



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5216

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING LOW-COST BANK ACCOUNTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Banking institution" means any bank, trust company, savings
4 bank, savings and loan association or credit union, or branch of a foreign
5 banking corporation, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal
6 Deposit Insurance Corporation, that is incorporated, chartered,
7 organized or licensed under the laws of this state or any other state or
8 the United States, and, in the ordinary course of its business, offers
9 consumer transaction accounts to the general public or, in the case of a
10 credit union, to its members; and

11 (2) "Consumer transaction account" means a demand deposit
12 account, negotiable order of withdrawal account, share draft account or
13 similar account used primarily for personal, family or household
14 purposes.

15 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each banking
16 institution shall make available to consumers a type of consumer
17 transaction account, to be known as a "basic banking account". A basic
18 banking account shall comply with certain guidelines, as the

19 commissioner shall prescribe by regulation adopted pursuant to
20 subsection (g) of this section, including, but not limited to, the maximum
21 amounts a banking institution shall: (1) Require as an initial deposit, if
22 any; (2) require as a minimum balance to maintain such account, if any;
23 and (3) charge per periodic cycle for the use of such account.

24 (c) A basic banking account shall: (1) Not be permitted to have any of
25 the following fees: (A) Overdraft, (B) nonsufficient funds, (C) account
26 activation, (D) closure, (E) dormancy, (F) inactivity, or (G) low balance
27 fees; and (2) offer the following to the depositor at no additional charge:
28 (A) Checks, (B) a debit card, (C) ATM access, (D) deposits, (E) check
29 cashing, and (F) electronic monthly statements.

30 (d) Except as provided in this section, a basic banking account may
31 be offered, subject to the same rules, conditions and terms normally
32 applicable to other consumer transaction accounts offered by the
33 banking institution.

34 (e) (1) A banking institution that posts, in the public area of its offices,
35 notice of the availability of its consumer transaction accounts other than
36 its basic banking accounts, shall also post equally conspicuous notice, in
37 the same public areas and in the same manner, of the availability of its
38 basic banking accounts. A banking institution that makes available in
39 the public area material describing the terms of its other consumer
40 transaction accounts, other than its basic banking accounts, shall also
41 make comparable descriptive material available, in the same such public
42 area and in the same manner, for its basic banking account.

43 (2) A banking institution that posts in the public area of its offices the
44 notices described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall also post
45 equally conspicuous notice, in the same public area and in the same
46 manner, of the Department of Banking's toll-free consumer hotline
47 number, that may be used to file a complaint if a consumer is not
48 satisfied with the services a banking institution provides.

49 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any banking

50 institution that makes available to consumers (1) an alternative account
51 or other banking services determined by the commissioner to be as
52 advantageous to consumers as the basic banking account, or (2) a
53 consumer transaction account that provides the core features set forth
54 in the Bank On National Account Standards, as amended from time to
55 time, shall be in compliance with this section.

56 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
57 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes
58 of this section.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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| Section 1 | October 1, 2022 | New section |
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (b), "to consumers a consumer transaction account" was changed to "to consumers a type of consumer transaction account" for clarity; in Subsec. (e)(1), "in the same manner, the availability" was changed to "in the same manner, of the availability" for grammar; in Subsec. (e)(2), "in the same manner, the Department" was changed to "in the same manner, of the Department" for grammar.

BA *Joint Favorable Subst.*