



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Committee Bill No. 5328**

LCO No. 2940

Referred to Committee on General Law

Introduced by:  
(GL)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING EXPIRATION DATES ON GIFT CERTIFICATES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "gift certificate" means a tangible or electronic record  
3 evidencing an issuer's agreement to provide goods or services to the  
4 value shown in the record and includes, but is not limited to, a gift  
5 card, electronic gift card, stored-value card or certificate or similar  
6 instrument or card. A gift certificate includes any such tangible record  
7 that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe or other means for  
8 the storage of information, that is prefunded and for which the value is  
9 decremented upon each use.

10 (b) No person shall issue a gift certificate containing an expiration  
11 date. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, a gift  
12 certificate without an expiration date shall be valid until it is redeemed  
13 or replaced.

14 (c) The value of a gift certificate that is not redeemed within three  
15 years of purchase of the certificate is presumed abandoned and subject  
16 to the provisions of section 3-64a of the general statutes.

17 (d) The issuer of a gift certificate shall maintain a record of the  
18 address of the person who purchases the gift certificate. In the absence  
19 of a record of the address of the person who purchases a gift certificate,  
20 the address of the person shall be presumed to be the address of the  
21 Treasurer.

22 (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be  
23 fined not more than five hundred dollars per occurrence.

24 (f) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be  
25 deemed to be an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a)  
26 of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To prohibit expiration dates on gift certificates and to prevent retailers from confiscating the value of unexpired gift certificates.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. JOHNSTON, 51st Dist.; REP. FRITZ, 90th Dist.