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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

AN ACT

RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- LICENSED ACTIVITIES--LENDERS AND LOAN BROKERS--CHECK CASHING

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: January 13, 2016

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 19-14-2, 19-14-4 and 19-14-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 19-

14 entitled "Licensed Activities" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 <u>19-14-2. Licenses required. --</u> (a) No person shall engage within this state in the

4 business of: (1) Making or funding loans or acting as a lender or small loan lender; (2) Brokering

loans or acting as a loan broker; (3) Selling checks for a fee or other consideration; (4) Cashing

checks for a fee or other consideration, which includes any premium charged for the sale of goods

in excess of the cash price of the goods; (5) Providing electronic money transfers for a fee or

other consideration; (6) Providing debt-management services; (7) Performing the duties of a

9 mortgage loan originator functions of a debt collector; (8) Servicing a loan, directly or indirectly,

10 as a third party loan servicer without first obtaining a license or registration from the director or

the director's designee Performing the duties of a mortgage loan originator; (9) Servicing a loan

directly or indirectly, owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another; or (10) Making deferred

deposit loans, without first obtaining a license or registration from the director or director's

14 <u>designee</u>. The licensing requirement for any person providing debt-management plans shall apply

to all persons, without regard for state of incorporation or a physical presence in this state, who

initiate or service debt-management plans for residents of this state. Special exemptions from

licensing for each activity are contained in other chapters in this title.

(b) No lender or loan-broker licensee shall permit an employee to act as a mortgage loan

1	originator without first verifying that such originator is licensed under this chapter. No individual
2	may act as a mortgage-loan originator without being licensed, or act as a mortgage-loan
3	originator for more than one person. The license of a mortgage-loan originator is not effective
4	during any period when such mortgage-loan originator is not associated with a lender or loan-
5	broker licensee.
6	(c) Each loan negotiated, solicited, placed, found, or made without a license as required
7	in subsection (a) of this section shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of this chapter.
8	(d) No person engaged in the business of making or brokering loans in this state, whether
9	licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or exempt from licensing, shall accept
10	applications, or referral of applicants from, or pay a fee to, any lender, loan broker or mortgage-
11	loan originator who is required to be licensed or registered under said sections but is not licensed
12	to act as such by the director or the director's designee.
13	<u>19-14-4. Annual fee</u> (a) Each licensee shall pay an annual license fee as follows:
14	(1) Each small-loan lender license and each branch certificate, the sum of five hundred
15	fifty dollars (\$550);
16	(2) Each loan-broker license and each branch certificate, the sum of five hundred fifty
17	dollars (\$550);
18	(3) Each lender license and each branch certificate, the sum of one thousand one hundred
19	dollars (\$1,100);
20	(4) Each sale of checks license, the sum of three hundred sixty dollars (\$360);
21	(5) Each check cashing license, the sum of three hundred sixty dollars (\$360);
22	(6) Each electronic money transfer license, the sum of three hundred sixty dollars
23	(\$360);
24	(7) Each registration to provide debt-management services, the sum of two hundred
25	dollars (\$200);
26	(8) Each mortgage-loan originator license, the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100); and
27	(9) Each third-party loan-servicer license and each branch certificate, the sum of one
28	thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100); and
29	(10) Each deferred deposit loan license, the sum of three hundred sixty dollars (\$360).
30	(b) Any licensee who shall not pay the annual fee by December 31 of each year shall be
31	subject to a daily penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per day, subject to a maximum of seven
32	hundred fifty dollars (\$750). The penalty shall be paid to the director to, and for the use of, the
33	state. The penalty may be waived for good cause by the director, or the director's designee, upon
34	written request.

I	19-14-6. Bond of applicant (a) An applicant for any license shall file with the
2	director, or the director's designee, a bond to be approved by him or her in which the applicant
3	shall be the obligor.
4	(b) The amount of the bond shall be as follows:
5	(1) Small-loan lenders, the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);
6	(2) Loan brokers, the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000);
7	(3) Lenders, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);
8	(4) Sale of checks and electronic money transfer licensees, the sum of fifty thousand
9	dollars (\$50,000) subject to a maximum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)
10	when aggregated with agent locations;
11	(5) Check-cashing licensees who accept checks for collection with deferred payment, the
12	sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) subject to a maximum of one hundred and fifty thousand
13	dollars (\$150,000) when aggregated with agent locations;
14	(6) Foreign-exchange licensees, the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);
15	(7) The amounts listed above apply to licensees with zero (0) to three (3) branch or agent
16	locations. Licensees with four (4) to seven (7) branches shall post a bond, as indicated above, and
17	an additional bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Licensees with eight (8) or more
18	branches shall post a bond, as indicated above, and an additional bond in the sum of twenty-five
19	thousand dollars (\$25,000);
20	(8) Each debt-management services registrant, the amount provided in § 19-14.8-13; or
21	(9) Each third-party loan servicer, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); and
22	(10) Deferred deposit licensees, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) subject to a
23	maximum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) when aggregated with agent
24	locations.
25	(c) The bond shall run to the state for the use of the state and of any person who may
26	have cause of action against the obligor of the bond under the provisions of this title and shall be
27	perpetual. The bond shall be perpetual and shall be conditioned upon the obligor faithfully
28	conforming to, and abiding by, the provisions of this title and of all rules and regulations lawfully
29	made, and the obligor will pay to the state and to any person any and all money that may become
30	due or owing to the state or to the person from the obligor under, and by virtue of, the provisions
31	of this title.
32	(d) The provisions of subsection (b)(6) of this section shall not apply to any foreign-
33	exchange business holding a valid electronic money-transfer license issued pursuant to § 19-14-1
34	et seg, that has filed with the division of banking the bond required by subsections (b)(4) and

(b)(7) of this section.

- (e) The bond shall remain in force and effect until the surety is released from liability by the director, or the director's designee, or until the bond is cancelled by the surety. The surety may cancel the bond and be released from further liability under the bond upon receipt by the director, or the director's designee, of written notice of the cancellation of the bond at least thirty (30) days in advance of the cancellation of the bond. The cancellation shall not affect any liability incurred or accrued under the bond before the termination of the thirty-day (30) period. Upon receipt of any notice of cancellation, the director shall provide written notice to the licensee.
- (f) Upon receipt of any notice of cancellation, the director may provide written notice to the licensee requiring reinstatement or replacement of the bond. Unless the bond is reinstated by the surety, or a satisfactory replacement bond is filed with the director prior to the cancellation of the original bond, the license shall be suspended. The licensee will be provided notice of the suspension, and may request a hearing within thirty (30) days. If the licensee does not request a hearing, the director, or director's designee, shall issue an order revoking the license for failure to comply with this section.
- SECTION 2. Section 19-14.1-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 19-14.1 entitled "Lenders and Loan Brokers" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 18 <u>19-14.1-10. Special exemptions. --</u> (a) The licensing provisions of chapter 14 of this title 19 shall not apply to:
 - (1) Nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious corporations or associations;
 - (2) Any person who makes less than six (6) loans in this state in any consecutive twelve (12) month period; there is no similar exemption from licensing for loan brokers for brokering loans or acting as a loan broker;
 - (3) Any person acting as an agent for a licensee for the purpose of conducting closings at a location other than that stipulated in the license;
 - (4) Regulated institutions and banks or credit unions organized under the laws of the United States, or subject to written notice with a designated Rhode Island agent for service of process in the form prescribed by the director or the director's designee, of any other state within the United States if the laws of the other state in which such bank or credit union is organized authorizes under conditions not substantially more restrictive than those imposed by the laws of this state, as determined by the director or the director's designee, a financial institution or credit union to engage in the business of originating or brokering loans in the other state; no bank or credit union duly organized under the laws of any other state within the United States may receive deposits, pay checks or lend money from any location within this state unless such bank or credit

1 union has received approval from the director or the director's designee for the establishment of 2 an interstate branch office pursuant to chapter 7 of title 19 of the general laws; or 3 (5) Any natural person employee who is employed by a licensee when acting on the 4 licensee's behalf; provided that this exemption shall not apply to a mortgage loan originator 5 required to be licensed under § 19-14-2 or § 19-14.10-4. 6 (6) A licensed attorney when performing loan closing services for a licensee or for an 7 entity identified in subdivision (4) above. 8 (b) The provisions of this chapter and chapter 14 of this title shall not apply to: 9 (1) Loans to corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, limited liability companies or other business entities; 10 11 (2) Loans over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in amount to individuals for 12 business or commercial, as opposed to personal, family or household purposes; 13 (3) Loans principally secured by accounts receivable and/or business inventory; 14 (4) Loans made by a life insurance company wholly secured by the cash surrender value 15 of a life insurance policy; 16 (5) Education-purpose loans made by the Rhode Island health and educational building 17 corporation as vested in chapter 38.1 of title 45 of or the Rhode Island student loan authority as 18 vested in chapter 62 of title 16; 19 (6) The acquisition of retail or loan installment contracts by an entity whose sole 20 business in this state is acquiring them from federal banks receivers or liquidators; 21 (7) Notes evidencing the indebtedness of a retail buyer to a retail seller of goods, 22 services or insurance for a part or all of the purchase price; or (8) Any municipal, state or federal agency which makes, brokers, or funds loans or acts 23 24 as a lender or a loan broker. This exemption includes exclusive agents or exclusive contractors of 25 the agency specifically designated by the agency to perform those functions on behalf of the 26 agency and which has notified the director, in writing, of the exclusive agency or contract. 27 (9) Notes evidencing the indebtedness of a retail buyer to a retail motor vehicle dealer 28 that include as part of the amount financed, disclosed in accordance with 12 C.F.R. 226.18 as 29 amended, an amount representing negative equity related to the motor vehicle being traded in as 30 part of the purchase price of the motor vehicle being purchased. 31 (c) No license to make or fund loans, or to act as a lender or small loan lender shall be

required of any person who engages in deferred deposit transactions (commonly known as "pay-

day advance") while holding a valid license to cash checks make deferred deposit loans pursuant

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to chapter 14 14.12 of this title.

1	SECTION 3. Sections 19-14.4-4 and 19-14.4-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 19-14.4
2	entitled "Check Cashing" are hereby amended to read as follows:
3	19-14.4-4. Fees for services No licensee shall:
4	(1) Charge check-cashing fees in excess of three percent (3%) of the face amount of the
5	check, or five dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater, if the check is the payment of any kind of
6	state public assistance or federal social security benefit;
7	(2) Charge check-cashing fees for personal checks in excess of ten percent (10%) of the
8	face amount of the personal check or five dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater; or
9	(3) Charge check-cashing fees in excess of five percent (5%) of the face amount of the
10	check or five dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater, for all other checks.
11	(4) Charge deferred deposit transaction fees in excess of ten percent (10%) of the amount
12	of funds advanced.
13	19-14.4-5. Posting of charges Endorsement Receipt (a) In every location
14	licensed pursuant to this chapter, there shall be at all times posted in a conspicuous place within
15	the licensed premises a complete and unambiguous schedule of all fees for cashing checks,
16	deferred deposit transactions expressed as both a dollar amount and an annual percentage rate,
17	and the initial issuance of any identification card.
18	(b) Before a licensee shall deposit, with any regulated institution or other insured-
19	deposit-taking institution organized under the laws of the United States, a check cashed by the
20	licensee, the check must be endorsed with the name under which the licensee is doing business
21	and must include the words "licensed check cashing services".
22	(c) The licensee shall provide a receipt for each transaction for the benefit of a customer.
23	(d) Each check casher shall also post a list of valid identification which is acceptable in
24	lieu of identification provided by the check casher. The information required by this section shall
25	be clear, legible, and in letters not less than one-half (1/2) inch in height. The information shall be
26	posted in a conspicuous location in the unobstructed view of the public within the check cashers'
27	premises. Failure to post information as required by this section, or the imposition of fees or
28	identification requirements contrary to the information posted, shall constitute a deceptive trade
29	practice under chapter 13.1 of title 6.
30	SECTION 4. Section 19-14.4-5.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 19-14.4 entitled
31	"Check Cashing" is hereby repealed.
32	19-14.4-5.1. Customer checks Deferred deposits (a) A check casher may defer the
33	deposit of a personal check written by a customer for a term of no less than thirteen (13) days,
2 /	pursuant to the provisions of this section. The feed amount of the sheek shell not avoid five

1	hundred dollars (\$500).
2	(b) Each deferred deposit shall be made pursuant to a written agreement that has been
3	signed by the customer and by the check casher or an authorized representative of the check
4	casher. The written agreement shall contain a statement of the total amount of any fees charged
5	for the deferred deposit, expressed both in United States currency and as an annual percentage
6	rate (APR), as required by federal regulations. The written agreement shall authorize the check
7	casher to defer deposit of the personal check until a specific date no less than thirteen (13) days
8	from the date the written agreement was signed and executed. The written agreement shall not
9	permit the check casher to accept collateral.
10	(c) A roll over is an extension or deferral of the payment due date of a deferred deposit
11	transaction for the payment of only an additional fee.
12	(d) The maximum amount of a single customer's check is five hundred dollars (\$500).
13	(e) The maximum aggregate amount of concurrently outstanding checks held by the
14	licensee or its affiliate from the same customer is five hundred dollars (\$500).
15	(f) The maximum number of concurrently outstanding checks held by the licensee or its
16	affiliates from the same customer is three (3).
17	(g) The maximum number of rollovers permitted is one.
18	(h) The check casher shall give a duplicate original of the agreement to the customer at
19	the time of the transaction.
20	SECTION 5. Title 19 of the General Laws entitled "FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS" is
21	hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:
22	CHAPTER 14.12
23	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
24	19-14.12-1. Customer checks – Deferred deposits (a) A licensee may defer the
25	deposit of a personal check written by a customer for a term of no less than thirteen (13) days,
26	pursuant to the provisions of this section. The face amount of the check shall not exceed five
27	hundred dollars (\$500).
28	(b) Each deferred deposit shall be made pursuant to a written agreement that has been
29	signed by the customer and by the licensee or an authorized representative of the licensee. The
30	written agreement shall contain a statement of the total amount of any fees charged for the
31	deferred deposit, expressed both in United States currency and as an annual percentage rate
32	(APR), as required by federal regulations. The written agreement shall authorize the licensee to
33	defer deposit of the personal check until a specific date no less than thirteen (13) days from the
34	date the written agreement was signed and executed. The written agreement shall not permit the

1	licensee to accept collateral.
2	(c) A rollover is an extension or deferral of the payment due date of a deferred deposit
3	transaction for the payment of only an additional fee.
4	(d) The maximum amount of a single customer's check is five hundred dollars (\$500).
5	(e) The maximum aggregate amount of concurrently outstanding checks held by the
6	licensee or its affiliate from the same customer is five hundred dollars (\$500).
7	(f) The maximum number of concurrently outstanding checks held by the licensee or its
8	affiliates from the same customer is three (3).
9	(g) The maximum number of rollovers permitted is one.
10	(h) The licensee shall give a duplicate original of the agreement to the customer at the
11	time of the transaction.
12	19-14.12-2. Exemptions from licensing No license to loan based upon deferred
13	deposits shall be required of any:
14	(1) Regulated institution, bank or credit union organized under the laws of the United
15	States, or subject to written notice with a designated Rhode Island agent for service of process in
16	the form prescribed by the director or the director's designee, of any other state within the United
17	States if the laws of the other state in which such bank or credit union is organized authorizes
18	under conditions not substantially more restrictive than those imposed by the laws of this state, as
19	determined by the director or the director's designee, a financial institution or credit union to
20	engage in the business of cashing checks in the other state; no bank or credit union duly
21	organized under the laws of another state within the United States may receive deposits, pay
22	checks or lend money from any location within this state unless such bank or credit union has
23	received approval from the director or the director's designee for the establishment of an interstate
24	branch office pursuant to chapter 7 of this title.
25	(2) Natural person employee who is employed by a licensee when acting on the licensee's
26	behalf; or
27	(3) Persons engaged in the business of cashing checks where that business is incidental to
28	the person's retail sale of goods or services and the person charges not more than fifty cents (\$.50)
29	per check cashed.
30	19-14.12-3. Public notice of application (a) Upon the filing of any application in due
31	form, accompanied by the required fee and documents, notice thereof shall be published on the
32	department's website. Each notice shall contain:
33	(1) The name of the applicant;
34	(2) The location of the proposed site; and

1	(3) A statement that any comment or objection by anyone in relation to the application
2	should be submitted in writing to the director or the director's designee for consideration within
3	ten (10) business days of the date of publication.
4	(b) The director or the director's designee shall cause an investigation of the needs of the
5	community for the establishment of a deferred deposit business at the location specified in the
6	application and the effect that granting the license will have on the financial stability of other
7	deferred deposit businesses that may be serving the community in which the business of the
8	applicant is proposed to be conducted. If the issuance of a license to engage in the deferred
9	deposit business at the location specified will not promote the needs and the convenience and
10	advantage of the community in which the deferred deposit business of the applicant is proposed
11	to be conducted, then the application may be denied.
12	(c) The director or the director's designee shall investigate to ascertain whether the
13	qualifications and requirements have been met. If the director or the director's designee finds that
14	the qualifications have been met, they shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in the
15	business of deferred deposit lending in this state.
16	(d) All licensees holding a valid check cashing license under chapter 14.4 of this title on
17	the effective date of the enactment of this statute shall be entitled to be issued a deferred deposit
18	license with the completion of an application and payment of the fee. All other licensing
19	requirements are deemed satisfied by the holding of the check cashing license on that date.
20	Licensees issued pursuant to this subsection shall have the obligations as all other deferred
21	deposition licensees following issuance of the license.
22	19-14.12-4. Rules and regulations (a) The director or the director's designee is
23	authorized, directed and empowered to promulgate regulations that provide for the safety and
24	security of customers of the licensee, and/or its employees, from robbery or other criminal
25	activities to include, but not be limited to, bulletproof glass and steel partitions.
26	(b) The rules and regulations, in addition to any other provisions as the director or the
27	director's designee may require, must provide that licensees maintain:
28	(1) Continuously, for each licensed premises, liquid assets of at least ten thousand dollars
29	<u>(\$10,000);</u>
30	(2) A cash sheet which must be prepared daily for each day's business reflecting all
31	transactions for that day:
32	(3) A transaction register recording the date of the transaction, amount of the transaction,
33	type of instrument deposited with the licensee and identifying information such as financial
34	institution, check number, account number and whatever additional information is necessary to

1	identify instrument, date of repayment of loan, rollover, if any, of loan, all information
2	concerning negotiation of instrument left on deposit for loan and any all other information
3	prescribed by the director by regulation;
4	(4) Insurance issued by an insurance company or indemnity company, authorized to do
5	business under the laws of this state, which shall insure the applicant against loss by theft,
6	burglary, robbery or forgery in principal sum of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000);
7	<u>and</u>
8	(5) An adequate written policy and affirmative program to insure compliance with state
9	and federal money laundering statutes.
10	19-14.12-5. Fees for services No licensee shall charge transaction fees in excess of
11	ten percent (10%) of the amount of funds advanced.
12	19-14.12-6. Posting of charges - Endorsement - Receipt (a) In every location
13	licensed pursuant to this chapter, there shall be at all times posted in a conspicuous place within
14	the licensed premises and on any website maintained by or on behalf of the licensee a complete
15	and unambiguous schedule of all fees for deferred deposit transactions expressed as both a dollar
16	amount and an annual percentage rate. The licensee shall also disclose the fee for the initial
17	issuance of any identification card.
18	(b) Before a licensee shall deposit, with any regulated institution or other insured-deposit-
19	taking institution organized under the laws of the United States, a check cashed by the licensee,
20	the check must be endorsed with the name under which the licensee is doing business and must
21	include the words "licensed deferred deposit services".
22	(c) The licensee shall provide a receipt for each transaction for the benefit of a customer.
23	(d) Each deferred deposit licensee shall also post a list of valid identification which is
24	acceptable in lieu of identification provided by the licensee. The information required by this
25	section shall be clear, legible, and in letters not less than one-half inch (1/2") in height. The
26	information shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the unobstructed view of the public
27	within the licensees premises and on any website maintained by or on behalf of the licensee.
28	Failure to post information as required by this section, or the imposition of fees or identification
29	requirements contrary to the information posted, shall constitute a deceptive trade practice under
30	chapter 13.1 of title 6.
31	19-14.12-7. Securities in lieu of bonds In lieu of the required surety bond or bonds, or
32	of any portion as required by chapter 14 of this title, the applicant may deposit with the director,
33	or the director's designee or with any financial institutions, credit unions or national banks in this
34	state that the applicant may designate and the director or the director's designee may approve

2	upon principal amount or market value, whichever is lower, of not less than the amount of the
3	required surety bond. The securities shall be deposited and held to secure the same obligations as
4	would the surety bond, but the licensee shall be entitled to receive all interest and dividends
5	thereon, shall have the right, with the approval of the director or the director's designee, to
6	substitute other securities for those deposited, and shall be required to substitute securities on the
7	written order of the director or the director's designee.
8	19-14.12-8. Dishonor of check – Procedure Within five (5) business days after being
9	advised by the payor institution that a check has been altered, forged, stolen, obtained through
10	fraudulent or illegal means, negotiated without proper legal authority, or represents the proceeds
11	of illegal activity, the licensee shall notify the police department in the city or town where the
12	office of the licensee where the check was cashed or where the deferred deposit transaction
13	occurred is located. In the event a check is returned to the licensee by the payor institution for any
14	of the aforementioned reasons, the licensee may not release the check without the consent of the
15	city or town police department, office of the attorney general, or other investigating law
16	enforcement authority.
17	19-14.12-9. Food stamps – Distribution Deferred deposit licensees may engage in
18	the distribution of food stamps in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the director or
19	the director's designee.
20	19-14.12-10. Unlicensed deferred deposit businesses The operation of any
21	unlicensed deferred deposit business or the unlawful conduct or operation of any licensed
22	deferred deposit business is declared to constitute unfair competition with licensed and legally
23	operated deferred deposit businesses doing business in the same community. A licensee operating
24	legally under this chapter in the same community has the right to apply to the superior court to
25	obtain an injunction restraining this unfair competition.
26	19-14.12-11. Severability If any provision of this chapter or the application of this
27	chapter to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or
28	unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be
29	given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or application, and to this end the
30	provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.
31	SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.
	Y (2004) Fig.

United States government/agency obligation or state obligations, to an aggregate amount, based

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

$A\ N\quad A\ C\ T$

RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- LICENSED ACTIVITIES--LENDERS AND LOAN BROKERS--CHECK CASHING

1	This act would amend the financial institutions laws to separate "check cashing" and
2	"payday lending" licenses into separate license categories. It would also establish new laws
3	governing the issuance of customer checks based on deferred deposits.
4	This act would take effect on January 1, 2017.
	LC003179