

As Passed by the House

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

Sub. H. B. No. 272

Representatives Plummer, Ghanbari

**Cosponsors: Representatives White, LaRe, Riedel, Cross, Carfagna, Johnson,
Click, Jones, Lampton, Miller, K., Patton, Roemer, Stein**

A BILL

To amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section 1
number as indicated in parentheses, section 2
1349.72 (1349.78), and to enact new section 3
1349.72 and sections 1349.65, 1349.66, 1349.67, 4
1349.68, 1349.69, 1349.70, 1349.71, 1349.73, 5
1349.74, 1349.75, and 1349.76 of the Revised 6
Code to require online marketplaces to verify 7
certain information regarding high-volume third 8
party sellers of consumer products on such 9
online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers 10
certain contact and other information regarding 11
such high-volume third party sellers. 12

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 1349.72 (1349.78) be amended for 13
the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in 14
parentheses and new section 1349.72 and sections 1349.65, 15
1349.66, 1349.67, 1349.68, 1349.69, 1349.70, 1349.71, 1349.73, 16
1349.74, 1349.75, and 1349.76 of the Revised Code be enacted to 17
read as follows: 18

Sec. 1349.65. As used in sections 1349.65 to 1349.76 of 19
the Revised Code: 20

(A) "Consumer product" has the same meaning as in section 21
101 of the "Magnuson-Moss Warranty-Federal Trade Commission 22
Improvement Act," 15 U.S.C. 2301 and 16 C.F.R. 700.1. 23

(B) "High-volume third party seller" means a participant 24
on an online marketplace's platform that is a third party seller 25
and that, in any continuous twelve-month period during the 26
previous twenty-four months, has entered into two hundred or 27
more discrete sales or transactions of new or unused consumer 28
products through the online marketplace, and for which payment 29
was processed by the online marketplace, either directly or 30
through its payment processor, with an aggregate total of five 31
thousand dollars or more in gross revenues. 32

(C) "Online marketplace" means any person or entity that 33
operates a consumer-directed electronically based or accessed 34
platform that meets all of the following criteria: 35

(1) It includes features that allow for, facilitate, or 36
enable third party sellers to engage in the sale, purchase, 37
payment, storage, shipping, or delivery of a consumer product in 38
this state. 39

(2) It is used by one or more third party sellers for such 40
purposes. 41

(3) It has a contractual or similar relationship with 42
consumers governing their use of the platform to purchase 43
consumer products. 44

(D) "Seller" means a person that sells, offers to sell, or 45
contracts to sell a consumer product through an online 46
marketplace's platform. "Seller" does not include a new motor 47

vehicle dealer licensed under Chapter 4517. of the Revised Code. 48

(E) (1) "Third party seller" means any seller, independent 49
of an online marketplace, that sells, offers to sell, or 50
contracts to sell a consumer product in this state through such 51
online marketplace's platform. 52

(2) "Third party seller" does not include, with respect to 53
an online marketplace, either of the following: 54

(a) A seller that operates the online marketplace's 55
platform; 56

(b) A business entity to which all of the following apply: 57

(i) It has made available to the general public the 58
entity's name, business address, and working contact 59
information. 60

(ii) It has an ongoing contractual relationship with the 61
online marketplace to provide the online marketplace with the 62
manufacture, distribution, wholesaling, or fulfillment of 63
shipments of consumer products. 64

(iii) It has provided to the online marketplace 65
identifying information, as described in section 1349.66 of the 66
Revised Code, that has been verified in accordance with that 67
section. 68

(F) "Verify" means to confirm information provided to an 69
online marketplace pursuant to section 1349.66 of the Revised 70
Code, which may include the use of one or more methods that 71
enable the online marketplace to reliably determine that any 72
information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to 73
the seller or an individual acting on the seller's behalf, not 74
misappropriated, and not falsified. 75

Sec. 1349.66. (A) An online marketplace shall require any 76
high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace's 77
platform to provide, not later than ten days after qualifying as 78
a high-volume third party seller on the platform, all of the 79
following information to the online marketplace: 80

(1) (a) A bank account number, or, if such seller does not 81
have a bank account, the name of the payee for payments issued 82
by the online marketplace to such seller. 83

(b) The bank account or payee information required under 84
division (A) (1) (a) of this section may be provided by the seller 85
in either of the following ways: 86

(i) To the online marketplace; 87

(ii) To a payment processor or other third party 88
contracted by the online marketplace to maintain such 89
information, provided that the online marketplace ensures that 90
it can obtain such information on demand from such payment 91
processor or other third party. 92

(2) Contact information for such seller as follows: 93

(a) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that 94
is an individual, the individual's name. 95

(b) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that 96
is not an individual, one of the following forms of contact 97
information: 98

(i) A copy of a valid government-issued identification for 99
an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the 100
individual's name; 101

(ii) A copy of a valid government-issued record or tax 102
document that includes the business name and physical address of 103

such seller. 104

(c) A business tax identification number, or, if such 105
seller does not have a business tax identification number, a 106
taxpayer identification number. 107

(d) A current working electronic mail address and 108
telephone number for such seller. 109

(B) An online marketplace shall do both of the following: 110

(1) Periodically, but not less than annually, notify any 111
high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace's 112
platform of the requirement to keep any information collected 113
under division (A) of this section current; 114

(2) Require any high-volume third party seller on such 115
online marketplace's platform to, not later than ten days after 116
receiving the notice under division (B) (1) of this section, 117
electronically certify one of the following: 118

(a) The seller has provided any changes to such 119
information to the online marketplace, if any such changes have 120
occurred; 121

(b) There have been no changes to such seller's 122
information; 123

(c) Such seller has provided any changes to such 124
information to the online marketplace. 125

(C) In the event that a high-volume third party seller 126
does not provide the information or certification required under 127
this section, the online marketplace shall, after providing the 128
seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to 129
provide such information or certification not later than ten 130
days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales 131

activity of such seller until such seller provides such 132
information or certification. 133

Sec. 1349.67. (A) An online marketplace shall do both of 134
the following: 135

(1) Verify the information collected under division (A) of 136
section 1349.66 of the Revised Code not later than ten days 137
after such collection; 138

(2) Verify any change to such information not later than 139
ten days after being notified of such change by a high-volume 140
third party seller under division (B) of section 1349.66 of the 141
Revised Code. 142

(B) In the case of a high-volume third party seller that 143
provides a copy of a valid government-issued tax document, any 144
information contained in such document shall be presumed to be 145
verified as of the date of issuance of such document. 146

Sec. 1349.68. Data collected solely to comply with the 147
requirements of this chapter shall not be used for any other 148
purpose unless required by law. 149

Sec. 1349.69. An online marketplace shall implement and 150
maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including 151
administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, appropriate 152
to the nature of the data and the purposes for which the data 153
will be used, to protect the data collected to comply with the 154
requirements of this chapter from unauthorized use, disclosure, 155
access, destruction, or modification. 156

Sec. 1349.70. (A) An online marketplace shall do both of 157
the following: 158

(1) Require any high-volume third party seller with an 159

aggregate total of twenty thousand dollars or more in annual 160
gross revenues on such online marketplace, and that uses such 161
online marketplace's platform, to provide the information 162
described in division (B) of this section to the online 163
marketplace; 164

(2) Disclose the information described in division (B) of 165
this section to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner both 166
in: 167

(a) The order confirmation message or other document or 168
communication made to a consumer after a purchase is finalized; 169

(b) The consumer's account transaction history. 170

(B) The information required to be provided and disclosed 171
by division (A) of this section is both of the following: 172

(1) Except as provided in section 1349.71 of the Revised 173
Code, the identity of the high-volume third party seller, 174
including all of the following: 175

(a) The full name of the seller, which may include the 176
seller name or seller's company name, or the name by which the 177
seller or company operates on the online marketplace; 178

(b) The physical address of the seller; 179

(c) Contact information for the seller, to allow for the 180
direct, unhindered communication with high-volume third party 181
sellers by users of the online marketplace, including any of the 182
following: 183

(i) A current working telephone number; 184

(ii) A current working electronic mail address; or 185

(iii) Other means of direct electronic messaging, which 186

may be provided to such seller by the online marketplace. 187

(2) Whether the high-volume third party seller used a 188
different seller to supply the consumer product to the consumer 189
upon purchase, and, upon the request of an authenticated 190
purchaser, the information described in division (B) (1) of this 191
section relating to any such seller that supplied the consumer 192
product to the purchaser, if such seller is different than the 193
high-volume third party seller listed on the product listing 194
prior to purchase. 195

Sec. 1349.71. (A) Subject to division (B) of this section, 196
upon the request of a high-volume third party seller, an online 197
marketplace may provide for partial disclosure of the identity 198
information required under division (B) (1) of section 1349.70 of 199
the Revised Code in the following situations: 200

(1) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace 201
that the seller does not have a business address and only has a 202
residential street address, or has a combined business and 203
residential address, the online marketplace may both: 204

(a) Disclose only the country and, if applicable, the 205
state in which such seller resides; 206

(b) Inform consumers that there is no business address 207
available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be 208
submitted to the seller by telephone, electronic mail, or other 209
means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the 210
online marketplace. 211

(2) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace 212
that the seller is a business that has a physical address for 213
product returns, the online marketplace may disclose the 214
seller's physical address for product returns. 215

(3) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace 216
that the seller does not have a telephone number other than a 217
personal telephone number, the online marketplace shall inform 218
consumers that there is no telephone number available for the 219
seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the 220
seller's electronic mail address or other means of electronic 221
messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace. 222

(B) If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high- 223
volume third party seller has made a false representation to the 224
online marketplace in order to justify the provision of a 225
partial disclosure under division (A) of this section or that a 226
high-volume third party seller who has requested and received a 227
provision for a partial disclosure under division (A) of this 228
section has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable 229
time frame to consumer inquiries submitted to the seller by 230
telephone, electronic mail, or other means of electronic 231
messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace, the 232
online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with 233
written or electronic notice and an opportunity to respond not 234
later than ten days after the issuance of such notice, suspend 235
any future sales activity of such seller unless such seller 236
consents to the disclosure of the identity information required 237
under division (B) (1) of section 1349.70 of the Revised Code. 238

(C) If a high-volume third-party seller is a program 239
participant as defined in section 111.41 of the Revised Code, 240
the only address of which the online marketplace may require 241
disclosure is the address designated by the secretary of state 242
under section 111.42 of the Revised Code. 243

Sec. 1349.72. An online marketplace shall disclose to 244
consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product 245

listing of any high-volume third-party seller a reporting 246
mechanism that allows for electronic and telephonic reporting of 247
suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace. 248

Sec. 1349.73. If a high-volume third-party seller does not 249
comply with the requirements to provide and disclose information 250
under sections 1349.70 and 1349.71 of the Revised Code, the 251
online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with 252
written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide or 253
disclose such information not later than ten days after the 254
issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of 255
such seller until the seller complies with such requirements. 256

Sec. 1349.74. (A) A violation of sections 1349.66 to 257
1349.73 of the Revised Code is an unfair or deceptive act or 258
practice in violation of section 1345.02 of the Revised Code. 259

(B)(1) The attorney general shall enforce sections 1349.66 260
to 1349.73 of the Revised Code in the same manner, by the same 261
means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as 262
though all applicable terms and provisions of sections 1345.01 263
to 1345.13 of the Revised Code were incorporated and made part 264
of sections 1349.66 to 1349.73 of the Revised Code. 265

(2) There is no private right of action, pursuant to 266
section 1345.09 of the Revised Code, to enforce sections 1349.66 267
to 1349.73 of the Revised Code. 268

(C) The attorney general may adopt rules with respect to 269
the collection, verification, or disclosure of information under 270
sections 1349.66, 1349.67, and 1349.70 to 1349.73 of the Revised 271
Code, provided that such regulations are limited to what is 272
necessary to collect, verify, and disclose such information. 273

(D) Nothing in sections 1349.66 to 1349.74 of the Revised 274

Code shall be construed to limit the authority of the attorney 275
general under any other provision of law. 276

Sec. 1349.75. If any provision of sections 1349.65 to 277
1349.74 of the Revised Code, or the application thereof to any 278
person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of those 279
provisions and the application of such provision to other 280
persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall 281
not be affected by the invalidation. 282

Sec. 1349.76. The intent of the general assembly in 283
enacting sections 1349.65 to 1349.76 of the Revised Code is to 284
establish a statewide, comprehensive enactment that applies to 285
all parts of the state, operates uniformly throughout the state, 286
and sets forth police regulations. No political subdivision as 287
defined in section 2744.01 of the Revised Code shall establish, 288
mandate, or otherwise require online marketplaces or sellers to 289
undertake different or additional measures to verify or disclose 290
the same information as or information similar to that which is 291
the subject of sections 1349.65 to 1349.73 of the Revised Code. 292

Sec. ~~1349.72~~ 1349.78. (A) Not less than thirty days prior 293
to a person filing a foreclosure action to collect on a debt 294
secured by residential real property, the person shall first 295
send a written notice as described in division (B) of this 296
section via United States mail to the residential address of the 297
debtor, if both of the following apply: 298

(1) The debt is secured by a mortgage lien on the debtor's 299
residential real property that is not in the first mortgage 300
position. 301

(2) The debt has either been accelerated or is in default 302
in accordance with the terms set forth in the promissory note. 303

(B) The written notice may be included on, or accompany, 304
any other communication, and shall be printed in at least 305
twelve-point type and include the following: 306

(1) The name and contact information of the person 307
collecting the debt; 308

(2) A statement of the amount of the debt; 309

(3) A statement that the debtor has a right to engage an 310
attorney; 311

(4) A statement that the debtor may qualify for debt 312
relief under Chapter 7 or 13 of the United States Bankruptcy 313
Code, 11 U.S.C. Chapter 7 or 13, as amended; 314

(5) A statement that a debtor that qualifies under Chapter 315
13 of the United States Bankruptcy Code may be able to protect 316
their residential real property from foreclosure. 317

(C) Upon written request of the debtor, the owner of the 318
debt shall provide a copy of the note and the loan history to 319
the debtor. 320

(D) (1) As used in this division: 321

(a) "Bona fide error" means an unintentional clerical, 322
calculation, computer malfunction or programming, or printing 323
error. 324

(b) "Restitution" means either of the following: 325

(i) A waiver of all fees, costs, or expenses proximately 326
associated with the failure to provide the notice to the debtor; 327
or 328

(ii) Actual damages. 329

(2) Any owner of debt subject to divisions (A), (B), and 330

(C) of this section shall not be held civilly liable in any 331
action, if all of the following are met: 332

(a) The owner of the debt shows by a preponderance of 333
evidence that the compliance failure was not intentional and 334
resulted from a bona fide error notwithstanding the maintenance 335
of procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such error. 336

(b) Within sixty days after discovering the error, and 337
prior to the initiation of any action, the owner of the debt 338
notifies the debtor of the error and the manner in which the 339
owner of the debt intends to make full restitution to the 340
debtor. 341

(c) The owner of the debt promptly makes reasonable 342
restitution to the debtor. 343

(3) If, in the event of a compliance failure, the owner of 344
the debt does not meet the conditions set forth in division (D) 345
(2) of this section, a debtor injured by the error has a cause 346
of action to recover damages. Such an action shall not, however, 347
be maintained as a class action. 348

Section 2. That existing section 1349.72 of the Revised 349
Code is hereby repealed. 350