

to provide the disclosure electronically, further reducing total costs.

XIII. Other Matters

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this final rule as a “major rule,” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 910

Antitrust.

For the reasons set forth above, the Federal Trade Commission adds a new subchapter J, consisting of part 910, to chapter I in title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

1. Add new subchapter J, consisting of parts 910 and 915, to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J—RULES CONCERNING UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION

PART 910—NON-COMPETE CLAUSES

Sec.

910.1. Definitions.

910.2. Unfair methods of competition.

910.3. Exceptions.

910.4. Relation to State laws and preservation of State authority and private rights of action.

910.5. Severability.

910.6. Effective date.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 45 and 46(g).

§ 910.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Business entity means a partnership, corporation, association, limited liability company, or other legal entity, or a division or subsidiary thereof.

Employment means work for a person.

Non-compete clause means:

(1) A term or condition of employment that prohibits a worker from, penalizes a worker

for, or functions to prevent a worker from:

(i) seeking or accepting work in the United States with a different person where such work would begin after the conclusion of the employment that includes the term or condition; or

(ii) operating a business in the United States after the conclusion of the employment that includes the term or condition.

(2) For the purposes of this part 910, term or condition of employment includes, but is not limited to, a contractual term or workplace policy, whether written or oral.

Officer means a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or principal financial officer, comptroller or principal accounting officer, and any natural person routinely performing corresponding functions with respect to any business entity whether incorporated or unincorporated.

Person means any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity within the Commission's jurisdiction, including any person acting under color or authority of State law.

Policy-making authority means final authority to make policy decisions that control significant aspects of a business entity or common enterprise and does not include authority limited to advising or exerting influence over such policy decisions or having final authority to make policy decisions for only a subsidiary of or affiliate of a common enterprise.

Policy-making position means a business entity's president, chief executive officer or the equivalent, any other officer of a business entity who has policy-making authority, or any other natural person who has policy-making authority for the business entity similar to an officer with policy-making authority. An officer of a subsidiary or affiliate of a business entity that is part of a common enterprise who has policy-making authority for the common enterprise may be

deemed to have a policy-making position for purposes of this paragraph. A natural person who does not have policy-making authority over a common enterprise may not be deemed to have a policy-making position even if the person has policy-making authority over a subsidiary or affiliate of a business entity that is part of the common enterprise.

Preceding year means a person's choice among the following time periods: the most recent 52-week year, the most recent calendar year, the most recent fiscal year, or the most recent anniversary of hire year.

Senior executive means a worker who:

(1) Was in a policy-making position; and

(2) Received from a person for the employment:

(i) Total annual compensation of at least \$151,164 in the preceding year; or

(ii) Total compensation of at least \$151,164 when annualized if the worker was employed during only part of the preceding year; or

(iii) Total compensation of at least \$151,164 when annualized in the preceding year prior to the worker's departure if the worker departed from employment prior to the preceding year and the worker is subject to a non-compete clause.

Total annual compensation is based on the worker's earnings over the preceding year. Total annual compensation may include salary, commissions, nondiscretionary bonuses and other nondiscretionary compensation earned during that 52-week period. Total annual compensation does not include board, lodging and other facilities as defined in 29 CFR 541.606, and does not include payments for medical insurance, payments for life insurance, contributions to retirement plans and the cost of other similar fringe benefits.

Worker means a natural person who works or who previously worked, whether paid or

unpaid, without regard to the worker's title or the worker's status under any other State or Federal laws, including, but not limited to, whether the worker is an employee, independent contractor, extern, intern, volunteer, apprentice, or a sole proprietor who provides a service to a person. The term worker includes a natural person who works for a franchisee or franchisor, but does not include a franchisee in the context of a franchisee-franchisor relationship.

§ 910.2 Unfair methods of competition.

(a) *Unfair methods of competition—(1) Workers other than senior executives.* With respect to a worker other than a senior executive, it is an unfair method of competition for a person:

- (i) To enter into or attempt to enter into a non-compete clause;
- (ii) To enforce or attempt to enforce a non-compete clause; or
- (iii) To represent that the worker is subject to a non-compete clause.

(2) *Senior executives.* With respect to a senior executive, it is an unfair method of competition for a person:

- (i) To enter into or attempt to enter into a non-compete clause;
- (ii) To enforce or attempt to enforce a non-compete clause entered into after the effective date; or
- (iii) To represent that the senior executive is subject to a non-compete clause, where the non-compete clause was entered into after the effective date.

(b) *Notice requirement for existing non-compete clauses—(1) Notice required.* For each existing non-compete clause that it is an unfair method of competition to enforce or attempt to enforce under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section, the person who entered into the non-compete clause with the worker must provide clear and conspicuous notice to the worker by the effective

date that the worker's non-compete clause will not be, and cannot legally be, enforced against the worker.

(2) *Form of notice.* The notice to the worker required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section must:

- (i) Identify the person who entered into the non-compete clause with the worker;
- (ii) Be on paper delivered by hand to the worker, or by mail at the worker's last known personal street address, or by email at an email address belonging to the worker, including the worker's current work email address or last known personal email address, or by text message at a mobile telephone number belonging to the worker.

(3) *Exception.* If a person that is required to provide notice under paragraph (b)(1) of this section has no record of a street address, email address, or mobile telephone number, such person is exempt from the notice requirement in paragraph (b)(1) of this section with respect to such worker.

(4) *Model language.* For purposes of paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the following model language constitutes notice to the worker that the worker's non-compete clause cannot legally be enforced and will not be enforced against the worker.

Figure 1 to paragraph (b)(4)—Model Language

A new rule enforced by the Federal Trade Commission makes it unlawful for us to enforce a non-compete clause. As of [DATE EMPLOYER CHOOSES BUT NO LATER THAN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE FINAL RULE], [EMPLOYER NAME] will not enforce any non-compete clause against you. This means that as of [DATE EMPLOYER CHOOSES BUT NO LATER THAN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE FINAL RULE]:

- You may seek or accept a job with any company or any person—even if they compete with [EMPLOYER NAME].
- You may run your own business—even if it competes with [EMPLOYER NAME].
- You may compete with [EMPLOYER NAME] following your employment with [EMPLOYER NAME].

The FTC’s new rule does not affect any other terms or conditions of your employment. For more information about the rule, visit [*link to final rule landing page*]. Complete and accurate translations of the notice in certain languages other than English, including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean, are available at [URL on FTC’s website].

(5) *Safe harbor*. A person complies with the requirement in paragraph (b)(1) of this section if the person provides notice to a worker pursuant to paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(6) *Optional notice in additional languages*. In addition to providing the notice required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section in English, a person is permitted to provide such notice in a language (or in languages) other than English or to include internet links to translations in

additional languages. If providing optional notice under this paragraph (b)(6), a person may use any Commission-provided translation of the model language in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

§ 910.3 Exceptions.

(a) *Bona fide sales of business.* The requirements of this part 910 shall not apply to a non-compete clause that is entered into by a person pursuant to a bona fide sale of a business entity, of the person's ownership interest in a business entity, or of all or substantially all of a business entity's operating assets.

(b) *Existing causes of action.* The requirements of this part 910 do not apply where a cause of action related to a non-compete clause accrued prior to the effective date.

(c) *Good faith.* It is not an unfair method of competition to enforce or attempt to enforce a non-compete clause or to make representations about a non-compete clause where a person has a good-faith basis to believe that this part 910 is inapplicable.

§ 910.4 Relation to State laws and preservation of State authority and private rights of action.

(a) This part 910 will not be construed to annul, or exempt any person from complying with any State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation applicable to a non-compete clause, including, but not limited to, State antitrust and consumer protection laws and State common law, except that this part 910 supersedes such laws to the extent, and only to the extent, that such laws would otherwise permit or authorize a person to engage in conduct that is an unfair method of competition under § 910.2(a) or conflict with the notice requirement in § 910.2(b).

(b) Except with respect to laws superseded under paragraph (a) of this section, no provision of this part 910 shall be construed as altering, limiting, or affecting the authority of a State attorney general or any other regulatory or enforcement agency or entity or the rights of a

person to bring a claim or regulatory action arising under any State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation, including, but not limited to, State antitrust and consumer protection laws and State common law.

§ 910.5 Severability.

If any provision of this part 910 is held to be invalid or unenforceable by its terms, or as applied to any person or circumstance, or stayed pending further agency action, the provision shall be construed so as to continue to give the maximum effect to the provision permitted by law and such invalidity shall not affect the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances or the validity or application of other provisions. If any provision or application of this part is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the provision or application shall be severable from this part 910 and shall not affect the remainder thereof.

§ 910.6 Effective date.

This part 910 is effective [INSERT DATE 120 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL RULE].

PART 915—[Reserved]

By direction of the Commission.

April J. Tabor,

Secretary.

Appendix Table A.1

State	Estimated # Covered Workers	Estimated Increase in Total Annual Worker Earnings	Estimated Increase in Average Annual Worker Earnings
Alabama	1,620,882	\$822,829,396	\$508
Alaska	251,167	\$145,317,588	\$579
Arizona	2,460,342	\$1,410,771,964	\$573
Arkansas	999,178	\$478,239,544	\$479
California	-	-	-
Colorado	2,251,980	\$1,484,772,427	\$659
Connecticut	1,314,029	\$945,571,637	\$720
Delaware	367,291	\$220,637,013	\$601
District of Columbia	598,990	\$604,415,889	\$1,009
Florida	7,486,582	\$4,229,047,004	\$565
Georgia	3,764,270	\$2,188,893,667	\$581
Hawaii	495,988	\$270,123,206	\$545
Idaho	656,688	\$315,487,683	\$480
Illinois	4,735,066	\$3,051,620,266	\$644
Indiana	2,490,735	\$1,280,797,352	\$514
Iowa	1,229,598	\$624,937,405	\$508
Kansas	1,112,654	\$553,683,941	\$498
Kentucky	1,536,365	\$759,416,081	\$494
Louisiana	1,492,474	\$747,953,455	\$501
Maine	501,216	\$258,101,666	\$515
Maryland	2,112,817	\$1,378,702,305	\$653
Massachusetts	2,876,506	\$2,288,111,777	\$795
Michigan	3,440,754	\$1,946,978,052	\$566
Minnesota	-	-	-
Mississippi	916,362	\$384,971,511	\$420
Missouri	2,256,955	\$1,184,012,673	\$525
Montana	396,982	\$191,696,465	\$483

Nebraska	787,174	\$399,373,568	\$507
Nevada	1,177,510	\$646,371,090	\$549
New Hampshire	536,516	\$343,360,391	\$640
New Jersey	3,307,696	\$2,301,979,408	\$696
New Mexico	666,290	\$326,156,344	\$490
New York	7,411,689	\$5,879,334,118	\$793
North Carolina	3,759,643	\$2,105,343,963	\$560
North Dakota	-	-	-
Ohio	4,314,090	\$2,330,837,261	\$540
Oklahoma	-	-	-
Oregon	1,560,619	\$916,694,759	\$587
Pennsylvania	4,690,586	\$2,795,472,689	\$596
Rhode Island	385,074	\$220,004,925	\$571
South Carolina	1,745,274	\$858,798,497	\$492
South Dakota	354,502	\$169,742,169	\$479
Tennessee	2,526,310	\$1,389,744,066	\$550
Texas	10,599,295	\$6,535,957,999	\$617
Utah	1,320,994	\$715,807,809	\$542
Vermont	241,017	\$127,248,043	\$528
Virginia	3,166,902	\$1,995,480,948	\$630
Washington	2,809,814	\$2,090,953,114	\$744
West Virginia	539,026	\$253,817,680	\$471
Wisconsin	2,301,874	\$1,207,149,373	\$524
Wyoming	217,787	\$108,650,236	\$499
Full US, excluding CA, ND, OK, MN	101,785,552	\$53,291,058,349	\$524

Note: the estimated number of covered workers is calculated as 80% * (total employed population in the state); the estimated increase in total earnings is calculated as 0.86% * (estimated total covered earnings), where estimated total covered earnings is calculated as (estimated number of covered workers) * (average annual earnings); and the estimated increase in average earnings is calculated as 0.86% * (average annual earnings). Total employed population and average annual earnings are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for 2022 (see <https://www.bls.gov/cew/data.htm>). National totals may not equal the sum of state-specific estimates due to rounding.