1	State of Arkansas	A D:11	
2	88th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2011		SENATE BILL 259
4			
5	By: Senators Madison, D. Jo	ohnson	
6	By: Representatives William	ns, J. Edwards	
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	AN ACT TO	O MAKE VARIOUS CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 23 OF	THE
10	ARKANSAS	CODE OF 1987 CONCERNING PUBLIC UTILITIES	AND
11	REGULATEI	O INDUSTRIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	
12			
13			
14		Subtitle	
15	TO	MAKE VARIOUS CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 23	
16	OF	THE ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 CONCERNING	
17	PUB	LIC UTILITIES AND REGULATED	
18	IND	USTRIES.	
19			
20			
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSA	S:
22			
23	SECTION 1. The	e introductory language of Arkansas Code	§ 23-39-513 is
24	amended to read as fo	ollows to correct a reference:	
25	In addition to	the other activities that are prohibited	under this
26	subchapter, it is unl	lawful for any person other than a person	described in §
27	23-39-502(9)(B) (vii)	(vi) in the course of any mortgage loan t	ransaction or
28	activity:		
29			
30	SECTION 2. Hav	ving been declared unconstitutional in it	s entirety by
31	the Arkansas Supreme	Court in McGhee v. Ark. State Bd. of Col	lection
32	Agencies, 375 Ark. 52	2, 289 S.W.3d 18 (2008) because it author	ized loans
33	charging usurious rat	tes of interest in contravention of the l	imits set forth
34	in article 19, section	on 13, the Check-cashers Act, § 23-52-101	et seq., is
35	repealed.		
36			

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1	23-52-101. Title.
2	This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Check-cashers
3	Act".
4	
5	23-52-102. Definitions.
6	As used in this chapter:
7	(1) "Board" means the State Board of Collection Agencies;
8	(2) "Check" means a check, warrant, draft, money order,
9	travelers' check, or other instrument for the payment of money, whether or
10	not negotiable, but excluding:
11	(A) Any such instrument drawn on an account or financial
12	institution outside of the United States; and
13	(B) Money or currency of any nation;
14	(3) "Check-casher" means a person who for compensation engages,
15	in whole or in part, in the check-cashing business, but excluding:
16	(A) The United States, any state of the United States, any
17	political subdivision of such state, or any department or agency of the
18	United States or such state;
19	(B) Receipt of money by any incorporated telegraph company
20	at any agency or office of the company for immediate transmission by
21	telegraph;
22	(C) Any state or federally chartered bank, savings and
23	loan association, or credit union;
24	(D) Any retail seller primarily engaged in the business of
25	selling consumer or other goods to retail buyers that eash checks or issue
26	money orders for a fee as a service to its customers that is incidental to
27	its main purpose or business so long as revenue from such fees does not
28	exceed three percent (3%) of such retail seller's gross revenues; and
29	(E) Issuance of a money order;
30	(4) "Check-cashing business" means the business of a check
31	eashier selling currency or a check to another person in exchange for a
32	eheck, with or without a deferred presentment option;
33	(5) "Deferred presentment option" in connection with the check-
34	eashing business means a transaction pursuant to a written agreement
35	involving the following combination of activities in exchange for a fee:
36	(A) Accepting a customer's personal check dated on the

1	date it was written;
2	(B) Paying that customer an amount of money equal to the
3	face amount of that check less any fees charged pursuant to this chapter; and
4	(C) Granting the customer the option to repurchase the
5	customer's personal check for an agreed period of time prior to presentment
6	of such check for payment or deposit. The term "deferred presentment"
7	includes related terms such as "delayed deposit", "deferred deposit", or
8	substantially similar terms evidencing the same type of transaction;
9	(6) "Permit" means a permit to engage in the check cashing
10	business issued by the board in accordance with this chapter; and
11	(7) "Person" means an individual, group of individuals,
12	partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, corporation, or any
13	other business unit or legal entity.
14	
15	23-52-103. Permit required.
16	No person shall engage in the check-cashing business without first
17	obtaining a permit from the State Board of Collection Agencies in accordance
18	with this chapter. A separate permit shall be required for each location from
19	which such check-cashing business is conducted.
20	
21	23-52-104. Permissible check-casher fees.
22	(a) A check-casher may charge a reasonable fee to defray operational
23	costs incurred in the check-cashing business, including, without limitation:
24	(1) Investigating the checking account and copying required
25	documents;
26	(2) Photographing the person signing the check;
27	(3) Securing check and customer records in a safe, fireproof
28	place;
29	(4) Maintaining records as required by this chapter;
30	(5) Maintaining required capital and liquidity; and
31	(6) Processing, documenting, and closing the check-cashing or
32	deferred-deposit transactions.
33	(b) Unless otherwise authorized by this chapter, the fees authorized
34	by this section shall not exceed the following:
35	(1) For the service of selling currency or cheek in exchange for
36	checks, without regard to whether a deferred presentment option is involved:

1	(A) A lee not to exceed live percent (3%) of the lace
2	amount of the check if the check is the payment of any kind of state public
3	assistance or federal social security benefit payable to the bearer of the
4	check or the check is otherwise a check issued by a federal or state
5	governmental entity;
6	(B) A fee not in excess of ten percent (10%) of the face
7	amount of any personal check or money order; or
8	(C) A fee not in excess of six percent (6%) of the face
9	amount of the check in the case of all other checks. Such a fee may be
10	collected separately or by paying the customer an amount of money equal to
11	the face amount of the check less the appropriate fee under this chapter;
12	(2) For a deferred presentment option which involves a personal
13	check, an additional fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) may be charged by
14	a check-casher; and
15	(3) In addition to the foregoing fees, a check-casher may charge
16	a fee of no more than five dollars (\$5.00) to set up an initial customer
17	account and issue an optional identification card for providing check-cashing
18	services. A replacement optional identification card may be issued at a cost
19	not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00).
20	
21	23-52-105. General disclosure.
22	(a) Every check-casher, as applicable to the services provided, shall
23	post a complete, detailed, and unambiguous schedule of all fees for:
24	(1) Cashing checks and making any deferred presentment option
25	thereof;
26	(2) The sale or issuance of money orders; and
27	(3) The initial issuance of any identification card.
28	(b) Each check-casher shall also post a list of valid identification
29	which is acceptable in lieu of identification provided by the person cashing
30	the check. The information required by this section shall be posted at each
31	location at which the check-casher conducts the check-cashing business and in
32	elear, legible letters not less than one-half inch (½") in height. The
33	information shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the unobstructed
34	view of the public within the check-easher's premises.
35	
36	23-52-106. Other terms of doing the check-cashing business.

(a) A check-casher may not purchase a check for the purpose of deferred presentment option without receiving from the customer a written certification that the account upon which the check is drawn is legitimate and open. The certification may be contained in the body of the deferred presentment option agreement required by this chapter.

- (b) Before a check-casher shall present for payment or deposit a check purchased by the check-casher, the check shall be endorsed with the actual name under which the check-casher is doing business.
- (c) Any agreement for a deferred presentment option of a check shall be in writing and signed by the maker of the check. Such written agreement shall contain a written explanation in clear, understandable language of the fees to be charged by the check-casher and the date on which the check will be deposited or presented by the check-casher. Without limitation, such explanation shall contain a statement of the total amount of any fees charged for the deferred presentment option expressed both in United States currency and as an annual percentage rate. Enactment of this subsection shall not create any inference that a particular method of disclosure was required prior to April 7, 1999.
- (d) The maker of any check purchased by a check-casher and accepted for deferred presentment option shall have the right to repurchase that check from the check-casher before the agreed date of deposit upon payment to the check-casher of the face amount of that check. If a check-casher accepts a partial payment, that check may not be presented for deposit nor may the check-casher charge any additional fee. A check-casher shall not defer presentment of any check for less than six (6) calendar days nor more than thirty-one (31) calendar days after the date the check is sold to the check-casher.
- (e) A check-casher shall issue a copy of the written agreement to each person for whom a check-casher grants a repurchase option and defers deposit of a check.
- (f) A check-casher shall comply with all provisions of state and federal law regarding cash transactions and cash transaction reporting.
 - (g) If a check is returned to the check-casher from a payer bank or other financial institution due to insufficient funds, closed account, or a stop-payment order, the check-casher shall have the right to all civil remedies allowed by law to collect the check and shall be entitled to recover

1	any returned check fee authorized by applicable Arkansas law, court costs,	
2	and reasonable attorney's fee paid to an attorney who is not a salaried	
3	employee of the check-casher.	
4	(h) If a check is returned to a check-casher from a payer financial	
5	institution because there are insufficient funds in or on deposit with the	
6	financial institution to pay the check, the check-casher or any other person	
7	on behalf of the check-casher shall not institute or initiate any criminal	
8	prosecution against the customer who sold such check to the check-casher,	
9	unless the check-casher would otherwise be entitled to institute or initiate	
10	a criminal prosecution against such customer under applicable Arkansas	
11	criminal law and such check is returned to the check-casher because:	
12	(1) The account on which such check was drawn was closed by the	
13	maker of the check, either before or during the term of the deferred	
14	presentment option agreement; and	
15	(2) Payment on the check was stopped by the maker of the check.	
16	(i) No check-casher may alter or delete the date on any check accepted	
17	by the check-casher.	
18	(j) No check-casher may accept an undated check or a check dated on a	
19	date other than the date on which the check-casher purchases the check.	
20	(k) Consistent with the nature of a deferred presentment option, no	
21	check-casher shall require a customer to provide security for the deferred	
22	presentment transaction or require the customer to provide a guaranty from	
23	another person.	
24	(1) Each check-casher shall pay all proceeds in cash for any check	
25	purchased.	
26	(m) No check-casher shall have more than one (1) deferred presentment	
27	check outstanding at any time from any one (1) customer per permitted	
28	location. A deferred presentment check purchased from any one (1) customer	
29	and outstanding at any one (1) time shall not exceed four hundred dollars	
30	(\$400).	
31	(n) A check-casher shall not renew or otherwise consolidate a deferred	
32	presentment option transaction with the proceeds of another deferred	
33	presentment option transaction made by the same customer.	
34		
35	23-52-107. Qualification for check-casher permit.	

A check-casher permit applicant shall satisfy the following

1	requirements to qualify for a permit under this chapter:
2	(1) The applicant shall have a minimum of cash or other liquid
3	assets of at least twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the operation of
4	each location at which the applicant will engage in the check-cashing
5	business and shall be required to post with the State Board of Collection
6	Agencies a fifty-thousand-dollar bond payable to the State of Arkansas;
7	(2) The financial responsibility, financial condition, and
8	business experience of the applicant shall reasonably warrant the belief that
9	the applicant's check-cashing business will be conducted in accordance with
10	this chapter. In determining whether this qualification has been met and for
11	the purpose of investigating compliance with this chapter, the board may
12	review and approve the following:
13	(A) The relevant business records and the capital adequacy
14	of the applicant; and
15	(B) The competence, experience, and financial ability of
16	any person who is a member, partner, director, officer, or five percent (5%)
17	or more shareholder of the applicant or who otherwise controls the applicant;
18	(3) The requirements set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of
19	this section shall be continuing in nature; and
20	(4) The board shall deny an application for a permit to conduct
21	a check-cashing business or for renewal of a permit if the applicant or any
22	person referred to in subdivision (2)(B) of this section has a felony
23	conviction involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit, provided the crime is
24	substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a person
25	engaged in the check-cashing business.
26	
27	23-52-108. Form of application for permit.
28	(a) Each application for a check-cashing permit shall be in writing in
29	a form prescribed by the State Board of Collection Agencies and shall include
30	at least the following:
31	(1) The legal name, residence, business address, and telephone
32	number of the applicant;
33	(2) If the applicant is a partnership, association, limited
34	liability company, or corporation, the name and address of every member,
35	officer, and director; and
36	(3) Such other data and information as the board may require

- 1 with respect to the applicant and its directors, officers, partners or
 2 members.
 - (b) For each location at which the applicant wants to engage in the check-cashing business, each application for a permit shall be accompanied by both of the following:
 - (1) An initial permit fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) which shall not be subject to refund; and
 - (2) A financial statement showing that the applicant has at least twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in liquid or other cash assets available for the operation of the check-cashing business prepared in accordance with standard accounting practices and procedures.

- 23-52-109. Board action and issuance of permits.
- (a) Upon the filing of an application in the form prescribed by the State Board of Collection Agencies accompanied by the fees and documents required in this chapter, the board shall investigate to ascertain whether the qualifications prescribed by § 23-52-107 have been satisfied. If the board finds that the qualifications have been satisfied and approves the documents, the board shall issue to the applicant a permit to engage in the check-cashing business in Arkansas at the locations specified in the application as approved by the board.
 - (b) No person engaged in the check-cashing business shall conduct any other business within the same location without having obtained prior written approval from the board.
- (c) The check-casher permit shall be kept conspicuously posted in the check-casher's place of business and shall not be assignable or transferable nor moved to another location without permission of the board.
- (d) In addition to the initial permit fee required by § 23-52-108(b)(l), there shall be an annual permit fee of four hundred dollars (\$400) for each office, branch, or place of business of the check-casher, which shall be due on August 1 of each year. The annual permit fee shall be for a one-year period ending July 31 and shall be delinquent on September 1 of each year. There shall be a penalty of ten percent (10%) for each month or part thereof that the check-casher is delinquent in the payment of the annual permit fee. All permit fees collected by the board shall be used by the board in the supervision and examination of check-cashers and the issuance of

permits under this chapter.

(e) A person operating a check-cashing business on April 7, 1999, shall have until the beginning of the next permit year after April 7, 1999, to apply for a permit under this chapter and to pay the required permit fee, and upon qualification and payment of the required fee shall be granted a permit under this chapter. Provided, that the check-casher shall comply with the other provisions of this chapter pending the application.

(f) A check-casher may voluntarily surrender its permit to the board. However, the check-casher shall not be entitled to receive a refund of any permit fees previously paid. Upon surrender, the check-casher shall immediately make available to the board all books, records, and papers required to be created and maintained under this chapter or regulations promulgated by the board under this chapter.

23-52-110. Change of control of check-casher.

The prior written approval of the State Board of Collection Agencies shall be required for the continued operation of a check cashing business whenever a change in control of a permitted check casher is proposed. Control in the case of a corporation shall mean direct or indirect ownership, the right to control twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the voting shares of the corporation, or the ability of a person to elect a majority of the directors. Control in the case of any other entity shall mean the ability to change the principles of the organization, whether active or passive. The board may require information deemed necessary to determine whether a new application is required.

23-52-111. Regulations.

The State Board of Collection Agencies is authorized and empowered to promulgate reasonable regulations for the execution and enforcement of this chapter. However, before any rules and regulations promulgated by the board shall be effective, they must be issued in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

23-52-112. Records and inspections.

(a) Each check-casher shall keep and use in its business any books, accounts, and records that the State Board of Collection Agencies may require

- to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter and the administrative regulations issued hereunder. Provided, such records may be retained on computer or other electronic storage devices.
- (b) For the purpose of determining compliance with this chapter, the board, at any reasonable time, may cause an examination to be made at a check casher's place of business of the records and transactions of such check casher. Each check casher shall preserve all relevant records for a period of at least two (2) years after making the last entry on any transaction, and the board shall have free access to such records at the check casher's place of business at all reasonable times during the check casher's normal business hours. If the board has probable cause to believe that a person has engaged in an activity which violates the provisions of this chapter, the board may compel the production of such books and records of the person as the board has probable cause to believe are relevant to the alleged violation.

- 23-52-113. Appeal of permit denial.
- (a) If the State Board of Collection Agencies determines that an applicant is not qualified to receive a permit, the board shall notify the applicant in writing that the application has been denied, stating the basis for denial.
- (b) If the board denies an application or if the board fails to act on an application within ninety (90) days after the filing of a properly completed application, the applicant may make a written demand to the board for a hearing before the board on the question of whether the permit should be granted.
- (e) At the hearing, the burden of proving that the applicant is entitled to a permit under this chapter shall be on the applicant. A decision of the board following any hearing on the denial of a permit may be subject to review in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

- 23-52-114. Revocation or suspension of permit.
 - (a) After notice and hearing, the State Board of Collection Agencies
 may suspend or revoke any permit if the Chairman of the State Board of
 Collection Agencies finds that the check-casher either knowingly or through

2	(1) Failed to pay the annual permit fee imposed by this chapter
3	or an examination fee imposed by the board under the authority of this
4	chapter;
5	(2) Violated a provision of this chapter or an administrative
6	regulation issued pursuant to this chapter; and
7	(3) Made a false statement in the application for the permit or
8	failed to give a true reply to a question in the application.
9	(b) If the reason for revocation or suspension of a permit of the
10	check-casher at any one (1) location is of general application to all
11	locations operated by a check-casher, the board may revoke or suspend all
12	permits issued to the check-casher.
13	(c) Any hearing under this section shall be held on written notice
14	given at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearing.
15	
16	23-52-115. Board remedies for violation of this chapter.
17	If after a hearing the State Board of Collection Agencies finds that a
18	person has violated this chapter or any administrative regulation issued
19	pursuant to this chapter, the board may do any or all of the following:
20	(1) Order the person to cease and desist violating this chapter
21	or any administrative rules issued pursuant thereto;
22	(2) Require the refund of any fees collected by the person in
23	violation of this chapter; and
24	(3) Order the person to pay to the board a civil penalty of not
25	more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each transaction in violation of
26	this chapter or for each day that a violation has occurred and continues.
27	
28	23-52-116. Consent orders.
29	(a) The State Board of Collection Agencies may enter into consent
30	orders at any time with any person to resolve any matter arising under this
31	chapter. A consent order shall be signed by the person to whom it is issued
32	or an authorized representative and shall indicate agreement to the terms
33	contained therein. A consent order need not constitute an admission by any
34	person that any provision of this chapter or any rule, regulation, or order
35	promulgated or issued pursuant to this chapter has been violated, nor need it
36	constitute a finding by the board that the person has violated any provision

lack of due care has committed one (1) of the following:

1 of this chapter or any rule, regulation, or order promulgated or issued 2 hereunder. (b) Notwithstanding the issuance of a consent order, the board may 3 4 seek civil or criminal penalties or compromise civil penalties concerning 5 matters encompassed by the consent order. 6 7 23-52-117. Complaints. 8 (a) Without limiting any other right, power, or remedy of the State 9 Board of Collection Agencies under this chapter or the Attorney General 10 pursuant to authority granted under § 4-88-101 et seq. pertaining to 11 deceptive trade practices, any person aggrieved by the conduct of a check-12 casher under this chapter in connection with the regulated activities of the 13 check casher may file a written complaint with the board, which may 14 investigate the complaint. 15 (b) In the course of the investigation of the complaint, the board may 16 do any or all of the following: 17 (1) Subpoena witnesses; 18 (2) Administer oaths: 19 (3) Examine any individual under oath; and 20 (4) Compel the production of records, books, papers, contracts, 21 or other documents relevant to the investigation. 22 (c) If a person fails to comply with a subpoena of the board under 23 this chapter or to testify concerning any matter about which the person may 24 be interrogated under this chapter, the board may petition any court of 25 competent jurisdiction for enforcement. 26 (d) The permit of any check-casher under this chapter who fails to 27 comply with a subpoena of the Chairman of the State Board of Collection 28 Agencies may be suspended pending compliance with the subpoena. 29 (e) A person who willfully makes charges in excess of those permitted 30 by § 23-52-104 or a person who willfully engages in the check-cashing business in violation of this chapter is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. 31 32 (f) Any action for a civil remedy under this chapter by the board or 33 any other person against a check-casher must be commenced within five (5) 34 years after the action or inaction giving rise to the right to seek such a 35 civil remedy. SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. The enactment and adoption of this act 36

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     shall not repeal, expressly or impliedly, the acts passed at the regular
     session of the Eighty-Eighth General Assembly. All such acts shall have the
 2
     full force and effect and, so far as those acts intentionally vary from or
 3
 4
     conflict with any provision contained in this act, those acts shall have the
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     effect of subsequent acts and as amending or repealing the appropriate parts
 6
     of the Arkansas Code of 1987.
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