

(1969 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 153J be and it is hereby added to Article 83 - Sales and Notices, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 83 - Sales and Notices

153J.

(A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION A "BILLING ERROR" MEANS THE INITIAL OCCURRENCE OF AN ERROR BY OMISSION OR COMMISSION BY THE SELLER OR HOLDER OF A RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNT IN A BILLING STATEMENT GIVEN TO THE BUYER BY THE SELLER OR HOLDER IN POSTING ANY DEBIT OR CREDIT OR BY THE COMPUTATION OF ANY AMOUNT OR ANY SIMILAR ERROR OF AN ACCOUNTING NATURE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION "STATUS INQUIRY" MEANS AN INQUIRY BY A BUYER AS TO THE STATUS OF THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT OTHER THAN WHEN A BILLING ERROR IS ASSERTED.

(B) UPON RECEIPT OF A BILLING STATEMENT FROM A SELLER OR A HOLDER OF A RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNT, A BUYER, IF HE BELIEVES THE BILLING IS IN ERROR, MAY INQUIRE AS TO THE COMPUTATION OF THE STATEMENT. FOR ANY STATUS INQUIRY WHERE A BILLING ERROR IS NOT ASSERTED, THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 153C(G) OF ARTICLE 83 SHALL APPLY. AN INQUIRY BY THE BUYER SHALL [[BE]]:

[[(1) MADE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE MAILING OF THE BILLING STATEMENT;]]

(1) BE MADE WITHIN 60 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE BILLING STATEMENT WHICH CONTAINS THE CLAIMED ERROR;

(2) BE IN WRITING AND SENT TO THE SELLER OR HOLDER BY [[REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED]] MAIL[[, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED,]] AT THE ADDRESS DESIGNATED THEREFOR ON THE STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) SET FORTH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE THE SELLER OR HOLDER OF A RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNT TO IDENTIFY THE BUYER AND THE ACCOUNT, THE AMOUNT AND TRANSACTION SHOWN IN THE BILLING STATEMENT WHICH THE BUYER IN GOOD FAITH BELIEVES TO BE A BILLING ERROR, AND THE FACTS PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR THE BUYER'S BELIEF THAT THE BILLING STATEMENT IS IN ERROR.

(C) UPON RECEIPT OF [[SUCH]] THE INQUIRY, THE SELLER OR HOLDER OF THE RETAIL CREDIT ACCOUNT SHALL: