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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HOUSE BILL NO. 400

## BY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-108, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE THE CRITERIA FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT ORDERS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-113, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE THE CIVIL ACTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATOR; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-302, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING LICENSE APPLICATIONS, TO REMOVE A PROVISION REGARDING EXPENSES FOR A HEARING, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING WHEN A WRITTEN DEFICIENCY NOTICE SHALL BE DEEMED RECEIVED, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-303, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF A LICENSE; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-304, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PRO-VISION REGARDING AN ANNUAL REPORT; AMENDING SECTION 28-46-403, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR A PAYDAY LOAN LICENSE; AND AMENDING SECTION 28-46-404, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVI-SIONS REGARDING LICENSE APPLICATIONS, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING WHEN A WRITTEN DEFICIENCY NOTICE SHALL BE DEEMED RECEIVED, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING A LICENSE RENEWAL FEE, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL COR-RECTIONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 28-46-108, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 28-46-108. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT ORDERS. (1) After notice and hearing the administrator may order a creditor or a person acting in his behalf to cease and desist from violating this act. A respondent aggrieved by an order of the administrator may obtain judicial review of the order and the administrator may obtain an order of the court for enforcement of his order in the district court. The proceeding for review or enforcement is initiated by filing a petition in the court. Copies of the petition shall be served upon all parties of record.
- (2) Within thirty (30) days after service of the petition for review upon the administrator, or within any further time the court allows, the administrator shall transmit to the court the original or a certified copy of the entire record upon which the order is based, including any transcript of testimony, which need not be printed. By stipulation of all parties to the review proceeding, the record may be shortened. After hearing, the court may:
  - (a) Reverse or modify the order if the findings of fact of the administrator are clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence on the whole record;
  - (b) Grant temporary relief or restraining order it deems just; and

- (c) Enter an order enforcing, modifying and enforcing as modified, or setting aside in whole or in part the order of the administrator, or remanding the case to the administrator for further proceedings.
- (3) An objection not urged at the hearing shall not be considered by the court unless the failure to urge the objection is excused for good cause shown. A party may move the court to remand the case to the administrator in the interest of justice for the purpose of adducing additional specified and material evidence and seeking findings thereon upon good cause shown for the failure to adduce this evidence before the administrator.
- (4) The jurisdiction of the court shall be exclusive and its final judgment or decree is subject to review by the supreme court in the same manner and form and with the same effect as in appeals from a final judgment or decree. The administrator's copy of the testimony shall be available at reasonable times to all parties for examination without cost.
- (5) A proceeding for review under this section shall be initiated within thirty (30) days after a copy of the order of the administrator is received. If no proceeding is so initiated, the administrator may obtain an order of the court for enforcement of his order upon showing that his order was issued in compliance with this section, that no proceeding for review was initiated within thirty (30) days after a copy of the order was received, and that the respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the court If the administrator finds that a person subject to the Idaho credit code has violated, is violating, or that there is reasonable cause to believe that a person is about to violate the provisions of the Idaho credit code, or any rule promulgated or order issued thereunder, the director may, after notice is given pursuant to section 67-5242, Idaho Code, order the person to cease and desist from the violations.
- (62) With respect to unconscionable agreements or fraudulent or unconscionable conduct by a regulated lender, the administrator may not issue an order pursuant to this section but may bring a civil action for an injunction, under section 28-46-111, Idaho Code, or any other action which the administrator is authorized to bring under this act.
- $(7\underline{3})$  With respect to unconscionable agreements or fraudulent or unconscionable conduct by an unlicensed person who is required to be licensed under section 28-46-301, Idaho Code, the administrator may issue a cease and desist order without prior notice or hearing, and may bring a civil action for an injunction, or any other action which the administrator is authorized to bring under this act.
- SECTION 2. That Section 28-46-113, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 28-46-113. CIVIL ACTIONS BY ADMINISTRATOR. If the administrator finds that a person subject to the Idaho credit code has engaged in or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision or any rule promulgated or order issued thereunder, the director may, in his discretion, bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction, and upon a finding of a violation, the court may grant any or all of the following:
- (1) After demand, the administrator may bring a civil action against a creditor to recover actual damages sustained and excess charges paid by one (1) or more debtors who have a right to recover explicitly granted by

this act. In a civil action under this subsection, penalties may not be recovered by the administrator. The court shall order amounts recovered under this subsection to be paid to each debtor or set off against his obligation. A debtor's action, except a class action, takes precedence over a prior or subsequent action by the administrator with respect to the claim of that debtor. A debtor's class action takes precedence over a subsequent action by the administrator with respect to claims common to both actions, but the administrator may intervene. An administrator's action on behalf of a class of debtors takes precedence over a debtor's subsequent class action with respect to claims common to both actions. Whenever an action takes precedence over another action under this subsection, the latter action may be stayed to the extent appropriate while the precedent action is pending and dismissed if the precedent action is dismissed with prejudice or results in a final judgment granting or denying the claim asserted in the precedent action. A defense available to a creditor in a civil action brought by a debtor is available to him in a civil action brought under this subsection. A writ or order restraining or enjoining, temporarily or permanently, any act or practice violating any provision of the Idaho credit code or any rule promulgated or order issued thereunder, and to enforce compliance with the Idaho credit code or any rule promulgated or order issued thereunder;

- An order that the person acting in his behalf to recover violating any provision of the Idaho credit code or any rule promulgated or order issued thereunder pay a civil penalty of no more than to the department in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for repeatedly and intentionally violating this act. A civil penalty pursuant to this subsection may not be imposed for a each violation of this act occurring more than two (2) years before the action is brought. To the extent that a series of violations was not intentional or resulted from a bona fide error that occurred despite the implementation of procedures to avoid the error, the series of violations shall be considered one (1) violation. A bona fide error includes clerical, calculation, computer malfunction, programming, or printing errors;
- (3) An order allowing the administrator to recover costs that may include investigative expenses and attorney's fees; and
- (4) An order granting other appropriate remedies, including but not limited to restitution to borrowers for excess charges or actual damages.
- SECTION 3. That Section 28-46-302, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

28-46-302. LICENSE TO MAKE REGULATED CONSUMER LOANS. (1) The administrator shall receive and act on all applications for a license to do business as a regulated lender. Applications shall be filed in the manner prescribed by with the administrator through the NMLSR, shall contain such information as the administrator may reasonably require, shall be updated as necessary to keep the information current, and shall be accompanied by an application fee of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350). When an application for licensure is denied or withdrawn, the administrator shall retain all fees paid by the applicant. The administrator may deny an application for a license if the administrator finds that:

- (a) The financial responsibility, character, and fitness of the applicant, and of the officers and, directors thereof (if the applicant is a corporation), managers, members, or other individuals in control of or with the authority to direct the affairs of the applicant are not such as to warrant belief that the business will not be operated honestly and fairly within the purposes of this act;
- (b) The applicant does not maintain at least thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in liquid assets, as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, available for the purpose of making loans under this chapter;
- (c) The applicant has had a license, substantially equivalent to a license under this chapter and issued by any state, denied, revoked or suspended under the law of such state;
- $(\underline{dc})$  The applicant has filed an application for a license  $\underline{which}$   $\underline{that}$  is false or misleading with respect to any material fact;
- $(\underline{ed})$  The application does not contain all of the information required by the administrator; or
- $(\underline{\underline{e}})$  The application is not accompanied by an application fee of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350).
- (2) A licensee under this chapter shall meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section at all times while licensed pursuant to this chapter. The administrator is empowered to conduct investigations as he may deem necessary, to enable him to determine the existence of the requirements set out in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) Upon written request, the applicant is entitled to a hearing on the question of his qualifications for a license if:
  - (a) The administrator has notified the applicant in writing that his application has been denied, or objections filed; or
  - (b) The administrator has not issued a license within sixty (60) days after the application for the license was filed.
- If a hearing is held, the applicant and those filing objections shall reimburse, pro rata, the administrator for his reasonable and necessary expenses incurred as a result of the hearing. A request for a hearing may not be made more than fifteen (15) days after the administrator has mailed a writing to the applicant notifying him that the application has been denied and stating in substance the administrator's finding supporting denial of the application or that objections have been filed and the substance thereof.
- (4) The administrator may issue additional licenses to the same licensee upon application by the licensee, in the manner prescribed by the administrator, and payment of the required application fee. A separate license shall be required for each place of business. Each license shall remain in full force and effect unless the licensee does not satisfy the renewal requirements of subsection (8) of this section, or the license is relinquished, suspended or revoked.
- (5) No licensee shall change the location of any place of business, or consolidate, or close any locations, without giving the administrator at least fifteen (15) days' prior written notice.
- (6) A licensee shall not engage in the business of making regulated consumer loans at any place of business for which he does not hold a license nor shall he engage in business under any other name than that in the license.

- (7) A license application shall be deemed withdrawn and void if an applicant submits an incomplete license application and, after receipt of a written notice of the application deficiency, fails to provide the director with information necessary to complete the application within sixty (60) days of receipt of the deficiency notice. A written deficiency notice shall be deemed received by a license applicant when:
  - (a) Placed in regular U.S. mail by the director or his agent using an address provided by the applicant on the license application; or
  - (b) E-mailed to the applicant using an e-mail address provided by the applicant on the license application; or
  - (c) Posted by the director or his agent on the NMLSR if the license application was submitted through the NMLSR.
- (8) On or before May <u>December</u> 31 of each year, every licensee under this chapter shall pay a nonrefundable annual license renewal fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per licensed location, and shall file with the administrator, through the NMLSR, a renewal form containing such information as the administrator may require. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 67-5254, Idaho Code, a license issued under this part automatically expires if not timely renewed according to the requirements of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 67-5254, Idaho Code, branch licenses issued under this part also expire upon the expiration, relinquishment or revocation of a license issued under this part to a licensee's designated home office.
- (9) For a period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days following license expiration, the director may reinstate an expired license if he finds that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure under this part and the applicant has submitted to the director:
  - (a) A complete application for renewal;

- (b) The fees required to apply for license renewal unless previously paid for the period for which the license renewal applies; and
- (c) A reinstatement fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).
- SECTION 4. That Section 28-46-303, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 28-46-303. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF LICENSE. (1) The administrator may issue to a person licensed to make regulated consumer loans an order to show cause why his license should not be revoked or suspended for a period not in excess of six (6) months. The order shall state the place for a hearing and set a time for the hearing that is no less than ten (10) days from the date of the order. A, after the notice and hearing, suspend or revoke any license if the administrator shall revoke or suspend the license if he finds that:
  - (a) The licensee has repeatedly and willfully violated any provision of this act or any rule or order lawfully made pursuant to this act; or
  - (b) Facts or conditions exist which that would clearly have justified the administrator in refusing to grant a license had these facts or conditions existed or been known to exist at the time the application for the license was made;
  - (c) The licensee has knowingly or through the lack of due care failed to pay any fee imposed by the administrator under the authority of the Idaho credit code;

(d) The licensee has committed any fraud, engaged in any dishonest activities, or made any misrepresentations; or

- (e) The licensee has made a materially false statement in the application for the license or failed to give a true reply to a question in the application.
- (2) No revocation or suspension of a license is lawful unless, prior to institution of revocation or suspension proceedings by the administrator, notice is given to the licensee of the facts or conduct which that warrant the intended action, and the licensee is given an opportunity to show compliance with all lawful requirements for retention of the license. Notice given pursuant to this subsection shall comply with the requirements of section 67-5254, Idaho Code.
- (3) If the administrator finds that probable cause for revocation of a license exists and that enforcement of this act requires immediate suspension of the license pending investigation, he may, after a hearing upon five (5) days' written notice, enter an order suspending the license for not more than thirty (30) days.
- (4) Whenever the administrator revokes or suspends a license, he shall enter an order to that effect and forthwith notify the licensee of the revocation or suspension. Within five (5) days after the entry of the order, he shall deliver to the licensee a copy of the order and the findings supporting the order.
- (5) Any person holding a license to make regulated consumer loans may relinquish the license by notifying the administrator in writing of its relinquishment, but this relinquishment shall not affect his liability for acts previously committed or prohibit the administrator from entering an order suspending or revoking a license.
- (6) No revocation, suspension, or relinquishment of a license shall impair or affect the obligation of any preexisting lawful contract between the licensee and any debtor.
- (7) The administrator may reinstate a license, terminate a suspension, or grant a new license to a person whose license has been revoked or suspended if no fact or condition then exists which that clearly would have justified the administrator in refusing to grant a license.
- SECTION 5. That Section 28-46-304, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 28-46-304. RECORDS -- ANNUAL REPORTS. (1) Every regulated lender shall maintain records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and practices in a manner that will enable the administrator to determine whether the regulated lender is complying with the provisions of this act. The recordkeeping system of a regulated lender shall be sufficient if he makes the required information reasonably available. The records need not be kept in the place of business where regulated consumer loans are made, if the administrator is given free access to the records wherever located. The records pertaining to any loan need not be preserved for more than two (2) years after making the final entry relating to the loan, but in the case of an open-end account, the two (2) years is measured from the date of each entry.
- (2) Concurrent with license renewal, on or before May 315 of each year, every licensee shall file with the administrator a composite annual report

for the prior calendar year in the form prescribed by the administrator relating to all regulated consumer loans made by him. Information contained in annual reports shall be subject to disclosure according to chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code, and may be published only in composite form.

SECTION 6. That Section 28-46-403, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

28-46-403. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PAYDAY LOAN LICENSE. (1) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:

(a) The applicant shall have liquid assets of at least thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, provided that applicants seeking to engage in the business of payday loans at more than one (1) location in the state shall have liquid assets of at least an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each additional location in the state up to a maximum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for all locations in the state; and

(b) The financial responsibility, financial condition, business experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant shall reasonably warrant the administrator's belief that the applicant's business will be conducted lawfully and fairly. In determining whether this qualification has been met, and for the purpose of investigating compliance with this act, the administrator may review:

- $(\pm \underline{a})$  The relevant business records and the capital adequacy of the applicant;
- $(\underline{i}\underline{i}\underline{b})$  The competence, experience, integrity, and financial ability of any applicant, and, if the applicant is an entity, of any person who is a member, partner, director, senior officer, or twenty-five percent (25%) or more equity owner other individuals in control of or with the authority to direct the affairs of the applicant; and
- (iiic) Any record of conviction, on the part of the applicant, or any person referred to in subparagraph (iib) of this paragraph, subsection of any criminal activity; any fraud or other act of personal dishonesty; any act, omission, or practice which that constitutes a breach of a fiduciary duty; or any suspension, revocation, removal, or administrative action by any agency or department of the United States, or any state, from participation in the conduct of any business.
- (2) The requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section are continuing in nature. A licensee shall meet the requirements of this section at all times while licensed pursuant to this part 4.

SECTION 7. That Section 28-46-404, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

28-46-404. APPLICATION FOR PAYDAY LOAN LICENSE. (1) Each application for a license shall be in writing and under oath to the administrator, in a form prescribed by the administrator through the NMLSR, and shall include at least the following:

(a) The legal name, residence, and business address of the applicant and, if the applicant is an entity, of every member, partner, director,

senior officer, or twenty-five percent (25%) or more equity owner other individuals in control of or with the authority to direct the affairs of the applicant;

- (b) The location at which the principal place of business of the applicant is located; and
- (c) Other data and information the administrator may require with respect to the applicant, and, if the applicant is an entity, such data and information of its members, partners, directors, senior officers, or twenty-five percent (25%) or more equity owners of the applicant.
- (2) Each application for a license shall be accompanied by an application fee in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350). Such fee shall not be subject to refund.
- (3) The fee set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall be required for each location for which an application is submitted.
- (4) Within sixty (60) days of the filing of an application in a form prescribed by the administrator, and accompanied by the fee required in subsection (2) of this section, the administrator shall investigate to ascertain whether the qualifications prescribed by subsection (1) of section 28-46-403, Idaho Code, have been satisfied. If the administrator finds that the qualifications have been satisfied and approves the documents, the administrator shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in the payday loan business.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 67-5254, Idaho Code, a license issued pursuant to this part automatically expires if not timely renewed according to the requirements of subsection (7) of this section, or the license is relinquished, suspended, or revoked pursuant to this act. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 67-5254, Idaho Code, branch licenses issued under this part also expire upon the expiration, relinquishment, or revocation of a license issued under this part to a licensee's designated home office.
- (6) A license application shall be deemed withdrawn and void if an applicant submits an incomplete license application and, after receipt of a written notice of the application deficiency, fails to provide the director with information necessary to complete the application within sixty (60) days of receipt of the deficiency notice. A written deficiency notice shall be deemed received by a license applicant when:
  - (a) Placed in regular U.S. mail by the director or his agent using an address provided by the applicant on the license application; or
  - (b) E-mailed to the applicant using an e-mail address provided by the applicant on the license application; or
  - (c) Posted by the director or his agent on the NMLSR if the license application was submitted through the NMLSR.
- (7) On or before  $\underline{\text{May}}$   $\underline{\text{December}}$  31 of each year, every licensee under this part 4 shall pay a nonrefundable annual license renewal fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per licensed location, and shall file with the administrator a renewal form containing such information as the administrator may require.
- (8) For a period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days following license expiration, the director may reinstate an expired license if he finds that

1 the applicant meets the requirements for licensure under this part and the applicant has submitted to the director: 2

(a) A complete application for renewal;

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- (b) The fees required to apply for license renewal unless previously paid for the period for which the license renewal applies; and (c) A reinstatement fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).