

**2023 -- H 5276 SUBSTITUTE A**

LC000775/SUB A

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --  
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES**

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Knight, Morales, McEntee, Serpa, Costantino,  
and Lima

Date Introduced: February 01, 2023

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter 6-13 of the General Laws entitled "Unfair Sales Practices" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **6-13-22. Termination of automatic deductions – Notice of rate increases or substantial**  
4 **changes in services.**

5 (a) Any health club, as defined in § 5-50-1, which automatically deducts from a checking  
6 or savings account, or a credit or debit card, or similar device, on a regular schedule, monthly or  
7 otherwise, for a consumer to access the health club, shall stop making such deduction within thirty  
8 (30) calendar days of the consumer giving the health club notice that the consumer wants the  
9 automatic deduction to be stopped. Notice by the consumer must be provided in written form only  
10 and delivered by mail or in person.

11 (b) Any health club who intends to provide a rate increase in charges or a substantial change  
12 in the nature of the health club, or services being provided to the consumer, shall give the consumer  
13 notice of the proposed rate increase or change in services by a writing executed and delivered to  
14 the consumer at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the date when the rate increase or change in  
15 services are to take effect.

16 (c) A health club may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a violation of this  
17 section. In addition, any consumer against whom the health club violates the provisions of this  
18 section shall be entitled to terminate their contractual agreement with the health club as of the date

1 of the violation, and shall not be responsible to the health club for any charges assessed by the  
2 health club on or after the date of the violation.

3 (d) If any of the provisions of this section violate an express provision of a contract between  
4 a consumer and a health club, then the provisions of this section shall apply to the next renewal of  
5 that contract which occurs after the effective date of this section.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --  
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

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1           This act would provide that a health club must stop automatic deductions from the  
2 consumer's account or credit card within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving a written notice that  
3 the consumer wants the automatic deduction to be stopped. The act would also provide that a health  
4 club must give a consumer at least sixty (60) calendar days notice of a proposed rate increase or  
5 substantial change in services being provided to the consumer.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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