

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 462

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS KEAVENY AND LAMPING.

Pre-filed December 1, 2011, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4123S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 408.500 and 408.505, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to unsecured loans of five hundred dollars or less, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 408.500 and 408.505, RSMo, are repealed and two
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 408.500 and
3 408.505, to read as follows:

408.500. 1. Lenders, other than banks, trust companies, credit unions,
2 savings banks and savings and loan companies, in the business of making
3 unsecured loans of five hundred dollars or less shall obtain a license from the
4 director of the division of finance. An annual license fee of three hundred dollars
5 per location shall be required. The license year shall commence on January first
6 each year and the license fee may be prorated for expired months. The director
7 may establish a biennial licensing arrangement but in no case shall the fees be
8 payable for more than one year at a time. The provisions of this section shall not
9 apply to pawnbroker loans, consumer credit loans as authorized under chapter
10 367, nor to a check accepted and deposited or cashed by the payee business on the
11 same or the following business day. The disclosures required by the federal
12 Truth in Lending Act and regulation Z shall be provided on any loan[, renewal
13 or extension] made pursuant to this section and the loan[, renewal or extension]
14 documents shall be signed by the borrower.

15 **2. Subject to the limitations in subsection 3 of section 408.505,**
16 entities making loans pursuant to this section shall contract for and receive
17 simple interest and fees in accordance with sections 408.100 and 408.140. Any

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

18 contract evidencing any fee or charge of any kind whatsoever, except for bona fide
19 clerical errors, in violation of this section shall be void. Any person, firm or
20 corporation who receives or imposes a fee or charge in violation of this section
21 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

22 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, cost of collection
23 expenses, which include court costs and reasonable attorneys fees, awarded by the
24 court in suit to recover on a [bad check or] breach of contract shall not be
25 considered as a fee or charge for purposes of this section.

26 4. Lenders licensed pursuant to this section shall conspicuously post in
27 the lobby of the office, in at least fourteen-point bold type, the maximum annual
28 percentage rates such licensee is currently charging and the statement:

29 NOTICE:

30 This lender offers short-term loans. Please read and understand the terms
31 of the loan agreement before signing.

32 5. The lender shall provide the borrower with a notice in substantially the
33 following form set forth in at least ten-point bold type, and receipt thereof shall
34 be acknowledged by signature of the borrower:

35 (1) This lender offers short-term loans. Please read and understand the
36 terms of the loan agreement before signing.

37 (2) You may cancel this loan without costs by returning the full principal
38 balance to the lender by the close of the lender's next full business day.

39 6. The lender shall renew the loan upon the borrower's written request
40 and the payment of any interest and fees due at the time of such renewal;
41 however, upon the [first] renewal of the loan agreement, [and each subsequent
42 renewal thereafter,] the borrower shall reduce the principal amount of the loan
43 by not less than five percent of the original amount of the loan until such loan is
44 paid in full. However, no loan may be renewed more than [six times] **once. No**
45 **lender shall make a loan to a borrower if the loan would cause the**
46 **borrower to have more than one unsecured loan of five hundred dollars**
47 **or less, or make a loan to a borrower within one day of a borrower**
48 **paying or otherwise satisfying in full a previous unsecured loan of five**
49 **hundred dollars or less.**

50 7. When making or negotiating loans, a licensee shall consider the
51 financial ability of the borrower to reasonably repay the loan in the time and
52 manner specified in the loan contract. All records shall be retained at least two
53 years.

54 8. Each lender shall provide the following information to the
55 consumer at the time of signing the loan:

56 (1) The exact duration of the loan;

57 (2) The exact amount and date of payments due throughout the
58 duration of the loan; and

59 (3) The exact amount of interest and fees to be charged
60 throughout the duration of the loan.

61 9. A licensee who ceases business pursuant to this section must notify the
62 director to request an examination of all records within ten business days prior
63 to cessation. All records must be retained at least two years.

64 [9.] 10. Any lender licensed pursuant to this section who fails, refuses or
65 neglects to comply with the provisions of this section, or any laws relating to
66 consumer loans or commits any criminal act may have its license suspended or
67 revoked by the director of finance after a hearing before the director on an order
68 of the director to show cause why such order of suspension or revocation should
69 not be entered specifying the grounds therefor which shall be served on the
70 licensee at least ten days prior to the hearing.

71 [10.] 11. Whenever it shall appear to the director that any lender
72 licensed pursuant to this section is failing, refusing or neglecting to make a good
73 faith effort to comply with the provisions of this section, or any laws relating to
74 consumer loans, the director may issue an order to cease and desist which order
75 may be enforceable by a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars per
76 day for each day that the neglect, failure or refusal shall continue. The penalty
77 shall be assessed and collected by the director. [In determining the amount of
78 the penalty, the director shall take into account the appropriateness of the
79 penalty with respect to the gravity of the violation, the history of previous
80 violations, and such other matters as justice may require.]

408.505. 1. This section shall apply to:

2 (1) Unsecured loans of five hundred dollars or less made by lenders
3 licensed or who should have been licensed pursuant to section 408.500;

4 (2) Any person that the Missouri division of finance determines that has
5 entered into a transaction that, in substance, is a disguised loan; and

6 (3) Any person that the Missouri division of finance determines has
7 engaged in subterfuge for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of this section.

8 2. [All loans made pursuant to this section and section 408.500, shall have
9 a minimum term of fourteen days and a maximum term of thirty-one days,

10 regardless of whether the loan is an original loan or renewed loan.] **A lender**
11 **shall give a borrower a minimum of ninety days to repay a loan. A**
12 **payment shall be required every fifteen days so that the loan will fully**
13 **amortize in ninety days.**

14 3. A lender may only charge simple interest and fees in accordance with
15 sections 408.100 and 408.140. No other charges of any nature shall be permitted
16 except as provided by this section, including any charges for cashing the loan
17 proceeds if they are given in check form. However, no borrower shall be required
18 to pay a total amount of accumulated interest and fees in excess of seventy-five
19 percent of the initial loan amount on any single loan authorized pursuant to this
20 section for the entire term of that loan [and all renewals] authorized by section
21 408.500 and this section.

22 4. [A loan made pursuant to the provisions of section 408.500 and this
23 section shall be deemed completed and shall not be considered a renewed loan
24 when the lender presents the instrument for payment or the payee redeems the
25 instrument by paying the full amount of the instrument to the lender. Once the
26 payee has completed the loan, the payee may enter into a new loan with a lender.

27 5. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section,] No loan made
28 pursuant to this section shall be repaid by the proceeds of another loan made by
29 the same lender or any person or entity affiliated with the lender. A lender,
30 person or entity affiliated with the lender shall not have more than five hundred
31 dollars in loans made pursuant to section 408.500 and this section outstanding
32 to the same borrower at any one time. A lender complies with this subsection if:

33 (1) The consumer certifies in writing that the consumer does not have any
34 outstanding small loans with the lender which in the aggregate exceeds five
35 hundred dollars, and is not repaying the loan with the proceeds of another loan
36 made by the same lender; and

37 (2) The lender does not know, or have reason to believe, that the
38 consumer's written certification is false.

39 [6.] 5. On a consumer loan transaction where cash is advanced in
40 exchange for a personal check, a return check charge may be charged in the
41 amounts provided by sections 408.653 and 408.654, as applicable.

42 [7.] 6. No state or public employee or official, including a judge of any
43 court of this state, shall enforce the provisions of any contract for payment of
44 money subject to this section which violates the provisions of section 408.500 and
45 this section.

46 [8.] 7. A person does not commit the crime of passing a bad check
47 pursuant to section 570.120 if at the time the payee accepts a check or similar
48 sight order for the payment of money, he or she does so with the understanding
49 that the payee will not present it for payment until later and the payee knows or
50 has reason to believe that there are insufficient funds on deposit with the drawee
51 at the time of acceptance. However, this section shall not apply if the person's
52 account on which the instrument was written was closed by the consumer before
53 the agreed-upon date of negotiation or the consumer has stopped payment on the
54 check.

55 [9.] 8. A lender shall not use a device or agreement that would have the
56 effect of charging or collecting more fees, charges, or interest than allowed by this
57 section, including, but not limited to:

- 58 (1) Entering into a different type of transaction;
- 59 (2) Entering into a sales lease back arrangement;
- 60 (3) Catalog sales;
- 61 (4) Entering into any other transaction with the consumer that is
62 designed to evade the applicability of this section.

63 **9. The sole and exclusive remedy for lenders under section**
64 **408.500 and section 408.505 against a consumer who makes, utters,**
65 **draws, or delivers any check, draft, or order for the payment of money**
66 **in connection with an unsecured loan of five hundred dollars or less**
67 **which is not honored, shall be a breach of contract claim. In such**
68 **instance, lenders shall be barred from bringing a civil action under**
69 **section 570.123.**

70 10. The provisions of this section shall only apply to entities [subject to]
71 **making unsecured loans of five hundred dollars or less under the**
72 provisions of section 408.500 and this section.

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