

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 651

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS (46).

0379H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 367.515, 408.500, 408.505, and 408.510, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to small loans, with penalty provisions and a referendum clause.

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

Section A. Sections 367.515, 408.500, 408.505, and 408.510, RSMo, are repealed and
2 six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 367.105, 367.515, 408.101,
3 408.500, 408.505, and 408.510, to read as follows:

**367.105. Any person making or offering a consumer credit loan shall contract for
2 and receive interest and fees in accordance with sections 408.100, 408.101, 408.140, and
3 408.170, and such loan shall be subject to all provisions of sections 408.100, 408.101,
4 408.140, and 408.170.**

367.515. A title lender shall contract for and receive simple interest and fees in
2 accordance with sections 408.100, **408.101**, and 408.140, **and such interest and fees shall be
3 subject to all provisions of sections 408.100, 408.101, and 408.140.**

**408.101. 1. On any loan subject to this section, any person, firm, or corporation
2 may charge, contract for, and receive interest on the unpaid principal balance at rates
3 agreed to by the parties, provided that the combined interest, fees, and finance charges
4 shall not exceed an annual percentage rate of thirty-six percent.**

**5 2. No person, firm, or corporation shall use any device or subterfuge to
6 intentionally evade the requirements of this chapter to:**

**7 (1) Offer, make, assist a borrower in obtaining, or broker a loan at an annual
8 percentage rate prohibited by this section;**

9 (2) Make a loan disguised as a personal property sale and leaseback transaction;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

10 **(3) Disguise loan proceeds as cash rebates for the pretextual installment sale of**
11 **goods or services;**

12 **(4) Make, assist a borrower in obtaining, or broker an offer of credit, in whole or**
13 **in part, from a third party or while acting as an agent for a third party, regardless of**
14 **whether the third party is exempt from licensing or if the approval, acceptance, or**
15 **ratification by the third party is necessary to create a legal obligation for the third party;**
16 **or**

17 **(5) Charge, if authorized under any applicable section of Missouri law, any**
18 **application fee for providing credit or any fee for participation in a credit plan without**
19 **including the fee in the calculation of the annual percentage rate required under this**
20 **section.**

 408.500. 1. Lenders, other than banks, trust companies, credit unions, savings banks and
2 savings and loan companies, in the business of making unsecured loans of five hundred dollars
3 or less shall obtain a license from the director of the division of finance. An annual license fee
4 of five hundred dollars per location shall be required. The license year shall commence on
5 January first each year and the license fee may be prorated for expired months. The director may
6 establish a biennial licensing arrangement but in no case shall the fees be payable for more than
7 one year at a time. The provisions of this section shall not apply to pawnbroker loans, consumer
8 credit loans as authorized under chapter 367, nor to a check accepted and deposited or cashed
9 by the payee business on the same or the following business day. The disclosures required by
10 the federal Truth in Lending Act, **15 U.S.C. Section 1601 et seq.**, and regulation Z shall be
11 provided on any loan, renewal or extension made pursuant to this section and the loan, renewal
12 or extension documents shall be signed by the borrower.

13 2. Entities making loans pursuant to this section shall contract for and receive simple
14 interest and fees in accordance with sections 408.100, **408.101**, and 408.140, **and such loans**
15 **shall be subject to all provisions of sections 408.100, 408.101, and 408.140.** Any contract
16 evidencing any fee or charge of any kind whatsoever, except for bona fide clerical errors, in
17 violation of this section shall be void. Any person, firm or corporation who receives or imposes
18 a fee or charge in violation of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

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

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

25

NOTICE:

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

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

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

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

35 6. The lender shall renew the loan upon the borrower's written request and the payment
36 of any interest and fees due at the time of such renewal; however, upon the first renewal of the
37 loan agreement, and each subsequent renewal thereafter, the borrower shall reduce the principal
38 amount of the loan by not less than five percent of the original amount of the loan until such loan
39 is paid in full. However, no loan may be renewed more than six times.

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

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

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

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

408.505. 1. This section shall apply to:

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

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

6 (3) Any person that the Missouri division of finance determines has engaged in
7 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 a minimum
9 term of fourteen days and a maximum term of thirty-one days, regardless of whether the loan is
10 an original loan or renewed loan.

11 3. A lender may only charge simple interest and fees in accordance with sections
12 408.100, **408.101**, and 408.140, **and such interest and fees shall be subject to all provisions**
13 **of sections 408.100, 408.101, and 408.140.** No other charges of any nature shall be permitted
14 except as provided by this section, including any charges for cashing the loan proceeds if they
15 are given in check form. [~~However, no borrower shall be required to pay a total amount of~~
16 ~~accumulated interest and fees in excess of seventy-five percent of the initial loan amount on any~~
17 ~~single loan authorized pursuant to this section for the entire term of that loan and all renewals~~
18 ~~authorized by section 408.500 and this section.~~]

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

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

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

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

34 6. On a consumer loan transaction where cash is advanced in exchange for a personal
35 check, a return check charge may be charged in the amounts provided by sections 408.653 and
36 408.654, as applicable.

37 7. No state or public employee or official, including a judge of any court of this state,
 38 shall enforce the provisions of any contract for payment of money subject to this section which
 39 violates the provisions of section 408.500 and this section.

40 8. A person does not commit the crime of passing a bad check pursuant to section
 41 570.120 if at the time the payee accepts a check or similar sight order for the payment of money,
 42 he or she does so with the understanding that the payee will not present it for payment until later
 43 and the payee knows or has reason to believe that there are insufficient funds on deposit with the
 44 drawee at the time of acceptance. However, this section shall not apply if the person's account
 45 on which the instrument was written was closed by the consumer before the agreed-upon date
 46 of negotiation or the consumer has stopped payment on the check.

47 9. A lender shall not use a device or agreement that would have the effect of charging
 48 or collecting more fees, charges, or interest than allowed by this section, including, but not
 49 limited to:

50 (1) Entering into a different type of transaction;

51 (2) Entering into a sales lease back arrangement;

52 (3) Catalog sales;

53 (4) Entering into any other transaction with the consumer that is designed to evade the
 54 applicability of this section.

55 10. The provisions of this section shall only apply to entities subject to the provisions
 56 of section 408.500 and this section.

408.510. ~~[Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,]~~

2 **1. For purposes of this section, the ~~[phrase]~~ following terms mean:**

3 **(1) "Consumer installment lender", a person licensed to make consumer**
 4 **installment loans;**

5 **(2) "Consumer installment loans" ~~[means]~~**, secured or unsecured loans of any amount
 6 and payable in not less than four substantially equal installments over a period of not less than
 7 one hundred twenty days. ~~[The phrase "consumer installment lender" means a person licensed~~
 8 ~~to make consumer installment loans.]~~

9 **2.** A consumer installment lender shall be licensed in the same manner and upon the
 10 same terms as a lender making consumer credit loans. ~~[Such]~~

11 **3.** A consumer installment ~~[lenders]~~ **lender** shall contract for and receive interest and
 12 fees in accordance with sections 408.100, **408.101**, 408.140, and 408.170 ~~[—Consumer~~
 13 ~~installment lenders]~~, **and such interest and fees** shall be subject to ~~[the]~~ **all** provisions of
 14 **sections 408.100, 408.101, 408.140, and 408.170 and** sections 408.551 to 408.562.

2 Section B. This act is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state for approval
 or rejection at an election, which is hereby ordered and which shall be held and conducted on

3 Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2020, pursuant to the laws and
4 constitutional provisions of this state for the submission of referendum measures by the general
5 assembly, and this act shall become effective when approved by a majority of the votes cast
6 thereon at such election and not otherwise.

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