

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment and administration of a state bullion
3 depository; authorizing fees.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 10, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Chapter 2116 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 2116. TEXAS BULLION DEPOSITORY

8 SUBCHAPTER A. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF TEXAS

9 BULLION DEPOSITORY

10 Sec. 2116.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

11 (1) "Administrator" means the bullion depository
12 administrator appointed under Section 2116.003.

13 (2) "Bullion" means precious metals that are formed
14 into uniform shapes and quantities such as ingots, bars, or plates,
15 with uniform content and purity, as are suitable for or customarily
16 used in the purchase, sale, storage, transfer, and delivery of bulk
17 or wholesale transactions in precious metals.

18 (3) "Business day" means a day other than a Saturday,
19 Sunday, or banking holiday for a bank chartered under the laws of
20 this state.

21 (4) "Deposit" means the establishment of an executory
22 obligation of the depository to deliver to the order of the person
23 establishing with the depository the obligation, on demand, a
24 quantity of a specified precious metal, in bullion, specie, or a

1 combination of bullion and specie, equal to the quantity of the same
2 precious metal delivered by or on behalf of the depositor into the
3 custody of:

4 (A) the depository; or

5 (B) a depository agent.

6 (5) "Depositor" means a person who makes a deposit.

7 (6) "Depository" means the Texas Bullion Depository
8 created by this chapter.

9 (7) "Depository account" means the rights, interests,
10 and entitlements established in favor of a depositor with respect
11 to a deposit in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under
12 this chapter.

13 (8) "Depository account holder," regarding a
14 depository account, means the original depositor or a successor or
15 assignee of the depositor respecting the depository account.

16 (9) "Depository agent" means a person licensed in
17 accordance with this chapter to serve as an intermediary between
18 the depository and a retail customer in making a transaction in
19 precious metals bullion or specie.

20 (10) "Precious metal" means a metal, including gold,
21 silver, platinum, palladium, and rhodium, that:

22 (A) bears a high value-to-weight ratio relative
23 to common industrial metals; and

24 (B) customarily is formed into bullion or specie.

25 (11) "Specie" means a precious metal stamped into
26 coins of uniform shape, size, design, content, and purity, suitable
27 for or customarily used as currency, as a medium of exchange, or as

1 the medium for purchase, sale, storage, transfer, or delivery of
2 precious metals in retail or wholesale transactions.

3 Sec. 2116.002. TEXAS BULLION DEPOSITORY. (a) The Texas
4 Bullion Depository is established as an agency of this state in the
5 office of the comptroller.

6 (b) The depository is established to serve as the custodian,
7 guardian, and administrator of certain bullion and specie that may
8 be transferred to or otherwise acquired by this state or an agency,
9 a political subdivision, or another instrumentality of this state.

10 Sec. 2116.003. DEPOSITORY ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.

11 (a) The depository is administered as a division of the office of
12 the comptroller and under the direction and supervision of a
13 bullion depository administrator appointed by the comptroller with
14 the advice and consent of the governor, lieutenant governor, and
15 senate.

16 (b) The administrator shall:

17 (1) administer, supervise, and direct the operations
18 and affairs of the depository and depository agents; and

19 (2) liaise with the comptroller and other divisions of
20 the office of the comptroller to ensure that each transaction with
21 the depository that involves state money, that involves an agency,
22 a political subdivision, or another instrumentality of this state,
23 or that involves a private person is planned, administered, and
24 executed in a manner to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

25 (c) The administrator may appoint, subject to the approval
26 of the comptroller, a deputy administrator or other subordinate
27 officer as necessary and appropriate to the efficient

1 administration of the depository.

2 Sec. 2116.004. DEPOSITS AND RELATED ASSETS NOT SUBJECT TO
3 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION; STATUS OF DEPOSITS AND ALLOCATION OF
4 REVENUES. (a) The following are not available for legislative
5 appropriation:

6 (1) a deposit to the depository;

7 (2) bullion or specie held by or on behalf of the
8 depository or a depository agent;

9 (3) bullion or specie in transit to or from the
10 depository or a depository agent; and

11 (4) a receivable or other amount owed to the
12 depository in settlement of a transaction in bullion or specie.

13 (b) Bullion, specie, and other assets described by
14 Subsection (a) are subject to redemption, liquidation, or transfer
15 exclusively to discharge an obligation of the depository to
16 depository account holders, depository agents, bullion banks,
17 financial institutions, or other intermediaries in accordance with
18 this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

19 (c) Revenue the depository realizes from fees, charges, or
20 other payments received in the course of depository operations
21 shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund.

22 Sec. 2116.005. DEPOSITS AND DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS;
23 STANDARDS. (a) The depository may receive a deposit of bullion or
24 specie from or on behalf of a person acting in the person's own
25 right, as trustee, or in another fiduciary capacity, in accordance
26 with rules adopted by the comptroller as appropriate to:

27 (1) ensure compliance with law; and

1 (2) protect the interests of:

2 (A) the depository;

3 (B) depository account holders;

4 (C) this state and the agencies, political
5 subdivisions, and instrumentalities of this state; and

6 (D) the public at large.

7 (b) The depository shall record the amount of precious
8 metals a person deposits, regardless of form, in units of troy
9 ounces pure, and the records must also specify the type and quantity
10 of each precious metal deposited.

11 (c) The comptroller by rule shall adopt standards by which
12 the quantities of precious metals deposited are credited to a
13 depositor's depository account by reference to the particular form
14 in which the metals were deposited, classified by mint,
15 denomination, weight, assay mark, or other indicator, as
16 applicable. The standards must conform to applicable national and
17 international standards of weights and measures.

18 (d) The comptroller by rule may, if the comptroller
19 determines that to do so is in the public interest, restrict the
20 forms in which deposits of precious metals may be made to those
21 forms that conveniently lend themselves to measurement and
22 accounting in units of troy ounces and standardized fractions of
23 troy ounces.

24 (e) The depository shall adjust each depository account
25 balance to reflect additions to or withdrawals or deliveries from
26 the account.

27 Sec. 2116.006. DEMAND, PRESENTMENT, WITHDRAWAL, DELIVERY,

1 AND SETTLEMENT. (a) The depository shall deliver any precious
2 metal held by or on behalf of the depository in bullion, specie, or
3 a combination of bullion and specie, on the order of a depository
4 account holder in a quantity of that precious metal as is available
5 in the depository account holder's depository account.

6 (b) The depository shall make a delivery described by
7 Subsection (a) on demand by the presentment of a suitable check,
8 draft, or digital electronic instruction to the depository or a
9 depository agent. The comptroller by rule shall adopt the forms,
10 standards, and processes through which an order for delivery on
11 demand may be made, presented, and honored.

12 (c) The depository shall make a delivery at the depository's
13 settlement facility designated by the comptroller, shipping to an
14 address specified by the account holder or, at the depository's
15 discretion, at a facility of a depository agent at which
16 presentment is made, not later than five business days after the
17 date of presentment.

18 Sec. 2116.007. TRANSFER OF DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT BALANCE. (a)
19 In accordance with rules adopted under this chapter, a depository
20 account holder may transfer any portion of the balance of the
21 holder's depository account by check, draft, or digital electronic
22 instruction to another depository account holder or to a person who
23 at the time the transfer is initiated is not a depository account
24 holder.

25 (b) The depository shall adjust the depository account
26 balances of the depository accounts to reflect a transfer
27 transaction between depository account holders on presentment of

1 the check, draft, or other instruction by reducing the payor's
2 depository account balance and increasing the depository account
3 balance of the payee accordingly.

4 (c) If a depository account holder transfers to a payee who
5 is not a depository account holder any portion of the balance of the
6 holder's depository account, the depository shall allow the payee
7 to establish a depository account by presentment of the payor's
8 check, draft, or instruction to the depository or to a depository
9 agent. The depository shall credit a newly established account on
10 behalf of the payee and shall debit the payor's account
11 accordingly.

12 Sec. 2116.008. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT CONTRACTS. (a) To
13 establish a depository account, a depositor must contract with the
14 depository for a depository account. The contract must specify:

15 (1) the terms applicable to the account, including any
16 special terms; and

17 (2) the conditions on which withdrawals or deliveries
18 with respect to the account may be made.

19 (b) The execution of a contract for a depository account
20 described by this section may be made, as prescribed by rules
21 adopted under this chapter, by electronic or digital transmission.

22 (c) The depository or a depository agent shall hold the
23 contract for a depository account in the records pertaining to the
24 account.

25 (d) A contract for a depository account executed by a
26 depositor and the depository is considered a contract in writing
27 for all purposes, and may be evidenced by one or more agreements,

1 deposit receipts, signature cards, amendment notices, or other
2 documentation as provided by law.

3 (e) The depository and the depository account holder may
4 amend a contract for a depository account by agreement, or the
5 depository may amend the deposit contract by mailing a written
6 notice of the amendment to the account holder, separately or as an
7 enclosure with or part of the account holder's statement of account
8 or passbook. In the case of amendment by notice from the
9 depository, the notice must include the text and effective date of
10 the amendment. The effective date may not be earlier than the 30th
11 day after the date the notice is mailed, unless otherwise provided
12 by rules adopted under this chapter.

13 Sec. 2116.009. CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DENIAL OF DEPOSIT
14 LIABILITY. (a) A cause of action for denial of deposit liability
15 on a depository account contract without a maturity date does not
16 accrue until the depository has denied liability and given notice
17 of the denial to the depository account holder.

18 (b) The depository's act of furnishing an account statement
19 or passbook, whether in physical, digital, or electronic form,
20 constitutes a denial of liability and the giving of such notice as
21 to any amount not shown on the statement or passbook.

22 (c) The depository's sovereign immunity from suit is waived
23 for an action brought by a depositor for the denial of deposit
24 liability.

25 (d) The depository's liability for a denial of deposit
26 liability is limited to the amount on deposit for which liability
27 was denied. A depositor may not recover consequential damages,

1 exemplary damages, pre- or post-judgment interest, costs, or
2 attorney's fees.

3 (e) A suit authorized by this section must be brought in a
4 district court of Travis County.

5 (f) A suit authorized by this section must be brought before
6 the expiration of one year after the date the cause of action
7 accrues or the suit is barred.

8 Sec. 2116.010. FEES; SERVICE CHARGES; PENALTIES. The
9 comptroller by rule may establish fees, service charges, and
10 penalties to be charged a depository account holder for a service or
11 activity regarding a depository account, including a fee for an
12 overdraft, an insufficient fund check or draft, or a stop payment
13 order.

14 Sec. 2116.011. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP BY OWNER OF
15 RECORD. Unless the depository acknowledges in writing a pledge of a
16 depository account, the depository may treat the holder of record
17 of the account as the owner of the account for all purposes and
18 without regard to a notice to the contrary.

19 Sec. 2116.012. TRANSFER OF DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT. (a) A
20 depository account may be transferred on the books of the
21 depository only on presentation to the depository of:

22 (1) evidence of transfer satisfactory to the
23 depository; and

24 (2) an application for the transfer submitted by the
25 person to whom the depository account is to be transferred.

26 (b) A person to whom a depository account is to be
27 transferred must accept the transferred account subject to the

1 terms of the deposit contract, this chapter, and rules adopted
2 under this chapter.

3 Sec. 2116.013. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS NOT INTEREST-BEARING.

4 The depository may not pay on a depository account:

5 (1) interest;

6 (2) an amount in the nature of interest; or

7 (3) a fee or other payment for the use or forbearance
8 of use of money, bullion, specie, or precious metals deposited to a
9 depository account.

10 Sec. 2116.014. LIEN ON DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT. (a) Without the
11 need of any further agreement or pledge, the depository has a lien
12 on each depository account owned by a depository account holder to
13 secure any fees, charges, or other obligations owed or that may
14 become owed to the depository in connection with any of the
15 depository account holder's depository accounts as provided by the
16 terms of the depository account holder's applicable depository
17 account contract.

18 (b) On default in the payment or in the satisfaction of a
19 depository account holder's obligation, the depository, without
20 notice to or consent of the depository account holder, may transfer
21 on the depository's books all or part of the balance of a depository
22 account holder's depository account to the extent necessary to pay
23 or satisfy the obligation, as determined by reference to the
24 exchange rates applicable at the time of the transfer.

25 (c) The depository by written instrument may waive wholly or
26 partly the depository's lien on a depository account.

27 (d) Subject to a lien created as provided by this section,

1 the depository shall recognize the lawful pledge to a third party by
2 a depository account holder of the depository account holder's
3 rights, interests, and entitlements in and to a depository account
4 as an intangible asset. On the satisfaction of other requirements
5 of law in respect of the perfection and enforcement of a pledge of
6 that type, the depository shall take all steps reasonably necessary
7 and appropriate to effectuate on the depository's books any
8 transfer of a depository account or of all or part of a depository
9 account balance to the account of the secured party on the
10 successful enforcement of the pledge.

11 Sec. 2116.015. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT AS LEGAL INVESTMENT. (a)
12 The following persons may invest the person's money in a depository
13 account by purchasing precious metals and depositing the precious
14 metals with the depository or a depository agent:

15 (1) an individual or fiduciary, including an
16 administrator, executor, custodian, guardian, or trustee;

17 (2) a political subdivision of this state or an
18 instrumentality of this state;

19 (3) a business or nonprofit corporation;

20 (4) a charitable or educational corporation or
21 association; or

22 (5) a financial institution, including a bank, savings
23 and loan association, or credit union.

24 (b) An investment by a school district in a depository
25 account may be made instead of an investment as provided by Section
26 45.102, Education Code, and the depository may be used by a district
27 instead of a depository bank for the purposes of Subchapter G,

1 Chapter 45, Education Code.

2 Sec. 2116.016. APPLICABILITY OF ESTATES CODE. The
3 applicable provisions of Chapters 111, 112, and 113, Estates Code,
4 govern a depository account.

5 Sec. 2116.017. PLEDGE OF JOINTLY HELD DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT.

6 (a) Unless a term of the depository account provides otherwise, a
7 person on whose signature precious metals may be withdrawn from a
8 depository account that is jointly held in the names of two or more
9 persons may, by a signed pledge, pledge and transfer to the
10 depository or to a third party all or part of the account.

11 (b) A pledge made as described by Subsection (a) does not
12 sever or terminate the joint and survivorship ownership of the
13 account, to the extent applicable to the account before the pledge.

14 Sec. 2116.018. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT HELD BY FIDUCIARY. (a)
15 The depository or a depository agent may accept a depository
16 account in the name of a fiduciary, including an administrator,
17 executor, custodian, guardian, or trustee, for a named beneficiary.

18 (b) A fiduciary may open, add to, or withdraw precious
19 metals from an account described by Subsection (a).

20 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, a payment or
21 delivery to a fiduciary or an acquittance signed by the fiduciary to
22 whom a payment or delivery is made is a discharge of the depository
23 for the payment or delivery.

24 (d) After a person who holds a depository account in a
25 fiduciary capacity dies, the depository may pay or deliver to the
26 beneficiary of the account the quantity of precious metals
27 represented by the balance in the depository account, plus other

1 rights relating to the depository account, wholly or partly, if the
2 depository has no written notice or order of the probate court of:

3 (1) a revocation or termination of the fiduciary
4 relationship; or

5 (2) any other disposition of the beneficial estate.

6 (e) The depository has no further liability for a payment
7 made or right delivered under Subsection (d).

8 Sec. 2116.019. DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT HELD IN TRUST;
9 UNDISCLOSED TRUST INSTRUMENT. (a) If the depository opens a
10 depository account for a person claiming to be the trustee for
11 another person and the depository has no other notice of the
12 existence or terms of the trust other than a written claim against
13 the account:

14 (1) the person claiming to be the trustee, on the
15 person's signature, may withdraw precious metals from the account;
16 and

17 (2) if the person claiming to be the trustee dies, the
18 depository may pay or deliver the quantity of precious metals
19 represented by the balance in the account to the person for whom the
20 account was opened.

21 (b) The depository has no further liability for a payment or
22 delivery made as provided by Subsection (a).

23 Sec. 2116.020. POWER OF ATTORNEY; REVOCATION ON DEATH OR
24 INCOMPETENCY. (a) The depository shall recognize the authority of
25 an attorney-in-fact authorized in writing by a depository account
26 holder to manage or withdraw precious metals from the depository
27 account holder's depository account until the depository receives

1 written or actual notice of the revocation of that authority.

2 (b) For purposes of this section, written notice of the
3 death or adjudication of incompetency of a depository account
4 holder is considered to be written notice of revocation of the
5 authority of the account holder's attorney-in-fact.

6 Sec. 2116.021. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS. The
7 depository shall enter into transactions and relationships with
8 bullion banks, depositories, dealers, central banks, sovereign
9 wealth funds, financial institutions, international
10 nongovernmental organizations, and other persons, located inside
11 or outside of this state or inside or outside of the United States,
12 as the comptroller determines to be prudent and suitable to
13 facilitate the operations of the depository and to further the
14 purposes of this chapter.

15 Sec. 2116.022. CERTAIN ACTIONS PROHIBITED. The depository
16 may not take any of the following actions, and any attempt by the
17 depository to take any of the following actions is void ab initio
18 and of no force or effect:

19 (1) entering into a precious metals leasing,
20 sale-leaseback, forward transaction, swap transaction, future
21 transaction, index transaction, or option on or other derivative of
22 any of those, whether in the nature of a cap transaction, floor
23 transaction, collar transaction, repurchase transaction, reverse
24 repurchase transaction, buy-and-sell-back transaction, securities
25 lending transaction, or other financial instrument or interest
26 intended to or having the effect of hedging or leveraging the
27 depository's holdings of precious metals, including any option

1 with respect to any of these transactions, or any combination of
2 these transactions, except that the limitation provided by this
3 subdivision does not apply to a transaction entered into to limit
4 the depository's exposure to post-signature price risks associated
5 with executory agreements to purchase or sell precious metals in
6 the ordinary course of depository operations and does not apply to
7 policies of insurance purchased to insure against ordinary casualty
8 risks such as theft, damage or destruction, loss during shipment,
9 or similar risks;

10 (2) crediting the depository account balances of a
11 depository account holder, or disposing of any precious metals, if
12 to do so would cause the aggregate depository account balances with
13 respect to any precious metal represented by all depository
14 accounts to exceed the aggregate quantities of such precious metal
15 held by or for the benefit of the depository and the depository's
16 depository agents;

17 (3) entering into or maintaining a deposit, trust, or
18 similar relationship for the custody of precious metals by a third
19 party outside this state, directly or indirectly, for the account
20 or benefit of the depository if the comptroller by rule establishes
21 that:

22 (A) the custody or intermediary arrangements in
23 question do not meet the comptroller's standards of safety,
24 security, and liquidity; or

25 (B) except in those cases where such relationship
26 may be incidental to the performance of or preparation for purchase
27 and sale transactions with counterparties located outside of this

1 state, suitable alternate arrangements for physical custody of the
2 precious metals inside this state have been established and are
3 available;

4 (4) extending credit to a person, including credit
5 secured by a depository account or other assets, except an
6 extension of credit incidental to the performance of the functions
7 and responsibilities otherwise provided by this chapter; or

8 (5) engaging in a business or activity that, if
9 conducted by a private person, would be subject to regulation in
10 this state as a banking or savings and loan function.

11 Sec. 2116.023. CONFISCATIONS, REQUISITIONS, SEIZURES, AND
12 OTHER ACTIONS VOID. (a) A purported confiscation, requisition,
13 seizure, or other attempt to control the ownership, disposition, or
14 proceeds of a withdrawal, transfer, liquidation, or settlement of a
15 depository account, including the precious metals represented by
16 the balance of a depository account, if effected by a governmental
17 or quasi-governmental authority other than an authority of this
18 state or by a financial institution or other person acting on behalf
19 of or pursuant to a directive or authorization issued by a
20 governmental or quasi-governmental authority other than an
21 authority of this state, in the course of a generalized declaration
22 of illegality or emergency relating to the ownership, possession,
23 or disposition of one or more precious metals, contracts, or other
24 rights to the precious metals or contracts or derivatives of the
25 ownership, possession, disposition, contracts, or other rights, is
26 void ab initio and of no force or effect.

27 (b) The depository in the case of receiving notice of a

1 purported confiscation, requisition, seizure, or other attempt to
2 control the ownership, disposition, or proceeds of a withdrawal,
3 transfer, liquidation, or settlement of a depository account,
4 including the precious metals represented by the balance of a
5 depository account, effected by a governmental or
6 quasi-governmental authority other than an authority of this state
7 or by a financial institution or other person acting on behalf of or
8 pursuant to a directive or authorization issued by a governmental
9 or quasi-governmental authority other than an authority of this
10 state, in the course of a generalized declaration of illegality or
11 emergency relating to the ownership, possession, or disposition of
12 one or more precious metals, contracts, or other rights to the
13 precious metals or contracts or derivatives of the ownership,
14 possession, disposition, contracts, or other rights, may not
15 recognize the governmental or quasi-governmental authority,
16 financial institution, or other person acting as the lawful
17 successor of the registered holder of a depository account in
18 question.

19 (c) On receipt of notice of any transaction described by
20 Subsection (a), with respect to all or any portion of the balance of
21 a depository account, the depository shall suspend withdrawal
22 privileges associated with the balances of the depository account
23 until suitable substitute arrangements may be effected in
24 accordance with rules of the comptroller to enable the registered
25 account holder to take delivery of the precious metals represented
26 by the account balances in question. A voluntary transfer of a
27 depository account balance or of a depository account among

1 depository account holders may continue to take place unaffected by
2 the suspension, and the depository shall recognize to the full
3 extent authorized by this chapter and rules adopted under this
4 chapter.

5 Sec. 2116.024. OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES. The comptroller by
6 rule shall establish the references by which the official exchange
7 rate for pricing precious metals transactions in terms of United
8 States dollars or other currency must be established at the time of
9 a depository transaction. The comptroller shall establish
10 procedures and facilities through which the rates are made
11 discoverable at all reasonable times by system participants, both
12 on a real-time basis and retrospectively.

13 Sec. 2116.025. FACILITATION OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING OF
14 TAXABLE GAINS. The comptroller by rule shall establish procedures
15 and requirements for the depository and depository agents designed
16 to minimize the burden to system participants of accounting for and
17 reporting taxable gains and losses arising out of depository
18 transactions as denominated in United States dollars or another
19 currency.

20 Sec. 2116.026. ANNUAL REPORT. The comptroller shall submit
21 to the governor and the legislature a report on the status,
22 condition, operations, and prospects for the depository and
23 depository participation each year not later than September 30.

24 SUBCHAPTER B. DEPOSITORY AGENTS

25 Sec. 2116.051. USE OF DEPOSITORY AGENTS. The depository
26 shall use private, independently managed firms and institutions
27 licensed as depository agents as intermediaries to conduct retail

1 transactions in bullion and specie on behalf of the depository with
2 current and prospective depository account holders.

3 Sec. 2116.052. ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEMS AND
4 PROCESSES. The comptroller by rule shall require a depository
5 agent to maintain suitable systems and processes for electronic
6 information sharing and communication with the comptroller and the
7 depository to ensure that all transactions effected on behalf of
8 the depository are reported to and integrated into the depository's
9 records not later than 11:59:59 p.m. on the date of each
10 transaction.

11 Sec. 2116.053. PERIODIC REPORTS. A depository agent shall
12 submit monthly, quarterly, and annual reports of all depository
13 transactions not later than the 15th day of the month following the
14 expiration of the period with respect to which such report is
15 submitted. The report must contain information and be in a form and
16 format as rules of the comptroller require.

17 SECTION 2. Section 151.002(a), Finance Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (a) This section defines general terms that apply to an
20 applicant for or holder of a money services license issued under
21 this chapter, regardless of whether the license is a money
22 transmission license, ~~or~~ a currency exchange license, or a
23 depository agent license. Additional terms that apply specifically
24 to money transmission are defined in Section 151.301. Additional
25 terms that apply specifically to currency exchange are defined in
26 Section 151.501. Additional terms that apply specifically to
27 depository agents are defined in Section 151.851.

1 SECTION 3. Section 151.002(b), Finance Code, is amended by
2 adding Subdivisions (9-a), (9-b), and (9-c) and amending
3 Subdivisions (11) and (14) to read as follows:

4 (9-a) "Depository agent" has the meaning assigned by
5 Section 151.851.

6 (9-b) "Depository agent license" means a license
7 issued under Subchapter J.

8 (9-c) "Depository agent services" means services
9 rendered to the general public for or on behalf of the Texas Bullion
10 Depository in the nature of purchasing, selling, transferring,
11 accepting, transporting, delivering, or otherwise dealing in
12 precious metals bullion or specie in connection with the creation,
13 transfer, clearing, settlement, or liquidation of the rights and
14 interests of a depository account holder and a direct or indirect
15 transferee of a depository account holder, as those terms are
16 defined by Subchapter J. The term "depository agent services" does
17 not include:

18 (A) participation as a party or counterparty to a
19 transaction, including an agreement with respect to a transaction,
20 in or in connection with a contract for the purchase or sale of a
21 person's rights and interests as a depository account holder, as a
22 cash contract for present delivery, a cash contract for deferred
23 shipment or delivery, or a contract for future delivery, where the
24 underlying deliverable consists of the depository account holder's
25 interest in the depository account, rather than the underlying
26 precious metal represented by the depository account balance;

27 (B) the opening, transfer, settlement, or

1 liquidation of any derivative of a contract described by Paragraph
2 (A), including a forward transaction, swap transaction, currency
3 transaction, future transaction, index transaction, or option on or
4 other derivative of a transaction of any of those types, in the
5 nature of a cap transaction, floor transaction, collar transaction,
6 repurchase transaction, reverse repurchase transaction,
7 buy-and-sell-back transaction, securities lending transaction, or
8 other financial instrument or interest, including an option with
9 respect to a transaction, or any combination of these transactions;
10 or

11 (C) the rendition of services exclusively in
12 support of the opening, transfer, settlement, or liquidation of
13 transaction derivatives described by Paragraph (B) through a
14 central counterparty, such as those customarily rendered by a
15 clearinghouse, clearing association, or clearing corporation, or
16 through an interbank payment system, physical or electronic trading
17 facility, broker or brokerage firm, or similar entity, facility,
18 system, or organization.

19 (11) "License holder" means a person that holds a
20 money transmission license, ~~or~~ a currency exchange license, or a
21 depository agent license.

22 (14) "Money services" means money transmission, ~~or~~
23 currency exchange, or depository agent services.

24 SECTION 4. Section 151.003, Finance Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 151.003. EXCLUSIONS. Subject to Subchapter J, the
27 ~~The~~ following persons are not required to be licensed under this

1 chapter:

2 (1) the United States or an instrumentality of the
3 United States, including the United States Post Office or a
4 contractor acting on behalf of the United States Post Office;

5 (2) a state or an agency, political subdivision, or
6 other instrumentality of a state;

7 (3) a federally insured financial institution, as that
8 term is defined by Section 201.101, that is organized under the laws
9 of this state, another state, or the United States;

10 (4) a foreign bank branch or agency in the United
11 States established under the federal International Banking Act of
12 1978 (12 U.S.C. Section 3101 et seq.);

13 (5) a person acting as an agent for an entity excluded
14 under Subdivision (3) or (4), to the extent of the person's actions
15 in that capacity, provided that:

16 (A) the entity is liable for satisfying the money
17 services obligation owed to the purchaser on the person's receipt
18 of the purchaser's money; and

19 (B) the entity and person enter into a written
20 contract that appoints the person as the entity's agent and the
21 person acts only within the scope of authority conferred by the
22 contract;

23 (6) a person that, on behalf of the United States or a
24 department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or a
25 state or county, city, or any other governmental agency or
26 political subdivision of a state, provides electronic funds
27 transfer services of governmental benefits for a federal, state,

1 county, or local governmental agency;

2 (7) a person that acts as an intermediary on behalf of
3 and at the direction of a license holder in the process by which the
4 license holder, after receiving money or monetary value from a
5 purchaser, either directly or through an authorized delegate,
6 transmits the money or monetary value to the purchaser's designated
7 recipient, provided that the license holder is liable for
8 satisfying the obligation owed to the purchaser;

9 (8) an attorney or title company that in connection
10 with a real property transaction receives and disburses domestic
11 currency or issues an escrow or trust fund check only on behalf of a
12 party to the transaction;

13 (9) a person engaged in the business of currency
14 transportation who is both a registered motor carrier under Chapter
15 643, Transportation Code, and a licensed armored car company or
16 courier company under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, provided that
17 the person does not engage in the money transmission or currency
18 exchange business or depository agent services business without a
19 license issued under this chapter; and

20 (10) any other person, transaction, or class of
21 persons or transactions exempted by commission rule or any other
22 person or transaction exempted by the commissioner's order on a
23 finding that the licensing of the person is not necessary to achieve
24 the purposes of this chapter.

25 SECTION 5. Section 151.201, Finance Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 151.201. SCOPE. This subchapter sets out the general

1 qualifications and provisions that apply to a money services
2 license, regardless of whether the license is a money transmission
3 license, ~~or~~ a currency exchange license, or a depository agent
4 license. Subchapters D and E set forth the additional
5 qualifications and provisions that apply specifically to a money
6 transmission license. Subchapter F sets forth the additional
7 qualifications and provisions that apply specifically to a currency
8 exchange license. Subchapter J sets forth the additional
9 qualifications and provisions that apply specifically to a
10 depository agent license.

11 SECTION 6. Sections 151.207(a), (b), and (d), Finance Code,
12 are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) If a license holder does not continue to meet the
14 qualifications or satisfy the requirements that apply to an
15 applicant for a new money transmission license, ~~or~~ currency
16 exchange license, or depository agent license, as applicable, the
17 commissioner may suspend or revoke the license holder's license.

18 (b) In addition to complying with Subsection (a), a license
19 holder must annually:

20 (1) pay a license fee in an amount established by
21 commission rule; and

22 (2) submit a report that is under oath, is in the form
23 and medium required by the commissioner, and contains:

24 (A) if the license is a money transmission
25 license or depository agent license, an audited unconsolidated
26 financial statement dated as of the last day of the license holder's
27 fiscal year that ended in the immediately preceding calendar year;

1 (B) if the license is a currency exchange
2 license, a financial statement, audited or unaudited, dated as of
3 the last day of the license holder's fiscal year that ended in the
4 immediately preceding calendar year; and

5 (C) documentation and certification, or any
6 other information the commissioner reasonably requires to
7 determine the security, net worth, permissible investments, and
8 other requirements the license holder must satisfy and whether the
9 license holder continues to meet the qualifications and
10 requirements for licensure.

11 (d) If the license holder fails to submit the completed
12 annual report and pay the annual license fee and any late fee due
13 within the time prescribed by Subsection (c)(1), the license
14 expires, and the license holder must cease and desist from engaging
15 in the business of money transmission, ~~or~~ currency exchange, or
16 depository agent services, as applicable, as of that date. The
17 expiration of a license is not subject to appeal.

18 SECTION 7. Section 151.302(a), Finance Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (a) A person may not engage in the business of money
21 transmission or advertise, solicit, or hold itself out as a person
22 that engages in the business of money transmission unless the
23 person:

24 (1) is licensed under this subchapter;

25 (2) is an authorized delegate of a person licensed
26 under this subchapter, appointed by the license holder in
27 accordance with Section 151.402;

1 (3) is excluded from licensure under Section 151.003;

2 [~~or~~]

3 (4) is licensed as a depository agent under Subchapter
4 J and only engages in the business of money transmission in
5 connection with, and to the extent necessary for, the performance
6 of depository agent activities; or

7 (5) has been granted an exemption under Subsection
8 (c).

9 SECTION 8. Section 151.502(a), Finance Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Sec. 151.502. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) A person may not engage
12 in the business of currency exchange or advertise, solicit, or hold
13 itself out as providing currency exchange unless the person:

14 (1) is licensed under this subchapter;

15 (2) is licensed for money transmission under
16 Subchapter D;

17 (3) is an authorized delegate of a person licensed for
18 money transmission under Subchapter D;

19 (4) is excluded under Section 151.003; [~~or~~]

20 (5) is licensed as a depository agent under Subchapter
21 J and only engages in the business of currency exchange in
22 connection with, and to the extent necessary for, the performance
23 of depository agent activities; or

24 (6) has been granted an exemption under Subsection
25 (d).

26 SECTION 9. Section 151.602(a), Finance Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 (a) A license holder must prepare, maintain, and preserve
2 the following books, accounts, and other records for at least five
3 years or another period as may be prescribed by rule of the
4 commission:

5 (1) a record of each money transmission transaction,
6 ~~[or]~~ currency exchange transaction, or depository agent services
7 transaction, as applicable;

8 (2) a general ledger posted in accordance with
9 generally accepted accounting principles containing all asset,
10 liability, capital, income, and expense accounts, unless directed
11 otherwise by the commissioner;

12 (3) bank statements and bank reconciliation records;

13 (4) all records and reports required by applicable
14 state and federal law, including the reporting and recordkeeping
15 requirements imposed by the Bank Secrecy Act, the USA PATRIOT ACT,
16 and Chapter 271, and other federal and state laws pertaining to
17 money laundering, drug trafficking, or terrorist funding; and

18 (5) any other records required by commission rule or
19 reasonably requested by the commissioner to determine compliance
20 with this chapter.

21 SECTION 10. Section [151.603](#), Finance Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

23 (c-1) A depository agent license holder shall prepare
24 written reports and statements as follows:

25 (1) the renewal report required by Section
26 [151.207](#)(b)(2), including an audited unconsolidated financial
27 statement that is dated as of the last day of the license holder's

- 1 fiscal year that ended in the immediately preceding calendar year;
2 (2) a quarterly interim financial statement and report
3 regarding the permissible investments required to be maintained
4 under applicable rules that reflect the license holder's financial
5 condition and permissible investments as of the last day of the
6 calendar quarter to which the statement and report relate and that
7 are prepared not later than the 45th day after the last day of the
8 calendar quarter; and
9 (3) any other report required by commission rule or
10 reasonably requested by the commissioner to determine compliance
11 with this chapter.

12 SECTION 11. Section 151.604(b), Finance Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (b) A license holder must file a written report with the
15 commissioner not later than 24 hours after the license holder knows
16 or has reason to know of:

17 (1) the filing of a petition by or against the license
18 holder for bankruptcy or reorganization;

19 (2) the filing of a petition by or against the license
20 holder for receivership, the commencement of any other judicial or
21 administrative proceeding for its dissolution or reorganization,
22 or the making of a general assignment for the benefit of the license
23 holder's creditors;

24 (3) the institution of a proceeding to revoke or
25 suspend the license holder's license, or to enjoin or otherwise
26 require the license holder to cease and desist from engaging in an
27 activity related to a business activity that, if conducted in this

1 state, would be subject to this chapter [~~money transmission~~], by a
2 state or country in which the license holder engages in business or
3 is licensed;

4 (4) the felony indictment or conviction of the license
5 holder or a principal of, person in control of, responsible
6 individual of, or authorized delegate of the license holder for an
7 offense identified in Section 151.202(e);

8 (5) the cancellation or other impairment of the
9 license holder's security; or

10 (6) the inability to meet the license holder's
11 transmission obligations under this chapter for a period of 24
12 hours or longer.

13 SECTION 12. Chapter 151, Finance Code, is amended by adding
14 Subchapter J to read as follows:

15 SUBCHAPTER J. DEPOSITORY AGENT LICENSE

16 Sec. 151.851. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "bullion,"
17 "deposit," "depository," "depository account," "depository account
18 holder," "depository agent," "precious metal," and "specie" have
19 the meanings assigned by Section 2116.001, Government Code.

20 Sec. 151.852. APPLICABILITY TO DEPOSITORY AGENT SERVICES.

21 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a money
22 service that constitutes both a depository agent service and a
23 money transmission service, or both a depository agent service and
24 a currency exchange service, for purposes of this chapter
25 constitutes a depository agent service only.

26 (b) A depository agent service described by Subsection (a)
27 is not subject to a provision of this chapter applicable uniquely to

1 money transmission services or currency exchange services.

2 (c) A person who renders a service that constitutes a
3 depository agent service, including a depository agent service
4 described by Subsection (a), and renders another service that
5 constitutes money transmission or currency exchange service only,
6 is subject to the requirements of this chapter applicable to each
7 type of service rendered.

8 Sec. 151.853. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) A person may not
9 engage in the business of rendering depository agent services or
10 advertise, solicit, or hold itself out as a person that engages in
11 the business of depository agent services unless the person:

12 (1) is licensed under this subchapter and has received
13 the requisite certifications from the comptroller of its
14 facilities, systems, processes, and procedures as required by
15 Chapter 2116, Government Code, or rules adopted under that chapter;
16 or

17 (2) is excluded from licensing requirements under
18 Section 151.003.

19 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a
20 person described by Section 151.003(1), (6), (7), (8), or (9) is not
21 eligible for a license under this subchapter and may not engage in
22 depository agent activities.

23 (c) For purposes of this chapter:

24 (1) a person engages in the business of depository
25 agent services if the person renders a depository agent service,
26 regardless of whether:

27 (A) compensation is sought or received for the

1 service, directly or indirectly; and

2 (B) the service is incidental to any other
3 business in which the person is primarily engaged; and

4 (2) a person solicits, advertises, or holds the person
5 out as a person that engages in the business of depository agent
6 services if the person represents that the person will conduct
7 depository agent services.

8 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), a person does not
9 engage in the business of depository agent services by engaging in a
10 transaction for the person's own depository account or for the
11 account of another person acting as a fiduciary that would
12 constitute depository agent services if conducted for another
13 person.

14 (e) A depository agent license holder may engage in
15 depository agent services business at one or more locations in this
16 state owned directly or indirectly by the license holder under a
17 single license.

18 Sec. 151.854. ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. In addition to
19 the general qualifications for licensure set forth in Section
20 151.202, an applicant for a depository agent license must
21 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:

22 (1) the applicant's financial condition will enable
23 the applicant to safely and soundly engage in the business of
24 depository agent services; and

25 (2) the applicant does not engage in any activity or
26 practice that adversely affects the applicant's safety and
27 soundness.

1 Sec. 151.855. APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING FEE,
2 STATEMENTS, AND SECURITY. (a) An applicant for a depository agent
3 license must submit an application in accordance with Section
4 151.203.

5 (b) At the time an application for a depository agent
6 license is submitted, an applicant must file with the department:

7 (1) an application fee in the amount established by
8 commission rule;

9 (2) audited financial statements that are
10 satisfactory to the commissioner for purposes of determining
11 whether the applicant has the minimum net worth required under
12 applicable rules and is likely to maintain the required minimum net
13 worth if a license is issued; and

14 (3) security in the amount of \$500,000 that meets the
15 requirements of applicable rules and an undertaking or agreement
16 that the applicant will increase or supplement the security to
17 equal the aggregate security required by the commissioner before
18 the issuance of the license and the start of operations.

19 Sec. 151.856. INVESTIGATION AND ACTION ON APPLICATION. The
20 commissioner shall investigate the applicant and act on the
21 application in accordance with Sections 151.204 and 151.205.

22 Sec. 151.857. TEMPORARY LICENSE. (a) The commissioner may
23 issue a temporary depository agent license to a person that is
24 engaging in depository agent services, but has not obtained a
25 license under this subchapter, if the person:

26 (1) certifies in writing that the person qualifies for
27 the license and will submit a completed license application not

1 later than the 60th day after the date the temporary license is
2 issued;

3 (2) submits a recent financial statement acceptable to
4 the commissioner that reflects the minimum net worth required under
5 applicable regulations;

6 (3) provides security that meets the requirements
7 specified by the commissioner, but not less than \$500,000;

8 (4) agrees in writing that, until a permanent license
9 is issued, the person will engage only in activities being
10 conducted at existing locations; and

11 (5) pays the application fee and a nonrefundable
12 temporary license fee in the amount established by commission rule.

13 (b) The effective period for a temporary depository agent
14 license may not exceed 90 days after the date the license is issued.
15 The commissioner may extend the effective period for not more than
16 30 days if necessary to complete the processing of a timely filed
17 application for which approval is likely.

18 Sec. 151.858. LIABILITY OF LICENSE HOLDER. A depository
19 agent license holder is liable for the delivery to or for the
20 account of the depository or each depositor, as applicable, of all
21 bullion, specie, and money payable or deliverable in connection
22 with the transactions in which the license holder engages on behalf
23 of the depository.

24 Sec. 151.859. TRUST IMPOSED. (a) A depository agent
25 license holder shall hold in trust all cash, bullion, specie, and
26 other assets received in the ordinary course of its business until
27 the time the delivery obligation is discharged. A trust resulting

1 from the depository agent license holder's actions is in favor of
2 the persons to whom such delivery obligations are owed.

3 (b) If a depository agent license holder commingles any
4 money or other property received for delivery with money or other
5 property owned or controlled by the depository agent license
6 holder, all commingled money and other property are impressed with
7 a trust as provided by this section in an amount equal to the amount
8 of money or property received for delivery, less the amount of fees
9 paid for the delivery.

10 (c) If the commissioner revokes a depository agent license,
11 all money and other property held in trust by the depository agent
12 license holder is assigned to the commissioner for the benefit of
13 the persons to whom the related delivery obligations are owed.

14 (d) Money or other property of a depository agent license
15 holder impressed with a trust under this section may not be
16 considered an asset or property of the license holder in the event
17 of bankruptcy, receivership, or a claim against the license holder
18 unrelated to the license holder's obligations under this chapter.

19 Sec. 151.860. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS. (a) A depository
20 agent license holder's name and mailing address or telephone number
21 must be provided to the purchaser in connection with each
22 depository agent services transaction conducted by the depository
23 agent license holder.

24 (b) A depository agent license holder receiving currency or
25 an instrument payable in currency for transmission must comply with
26 Chapter 278.

27 SECTION 13. This Act takes effect immediately if it

H.B. No. 483

1 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
2 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
3 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
4 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 483 was passed by the House on May 7, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 483 on May 28, 2015, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 483 on May 31, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 483

I certify that H.B. No. 483 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 483 on May 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor