



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 5

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 5312

House of Representatives, February 25, 2021

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. D'AGOSTINO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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) A person selling or
2 offering for sale goods or services at retail in this state shall not: (1)
3 Refuse to accept cash as a form of payment for such goods or services,
4 (2) post signs stating that cash payment is not accepted, or (3) charge a
5 higher price to customers who pay cash than such customers would pay
6 using any other form of payment. For purposes of this section, "at retail"
7 includes, but is not limited to, any retail transaction conducted in
8 person, excluding any transaction: (A) By telephone, mail or the
9 Internet, (B) for parking at a parking lot or a parking garage, (C) at a
10 wholesale club that sells consumer goods and services through a
11 membership model, (D) at a retail store selling consumer goods
12 exclusively through a membership model that requires payment by
13 means of an affiliated mobile device application, (E) for the rental of
14 consumer goods, services or accommodations for which posting of

15 collateral or security is typically required, and (F) for consumer goods
16 or services provided exclusively to employees and others authorized to
17 be on the employer's premises.

18 (b) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
19 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
20 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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) was changed for consistency and proper form.

GL *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5312

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. 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 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/02/2021)