



House of Representatives

File No. 722

General Assembly

January Session, 2021

(Reprint of File No. 5)

Substitute House Bill No. 5312
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 26, 2021

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, (1) "at retail" includes any retail transaction conducted in
3 person, excluding any transaction: (A) By telephone, mail or the
4 Internet, (B) for parking at a parking lot or a parking garage, (C) at a
5 wholesale club that sells consumer goods and services through a
6 membership model, (D) at a retail store selling consumer goods
7 exclusively through a membership model that requires payment by
8 means of an affiliated mobile device application, (E) for the rental of
9 consumer goods, services or accommodations for which posting of
10 collateral or security is typically required, and (F) for consumer goods
11 or services provided exclusively to employees and individuals other
12 than customers who are authorized to be on the employer's premises,
13 and (2) "cash" means legal tender.

14 (b) A person selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail in
15 this state shall not: (1) Refuse to accept cash as a form of payment for
16 such goods or services, (2) post signs stating that cash payment is not
17 accepted, or (3) charge a customer paying cash a higher price than such
18 customer would pay using any other form of payment.

19 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
20 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
21 implement the provisions of this section.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | October 1, 2021 | New section |

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations regarding acceptable forms of currency as payment and results in no fiscal impact because the department has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5312 (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. "Cash" means legal tender.

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

1. for parking at parking lots and parking garages;
2. at membership-based wholesale clubs offering consumer goods or services;
3. at membership-based retail stores offering consumer goods that require payment through an affiliated mobile device application;
4. for consumer goods, services, or accommodations rentals that typically require posting collateral or security; and
5. for consumer goods or services provided exclusively to employees and other non-customers 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" specifies that "cash" means legal tender and clarifies the exemption for consumer goods provided exclusively to employees and other authorized non-customers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/02/2021)