

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL 583

By: Monson and Littlefield

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

[consumer credit - Deferred Deposit Lending Act -
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. A transaction is also considered a renewal if a debtor pays off an existing deferred deposit loan with the proceeds of a deferred deposit loan from another lender.

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 12 of this act.

B. The licensing requirements of 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; or

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

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 forty-five (45) 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."

"You have the right to rescind this deferred deposit loan no later than 5 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."

H. At the time a debtor enters into a deferred deposit loan transaction, the lender shall provide the debtor with a pamphlet, approved by the Administrator of Consumer Credit, describing the availability of debt management and credit counseling services and the debtor's rights and responsibilities in the transaction. The pamphlet shall indicate a toll-free telephone number for the Administrator that the debtor may contact to receive information relating to debt management and credit counseling services.

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 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 or at the location where the transaction occurred.

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 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) 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 less than seven (7) days or more than forty-five (45) 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 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 law 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, or fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the advance, and the credit terms of the deferred deposit loan shall be disclosed in accordance with the Federal Consumer Credit 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 not enter into a renewal of a deferred deposit loan transaction.

B. Upon any application being made for a deferred deposit loan, the lender shall determine if the applicant has any outstanding deferred deposit loans as follows:

1. The applicant shall be required to sign an affidavit stating whether the applicant has any deferred deposit loans outstanding with the lender or any other deferred deposit lender and if so, the status of each such loan; and

2. The lender shall be required to verify the accuracy of the affidavit through commercially reasonable means. A lender's method of so verifying shall be considered in compliance with the provisions of this section if the verification method includes a manual investigation or an electronic query of:

- a. the lender's own records, including both records maintained at the location where the loan is being applied for and records maintained at other locations within the state that are owned and operated by the lender or the lender's affiliates, and
- b. a private database approved by the Administrator of Consumer Credit, if the lender subscribes to such a database; provided, all lenders shall be required to subscribe to such a database or otherwise obtain the

required information in a manner approved by the Administrator, not later than July 1, 2004.

If the lender determines that the applicant has one or more outstanding deferred deposit loans, the loan applied for shall be considered a renewal and shall not be made.

C. 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; provided, a new deferred deposit loan made within seven (7) calendar days after a previous deferred deposit loan has been made by the lender to the debtor shall be considered a renewal and shall not be made.

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

E. 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. A lender shall not make a deferred deposit loan to a debtor if a debtor is applying for an eighth or subsequent deferred deposit loan in a three-month period, unless the debtor has undergone consumer credit counseling within the preceding six-month period.

B. The Administrator of Consumer Credit shall maintain a list of approved consumer credit counselors. In order to meet the requirement to undergo consumer credit counseling as provided in this section, a debtor shall be required to contact an approved counselor, either in person or by telephone. The counselor shall provide a written statement to the debtor that such contact has been made. Such statement shall be provided to the lender as part of the application for the deferred deposit loan.

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. 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 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. 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. 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.

C. The Administrator may issue a license for each location at which deferred deposit loans are to be made to any person making deferred deposit loans at multiple locations; provided, if such

licensee is not in compliance with this act as to each license, any action to revoke, suspend or not renew one license shall be applicable to all licenses issued to that licensee. 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.

D. 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 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. 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, with a maximum aggregate net worth requirement of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for an owner of multiple locations; 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 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. 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 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:

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 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:

A. 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.

B. The Administrator shall conduct a study regarding the system of verification of the existence of deferred deposit loans as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of Section 9 of this act to determine:

1. If the system adequately provides lenders with information as to the existence of outstanding deferred deposit loans made by other lenders; and

2. If it is feasible for the Department of Consumer Credit to develop and maintain a database of outstanding deferred deposit loans to provide such information to lenders.

The Administrator shall consult with representatives of deferred deposit lenders, advocates for consumers of this state and other interested parties to conduct the study. The Administrator shall issue a report of findings to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than December 1, 2003.

SECTION 17. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-717 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 18. This act shall become effective September 1, 2003.

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