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Written by NJ Division of Consumer Affairs

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FARB IN THE NEWS

NEWARK, NJ – The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs has launched its first mobile application (“app”) that allows users to access its license and registration database and find information about the approximately 600,000 individuals who provide services to the public, ranging from healthcare practitioners to home improvement contractors.

The “New Jersey Professional License” app is available free of charge; users may download it by visiting the Apple App Store on their iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, and searching for “New Jersey Professional License.”

“We are giving New Jersey’s consumers a greater level of convenience and ease, when they conduct research on the individuals and businesses with whom they seek to do business,” Attorney General Paula T. Dow said. “The information we have been making available to consumers via their desktop computers, is now available to consumers on the go.”

It is vitally important for consumers to learn whether a regulated professional has a license or registration in good standing with the Division of Consumer Affairs. The new application allows users to directly enter a professional’s name or business name, and select the license or registration type (such as “Nursing,” “Electrical Contractors,” “Master Plumbers”) from a list.

The service provides a block of information including the individual’s license or registration status, and whether the appropriate licensing board has taken any disciplinary action. Viewers can email the results directly from the application. The app draws from a database the Division of Consumer Affairs updates once per day.

“Access to our database now is literally right in consumers’ hands with this iPhone and iPad app,” said Thomas R. Calcagni, Acting Director of the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs. “By making this information easier to obtain, we’re empowering consumers and making it more difficult for unlicensed or unregistered con men to deceive and defraud the public.”

The Division of Consumer Affairs includes 46 licensing boards and committees responsible for the regulation of 600,000 licensed professionals statewide. Further information, including the full list of boards and their requirements, can be found at www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov.

Built without using taxpayer money, the iPhone Professional License Lookup is a product of a partnership between the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Information Division of NICUSA, Inc. New Jersey Information Division of NICUSA, Inc., is the official eGovernment partner of the State of New Jersey, helping New Jersey government entities web-enable their information services.

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App provides info on public services

June 18, 2011

The Daily Journal.com

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Taxpayer money was not used to develop the app, state officials said.

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