

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 3, *approved January 24, 1997*
Assembly, No. 125 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning civil liability for the fraudulent sale of securities
2 and amending P.L.1967, c.93.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 24 of P.L.1967, c.93 (C.49:3-71) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 24. (a) Any person who

10 (1) Offers or sells a security in violation of section ¹~~5~~¹ 8(b), 9(a)
11 or 13 of this act, or

12 (2) Offers or sells a security ¹in violation of subsection (a) or (c)
13 of section 5 of P.L.1967, c.93 (C.49:3-52) or¹ by means of any untrue
14 statement of material fact or any omission to state a material fact
15 necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the
16 circumstances under which they are made, not misleading (the buyer
17 not knowing of the untruth or omission), is liable to the person buying
18 the security from him, who may sue to recover the consideration paid
19 for the security, together with interest at 12% per year from the date
20 of payment and costs, less the amount of any income received on the
21 security, upon the tender of the security and any income received on
22 it, or for damages if he no longer owns the security; provided,
23 however, that the person buying the security must sustain the burden
24 of proof that the seller knew of the untruth or omission and intended
25 to deceive the buyer, and provided further that the buyer has suffered
26 a financial detriment. Damages are the amount that would be
27 recoverable upon a tender less the value of the security when the buyer
28 disposed of it and interest at 12% per year from the date of
29 disposition;

30 (b) Every person who directly or indirectly controls a seller liable
31 under paragraph (a), every partner, officer, or director of such a seller,

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSM committee amendments adopted June 6, 1996.

1 every person occupying a similar status or performing similar
2 functions, every employee of such a seller who materially aids in the
3 sale, and every broker-dealer or agent who materially aids in the sale
4 are also liable jointly and severally with and to the same extent as the
5 seller, unless the nonseller who is so liable sustains the burden of proof
6 that he did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not
7 have known, of the existence of the facts by reason of which the
8 liability is alleged to exist. There is contribution as in cases of contract
9 among the several persons so liable;

10 (c) Any tender specified in this section may be made at any time
11 before entry of judgment;

12 (d) Every cause of action under this law survives the death of any
13 person who might have been a plaintiff or defendant;

14 (e) No person may sue under this section more than two years after
15 the contract of sale, or within two years of the time when the person
16 aggrieved knew or should have known of the existence of his cause of
17 action, whichever is later. No person may sue under this section (1)
18 if the buyer received a written offer, before suit and at a time when he
19 owned the security, to refund the consideration paid, together with
20 interest at 12% per year from the date of payment, less the amount of
21 any income received on the security, and he failed to accept the offer
22 within 30 days of its receipt, or (2) if the buyer received such an offer
23 before suit and at a time when he did not own the security, unless he
24 rejected the offer in writing within 30 days of its receipt;

25 (f) No person who has made or engaged in the performance of any
26 contract in violation of any provision of this law or any rule or order
27 hereunder, or who has acquired any purported right under any such
28 contract with knowledge of the facts by reason of which its making or
29 performance was in violation, may base any suit on the contract;

30 (g) Any condition, stipulation or provision binding any person
31 acquiring any security to waive compliance with any provision of this
32 law or any rule or order hereunder is void;

33 (h) The rights and remedies provided by this act are in addition to
34 any other rights or remedies that may exist at law or in equity, but this
35 law does not create any cause of action not specified in this section or
36 section 10, paragraph (e).

37 (cf: P.L.1985, c.405, s.14)

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 Concerns civil liability for fraudulent sale of securities.