

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-263
AN ACT CONCERNING CASH REFUNDS FOR THE BALANCE OF A GIFT
Title: CARD.
Vote Date: 3/10/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/8/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would require merchants to provide a cash refund for gift card balances under five dollars. The intent is to allow customers to recoup cash equivalent of cards with too little money left to be viable for their original use and increase the current maximum refundable level on such cards.

JFS change removes language that would require the purchaser to provide a proof of purchase or a gift receipt for the gift card.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None submitted.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mr. Raphael Prodoisky, Conn. Legal Services: They recommend approval of this bill. They believe that the current amount of \$3 is an unreasonably low figure. He stated that the merchant should not be allowed to make any part of the cards value belong to them, as the balance belongs to the customer.

Ms. Anna Doroghazi, Policy and Outreach Director, AARP: They submitted testimony is a favor of this proposal. Gift cards, that have already been paid for, are the equivalent of cash. Increasing the amount from \$3 to \$5 will put more money in their pockets allowing them

to spend it on necessities, and not on other products that cost more than the balance of the card.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Mr. David Godbout, Constituent: He expressed opposition to all bills put forward by the Committee under the claim of nullification.

Reported by:

Date: 3/15/22

**Cameron Clarke, Committee Clerk
Richard Ferrari, Asst. Clerk**