

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 267

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Nine  
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An Act relative to rebate reform and consumer protection..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 93A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 12A for the purposes of this section a social referral service contract shall be  
3 defined as any service for a fee providing for the matching of members of consenting adults by  
4 use of computer or any other means, for the purpose of dating and general social contact. No  
5 social referral contract shall extend for a period of time exceeding 2 years. No such contract  
6 shall require the purchaser to purchase a good or service which is directly or indirectly related to  
7 the social referral service. Such services shall be known as ancillary services which they shall  
8 not be required as a condition of the social referral service contract.

9 If the cost of such contract exceeds \$25, the seller must furnish the consumer with a  
10 minimum number of referrals each month. If the minimum number of referrals is not met for 2  
11 successive months, the consumer shall have the option of canceling the contract and receiving a  
12 full refund minus a cancellation fee not to exceed 15 percent of the contract price or a pro rata  
13 amount based on the number of referrals furnished. Such contracts shall specify the distance the  
14 consumer is willing to travel to meet a social referral. Such contracts shall contain a policy to

15 address the situation of the consumer moving outside the area service. Violations of such  
16 contracts may be adjudicated in a court of competent jurisdiction.

17         Such contracts shall provide the consumer the right to place his membership on hold for a  
18 period not to exceed 1 year provided, however the agency and consumer may agree to a longer  
19 period not to exceed 2 years. Each contract shall provide that the consumer may cancel within 3  
20 days of execution without fee. Such cancellation shall be by certified or registered to an address  
21 specified in the contract.