

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 598

By: Henry

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to consumer credit; creating the Deferred Deposit Lending Act; providing short title; defining terms; specifying application of act; requiring certain documentation of deferred deposit loans and specifying requirements relating thereto; specifying requirements for disclosure of credit terms; providing for payment of loan proceeds; prohibiting additional fee; requiring certain notices; requiring posting of loan charges; providing for rescission of transaction during certain time period; prohibiting certain acts by deferred deposit lenders; requiring collection of past due accounts in certain manner; providing that debtor not be subject to certain criminal penalties except under certain circumstances; specifying loan finance charges and requiring disclosure of credit terms; granting lender certain rights in collection; allowing certain charges; providing for renewal of deferred deposit loan under certain conditions; specifying circumstances when deferred deposit loan considered complete; providing for endorsement and redemption of certain instruments; prohibiting certain type of advertising; requiring license to engage in business of making deferred deposit loans; requiring posting of license; specifying certain duties and authority of Administrator of Consumer Credit; specifying license qualifications and contents of license application; providing for issuance or denial of license and granting certain rights to appeal decision; requiring certain license and investigation fees; allowing examination of license locations; providing that certain information be kept confidential; providing for examination fees; allowing investigation of certain documents; requiring written appointments of agent for service of process; requiring certain records to be kept and preserved for certain time; providing that certain records be public; providing for court orders for compliance; requiring notification of alleged violations of act and providing for administrative actions under certain circumstances; requiring certain hearings; providing for revocation, suspension, surrender and reinstatement of licenses; requiring licensees to notify Administrator of certain convictions or pleas; allowing Administrator to order and impose certain civil penalties and require repayment of fees; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-701 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Deferred Deposit Lending Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-702 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

1. "Business instrument" means a draft, check or evidence of the proceeds paid to a debtor in a deferred deposit loan transaction by a deferred deposit lender;

2. "Debtor" means the signor of an instrument which is initially payable to a deferred deposit lender;

3. "Deferred deposit lender" or "lender" means any person licensed under this act to make deferred deposit loans, including an assignee of the lender's right to payment, but use of the term does not itself impose on an assignee any obligation of the lender with respect to events occurring before the assignment;

4. "Deferred deposit loan" means a transaction whereby a lender makes a cash advance to a debtor and, for a finance charge or other consideration, does the following:

- a. accepts a dated instrument from the debtor,
- b. agrees to hold the instrument for a period of time prior to negotiation, deposit or presentation of the instrument for payment, and
- c. advances to the debtor, credits to the debtor's account, or pays to another person on the debtor's behalf, the amount of the instrument, less the finance charge permitted by this act;

5. "Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act" means the Consumer Credit Protection Act, Public Law 90-321, 82 Stat. 146, as amended,

including the amendments to the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act in the Truth in Lending Simplification and Reform Act, Public Law 96-221, 94 Stat. 168-185, and includes Regulation Z and the Commentary to Regulation Z, as amended, issued pursuant to those acts;

6. "Finance charge" means the finance charge as defined in the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act;

7. "Instrument" means a personal check, negotiable order of withdrawal, or authorization to transfer or withdraw funds from a deposit account of the debtor signed by the debtor and made payable to a deferred deposit lender in a deferred deposit loan subject to this act;

8. "Licensed location" means the place of business where a lender is allowed to make deferred deposit loans under a license issued pursuant to this act;

9. "Licensee" means a person licensed to make deferred deposit loans pursuant to this act;

10. "Loan amount" means the principal which the debtor actually receives after signing an instrument payable initially to a deferred deposit lender;

11. "Person" includes a natural person, an individual, organization, partnership, corporation, joint venture, trust, association or any other legal entity, however organized;

12. "Principal of a deferred deposit loan" means the total of the net amount paid to, receivable by or paid or payable for the account of the debtor; and

13. "Renewal" means a transaction in which a debtor pays in cash the finance charge payable under a deferred deposit loan and refinances all or part of the unpaid balance of the principal of the deferred deposit loan with a new deferred deposit loan.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-703 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall apply to deferred deposit loans made by a lender who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of this act.

B. This act shall not apply to:

1. A bank, savings institution, credit union or farm credit system organized under and regulated by the laws of the United States or any state;

2. Government or governmental agencies or instrumentalities;

3. Pawnbrokers engaged in pawn transactions as defined in the Oklahoma Pawnshop Act; or

4. Supervised lenders licensed under the Uniform Consumer Credit Code.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-704 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Each deferred deposit loan shall be documented by a written agreement executed by both the lender and the debtor. The written agreement shall contain the name or trade name of the lender, the transaction date, the loan amount, and a statement of the total amount of fees charged. The written agreement must expressly authorize the lender to defer presentment or deposit of the instrument until a specific date, not later than thirty-one (31) days from the date the instrument is accepted by the lender.

B. The disclosure of the credit terms of a deferred deposit loan shall be according to and governed by the requirements of the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, Regulation Z. The definitions and requirements of that act, regulation and commentary shall apply to deferred deposit loans as if those provisions are fully set out in this act.

C. A completed copy of the written agreement shall be given to the debtor when the written agreement is signed.

D. A lender may pay the proceeds of a deferred deposit loan to the debtor by a business instrument, money order or cash. A lender may not charge the debtor an additional fee for cashing the lender's business instrument.

E. A lender shall provide the following notices in a prominent place on each deferred deposit loan agreement in at least ten-point type:

"A deferred deposit loan is not intended to meet long-term financial needs. This loan should be used only to meet short-term cash needs. Renewing the loan rather than paying the debt in full when due will require additional finance charges."

"You have the right to rescind this deferred deposit loan no later than 5:00 p.m. of the next business day following this loan transaction."

F. A lender shall post at the licensed location a notice of the charges for deferred deposit loans made by the lender.

G. Prior to sale or assignment of instruments held by the lender as a result of a deferred deposit loan, the lender shall place a notice on the instrument in at least ten-point type to read:

"This is a deferred deposit loan instrument."

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-705 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A debtor in a deferred deposit loan transaction shall have the right to rescind in writing the deferred deposit loan until 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the debtor signs the deferred deposit loan agreement; provided, any attempted rescission will not be effective unless the notice is timely and is accompanied by a return of the full principal advanced by the lender to the

debtor. Rescission occurs when the debtor gives written notice of rescission to the lender at the address stated in the deferred deposit agreement.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-706 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A deferred deposit lender shall not:

1. Charge fees in excess of those authorized by this act;
2. Make deferred deposit loans at unlicensed locations;
3. Alter or delete the date on an instrument after it has been accepted by the lender pursuant to a deferred deposit loan;
4. Accept an undated instrument or an instrument dated on a date other than the date of the deferred deposit loan;
5. Accept an instrument unless the account on which the instrument is drawn is a legitimate, open and active account;
6. Require a debtor to provide security for the deferred deposit loan or require a debtor to provide a guaranty from another person;
7. Advance a loan amount greater than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to a borrower in one deferred deposit loan transaction exclusive of the finance charge allowed in Section 8 of this act;
8. Engage in a deferred deposit loan with a term of more than thirty-one (31) days;
9. Negotiate or present an instrument for payment unless the instrument is endorsed with the actual business name of the lender;
10. Negotiate any instrument presented by a borrower if the borrower has redeemed the instrument by paying the full amount due under the deferred deposit loan;
11. Make any charge for insurance in connection with a deferred deposit loan transaction;
12. Refuse the borrower's right to rescind the deferred deposit loan at any time between the time of the deferred deposit

loan transaction and 5:00 p.m. of the next business day following the deferred deposit loan transaction; or

13. Charge the borrower an additional finance charge or fee for cashing the lender's business instrument, if the lender pays the proceeds from the loan transaction in the form of a business instrument.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-707 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A lender shall collect past due accounts in a professional, fair and lawful manner, in accordance with the Oklahoma Consumer Protection Act.

B. A lender shall not threaten or pursue criminal action against a debtor as a result of the debtor's instrument being returned unpaid or the debtor's deferred deposit loan account not being paid.

C. A debtor shall not be subject to any criminal penalty if an instrument is dishonored, unless the debtor has violated Section 1541.1, 1541.2 or 1541.3 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-708 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Regardless of any other state statute governing the imposition of interest, fees, loan finance charges or the extension of credit, a deferred deposit lender may charge a finance charge for each deferred deposit loan that does not exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for every One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) advanced, and the credit terms of the deferred deposit loan shall be disclosed in accordance with the Federal Consumer Protection Act, including the terms "finance charge" and "annual percentage rate". The finance charge under this subsection shall be deemed fully earned as of the date of the transaction. Except for a fee for a dishonored

instrument, the lender may charge only those charges expressly authorized in this subsection in connection with a deferred deposit loan.

B. If an instrument held by a lender as a result of a deferred deposit loan is returned to the lender from a payor financial institution due to insufficient funds, a closed account or a stop payment order, the lender shall have the right to exercise all civil means authorized by law to collect the amount of the instrument. In addition, the lender may contract for and collect a dishonored instrument charge, not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00); however, a dishonored instrument charge shall not be allowed if the instrument is dishonored by a financial institution, or the debtor places a stop payment order, due to forgery or theft of the instrument.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-709 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A lender may enter into a renewal of a deferred deposit loan transaction if the debtor has paid the finance charge due on the previous deferred deposit.

B. A lender shall not renew a deferred deposit loan more than three consecutive times.

C. On renewal of a deferred deposit loan, the lender may assess an additional finance charge not to exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for every One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) advanced.

D. A deferred deposit loan transaction is completed when the lender presents the instrument for payment or initiates an ACH debit to the debtor's bank account to collect on the instrument, or the debtor redeems the instrument by paying the full amount of the instrument to the lender. Once the debtor has completed the deferred deposit loan transaction, the lender may enter into a new deferred deposit loan agreement with the debtor, and the new

deferred deposit loan transaction shall not be deemed to be a renewal of the previous deferred deposit loan.

E. A lender shall negotiate or present an instrument for payment only if the instrument is endorsed with the actual business name of the lender.

F. Prior to the lender negotiating or presenting the instrument, the debtor shall have the right to redeem any instrument held by a lender as a result of a deferred deposit loan if the debtor pays to the lender the unpaid balance of the principal and all accrued fees and charges.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-710 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. No lender shall engage in this state in false or misleading advertising concerning the terms or conditions of credit with respect to a deferred deposit loan.

B. Advertising which complies with the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act does not violate subsection A of this section.

SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-711 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A deferred deposit lender may not engage in the business of making deferred deposit loans without first obtaining a license pursuant to this act. A separate license is required for each location where deferred deposit loans are made. The licensee shall post its license to engage in the business of making deferred deposit loans at each licensed location.

B. A lender engaged in the business of making deferred deposit loans on the effective date of this act may continue to engage in the business of making deferred deposit loans without a license until the Administrator of Consumer Credit has acted on the

application for a license, but the application must be filed within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

C. The Administrator may initiate administrative action against an unlicensed person as if the person held a license under this act if the person is found to be engaged in the business of making deferred deposit loans.

D. The Administrator may issue more than one license to any person in compliance with this section as to each license; however, this subsection shall not be construed to require a license for any place of business devoted to accounting or other record keeping and where deferred deposit loans are not made.

E. When a licensee wishes to move a licensed location to another licensed location, the licensee shall give thirty (30) days' written notice to the Administrator, who shall amend the license accordingly.

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-712 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. To qualify for a license issued pursuant to this act, an applicant shall have:

1. A minimum net worth, determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, of at least Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) available for operation of each licensed location; and

2. The financial responsibility, character, experience and general fitness so as to command the confidence of the public and to warrant the belief that the business will be operated lawfully, honestly, fairly and efficiently.

B. An application for a license pursuant to this act must be in writing, under oath, and on a form prescribed by the Administrator of Consumer Credit. The application must set forth all of the following:

1. The legal name and residence and business addresses of the applicant and, if the applicant is a partnership, association or corporation, of every member, officer, managing employee and director of it;

2. The location of the registered office of the applicant;

3. The registered agent of the applicant if the applicant is required by other law to have a registered agent;

4. The addresses of the locations to be licensed; and

5. Other information concerning the financial responsibility, background, experience and activities, such as other partnerships, associations and corporations located at or adjacent to the licensed location of the applicant and its members, officers, managing employees and directors as the Administrator may require.

C. On receipt of an application in the form prescribed by the Administrator and accompanied by the required license fee, the Administrator shall investigate whether the qualifications for license are satisfied. If the Administrator finds that the qualifications are satisfied, the Administrator shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in the business of making deferred deposit loans. If the Administrator fails to issue a license, the Administrator shall notify the applicant of the denial and the reasons for the denial. The provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act shall apply to the appeal of the denial of a license.

D. Each application, regardless of the number of locations to be operated by a single licensee, must be accompanied by payment of an application fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and an investigation fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). These fees shall not be refundable or abatable. If the license is granted, however, payment of the application fee shall satisfy the fee requirement for the first license year or its remainder.

E. Each license shall remain in full force and effect until relinquished, suspended, revoked or expired. A license expires

annually and may be renewed on payment of a license fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The annual license renewal fee for an application with more than one location shall be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first location and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each additional location.

SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-713 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. At such times as the Administrator of Consumer Credit shall deem necessary, the Administrator or a duly authorized representative shall make an examination of all licensed locations of each licensee and shall inquire into and examine the loans, transactions, books, accounts, papers, correspondence and records of the licensee insofar as they pertain to the business regulated by this act. In the course of the examination, the Administrator or a duly authorized representative shall have free access to the office, place of business, files, safes and vaults of the licensee, and shall have the right to make copies of the books, accounts, papers, correspondence and records. The Administrator or a duly authorized representative may, during the course of the examination, administer oaths and examine any person under oath on any subject pertinent to any matter about which the Administrator is authorized or required by this act to consider, investigate or secure information. Any licensee who shall fail or refuse to let the Administrator or a duly authorized representative examine or make copies of the books, or other relevant documents shall be deemed in violation of this act and the failure or refusal shall constitute grounds for administrative action against the licensee. The information obtained in the course of the examination shall be confidential. Each licensee shall pay to the Administrator an amount assessed by the Administrator to cover the direct and indirect cost of the examination and a proportionate share of general administrative

expense, not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for each location; provided, however, that for any examination which lasts in excess of eight (8) hours, the Administrator shall charge an additional fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per hour for each examiner required to complete the examination; provided, further, that the Administrator may waive the examination fee for any examination which takes one (1) hour or less. If an examination fee is due and is not paid on completion of an examination, the Administrator shall bill the licensee.

B. For the purpose of discovering violations of this act or of securing information required under this act, the Administrator or a duly authorized representative may investigate the books, accounts, papers, correspondence and records of any licensee or other person whom the Administrator has reasonable cause to believe is in violation of any provision of this act whether or not that person shall claim to be within the authority or scope of this act. For the purpose of this subsection, any person who advertises for, solicits or otherwise communicates a willingness to make deferred payment loans shall be presumed to be engaged in the business of making deferred deposit loans.

C. Every licensee shall maintain on file with the Administrator a written appointment of a resident of this state as the agent for service of all judicial or other process or legal notice, unless the licensee has appointed an agent under another statute of this state. In case of noncompliance, such service may be made on the Administrator.

D. Each licensee shall keep or make available in this state the books and records relating to loans made under this act as are necessary to enable the Administrator to determine whether the licensee is complying with this act. The books and records shall be maintained in a manner consistent with accepted accounting practices.

E. Each licensee shall preserve or make available its books and records in the state relating to each of its loans for three (3) years from the date of the loan. Each licensee's system of records shall be accepted if it discloses its information as may be reasonably required under this act. All deferred deposit loan agreements signed by debtors shall be kept at an office in this state designated by the licensee, except when transferred under an agreement which gives the Administrator access to the agreements.

F. Any transcript of any hearing held by the Administrator or an independent hearing examiner under this act shall be a public record and open to inspection at all reasonable times.

G. On failure without lawful excuse to obey a subpoena or to give testimony and on reasonable notice to all persons affected, the Administrator or a representative may apply to a court for an order compelling compliance, as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act.

SECTION 14. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-714 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. If the Administrator of Consumer Credit has reasonable cause to believe a lender has violated any provision of this act, the Administrator shall notify the lender in writing of each finding of violation and the proposed actions the lender must take to cure the alleged violations. The Administrator shall allow the lender thirty (30) days to cure or to commence curative action of the violation before taking any further administrative action. If the Administrator determines that the lender has commenced the actions specified in the notice, the lender shall not be subject to any administrative action for the violations that have been cured, unless the lender is found to have knowingly committed the violation.

B. The Administrator or an independent hearing examiner may, after notice and hearing, censure, probate, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any license if the Administrator or an independent hearing examiner finds that:

1. The licensee has failed to pay the annual license fee imposed by this act, or an examination fee, investigation fee or other fee or charge imposed by the Administrator under the authority of this act;

2. The licensee, either knowingly or without the exercise of due care to prevent the same, has violated any provision of this act or any rule or order lawfully made pursuant to and within the authority of this act;

3. Any fact or condition exists which, if it had existed or had been known to exist at the time of the original application for the license, clearly would have justified the Administrator or an independent hearing examiner in refusing to issue the license;

4. The licensee has refused to permit examination by the Administrator;

5. The licensee has demonstrated incompetency or untrustworthiness to engage in the business of making deferred deposit loans; or

6. The licensee, as an individual, has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving fraud, misrepresentation or deceit.

C. The hearing shall be held on not less than twenty (20) days' notice in writing setting forth the time and place of the hearing and a concise statement of the facts alleged to sustain the administrative action, and its effective date shall be set forth in a written order accompanied by finding of fact and a copy of the findings shall be delivered immediately to the licensee. The order, findings and evidence considered by the Administrator or the independent hearing examiner shall be filed with the public records of the Administrator.

D. Any licensee may surrender any license by delivering it to the Administrator with written notice of its surrender, but the surrender shall not affect the responsibility of the licensee for acts occurring prior to surrender of a license.

E. No revocation, suspension, or surrender of any license shall impair or affect the obligation of any preexisting lawful contract between the licensee and any debtor.

F. The Administrator or an independent hearing examiner may reinstate suspended licenses or issue new licenses to a person whose license or licenses have been revoked if no fact or condition then exists which clearly would have justified the Administrator or the independent hearing examiner in refusing originally to issue such license under these subsections.

G. Every licensee shall notify the Administrator of the conviction of or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any felony within thirty (30) days after the plea is taken and also within thirty (30) days of the entering of an order of judgment and sentencing and shall notify the Administrator of any administrative action resulting in revocation, suspension or amendment of a license taken against the licensee in another state within thirty (30) days of the entering of the administrative order in that state.

SECTION 15. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-715 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In addition to other powers granted by this act, the Administrator of Consumer Credit may, within the limitations provided by law:

1. Receive and act on complaints, take action designed to obtain voluntary compliance with this act or commence proceedings on the Administrator's own initiative;

2. Counsel persons and groups on their rights and duties under this act; and

3. With approval of the Commission on Consumer Credit, promulgate, amend and repeal procedural rules to carry out the provisions of the act, as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act.

SECTION 16. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-716 of Title 14A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Administrator of Consumer Credit may order and impose civil penalties upon a person subject to the provisions of this act for violations of this act or the rules promulgated to implement this act in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The Administrator may also order repayment of unlawful or excessive fees charged to debtors.

SECTION 17. This act shall become effective September 1, 2001.

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