by subsection (a) of this section or the certification required by
81 subsection (b) of this section, the online marketplace shall provide such
82 seller with written or electronic notice of such failure. If such seller does
83 not provide the required information or certification, as applicable,
84 within ten days of the issuance of such notice, the online marketplace
85 shall suspend any future sales by such seller until such seller provides
86 the required information or certification.

87 (d) An online marketplace shall verify (1) the information collected
88 under subsection (a) of this section not later than ten days after such
89 collection, and (2) any change to such information not later than ten days
90 after being notified of such change by a high volume third-party seller.
91 Any information contained in a copy of a valid government-issued tax
92 document shall be presumed to be verified as of the date of issuance of
93 such document.

94 (e) Data collected solely to comply with the requirements of
95 subsection (a) of this section may not be used for any purpose other than
96 as provided by the provisions of this section, unless otherwise required
97 by law.

98 (f) An online marketplace shall implement and maintain reasonable
99 security procedures and practices, including administrative, physical
100 and technical safeguards, that are appropriate for the nature of the data
101 collected pursuant to this section and the purposes for which such data
102 will be used, in order to protect such data from unauthorized use,
103 disclosure, access, destruction or modification.

104 (g) An online marketplace shall require any high volume third-party
105 seller that uses such online marketplace's platform and has an aggregate
106 total of twenty thousand dollars or more in annual gross revenues on
107 such online marketplace, to provide to the online marketplace, and to
108 consumers in a conspicuous manner in the order confirmation message

109 or other document or communication made to a consumer after a
110 purchase is finalized and in the consumer's account transaction history,
111 the following information:

112 (1) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the identity of
113 the high volume third-party seller, including:

114 (A) The full name of such seller, which may include such seller's
115 name or such seller's company name, or the name by which such seller
116 or company operates on the online marketplace;

117 (B) The physical address of such seller; and

118 (C) Contact information for such seller, to allow for the direct,
119 unhindered communication with such seller by users of the online
120 marketplace, including a current working phone number, a current
121 working electronic mail address or other means of direct electronic
122 messaging, which may be provided to such seller by the online
123 marketplace; and

124 (2) Whether the high volume third-party seller used a different seller
125 to supply the consumer product to the consumer upon purchase, and,
126 upon the request of a consumer who is an authenticated purchaser, the
127 information described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision relating
128 to the seller that supplied the consumer product to the consumer, if such
129 seller is different than the high volume third-party seller listed on the
130 product listing prior to purchase.

131 (h) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an
132 online marketplace may limit the disclosure of the information required
133 under subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section when the high
134 volume third-party seller certifies to the online marketplace that:

135 (A) Such seller does not have a business address and only has a
136 residential street address, or has a combined business and residential
137 street address, the online marketplace may: (i) Disclose only the country
138 and, if applicable, the state in which the high volume third-party seller

139 resides, and (ii) inform consumers that there is no business address
140 available for such seller and that consumer inquiries should be
141 submitted to such seller by phone, electronic mail or other means of
142 electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace;

143 (B) Such seller is a business that has a physical address for product
144 returns, the online marketplace may disclose such seller's physical
145 address for product returns; or

146 (C) Such seller does not have a phone number other than a personal
147 phone number, the online marketplace shall inform consumers that
148 there is no phone number available for the seller and that consumer
149 inquiries should be submitted to the seller's electronic mail address or
150 other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the
151 online marketplace.

152 (2) If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high volume third-
153 party seller has made a false representation to the online marketplace in
154 order to justify the limitation on disclosure under subdivision (1) of this
155 subsection or that a high volume third-party seller who has requested
156 and received a limitation on disclosure under subdivision (1) of this
157 subsection has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable
158 timeframe to consumer inquiries submitted to such seller by phone,
159 electronic mail or other means of electronic messaging provided to such
160 seller by the online marketplace, the online marketplace shall provide
161 such seller with written or electronic notice regarding such false
162 representation or nonresponsiveness and an opportunity to respond not
163 later than ten days after the issuance of the notice. If, after such period,
164 such seller does not justify to such online marketplace the continued
165 limitation on the disclosure of information under subdivision (1) of this
166 subsection or consent to the disclosure of the information required
167 under subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section, the online
168 marketplace shall suspend any future sales activity of such seller until
169 such seller consents to the disclosure of the information required under
170 subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section.

171 (i) An online marketplace shall disclose to consumers in a clear and
172 conspicuous manner on the product listing of any high volume third-
173 party seller a reporting mechanism that allows for electronic and
174 telephonic reporting of suspicious marketplace activity to the online
175 marketplace.

176 (j) If a high volume third-party seller does not comply with the
177 requirements to provide and disclose information under the provisions
178 of subsections (g) and (h) of this section, the online marketplace shall
179 provide such seller with written or electronic notice of such
180 noncompliance. If such seller does not provide or disclose such
181 information not later than ten days after the issuance of such notice, the
182 online marketplace shall suspend any future sales activity of such seller
183 until such seller complies with the requirements of subsections (g) and
184 (h) of this section.

185 (k) A violation by any online marketplace of a provision of this
186 section, or a regulation adopted pursuant to subsection (l) of this section,
187 shall constitute an unfair trade practice pursuant to subsection (a) of
188 section 42-110b of the general statutes.

189 (l) The Department of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations,
190 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
191 that are necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this
192 section.

193 (m) No political subdivision of the state may establish, mandate or
194 otherwise require online marketplaces to collect or verify information
195 from high volume third-party sellers on a one-time or ongoing basis or
196 disclose information to consumers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require high volume third-party sellers on online marketplaces to disclose certain information on the marketplaces and to consumers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]