

(5) In cooperation with the Department of Licensing and Regulation, suspend or revoke the license of any merchant who refuses to cease and desist from engaging in an unfair or deceptive trade practice;

(6) Report to the appropriate law enforcement officer any information concerning violations of any consumer protection law;

(7) Assist, advise, and cooperate with local and federal agencies and officials to protect and promote the interests of consumers in the State;

(8) Assist, develop, and conduct programs of consumer education and information through publications and other materials prepared for distribution to consumers;

(9) Undertake activities to encourage business and industry to maintain high standards of honesty, fair business practices, and public responsibility in the production, promotion, and sale or lease or rental of consumer goods, consumer realty, and consumer services and in the extension of consumer credit;

(10) Assess against any violator of this title the costs of investigation by the Division and damages which flow from the improper, incomplete or untimely restitution by the violator to the consumer of money, property, or other thing received from the consumer in connection with a violation of this title;

(11) Exercise and perform any other function, power, and duty appropriate to protect and promote the welfare of consumers; [and]

(12) In accordance with § 13-205 of this subtitle, adopt rules, regulations, and standards which:

(i) Are necessary to assure the orderly operation of the Division; and

(ii) Further define unfair or deceptive trade practices for purposes of this title; AND

(13) ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS WITH CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCIES OF OTHER STATES, IN WHICH EACH STATE MUTUALLY AGREES TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS FROM THE FOREIGN STATE'S CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY ON BEHALF OF THEIR CONSUMERS AGAINST BUSINESSES IN THE RECEIVING AND INVESTIGATING STATE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.

Approved April 28, 1981.

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