Adopted COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill No. 660

BY: Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- SECTION 1. Section 75-67-501, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 11 reenacted as follows:
- 12 75-67-501. This article shall be known and may be cited as
- 13 the "Mississippi Check Cashers Act."
- 14 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-67-503, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 15 reenacted as follows:
- 16 75-67-503. The following words and phrases used in this
- 17 article shall have the following meanings unless the context
- 18 clearly indicates otherwise:
- 19 (a) "Appropriate law enforcement agency" means the
- 20 sheriff of each county in which the licensee maintains an office,
- 21 or the police chief of the municipality in which the licensee
- 22 maintains an office, or law enforcement officers of the Department
- 23 of Public Safety.
- 24 (b) "Attorney General" means the Attorney General of
- 25 the State of Mississippi.
- 26 (c) "Check" means any check, draft, money order,
- 27 personal money order, pre-authorized customer draft, or other
- 28 instrument for the transmission or payment of money as determined

- 29 by the Commissioner of Banking and Consumer Finance, but shall not
- 30 include travelers checks or foreign drawn payment instruments.
- 31 (d) A "check casher" means any individual, partnership,
- 32 association, joint stock association, trust or corporation,
- 33 excluding the United States Government and the government of this
- 34 state, who exchanges cash or other value for any check, draft,
- 35 money order, personal money order, or other instrument for the
- 36 transmission or payment of money, except travelers checks and
- 37 foreign drawn payment instruments, and who charges a fee therefor.
- 38 (e) "Commissioner" means the Mississippi Commissioner
- 39 of Banking and Consumer Finance, or his designee, as the
- 40 designated official for the purpose of enforcing this article.
- 41 (f) "Department" means the Department of Banking and
- 42 Consumer Finance.
- 43 (g) "Licensee" means any individual, partnership,
- 44 association or corporation duly licensed by the Department of
- 45 Banking and Consumer Finance to engage in the business of cashing
- 46 checks under this article.
- 47 (h) "Person" means an individual, partnership,
- 48 corporation, joint venture, trust, association or any legal entity
- 49 however organized.
- 50 (i) "Personal money order" means any instrument for the
- 51 transmission or payment of money in relation to which the
- 52 purchaser or remitter appoints or purports to appoint the seller
- 53 thereof as his agent for the receipt, transmission or handling of
- 54 money, whether such instrument is signed by the seller or by the
- 55 purchaser or remitter or some other person.
- SECTION 3. Section 75-67-505, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 57 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 75-67-505. (1) (a) A person may not engage in business as
- 59 a check casher or otherwise portray himself as a check casher
- 60 unless the person has a valid license authorizing engagement in

- 61 the business. A separate license is required for each place of
- 62 business under this article and each business must be independent
- 63 of, and not a part of, any other business operation. A check
- 64 cashing business shall not be a part of, or located at the same
- 65 business address with, a pawnshop, title pledge office and small
- 66 loan company.
- 67 (b) A check cashing business shall (i) have a
- 68 definitive United States Postal address and E911 address; (ii)
- 69 comply with local zoning requirements; (iii) have a minimum of one
- 70 hundred (100) square feet with walls from floor to ceiling
- 71 separating the operation from any other businesses; (iv) have an
- 72 outside entrance, but may be located in an area that has a common
- 73 lobby shared by other businesses as long as the customers do not
- 74 enter the check cashing business through another business; (v)
- 75 have proper signage; and (vi) maintain separate books and records.
- 76 Any licensee who does not cash any delayed deposit checks as
- 77 authorized under Section 75-67-519 shall not be subject to the
- 78 requirements of subparagraphs (i), (iii) and (iv) of this
- 79 paragraph.
- 80 (c) A licensed check casher may sell, at the same
- 81 location as his check cashing business, the following items and
- 82 services: money orders; income tax preparation service; copy
- 83 service; wire transfer service; notary service; pagers; pager
- 84 service; prepaid cellular service; debit card; prepaid telephone
- 85 cards; prepaid telephone service; and operate a processing center
- 86 where utility bills, credit card payments and other payments are
- 87 collected from the general public and governmental and private
- 88 payments are distributed. In the event a licensee accepts wire
- 89 transfers in the form of a direct deposit of a payroll check or
- 90 other similar types of deposit, the licensee shall not encumber
- 91 any transferred funds against a deferred deposit agreement or any
- 92 delinquent deferred deposit agreement with such customer. The

- 93 commissioner may authorize additional functions in addition to
- 94 those provided in this subsection that may be performed as part of
- 95 a check cashing business.
- 96 (d) The commissioner may issue more than one (1)
- 97 license to a person if that person complies with this article for
- 98 each license. A new license * * * is required upon a change,
- 99 directly or beneficially, in the ownership of any licensed check
- 100 casher business and an application shall be made to the
- 101 commissioner in accordance with this article.
- 102 (2) When a licensee wishes to move a check casher business
- 103 to another location, the licensee shall give thirty (30) days'
- 104 prior written notice to the commissioner who shall amend the
- 105 license accordingly.
- 106 (3) Each license shall remain in full force and effect until
- 107 relinquished, suspended, revoked or expired. With each initial
- 108 application for a license, the applicant shall pay the
- 109 commissioner at the time of making the application a license fee
- of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), and on or before
- 111 September 1 of each year thereafter, an annual renewal fee of Four
- 112 Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$475.00). If the annual renewal fee
- 113 remains unpaid twenty-nine (29) days after September 1, the
- 114 license shall thereupon expire, but not before the thirtieth day
- of September of any year for which the annual fee has been paid.
- 116 If any licensee fails to pay the annual renewal fee before the
- 117 thirtieth day of September of any year for which the renewal fee
- 118 is due, then the licensee shall be liable for the full amount of
- 119 the license fee, plus a penalty in an amount not to exceed
- 120 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each day that the licensee has
- 121 engaged in business after September 30. All licensing fees and
- 122 penalties shall be paid into the Consumer Finance Fund of the
- 123 Department of Banking and Consumer Finance.

- 124 (4) Notwithstanding other provisions of this article, the
- 125 commissioner may issue a temporary license authorizing the
- 126 operator of a check casher business on the receipt of an
- 127 application for a license involving principals and owners that are
- 128 substantially identical to those of an existing licensed check
- 129 casher. The temporary license is effective until the permanent
- 130 license is issued or denied.
- 131 * * *
- 132 **SECTION 4.** Section 75-67-507, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 133 reenacted as follows:
- 75-67-507. The provisions of this article shall not apply
- 135 to:
- 136 (a) Any bank, trust company, savings association,
- 137 savings and loan association, savings bank or credit union which
- 138 is chartered under the laws of this state or under federal law and
- 139 domiciled in this state.
- (b) Any person who cashes checks at their face value
- 141 and does not charge the consumer a fee or otherwise receive any
- 142 consideration from the consumer.
- 143 (c) Any person principally engaged in the retail sale
- 144 of goods or services who, either as an incident to or
- 145 independently of a retail sale, may from time to time cash checks
- 146 for a fee, not exceeding three percent (3%) of the face amount of
- 147 the check or Ten Dollars (\$10.00), whichever is greater. However,
- 148 the fee shall be conspicuously posted for public view.
- 149 **SECTION 5.** Section 75-67-509, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 150 reenacted as follows:
- 75-67-509. To be eligible for a check casher license, an
- 152 applicant shall:
- 153 (a) Operate lawfully and fairly within the purposes of
- 154 this article.

- (b) Not have been convicted of a felony in the last ten
 (10) years or be active as a beneficial owner for someone who has
 been convicted of a felony in the last ten (10) years.
- 158 (c) File with the commissioner a bond with good 159 security in the penal sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), 160 payable to the State of Mississippi for the faithful performance by the licensee of the duties and obligations pertaining to the 161 business so licensed and the prompt payment of any judgment which 162 163 may be recovered against the licensee on account of charges or 164 other claims arising directly or collectively from any violation 165 of the provisions of this article. The bond shall not be valid until it is approved by the commissioner. The applicant may file, 166 167 in lieu of the bond, cash, a certificate of deposit or government 168 bonds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). 169 deposits shall be filed with the commissioner and are subject to 170 the same terms and conditions as are provided for in the surety
- (d) File with the commissioner an application for a license and the initial license fee required in this article. If applicant's application is approved, a check casher license will be issued within thirty (30) days.

bond required in this paragraph. Any interest or earnings on

those deposits are payable to the depositor.

- (e) Submit a set of fingerprints from any local law
 enforcement agency. In order to determine the applicant's
 suitability for license, the commissioner shall forward the
 fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety; and if no
 disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the
 fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Department of Public Safety
 to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.
- (f) Complete and file with the commissioner an annual renewal application for a license accompanied by the renewal fee required in this article.

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- 187 **SECTION 6.** Section 75-67-511, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 188 reenacted as follows:
- 75-67-511. Each application for a license shall be in a form
- 190 prescribed by the commissioner, signed under oath, and shall
- 191 include the following:
- 192 (a) The legal name, residence and business address of
- 193 the applicant and, if the applicant is a partnership, association
- 194 or corporation, of every member, officer and director thereof.
- 195 However, the application need not state the full name and
- 196 address of each shareholder, if the applicant is owned directly or
- 197 beneficially by a person which as an issuer has a class of
- 198 securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities and
- 199 Exchange Act of 1934 or is an issuer of securities which is
- 200 required to file reports with the Securities and Exchange
- 201 Commission under Section 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act,
- 202 provided that the person files with the commissioner such
- 203 information, documents and reports as are required by the
- 204 provisions of the Securities and Exchange Act to be filed by the
- 205 issuer with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- 206 (b) The complete address of the location at which the
- 207 applicant proposes to engage in the business of cashing checks.
- 208 (c) Other data and information the department may
- 209 require with respect to the applicant, its directors, trustees,
- 210 officers, members or agents.
- 211 (d) Sworn financial statements of the applicant showing
- 212 a net worth of at least Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for
- 213 the first license. The applicant shall possess and maintain a net
- 214 worth of at least Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the
- 215 first license and at least Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for
- 216 each additional license.
- 217 **SECTION 7.** Section 75-67-513, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 218 reenacted as follows:

- 75-67-513. (1) Upon filing of an application in a form 219 220 prescribed by the commissioner, accompanied by the documents required in this article, the department shall investigate to 221 222 ascertain whether the qualifications prescribed by Sections 223 75-67-509 and 75-67-511 have been satisfied. If the commissioner 224 finds that the qualifications have been satisfied and, if he approves the documents so filed by the applicant, he shall issue 225 226 to the applicant a license to engage in the business of check
- cashing in this state.

 228 (2) The license shall be kept conspicuously posted in the
- place of business of the licensee.

 SECTION 8. Section 75-67-515, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 231 reenacted as follows:
- 75-67-515. (1) The department may adopt reasonable
 administrative regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the
 enforcement of this article.
- 235 To assure compliance with the provisions of this article, the department may examine the books and records of any 236 237 licensee without notice during normal business hours. 238 commissioner may charge the licensee an examination fee in an amount not less than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) nor more than 239 240 Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) for each office or location within 241 the State of Mississippi plus any actual expenses incurred while 242 examining the licensee's records or books that are located outside 243 the State of Mississippi. However, in no event shall a licensee 244 be examined more than once in a two-year period unless for cause 245 shown based upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons 246 as determined by the commissioner.
- 247 (3) Each licensee shall keep and use in its business any
 248 books, accounts and records the department may require to carry
 249 into effect the provisions of this article and the administrative
 250 regulations issued under this article. Every licensee shall

- 251 preserve the books, accounts and records of its business for at
- 252 least two (2) years.
- 253 (4) Any fee charged by a licensee for cashing a check shall
- 254 be posted conspicuously to the bearer of the check before cashing
- 255 the check, and the fee shall be a service fee and not interest.
- 256 (5) Before a licensee deposits with any bank or other
- 257 depository institution a check cashed by the licensee, the check
- 258 shall be endorsed with the actual name under which the licensee is
- 259 doing business.
- 260 (6) All personal checks cashed for a customer by a licensee
- 261 shall be dated on the actual date the cash is tendered to the
- 262 customer.
- 263 (7) No licensee shall cash a check payable to a payee unless
- 264 the licensee has previously obtained appropriate identification of
- 265 the payee clearly indicating the authority of the person cashing
- 266 the check, draft or money order on behalf of the payee.
- 267 (8) No licensee shall indicate through advertising, signs,
- 268 billboards or otherwise that checks may be cashed without
- 269 identification of the bearer of the check; and any person seeking
- 270 to cash a check shall be required to submit reasonable
- 271 identification as prescribed by the department. The provisions of
- 272 this subsection shall not prohibit a licensee from cashing a check
- 273 simultaneously with the verification and establishment of the
- 274 identity of the presenter by means other than presentation of
- 275 identification.
- 276 (9) Within five (5) business days after being advised by the
- 277 payor financial institution that a check has been altered, forged,
- 278 stolen, obtained through fraudulent or illegal means, negotiated
- 279 without proper legal authority or represents the proceeds of
- 280 illegal activity, the licensee shall notify the department and the
- 281 district attorney for the judicial district in which the check was
- 282 received. If a check is returned to the licensee by the payor

- 283 financial institution for any of these reasons, the licensee may
- 284 not release the check without consent of the district attorney or
- 285 other investigating law enforcement authority.
- 286 (10) If a check is returned to a licensee from a payor
- 287 financial institution because there are insufficient funds in or
- 288 on deposit with the financial institution to pay the check, the
- 289 licensee or any other person on behalf of the licensee shall not
- 290 institute or initiate any criminal prosecution against the maker
- 291 or drawer of the personal check with the intent and purpose of
- 292 aiding in the collection of or enforcing the payment of the amount
- 293 owed to the check casher by the maker or drawer of the check.
- 294 (11) Nothing in this article shall prohibit a licensee from
- 295 issuing coupons to customers or potential customers which are
- 296 redeemable against a deferred deposit transaction provided the
- 297 redemption results in a financial benefit to the customer on
- 298 current or future transactions.
- 299 **SECTION 9.** Section 75-67-516, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 300 reenacted as follows:
- 301 75-67-516. A licensee shall not advertise, display or
- 302 publish, or permit to be advertised, displayed or published, in
- 303 any manner whatsoever, any statement or representation that is
- 304 false, misleading or deceptive.
- 305 **SECTION 10.** Section 75-67-517, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 306 reenacted as follows:
- 307 75-67-517. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
- 308 check cashing business licensed under this article shall directly
- 309 or indirectly charge or collect fees for check cashing services in
- 310 excess of the following:
- 311 (a) Three percent (3%) of the face amount of the check
- 312 or Five Dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater, for checks issued
- 313 by the federal government, state government, or any agency of the

- 314 state or agency of the state or federal government, or any county
- 315 or municipality of this state.
- 316 (b) Ten percent (10%) of the face amount of the check
- 317 or Five Dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater, for personal
- 318 checks.
- 319 (c) Five percent (5%) of the face amount of the check
- 320 or Five Dollars (\$5.00), whichever is greater, for all other
- 321 checks, or for money orders.
- 322 A licensee may not advance monies on the security of any
- 323 personal check unless the presenter attests that the check being
- 324 presented is drawn on a legitimate, open and active account.
- 325 Except as provided by Section 75-67-519, any licensee who cashes a
- 326 check for a fee shall deposit the check not later than three (3)
- 327 business days from the date the check is cashed.
- 328 **SECTION 11.** Section 75-67-519, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 329 reenacted as follows:
- 330 75-67-519. (1) A licensee may defer the deposit of a
- 331 personal check cashed for a customer for up to thirty (30) days
- 332 under the provisions of this section.
- 333 (2) The face amount of any delayed deposit check cashed
- 334 under the provisions of this section shall not exceed Four Hundred
- 335 Dollars (\$400.00). Each customer is limited to a maximum amount
- of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) at any time.
- 337 (3) Each delayed deposit check cashed by a licensee shall be
- 338 documented by a written agreement that has been signed by the
- 339 customer and the licensee. The written agreement shall contain a
- 340 statement of the total amount of any fees charged, expressed as a
- 341 dollar amount and as an annual percentage rate. The written
- 342 agreement shall authorize the licensee to defer deposit of the
- 343 personal check until a specific date not later than thirty (30)
- 344 days from the date the check is cashed.

- 345 (4) A licensee shall not directly or indirectly charge any 346 fee or other consideration for cashing a delayed deposit check in 347 excess of eighteen percent (18%) of the face amount of the check.
- 348 (5) No check cashed under the provisions of this section 349 shall be repaid by the proceeds of another check cashed by the 350 same licensee or any affiliate of the licensee. A licensee shall 351 not renew or otherwise extend any delayed deposit check.
- 352 (6) A licensee shall not offer discount catalog sales or 353 other similar inducements as part of a delayed deposit 354 transaction.
- 355 (7) A licensee shall not charge a late fee or collection fee 356 on any deferred deposit transaction as a result of a returned 357 check or the default by the customer in timely payment to the 358 licensee. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in 359 this section, a licensee may charge a processing fee, not to 360 exceed an amount authorized by the commissioner, for a check 361 returned for any reason, including, without limitation, insufficient funds, closed account or stop payment, if such 362 363 processing fee is authorized in the written agreement signed by 364 the customer and licensee. In addition, if a licensee takes legal 365 action against a customer to collect the amount of a delayed 366 deposit check for which the licensee has not obtained payment and 367 obtains a judgment against the customer for the amount of that 368 check, the licensee shall also be entitled to any court-awarded 369 fees.
- 370 (8) When cashing a delayed deposit check, a licensee may pay
 371 the customer in the form of the licensee's business check or a
 372 money order; however, no additional fee may then be charged by the
 373 licensee for cashing the licensee's business check or money order
 374 issued to the customer.
- 375 **SECTION 12.** Section 75-67-521, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 376 reenacted as follows:

- 75-67-521. (1) The commissioner may, after notice and
- 378 hearing, suspend or revoke a license if he finds that:
- 379 (a) The licensee, either knowingly, or without the
- 380 exercise of due care to prevent the same, has violated any
- 381 provision of this article;
- 382 (b) Any fact or condition exists which, if it had
- 383 existed or had been known to exist at the time of the original
- 384 application for the license, clearly would have justified the
- 385 commissioner in refusing the license;
- 386 (c) The licensee has aided, abetted or conspired with
- 387 an individual or person to circumvent or violate the requirement
- 388 of this article;
- 389 (d) The licensee, or a legal or beneficial owner of the
- 390 license, has been convicted of a felony, or has been convicted of
- 391 a misdemeanor that the commissioner finds directly relates to the
- 392 duties and responsibilities of the business of check cashing.
- 393 (2) The commissioner may conditionally license or place on
- 394 probation a person whose license has been suspended or may
- 395 reprimand a licensee for a violation of this article.
- 396 (3) The manner of giving notice and conducting a hearing as
- 397 required by subsection (1) of this section shall be performed in
- 398 accordance with procedures prescribed by the commissioner in rules
- 399 or regulations adopted under Mississippi Administrative Procedures
- 400 Law, Section 25-43-1 et seq.
- 401 (4) Any licensee may surrender any license by delivering it
- 402 to the commissioner with written notice of its surrender, but that
- 403 surrender shall not affect the licensee's civil or criminal
- 404 liability for acts committed prior thereto.
- 405 (5) The commissioner may reinstate suspended licenses or
- 406 issue new licenses to a person whose license or licenses have been
- 407 revoked if no fact or condition then exists which clearly would

- 408 have justified the commissioner in refusing originally to issue a
- 409 license under this article.
- (6) The appropriate local law enforcement agency shall be 410
- 411 notified of any licensee who has his license suspended or revoked
- as provided by this article. 412
- 413 (7) The commissioner shall enforce the provisions of this
- section. 414
- SECTION 13. Section 75-67-523, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 415
- 416 reenacted as follows:
- 417 75-67-523. The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 418 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this
- article and for the purpose of determining whether persons are 419
- 420 subject to the provisions of this article, may examine persons
- licensed under this article and persons reasonably suspected by 421
- 422 the commissioner of conducting business which requires a license
- 423 under this article, including all relevant books, records and
- 424 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their
- 425 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath
- 426 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or
- 427 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of
- 428 violations of this article, including without limiting the conduct
- 429 of business without a license as required under this article.
- 430 SECTION 14. Section 75-67-525, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 431 reenacted as follows:
- 432 75-67-525. (1) Any person who engages in the business of
- 433 check cashing without first securing a license prescribed by this
- 434 article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction
- thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not in excess of One 435
- Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by confinement in the county jail 436
- 437 for not more than one (1) year, or both.
- (2) Any person who engages in the business of check cashing 438
- 439 without first securing a license prescribed by this article shall

- 440 be liable for the full amount of the license fee, plus a penalty
- 441 in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each
- 442 day that the person has engaged in the business without a license.
- 443 All licensing fees and penalties shall be paid into the Consumer
- 444 Finance Fund of the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance.
- **SECTION 15.** Section 75-67-527, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 446 reenacted as follows:
- 447 75-67-527. (1) In addition to any other penalty which may
- 448 be applicable, any licensee or employee who willfully violates any
- 449 provision of this article, or who willfully makes a false entry in
- 450 any record specifically required by this article, shall be guilty
- 451 of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable
- 452 by a fine not in excess of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per
- 453 violation or false entry.
- 454 (2) Compliance with the criminal provisions of this article
- 455 shall be enforced by the appropriate law enforcement agency, which
- 456 may exercise for that purpose any authority conferred upon the
- 457 agency by law.
- 458 (3) When the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe
- 459 that a person is violating any provision of this article, the
- 460 commissioner, in addition to and without prejudice to the
- 461 authority provided elsewhere in this article, may enter an order
- 462 requiring the person to stop or to refrain from the violation.
- 463 The commissioner may sue in any circuit court of the state having
- 464 jurisdiction and venue to enjoin the person from engaging in or
- 465 continuing the violation or from doing any act in furtherance of
- 466 the violation. In such an action, the court may enter an order or
- 467 judgment awarding a preliminary or permanent injunction.
- 468 (4) The commissioner may impose a civil penalty against any
- 469 licensee adjudged by the commissioner to be in violation of the
- 470 provisions of this article. The civil penalty shall not exceed
- 471 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per violation and shall be

- 472 deposited into the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance,
- 473 "Consumer Finance Fund."
- 474 (5) Any licensee convicted in the manner provided in this
- 475 article shall forfeit the surety bond or deposit required in
- 476 Section 75-67-509(c) and the amount of the bond or deposit shall
- 477 be credited to the budget of the state or local agency which
- 478 directly participated in the prosecution of the licensee, for the
- 479 specific purpose of increasing law enforcement resources for that
- 480 specific state or local agency. The bond or deposit shall be used
- 481 to augment existing state and local law enforcement budgets and
- 482 not to supplant them.
- 483 **SECTION 16.** Section 75-67-529, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 484 reenacted as follows:
- 485 75-67-529. The provisions of this article are severable. If
- 486 any part of this article is declared invalid or unconstitutional,
- 487 that declaration shall not affect the parts which remain.
- 488 **SECTION 17.** Section 75-67-531, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 489 reenacted as follows:
- 490 75-67-531. Check cashers operating check cashing locations
- 491 in business as of July 1, 1998, shall have until September 30,
- 492 1998, to apply for a license under this article, and upon the
- 493 approval of the application, the commissioner shall grant a
- 494 license under this article.
- 495 **SECTION 18.** Section 75-67-533, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 496 reenacted as follows:
- 497 75-67-533. The commissioner shall develop and provide any
- 498 necessary forms to carry out the provisions of this article.
- 499 **SECTION 19.** Section 75-67-535, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 500 reenacted as follows:
- 75-67-535. Municipalities in this state may enact ordinances
- 502 which are in compliance with, but not more restrictive than, the
- 503 provisions of this article. Any existing or future order,

- 504 ordinance or regulation which conflicts with this provision shall
- 505 be null and void.
- SECTION 20. Section 75-67-537, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 506
- 507 reenacted as follows:
- 508 75-67-537. The commissioner may employ the necessary
- 509 full-time employees above the number of permanent full-time
- 510 employees authorized for the department for fiscal year 1999, to
- carry out and enforce the provisions of this article. The 511
- commissioner may also expend the necessary funds to equip and 512
- 513 provide necessary travel expenses for those employees.
- 514 SECTION 21. Section 75-67-539, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 515 amended as follows:
- 516 75-67-539. Sections 75-67-501 through 75-67-537 shall stand
- 517 repealed on July 1, 2012.
- SECTION 22. This act shall take effect and be in force from 518
- 519 and after July 1, 2007.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 75-67-501 THROUGH 75-67-537,
- 2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CHECK
- CASHERS ACT; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 75-67-505, MISSISSIPPI 3
- CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE PROVISIONS THAT ALLOW THE CHANGE OF
- 5 OWNERSHIP OF A LICENSED CHECK CASHING BUSINESS WITHOUT OBTAINING A
- 6 NEW LICENSE FOR THE BUSINESS; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-539,
- MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE MISSISSIPPI CHECK CASHERS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 7