

AN ACT

To amend section 1345.99 and to enact section 1345.032 of the Revised Code to regulate the solicitation of certain deeds.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That section 1345.99 be amended and section 1345.032 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 1345.032. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Deed" means a written instrument entitled to be recorded in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the subject property is situated that purports to convey or transfer title in fee simple of real property in this state. "Deed" includes a leasehold interest for ninety-nine years or more. "Deed" does not include instruments providing for any of the following:

(a) Common driveways;

(b) Exchanges of easements or rights-of-way;

(c) Revocable licenses to use, adjust, or clear defects of or clouds on title;

(d) Utility service lines such as drainage, sewerage, water, electric, telephone, or other such service lines;

(e) Quitclaim of possible outstanding interests.

(2) "Public body" means any township, county, municipal corporation, commission, district, authority, other subdivision, or public body of this state.

(3) "Solicit" means to advertise or market to a person with whom the solicitor has no pre-existing business relationship.

(B)(1) A supplier soliciting a fee for providing a copy of a deed or a free copy of a deed in connection with the solicitation for any other service or product shall state on the top of the document used for the solicitation, in at least twenty-four-point type, all of the following:

(a) That the solicitation is not from a public body;

(b) That no action is legally required by the person being solicited;

(c) The statutory fee for, or the cost of, obtaining a copy of the deed from the county recorder who has custody of the deed;

(d) The information necessary to contact that county recorder;

(e) The name and physical address of the person soliciting the fee.

(2) The document used for a solicitation under this section shall not be in a form or use deadline dates or other language that makes the document appear to be a document issued by a public body or that appears to impose a legal duty on the person being solicited.

(3) A supplier soliciting a fee for providing a copy of a deed shall not charge a fee of more than four times the fee charged by the county recorder for a copy of that deed pursuant to section 317.32 of the Revised Code.

(C) A supplier soliciting a fee for providing a copy of a deed shall furnish to the office of the county recorder of each county where the solicitations are to be distributed a copy of the document that will be used for those solicitations not less than fifteen days before distributing the solicitations.

(D) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

(1) A title insurance company authorized to do business in this state or its authorized agent;

(2) A mortgage loan originator, mortgage broker, lender, or servicer or a depository financial institution authorized under state and federal law to originate or service mortgage loans;

(3) A real estate broker or salesperson licensed under Chapter 4735. of the Revised Code.

(E) The attorney general may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code specifying the contents and form of the solicitation document.

(F) A violation of division (B) or (C) of this section shall be considered an unconscionable consumer sales act or practice under section 1345.03 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 1345.99. (A) Whoever violates section 1345.23 or 1345.24 of the Revised Code is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(B) Whoever violates division (C) of section 1345.30 or division (D) of section 1345.76 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.

(C) Whoever knowingly violates division (E) of section 1345.02 or knowingly violates section 1345.18 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the second degree for any subsequent offense.

(D) Whoever recklessly violates section 1345.032 of the Revised Code shall be fined the following:

(1) For the first violation, not more than one hundred dollars for each solicitation document distributed;

(2) For any subsequent violation, not more than two hundred dollars for each solicitation document distributed.

SECTION 2. That existing section 1345.99 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20 ____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____