

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.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title IV, § 403, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, § 2451, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-455.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1602(e) of this title, referred to in par. (4), was redesignated section 1602(f) of this title by Pub. L. 111-203, title X, § 1100A(1)(A), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2107.

¹ See References in Text note below.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

For a prior section 403 of Pub. L. 90-321, see note set out under section 1679 of this title.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable after the end of the 6-month period beginning on Sept. 30, 1996, except with respect to contracts entered into by a credit repair organization before the end of such period, see section 413 of Pub. L. 90-321, as added by Pub. L. 104-208, set out as a note under section 1679 of this title.

§ 1679b. Prohibited practices

(a) In general

No person may—

(1) make any statement, or counsel or advise any consumer to make any statement, which is untrue or misleading (or which, upon the exercise of reasonable care, should be known by the credit repair organization, officer, employee, agent, or other person to be untrue or misleading) with respect to any consumer’s credit worthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity to—

- (A) any consumer reporting agency (as defined in section 1681a(f) of this title); or
- (B) any person—

- (i) who has extended credit to the consumer; or
- (ii) to whom the consumer has applied or is applying for an extension of credit;

(2) make any statement, or counsel or advise any consumer to make any statement, the intended effect of which is to alter the consumer’s identification to prevent the display of the consumer’s credit record, history, or rating for the purpose of concealing adverse information that is accurate and not obsolete to—

- (A) any consumer reporting agency;
- (B) any person—
- (i) who has extended credit to the consumer; or
- (ii) to whom the consumer has applied or is applying for an extension of credit;

(3) make or use any untrue or misleading representation of the services of the credit repair organization; or

(4) engage, directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business that constitutes or results in the commission of, or an attempt to commit, a fraud or deception on any person in connection with the offer or sale of the services of the credit repair organization.

(b) Payment in advance

No credit repair organization may charge or receive any money or other valuable consideration for the performance of any service which the credit repair organization has agreed to perform for any consumer before such service is fully performed.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title IV, § 404, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, § 2451, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-456.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

For a prior section 404 of Pub. L. 90-321, see note set out under section 1679 of this title.