

HOUSE BILL 1896

By Zachary

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 9; Title 45; Title 47 and Title 56, relative to consumer protection.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 45, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

45-1-128.

(a) As used in this section, "financial institution" means a state or national bank, a savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, industrial loan and thrift company, or mortgage lender.

(b) Financial institutions shall make determinations about the provision or denial of services based on an analysis of risk factors unique to each current or prospective customer and shall not engage in a practice described in subsection (c). This subsection (b) does not restrict a financial institution that claims a religious purpose from making such determinations based on the current or prospective customer's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.

(c) A financial institution shall not deny or cancel its services to a person, or otherwise discriminate against a person in making available such services or in the terms or conditions of such services, on the basis of:

(1) The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations;

(2) Except as provided in subsection (b), the person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;

(3) Any factor if it is not a quantitative, impartial, and risk-based standard, including any such factor related to the person's business sector; or

(4) The use of a rating, scoring, analysis, tabulation, or action that considers a social credit score based on factors including:

(A) The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations;

(B) Except as provided in subsection (b), the person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;

(C) The person's lawful ownership of a firearm;

(D) The person's engagement in the lawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, or use of firearms or ammunition;

(E) The person's engagement in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacture of fossil fuel-based energy, timber, mining, or agriculture;

(F) The person's support of the state or federal government in combatting illegal immigration, drug trafficking, or human trafficking;

(G) The person's engagement with, facilitation of, employment by, support of, business relationship with, representation of, or advocacy for any person described in this subsection; or

(H) The person's failure to meet or commit to meet, or expected failure to meet, any of the following as long as such person is in compliance with applicable state or federal law:

(i) Environmental standards, including emissions standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures;

(ii) Social governance standards, benchmarks, or requirements, including environmental or social justice;

(iii) Corporate board or company employment composition standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures based on characteristics protected under title 4, chapter 21; or

(iv) Policies or procedures requiring or encouraging employee participation in social justice programming, including diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

(d) In addition to the remedies and penalties provided under this part, a violation of this section constitutes a violation of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act of 1977, compiled in title 47, chapter 18, part 1. A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice affecting trade or commerce and is subject to the penalties and remedies of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act of 1977.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 47-18-104(b), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() A violation of § 45-1-128;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

56-8-114.

(a) Insurers shall make determinations about the provision of services based on an analysis of sound underwriting and actuarial principles related to actual or reasonably anticipated loss experience unique to each current or prospective customer and shall not engage in a practice described in subsection (b). This subsection (a) does not restrict an insurer that claims a religious purpose from making such determinations based on the current or prospective customer's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.

(b) An insurer shall not deny or cancel its services to a person, or otherwise discriminate against a person in making available such services or in the terms or conditions of such services, on the basis of:

(1) The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations;

(2) Except as provided in subsection (a), the person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;

(3) Any factor if it is not a quantitative, impartial, and risk-based standard;

or

(4) The use of a rating, scoring, analysis, tabulation, or action that considers a social credit score based on factors including:

(A) The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations;

(B) Except as provided in subsection (a), the person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;

(C) The person's lawful ownership of a firearm;

(D) The person's engagement in the lawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, or use of firearms or ammunition;

(E) The person's engagement in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacture of fossil fuel-based energy, timber, mining, or agriculture;

(F) The person's support of the state or federal government in combatting illegal immigration, drug trafficking, or human trafficking;

(G) The person's engagement with, facilitation of, employment by, support of, business relationship with, representation of, or advocacy for any person described in this subsection; or

(H) The person's failure to meet or commit to meet, or expected failure to meet, any of the following as long as such person is in compliance with applicable state or federal law:

(i) Environmental standards, including emissions standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures;

(ii) Social governance standards, benchmarks, or requirements, including environmental or social justice;

(iii) Corporate board or company employment composition standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures based on characteristics protected under title 4, chapter 21; or

(iv) Policies or procedures requiring or encouraging employee participation in social justice programming, including diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

(c) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair trade practice and is subject to the remedies as provided under this part.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 56-8-104, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() A violation of § 56-8-114;

SECTION 5. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.