

By: Senator(s) Younger

To: Business and Financial
Institutions

SENATE BILL NO. 2035

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "RESPECT THE CASH ACT"; TO PROHIBIT A
2 PERSON SELLING OR OFFERING FOR SALE GOODS OR SERVICES AT RETAIL IN
3 THIS STATE FROM REFUSING TO ACCEPT CASH AS A FORM OF PAYMENT FOR
4 SUCH GOODS OR SERVICES; TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR
5 VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The provisions of this act shall be known
8 and may be cited as the "Respect the Cash Act."

9 (2) A person selling or offering for sale goods or services
10 at retail in this state shall not refuse to accept United States
11 legal tender as a form of payment for such goods or services. All
12 such persons must accept United States legal tender when offered
13 as payment by the buyer. The provisions of this act shall not
14 apply to transactions where:

15 (a) The seller reasonably believes the United States
16 legal tender is counterfeit;

17 (b) A contract between the buyer and seller exists
18 requiring electronic form of payment;



19 (c) Electronic devices offer twenty-four-hour service
20 without an attendant.

21 (3) All public and private utilities based in the State of
22 Mississippi shall accept United States legal tender as a form of
23 payment.

24 (4) All state and local government entities shall accept
25 United States legal tender as a form of payment.

26 (5) Any person who willfully and intentionally violates any
27 provision of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
28 conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding One Hundred
29 Dollars (\$100.00). For each subsequent violation, a person shall
30 be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished
31 by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

32 (6) As used in this section, "at retail" shall include any
33 retail transaction conducted in person and exclude any telephone,
34 mail, or internet-based transaction.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2024.

