

Senate Bill No. 185

CHAPTER 343

An act to add Chapter 30 (commencing with Section 22940) to Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to billing practices.

[Approved by Governor September 7, 1999. Filed with Secretary of State September 7, 1999.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 185, Peace. Billing practices: individual marital status.

Existing law governing businesses and professions prescribes various special business regulations.

This bill would add special business regulations making it unlawful for any business to use words expressly referencing an individual's marital status as part of the individual's mailing address on a billing statement, related correspondence, enclosing envelope, or any solicitation for new business. It would exempt from this prohibition the use of the prefixes "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Ms.," or "Miss." It would prescribe certain civil penalties for any violation of these provisions.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 30 (commencing with Section 22940) is added to Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 30. BILLING PRACTICES

22940. It shall be unlawful for any business to use words expressly referencing an individual's marital status as part of the individual's mailing address on a billing statement, related correspondence, enclosing envelope, or any solicitation for new business. This shall not prohibit the use of the prefix "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Ms.," or "Miss."

22941. Any violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a civil penalty of up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each violation.

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