

§901. Deceptive business practices

1. A person is guilty of deceptive business practices if, in the course of engaging in a business, occupation or profession, he intentionally:

A. Uses or possesses with the intent to use, a false weight or measure, or any other device which is adjusted or calibrated to falsely determine or measure any quality or quantity; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. Sells, offers or exposes for sale, or delivers less than the represented quantity of any commodity or service; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

C. Takes more than the represented quantity of any commodity or service when as buyer he furnished the weight or measure; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

D. Sells, offers or exposes for sale any commodity which is adulterated or mislabelled; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

E. [PL 1975, c. 740, §91 (RP).]

F. Sells, offers or exposes for sale a motor vehicle on which the manufacturer's serial number has in fact been altered, removed or obscured; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

G. Makes or causes to be made a false statement of material fact in any advertisement addressed to the public or to a substantial number of persons, in connection with the promotion of his business, occupation or profession or to increase the consumption of specified property or service; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

H. Offers property or service, in any manner including advertising or other means of communication, as part of a scheme or plan with the intent not to sell or provide the advertised property or services

(1) at all;

(2) at the price or of the quality offered;

(3) in a quantity sufficient to meet the reasonably expected public demand unless the advertisement or communication states the approximate quantity available; or [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

I. Conducts, sponsors, organizes or promotes a publicly exhibited sports contest with the knowledge that he or another person has tampered with any person, animal or thing that is part of the contest, with the intent to prevent the contest from being conducted in accordance with the rules and usages purporting to govern it, or with the knowledge that any sports official or sports participant has accepted or agreed to accept any benefit from another person upon an agreement or understanding that he will thereby be influenced not to give his best efforts or that he will perform his duties improperly. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection 1, paragraphs G and H, that a television or radio broadcasting station, or a publisher or printer of a newspaper, magazine or other form of printed material, which broadcasts, publishes or prints a false, misleading advertisement did so without knowledge of the advertiser's intent.

[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

3. As used in this section:

A. "Adulterated" means varying from the standard of composition or quality prescribed for the substance by statute or by lawfully promulgated administrative regulation, or if none, as set by established commercial usage; [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Misabeled" means having a label or trademark varying from the standard of truth and disclosure in labeling prescribed by statute or lawfully promulgated administrative regulation, or if none, as set by established commercial usage. "Misabeled" includes but is not limited to counterfeiting or the unauthorized reproducing of a trademark. [PL 1999, c. 767, §1 (AMD).]

C. [PL 1975, c. 740, §92 (RP).]
[PL 1999, c. 767, §1 (AMD).]

3-A. A commodity or item bearing marks in violation of this section or personal property, including, but not limited to, tools, machines, equipment, instrumentalities or vehicles of any kind, employed or used in connection with the violation is contraband and may be seized by a law enforcement officer. A person convicted of a violation of this section forfeits to the State all rights, privileges, interests and claims to property seized under this subsection.
[PL 1999, c. 767, §2 (NEW).]

4. Deceptive business practices is a Class D crime.
[PL 1977, c. 162 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §§91,92 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 162 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 767, §§1,2 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 130th Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2022. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.