



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

APPROVAL #85
CHAPTER #710

December 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM filed with Senate Bill 1353-B, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to establishing a right of action for claims arising out of coerced debts”

A P P R O V E D

This bill creates a new affirmative defense to the collection of a debt by allowing the debtor to show that the debt was incurred because of coercion. It further allows the debtor to proactively notify a creditor that a particular debt is coerced by providing certain documentation to the creditor, with a detailed procedure for creditors to follow in investigating whether the debt was coerced. If the creditor violates the statutorily prescribed procedure or incorrectly determines the debt was not incurred because of coercion, the bill allows the debtor to sue the creditor. Both the creditor and the debtor have a cause of action under the bill to recover damages from the person who caused the coerced debt to be incurred. The bill also empowers the Attorney General to enforce its provisions.

I strongly support victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and other forms of coercion, but the bill as drafted contains numerous technical errors, substantive issues and structural defects.

I have reached an agreement with the Legislature to address these concerns in the upcoming legislative session. These changes will provide clarity to creditors and debtors, ensure parties enjoy due process of law, and provide additional time for implementation of the law. On the basis of this agreement, I am pleased to sign this bill into law

This bill is approved.

Ruth Hochstetler