
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5312 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF CURRENCY AS PAYMENT IN LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SUMMARY

With exceptions, this bill prohibits retailers from (1) refusing cash as a form of payment, (2) posting signs stating that cash is not accepted, or (3) charging a higher price to customers who pay with cash. "Cash" means legal tender.

The bill's prohibitions apply to retailers selling goods or services in person, except for transactions:

1. for parking at parking lots and parking garages;
2. at membership-based wholesale clubs offering consumer goods or services;
3. at membership-based retail stores offering consumer goods that require payment through an affiliated mobile device application;
4. for consumer goods, services, or accommodations rentals that typically require posting collateral or security; and
5. for consumer goods or services provided exclusively to employees and other non-customers authorized to be on the employer's premises.

The bill also explicitly exempts transactions conducted by telephone, mail, or the internet.

Under the bill, the consumer protection commissioner may adopt implementing regulations.

*House Amendment "A" specifies that "cash" means legal tender and clarifies the exemption for consumer goods provided exclusively to employees and other authorized non-customers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/02/2021)