

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5978

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection, February 24, 2009

Title: An act relating to consumer rebates.

Brief Description: Establishing certain consumer rebate requirements.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/23/09, 2/24/09 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5978 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Keiser, Vice Chair; Holmquist, Ranking Minority Member; Franklin, Honeyford, King and Kline.

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7483)

Background: Consumer rebates are a type of sales promotion used by marketers, used primarily as incentives to product sales. Mail-in rebates are a common type of rebate which requires the consumer to submit information such as a coupon or receipt in order to receive a check for a particular amount, depending on factors such as the particular product, time, and place of purchase.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): Any person who offers a consumer rebate is to allow a minimum of fourteen days from the date the consumer purchases the product, or becomes eligible for the rebate upon satisfying the terms and conditions of the offer, for the submission of a request for redemption by the customer.

The rebate is to be sent to the customer within ninety days and if the rebate is sent as a check, the check is to be mailed in a way that identifies the piece of mail as the anticipated rebate.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): A rebate is to be mailed to the consumer within ninety days, as opposed to sixty days in the original bill.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: None.

Persons Testifying: No one.