The Weekly Sweep: Northeast Regulators Expand Oversight of Digital Markets, Subscription Practices, and Consumer Protection

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Recent developments across the Northeast highlight continued regulatory attention to automatic renewal programs, cryptocurrency oversight, consumer fees, robocalls, and online prediction markets. State attorneys general remain active in pursuing consumer protection enforcement while also advocating for broader federal action in areas such as illegal robocalls and digital asset regulation.

Key Developments

New York – Attorney General Resolves Automatic Renewal Enforcement Action

Summary:

The New York Attorney General entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance (AOD) with an online retailer to resolve allegations involving automatic renewal and subscription practices. According to the Attorney General, the company failed to clearly and conspicuously disclose the terms of automatically renewing paid subscriptions in proximity to consumers' affirmative consent, as required under New York law. The Attorney General also alleged violations of the federal Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act (ROSCA).

The AOD requires the company to pay $375,000 in penalties, modify its subscription practices, and provide restitution to affected subscribers.

Press Release

Assurance of Discontinuance

Multistate Coalition Urges Federal Action on Illegal Robocalls

Summary:

The Rhode Island Attorney General joined the Arizona Attorney General and attorneys general from 47 additional states and territories in urging federal regulators to strengthen efforts to combat illegal robocalls. The coalition called for additional federal action to reduce unlawful robocall activity and better protect consumers from fraudulent and unwanted communications.

Press Release

New York – Attorney General Urges Stronger Federal Cryptocurrency Oversight

Summary:

New York Attorney General Letitia James submitted written testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations advocating for stronger federal regulation of the cryptocurrency market. The testimony outlines concerns regarding cryptocurrency scams and recommends enhanced federal oversight to better protect consumers and financial markets.

Press Release

Written Testimony

Massachusetts – Attorney General Targets Illegal Tenant Fees

Summary:

The Massachusetts Attorney General entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance with a property management company and related entities concerning alleged illegal fees charged to residential tenants. According to the Attorney General, the company assessed various fees that landlords are prohibited from charging under Massachusetts law, as well as fees for services landlords are required to provide at their own expense.

The settlement requires payment of a $500,000 penalty, which will be used to provide restitution to impacted consumers.

Press Release

Assurance of Discontinuance

New York – Attorney General Challenges Online Prediction Market Operations

Summary:

The New York Attorney General announced a lawsuit against an online prediction market operator, alleging that the company conducted an illegal, unlicensed gaming operation within New York. The lawsuit seeks injunctive relief, civil penalties, forfeiture of allegedly unlawful proceeds, and restitution for affected users.

The action reflects continued scrutiny of emerging online financial and gaming platforms operating within the state.

Press Release

Petition

Why It Matters

This week's developments demonstrate the continued focus of state attorneys general on consumer protection, digital markets, subscription practices, and emerging financial technologies. Enforcement actions involving automatic renewal programs, tenant fees, and online prediction markets, together with calls for stronger federal oversight of cryptocurrency and robocalls, underscore the expanding scope of regulatory activity affecting businesses operating across multiple industries.

Companies offering subscription services, financial products, digital platforms, and consumer-facing technologies should continue monitoring these developments and evaluate their compliance with evolving state and federal regulatory expectations.

Related Content

For additional analysis and ongoing coverage of state and federal developments, explore the following Hudson Cook and CounselorLibrary resources:

CounselorLibrary.com Reporters – In-depth coverage of enforcement, litigation, and regulatory trends impacting consumer financial services.

https://counselorlibrary.com/public/products-lr.cfm

State Watch – Timely updates on state-specific legislative and regulatory activity.

https://hudco.com/insights-subscribe.cfm

Upcoming Webinars – Practical insights and discussion on emerging issues, including recent Attorney General actions.

https://hudco.com/news.cfm?itemType=event

Contributors

Hudson Cook Partner **Daniel J. Laudicina** contributed the **"Multistate Coalition Urges Federal Action on Illegal Robocalls"** update included in this edition of **The Weekly Sweep**.

Hudson Cook will continue to monitor regulatory developments across the Northeast. For further analysis or guidance on navigating these issues, please contact **Tom Quinn** at **tquinn@hudco.com**.