

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --  
DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

Introduced By: Senator Pamela J. Lauria

Date Introduced: February 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6-13.1-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 6-13.1 entitled "Deceptive  
2 Trade Practices" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **6-13.1-1. Definitions. [Effective March 31, 2026.]**

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Documentary material" means the original or a copy of any book, record, report,  
6 memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, map, chart, photograph, mechanical  
7 transcription, or other tangible document or recording wherever situated.

8 (2) "Examination" of documentary material includes the inspection, study, or copying of  
9 any documentary material, and the taking of testimony under oath or acknowledgment in respect  
10 of any documentary material or copy of any documentary material.

11 (3) "Person" means natural persons, corporations, trusts, partnerships, incorporated or  
12 unincorporated associations, and any other legal entity.

13 (4) "Rebate" means the return of a payment or a partial payment that serves as a discount  
14 or reduction in price.

15 (5) "Trade" and "commerce" mean the advertising, offering for sale, sale, or distribution  
16 of any services and any property, tangible or intangible, real, personal, or mixed, and any other  
17 article, commodity, or thing of value wherever situate, and include any trade or commerce directly  
18 or indirectly affecting the people of this state.

1           (6) “Unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices” means any  
2 one or more of the following:

3           (i) Passing off goods or services as those of another;

4           (ii) Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship,  
5 approval, or certification of goods or services;

6           (iii) Causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection,  
7 or association with, or certification by, another;

8           (iv) Using deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection  
9 with goods or services;

10          (v) Representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics,  
11 ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship,  
12 approval, status, affiliation, or connection that the person does not have;

13          (vi) Representing that goods are original or new if they are deteriorated, altered,  
14 reconditioned, reclaimed, used, or secondhand; and if household goods have been repaired or  
15 reconditioned, without conspicuously noting the defect that necessitated the repair on the tag that  
16 contains the cost to the consumer of the goods;

17          (vii) Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or  
18 that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another;

19          (viii) Disparaging the goods, services, or business of another by false or misleading  
20 representation of fact;

21          (ix) Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised;

22          (x) Advertising goods or services with intent not to supply reasonably expectable public  
23 demand, unless the advertisement discloses a limitation of quantity;

24          (xi) Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of,  
25 or amounts of price reductions;

26          (xii) Engaging in any other conduct that similarly creates a likelihood of confusion or of  
27 misunderstanding;

28          (xiii) Engaging in any act or practice that is unfair or deceptive to the consumer;

29          (xiv) Using any other methods, acts, or practices that mislead or deceive members of the  
30 public in a material respect;

31          (xv) Advertising any brand name goods for sale and then selling substituted brand names  
32 in their place;

33          (xvi) Failure to include the brand name and/or manufacturer of goods in any advertisement  
34 of the goods for sale, and, if the goods are used or secondhand, failure to include the information

1 in the advertisement;

2 (xvii) Advertising claims concerning safety, performance, and comparative price unless  
3 the advertiser, upon request by any person, the consumer council, or the attorney general, makes  
4 available documentation substantiating the validity of the claim;

5 (xviii) Representing that work has been performed on or parts replaced in goods when the  
6 work was not in fact performed or the parts not in fact replaced;

7 (xix) Failing to separately state the amount charged for labor and the amount charged for  
8 services when requested by the purchaser as provided for in § 44-18-12(b)(3);

9 (xx) Advertising for sale at a retail establishment the availability of a manufacturer's rebate  
10 by displaying the net price of the advertised item (the price of the item after the rebate has been  
11 deducted from the item's price) in the advertisement, unless the amount of the manufacturer's  
12 rebate is provided to the consumer by the retailer at the time of the purchase of the advertised item.  
13 It shall be the retailer's burden to redeem the rebate offered to the consumer by the manufacturer;

14 (xxi) Advertising, displaying, or offering a price for live-event tickets or short-term lodging  
15 in violation of 16 C.F.R. Part 464; ~~or~~

16 (xxii) Engaging in any act or practice that is unfair or deceptive by a person advising or  
17 assisting any veteran filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs;  
18 or

19 (xxiii) Selling, offering for sale, transporting into this state with the intent to sell, or  
20 transferring any motor vehicle used in a crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.3-1, or which has  
21 been exposed to biohazardous contamination, without notifying the buyer in writing prior to sale,  
22 of the vehicle's use in or involvement with a crime of violence, or of exposure to biohazardous  
23 contamination. For purposes of this subsection, "biohazardous contamination" means  
24 contamination to any motor vehicle that has been exposed to blood, bodily fluids, human remains,  
25 infectious disease materials, or other biological contaminants arising from a crime scene, accident,  
26 natural disaster, or other incident, or a vehicle that has been exposed to, or contains observable  
27 matter or materials, odors or damage that a reasonable person could easily identify and recognize  
28 as a biohazard, such that professional biohazard remediation is required before the vehicle may be  
29 safely operated or resold.

30 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would provide protections for a purchaser from unknowingly purchasing a vehicle  
2 used in a crime of violence or that has been exposed to a biohazard, and ensures that written notice  
3 of the vehicle's use in a crime of violence or exposure to biohazardous contamination be disclosed  
4 to the purchaser in writing prior to sale, with any violation of the act declared an unfair or deceptive  
5 trade practice.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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