HOUSE BILL 1045

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representative Kirby; by request of Department of Financial Institutions

Prefiled 12/15/16.

- AN ACT Relating licensing and enforcement provisions 1 to 2 applicable to money transmitters and currency exchanges under the 3 uniform money services act; amending RCW 19.230.010, 19.230.020, 4 19.230.030, 19.230.040, 19.230.050, 19.230.070, 19.230.100, 5 19.230.110, 19.230.140, 19.230.130, 19.230.150, 19.230.152, 19.230.200, 19.230.210, 6 19.230.180, 19.230.250, 19.230.290, 7 19.230.320, and 19.230.330; adding new sections to chapter 19.230 8 RCW; and prescribing penalties.
- 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.230.010 and 2013 c 106 s 1 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
- 12 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter 13 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 14 (1) "Affiliate" means any person who directly or indirectly 15 through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is 16 under common control with, another person.
- 17 (2) "Annual assessment due date" means the date specified in rule 18 by the director upon which the annual assessment is due.
- 19 (3) "Applicant" means a person that files an application for a 20 license under this chapter, including the applicant's proposed

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responsible individual and executive officers, and persons in control of the applicant.

- (4) "Authorized delegate" means a person a licensee designates to provide money services on behalf of the licensee. A person that is exempt from licensing under this chapter cannot have an authorized delegate.
- (5) "Board director" means a <u>natural person who is a</u> member of the applicant's or licensee's board of directors if the applicant is a corporation or limited liability company, or a partner if the applicant or licensee is a partnership.
- (6) "Closed loop ((stored value)) prepaid access" means ((stored value, when that value or credit is primarily intended to)) prepaid access that can only be redeemed for a limited universe of goods, intangibles, services, or other items provided by the issuer of the ((stored value)) prepaid access, its affiliates, or others involved in transactions functionally related to the issuer or its affiliates.
 - (7) "Control" means:

- (a) Ownership of, or the power to vote, directly or indirectly, at least twenty-five percent of a class of voting securities or voting interests of a licensee or applicant, or person in control of a licensee or applicant;
 - (b) Power to elect a majority of executive officers, managers, directors, trustees, or other persons exercising managerial authority of a licensee or applicant, or person in control of a licensee or applicant; or
 - (c) Power to exercise directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of a licensee or applicant, or person in control of a licensee or applicant.
 - (8) "Currency exchange" means exchanging the money of one government for money of another government, or holding oneself out as able to exchange the money of one government for money of another government. The following persons are not considered currency exchangers:
- (a) Affiliated businesses that engage in currency exchange for a business purpose other than currency exchange;
- 36 (b) A person who provides currency exchange services for a person 37 acting primarily for a business, commercial, agricultural, or 38 investment purpose when the currency exchange is incidental to the 39 transaction;

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1 (c) A person who deals in coins or a person who deals in money 2 whose value is primarily determined because it is rare, old, or 3 collectible; and

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- (d) A person who in the regular course of business chooses to accept from a customer the currency of a country other than the United States in order to complete the sale of a good or service other than currency exchange, that may include cash back to the customer, and does not otherwise trade in currencies or transmit money for compensation or gain.
- 10 (9) "Currency exchanger" means a person that is engaged in 11 currency exchange.
 - (10) "Director" means the director of financial institutions.
 - (11) "Executive officer" means a president, chairperson of the executive committee, chief financial officer, responsible individual, or other individual who performs similar functions.
 - (12) "Financial institution" means any person doing business under the laws of any state or the United States relating to commercial banks, bank holding companies, savings banks, savings and loan associations, trust companies, or credit unions.
- 20 (13) "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter.
 21 <u>"Licensee" also means any person, whether located within or outside</u>
 22 <u>of this state, who fails to obtain a license required by this</u>
 23 chapter.
 - (14) "Material litigation" means litigation that according to generally accepted accounting principles is significant to an applicant's or a licensee's financial health and would be required to be disclosed in the applicant's or licensee's annual audited financial statements, report to shareholders, or similar records.
- 29 (15) "Mobile location" means a vehicle or movable facility where 30 money services are provided.
 - (16) "Money" means a medium of exchange that is authorized or adopted by the United States or a foreign government or other recognized medium of exchange. "Money" includes a monetary unit of account established by an intergovernmental organization or by agreement between two or more governments.
- 36 (17) "Money services" means money transmission or currency 37 exchange.
- (18) "Money transmission" means receiving money or its equivalent value (equivalent value includes virtual currency) to transmit, deliver, or instruct to be delivered ((the money or its equivalent

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1 value)) to another location, inside or outside the United States, by any means including but not limited to by wire, facsimile, 2 3 electronic transfer. (("Money transmission" does not include the provision solely of connection services to the internet, 4 telecommunications services, or network access.)) "Money 5 6 transmission" includes selling, issuing, or acting as an intermediary 7 open loop ((stored value)) prepaid access and payment instruments, but not closed loop ((stored value)) prepaid access. 8 "Money transmission" does not include: The provision solely of 9 10 connection services to the internet, telecommunications services, or network access; units of value that are issued in affinity or rewards 11 programs that cannot be redeemed for either money or virtual 12 currencies; and units of value that are used solely within online 13 gaming platforms that have no market or application outside of the 14 gaming platforms. 15

(19) "Money transmitter" means a person that is engaged in money transmission.

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- (20) "Open loop ((stored value)) prepaid access" means ((stored value)) prepaid access redeemable at multiple, unaffiliated merchants or service providers, or automated teller machines.
- (21) "Outstanding money transmission" means the value of all money transmissions reported to the licensee for which the money transmitter has received money or its equivalent value from the customer for transmission, but has not yet completed the money transmission by delivering the money or monetary value to the person designated by the customer.
- (22) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, money order, or traveler's check for the transmission or payment of money or its equivalent value, whether or not negotiable. "Payment instrument" does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or instrument that is redeemable by the issuer in goods or services.
- (23) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture; government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public corporation; or any other legal or commercial entity.
 - (24) "Prepaid access" means access to money that has been paid in advance and can be retrieved or transferred through an electronic device or vehicle, such as a card, code, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or personal identification number.

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- (25) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium, or that is stored in an electronic or other medium, and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- $((\frac{25}{1}))$ (26) "Responsible individual" means an individual who is employed by a licensee and has principal managerial authority over the provision of money services by the licensee in this state.
 - $((\frac{26}{1}))$ (27) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
- 11 ((27) "Stored value" means a card or other device that 12 electronically stores or provides access to funds and is available 13 for making payments to others.))
 - (28) "Tangible net worth" means the physical worth of a licensee, calculated by taking a licensee's assets and subtracting its liabilities and its intangible assets, such as copyrights, patents, intellectual property, and goodwill.
- (29) "Unsafe or unsound practice" means a practice or conduct by a ((person licensed to provide money services,)) licensee or an authorized delegate ((of such a person,)) which creates the likelihood of material loss, insolvency, or dissipation of the licensee's assets, or otherwise materially prejudices the financial condition of the licensee or the interests of its customers.
- 24 (30) "Virtual currency" means a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value, 25 but does not have legal tender status as recognized by the United 26 27 States government. "Virtual currency" does not include the software or protocols governing the transfer of the digital representation of 28 29 value or other uses of virtual distributed ledger systems to verify ownership or authenticity in a digital capacity when the virtual 30 31 currency is not used as a medium of exchange.
- 32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.230.020 and 2013 c 106 s 2 are each amended to 33 read as follows:
- 34 This chapter does not apply to:

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- 35 (1) The United States or a department, agency, or instrumentality 36 thereof;
- 37 (2) ((Money transmission by)) <u>The United States postal service or</u> 38 ((by)) a contractor on behalf of the United States postal service;

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- 1 (3) A state, county, city, or a department, agency, or 2 instrumentality thereof;
 - (4) A financial institution or its subsidiaries, affiliates, and service corporations, or any office of an international banking corporation, branch of a foreign bank, or corporation organized pursuant to the Bank Service Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. Sec. 1861-1867) or a corporation organized under the Edge Act (12 U.S.C. Sec. 611-633);
- 9 (5) Electronic funds transfer of governmental benefits for a 10 federal, state, county, or governmental agency by a contractor on 11 behalf of the United States or a department, agency, or 12 instrumentality thereof, or a state or governmental subdivision, 13 agency, or instrumentality thereof;
 - (6) A board of trade designated as a contract market under the federal Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 1-25) or a person that, in the ordinary course of business, provides clearance and settlement services for a board of trade to the extent of its operation as, or for, a board of trade;
 - (7) A registered futures commission merchant under the federal commodities laws to the extent of its operation as such a merchant;
 - (8) A person that provides clearance or settlement services under a registration as a clearing agency, or an exemption from that registration granted under the federal securities laws, to the extent of its operation as such a provider;
 - (9) ((An operator of)) A person:

- (a) Operating a payment system ((only to the extent that it)) that provides processing, clearing, or settlement services, between or among persons who are all excluded by this section, in connection with wire transfers, credit card transactions, debit card transactions, ((stored-value)) prepaid access transactions, automated clearinghouse transfers, or similar funds transfers;
- (b) Who is a contracted service provider of an entity in subsection (4) of this section that provides processing, clearing, or settlement services in connection with wire transfers, credit card transactions, debit card transactions, prepaid access transactions, automated clearinghouse transfers, or similar funds transfers; or
- (c) That facilitates payment for goods or services (not including money transmission itself) or bill payment through a clearance and settlement process using bank secrecy act regulated institutions pursuant to a written contract with the payee and either payment to

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the person facilitating the payment processing satisfies the payor's obligation to the payee or that obligation is otherwise extinguished;

- (10) A person registered as a securities broker-dealer or investment advisor under federal or state securities laws to the extent of its operation as such a broker-dealer or investment advisor;
- (11) An insurance company, title insurance company, or escrow agent to the extent that such an entity is lawfully authorized to conduct business in this state as an insurance company, title insurance company, or escrow agent and to the extent that they engage in money transmission or currency exchange as an ancillary service when conducting insurance, title insurance, or escrow activity;
- 13 (12) The issuance, sale, use, redemption, or exchange of closed 14 loop ((stored value)) prepaid access or of payment instruments by a 15 person licensed under chapter 31.45 RCW;
 - (13) An attorney, to the extent that the attorney is lawfully authorized to practice law in this state and to the extent that the attorney engages in money transmission or currency exchange as an ancillary service to the practice of law; $((\Theta r))$
 - (14) A ((stored value)) seller or issuer of prepaid access when the funds are covered by federal deposit insurance immediately upon sale or issue;
 - (15) A person that transmits wages, salaries, or employee benefits on behalf of employers when the money transmission or currency exchange is an ancillary service in a suite of services that may include, but is not limited to, the following: Facilitate the payment of payroll taxes to state and federal agencies, make payments relating to employee benefit plans, make distribution of other authorized deductions from an employees' wages or salaries, or transmit other funds on behalf of an employer in connection with transactions related to employees; or
- 32 (16) The lawful business of bookkeeping or accounting to the 33 extent the money transmission or currency exchange is an ancillary 34 service.

The director may, at his or her discretion, waive applicability of the licensing provisions of this chapter when the director determines it necessary to facilitate commerce and protect consumers.

The burden of proving the applicability of an exclusion or exception from licensing is upon the person claiming the exclusion or exception. The director may adopt rules to implement this section.

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- 1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.230.030 and 2003 c 287 s 5 are each amended to 2 read as follows:
 - (1) A person may not engage in the business of money transmission, or advertise, solicit, or hold itself out as providing money transmission, unless the person is:
 - (a) Licensed as a money transmitter under this chapter; ((er))
- 7 (b) An authorized delegate of a person licensed as a money 8 transmitter under this chapter; or
 - (c) Excluded under RCW 19.230.020.

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- 10 (2) A money transmitter license is not transferable or 11 assignable.
- 12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.230.040 and 2013 c 106 s 3 are each amended to 13 read as follows:
- 14 (1) A person applying for a money transmitter license under this 15 chapter shall do so in a form and in a medium prescribed in rule by 16 the director. The application must state or contain:
 - (a) The legal name, business addresses, and residential address, if applicable, of the applicant and any fictitious or trade name used by the applicant in conducting its business;
 - (b) The legal name, residential and business addresses, date of birth, social security number, employment history for the five-year period preceding the submission of the application of the applicant's proposed responsible individual, and documentation that the proposed responsible individual is a citizen of the United States or has obtained legal immigration status to work in the United States. In addition, the applicant shall provide the fingerprints of the proposed responsible individual upon the request of the director;
 - (c) For the ten-year period preceding submission of the application, a list of any criminal convictions of the proposed responsible individual of the applicant, any material litigation in which the applicant has been involved, and any litigation involving the proposed responsible individual relating to the provision of money services;
- (d) A description of any money services previously provided by the applicant and the money services that the applicant seeks to provide to persons in Washington state;
- 37 (e) A list of the applicant's proposed authorized delegates and 38 the locations where the applicant and its authorized delegates will

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engage in the provision of money services to persons in Washington state on behalf of the licensee;

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- (f) A list of other states in which the applicant is licensed to engage in money transmission, or provide other money services, and any license revocations, suspensions, restrictions, or other disciplinary action taken against the applicant in another state;
- (g) A list of any license revocations, suspensions, restrictions, or other disciplinary action taken against any money services business involving the proposed responsible individual;
- 10 (h) Information concerning any bankruptcy or receivership 11 proceedings involving or affecting the applicant or the proposed 12 responsible individual;
- 13 (i) A sample form of contract for authorized delegates, if 14 applicable;
- 15 (j) A description of the source of money and credit to be used by 16 the applicant to provide money services; and
 - (k) Any other information regarding the background, experience, character, financial responsibility, and general fitness of the applicant, the applicant's responsible individual, or authorized delegates that the director may require in rule.
- 21 (2) If an applicant is a corporation, limited liability company, 22 partnership, or other entity, the applicant shall also provide:
- 23 (a) The date of the applicant's incorporation or formation and 24 state or country of incorporation or formation;
 - (b) If applicable, a certificate of good standing from the state or country in which the applicant is incorporated or formed;
 - (c) A brief description of the structure or organization of the applicant, including any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded;
 - (d) The legal name, any fictitious or trade name, all business and residential addresses, date of birth, social security number, and employment history in the ten-year period preceding the submission of the application for each executive officer, board director, or person that has control of the applicant;
 - (e) If the applicant or its corporate parent is not a publicly traded entity, the director may request the fingerprints of each executive officer, board director, or person that has control of the applicant;
- 39 (f) A list of any criminal convictions, material litigation, and 40 any litigation related to the provision of money services, in the

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ten-year period preceding the submission of the application in which any executive officer, board director, or person in control of the applicant has been involved;

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- (g) A copy of the applicant's audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year or, if the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement of the parent corporation or the applicant's most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement, and in each case, if available, for the two-year period preceding the submission of the application;
- (h) A copy of the applicant's unconsolidated financial statements for the current fiscal year, whether audited or not, and, if available, for the two-year period preceding the submission of the application;
 - (i) If the applicant is publicly traded, a copy of the most recent report filed with the United States securities and exchange commission under section 13 of the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 78m);
 - (j) If the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of:
 - (i) A corporation publicly traded in the United States, a copy of audited financial statements for the parent corporation for the most recent fiscal year or a copy of the parent corporation's most recent report filed under section 13 of the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 78m); or
 - (ii) A corporation publicly traded outside the United States, a copy of similar documentation filed with the regulator of the parent corporation's domicile outside the United States;
 - (k) If the applicant has a registered agent in this state, the name and address of the applicant's registered agent in this state; and
- (1) Any other information that the director may require in rule regarding the applicant, each executive officer, or each board director to determine the applicant's background, experience, character, financial responsibility, and general fitness.
 - (3) A nonrefundable application fee and an initial license fee, as determined in rule by the director, must accompany an application for a license under this chapter. The initial license fee must be refunded if the application is denied.
- 39 (4) As part of or in connection with an application for any 40 license under this section, or periodically upon license renewal,

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1 each officer, director, responsible individual, and owner applicant shall furnish information concerning his or her identity, including 2 fingerprints for submission to the Washington state patrol or the 3 federal bureau of investigation for a state and national criminal 4 history background check, personal history, experience, business 5 6 record, purposes, and other pertinent facts, as the director may reasonably require. As part of or in connection with an application 7 for a license under this chapter, or periodically upon license 8 renewal, the director is authorized to receive criminal history 9 record information that includes nonconviction data as defined in RCW 10 11 10.97.030. The department may only disseminate nonconviction data 12 obtained under this section to criminal justice agencies. section does not apply to financial institutions regulated under 13 chapters 31.12 and 31.13 RCW and Titles ((30,)) 32((7)) and 33 RCW. 14 The requirements of this subsection do not apply when the applicant 15 16 or its corporate parents are publicly traded entities.

- 17 (5) For business models that store virtual currency on behalf of
 18 others, the applicant must provide a third-party security audit of
 19 all electronic information and data systems acceptable to the
 20 director.
- 21 (6) The director or the director's designated representative may 22 deny an application for a proposed license or trade name if the 23 proposed license or trade name is similar to a currently existing 24 licensee name, including trade names.
- 25 <u>(7)</u> The director may waive one or more requirements of this 26 section or permit an applicant to submit other information in lieu of 27 the required information.
- 28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.230.050 and 2010 c 73 s 3 are each amended to 29 read as follows:

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- (1) Each money transmitter licensee shall maintain a surety bond((, or other similar security acceptable to the director,)) in an amount based on the previous year's money transmission dollar volume; and the previous year's payment instrument dollar volume. The minimum surety bond must be at least ten thousand dollars, and not to exceed five hundred fifty thousand dollars. The director may adopt rules to implement this section.
- 37 (2) The surety bond shall run to the state of Washington as 38 obligee, and shall run to the benefit of the state and any person or 39 persons who suffer loss by reason of a licensee's or licensee's

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authorized delegate's violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. A claimant against a money transmitter licensee may maintain an action on the bond, or the director may maintain an action on behalf of the claimant.

- (3) The surety bond shall be continuous and may be canceled by the surety upon the surety giving written notice to the director of its intent to cancel the bond. The cancellation is effective thirty days after the notice of cancellation is received by the director or the director's designee. Whether or not the bond is renewed, continued, replaced, or modified, including increases or decreases in the penal sum, it is considered one continuous obligation, and the surety upon the bond is not liable in an aggregate or cumulative amount exceeding the penal sum set forth on the face of the bond. In no event may the penal sum, or any portion thereof, at two or more points in time, be added together in determining the surety's liability.
- (4) A surety bond ((or other security)) must cover claims for at least five years after the date of a money transmitter licensee's violation of this chapter, or at least five years after the date the money transmitter licensee ceases to provide money services in this state, whichever is longer. However, the director may permit the amount of the surety bond ((or other security)) to be reduced or eliminated before the expiration of that time to the extent the amount of the licensee's obligations outstanding in this state are reduced.
- (5) In the event that a money transmitter licensee does not maintain a surety bond ((or other form of security satisfactory to the director)) in the amount required under subsection (1) of this section, the director may issue a temporary cease and desist order under RCW 19.230.260.
- (6) The director may increase the amount of ((security)) the bond required up to a maximum of one million dollars ((if the financial condition of a money transmitter licensee so requires, as evidenced by reduction of net worth, financial losses, potential losses as a result of violations of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, or other relevant)) based on the nature and volume of business activities, the financial health of the company, and other criteria specified by the director in rule.

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- 1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 19.230.070 and 2010 c 73 s 5 are each amended to 2 read as follows:
- 3 (1) When an application for a money transmitter license is filed under this chapter, the director or the director's designee shall 4 investigate the applicant's financial condition and responsibility, 5 6 financial and business experience, competence, character, and general fitness. The director or the director's designee may conduct an on-7 site investigation of the applicant, the cost of which must be paid 8 by the applicant as specified in RCW 19.230.320 or rules adopted 9 under this chapter. The director shall issue a money transmitter 10 license to an applicant under this chapter if the director or the 11 12 director's designee finds that all of the following conditions have been fulfilled: 13
- 14 (a) The applicant has complied with RCW 19.230.040, 19.230.050, and 19.230.060;

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- (b) The financial condition and responsibility, financial and business experience, competence, character, and general fitness of the applicant; and the competence, financial and business experience, character, and general fitness of the executive officers, proposed responsible individual, board directors, and persons in control of the applicant; indicate that it is in the interest of the public to permit the applicant to engage in the business of providing money transmission services; and
- (c) Neither the applicant, nor any executive officer, nor person who exercises control over the applicant, nor the proposed responsible individual is listed on the specially designated nationals and blocked persons list prepared by the United States department of the treasury or department of state under Presidential Executive Order No. 13224.
- 30 (2) The director may for good cause extend the application review period or condition the issuance of the license.
- 32 (3) An applicant whose application is denied by the director 33 under this chapter may appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW.
 - (4) A money transmitter license issued under this chapter is valid from the date of issuance and remains in effect with no fixed date of expiration unless otherwise suspended or revoked by the director or unless the license expires for nonpayment of the annual assessment and any late fee, if applicable.
- 39 (5) A money transmitter licensee may surrender a license by 40 ((delivering the original license to)) providing the director

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((along)) with a written notice of surrender through the nationwide licensing system. The written notice of surrender must include notice of where the records of the licensee will be stored and the name, address, telephone number, and other contact information of responsible party who is authorized to provide access to the records. The surrender of a license does not reduce or eliminate the licensee's civil or criminal liability arising from acts or omissions occurring prior to the surrender of the license, including any administrative actions undertaken by the director or the director's designee to revoke or suspend a license, to assess fines, to order payment of restitution, or to exercise any other authority authorized under this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 19.230 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) Each online currency exchanger licensee shall maintain a surety bond in an amount based on the previous year's currency exchange dollar volume. The minimum surety bond must be at least ten thousand dollars, and not to exceed fifty thousand dollars. The director may adopt rules to implement this section.
- (2) The surety bond shall run to the state of Washington as obligee, and shall run to the benefit of the state and any person or persons who suffer loss by reason of a licensee's violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. A claimant against the bond may maintain an action on the bond, or the director may maintain an action on behalf of the claimant.
- (3) The surety bond must be continuous and may be canceled by the surety upon the surety giving written notice to the director of its intent to cancel the bond. The cancellation is effective thirty days after the notice of cancellation is received by the director or the director's designee. Whether or not the bond is renewed, continued, replaced, or modified, including increases or decreases in the penal sum, it is considered one continuous obligation, and the surety upon the bond is not liable in an aggregate or cumulative amount exceeding the penal sum set forth on the face of the bond. In no event may the penal sum, or any portion thereof, at two or more points in time, be added together in determining the surety's liability.
- (4) A surety bond must cover claims for at least one year after the date of an online currency exchanger licensee's violation of this chapter, or at least one year after the date the online currency

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exchanger licensee ceases to provide online currency exchange services in this state, whichever is longer. However, the director may permit the amount of the surety bond to be reduced or eliminated before the expiration of that time to the extent the amount of the licensee's obligations outstanding in this state are reduced.

- (5) In the event that an online currency exchanger licensee does not maintain a surety bond in the amount required under subsection (1) of this section, the director may issue a temporary cease and desist order under RCW 19.230.260.
- 10 (6) The director may increase the amount of the bond required up 11 to a maximum of one million dollars based on the nature and volume of 12 the business activities, the financial health of the company, and 13 other criteria specified by the director in rule.
- **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.230.100 and 2003 c 287 s 12 are each amended to 15 read as follows:
 - (1) When an application for a currency exchange license is filed under this chapter, the director or the director's designee shall investigate the applicant's financial condition and responsibility, financial and business experience, competence, character, and general fitness. The director or the director's designee may conduct an onsite investigation of the applicant, the cost of which must be paid by the applicant as specified in RCW 19.230.320 or rules adopted under this chapter. The director shall issue a currency exchange license to an applicant under this chapter if the director or the director's designee finds that all of the following conditions have been fulfilled:
 - (a) The applicant has complied with RCW 19.230.090;
 - (b) The financial and business experience, competence, character, and general fitness of the applicant; and the competence, financial and business experience, character, and general fitness of the executive officers, proposed responsible individual, board directors, and persons in control of the applicant indicate that it is in the interest of the public to permit the applicant to engage in the business of providing currency exchange; and
 - (c) Neither the applicant, nor any executive officer, nor person who exercises control over the applicant, nor the proposed responsible individual are listed on the specially designated nationals and blocked persons list prepared by the United States

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- department of treasury or department of state under Presidential Executive Order No. 13224.
- 3 (2) The director may for good cause extend the application review 4 period.

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- (3) An applicant whose application is denied by the director under this chapter may appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW.
- (4) A currency exchange license issued under this chapter is valid from the date of issuance and remains in effect with no fixed date of expiration unless otherwise suspended or revoked by the director, or unless the license expires for nonpayment of the annual ((license)) assessment and any late fee, if applicable.
- 12 (5) A currency exchange licensee may surrender a license by ((delivering the original license to)) providing the director 13 ((along)) with a written notice of surrender through the nationwide 14 licensing system. The written notice of surrender must include notice 15 16 of where the records of the licensee will be stored and the name, 17 address, telephone number, and other contact information of a responsible party who is authorized to provide access to the records. 18 19 The surrender of a license does not reduce or eliminate the licensee's civil or criminal liability arising from acts or omissions 20 occurring prior to the surrender of the license, including any 21 22 administrative actions undertaken by the director or the director's designee to revoke or suspend a license, to assess fines, to order 23 payment of restitution, or to exercise any other authority authorized 24 25 under this chapter.
- 26 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.230.110 and 2013 c 106 s 4 are each amended to 27 read as follows:
 - (1) A licensee shall pay an annual assessment as established in rule by the director no later than the annual assessment due date or, if the annual assessment due date is not a business day, on the next business day. A licensee shall pay an annual assessment based on the previous year's Washington dollar volume of: (a) Money transmissions; (b) payment instruments; (c) currency exchanges; and (d) ((stored value)) prepaid access sales. The total minimum assessment must be one thousand dollars per year, and the maximum assessment may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per year.
- 37 (2) A licensee shall submit an accurate annual report with the 38 annual assessment, in a form and in a medium prescribed by the 39 director in rule. The annual report must state or contain:

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(a) If the licensee is a money transmitter, a copy of the licensee's most recent audited annual financial statement or, if the licensee is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement of the parent corporation or the licensee's most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement;

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- (b) A description of each material change, as defined in rule by the director, to information submitted by the licensee in its original license application which has not been previously reported to the director on any required report;
- (c) If the licensee is a money transmitter, a list of the licensee's permissible investments and a certification that the licensee continues to maintain permissible investments according to the requirements set forth in RCW 19.230.200 and 19.230.210;
- 15 (d) If the licensee is a money transmitter, proof that the licensee continues to maintain <u>an</u> adequate ((security)) <u>bond</u> as required by RCW 19.230.050; and
 - (e) A list of the locations where the licensee or an authorized delegate of the licensee engages in or provides money services to persons in Washington state.
 - (3) If a licensee does not file an annual report or pay its annual assessment by the annual assessment due date, the director or director's designee shall send the licensee a notice of suspension and assess the licensee a late fee not to exceed twentyfive percent of the annual assessment as established in rule by the director. The licensee's annual report and payment of both the annual assessment and the late fee must arrive in the department's offices by 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day after the assessment due date or any extension of time granted by the director, unless that date is not a business day, in which case the licensee's annual report and payment of both the annual assessment and the late fee must arrive in the department's offices by 5:00 p.m. on the next occurring business day. If the licensee's annual report and payment of both the annual assessment and late fee do not arrive by such date, the expiration of the licensee's license is effective at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day after the assessment due date, unless that date is not a business day, in which case the expiration of the licensee's license is effective at 5:00 p.m. on the next occurring business day. The director, or the director's designee, may reinstate the license if, within twenty days after its effective date, the licensee:

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- 1 (a) Files the annual report and pays both the annual assessment 2 and the late fee; and
- 3 (b) Did not engage in or provide money services during the period 4 its license was expired.
- 5 **Sec. 10.** RCW 19.230.130 and 2003 c 287 s 15 are each amended to 6 read as follows:
- 7 (1) For the purpose of discovering violations of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, discovering unsafe and unsound 8 practices, or securing information lawfully required under this 9 10 chapter, the director may at any time, either personally or by 11 designee, investigate or examine the business and, wherever located, the books, accounts, records, papers, documents, files, and other 12 information used in the business of every licensee or its authorized 13 delegates, and of every person who is engaged in the business of 14 15 providing money services, whether the person acts or claims to act 16 under or without the authority of this chapter. For these purposes, 17 the director or designated representative shall have free access to the offices and places of business, books, accounts, papers, 18 documents, other information, records, files, safes, and vaults of 19 20 all such persons. The director or the director's designee may require the attendance of and examine under oath all persons whose testimony 21 may be required about the business or the subject matter of any 22 investigation, examination, or hearing and may require such person to 23 24 produce books, accounts, papers, documents, records, files, and any other information the director or designated person declares is 25 relevant to the inquiry. The director may require the production of 26 27 original books, accounts, papers, documents, records, files, and other information; may require that such original books, accounts, 28 papers, documents, records, files, and other information be copied; 29 30 or may make copies himself or herself or by designee of such original 31 books, accounts, papers, documents, records, files, or information. The director or designated person may issue a directive, 32 subpoena, or subpoena duces tecum requiring attendance or compelling 33 production of the books, accounts, papers, documents, records, files, 34 35 or other information.
- 36 (2) The licensee, applicant, or person subject to licensing under 37 this chapter shall pay the cost of examinations and investigations as 38 specified in RCW 19.230.320 or rules adopted under this chapter.

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- 1 (3) Information obtained during an examination or investigation 2 under this chapter may be disclosed only as provided in RCW 3 19.230.190.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 19.230.140 and 2003 c 287 s 16 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) The director may: Conduct an on-site examination ((exinvestigation of)), participate in a joint or concurrent examination with other state or federal agencies, or investigate the books, accounts, records, papers, documents, files, and other information used in the business of every licensee or its authorized delegates in conjunction with representatives of other state agencies or agencies of another state or of the federal government. The director may accept an examination report or an investigation report of an agency of this state or of another state or of the federal government.
- (2) A joint <u>or concurrent</u> examination or investigation, or an acceptance of an examination or investigation report, does not preclude the director from conducting an examination or investigation under this chapter. A joint report or a report accepted under this section is an official report of the director for all purposes.
- **Sec. 12.** RCW 19.230.150 and 2013 c 106 s 6 are each amended to 21 read as follows:
 - (1) A licensee shall file with the director within thirty ((business)) days any material changes in information provided in a licensee's application as prescribed in rule by the director. If this information indicates that the licensee is no longer in compliance with this chapter, the director may take any action authorized under this chapter to ensure that the licensee operates in compliance with this chapter.
 - (2) A licensee shall ((file with the director within forty-five days after the end of each fiscal quarter a current list of all authorized delegates including the name, address, and email address, if available, of each authorized delegate providing money services to persons in Washington. The licensee shall also file with the director within forty-five days after the end of each fiscal quarter a current list of all licensee locations providing money services to persons in Washington, including mobile locations, which includes the address, and email address if available, of the licensee)) report all licensee branch locations and all authorized delegates to the nationwide

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- 1 licensing system within thirty days of the contractual agreement with
- 2 the licensee to provide money services in Washington. Accurate
- 3 records must be maintained within the licensing system as prescribed
- 4 <u>in rule</u>.
- 5 (3) A licensee shall file a report with the director within one
- 6 business day after the licensee has reason to know of the occurrence
- 7 of any of the following events:
- 8 (a) The filing of a petition by or against the licensee, or any
- 9 authorized delegate of the licensee, under the United States
- 10 Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 101-110) for bankruptcy or
- 11 reorganization;
- 12 (b) The filing of a petition by or against the licensee, or any
- 13 authorized delegate of the licensee, for receivership, the
- 14 commencement of any other judicial or administrative proceeding for
- 15 its dissolution or reorganization, or the making of a general
- 16 assignment for the benefit of its creditors;
- 17 (c) The commencement of a proceeding to revoke, suspend,
- 18 restrict, or condition its license, or otherwise discipline or
- 19 sanction the licensee, in a state or country in which the licensee
- 20 engages in business or is licensed;
- 21 (d) The cancellation or other impairment of the licensee's bond
- 22 ((or other security));
- 23 (e) A charge or conviction of the licensee or of an executive
- 24 officer, responsible individual, board director of the licensee, or
- 25 person in control of the licensee, for a felony; or
- 26 (f) A charge or conviction of an authorized delegate for a
- 27 felony.
- 28 Sec. 13. RCW 19.230.152 and 2014 c 36 s 4 are each amended to
- 29 read as follows:
- 30 Each licensee ((on a nationwide licensing system)) shall submit
- 31 reports of condition through a nationwide licensing system which must
- 32 be in the form and must contain the information as the director may
- 33 require.
- 34 Sec. 14. RCW 19.230.180 and 2010 c 73 s 8 are each amended to
- 35 read as follows:
- 36 Every licensee and its authorized delegates shall file all
- 37 reports required by federal currency reporting, recordkeeping, and
- 38 suspicious transaction reporting requirements with the appropriate

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- 1 federal agency as set forth in 31 U.S.C. Sec. 5311, 31 C.F.R. ((Sec.
- 2 103 (2000))) Part 1022, and other federal and state laws pertaining
- 3 to money laundering. Every licensee and its authorized delegates
- 4 shall maintain copies of these reports in its records in compliance
- 5 with RCW 19.230.170.

number of days in the month.

- **Sec. 15.** RCW 19.230.200 and 2013 c 106 s 7 are each amended to 7 read as follows:
- 8 (1)(a) A money transmitter licensee ((shall)) must maintain, at
 9 all times, permissible investments that have a market value computed
 10 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles of not
 11 less than the amount of the licensee's average ((outstanding money))
 12 daily transmission liability. Average daily transmission liability
 13 means the sum of the daily amounts of a licensee's outstanding money
 14 transmissions, as computed each day of the month divided by the
 - (b) ((For the purposes of this section, average outstanding money transmission liability means the sum of the daily amounts of a licensee's outstanding money transmissions, as computed each day of the month divided by the number of days in the month)) A licensee transmitting virtual currencies must hold like-kind virtual currencies of the same volume as that held by the licensee but which is obligated to consumers in lieu of the permissible investments required in (a) of this subsection.
 - (c) A licensee transmitting both money and virtual currency must maintain applicable levels and types of permissible investments as described in (a) and (b) of this subsection.
 - (2) The director, with respect to any money transmitter licensee, may limit the extent to which a type of investment within a class of permissible investments may be considered a permissible investment, except for money, time deposits, savings deposits, demand deposits, and certificates of deposit issued by a federally insured financial institution. The director may prescribe in rule, or by order allow, other types of investments that the director determines to have a safety substantially equivalent to other permissible investments.
- **Sec. 16.** RCW 19.230.210 and 2010 c 73 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

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(1) Except to the extent otherwise limited by the director under RCW 19.230.200, the following investments are permissible for a money transmitter licensee under RCW 19.230.200:

- (a) Cash((, time)) on hand. Time deposits, savings deposits, demand deposits, ((a)) certificates of deposit, or senior debt obligations of an insured depositary institution as defined in section 3 of the federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. Sec. 1813) or as defined under the federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. Sec. 1781);
- 10 (b) Banker's acceptance or bill of exchange that is eligible for 11 purchase upon endorsement by a member bank of the federal reserve 12 system and is eligible for purchase by a federal reserve bank;
 - (c) An investment bearing a rating of one of the three highest grades as defined by a nationally recognized organization that rates securities;
 - (d) An investment security that is an obligation of the United States or a department, agency, or instrumentality thereof; an investment in an obligation that is guaranteed fully as to principal and interest by the United States; or an investment in an obligation of a state or a governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof;
 - (e) Receivables that are payable to a licensee from its authorized delegates, in the ordinary course of business, pursuant to contracts which are not past due or doubtful of collection, if the aggregate amount of receivables under this subsection (1)(e) does not exceed thirty percent of the total permissible investments of a licensee and the licensee does not hold, at one time, receivables under this subsection (1)(e) in any one person aggregating more than ten percent of the licensee's total permissible investments; and
 - (f) A share or a certificate issued by an open-end management investment company that is registered with the United States securities and exchange commission under the Investment Companies Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80(a)(1) through (64), and whose portfolio is restricted by the management company's investment policy to investments specified in (a) through (d) of this subsection.
- 36 (2) The following investments are permissible under RCW 37 19.230.200, but only to the extent specified as follows:
- 38 (a) An interest-bearing bill, note, bond, or debenture of a 39 person whose equity shares are traded on a national securities 40 exchange or on a national over-the-counter market, if the aggregate

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of investments under this subsection (2)(a) does not exceed twenty percent of the total permissible investments of a licensee and the licensee does not, at one time, hold investments under this subsection (2)(a) in any one person aggregating more than ten percent of the licensee's total permissible investments;

- (b) A share of a person traded on a national securities exchange or a national over-the-counter market or a share or a certificate issued by an open-end management investment company that registered with the United States securities and exchange commission under the Investment Companies Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80(a)(1) through (64), and whose portfolio is restricted by the management company's investment policy to shares of a person traded on a national securities exchange or a national over-the-counter market, if the aggregate of investments under this subsection (2)(b) does not exceed twenty percent of the total permissible investments of a licensee and the licensee does not, at one time, hold investments under this subsection (2)(b) in any one person aggregating more than ten percent of the licensee's total permissible investments;
 - (c) A demand-borrowing agreement made to a corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose securities are traded on a national securities exchange, if the aggregate of the amount of principal and interest outstanding under demand-borrowing agreements under this subsection (2)(c) does not exceed twenty percent of the total permissible investments of a licensee and the licensee does not, at one time, hold principal and interest outstanding under demand-borrowing agreements under this subsection (2)(c) with any one person aggregating more than ten percent of the licensee's total permissible investments; and
- 29 (d) Any other investment the director designates, to the extent 30 specified in rule by the director.
 - (3) The aggregate of investments under subsection (2) of this section may not exceed fifty percent of the total permissible investments of a licensee.
 - (4) A licensee may not use any portion of a restricted asset as a permissible investment. Restricted assets include, but are not limited to, surety bonds or any other assets pledged to other persons or entities. The director may establish by rule other restricted assets.

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1 **Sec. 17.** RCW 19.230.250 and 2003 c 287 s 27 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

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- (1) If the director has reason to believe that a person has violated or is violating RCW 19.230.030 or 19.230.080, the director or the director's designee may conduct an examination or investigation as authorized under RCW 19.230.130.
- (2) If as a result of such investigation or examination, the director finds that a person has violated RCW 19.230.030 or 19.230.080, the director may issue a temporary cease and desist order as authorized under RCW 19.230.260.
- (3) If as a result of such an investigation or examination, the 11 12 director finds that a person has violated RCW 19.230.030 or 19.230.080, the director may issue an order to prohibit the person 13 14 from continuing to engage in providing money services, to compel the person to pay restitution to damaged parties, to impose civil money 15 16 penalties on the person, which may include the costs and expenses to 17 investigate and prosecute violations of this chapter, and to prohibit from participation in the affairs of any licensee or authorized 18 delegate, or both, any executive officer, person in control, or 19 20 employee of the person.
- 21 (4) The director may petition the superior court for the issuance 22 of a temporary restraining order under the rules of civil procedure.
- 23 **Sec. 18.** RCW 19.230.290 and 2003 c 287 s 31 are each amended to 24 read as follows:

The director may assess a civil penalty against a licensee, responsible individual, authorized delegate, or other person that violates this chapter or a rule adopted or an order issued under this chapter in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars per violation per day for each day the violation is outstanding, plus this state's costs and expenses for the investigation and prosecution of the matter, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

- 32 **Sec. 19.** RCW 19.230.320 and 2010 c 73 s 11 are each amended to 33 read as follows:
- 34 (1) The director shall establish fees by rule sufficient to cover 35 the costs of administering this chapter. The director may establish 36 different fees for each type of license authorized under this 37 chapter. These fees may include:

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- 1 (a) An annual assessment specified in rule by the director paid 2 by each licensee on or before the annual assessment due date;
- 3 (b) A late fee for late payment of the annual assessment as 4 specified in rule by the director;

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- (c) An hourly investigation fee to cover the costs of any investigation of the books and records of a licensee or other person subject to this chapter;
- 8 (d) A nonrefundable application fee to cover the costs of 9 processing license applications made to the director under this 10 chapter;
 - (e) An initial license fee to cover the period from the date of licensure to the end of the calendar year in which the license is initially granted; and
 - (f) A transaction fee or set of transaction fees to cover the administrative costs associated with processing changes in control, changes of address, and other administrative changes as specified in rule by the director.
 - (2) The director shall ensure that when an examination or investigation, or any part of the examination or investigation, of any licensee applicant or person subject to licensing under this chapter, requires travel and services outside this state by the director or designee, the licensee applicant or person subject to licensing under this chapter that is the subject of the examination or investigation shall pay the actual travel expenses incurred by the director or designee conducting the examination or investigation.
- 26 (3) All moneys, fees, and penalties collected under this chapter 27 shall be deposited into the financial services regulation account.
- 28 <u>(4) The director or designee may waive all or a portion of the</u> 29 fees and assessments under this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. A new section is added to chapter 19.230 RCW to read as follows:
- 32 (1) Virtual currency licensees must provide to any person seeking 33 to use the licensee's products or services the disclosures required 34 by subsection (2) of this section.
- 35 (2) As applicable, virtual currency licensees must make the 36 following disclosures:
- 37 (a) A schedule of all fees and charges the licensee may assess on 38 a transaction, how the fees and charges will be calculated if not set 39 in advance and disclosed, and the timing of the fees and charges.

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(b) Whether the product or service provided is insured or guaranteed by an agency of the United States, such as the federal deposit insurance corporation or the securities investor protection corporation or by private insurance against theft or loss, including cybertheft or theft by other means.

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- 6 (c) A notice that the transfer of virtual currency or digital 7 units is irrevocable and any exception to the irrevocability of 8 transfer.
- 9 (d) A notice describing the licensee's liability for unauthorized, mistaken, or accidental transfers and, describing the user's responsibility for providing notice of such mistake to the licensee and of general error-resolution rights applicable to any transaction.
- 14 (3) Licensees must provide any additional disclosures the 15 director may require as set forth in rule.
- 16 (4) Disclosures required by this section must be made separately 17 from any other information provided by the licensee and in a clear 18 and conspicuous manner.
- 19 **Sec. 21.** RCW 19.230.330 and 2014 c 206 s 1 are each amended to 20 read as follows:
 - (1)(a) Every money transmitter licensee and its authorized delegates shall transmit the monetary equivalent of all money or equivalent value received from a customer for transmission, net of any fees, or issue instructions committing the money or its monetary equivalent, to the person designated by the customer within ten business days after receiving the money or equivalent value, unless otherwise ordered by the customer or when the transmission is for the payment of goods or services or unless the licensee or its authorized delegate has reason to believe that a crime has occurred, is occurring, or may occur as a result of transmitting the money. For purposes of this subsection, money is considered to have been transmitted when it is available to the person designated by the customer and a reasonable effort has been made to inform this designated person that the money is available, whether or not the designated person has taken possession of the money. As used in this subsection, "monetary equivalent," when used in connection with a money transmission in which the customer provides the licensee or its authorized delegate with the money of one government, and the designated recipient is to receive the money of another government,

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means the amount of money, in the currency of the government that the designated recipient is to receive, as converted at the retail exchange rate offered by the licensee or its authorized delegate to the customer in connection with the transaction.

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- (b) A money transmitter licensee that accepts money or its equivalent from consumers purchasing goods or services from third-party merchants and transmits the money or its equivalent to those merchants selling the goods or services to the consumer must:
- 9 (i) Transmit the money or its equivalent to the merchant within 10 the time frame agreed upon in the merchant's agreement with the money 11 transmitter licensee; and
 - (ii) Conspicuously disclose to the merchant in the agreement the money transmitter licensee's authority to place a hold or delay in transmittal of consumer money or its equivalent for more than ten business days and the general circumstances under which the merchant may be subject to a hold or delay.
 - (2)(a) Every money transmitter licensee and its authorized delegates shall provide a receipt to the customer that clearly states the amount of money presented for transmission and the total of any fees charged by the licensee. If the rate of exchange for a money transmission to be paid in the currency of another country is fixed the licensee for that transaction at the time the money transmission is initiated, then the receipt provided to the customer shall disclose the rate of exchange for that transaction, and the duration, if any, for the payment to be made at the fixed rate of exchange so specified. If the rate of exchange for a money transmission to be paid in the currency of another country is not fixed at the time the money transmission is sent, the receipt provided to the customer shall disclose that the rate of exchange for that transaction will be set at the time the recipient of the money transmission picks up the funds in the foreign country. The receipt shall also contain the licensee name, address, and phone number. As used in this section, "fees" does not include revenue that a licensee or its authorized delegate generates, in connection with a money transmission, in the conversion of the money of one government into the money of another government.
 - (b) Licensees acting as payment processors not excluded from this chapter do not have to comply with (a) of this subsection if they have no control over receipts issued by merchants or other parties having interactions with the consumer.

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(3) Every money transmitter licensee and its authorized delegates shall refund to the customer all moneys received for transmittal within ten days of receipt of a written request for a refund unless any of the following occurs:

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- (a) The moneys have been transmitted and delivered to the person designated by the customer prior to receipt of the written request for a refund;
- (b) Instructions have been given committing an equivalent amount of money to the person designated by the customer prior to receipt of a written request for a refund;
- 11 (c) The licensee or its authorized delegate has reason to believe 12 that a crime has occurred, is occurring, or may potentially occur as 13 a result of transmitting the money as requested by the customer or 14 refunding the money as requested by the customer; or
 - (d) The licensee is otherwise barred by law from making a refund.

--- END ---

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