

By: Leibowitz

H.B. No. 3021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the interest and fees that may be charged for certain consumer loans; providing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 342, Finance Code, is amended by adding Section 342.200 to read as follows:

Sec. 342.200. INTEREST CHARGES: GENERAL LIMIT, COMPUTATION, AND PAYMENT. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, Subchapter F, or a rule adopted under this chapter, unless the provision sets a lower limit on an interest charge, a loan contract under this chapter that is not secured by real property may not provide for an interest charge for the cash advance that exceeds 30 percent a year, including any fees included in the computation of interest under this chapter or other law.

(b) A charge for interest must be computed and paid as a percentage of the unpaid principal balance. For purposes of this subsection, "unpaid principal balance" means the balance that has not been paid, exclusive of any interest, service charges, or other charges related to the loan.

(c) An interest rate charged on an overdue balance may not exceed the maximum rate charged before the balance becomes due.

SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 342, Finance Code, is amended by adding Section 342.354 to read as follows:

Sec. 342.354. REFUND OF PRECOMPUTED INTEREST: OTHER LOANS.

1 (a) This section applies only to a loan contract to which Section  
2 342.351 or 342.352 does not apply.

3 (b) If the contract is prepaid in full, the lender shall  
4 refund or credit to the borrower unearned interest charges paid by  
5 the borrower, as computed by the actuarial method or another method  
6 that is at least as favorable to the borrower.

7 SECTION 3. Subchapter M, Chapter 342, Finance Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 342.606 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 342.606. INTEREST AND FEES FOR DEFERRED PRESENTMENT  
10 TRANSACTION. (a) A lender may not charge or receive interest or  
11 fees in connection with a deferred presentment transaction other  
12 than the interest and fees specifically authorized by this section.

13 (b) A deferred presentment transaction may provide for an  
14 administrative fee not to exceed \$5 for each transaction. An  
15 administrative fee is not included in the computation of interest.

16 (c) If there are insufficient funds to pay a check on the  
17 date of presentment, a lender may charge a fee not to exceed the  
18 greater of \$15 or the amount charged to the lender by the financial  
19 institution. Only one fee may be charged under this section for a  
20 single check, regardless of whether the check has been deposited  
21 and returned more than once. A fee under this subsection is the  
22 exclusive authorized charge for late payment.

23 (d) A person who violates this section commits an offense.  
24 An offense under this subsection is a state jail felony.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.