SENATE BILL 475

47th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - second session, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

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AN ACT

RELATING TO FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE LIMITATION OF FEES AND THE REGULATION OF PAYDAY LOANS; PROVIDING PENALTIES; AMENDING, REPEALING AND ENACTING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NEW MEXICO SMALL LOAN ACT OF 1955.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 58-15-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-2. DEFINITIONS.--The following words and terms when used in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 [shall] have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires a different meaning. The meaning ascribed to the singular form [shall apply] applies also to the plural:

[A. "person" shall include individuals, copartners, associations, trusts, corporations and any other legal entity; .158871.4

A. "balloon payment" means a provision in a loan
agreement that requires the consumer to pay, at a specified
time or upon demand, a final installment with an amount that is
greater than the prior installments and includes the remaining
loan principal;

- B. "consumer" means a borrower who enters into a loan agreement with a licensee pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955;
- <u>C. "department" or "division" means the financial</u>
 institutions division of the regulation and licensing
 department;
 - D. "director" means the director of the division;
- [B.] E. "license" [shall mean] means a permit issued under the authority of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 to make loans and collect charges therefor strictly in accordance with the provisions of [the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955] that act at a single place of business. It shall constitute and shall be construed as a grant of a [revokable] revocable privilege only to be held and enjoyed subject to all the conditions, restrictions and limitations contained in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and lawful regulations promulgated by the director [of the financial institutions division] and not otherwise;
- [G.] F. "licensee" [shall mean] means a person to whom one or more licenses have been issued [hereunder] pursuant .158871.4

to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 upon [their] the
person's written application electing to become a licensee and
consenting to exercise the privilege of a licensee solely in
conformity with the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and the
lawful regulations promulgated by the director [of the
financial institutions division hereunder] under that act and
whose name [or names appear] <u>appears</u> on the face of the
license;
[D. "director" means the director of the financial
institutions division of the commerce and industry and

institutions division of the commerce and industry and

E. "department" means the financial institutions division of the commerce and industry department;

G. "payday loan" means a loan in which the licensee negotiates a personal check tendered by the consumer and agrees in writing to defer presentment of that check until the next scheduled payment or thirty days, whichever is greater, and includes any advance of money or arrangement or extension of credit whereby the licensee, for a fee, finance charge or other consideration:

(1) accepts a dated instrument from a consumer or an authorization signed by a consumer to transfer or withdraw funds from an account for the specific purpose of repaying a payday loan;

(2) agrees to hold a dated instrument for a
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period	of	time	prior	to	negotiating	or	depositing	the
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instrument; or								

- (3) pays to the consumer, credits to the consumer's account or pays another person on behalf of the consumer the amount of an instrument actually paid or to be paid pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955;
- "person" includes an individual, copartner, association, trust, corporation and any other legal entity; and
- "simple interest" means a method of calculating interest in which the amount of interest is calculated based on the annual interest rate disclosed in the loan agreement and is computed only on the outstanding principal balance of the loan."
- Section 2. Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:
- "58-15-3. APPLICABILITY OF ACT--EXEMPTIONS--EVASIONS--PENALTY. --
- [No] A person shall not engage in the business of lending in amounts of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less for a loan without first having obtained a license from the director. Nothing contained in this subsection shall restrict or prohibit a licensee under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 from making loans in any amount under the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 in accordance with the provisions of Section 58-7-2 NMSA 1978.

- B. Nothing in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall apply to a person making individual advances of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less under a written agreement providing for a total loan or line of credit in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for which real estate is pledged as collateral.
- C. [Any] A banking corporation, savings and loan association or credit union operating under the laws of the United States or of [New Mexico] a state shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, nor shall that act apply to [any] business transacted by any [such] person under the authority of and as permitted by any such law nor to any bona fide pawnbroking business transacted under a pawnbroker's license nor to bona fide commercial loans made to dealers upon personal property held for resale. Nothing contained in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall be construed as abridging the rights of any of those exempted from the operations of that act from contracting for or receiving interest or charges not in violation of [any] an existing applicable statute of this state.
- D. The provisions of Subsection A of this section apply to [any]:
- (1) a person [owning any] who owns an interest, legal or equitable, in the business or profits of [any] a licensee and whose name does not specifically appear on .158871.4

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licensee; and

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4	application by any device, subterfuge or pretense whatsoever,
5	including but not thereby limiting the generality of the
6	foregoing:
7	(a) the loan, forbearance, use or sale
8	of credit (as guarantor, surety, endorser, comaker or
9	otherwise), money, goods or things in action;
10	(b) the use of collateral or related
11	sales or purchases of goods or services or agreements to sell
12	or purchase, whether real or pretended;
13	(c) receiving or charging compensation
14	for goods or services, whether or not sold, delivered or
15	provided; and
16	(d) the real or pretended negotiation,
17	arrangement or procurement of a loan through any use or
18	activity of a third person, whether real or fictitious.
19	E. [Any] <u>A</u> person, copartnership, trust
20	[and the trustees or beneficiaries thereof] or a trustee or
21	beneficiary thereof or an association or corporation [and the
22	several members, officers, directors, agents and employees
23	thereof who violate or participate] or a member, officer,
24	director, agent or employee thereof who violates or
25	<u>participates</u> in the violation of $[any]$ <u>a</u> provision of

the face of the license, except a stockholder in a corporate

[to any] (2) a person who seeks to evade its

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material	material]
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Subsection A of this section is guilty of a petty misdemeanor
and upon conviction shall be sentenced pursuant to the
provisions of <u>Subsection B of</u> Section 31-19-1 [(B)] NMSA 1978.
$[\underline{Any}]\ \underline{A}$ contract or loan in the making or collection of which
$[\frac{any}{}]$ \underline{an} act is done that violates Subsection A or D of this
section is void and the lender has no right to collect, received
or retain any principal, interest or charges whatsoever."

Section 58-15-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Section 3. Chapter 6, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-5. LICENSES--INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATION--ISSUANCE--DENIAL--ISSUANCE OF RENEWAL LICENSE--DENIAL OF RENEWAL LICENSE--FITNESS AND CHARACTER OF APPLICANT--LICENSE FEES--LICENSEE BOUND BY ACT.--

Upon the filing of an application, whether it is an original or a renewal, the director shall investigate the facts concerning the application and the requirements provided in this section.

[Any] B. An applicant for license, upon written notice to do so by the director, shall, within twenty days after service of the notice, furnish in writing, under oath, to the director [any and] all additional information required by the director that may be relevant or, in the opinion of the director, helpful [to him] in conducting [his] the investigation.

C. Failure to comply with the director's .158871.4

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requirement for supplemental information or the willful furnishing of false information is sufficient [ground] grounds for denial of license.

D. False or misleading information willfully and intentionally furnished to the director prior to the issuance of any license is [ground] grounds for suspension or revocation of any license in accordance with the procedures for suspension or revocation of license in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955.

The director shall grant or deny each application for an original license within sixty days from the filing of the application with the required information and fees, unless the period is extended by written agreement between the applicant and the director.

[B.] F. In the event the director finds that:

[that] the financial responsibility, (1) character and general fitness of the applicant for an original license and of the individual members and beneficiaries thereof, if the applicant is a copartnership, association or trust, and of the officers and directors thereof, if the applicant is a corporation, are such as to command the confidence of the public and to warrant belief that the business will be operated lawfully, honestly, fairly and efficiently within the declared purposes and spirit of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955;

(2) [that] allowing the applicant to engage in business will promote the convenience and advantage of the community in which the business of the applicant is to be conducted; and

operation of the business at the specified location cash or its equivalent, convertible securities or receivables of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) or any combination thereof; [he] the director shall enter an order granting the application, file [his] the director's findings and, upon payment of the license fee of [five hundred dollars (\$500)] seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750), issue and deliver a license to the applicant.

[G.] G. If the director does not make the findings enumerated in Subsection [$\frac{1}{8}$] $\frac{1}{8}$ of this section, [$\frac{1}{8}$ e] $\frac{1}{8}$ the director shall enter an order denying the application, notify the applicant of the denial and retain the application fee. Within thirty days after the entry of such an order, [$\frac{1}{8}$ e] $\frac{1}{8}$ e director shall prepare written findings and shall deliver a copy to the applicant.

[H. A written application for <u>license</u> renewal [licenses] shall be filed on or before March 31 of each year, and thereupon the director shall investigate the facts and review [his] the files of examinations of the applicant made by [his] the director's office and of complaints filed by .158871.4

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borrowers, if any. The director shall deliver a renewal
<u>license to the applicant</u> if [he] the director finds that:
(1) [that] no valid complaints of violations
or abuses of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 or of the
regulations of the director promulgated under that act have
been filed by borrowers;

- [that his] examinations of the affairs of (2) the applicant indicate that the business has been conducted and operated lawfully and efficiently within the declared purposes and spirit of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955; and
- [that] the financial responsibility, experience and general fitness and character of the applicant remain such as to command the confidence of the public and to warrant the belief that the business will continue to be operated lawfully and efficiently within the purposes and spirit of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. [he shall deliver a renewal license to the applicant.
- E. I. If the director does not make the findings enumerated in Subsection $[\frac{1}{2}]$ H of this section, $[\frac{he}{2}]$ the director may grant a temporary extension of the license not exceeding sixty days pending a hearing; shall enter an order fixing a date for hearing upon the application; shall notify the licensee thereof, specifying the particular complaints, violations or abuses or other reasons for [his] the director's contemplated refusal to renew the license; and shall afford to

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the applicant an opportunity to be heard. At the hearing, the director shall produce [his] evidence to establish the truth of the charges of violation or other grounds specified in the notice, and the applicant shall be accorded the right to produce evidence or other matters of defense. If after the hearing the director finds that the complaints of violations or other grounds specified in the notice are not well-founded, [he] the director shall issue the renewal license. If [he] the director finds that the complaints of violations or other grounds are well-founded, [he] the director shall enter an order denying the renewal application and notify the applicant of the denial, returning the renewal license fee tendered with the application. Within thirty days after the entry of such an order, [he] the director shall prepare written findings and shall deliver a copy of the findings to the applicant. order shall be subject to review as provided in Section 58-15-25 NMSA 1978. The court in its discretion and upon proper showing may order a temporary extension of the license pending disposition of the review proceedings.

[F.] J. In connection with the determination of fitness and character of an applicant [under] pursuant to provisions of this section, the fact that the applicant or licensee is a member of or interested financially in, connected or affiliated with, controls or is controlled by or owns or is owned by other corporations, partnerships, trusts, associations .158871.4

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or other legal entities engaged in the lending of money whose policies and practices as to rates of interest, charges and fees and general dealing with borrowers are questionable or would constitute violation of the general usury statutes of this state or of the declared purposes and spirit of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall be given such consideration and weight as the director determines.

[G.] K. At the time of issuance of original license and each annual renewal thereof, the licensee for each licensed office shall pay to the director as a license fee for the period covered by the license the sum of [five hundred dollars (\$500) seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) as a minimum, plus an additional seventy-five cents (\$.75) for each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or fraction thereof of loans outstanding as of December 31 next preceding, as shown on the applicant's annual In the event that the application for annual renewal of the license is delinquent, the licensee shall also pay a delinquency fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day the licensee is delinquent in filing the application for renewal.

[H. Each] L. A licensee by accepting [any] \underline{a} license that is issued or renewed or by continuing to operate [any] a licensed office under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall by such action be deemed to have consented to be bound by the lawful provisions of that act and all lawful

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requirements, regulations and orders of the director promulgated or issued pursuant to any authorization granted in that act."

Section 58-15-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Section 4. Chapter 128, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-9. EXAMINATION OF LICENSEE'S BOOKS AND RECORDS--WITNESSES. --

At least once each year, the director or [his duly] the director's authorized representative shall make an examination of the place of business of each licensee and [such of] the loans, transactions, books, papers and records of the licensee insofar as they pertain to the business licensed under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 as [he] the director may deem necessary. The licensee shall pay to the [commissioner] director for such annual examination a fee of [two hundred dollars (\$200) four hundred dollars (\$400).

B. Within a reasonable time after the completion of an examination of a licensed office, the director shall mail to the licensee a copy of the report of the examination, together with any comments, exceptions, objections or criticisms of the director concerning the conduct of the licensee and the operation of the licensed office.

[B.] C. For the purpose of discovering violations of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 or of securing information lawfully required under that act, the director or .158871.4

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[his duly] the director's authorized representative may at any time investigate the business and examine the books, accounts, papers and records used therein, including income tax returns or other reports filed in the office of the director of the revenue processing division of the taxation and revenue department of:

- any licensee; (1)
- any other person engaged in the business (2) described in Subsection A of Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 or participating in such business as principal, agent, broker or otherwise; and
- any person whom the director has reasonable cause to believe is violating any provision of [that act] the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, whether the person claims to be within the authority or beyond the scope of that act.
- D. For the purposes of this section, [any] a person who advertises, solicits or [holds himself out] makes any representation as being willing to make loan transactions in any amount, except persons, financial institutions or lending agencies operating under charters or licenses issued by [any] a state or federal agency or under any special statute, shall be subject to investigation under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and shall be presumed to be engaged in the business described in Subsection A of Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 as to .158871.4

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any loans of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less.

 $[C_{\bullet}]$ E. To facilitate the examinations and investigations by the director and fully disclose the operations and methods of operation of each licensed office, the licensee shall, in each licensed office, keep on file as part of the records of the office all office manuals, communications or directives containing statements of loan policy to office managers and employees. If the licensee is an individual, corporation, trust or association, the licensee shall keep in at least one office for information of the director a record of the several individuals, firms, beneficiaries of any trust and corporations deriving or receiving any part of the benefits, net income or profits from the operation of the licensee within New Mexico.

[D.] F. For the purposes of this section, the director or [his duly] the director's authorized representative shall have and be given free access to the offices and places of business, files, safes and vaults of all licensees and shall have authority to require the attendance of any person and to examine [him] the person under oath relative to such loans or business or to the subject matter of any examination, investigation or hearing as provided in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. Notices to appear before the director for examination under oath may be served by registered mail. If

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the party notified to appear is the licensee, any person named on the face of the license being investigated or any agent, employee or manager participating in the licensee's business and [he] the party fails to appear for examination or refuses to answer questions submitted, the director may, forthwith and without further notice to the licensee, suspend the license involved pending compliance with the notice. Upon failure of any other person to appear or to answer questions, the director may apply to and invoke the aid of any district court of New Mexico in compelling the attendance and testimony of any such person and the production of books, records, written instruments and documents relating to the business of the [Any] The district court whose aid is so invoked by licensee. the director may, in case of contumacy or refusal to obey any order of the district court issued to compel the attendance of the person or the production of books, records, written instruments and documents, punish the person as for contempt of court.

[E.] G. The director shall prescribe rules of procedure for all hearings, examinations or investigations provided for in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. The director is not bound by the usual common law or statutory rules of evidence or by any technical or formal rules of procedure or pleading and specification of charges other than as specifically provided in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of

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1955 but may conduct hearings, examinations and investigations in the manner best calculated to ascertain the substantial rights of the parties interested.

[F.] H. The director has the power to administer oaths, certify official acts and records of [his] the director's office, issue subpoenas for witnesses in the name of and under the seal of [his] the director's office and compel the production of papers, books, accounts and documents. [He] The director shall issue subpoenas at the instance of any party to a hearing before the division upon payment of a fee of two dollars [and] fifty cents (\$2.50) for each subpoena so issued.

[G.] I. Depositions may be taken with or without a commission, and written interrogatories may be submitted in the same manner and on the same grounds provided by law for the taking of depositions or submission of written interrogatories in civil actions pending in the district courts of this state.

[H.] J. Each witness who appears before the director by [his] the director's order shall receive the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil actions in the district court. Fees and mileage shall be paid by the state, but no witness subpoenaed at the instance of parties other than the director is entitled to compensation from the state for attendance or mileage unless the director certifies that [his] the witness's testimony is material.

[1.] K. Whenever the director has reasonable cause .158871.4

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to believe that [any] <u>a</u> person is violating [any] <u>a</u> provision of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, [he] the director may, in addition to all actions provided for in that act and without prejudice thereto, enter an order requiring the person to desist or to refrain from the violation. An action may be brought on the relation of the attorney general and the director to enjoin the person from engaging in or continuing the violation or from doing any act in furtherance of the violation. In any such action, an order or judgment may be entered awarding a preliminary or final injunction as may be deemed proper. In addition to all other means provided by law for the enforcement of a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction or final injunction, the court in which such action is brought shall have power and jurisdiction to impound and to appoint a receiver for the property and business of the defendants, including books, papers, documents and records pertaining thereto or so much thereof as the court may deem reasonably necessary to prevent further violations of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 through or by means of the use of the property and business. The receiver, when appointed and qualified, shall have powers and duties as to custody, collection, administration, winding up and liquidation of the property and business as are from time to time conferred upon [him] the receiver by the court."

Section 5. Section 58-15-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, .158871.4

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Chapter 128, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read: "58-15-10. BOOKS AND RECORDS--ANNUAL REPORTS--ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. --

Each licensee shall keep and use in [his] the business such books, accounts and records in accordance with sound accounting practices [as in the director's opinion] that will enable [him] the director to determine whether the licensee is complying with the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and with the orders and regulations lawfully made by the director [under] pursuant to provisions of that act. Each licensee shall preserve the books, accounts and records for at least two years after making the final entry on [any] a loan recorded therein.

- Each licensee shall, annually on or before March 31, file a report with the director giving such relevant information as [he] the director may reasonably require concerning the business and operations during the preceding calendar year for each licensed place of business conducted by the licensee within the state pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. The report shall be made under oath and shall be in the form prescribed by the director. A summary of the reports shall be included in the published annual report of the director.
- C. At the time of filing each annual report, at the time of the annual examination or at any other time when [any] .158871.4

<u>a</u> license is in effect, the director may, upon written notice, require [any] <u>a</u> licensee to furnish within twenty days in writing, and under oath if so specified by any written notice issued and served by the director upon the licensee, [any and all] additional information as to ownership of any office; operation of any office; books, records, files and papers; and affiliation or relationship with any other person, firm, trust, association or corporation as, in the opinion of the director, may be helpful [to him] in the discharge of [his] the director's official duties.

<u>D.</u> False or misleading information willfully furnished to the director by [any] a licensee in [any] an annual report or pursuant to [any] a notice or requirement of the director is sufficient [ground] grounds for suspension and revocation of license in accordance with the procedures for suspension or revocation of license set forth in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955."

Section 6. Section 58-15-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-12. ADVERTISING--SCHEDULE OF CHARGES.--

A. [No] A licensee or other person subject to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall not advertise, display, distribute or broadcast or cause or permit to be advertised, displayed, distributed or broadcast in any manner whatsoever [any] a false, misleading or deceptive statement or .158871.4

representation with regard to the charges, terms or conditions for loans in the amount or of the value of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less. The director may require that charges or rates of charge, if stated by a licensee, be stated fully and clearly in such manner as [he may deem] the director deems necessary to prevent misunderstanding [thereof] by prospective borrowers. The director may permit or require licensees to refer in their advertising to the fact that their business is under state supervision, subject to conditions imposed by [him] the director to prevent [any] erroneous impressions as to the scope or degree of protection provided by the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955.

B. Each licensee shall display in each licensed place of business, in a place where it will be readily visible by borrowers, a full and accurate schedule of the rates of charges upon all classes of loans currently to be made by [him] the licensee, stated on a percent per annum basis [and also on a percent per month basis]."

Section 7. Section 58-15-14.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 95, Section 2) is amended to read:

"58-15-14.1. CHARGES--METHOD OF COMPUTATION.--[Charges on] The simple interest method shall be used for loans made under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. Simple interest charges are recomputed whenever a payment is received by a licensee. Interest charges shall not be paid, deducted or .158871.4

received in advance. [Such] Interest charges shall not be compounded. [However, if part or all of the consideration for a loan contract is the unpaid principal balance of a prior loan, then the principal amount payable under the loan contract may include any unpaid charges which have accrued within sixty days on the prior loan. Such charges shall be computed on the basis of the number of days actually elapsed. For the purpose of computing charges, whether at the maximum rate or less, a month shall be any period of thirty consecutive days and the rate of charge for each day shall be one-thirtieth of the monthly rate.]"

Section 8. Section 58-15-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-17. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAKING AND PAYING OF LOANS-INCOMPLETE INSTRUMENTS--LIMITATIONS ON CHARGES AFTER JUDGMENT
AND INTEREST.--

A. Every licensee shall:

(1) at the time [any] a loan is made within the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, deliver to the borrower or, if there are two or more borrowers on the same obligation, to one of them, a statement in English or Spanish as requested by the borrower, on which shall be printed a copy of Section 58-15-14.1 NMSA 1978 [disclosing] and that discloses in clear and distinct terms:

(a) the amount of the loan;

1	(b) the date the loan was made;
2	(c) a schedule or a description of the
3	payments;
4	(d) the type of the security, if any,
5	for the loan;
6	(e) the name and address of the licensed
7	office;
8	<u>(f)</u> the name of the person primarily
9	obligated for the loan;
10	(g) the amount of principal;
11	(h) the agreed rate of charge stated on
12	[a percent per month and] a percent per year basis and the
13	amount in dollars and cents; [and]
14	(i) all other disclosures required
15	pursuant to state and federal law; and
16	(j) other items allowable pursuant to
17	that act, so stated as to clearly show the allocation of each
18	item included;
19	(2) for each payment made on account of any
20	such loan, give to the person making it a plain and complete
21	receipt specifying the date and amount of the payment, the
22	amount applied to interest and principal and the balance
23	unpaid. When payment is made in any other manner than by the
24	borrower in person, by an agent of the borrower or by check or
25	money order, the licensee shall mail the receipt to the
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borrower's last known address or hold the receipt for delivery upon request of the borrower. A copy of all receipts shall be kept on file in the office of the licensee as a part of [his] the licensee's records; and

- (3) upon payment of the loan in full, mark plainly every note and promise to pay signed by any obligor with the word "paid" or "canceled" and promptly file or record a release of any mortgage if the mortgage has been recorded, restore any pledge and cancel and return any note and any assignment given to the licensee. A licensee may mark and return a copy of the note, promise to pay or any assignment if the copy accurately reproduces the complete original.
- B. [No] A licensee shall not take [any] a note or promise to pay that does not disclose the amount of the loan, a schedule of payments, or a description thereof, and the agreed charge or rate of charge or any instrument in which blanks are left to be filled in after execution.
- C. If judgment is obtained against [any] a party [or any] on a loan made [under] pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, neither the judgment nor the loan shall carry, from the date of the judgment, [any] charges against [any] a party to the loan other than [court] costs, [attorneys'] attorney fees and post-judgment interest [on the amount of the judgment at ten percent a year] as provided by law.

Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 that is filed and approved as a claim in any bankruptcy proceeding shall, from a date ninety days subsequent to the date of adjudication, bear interest at the rate of ten percent a year only. This limitation shall not apply when the bankrupt is not discharged in bankruptcy or to any obligation not dischargeable under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act presently in force or as hereafter amended.

E. No loan made under the provisions of the New

Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall bear interest after ninety

days from the date of the death of the borrower in excess of a

rate of ten percent a year on the unpaid principal balance of

the loan.

F. No loan made under the provisions of the New

Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall bear interest after twelve

months from the date of maturity of the loan in excess of ten

percent a year upon the unpaid principal balance of the loan.]"

Section 9. Section 58-15-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 18) is amended to read:

"58-15-20. FEES AND COSTS.--

[(a) FILING OR RECORDING FEES] A. Notwithstanding any provision of [this Act] the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, lawful fees, if any, actually and necessarily paid out by the licensee to [any] a public officer for the filing, recording or releasing in [any] a public office [any] of an .158871.4

instrument securing the loan may be charged to the borrower.

[(b) ATTORNEY FEES] B. Notwithstanding any provision in [any] a note or other loan contract taken or received [under this act] pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, attorney fees shall not be charged or collected except [where such] when the note or other contract has been [turned] submitted in good faith to an attorney for collection and after diligent and good faith effort to collect [has failed] on the part of the licensee has failed. Attorney fees are available to the prevailing party in a dispute pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955.

[(c) COURTS COSTS Where suit is filed in any court of competent jurisdiction, court costs shall be collectable in accordance with the laws of New Mexico applicable thereto.

(d) NOTARY FEES PROHIBITED] C. Notary fees incident to the taking of [any] a lien to secure a small loan or releasing such a lien shall not be charged or collected by [any] a licensee, [nor by any] an officer, agent or employee of a licensee [nor by] or anyone within [any] an office, room or place of business in which a small loan office is conducted.

D. Delinquency fees shall not exceed five cents

(\$.05) for each one dollar (\$1.00) of each installment more

than ten days in arrears; provided that the total of

delinquency charges on any such installment shall not exceed

ten dollars (\$10.00) and that only one delinquency charge shall

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be made on any one installment regardless of the period during which the installment remains unpaid."

Section 10. Section 58-15-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 21) is amended to read:

"58-15-23. VIOLATION OF GENERAL USURY LAWS.--The [wilful] violation by [any] a licensee or by [any] an officer, manager, director, trustee, executive or employee directly engaged in operating a small loan office under the provisions of [this Act of any usury statute of this state] the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 within [any] an office, room or place of business in which the making of loans as a licensee is solicited or engaged or in association or conjunction therewith [shall be ground] is grounds for suspension and revocation of license in accordance with the applicable procedures [applicable thereto as] set forth [herein] in that act."

Section 11. Section 58-15-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 28) is amended to read:

"58-15-30. PENALTIES--GENERAL.--Any person, copartnership, trust, association or corporation and the several members, beneficiaries, officers, directors, agents and employees thereof who [shall] violate or participate in the violation of any provision of the [sections of this Act shall be] New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 are guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction [thereof] shall be [punishable] punished by a fine of not less than [one hundred (\$100.00)

dollars and not more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars [five hundred dollars (\$500) or more than one thousand dollars

(\$1,000) or by imprisonment of not more than [ninety (90) days]

six months or [by] both [such fine and imprisonment] in the discretion of the court."

Section 12. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-32 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-32. [NEW MATERIAL] REQUIREMENTS FOR PAYDAY LOANS.--

A. No licensee shall make a payday loan to a consumer if:

- (1) the total principal amount of the loan, when combined with the principal amount of all of the consumer's other outstanding payday loans, exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or twenty-five percent of the consumer's net monthly income, whichever is less; or
- (2) the consumer has an outstanding balance on two or more payday loans.
- B. The dollar amount set forth in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section shall be adjusted for inflation pursuant to rules promulgated by the director, at no less than three-year intervals, to the nearest dollar amount as indicated by changes in the consumer price index for the United States for all items as published by the United States department of labor.

- C. Without affecting the rights of a consumer to prepay a payday loan at any time without additional cost or penalty:
- (1) no payday loan shall have a stated minimum term of less than one hundred twenty days; and
- (2) there shall be a minimum of thirty days between each scheduled payment by the consumer within the term of the payday loan.
- D. A consumer shall not have more than two payday loans outstanding at any time, nor shall a consumer have more than one payday loan outstanding with any licensee operating under a single trade name.
- E. A payday loan agreement shall include a provision granting the consumer the right to rescind the transaction by returning in cash, or through certified funds, one hundred percent of the amount advanced by a licensee for a payday loan no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first day of business conducted by the licensee following the execution of the agreement or payment plan. If a consumer exercises the right of rescission pursuant to this subsection, no fee for the rescinded transaction shall be charged to the consumer, and the licensee shall not charge or impose on the consumer a fee for exercising the right of rescission pursuant to this subsection.
- F. A consumer shall be permitted to make payments in any amount on a payday loan at any time before maturity .158871.4

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without additional fees.

- Payments against principal shall be equally divided through the term of the payday loan. Balloon payments are prohibited.
- After each payment is made, in full or in part, on a payday loan, the licensee shall give to the person making the payment a signed, dated receipt showing the amount paid, amount credited toward administrative fees and principal and the balance due on the loan.
- I. A check written by a consumer for a payday loan shall be payable to the order of the licensee.
- The licensee shall provide the consumer, or each consumer if there is more than one, with copies of the payday loan agreement in Spanish or English prior to the consummation of the loan.
- A payday loan agreement shall not be renewed, Κ. refinanced or extended without the written consent of the consumer.
- Licensees making payday loans shall provide the consumer with an information brochure in English, Spanish or other language as determined by the director.
- The disclosure of the credit terms of a payday Μ. loan shall be according to and governed by the requirements of 12 CFR 226, known as "Regulation Z". The definitions and requirements of that regulation and commentary shall apply to .158871.4

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2	section.
3	N. A licensee shall collect on payday loans in
4	default in a professional, fair and lawful manner, in
5	accordance with the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,
6	15 USCA, Chapter 41, Subchapter V."
7	Section 13. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan
8	Act of 1955, Section 58-15-33 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:
9	"58-15-33. [NEW MATERIAL] PAYDAY LOANSPERMITTED
10	CHARGESThe following provisions apply only to payday loans:
11	A. a licensee may not charge or receive from a
12	consumer, directly or indirectly, fees or charges except as
13	provided in this section;
14	B. upon the execution of a new payday loan, the
15	licensee may charge interest that is payable during the term of
16	the payday loan at a rate:
17	(1) not exceeding five dollars fifty cents
18	(\$5.50) per one hundred dollars (\$100) in principal during the
19	first four months of the loan; and
20	(2) not exceeding four dollars (\$4.00) per one
21	hundred dollars (\$100) in principal in any subsequent month of
22	the loan term;
23	C. the dollar amounts set forth in Subsection B of
24	this section shall be adjusted for inflation pursuant to rules
25	promulgated by the director, at no less than three-year

payday loans as if those provisions are fully set out in this

intervals, to the nearest dollar amounts as indicated by changes in the consumer price index for the United States for all items as published by the United States department of labor;

- D. a licensee shall not charge a consumer interest on the outstanding principal owed on a payday loan other than the administrative fees as set forth in this section; and
- E. if there are insufficient funds to pay a check or other type of debit on the date of presentment by the licensee, a licensee may charge a borrower a fee not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00). Only one fee may be collected by a licensee on a declined check or debit. Once declined, checks may not be redeposited and electronic debits may not be repeated."

Section 14. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-34 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-34. [NEW MATERIAL] PAYDAY LOANS--PROHIBITED ACTS.--A licensee shall not:

- A. threaten or intimidate a consumer or threaten to use or request the use of criminal process in this or another state to collect on a payday loan;
- B. alter the date or other information on a check drawn by a consumer in a payday loan transaction;
- C. use a device or agreement that would have the effect of charging or collecting more fees, charges or interest .158871.4

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1	than allowed by law by entering into a different type of
2	transaction with the consumer that has that effect except as
3	specifically permitted by the New Mexico Small Loan Act of
4	1955;
5	D. engage in unfair, deceptive or fraudulent
6	practices in making, renewing or collecting a payday loan;
7	E. require a consumer to enter into a new payday
8	loan if the consumer has an existing payday loan with that
9	licensee that can be renewed;
10	F. charge a fee to cash a check representing the
11	proceeds of the payday loan;
12	G. use or attempt to use the check written by the
13	consumer for a payday loan as security for purposes of a state
14	or federal law;
15	H. have more than one payday loan outstanding with
16	a consumer at a time for all licenses operated under the same
17	trade name;
18	I. accept collateral for a payday loan other than

oan other than the consumer's check or authorization to transfer or withdraw funds from an account or require a consumer to provide a guaranty from another person for a payday loan;

- charge interest, fees or charges other than J. those specifically authorized, including:
 - charges for insurance; or (1)
 - (2) collection costs;

-	R. threaten to take any action against a consumer
2	that is prohibited by the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955;
3	L. include any of the following provisions in a
4	payday loan agreement:
5	(1) a hold harmless clause;
6	(2) a confession of judgment clause or power
7	of attorney;
8	(3) an assignment of or order for payment of
9	wages or other compensation for services;
10	(4) a provision in which the consumer agrees
11	not to assert a claim or defense arising out of the contract;
12	(5) a waiver of claims for punitive damages or
13	class action relief; or
14	(6) a waiver of a provision of the New Mexico
15	Small Loan Act of 1955;
16	M. make a payday loan contingent on the purchase of
17	insurance or other goods or services;
18	N. advertise, display, distribute or broadcast or
19	cause or permit to be advertised, displayed, distributed or
20	broadcast, in any manner, a false, misleading or deceptive
21	statement or representation with regard to the charges, terms
22	or conditions for payday loans;
23	0. take a check, instrument or form in which blanks
24	are left to be filled in after execution of the check,
25	instrument or form;

I	Ρ.	offer,	arrange,	act a	as an	agent	for or	ass	ist a
third party	in	any way	y in the	making	g of a	payda	y loan	un1	ess
the third pa	arty	comp1	ies with	all ar	plica	ble fe	ederal	and	state
laws and reg	gula	tions;							

- Q. enter into a payday loan with a consumer who lacks the capacity to consent;
- R. use provisions in documents associated with a payday loan that are deceptive or misleading; or
- S. use an agency agreement or partnership agreement as a scheme or contrivance to circumvent the application of the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 to a consumer's payday loan. For the purposes of this subsection:
- (1) "agency agreement" means any agreement between in-state entities and a banking corporation, savings and loan association or credit union operating under the laws of the United States or of any state whereby the in-state agent holds a predominant economic interest in the revenues generated by a payday loan made to New Mexico residents; and
- (2) "partnership agreement" means any agreement between in-state entities and a banking corporation, savings and loan association or credit union operating under the laws of the United States or of any state whereby the in-state partner holds a predominant economic interest in the revenues generated by a payday loan made to New Mexico residents."

Section 15. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-35 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-35. [NEW MATERIAL] RENEWED PAYDAY LOANS.--A consumer is entitled to renew a payday loan one time at the discretion of the lender, and the maturity of the payday loan renewal shall not be shorter than the term of the original payday loan."

Section 16. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-36 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-36. [NEW MATERIAL] PAYDAY LOANS--VERIFICATION.--

- A. Before entering into a payday loan agreement with a consumer, a licensee must use a commercially reasonable method of verification to verify that the proposed loan agreement is permissible under the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955.
- B. No later than October 1, 2006, the division shall certify that one or more consumer reporting service databases are commercially reasonable methods of verification. Upon certifying that a consumer reporting service database is a commercially reasonable method of verification, the division shall:
- (1) provide reasonable notice to all licensees identifying the commercially reasonable methods of verification that are available; and
- (2) immediately upon certification, require .158871.4

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each licensee to use a commercially reasonable method of verification as a means of complying with Subsection A of this section.

- Except as otherwise provided in this section, all personally identifiable information regarding a consumer obtained by way of the certified database and maintained by the division is strictly confidential and shall be exempt from disclosure under the Inspection of Public Records Act.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a consumer seeking a payday loan may make a direct inquiry to the consumer reporting service to request a more detailed explanation of the basis for a consumer reporting service's determination that the consumer is ineligible for a new payday loan.
- In certifying a commercially reasonable method Ε. of verification, the division shall ensure the certified database:
- provides real-time access through an internet connection or, if real-time access through an internet connection becomes unavailable to lenders due to a consumer reporting service's technical problems incurred by the consumer reporting service, through alternative verification mechanisms, including verification by telephone;
- is accessible to the division and to (2) licensees in order to ensure compliance with the New Mexico .158871.4

1	Small Loan Act of 1955 and in order to provide any other
2	information the division deems necessary;
3	(3) requires licensees to input whatever
4	information is required by the division;
5	(4) maintains a real-time copy of the required
6	reporting information that is available to the division at all
7	times and is the property of the division;
8	(5) provides licensees with no more than a
9	statement that a consumer is eligible or ineligible for a new
10	payday loan and a description of the reason for the
11	determination; and
12	(6) contains safeguards to ensure that all
13	information contained in the database regarding consumers is
14	kept strictly confidential.
15	F. A licensee shall update the certified database
16	by inputting all information required under Paragraph (3) of
17	Subsection E of this section at the time that:
18	(l) a payday loan is made;
19	(2) a payday loan is renewed;
20	(3) a consumer's payday loan is paid in full;
21	or
22	(4) a licensee determines a payday loan or
23	payment plan is in default.
24	G. A licensee may rely on the information contained
25	in the certified database as accurate and is not subject to any
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penalty or liability as a result of relying on inaccurate information contained in the database.

- H. A certified consumer reporting service shall indemnify the licensee against all claims and actions arising from illegal or willful or wanton acts on the part of the certified consumer reporting service.
- I. The director shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the requirements of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 regarding the establishment of certified consumer reporting services."

Section 17. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-37 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-37. [NEW MATERIAL] PAYDAY LOANS--MILITARY
MEMBERS.--

- A. A licensee shall not garnish the wages or salaries of a consumer who is a member of the military.
- B. In addition to any rights and obligations provided under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, a licensee shall suspend and defer collection activity against a consumer who is a member of the military and who has been deployed to a combat or combat support posting for the duration of the deployment.
- C. A licensee shall not knowingly contact the military chain of command of a consumer who is a member of the military in an effort to collect on a payday loan."

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Section 18. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-38 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-38. [NEW MATERIAL] PAYDAY LOANS--APPLICATION OF UNFAIR PRACTICES ACT .-- A failure of a licensee to comply with the provisions of Sections 58-15-32 through 58-15-37 NMSA 1978 shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice and an unconscionable trade practice pursuant to the Unfair Practices Act and is subject to all of the provisions and remedies of that act."

Section 19. REPEAL.--Sections 58-15-15 and 58-15-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1959, Chapter 201, Section 1 and Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 17, as amended) are repealed.

SEVERABILITY. -- If any part or application of Section 20. this act is held invalid, the remainder or its application to other situations or persons shall not be affected.

Section 21. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of Sections 12 through 18 of this act shall not apply to payday loans entered into before October 1, 2006.

Section 22. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is October 1, 2006.

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