

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 55

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LAMPING.

Pre-filed December 1, 2012, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0330S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 408.500 and 408.505, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three 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Section A. Sections 408.500 and 408.505, RSMo, are repealed and three
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 408.500, 408.505,
3 and 408.507, 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 within one day of a borrower**
46 **paying or otherwise satisfying in full a previous unsecured loan of five**
47 **hundred dollars or less.**

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

52 8. **Each lender shall provide the following information to the**
53 **consumer at the time of signing the loan:**

54 **(1) The exact duration of the loan;**

55 **(2) The exact amount and date of payments due throughout the**
56 **duration of the loan; and**

57 **(3) The exact amount of interest and fees to be charged**
58 **throughout the duration of the loan.**

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

62 **[9.] 10.** Any lender licensed pursuant to this section who fails, refuses or
63 neglects to comply with the provisions of this section, or any laws relating to
64 consumer loans or commits any criminal act may have its license suspended or
65 revoked by the director of finance after a hearing before the director on an order
66 of the director to show cause why such order of suspension or revocation should
67 not be entered specifying the grounds therefor which shall be served on the
68 licensee at least ten days prior to the hearing.

69 **[10.] 11.** Whenever it shall appear to the director that any lender
70 licensed pursuant to this section is failing, refusing or neglecting to make a good
71 faith effort to comply with the provisions of this section, or any laws relating to
72 consumer loans, the director may issue an order to cease and desist which order
73 may be enforceable by a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars per
74 day for each day that the neglect, failure or refusal shall continue. The penalty
75 shall be assessed and collected by the director. **[In determining the amount of**
76 **the penalty, the director shall take into account the appropriateness of the**
77 **penalty with respect to the gravity of the violation, the history of previous**
78 **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] **one loan** made pursuant to section 408.500 and this section
32 outstanding to the same borrower at any one time. A lender complies with this
33 subsection if:

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

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

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

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

47 [8.] 7. A person does not commit the crime of passing a bad check

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

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

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

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

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

408.507. 1. The division of finance within the department of
2 **insurance, financial institutions and professional registration shall**
3 **develop and administer a real-time statewide compliance system for**
4 **payday lenders licensed under section 408.500 to record each payday**
5 **loan transaction.**

6 **2. The division shall be charged with the following:**

- 7 **(1) Adopting rules governing the creation, structure, and use of**
8 **the compliance system which shall include a real-time customer**
9 **eligibility verification charge as necessary to maintain the system;**
- 10 **(2) Establishing requirements for the retention, archiving, and**

11 purging of information entered into and stored by the system; and

12 (3) Fully implementing the system by January 1, 2014.

13 3. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
14 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section
15 shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
16 the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
17 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers
18 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to
19 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
20 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
21 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2013, shall
22 be invalid and void.

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Bill

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