

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6338

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying the consumer loan act.

Sponsors: Senators Keiser, Winsley, Gardner and Kohl-Welles.

Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions
House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance

Background: Consumer loan companies are regulated by the Department of Financial Institutions under the Consumer Loan Act. Licensed companies are authorized to make loans at higher interest rates than other financial institutions or credit card issuers. They are authorized and regulated because the Legislature has recognized the need for lenders to serve the credit needs of borrowers who represent a higher than average credit risk. Consumer loan companies may charge up to 25 percent simple interest as well as certain prescribed loan origination fees.

In 2001, the Legislature amended the act to make licensing requirements more stringent, enhance the regulatory authority of the department, and create disclosure requirements. Under current law, a licensee must provide a written disclosure to each borrower within three business days after receiving the borrower's loan application. The disclosure statement must contain an itemized estimation and explanation of all fees and costs that the borrower is required to pay in connection with obtaining a loan from the licensee.

The act specifically references the disclosure requirements set forth in the various federal statutes and regulations pertinent to the regulation of consumer loan companies. Specifically referenced are the Truth in Lending Act (prescribing the disclosure requirements that must be met by lenders offering or extending consumer credit), Federal Reserve Board Regulation Z (prescribing the specific disclosure requirements for both open-end and installment credit transactions), and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. Lenders that are in compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations regarding disclosure requirements are deemed to be in compliance with state law.

Summary: When making a loan that is not secured by a real property lien, a licensee must make disclosures in accordance with the Truth in Lending Act, Federal Reserve Board Regulation Z, and other applicable federal laws and regulations. The three-day disclosure requirement applies only to loans that are secured by a real property lien.

Additional disclosure requirements are prescribed for all loans made by the licensee that are secured by a real property lien. First, a licensee must disclose whether or not the loan contains a prepayment penalty. Second, a licensee must provide to the borrower an estimate of the loan's annual percentage rate which is calculated in compliance with the Truth in Lending Act and Federal Reserve Board Regulation Z. In both cases, the licensee must make the disclosure within three business days after receiving the borrower's loan application.

The Director of the Department of Financial Institutions may make a determination by rule that compliance with federal disclosure requirements constitutes compliance with the Consumer Loan Act.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0
House	93	0

Effective: June 13, 2002