OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5703 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF CURRENCY AS PAYMENT IN LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SUMMARY

With exceptions, this bill prohibits retailers from (1) refusing cash as a form of payment, (2) posting signs stating that cash is not accepted, or (3) charging a higher price to customers who pay with cash.

The bill’s prohibitions apply to retailers selling goods or services in person, except for transactions:

1. at parking lots and parking garages;
2. at membership-based wholesale clubs;
3. at membership-based retail stores that require payment through an affiliated mobile device application;
4. for consumer goods, services, or accommodations rentals that typically require posting collateral; and
5. for consumer goods or services provided exclusively to employees and others authorized to be on the employer’s premises.

The bill also explicitly exempts transactions conducted by telephone, mail, or the internet.

Under the bill, the consumer protection commissioner may adopt implementing regulations.

*House Amendment “A” removes the provision in the underlying bill making a violation of the bill’s prohibitions an unfair or deceptive trade practice.
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 15  Nay 1 (03/21/2019)