

The House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 940:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975," so as to require persons  
3 operating retail stores to accept cash for purchases; to provide for definitions; to provide  
4 exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 2 of Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
8 relating to the "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975," is amended by adding a new Code  
9 section to read as follows:

10 "10-1-393.20.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Cash' means physical currency or coin that constitutes legal tender of the United  
13 States.

14 (2) 'Fully autonomous store' means a retail store where no employees are involved in the  
15 processing of transactions and where all such transactions are instead processed through  
16 fully digital, autonomous systems.

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17 (3) 'Retail store' means any physical establishment where goods or services, including,  
 18 but not limited to, food products, are offered for sale to members of the public. Such  
 19 term shall include food service establishments, as defined in Code Section 26-2-370.

20 (b)(1) Unless otherwise permitted by law, it shall be unlawful for any person operating  
 21 a retail store to refuse, in connection with any consumer transaction taking place at such  
 22 retail store, to accept cash from a consumer when such cash is offered as a form of  
 23 payment for any good or service, including, but not limited to, any food product, offered  
 24 for sale by such person at such retail store.

25 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a person operating a retail store from  
 26 processing consumer transactions through self-operated kiosks that do not accept cash;  
 27 provided, however, that such person shall offer at least one option within the retail store  
 28 where cash can be accepted as a form of payment from consumers.

29 (3) This subsection shall not apply to any person operating a retail store that is:

30 (A) Located within a venue that is hosting a live athletic contest, concert, theater  
 31 performance, or other entertainment event in which 2,500 or more attendees are  
 32 admitted;

33 (B) Located within an airport at which more than 500 takeoffs and landings are made  
 34 by commercial or private aircraft on a daily basis;

35 (C) A fully autonomous store; or

36 (D) A wholesale club, or is part of a wholesale club, that sells consumer goods and  
 37 services through a membership model.

38 (c) Any person who violates this Code section shall be subject to the penalties provided  
 39 in this part."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.