

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

H.B. 226  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH80069-MD-50 (02/21)

Short Title: The Free Means Free Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative R. Brawley.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REGULATE WHEN PERSONS, FIRMS, AND CORPORATIONS ENGAGED  
3 IN COMMERCE MAY REPRESENT THAT OFFERED GOODS, PROPERTY, OR  
4 SERVICES ARE FREE OR WITHOUT COST.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 1 of Chapter 75 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
7 a new section to read:

8 "**§ 75-43. Offering of free goods, products, and services.**

9 (a) Requirements. – No person, firm, or corporation engaged in commerce shall, in  
10 connection with the sale or lease or solicitation for the sale or lease of any goods, property, or  
11 service, represent that any goods, property, or services are free or are otherwise without cost,  
12 unless all of the following conditions are satisfied:

13 (1) A person who receives the goods, property, or service will have no financial  
14 obligation in connection with the goods, property, or service at any time,  
15 including any obligation to pay for shipping, restocking, continued receipt of  
16 the goods, property, service in the future, or any related expenses.

17 (2) The person, firm, or corporation that provides the goods, property, or service  
18 does not obtain credit card information, debit card information, or any other  
19 means of charging the recipient of the goods, property, or service for present  
20 or future receipt of the goods, property, or service.

21 (3) The recipient of the goods, property, or service is not required to take any  
22 affirmative steps to cancel or otherwise prevent receipt of nonfree goods,  
23 property, or services in the future.

24 (b) Violations. – A violation of this Article shall be an unfair and deceptive trade  
25 practice under G.S. 75-1.1."

26 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2013.

