

DEBTOR AND CREDITOR RELATIONSHIP

CHAPTER 124

SENATE BILL NO. 2204
(Senators J. Lee, Espgaard, Warner)
(Representatives Iverson, Kingsbury)

MEDICAL LATE PAYMENT AND CREDIT CHARGES

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 13-01-14 and 51-14-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to medical services provider late payment charges and credit service charges.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 13-01-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-01-14. Late payment charge on accounts receivable - Medical bills.

1. A creditor may charge, receive, and collect a late payment charge on all money due on account from thirty days after the obligation of the debtor to pay has been incurred.
2. Except as provided in subsection 4, the late payment charge may not exceed one and three-fourths percent per month.
3. The late payment charge provided in this section may be charged only if, when the obligation was incurred, the creditor did not intend to extend any credit beyond thirty days and any late payment of the obligation was unanticipated.
4. A creditor may not charge, receive, or collect a late payment charge on medical or hospital bills during the initial ninety days following services. A After the initial ninety days have passed, a late payment charge may be imposed at a rate that does not exceed one percent per month, but the charge cannot. A late payment charged by a hospital under this subsection may not exceed twenty-five dollars per month. This subsection does not apply in cases of financial hardship as certified by the creditor. A medical services provider may not charge, receive, or collect a credit service charge on money due on a revolving charge account under chapter 51-14.
5. This Except as otherwise provided under subsection 4, this section does not apply to:
 - a. Money due on retail installment contracts, as defined in chapter 51-13.

- b. Money due on revolving charge accounts, as defined in chapter 51-14.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 51-14-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

51-14-01. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Credit service charge" means the amount, however expressed, which the retail buyer contracts to pay or pays the retail seller in excess of the amount of credit extended, representing the total charges by the retail seller incident to investigating and extending credit under a revolving charge agreement and for extending to the retail buyer the privilege of paying over a period of time therefor.
2. "Retail buyer" or "buyer" means a person who buys personal property from a retail seller, or to whom a retail seller otherwise extends credit, pursuant to a revolving charge agreement.
3. "Retail seller" or "seller" means a:
 - a. A person who that pursuant to a revolving charge agreement, agrees to sell or sells goods or services pursuant to a revolving charge agreement and a, other than medical services. The term does not include a medical services provider.
 - b. A state-chartered or national bank that extends credit by the advancement of moneys or the payment for goods or services under a revolving charge agreement.
4. "Revolving charge agreement" means a written instrument, defining the terms of credit extended from time to time ~~pursuant thereto, pursuant to which~~ under the terms of the agreement. Under the agreement, the buyer's total unpaid balance ~~thereunder,~~ whenever incurred, is payable over a period of time and under the terms of which a credit service charge, other than the portion thereof consisting of late payment or other charges, is to be computed in relation to the buyer's unpaid balance from time to time.

Approved April 25, 2005
Filed April 26, 2005

CHAPTER 125

HOUSE BILL NO. 1127

(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)

(At the request of the Department of Financial Institutions)

CONSUMER FINANCE, LICENSES, AND FEES

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 13-03.1-06, subsection 2 of section 13-03.1-07, sections 13-03.1-07.1, 13-04.1-03, 13-04.1-04, and 13-04.1-05, subsection 3 of section 13-05-03, sections 13-05-05, 13-08-03, and 13-08-09, and subsection 12 of section 13-08-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to consumer finance, money broker and collection agency licensee requirements and fees, and deferred presentment service provider licensee requirements, fees, and renewal applications.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 13-03.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. The administrator shall issue a license to operate a consumer finance loan business if the administrator finds:
 - a. That the financial responsibility, financial condition, business experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant must reasonably warrant the belief that the business will be conducted lawfully and fairly. In determining whether this qualification is met and for the purpose of investigating compliance with this chapter, the administrator may review and consider the relevant business records and the capital adequacy of the applicant and the competence, experience, integrity, and financial ability of any person who is a member, partner, director, officer, or twenty-five percent or more shareholder of the applicant, and whether the applicant has filed the appropriate registration with the North Dakota secretary of state if so required; and
 - b. That the applicant has assets a net worth of at least twenty-five thousand dollars for the operation of the business.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 13-03.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. Each license must remain in effect until surrendered, revoked, or suspended; provided, that on or before the ~~tenth~~ first day of June of each year the licensee shall pay to the administrator the annual license fee for each license held, as a license fee for the succeeding fiscal year.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 13-03.1-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-03.1-07.1. Expiration and renewal of license. All licenses required herein expire on June thirtieth of each year and may be renewed. Renewals are effective the succeeding July first. Applications for renewal must be submitted thirty

days before the expiration of the license and must be accompanied by the required annual fees, which are not subject to refund. The form and content of renewal applications must be determined by the department of financial institutions and a renewal application may be denied upon the same grounds as would justify the denial of an initial application. When a licensee has been delinquent in renewing the licensee's license, the department may charge an additional fee of fifty dollars for the renewal of the license. A consumer finance license is not transferable. If the commissioner determines that an ownership change has occurred in a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, or limited liability corporation that was previously granted a consumer finance license, the commissioner may require a new application from the purchaser. The application must be filed within forty-five days from the date change of ownership is consummated. The department shall act on the application within sixty days from the date the application is received but may extend the review period for good cause. The consumer finance license granted to the previous owner continues in effect to the new purchaser until the application is either granted or denied.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 13-04.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-04.1-03. Application for money broker license. Every application for a money broker license, or for a renewal thereof, must be made upon forms designed and furnished by the department of financial institutions and must contain any information which the department shall deem necessary and proper. The department may further require any application to provide additional information which is not requested on the application form. The applicant must register with the North Dakota secretary of state if so required.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 13-04.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-04.1-04. Fee and bond to accompany application for money broker license. The application for license must be in writing, under oath, and in the form prescribed by the commissioner. The application must give the location where the business is to be conducted and must contain any further information the commissioner requires, including the names and addresses of the partners, officers, directors, trustees, and the principal owners or members, as will provide the basis for the investigation and findings contemplated by section 13-04.1-03. At the time of making such application, the applicant shall include payment in the sum of four hundred dollars, which is not subject to refund, as a fee for investigating the application, and the sum of three hundred dollars for the annual license fee, and provide a surety bond in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars. In addition, the applicant must pay a fifty dollar annual fee for each branch location within the state. Fees must be deposited in the financial institutions regulatory fund.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 13-04.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-04.1-05. Expiration and renewal of license. All licenses required herein expire on June thirtieth of each year and may be renewed. Renewals are effective the succeeding July first. Applications for renewal must be submitted thirty days before the expiration of the license and must be accompanied by the required annual fees, which are not subject to refund. The form and content of renewal applications must be determined by the department of financial institutions, and a renewal application may be denied upon the same grounds as would justify denial of an initial application. When a licensee has been delinquent in renewing the licensee's

license, the department may charge an additional fee of fifty dollars for the renewal of such license. A money broker license is not transferable. If the commissioner determines that an ownership change has occurred in a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, or limited liability corporation that was previously granted a money broker license, the commissioner may require a new application from the purchaser. The application must be filed within forty-five days from the date change of ownership is consummated. The department shall act on the application within sixty days from the date the application is received but may extend the review period for good cause. The money broker license granted to the previous owner continues in effect to the new purchaser until the application is either granted or denied.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 13-05-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. The names and addresses of the applicant and those associated with the applicant. If the applicant is a corporation, the application must contain the names of the officers of the corporation. If the applicant is a limited liability company, the application must contain the names of the managers of the limited liability company. The applicant must register with the North Dakota secretary of state if so required.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 13-05-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-05-05. Expiration and renewal of license. All licenses required herein expire on June thirtieth of each year and may be renewed. Applications for renewal must be submitted thirty days before the expiration of the license and must be accompanied by the required annual fees, which are not subject to refund. The form and content of renewal applications must be determined by the department of financial institutions and a renewal application may be denied upon the same grounds as would justify denial of an initial application. When a licensee has been delinquent in renewing the licensee's license, the department may charge an additional fee of fifty dollars for the renewal of the license. A collection agency license is not transferable. If the commissioner determines that an ownership change has occurred in a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, or limited liability corporation that was previously granted a collection agency license, the commissioner may require a new application from the purchaser. The application must be filed within forty-five days from the date change of ownership is consummated. The department shall act on the application within sixty days from the date the application is received but may extend the review period for good cause. The collection agency license granted to the previous owner continues in effect to the new purchaser until the application is either granted or denied.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 13-08-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-08-03. Qualifications for license. To qualify for a license, an applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:

1. Each applicant shall maintain ~~unencumbered assets~~ a net worth of at least twenty-five thousand dollars per licensed location, determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

2. The financial responsibility, financial condition, business experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant must reasonably warrant the belief that the applicant's business will be conducted lawfully and fairly. In determining whether this qualification is met and for the purpose of investigating compliance with this chapter, the commissioner may review and consider the relevant business records and the capital adequacy of the applicant and the competence, experience, integrity, and financial ability of any person who is a member, partner, director, officer, or twenty-five percent or more shareholder of the applicant, and whether the applicant has filed the appropriate registration with the North Dakota secretary of state, if so required.
3. Each applicant shall establish that neither the applicant nor any principal of the applicant has been convicted of a felony. A deferred sentence or federal pretrial diversion must be considered a conviction for purposes of this section.
4. Each applicant shall maintain a bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, in the amount of twenty thousand dollars, and the commissioner may require a larger bond if the commissioner determines the larger bond is necessary based on the volume of the applicant's business.

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 13-08-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-08-09. Expiration of license - Renewal. Licenses issued under this chapter expire as of ~~July first~~ June thirtieth of each year. A license may be renewed for the ensuing twelve-month period upon application ~~by the licensee establishing continued compliance with the requirements of this chapter~~ and the payment to the commissioner of the annual license fee, which is not subject to refund, before July June first of each year. The form and content of renewal applications must be determined by the department of financial institutions and a renewal application may be denied upon the same grounds as would justify denial of an initial application. When a licensee has been delinquent in renewing the licensee's license, the department may charge an additional fee of fifty dollars for the renewal of such license.

⁹⁵ **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 12 of section 13-08-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

⁹⁵ Section 13-08-12 was also amended by section 3 of House Bill No. 1321, chapter 127.

12. A licensee may not renew a deferred presentment service transaction more than once. A licensee's renewal fee may not exceed twenty percent of the amount being renewed. The renewal fee must be paid in cash, money order, or cashier's check. The total period of deferral, including the initial deferral and one renewal, may not exceed forty-five days. An individual renewal period may not be less than fifteen days. After forty-five days the renewed deferred presentment check must be paid off in cash, money order, or ~~certified~~ cashier's check by the maker or must be deposited by the licensee.

Approved March 31, 2005

Filed March 31, 2005

CHAPTER 126

HOUSE BILL NO. 1141

(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)

(At the request of the Department of Financial Institutions)

COLLECTION AGENCY LICENSING

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 13-05-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to licensing of collection agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 13-05-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-05-02. Collection agency license required to collect claims. Except as otherwise herein provided, no person other than a collection agency licensed and authorized under this chapter may advertise or solicit either in print, by letter, in person, or otherwise, the right to collect or receive payment of any claim for another or sell or give away collection letters as demand forms in the state of North Dakota. As used in this chapter, the term "collection agency" does not include attorneys at law who are licensed to practice in the state of North Dakota, licensed real estate brokers, banks, trust companies, building and loan associations, credit unions, agencies of a state or of the federal government, abstract companies doing an escrow business, creditors collecting their own debts, individuals or firms who purchase or take accounts receivable for collateral purposes, individuals employed in the capacity of creditman upon the staff of an employer not engaged in the business of a collection agency, or any public officer, receiver, or trustee acting under the order of a court. A person may not be considered to be engaged in collection activity within this state if that person's activities are limited to collecting debts from debtors located in this state by means of interstate communications, including telephone, mail, or facsimile transmission from the person's location in another state if the person is licensed and bonded in that state and the state has enacted similar legislation.

Approved March 28, 2005

Filed March 28, 2005

CHAPTER 127

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

(Representatives Dosch, Delmore, Kasper, S. Meyer)
(Senators Krebsbach, Wardner)

DEFERRED PRESENTMENT SERVICE TRANSACTION PROCEDURES

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 13-08-01, 13-08-06, and 13-08-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to deferred presentment service transaction procedures and limitations; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 13-08-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-08-01. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Check" means a personal check signed by the maker and made payable to a licensee.
2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of financial institutions.
3. "Completed deferred presentment service transaction" means a transaction that is completed when a check is redeemed by the maker by payment in full to the licensee in cash, money order, or certified check or by negotiation or deposit by the licensee, or when an electronic funds transfer or other transfer of money has taken place to repay the contracted debt.
4. "Customer" means a person to which funds are advanced under a deferred presentment service transaction.
5. "Deferred presentment service transaction" means a transaction ~~made under a written agreement between a licensee and the maker of a check under which the licensee by which a person:~~
 - a. Pays to ~~the maker of the check~~ a customer the amount of ~~the a~~ check, less the fees permitted under this chapter, and accepts a check from the ~~maker~~ customer dated on the date of the transaction and agrees to hold the check for a period of time before negotiation or presentment; ~~or~~
 - b. Accepts a check dated after the date of the transaction and agrees to hold the check for deposit until the date written on the check; or
 - c. Pays to the customer an agreed-upon amount, and obtains the customer's authorization to transfer or withdraw, electronically or otherwise, funds from a customer's account in repayment at some future, agreed-upon date.

- 5- 6. "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter to provide deferred presentment services.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 13-08-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-08-06. Issuance of license - Posting.

1. Upon receipt of a complete application, the commissioner shall determine whether the qualifications prescribed under this chapter are satisfied. If the commissioner determines the qualifications are satisfied and approves the documents, the commissioner shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in the deferred presentment service business.
2. A licensee shall keep the license conspicuously posted in the place of business of the licensee, and shall provide notice to its customers in this state of the license number under which it is operating.
3. A license issued under this section is effective through the remainder of the fiscal year ending June thirtieth after the license's date of issuance unless earlier surrendered, suspended, or revoked under this chapter.

⁹⁶ **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 13-08-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13-08-12. Fees for service - Deferred presentment service transaction procedures - Penalty.

1. Before disbursing funds under a deferred presentment service transaction, a licensee shall provide to the ~~maker of the check~~ customer a clear and conspicuous printed notice indicating:
 - a. That a deferred presentment service transaction is not intended to meet long-term financial needs.
 - b. That the ~~maker of a check~~ customer should use a deferred presentment service transaction only to meet short-term cash needs.
 - c. That the ~~maker of a check~~ customer will be required to pay additional fees if the deferred presentment service transaction is renewed rather than paid in full when due. If the transaction is renewed, any amount paid in excess of the fee applies to the payoff amount.
 - d. A schedule of fees charged for deferred presentment service.
 - e. Any information required under federal law.

⁹⁶ Section 13-08-12 was also amended by section 11 of House Bill No. 1127, chapter 125.

- f. No property, titles to any property, or mortgages may be received or held directly or indirectly by the licensee as a condition of a deferred presentment service transaction or as a method of collection on a defaulted deferred presentment service transaction without proper civil process.
2. A licensee may charge a fee for the deferred presentment service, not to exceed twenty percent of the amount paid to the ~~maker of the check~~ customer by the licensee. This fee may not be deemed interest for any purpose of law. No other fee or charge may be charged for the deferred presentment service, ~~and no~~ except that a fee, not to exceed the cost to the licensee, may be charged for registering a transaction on a data base administered or authorized by the commissioner. No property, titles to any property, or mortgages may be received or held directly or indirectly by the licensee as a condition of a deferred presentment service transaction or as a method of collection on a defaulted deferred presentment service transaction without proper civil process.
3. A licensee may not disburse more than five hundred dollars to the ~~maker of a check~~ customer in a deferred presentment service transaction.
4. A licensee may not engage in a deferred presentment service transaction with a customer who has an aggregate ~~face~~ value of all outstanding ~~checks~~ obligations from any one ~~maker~~ customer exceeding ~~five~~ six hundred dollars which is payable to the same or any other licensee. A licensee may not enter ~~into~~ a new deferred presentment service transaction with a customer within three business days of that customer's completion of a previous deferred presentment service transaction. A licensee may rely on a written or electronic representation of a ~~maker~~ customer regarding the existence of any outstanding ~~checks~~ obligations for deferred presentment held by a licensee other than the licensee receiving the representation until the data base provided for under this subsection is in operation, and after that time may not rely on a customer's representation but must verify the fact using the data base. However, if a licensee has multiple locations, that licensee may not rely on ~~such written~~ the representation of a ~~maker~~ customer regarding the existence of any outstanding ~~checks~~ obligation for deferred presentment held by that licensee, or one of the licensee's multiple locations, unless the licensee and the licensee's multiple locations use a point of sale registry or some other accounting system to attempt to prevent violations of this subsection. The commissioner shall administer or authorize the development of a data base in which each transaction must be recorded for the purpose of preventing violations of this section. The commissioner shall adopt rules governing the creation, structure, and use of the data base.
5. Before a licensee may negotiate or present a check for payment, the check must be endorsed with the actual name under which the licensee is doing business.
6. Each deferred presentment service transaction, including a renewal, must be documented by a written agreement signed or similarly authenticated by the ~~maker of the check~~ customer. The ~~written~~ agreement must contain the name of the licensee; the transaction date; the amount of the ~~check~~ obligation; and a statement of the total amount

of fees charged, expressed as a dollar amount and as an annual percentage rate. The ~~written~~ agreement must authorize the licensee to defer presentment or negotiation of the check, or electronic debit of the customer's account, until a specified date. The maker of a check may redeem the check from the licensee at any time before the negotiation or presentment of the check by making payment to the licensee; ~~however, the maker.~~ A customer agreeing to an electronic deferred presentment service transaction may repay the obligation at any time before the agreed-upon date. A customer may rescind the any transaction by the close of the following business day following the day on which the customer receives payment from the licensee at no cost. If a customer agreeing to an electronic deferred presentment service transaction rescinds the transaction, the licensee must facilitate the repayment of the funds through the same electronic means the licensee used to deliver the funds to the customer.

7. If a check or electronic debit is returned to the licensee from a payer financial institution due to insufficient funds, closed account, or a stop payment order, the licensee has the right to all civil remedies available to collect the ~~check obligation~~. The licensee may contract for and collect a returned check or electronic debit charge not to exceed twenty dollars ~~per customer, per year~~. No other fee or charge may be collected as a result of a returned check or electronic debit or as a result of default by the ~~maker of the check~~ customer in timely payment to the licensee.
8. A ~~maker of a check~~ customer who has authority to make ~~the a~~ check or authorize an electronic debit and enters ~~into~~ a deferred presentment service agreement is not subject to a criminal penalty relating to the check, electronic debit, or the deferred presentment service agreement unless the customer's account on which the check was written was closed on the original date of the transaction. At the time of entering a transaction involving a written check, a licensee shall verify that the account on which the check is written is open. A licensee may not pursue or threaten to pursue criminal penalties against a ~~maker of a check~~ customer for criminal penalties prohibited by this subsection.
9. A licensee may not engage in unfair or deceptive acts, practices, or advertising in the conduct of a deferred presentment service business.
10. The amount paid to the ~~maker~~ customer by the licensee in a deferred presentment service transaction must be paid in the form of cash ~~or~~, check, or an electronic credit to the customer's account.
11. Each licensee must conspicuously post in the licensee's licensed location a notice of the fees imposed for the deferred presentment service. A licensee that engages in a deferred presentment service transaction via the internet shall require its customers to acknowledge the fees imposed using a click-through or other method that prevents customers from completing the transaction without reviewing the licensee's fees.
12. A licensee may not renew a deferred presentment service transaction more than once. A licensee's renewal fee may not exceed twenty percent of the amount being renewed. The total period of deferral, including the initial deferral and one renewal, may not exceed ~~forty-five~~ sixty days. An individual renewal period may not be less than fifteen

- days. After ~~forty-five~~ sixty days the renewed deferred presentment ~~check service transaction~~ must be paid off in cash, money order, electronic payment, or certified check by the ~~maker~~ customer or, if a check is used, the check must be deposited by the licensee.
13. A licensee may not renew, repay, refinance, or consolidate a deferred presentment service transaction with the proceeds of another deferred presentment service transaction with that licensee by the same maker or customer. It is presumed that a deferred presentment service transaction initiated within three business days before completion of a deferred presentment service transaction is a violation of this subsection.
 14. A licensee may not conduct another business, other than a bona fide pawnbroking business, within the same office, suite, room, or place of business at which the licensee engages in deferred presentment service transactions unless the commissioner provides written authorization after a determination the other business is not contrary to the best interests of consumers.
 15. A licensee shall provide a notice in a prominent place on each deferred presentment service agreement in no less than ten-point type in substantially the following form:

State law prohibits this business from allowing customers to have outstanding at any one time, deferred presentment service transactions totaling more than ~~five~~ six hundred dollars.
 16. A licensee or any agent of a licensee who willfully violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

Approved April 11, 2005
Filed April 12, 2005

CHAPTER 128

HOUSE BILL NO. 1174

(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)

(At the request of the Department of Financial Institutions)

MONEY TRANSMITTER AND CHECK SELLER LICENSING

AN ACT to create and enact chapter 13-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to licensing, reports, and examination of money transmitters; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 6-01-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the financial institutions regulatory fund; to repeal chapter 51-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the licensing of check sellers; to provide a penalty; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 6-01-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. There is hereby created a special fund designated as the financial institutions regulatory fund. The amounts received under the following chapters, and any other moneys received by the department of financial institutions, must be deposited into this fund: chapters 6-01, 6-03, 6-05, 6-06, 6-10, 7-05, 13-03.1, 13-04.1, 13-05, ~~and 51-17~~ 13-08, and 13-09.

SECTION 2. Chapter 13-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

13-09-01. License required.

1. On or after January 2, 2006, a person, except a person that is exempt pursuant to section 13-09-03, may not engage in the business of money transmission without a license as provided in this chapter.
2. A person not licensed under this chapter or not an authorized delegate of a licensee is engaged in providing money transmission if the person provides those services to residents of this state, even if that person has no physical presence in this state.
3. If a licensee has a physical presence in this state, the licensee may conduct its business at one or more locations, directly or indirectly owned, or through one or more authorized delegates, or both, pursuant to the single license granted to the licensee.

13-09-02. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Applicant" means a person filing an application for a license under this chapter.

2. "Authorized delegate" means an entity designated by the licensee under the provisions of this chapter to sell or issue payment instruments or engage in the business of transmitting money on behalf of a licensee.
3. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of financial institutions.
4. "Control" means ownership of, or the power to vote, twenty-five percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of a licensee or controlling person. For purposes of determining the percentage of a licensee controlled by any person, there must be aggregated with the person's interest the interest of any other person controlled by that person or by any spouse, parent, or child of that person.
5. "Controlling person" means any person in control of a licensee.
6. "Department" means the department of financial institutions.
7. "Electronic instrument" means a card or other tangible object for the transmission or payment of money that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic strip, or other means for the storage of information, that is prefunded and for which the value is decremented upon each use, but does not include a card or other tangible object that is redeemable by the issuer in goods or services.
8. "Executive officer" means the licensee's president, chairman of the executive committee, senior officer responsible for the licensee's business, chief financial officer, and any other person who performs similar functions.
9. "Key shareholder" means any person or group of persons acting in concert who is or are the owner of twenty-five percent or more of any voting class of an applicant's stock.
10. "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter.
11. "Material litigation" means any litigation that, according to generally accepted accounting principles, is deemed significant to an applicant's or licensee's financial health and would be required to be referenced in that entity's annual audited financial statements, report to shareholders, or similar documents.
12. "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange, whether or not redeemable in money.
13. "Money transmission" means to engage in the business of the sale or issuance of payment instruments, stored value, or of receiving money or monetary value for transmission to a location within or outside the United States by any and all means, including wire, facsimile, or electronic transfer. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, "money transmission" also includes bill payment services not limited to the right to receive payment of any claim for another.
14. "Outstanding payment instrument" means any payment instrument issued by the licensee which has been sold in the United States directly by the licensee or any payment instrument issued by the licensee which

- has been sold by an authorized delegate of the licensee in the United States, which has been reported to the licensee as having been sold, and which has not yet been paid by or for the licensee.
15. "Payment instrument" means any electronic or written check, draft, money order, travelers check, or other electronic or written instrument or order for the transmission or payment of money, sold or issued to one or more persons, whether or not such instrument is negotiable. The term "payment instrument" does not include any credit card voucher, any letter of credit or any instrument that is redeemable by the issuer in goods or services.
16. "Permissible investments" means:
- a. Cash;
 - b. Certificates of deposit or other debt obligations of a financial institution, either domestic or foreign;
 - c. Bills of exchange or time drafts drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank, otherwise known as bankers' acceptances, which are eligible for purchase by member banks of the federal reserve system;
 - d. Any investment bearing a rating of one of the three highest grades as defined by a nationally recognized organization that rates such securities;
 - e. Investment securities that are obligations of the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, or obligations that are guaranteed fully as to principal and interest of the United States, or any obligations of any state, municipality, or any political subdivision thereof;
 - f. Shares in a money market mutual fund, interest-bearing bills or notes or bonds, debentures or stock traded on any national securities exchange or on a national over-the-counter market, or mutual funds primarily composed of such securities or a fund composed of one or more permissible investments as set forth herein;
 - g. Any demand borrowing agreement or agreements made to a corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose capital stock is listed on a national exchange;
 - h. Receivables that are due to a licensee from its authorized delegates pursuant to a contract described in section 13-09-15, which are not past due or doubtful of collection; or
 - i. Any other investments or security device approved by the commissioner.
17. "Remit" means either to make direct payment of the funds to the licensee or its representatives authorized to receive those funds, or to deposit the funds in a bank, credit union, or savings and loan

association or other similar financial institution in an account specified by the licensee.

18. "Stored value" means monetary value that is evidenced by an electronic record.

13-09-03. Exclusions. This chapter does not apply to:

1. The United States or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof;
2. The United States post office;
3. The state or any political subdivisions thereof;
4. Banks, bank holding companies, credit unions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, savings banks or mutual banks organized under the laws of any state or the United States, provided that they do not issue or sell payment instruments through authorized delegates who are not banks, bank holding companies, credit unions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or mutual banks;
5. The provision of electronic transfer of government benefits for any federal, state, or county governmental agency as defined in federal reserve board regulation E, by a contractor for and on behalf of the United States or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or any state or any political subdivisions thereof; and
6. Authorized delegates of a licensee, acting within the scope of authority conferred by a written contract as described in section 13-09-15.

13-09-04. Licensed qualifications. To qualify for a license each applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Each licensee under this chapter must at all times have a net worth of not less than one hundred thousand dollars, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
2. The financial condition and responsibility, financial and business experience, and character and general fitness of the applicant must reasonably warrant the belief that the applicant's business will be conducted honestly, fairly, and in a manner commanding the confidence and trust of the community. In determining whether this qualification is met and for purposes of investigating compliance with this chapter, the commissioner may review and consider the relevant business records and capital adequacy of the applicant.
3. Every corporate applicant, at the time of filing of an application for a license under this chapter and at all times after a license is issued, must be in good standing in the state of its incorporation. At the time of the filing of an application for a license under this chapter and at all times after a license is issued, all noncorporate applicants must be registered or qualified to do business in the state.

13-09-05. Bond or other security device.

1. Each application must be accompanied by a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or such other similar security device, hereinafter "security device", acceptable to the commissioner in the amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The commissioner may increase the amount of the bond or security device to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for good cause. The security device must be in a form satisfactory to the commissioner and must run to the state for the benefit of any claimants against the licensee to secure the faithful performance of the obligations of the licensee with respect to the receipt, handling, transmission, and payment of money in connection with the sale and issuance of payment instruments and transmission of money. In the case of a bond, the aggregate liability of the surety may not exceed the principal sum of the bond. Claimants against the licensee may themselves bring suit directly on the security device or the commissioner may bring suit on behalf of such claimants, either in one action or in successive actions.
2. In lieu of a security device or of any portion of the principal thereof, as required by this section, the licensee may deposit with the commissioner, or with banks in this state as the licensee may designate and the commissioner may approve, cash, interest-bearing stocks and bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or guaranteed by the United States, or of this state, or of a city, county, town, village, school district, or instrumentality of this state, or guaranteed by this state, to an aggregate amount, based upon principal amount or market value, whichever is lower, of not less than the amount of the security device or portion thereof. The securities and cash must be deposited as aforesaid and held to secure the same obligations as would the security device, but the depositor is entitled to receive all interest and dividends thereon, with the approval of the commissioner may substitute other securities for those deposited, and must be required so to do on written order of the commissioner made for good cause shown.
3. The security device must remain in effect until cancellation, which may occur only after thirty days' written notice to the commissioner. Cancellation does not affect any liability incurred or accrued during the period.
4. The security device must remain in place for at least five years after the licensee ceases money transmission operations in the state. However, notwithstanding this provision, the commissioner may permit the security device to be reduced or eliminated before that time to the extent that the amount of the licensee's payment instruments outstanding in this state are reduced. The commissioner may also permit a licensee to substitute a letter of credit or such other form of security device acceptable to the commissioner for the security device in place at the time the licensee ceases money transmission operations in the state.

13-09-06. Permissible investments and statutory trust.

1. Each licensee under this chapter must at all times possess permissible investments having an aggregate market value, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, of not less than the aggregate face amount of all outstanding payment instruments and stored value issued or sold by the licensee in the United States.

This requirement may be waived by the commissioner if the dollar volume of a licensee's outstanding payment instruments and stored value does not exceed the bond or other security devices posted by the licensee pursuant to section 13-09-05.

2. Permissible investments, even if commingled with other assets of the licensee, are deemed by operation of law to be held in trust for the benefit of the purchasers and holders of the licensee's outstanding payment instruments in the event of the bankruptcy of the licensee.

13-09-07. Application for license. Each application for a license under this chapter must be made in writing, and in a form prescribed by the commissioner. Each application must state or contain:

1. For all applicants:
 - a. The exact name of the applicant, the applicant's principal address, any fictitious or trade name used by the applicant in the conduct of its business, and the location of the applicant's business records.
 - b. The history of the applicant's criminal convictions and material litigation for the five-year period before the date of the application.
 - c. A description of the activities conducted by the applicant and a history of operations.
 - d. A description of the business activities in which the applicant seeks to be engaged in the state.
 - e. A list identifying the applicant's proposed authorized delegates in the state, if any, at the time of the filing of the license application.
 - f. A sample authorized delegate contract, if applicable.
 - g. A sample form of payment instrument, if applicable.
 - h. The locations at which the applicant and its authorized delegates, if any, propose to conduct the licensed activities in the state.
 - i. The name and address of the clearing bank or banks on which the applicant's payment instruments will be drawn or through which the payment instruments will be payable.
2. If the applicant is a corporation, the applicant must also provide:
 - a. The date of the applicant's incorporation and state of incorporation.
 - b. A certificate of good standing from the state in which the applicant was incorporated.
 - c. A description of the corporate structure of the applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded on any stock exchange.

- d. The name, business and residence address, and employment history for the past five years of the applicant's executive officers and the officers or managers who will be in charge of the applicant's activities to be licensed hereunder.
 - e. The name, business and residence address, and employment history for the period five years prior to the date of the application of any key shareholder of the applicant.
 - f. The history of criminal convictions and material litigation for the five-year period before the date of the application of every executive officer or key shareholder of the applicant.
 - g. A copy of the applicant's most recent audited financial statement including balance sheet, statement of income or loss, statement of changes in shareholder equity, and statement of changes in financial position and, if available, the applicant's audited financial statements for the immediately preceding two-year period. However, if the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the applicant may submit either the parent corporation's consolidated audited financial statements for the current year and for the immediately preceding two-year period or the parent corporation's form 10K reports filed with the United States securities and exchange commission for the prior three years in lieu of the applicant's financial statements. If the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation having its principal place of business outside the United States, similar documentation filed with the parent corporation's non-United States regulator may be submitted to satisfy this provision.
 - h. Copies of all filings, if any, made by the applicant with the United States securities and exchange commission, or with a similar regulator in a country other than the United States, within the year preceding the date of filing of the application.
3. If the applicant is not a corporation, the applicant must also provide:
- a. The name, business and residence address, personal financial statement and employment history, for the past five years, of each principal of the applicant and the name, business and residence address, and employment history for the past five years of any other person or persons who will be in charge of the applicant's activities to be licensed under this chapter;
 - b. The place and date of the applicant's registration or qualification to do business in this state;
 - c. The history of criminal convictions and material litigation for the five-year period before the date of the application for each individual having any ownership interest in the applicant and each individual who exercises supervisory responsibility with respect to the applicant's activities; and
 - d. Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements including balance sheet, statement of income or loss, and statement of

changes in financial position for the current year and, if available, for the immediately preceding two-year period.

4. For good cause shown, the commissioner may waive any requirement of this section with respect to any license application or to permit a license applicant to submit substituted information in its license application in lieu of the information required by this section.

13-09-08. Application fee. Each application must be accompanied by a nonrefundable investigation fee in the amount of four hundred fifty dollars and license fee of four hundred dollars. The license fee must be refunded if the application is denied. The commissioner shall deposit fees and costs collected by the department under this chapter in the department of financial institutions regulatory fund.

13-09-09. Issuance of license.

1. Upon the filing of a complete application, the commissioner shall investigate the financial condition and responsibility, financial and business experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant. The commissioner may conduct an onsite investigation of the applicant, the reasonable cost of which must be borne by the applicant. If the commissioner finds that the applicant's business will be conducted honestly, fairly, and in a manner commanding the confidence and trust of the community and that the applicant has fulfilled the requirements imposed by this chapter and has paid the required license fee, the commissioner shall issue a license to the applicant authorizing the applicant to engage in the licensed activities in this state. If these requirements have not been met, the commissioner shall deny the application in writing, setting forth the reasons for the denial.
2. The commissioner shall approve or deny every application for an original license within one hundred twenty days from the date a complete application is submitted, which period may be extended by the written consent of the applicant. The commissioner shall notify the applicant of the date when the application is deemed complete.
3. Any applicant aggrieved by a denial issued by the commissioner under this chapter may at any time within thirty days from the date of receipt of written notice of the denial request a hearing before the commissioner.

13-09-10. Renewal of license and annual report.

1. A licensee under this chapter shall pay an annual renewal fee of four hundred fifty dollars which is not subject to refund.
2. The renewal fee must be accompanied by a report, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, which must include:
 - a. A copy of its most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement including balance sheet, statement of income or loss, statement of changes in shareholder's equity, and statement of changes in financial position, or, in the case of a licensee that is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the consolidated audited annual financial statement of the parent corporation may be filed in lieu of the licensee's audited annual financial statement;

- b. For the most recent quarter for which data is available before the date of the filing of the renewal application, but in no event more than one hundred twenty days before the renewal date, the licensee must provide the number of payment instruments sold by the licensee in the state, the dollar amount of those instruments, and the dollar amount of those instruments currently outstanding;
 - c. Any material changes to any of the information submitted by the licensee on its original application which have not previously been reported to the commissioner on any other report required to be filed under this chapter;
 - d. A list of the licensee's permissible investments; and
 - e. A list of the locations, if any, within this state at which business regulated by this chapter is being conducted by either the licensee or its authorized delegates.
3. All licenses issued pursuant to this chapter expire on June thirtieth of each year. Applications for renewal must be submitted thirty days before expiration of the license. A licensee that has not filed a renewal report or paid its renewal fee by June thirtieth and has not been granted an extension of time to do so by the commissioner must have its license suspended. The licensee in such case has thirty days after its license is suspended in which to file a renewal report and pay the renewal fee, plus fifty dollars for each business day after suspension that the commissioner does not receive the renewal report and the renewal fee. For good cause, the commissioner may grant an extension of the renewal date or reduce or suspend the fifty dollars per day late filing fee.

13-09-11. Extraordinary reporting requirements. Within fifteen business days of the occurrence of any one of the events listed below, a licensee shall file a written report with the commissioner describing such event and its expected impact on the licensee's activities in the state:

1. Any material changes in information provided in a licensee's application or renewal report;
2. The filing for bankruptcy or reorganization by the licensee;
3. The institution of revocation or suspension proceedings against the licensee by any state or governmental authority with regard to the licensee's money transmission activities;
4. Any felony indictment of the licensee or any of its key officers or directors related to money transmission activities; and
5. Any felony conviction of the licensee or any of its key officers or directors related to money transmission activities.

13-09-12. Changes in control of a licensee.

1. A licensee shall give the commissioner written notice of a proposed change of control within fifteen days after learning of the proposed change of control and request approval of the acquisition.

2. After review of a request for approval under subsection 1, the commissioner may require the licensee to provide additional information concerning the proposed persons in control of the licensee. The additional information must be limited to the same types required of the licensee or persons in control of the licensee as part of its original license or renewal application.
3. The commissioner shall approve a request for change of control under subsection 1 if, after investigation, the commissioner determines that the person or group of persons requesting approval has the competence, experience, character, and general fitness to operate the licensee or person in control of the licensee in a lawful and proper manner and that the interests of the public will not be jeopardized by the change of control.
4. The following persons are exempt from the requirements of subsection 1, but the licensee shall notify the commissioner of a change of control:
 - a. A person that acts as a proxy for the sole purpose of voting at a designated meeting of the securityholders or holders of voting interests of a licensee or person in control of a licensee;
 - b. A person that acquires control as a personal representative, custodian, guardian, conservator, or trustee, or as an officer appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction or by operation of law; and
 - c. A person that the commissioner by rule or order exempts in the public interest.
5. Before filing a request for approval to acquire control, a person may request in writing a determination from the commissioner as to whether the person would be considered a person in control of a licensee upon consummation of a proposed transaction.

13-09-13. Examinations.

1. The commissioner may conduct an annual onsite examination of a licensee upon reasonable written notice to the licensee. The commissioner may examine a licensee without prior notice if the commissioner has a reasonable basis to believe that the licensee is in noncompliance with this chapter. Should the commissioner conclude that an onsite examination of a licensee is necessary, the licensee shall pay an examination or visitation fee and the commissioner shall charge for the actual cost of the examination or visitation at an hourly rate set by the commissioner which is sufficient to cover all reasonable expenses associated with the examination or visitation. The onsite examination may be conducted in conjunction with examinations to be performed by representatives of agencies of another state or states. The commissioner, in lieu of an onsite examination, may accept the examination report of an agency of another state, or a report prepared by an independent accounting firm, and reports so accepted are considered for all purposes as an official report of the commissioner. The reasonable expenses incurred by the department, agencies of

another state, or an independent licensed or certified public accountant in making the examination or report must be borne by the licensee.

2. The commissioner may request financial data from a licensee in addition to that required under section 13-09-10, or conduct an onsite examination of any authorized delegate or location of a licensee within this state without prior notice to the authorized delegate or licensee only if the commissioner has a reasonable basis to believe that the licensee or authorized delegate is in noncompliance with this chapter. When the commissioner examines an authorized delegate's operations, the authorized delegate shall pay all reasonably incurred costs of such examination. When the commissioner examines a licensee's location within the state, the licensee shall pay all reasonably incurred costs of such examination.

13-09-14. Maintenance of records.

1. Each licensee shall make, keep, and preserve the following books, accounts, and other records for a period of five years and which are open to inspection by the commissioner:
 - a. A record or records of each payment instrument and stored value sold;
 - b. A general ledger containing all assets, liability, capital, income, and expense accounts, which general ledger must be posted at least monthly;
 - c. Bank statements and bank reconciliation records;
 - d. Records of outstanding payment instruments and stored value;
 - e. Records of each payment instrument and stored value paid within the five-year period;
 - f. A list of the names and addresses of all of the licensee's authorized delegates; and
 - g. Any other records the commissioner reasonably requires by rule.
2. Maintenance of such documents as are required by this section in a photographic, electronic, or other similar form constitutes compliance with this section.
3. Records may be maintained at a location other than within this state so long as the records are made accessible to the commissioner on seven business days' written notice.

13-09-15. Authorized delegate contracts. Licensees desiring to conduct licensed activities through authorized delegates shall authorize each delegate to operate pursuant to an express written contract, which, for contracts entered into after the effective date of this Act, must provide the following:

1. That the licensee appoints the person as its delegate with authority to engage in money transmission on behalf of the licensee;

2. That neither a licensee nor an authorized delegate may authorize subdelegates without the written consent of the commissioner; and
3. That licensees are subject to supervision and regulation by the commissioner.

13-09-16. Authorized delegate conduct.

1. An authorized delegate may not make a fraudulent or false statement or misrepresentation to a licensee or to the commissioner.
2. All money transmission or sale or issuance of payment instrument activities conducted by authorized delegates must be strictly in accordance with the licensee's written procedures provided to the authorized delegate.
3. An authorized delegate must remit all money owing to the licensee in accordance with the terms of the contract between the licensee and the authorized delegate.
4. An authorized delegate is deemed to consent to the commissioner's inspection, with or without prior notice to the licensee or authorized delegates.
5. An authorized delegate is under a duty to act only as authorized under the contract with the licensee and this chapter and an authorized delegate who exceeds its authority is subject to cancellation of its contract and further disciplinary action by the commissioner.
6. All funds, less fees, received by an authorized delegate of a licensee from the sale or delivery of a payment instrument issued by a licensee or received by an authorized delegate for transmission must, from the time such funds are received by such authorized delegate until such time when the funds or an equivalent amount are remitted by the authorized delegate to the licensee, constitute trust funds owned by and belonging to the licensee. If an authorized delegate commingles any such funds with any other funds or property owned or controlled by the authorized delegate, all commingled proceeds and other property is impressed with a trust in favor of the licensee in an amount equal to the amount of the proceeds due the licensee.

13-09-17. Suspension or revocation of licenses. The commissioner may suspend or revoke a licensee's license if the commissioner finds that:

1. Any fact or condition exists that, if it had existed at the time when the licensee applied for its license, would have been grounds for denying such application;
2. The licensee's net worth becomes inadequate and the licensee, after ten days' written notice from the commissioner, fails to take such steps as the commissioner deems necessary to remedy such deficiency;
3. The licensee knowingly violates any material provision of this chapter or any rule or order validly adopted by the commissioner under authority of this title;

4. The licensee is conducting its business in an unsafe or unsound manner;
5. The licensee is insolvent;
6. The licensee has suspended payment of its obligations, made an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or admitted in writing its inability to pay its debts as they become due;
7. The licensee has applied for an adjudication of bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement, or other relief under any bankruptcy;
8. The licensee refuses to permit the commissioner to make any examination authorized by this chapter; or
9. The licensee willfully fails to make any report required by this chapter.

13-09-18. Suspension or revocation of authorized delegates.

1. The commissioner may issue an order suspending or revoking the designation of an authorized delegate, if the commissioner finds that:
 - a. The authorized delegate violates this chapter or a rule adopted or an order issued under this chapter;
 - b. The authorized delegate does not cooperate with an examination or investigation by the commissioner;
 - c. The authorized delegate engages in fraud, intentional misrepresentation, or gross negligence;
 - d. The authorized delegate is convicted of a violation of a state or federal antimoney laundering statute;
 - e. The competence, experience, character, or general fitness of the authorized delegate or a person in control of the authorized delegate indicates that it is not in the public interest to permit the authorized delegate to provide money services; or
 - f. The authorized delegate is engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice.
2. In determining whether an authorized delegate is engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice, the commissioner may consider the size and condition of the authorized delegate's provision of money services, the magnitude of the loss, if any, the gravity of the violation of this chapter, and the previous conduct of the authorized delegate.
3. An authorized delegate may appeal from a suspension or revocation of designation as an authorized delegate by filing a written appeal with the commissioner within twenty days of the issuance of the order.

13-09-19. Orders to cease and desist.

1. If the commissioner determines that an unlicensed person, a licensee, or an authorized delegate has committed a violation of this chapter or of

a rule adopted or and order issued under this chapter, the commissioner may issue an order to cease and desist from the violation. The order becomes effective upon service.

2. The commissioner may issue an order against a licensee to cease and desist from providing money transmission services through an authorized delegate that is the subject of a separate order pursuant to section 13-09-18.
3. An order to cease and desist remains effective and enforceable pending the completion of any administrative proceeding.
4. The entity against which a cease and desist order has been issued may appeal the issuance of the cease and desist order by filing a written appeal with the commissioner within twenty days of the date the order is served on the licensee or delegate.
5. The commissioner may apply to the district court for an appropriate order to protect the public interest, including a temporary restraining order.

13-09-20. Consent orders. The commissioner may enter into a consent order at any time with a person to resolve a matter arising under this chapter. A consent order must be signed by the person to whom it is issued or by the person's authorized representative, and must indicate agreement with the terms contained in the order. A consent order may provide that it does not constitute an admission by a person that this chapter or a rule adopted or an order issued under this chapter has been violated.

13-09-21. Civil penalties. The commissioner may impose a civil money penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation upon a person or agency who willfully violates a law, rule, or order under this chapter. An interested party may appeal the assessment of a civil money penalty by filing a written notice of appeal within twenty days after service of the assessment of civil money penalties. A civil money penalty collected under this section must be paid to the state treasurer and deposited in the financial institutions regulatory fund.

13-09-22. Criminal penalties.

1. A person who intentionally makes a false statement, misrepresentation, or false certification in a record filed or required to be maintained under this chapter, or that intentionally makes a false entry or omits a material entry in such a record, is guilty of a class C felony.
2. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or order of the department of financial institutions made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or who engages in any act, practice, or transaction declared by any provision of this chapter to be unlawful, is guilty of a class C felony.
3. An individual who knowingly engages in any activity for which a license is required under this chapter without being licensed under this chapter, is guilty of a class C felony.

13-09-23. Administrative procedures. All administrative proceedings under this chapter must be conducted in accordance with chapter 28-32.

13-09-24. Savings and transitional provisions. A license issued under the provisions of chapter 51-17 that is in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act remains in force as a license under this chapter until the license's expiration date. Thereafter, the licensee must be treated as if the licensee had applied for and had received a license under this chapter and is required to comply with the renewal requirements set forth in this chapter.

SECTION 3. REPEAL. Chapter 51-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the financial institutions regulatory fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$193,742 to the department of financial institutions for the purpose of defraying the expenses related to licensing and regulation of money transmitters, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The department of financial institutions may employ no more than one additional full-time equivalent position for the licensing and regulation of money transmitters.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 3 of this Act becomes effective on January 2, 2006.

Approved April 5, 2005
Filed April 6, 2005