## \*\*\*Adopted\*\*\* AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

## House Bill NO. 723

## By Senator(s) Committee

110	Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
111	in lieu thereof the following:
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113	SECTION 1. Section 63-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
114	amended as follows:
115	63-19-3. The following words and phrases, when used in this
116	chapter, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in
117	this section, except where the context or subject matter otherwise
118	requires:
119	(a) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled or motored
120	device designed to be used or used primarily for the
121	transportation of passengers or property, or both, and having a
122	gross vehicular weight rating of less than fifteen thousand
123	(15,000) pounds.
124	(b) "Commercial vehicle" means any self-propelled or
125	motored device designed to be used or used primarily for the
126	transportation of passengers or property, or both, and having a
127	gross vehicular weight rating of fifteen thousand (15,000) pounds
128	or more; however, wherever "motor vehicle" appears in this
129	chapter, except in Section 63-19-43, the same shall be construed
130	to include commercial vehicles where such construction is
131	necessary in order to give effect to this chapter.

(c) "Retail buyer" or "buyer" means a person who buys a

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- 133 motor vehicle or commercial vehicle from a retail seller, not for
- 134 the purpose of resale, and who executes a retail installment
- 135 contract in connection therewith.
- 136 (d) "Retail seller" or "seller" means a person who
- 137 sells a motor vehicle or commercial vehicle to a retail buyer
- 138 under or subject to a retail installment contract.
- (e) The "holder" of a retail installment contract means
- 140 the retail seller of the motor vehicle or commercial vehicle under
- 141 or subject to the contract or if the contract is purchased by a
- 142 sales finance company or other assignee, the sales finance company
- 143 or other assignee.
- (f) "Retail installment transaction" means any
- 145 transaction evidenced by a retail installment contract entered
- 146 into between a retail buyer and a retail seller wherein the retail
- 147 buyer buys a motor vehicle or commercial vehicle from the retail
- 148 seller at a time price payable in one or more deferred
- 149 installments. The cash sale price of the motor vehicle or
- 150 commercial vehicle, the amount included for insurance and other
- 151 benefits if a separate charge is made therefor, official fees and
- 152 the finance charge shall together constitute the time price.
- 153 (g) "Retail installment contract" or "contract" means
- 154 an agreement entered into in this state pursuant to which the
- 155 title to or a lien upon the motor vehicle or commercial vehicle
- 156 which is the subject matter of a retail installment transaction is
- 157 retained or taken by a retail seller from a retail buyer as
- 158 security for the buyer's obligation. The term includes a chattel
- 159 mortgage, a conditional sales contract and a contract for the
- 160 bailment or leasing of a motor vehicle or commercial vehicle by
- 161 which the bailee or lessee contracts to pay as compensation for
- 162 its use a sum substantially equivalent to or in excess of its
- 163 value and by which it is agreed that the bailee or lessee is bound
- 164 to become, or has the option of becoming, the owner of the motor
- 165 vehicle upon full compliance with the provisions of the contract.
- 166 (h) "Cash sale price" means the price stated in a
- 167 retail installment contract for which the seller would have sold

- 168 to the buyer, and the buyer would have bought from the seller, the
- 169 motor vehicle or commercial vehicle which is the subject matter of
- 170 the retail installment contract, if such sale had been a sale for
- 171 cash instead of a retail installment transaction. The cash sale
- 172 price may include any taxes, registration, certificate of title,
- 173 if any, license and other fees and charges for accessories and
- 174 their installation and for delivery, servicing, repairing or
- 175 improving the motor vehicle or commercial vehicle.
- 176 (i) "Official fees" means the fees prescribed by law
- 177 for filing, recording or otherwise perfecting and releasing or
- 178 satisfying a retained title or a lien created by a retail
- 179 installment contract, if recorded.
- 180 (j) "Finance charge" means the amount agreed upon
- 181 between the buyer and the seller, as limited in this chapter, to
- 182 be added to the aggregate of the cash sale price, the amount, if
- 183 any, included for insurance and other benefits and official fees,
- 184 in determining the time price.
- 185 (k) "Sales finance company" means a person engaged, in
- 186 whole or in part, in the business of purchasing retail installment
- 187 contracts from one or more retail sellers. The term includes but
- 188 is not limited to a bank, trust company, private banker,
- 189 industrial bank or investment company, if so engaged. The term
- 190 also includes a retail seller engaged, in whole or in part, in the
- 191 business of creating and holding retail installment contracts
- 192 which exceed a total aggregate outstanding indebtedness of Five
- 193 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). The term does not include
- 194 the pledgee to whom is pledged one or more of such contracts to
- 195 secure a bona fide loan thereon.
- 196 (1) "Person" means an individual, partnership,
- 197 corporation, association and any other group however organized.
- 198 (m) "Administrator" means the Commissioner of Banking
- 199 and Consumer Finance or his duly authorized representative.
- 200 (n) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Banking
- 201 and Consumer Finance.
- 202 (o) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard

- 203 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 204 electronic, imaged, magnetic, microphotographic or otherwise, and
- 205 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 206 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 207 <u>original</u>.
- 208 Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- SECTION 2. Section 63-19-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 210 amended as follows:
- 211 63-19-11. With each initial application for a license, the
- 212 applicant shall pay to the commissioner at the time of making the
- 213 <u>application a license fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars</u>
- 214 (\$750.00), and for renewal applications, an annual renewal fee of
- 215 Four Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$475.00) for each calendar year
- 216 for each place of business so operated.
- SECTION 3. Section 63-19-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 218 amended as follows:
- 219 63-19-15. Each license shall specify the location of the
- 220 office and must be conspicuously displayed there. \* \* \*
- SECTION 4. Section 63-19-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 222 amended as follows:
- 223 63-19-27. The commissioner may charge the licensee an
- 224 <u>examination fee in an amount not less than Two Hundred Dollars</u>
- 225 (\$200.00) nor more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per
- 226 <u>examination of each office or location within the State of</u>
- 227 <u>Mississippi, plus any actual expenses incurred while examining the</u>
- 228 <u>licensee's records or books that are located outside the State of</u>
- 229 <u>Mississippi. However, in no event shall a licensee be examined</u>
- 230 more than once in a two-year period unless for cause shown based
- 231 upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons as determined
- 232 by the commissioner.
- 233 All \* \* \* expense fees paid to the commissioner shall be
- 234 deposited by the commissioner in the State Treasury in a special
- 235 and separate fund to be known as the "Consumer Finance Fund."
- SECTION 5. Section 63-19-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 237 amended as follows:

- 238 63-19-31. (1) (a) A retail installment contract shall be
- 239 in writing, shall be signed by both the buyer and the seller, and
- 240 shall be completed as to all essential provisions prior to the
- 241 signing of the contract by the buyer.
- 242 (b) The printed portion of the contract, other than
- 243 instructions for completion, shall be in at least eight point
- 244 type. The contract shall contain in a size equal to at least ten
- 245 point bold type:
- 246 (i) A specific statement that liability insurance
- 247 coverage for bodily injury and property damage caused to others is
- 248 not included, if that is the case; and
- 249 (ii) The following notice: "Notice to the Buyer:
- 250 1. Do not sign this contract before you read it or if it
- 251 contains any blank spaces. 2. You are entitled to an exact copy
- 252 of the contract you sign."
- 253 (c) The seller shall deliver to the buyer, or mail to
- 254 him at his address shown on the contract, a copy of the contract
- 255 signed by the seller. Until the seller does so, a buyer who has
- 256 not received delivery of the motor vehicle shall have the right to
- 257 rescind his agreement and to receive a refund of all payments made
- 258 and return of all goods traded in to the seller on account of or
- 259 in contemplation of the contract, or if such goods cannot be
- 260 returned, the value thereof. Any acknowledgment by the buyer of
- 261 the delivery of a copy of the contract shall be in a size equal to
- 262 at least ten point bold type and, if contained in the contract,
- 263 shall appear directly above the buyer's signature.
- 264 (d) The contract shall contain the names of the seller
- 265 and the buyer, the place of business of the seller, the residence
- 266 or place of business of the buyer as specified by the buyer and a
- 267 description of the motor vehicle including its make, year model,
- 268 model and identification numbers or marks.
- 269 (2) The contract shall contain the following items:
- 270 (a) The cash sale price of the motor vehicle;
- (b) The amount of the buyer's down payment, and whether
- 272 made in money or goods, or partly in money and partly in goods;

- (c) The difference between items (a) and (b);
- 274 (d) The amount, if any, included for insurance and
- 275 other benefits specifying the types of coverage and benefits;
- (e) The amount of official fees;
- 277 (f) The amount, if any, actually paid or to be paid by
- 278 the seller pursuant to an agreement with the buyer to discharge a
- 279 security interest, lien or lease interest on property traded in;
- 280 (g) The principal balance, which is the sum of items
- 281 (c), (d), \* \* \* (e) and (f);
- 282 (h) The amount of the finance charge;
- 283 (i) The time balance, which is the sum of items (g) and
- 284 (h), payable in installments by the buyer to the seller, the
- 285 number of installments, the amount of each installment and the due
- 286 date or period thereof.
- The above items need not be stated in the sequence or order
- 288 set forth. Additional items may be included to explain the
- 289 calculations involved in determining the stated time balance to be
- 290 paid by the buyer. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter
- 291 to the contrary, in any contract evidencing the sale of a
- 292 commercial vehicle, the statement of the amount of the finance
- 293 charge (item (h) hereof) and the amount of each installment (item
- 294 (i) hereof) may be calculated using the finance charge rate
- 295 applicable to the transaction as of the date of execution of the
- 296 contract, notwithstanding the fact that such finance charge rate
- 297 may increase or decrease over the term of the contract according
- 298 to any formula or index set forth in the contract; provided,
- 299 however, that under no circumstances may the variable rate under
- 300 such contract at any time exceed the finance charge limitations
- 301 found in Section 63-19-43, of this chapter.
- 302 (3) No retail installment contract shall be signed by any
- 303 party thereto when it contains blank spaces to be filled in after
- 304 it has been signed except that, if delivery of the motor vehicle
- 305 is not made at the time of the execution of the contract, the
- 306 identifying numbers or marks of the motor vehicle or similar
- 307 information and the due date of the first installment may be

- 308 inserted in the contract after its execution. The buyer's written
- 309 acknowledgment, conforming to the requirements of subdivision (c)
- 310 of subsection (1) of this section, of delivery of a copy of a
- 311 contract shall be conclusive proof of such delivery, that the
- 312 contract when signed did not contain any blank spaces except as
- 313 herein provided, and of compliance with Sections 63-19-31 to
- 314 63-19-41 in any action or proceeding by or against the holder of
- 315 the contract.
- 316 SECTION 6. Section 63-19-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 317 amended as follows:
- 318 63-19-55. (1) Any person who shall willfully and
- 319 intentionally violate any provision of this chapter or engage in
- 320 the business of a sales finance company in this state without a
- 321 license therefor as provided in this chapter shall be guilty of a
- 322 misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not
- 323 exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). However, any licensee
- 324 who is exempt from liability for an act or omission under Section
- 325 63-19-57 shall not be guilty of a misdemeanor under this section
- 326 for the same act or omission.
- 327 (2) <u>If any person engages in business as provided for in</u>
- 328 this chapter without paying the license fee provided for in this
- 329 <u>chapter before commencing business or before the expiration of the</u>
- 330 person's current license, as the case may be, then the person
- 331 shall be liable for the full amount of the license fee, plus a
- 332 penalty in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
- 333 for each day that the person has engaged in the business without a
- 334 <u>license or after the expiration of a license.</u>
- 335 (3) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a
- 336 civil penalty against any licensee if the licensee or employee is
- 337 <u>adjudged by the commissioner to be in violation of the provisions</u>
- 338 of this chapter. The civil penalty shall not exceed Five Hundred
- 339 Dollars (\$500.00) per violation and shall be deposited into the
- 340 <u>Consumer Finance Fund of the Department of Banking and Consumer</u>
- 341 Finance.
- 342 (4) Any person willfully violating Sections 63-19-31 through

- 343 63-19-45, shall be barred from recovery of any finance charge,
- 344 delinquency or collection charge on the contract.
- 345 (5) However, any such contract purchased in good faith for
- 346 value by any bank, trust company, private bank, industrial bank or
- 347 investment company authorized to do business in this state shall
- 348 be held and construed to be valid and enforceable in the hands of
- 349 the purchaser for value, except that such purchaser shall not be
- 350 permitted to recover on such contract from the buyer anything in
- 351 excess of the principal balance due thereon, plus the amount of
- 352 the finance and collection charges permitted under the terms and
- 353 provisions of this chapter.
- 354 SECTION 7. The following section shall be codified as a
- 355 separate code section within Chapter 19 of Title 63, Mississippi
- 356 Code of 1972:
- 357  $\underline{63-19-\underline{\phantom{0}}}$  The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 358 representative, after receiving a written complaint, for the
- 359 purpose of discovering violations of this chapter and for the
- 360 purpose of determining whether persons are subject to the
- 361 provisions of this chapter, may examine persons licensed under
- 362 this chapter and persons reasonably suspected by the commissioner
- 363 of conducting business that requires a license under this chapter,
- 364 including all relevant books, records and papers employed by those
- 365 persons in the transaction of their business, and may summon
- 366 witnesses and examine them under oath concerning matters relating
- 367 to the business of those persons, or such other matters as may be
- 368 relevant to the discovery of violations of this chapter, including
- 369 without limitation the conduct of business without a license as
- 370 required by this chapter.
- 371 SECTION 8. Section 75-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 372 amended as follows:
- 373 75-15-3. For the purposes of this chapter:
- 374 (a) "Person" means any individual, partnership,
- 375 association, joint stock association, trust, or corporation, but
- 376 does not include the United States government or the government of
- 377 this state.

- 378 (b) "Licensee" means a person duly licensed by the
- 379 <u>commissioner</u> pursuant to this chapter.
- 380 (c) "Check" means any check, draft, money order,
- 381 personal money order, or other instrument for the transmission or
- 382 payment of money.
- 383 (d) "Personal money order" means any instrument for the
- 384 transmission or payment of money in relation to which the
- 385 purchaser or remitter appoints or purports to appoint the seller
- 386 thereof as his agent for the receipt, transmission, or handling of
- 387 money, whether such instrument be signed by the seller or by the
- 388 purchaser or remitter or some other person.
- (e) "Sell" means to sell, to issue or to deliver a
- 390 check.
- 391 (f) "Deliver" means to deliver a check to the first
- 392 person who in payment for same makes or purports to make a
- 393 remittance of or against the face amount thereof, whether or not
- 394 the deliverer also charges a fee in addition to the face amount,
- 395 and whether or not the deliverer signs the checks.
- 396 (g) <u>"Commissioner" or</u> "comptroller" <u>means</u> the
- 397 <u>Commissioner of Banking and Consumer Finance</u> of the State of
- 398 Mississippi.
- 399 <u>(h) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard</u>
- 400 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 401 <u>electronic</u>, <u>imaged</u>, <u>magnetic</u>, <u>microphotographic</u> or <u>otherwise</u>, <u>and</u>
- 402 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 403 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 404 <u>original.</u>
- SECTION 9. Section 75-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 406 amended as follows:
- 407 75-15-15. Each licensee shall pay to the <u>commissioner</u> with
- 408 his <u>initial</u> application <u>a license fee of Seven Hundred Fifty</u>
- 409 <u>Dollars (\$750.00)</u>, and annually thereafter on or before April 1 of
- 410 each year, a <u>renewal</u> fee of <u>Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)</u>, plus
- 411 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each location in excess of one (1) in
- 412 Mississippi through which the licensee plans to sell during the

- 413 license year for which the fee is paid, provided that in no event
- 414 shall the annual renewal fee exceed One Thousand Dollars
- 415 (\$1,000.00).
- 416 SECTION 10. Section 75-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 417 amended as follows:
- 418 75-15-19. Each licensee shall file with the commissioner
- 419 annually on or before April 15 of each year a statement listing:
- 420 (a) The locations, offices and agencies authorized by
- 421 the licensee to act for and on behalf of the licensee in selling
- 422 or issuing or dispensing checks. A supplemental statement setting
- 423 forth any changes in the list of locations, offices and agencies
- 424 shall be filed with the commissioner on or before the first day of
- 425 July, October and January of each year and the principal sum of
- 426 the corporate surety bond or deposit required under Section
- 427 75-15-11 shall be adjusted, if appropriate, to reflect any
- 428 increase or decrease in the number of locations, offices and
- 429 agencies. Such annual and supplemental statement shall not be
- 430 required of any licensee who continues to maintain a corporate
- 431 surety bond, as required by subsection (b) of Section 75-15-11 of
- 432 this chapter, in the principal sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand
- 433 Dollars (\$250,000.00), or a securities deposit having an aggregate
- 434 market value at least equal to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
- 435 (\$250,000.00).
- 436 (b) Each licensee shall file with the commissioner
- 437 annually on or before April 15 of each year, statements correctly
- 438 reflecting its net worth as of the close of its most recent fiscal
- 439 year, such statement to be certified to by a certified public
- 440 accountant satisfactory to the commissioner.
- 441 <u>(c)</u> The commissioner may conduct or cause to be
- 442 conducted an examination or audit of the books and records of any
- 443 licensee at any time or times he shall deem proper, the cost of
- 444 such examination or audit to be borne by the licensee. The
- 445 refusal of access to such books and records shall be cause for the
- 446 revocation of its license. The commissioner may charge the
- 447 <u>licensee an examination fee in an amount not less than Two Hundred</u>

- 448 <u>Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)</u>
- 449 per examination of each office or location within the State of
- 450 <u>Mississippi, plus any actual expenses incurred while examining the</u>
- 451 <u>licensee's records or books that are located outside the State of</u>
- 452 <u>Mississippi. However, in no event shall a licensee be examined</u>
- 453 more than once in a two-year period unless for cause shown based
- 454 upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons as determined
- 455 by the commissioner.
- SECTION 11. Section 75-15-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 457 amended as follows:
- 458 75-15-31. (1) If any person to whom or which this chapter
- 459 applies or any agent, subagent or representative of such person
- 460 violates any of the provisions of this chapter or attempts to
- 461 transact the business of selling or issuing or delivering checks
- 462 as a service or for a fee or other consideration, without having
- 463 first obtained license from the <a href="commissioner">commissioner</a> pursuant to the
- 464 provisions of this chapter, such person and each such agent,
- 465 subagent or representative shall be deemed guilty of a
- 466 misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than One
- 467 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars
- 468 (\$500.00) and he may also be confined to the county jail or
- 469 sentenced to hard labor for the county, for not more than twelve
- 470 (12) months. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- 471 (2) If any person engages in business as provided for in
- 472 this chapter without paying the license fee provided for in this
- 473 <u>chapter before commencing business or before the expiration of the</u>
- 474 person's current license, as the case may be, then the person
- 475 shall be liable for the full amount of the license fee plus a
- 476 penalty in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
- 477 for each day that the person has engaged in the business without a
- 478 <u>license or after the expiration of a license.</u>
- 479 (3) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a
- 480 <u>civil penalty against any licensee if the licensee or employee is</u>
- 481 <u>adjudged by the commissioner to be in violation of the provisions</u>
- 482 of this chapter. The civil penalty shall not exceed Five Hundred

- 483 Dollars (\$500.00) per violation and shall be deposited into the
- 484 Consumer Finance Fund of the Department of Banking and Consumer
- 485 Finance.
- 486 SECTION 12. The following section shall be codified as a
- 487 separate code section within Chapter 15 of Title 75, Mississippi
- 488 Code of 1972:
- 489 <u>75-15-</u>. The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 490 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this
- 491 chapter and for the purpose of determining whether persons are
- 492 subject to the provisions of this chapter, may examine persons
- 493 licensed under this chapter and persons reasonably suspected by
- 494 the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license
- 495 under this chapter, including all relevant books, records and
- 496 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their
- 497 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath
- 498 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or
- 499 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of
- 500 violations of this chapter, including without limitation the
- 501 conduct of business without a license as required under this
- 502 chapter.
- SECTION 13. Section 75-67-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 504 amended as follows:
- 505 75-67-103. The following words and phrases, when used in
- 506 this article, shall, for the purposes of this article, have the
- 507 meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except
- 508 where the context clearly describes and indicates a different
- 509 meaning:
- 510 (a) "Person" means and includes every natural person,
- 511 firm, corporation, copartnership, joint-stock or other association
- 512 or organization, and any other legal entity whatsoever.
- 513 (b) "Licensee" means and includes every person holding
- 514 a valid license issued under the provisions of the Small Loan
- 515 Privilege Tax Law [Sections 75-67-201 through 75-67-243] of this
- 516 state, except those specifically exempt by the provisions of this
- 517 article, who, in addition to any other rights and powers he or it

- 518 might otherwise possess, shall engage in the business of lending
- 519 money either directly or indirectly, to be paid back in monthly
- 520 installments or other regular installments for periods of more or
- 10 less than one (1) month, and whether or not the lender requires
- 522 security from the borrower as indemnity for the repayment of the
- 523 loan.
- 524 (c) "Occasional lender" means a person making not more
- 525 than one (1) loan in any month or not more than twelve (12) loans
- 526 in any twelve-month period.
- 527 (d) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Banking
- 528 and Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi.
- (e) "Department" means the Department of Banking and
- 530 Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi.
- (f) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard
- 532 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 533 <u>electronic</u>, <u>imaged</u>, <u>magnetic</u>, <u>microphotographic</u> or <u>otherwise</u>, <u>and</u>
- 534 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 535 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 536 <u>original.</u>
- 537 SECTION 14. Section 75-67-115, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 538 amended as follows:
- 539 75-67-115. The commissioner may charge the licensee an
- 540 <u>examination fee in an amount not less than Two Hundred Dollars</u>
- 541 (\$200.00) nor more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per
- 542 <u>examination of each office or location within the State of</u>
- 543 Mississippi, plus any actual expenses incurred while examining the
- 544 <u>licensee's records or books that are located outside the State of</u>
- 545 Mississippi. However, in no event shall a licensee be examined
- 546 more than once in a two-year period unless for cause shown based
- 547 upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons as determined
- by the commissioner.
- All \* \* \* expense fees paid to the commissioner shall be
- 550 deposited by the commissioner in the State Treasury in a special
- and separate fund to be known as the "Consumer Finance Fund."
- SECTION 15. Section 75-67-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

553 amended as follows:

75-67-203. The following words and phrases, when used in this article, shall, for the purposes of this article have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly describes and indicates a different meaning:

- 559 (a) The word "person" shall mean and include every
  560 natural person, firm, corporation, copartnership, joint stock or
  561 other association or organization, and any other legal entity
  562 whatsoever;
- The term "licensee" shall mean and include every 563 person, except those specifically exempt by the provisions of this 564 565 article, who, in addition to any other right and powers he or it 566 might otherwise possess, shall engage in the business of lending 567 money, either directly or indirectly, to be paid back in monthly installments, or other regular installments for periods of more or 568 569 less than one (1) month, and whether or not the lender requires 570 security from the borrower as indemnity for the repayment of the 571 loan;
- 572 (c) The word "commissioner" shall mean the Commissioner 573 of Banking and Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi;
- 574 (d) The word "department" shall mean the Department of 575 Banking and Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi:
- (e) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard

  copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as

  electronic, imaged, magnetic, microphotographic or otherwise, and

  any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as

  the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the

  original.
- SECTION 16. Section 75-67-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:
- 75-67-213. With each <u>initial</u> application for a license under the provisions of this article, the applicant shall pay to the commissioner at the time of making such application a license fee of <u>Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00)</u>, and <u>for renewal</u>

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     applications, an annual renewal fee of Four Hundred Seventy-five
     <u>Dollars ($475.00). The</u> licenses issued under the provisions
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     hereof shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date
     of the issuance thereof. Such fee is in addition to any other
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     privilege tax or fee required by law. Within thirty (30) days
     prior to the expiration of any valid and subsisting license issued
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     hereunder, the holder thereof, if he desires to continue to engage
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     in business in the State of Mississippi, shall file application
     for a new license in the same manner and under the same conditions
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     herein provided * * *.
          SECTION 17. Section 75-67-215, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
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     amended as follows:
          75-67-215. (1) If any person shall engage in business as
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     provided for in this article without paying the license fee
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     provided for herein prior to commencing business or prior to the
     expiration of such person's current license, as the case may be,
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     then such person shall be liable for the full amount of such
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     license fee plus a penalty in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five
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     Dollars ($25.00) for each day that the person has engaged in the
     business without a license or after the expiration of a license.
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          (2) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing as
     defined in Section 75-67-237 in cases of revocation of license,
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     impose a civil penalty against any licensee if the licensee is
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     adjudged by the commissioner to be in willful violation of the
     provisions of this article. The civil penalty shall not exceed
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     Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) per violation and shall be
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     deposited into the Consumer Finance Fund of the Department of
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     Banking and Consumer Finance. Any licensee who has been imposed a
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     civil penalty by the commissioner may, within twenty (20) days
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     after such fine is imposed, appeal to the circuit court of the
     county where the business is being conducted, as in cases from an
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     order of a lesser tribunal. The trial on appeal shall be de novo.
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          SECTION 18. Section 75-67-229, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
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     amended as follows:
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75-67-229. Not more than one (1) place of business shall be

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623 operated or maintained under the same license, but the

624 <u>commissioner</u> may issue separate licenses to the same licensee for

625 different and separate places of business upon compliance with all

626 of the provisions of this article governing the issuance of

627 licenses with respect to each separate license. If any licensee

628 shall desire to change his place of business within the same

629 municipality during the period for which the license is valid, he

630 shall make written application therefor to the **commissioner** who

631 shall issue a new license \* \* \* for the unexpired portion of the

632 year showing the new location of the business. However, nothing

633 herein shall authorize or permit a change in the place of business

of a licensee to a location outside of the original municipality.

635 SECTION 19. The following section shall be codified as a

636 separate code section within Article 5 of Chapter 67 of Title 75,

637 Mississippi Code of 1972:

638 <u>75-67-</u>. The commissioner, or his duly authorized

639 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this

640 article and for the purpose of determining whether persons are

641 subject to the provisions of this article, may examine persons

licensed under this article and persons reasonably suspected by

the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license

644 under this article, including all relevant books, records and

645 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their

business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath

647 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or

648 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of

649 violations of this article, including without limitation the

650 conduct of business without a license as required under this

651 article.

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SECTION 20. Section 75-67-403, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

653 amended as follows:

75-67-403. The following words and phrases shall have the

655 following meanings:

(a) "Appropriate law enforcement agency" means the

657 sheriff of each county in which the title pledge lender maintains

- 658 an office, or the police chief of the municipality or law
- 659 enforcement officers of the Department of Public Safety in which
- 660 the title pledge lender maintains an office.
- (b) "Attorney General" means the Attorney General of
- 662 the State of Mississippi.
- (c) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Banking
- and Consumer Finance of the State of Mississippi, or his designee,
- as the designated official for the purpose of enforcing this
- 666 article.
- (d) "Identification" means a government issued
- 668 photographic identification.
- (e) "Person" means an individual, partnership,
- 670 corporation, joint venture, trust, association or other legal
- 671 entity.
- (f) "Pledged property" means any personal property
- 673 certificate of title that is deposited with a title pledge lender
- 674 in the course of the title pledge lender's business and is the
- 675 subject of a title pledge agreement.
- (g) "Pledgor" means the person to whom the property is
- 677 titled.
- (h) "Title pledge agreement" means a thirty-day written
- 679 agreement whereby a title pledge lender agrees to make a loan of
- 680 money to a pledgor, and the pledgor agrees to give the title
- 681 pledge lender a security interest in unencumbered titled personal
- 682 property owned by the pledgor. The pledgor shall agree that the
- 683 title pledge lender keep possession of the certificate of title.
- 684 The pledgor shall have the exclusive right to redeem the
- 685 certificate of title by repaying the loan of money in full and by
- 686 complying with the title pledge agreement. When the certificate
- of title is redeemed, the title pledge lender shall release the
- 688 security interest in the titled personal property and return the
- 689 personal property certificate of title to the pledgor. The title
- 690 pledge agreement shall provide that upon failure by the pledgor to
- 691 redeem the certificate of title at the end of the original
- 692 thirty-day agreement period, or at the end of any extension(s)

693 thereof, the title pledge lender shall be allowed to take 694 possession of the titled personal property. The title pledge 695 agreement shall contain a power of attorney which authorizes the title pledge lender to transfer title to the pledged property from 696 697 the pledgor to the title pledge lender upon failure to redeem the 698 pledged property on or before the maturity date of the title 699 pledge agreement, or any extension thereof. The title pledge 700 lender shall take physical possession of the certificate of title for the entire length of the title pledge agreement, but shall not 701 702 be required to take physical possession of the titled personal 703 property at any time. A title pledge lender may only take 704 unencumbered certificates of title for pledge, but may encumber 705 the title as part of the title pledge transaction by perfecting 706 its security interest in the titled property.

"Title pledge lender" means any person engaged in the business of making title pledge agreements with pledgors; provided, however, that the following are exempt from the definition of "title pledge lender" and from the provisions of this article: any bank which is regulated by the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance, the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any other federal or state authority and all affiliates of such bank, and additionally any bank or savings and loan association whose deposits or accounts are eligible for insurance by the Bank Insurance Fund or the Savings Association Insurance Fund or other fund administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any successor thereto, and all affiliates of such banks and savings and loan associations, any state or federally chartered credit union and finance company subject to licensing and regulation by the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance.

(j) "Title pledge office" means the location at which, or premises in which, a title pledge lender regularly conducts business. No business other than title pledge business shall be conducted at a title pledge office.

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- 728 (k) "Title pledge service charge" means a charge for
- 729 investigating the title, appraising the titled personal property
- 730 to which the pledged property relates, documenting and closing the
- 731 title pledge agreement transaction, making required reports to
- 732 appropriate law enforcement officials, and for all of the services
- 733 provided by the title pledge lender.
- 734 (1) "Title pledge transaction form" means the
- 735 instrument on which a title pledge lender records title pledge
- 736 agreements pursuant to this article.
- 737 (m) "Titled personal property" means any personal
- 738 property the ownership of which is evidenced and delineated by a
- 739 state-issued certificate of title.
- 740 (n) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard
- 741 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 742 <u>electronic</u>, <u>imaged</u>, <u>magnetic</u>, <u>microphotographic</u> or <u>otherwise</u>, <u>and</u>
- 743 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 744 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 745 <u>original.</u>
- 746 SECTION 21. Section 75-67-409, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 747 amended as follows:
- 748 75-67-409. (1) The pledgor shall sign a statement verifying
- 749 that the pledgor is the rightful owner of the pledged property and
- 750 is entitled to pledge it. The pledgor shall receive an exact copy
- 751 of the title pledge agreement which shall be signed by the title
- 752 pledge lender or any employee of the title pledge lender.
- 753 (2) The title pledge lender shall maintain a record of all
- 754 transactions of pledged property on the premises for a period of
- 755 two (2) years. A title pledge lender upon request shall provide
- 756 to the appropriate law enforcement agency a complete record of all
- 757 transactions. These records shall be a correct copy of the
- 758 entries made of the title pledge transaction, except as to the
- 759 amount of cash advanced for the pledged property and the monthly
- 760 title pledge charge.
- 761 (3) The title pledge lender shall maintain records that
- 762 <u>contain a complete payment history of each customer evidencing all</u>

763 principal payments, service charge and/or other charges. Those

764 records also shall reflect any unpaid principal balance as well as

765 <u>a payoff balance that includes the accrued service charges.</u>

766 SECTION 22. Section 75-67-413, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

767 amended as follows:

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75-67-413. (1) A title pledge lender may contract for and receive a title pledge service charge in lieu of interest or other charges for all services, expenses, cost and losses of every nature not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the principal

amount, per month, advanced in the title pledge transaction.

- (2) Any interest, charge or fees contracted for or received,
  directly or indirectly, in excess of the amount permitted under
  subsection (1) of this section shall be uncollectible and the
  title pledge transaction shall be void. The title pledge service
  charge allowed under subsection (1) of this section shall be
  deemed earned, due and owing as of the date of the title pledge
- 779 transaction and a like sum shall be deemed earned, due and owing 780 on the thirty-first day from the date of the transaction and on

781 every thirtieth day thereafter.

782 (3) By agreement of the parties, the maturity date of the

783 title pledge transaction may be extended or continued for

784 thirty-day periods, provided that the service charges as specified

785 in subsection (1) are not exceeded for any extensions. All

786 extensions or continuations of the title pledge transaction shall

787 be evidenced in writing. No accrued interest or service charge

788 shall be capitalized or added to the original principal of the

789 title pledge transaction during any extension or continuation.

790 Beginning with the <u>first</u> extension or continuation, the principal

791 amount financed shall be reduced by at least ten percent (10%) of

792 the original principal amount for each successive extension or

793 continuation. Failure by the pledgor to pay at least ten percent

794 (10%) of the original principal amount of the title pledge

795 transaction at the maturity date of each such successive extension

796 or continuation shall cause the remaining principal and any

797 service charges or fees to become immediately due and payable.

- 798 (4) Any additional payment of funds on the same pledged
- 799 property must be evidenced by a separate title pledge agreement.
- 800 A title pledge lender shall not advance funds to a pledgor to pay
- 801 off an existing title pledge agreement.
- SECTION 23. Section 75-67-419, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 803 amended as follows:
- 75-67-419. (1) A person may not engage in business as a
- 805 title pledge lender or otherwise portray himself as a title pledge
- 806 lender unless the person has a valid license authorizing
- 807 engagement in the business. A separate license is required for
- 808 each place of business under this article. The commissioner may
- 809 issue more than one (1) license to a person if that person
- 810 complies with this article for each license. A new license or
- 811 application to transfer an existing license is required upon a
- 812 change, directly or beneficially, in the ownership of any licensed
- 813 title pledge office and an application shall be made to the
- 814 commissioner in accordance with this article.
- 815 (2) When a licensee wishes to move a title pledge office to
- 816 another location, the licensee shall give thirty (30) days prior
- 817 written notice to the commissioner who shall amend the license
- 818 accordingly.
- 819 (3) Each license shall remain in full force and effect until
- 820 relinquished, suspended, revoked or expired. With each initial
- 821 application for a license, the applicant shall pay the
- 822 commissioner at the time of making the application a license fee
- 823 of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), and on or before June 1
- 824 of each year thereafter, an annual renewal fee of Four Hundred
- 825 <u>Seventy-five Dollars (\$475.00)</u>. If the annual fee remains unpaid
- 826 thirty (30) days after <u>June 1</u>, the license shall thereupon expire,
- 827 but not before June 30 of any year for which the annual fee has
- 828 been paid. <u>If any person engages in business as provided for in</u>
- 829 this article without paying the license fee provided for in this
- 830 <u>article before commencing business or before the expiration of</u>
- 831 <u>such person's current license</u>, as the case may be, then the person
- 832 shall be liable for the full amount of the license fee, plus a

- 833 penalty in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
- 834 for each day that the person has engaged in the business without a
- 835 <u>license or after the expiration of a license.</u> All licensing fees
- 836 <u>and penalties</u> shall be paid into <u>the Consumer Finance Fund of</u> the
- 837 Department of Banking and Consumer Finance.
- 838 (4) Notwithstanding other provisions of this article, the
- 839 commissioner may issue a temporary license authorizing the
- 840 operation of a title pledge office on the receipt of an
- 841 application to transfer a license from one person to another or on
- 842 the receipt of an application for a license involving principals
- 843 and owners that are substantially identical to those of an
- 844 existing licensed title pledge office. The temporary license is
- 845 effective until the permanent license is issued or denied.
- 846 (5) Notwithstanding other provisions of this article,
- 847 neither a new license nor an application to transfer an existing
- 848 license shall be required upon any change, directly or
- 849 beneficially, in the ownership of any licensed title pledge office
- 850 incorporated under the laws of this state or any other state so
- 851 long as the licensee continues to operate as a corporation doing a
- 852 title pledge business under the license. The commissioner may,
- 853 however, require the licensee to provide such information as he
- 854 deems reasonable and appropriate concerning the officer and
- 855 directors of the corporation and persons owning in excess of
- 856 twenty-five percent (25%) of the outstanding shares of the
- 857 corporation.
- SECTION 24. Section 75-67-421, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 859 amended as follows:
- 75-67-421. (1) To be eligible for a title pledge lender
- 861 license, an applicant shall:
- 862 (a) Operate lawfully and fairly within the purposes of
- 863 this article;
- 864 (b) Not have been convicted of a felony in the last ten
- 865 (10) years or be active as a beneficial owner for someone who has
- 866 been convicted of a felony in the last ten (10) years;
- 867 (c) File with the <u>commissioner</u> a bond with good

868 security in the penal sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars

869 (\$100,000.00), payable to the State of Mississippi for the

870 faithful performance by the licensee of the duties and obligations

pertaining to the business so licensed and the prompt payment of 871

872 any judgment which may be recovered against the licensee on

873 account of damages or other claim arising directly or collaterally

from any violation of the provisions of this article; such bond 874

875 shall not be valid until it is approved by the commissioner; such

applicant may file, in lieu thereof, cash, a certificate of 876

877 deposit, or government bonds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars

(\$10,000.00), the deposit of which shall be filed with the 878

879 commissioner and is subject to the same terms and conditions as

880 are provided for in the surety bond required herein; any interest

881 or earnings on such deposits are payable to the depositor.

882 (d) File with the <u>commissioner</u> an application

883 accompanied by a set of fingerprints from any local law

884 enforcement agency, \* \* \* and the initial license fee required in

885 this article. In order to determine the applicant's suitability

886 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 889

890 criminal history record check.

- 891 (2) Upon the filing of an application in a form prescribed by the commissioner, accompanied by the fee and documents required 892 893 in this article, the department shall investigate to ascertain 894 whether the qualifications prescribed by this article have been 895 satisfied. If the commissioner finds that the qualifications have 896 been satisfied and, if he approves the documents so filed by the

applicant, he shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in 897

- 898 the business of title pledge lending in this state.
- (3) Complete and file with the commissioner an annual 899 900 renewal application accompanied by the renewal fee required in
- 901 this article.

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902 The license shall be kept conspicuously posted in the

- 903 place of business of the licensee.
- 904 SECTION 25. Section 75-67-435, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 905 amended as follows:
- 906 75-67-435. (1) The Commissioner of Banking and Consumer
- 907 Finance shall develop and provide any necessary forms to carry out
- 908 the provisions of this article.
- 909 (2) The department may adopt reasonable administrative
- 910 regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the enforcement of
- 911 this article.
- 912 (3) To assure compliance with the provision of this article,
- 913 the department may examine the books and records of any licensee
- 914 without notice during normal business hours. The commissioner may
- 915 charge the licensee an examination fee in an amount not less than
- 916 Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Three Hundred Dollars
- 917 (\$300.00) per examination of each office or location within the
- 918 State of Mississippi, plus any actual expenses incurred while
- 919 <u>examining the licensee's records or books that are located outside</u>
- 920 <u>the State of Mississippi.</u> However, in no event shall a licensee
- 921 <u>be examined more than once in a two-year period unless for cause</u>
- 922 <u>shown based upon consumer complaint and/or other exigent reasons</u>
- 923 <u>as determined by the commissioner</u>.
- 924 SECTION 26. The following section shall be codified as a
- 925 separate code section within Article 9 of Chapter 67 of Title 75,
- 926 Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 927 <u>75-67-</u>. A licensee shall not advertise, display or
- 928 publish, or permit to be advertised, displayed or published, in
- 929 any manner whatsoever, any statement or representation that is
- 930 false, misleading or deceptive.
- 931 SECTION 27. The following section shall be codified as a
- 932 separate code section within Article 9 of Chapter 67 of Title 75,
- 933 Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 934 <u>75-67-\_\_.</u> The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 935 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this
- 936 article and for the purpose of determining whether persons are
- 937 subject to the provisions of this article, may examine persons

- 938 licensed under this article and persons reasonably suspected by
- 939 the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license
- 940 under this article, including all relevant books, records and
- 941 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their
- 942 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath
- 943 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or
- 944 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of
- 945 violations of this article, including without limitation the
- 946 conduct of business without a license as required under this
- 947 article.
- 948 SECTION 28. Section 81-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 949 amended as follows:
- 950 81-19-3. As used in this chapter:
- 951 (a) "Advance fee" means any consideration which is
- 952 assessed or collected prior to the closing of a loan.
- 953 (b) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Banking
- 954 and Consumer Finance.
- 955 (c) "Consumer loan" means a transaction by which a
- 956 lender extends credit for personal, family or household purposes
- 957 in the form of payment of money or of agreement to pay money, for
- 958 the account of, or to a third party on behalf of, a natural person
- 959 or persons and which is repayable in installments and may be
- 960 unsecured or secured by real or personal property. The term
- 961 "consumer loan" also includes the creation of consumer debt by a
- 962 credit to an account with a lender upon which the borrower is
- 963 entitled to draw immediately.
- 964 (d) "Consumer loan broker" means a person not otherwise
- 965 exempt from this chapter who, for compensation from borrowers,
- 966 finds and obtains consumer loans or credit cards for borrowers
- 967 from third party lenders.
- 968 (e) "Department" means the Department of Banking and
- 969 Consumer Finance.
- 970 (f) "Lender" means a person who makes consumer loans.
- 971 (g) "License" means a license required by this chapter.
- 972 (h) "Loan charges and fees" means amounts collected

- 973 from a borrower by a consumer loan broker on behalf of a lender to
- 974 defray costs of such items as appraisals, surveys, title opinions
- 975 and similar other expenses.
- 976 (i) "Service charge" means the amount charged a
- 977 borrower by a consumer loan broker for the service of finding and
- 978 obtaining a consumer loan for the borrower from a third party
- 979 lender.
- 980 (j) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard
- 981 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 982 <u>electronic</u>, <u>imaged</u>, <u>magnetic</u>, <u>microphotographic</u> or <u>otherwise</u>, <u>and</u>
- 983 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 984 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 985 <u>original.</u>
- 986 SECTION 29. Section 81-19-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 987 amended as follows:
- 988 81-19-15. Applications for renewal of a license shall be
- 989 submitted, along with the payment of the annual fee, on an
- 990 application form supplied by the commissioner upon which
- 991 information relating to all of the applicant's licensed offices
- 992 shall be set forth in accordance with instructions contained
- 993 therein, including, in the discretion of the commissioner, such
- 994 additional information as may be required by statute or regulation
- 995 for the issuance of an initial license.
- The application for renewal of a license shall be received by
- 997 the commissioner within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration
- 998 of any valid and existing license issued hereunder. If any person
- 999 engages in business as provided for in this chapter without paying
- 1000 the license fee provided for in this chapter before commencing
- 1001 business or <u>before</u> the expiration of his current license shall be
- 1002 liable for the full amount of the license fee, plus a penalty in
- 1003 <u>an amount</u> not to exceed <u>Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each day</u>
- 1004 that the person has engaged in the business without a license or
- 1005 <u>after the expiration of a license</u>.
- 1006 SECTION 30. Section 81-19-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1007 amended as follows:

- 1008 81-19-17. (1) Each licensee shall be subject to the 1009 supervision of the commissioner.
- 1010 (2) The commissioner is authorized to make and enforce such
- 1011 reasonable regulations as are necessary and proper for the
- 1012 administration, enforcement and interpretation of the provisions
- 1013 of this chapter. In adopting such regulations, the commissioner
- 1014 shall follow the procedures set forth in the Mississippi
- 1015 Administrative Procedures Act (Section 25-43-1 et seq.,
- 1016 Mississippi Code of 1972).
- 1017 (3) In order to discover violations of this chapter and to
- 1018 identify persons subject to the provisions of this chapter, the
- 1019 commissioner is authorized to examine licensees, including all
- 1020 books, records, accounts and papers employed by such licensees in
- 1021 the transaction of their business, to summon witnesses and examine
- 1022 them under oath concerning matters relating to the business of
- 1023 such persons, and to investigate such other matters as may be
- 1024 relevant in the opinion of the commissioner. For this purpose and
- 1025 for the general purposes of administration of this chapter, the
- 1026 commissioner may employ such deputies and assistants as may be
- 1027 necessary, and such deputies and assistants, in the discretion of
- 1028 the commissioner, may be vested with the same authority conferred
- 1029 upon the commissioner by this chapter.
- 1030 (4) For the purpose of defraying a portion of the
- 1031 examination and administrative expenses incurred by the
- 1032 commissioner, each licensee shall pay at the time of examination
- 1033 the actual expenses of the examination, not to exceed Two Hundred
- 1034 Dollars (\$200.00) per day for the time actually devoted to
- 1035 examining the business of the licensee. However, for any
- 1036 examination other than one conducted because of suspected blatant
- 1037 violation of this chapter, the amount charged to any single
- 1038 licensee in any one (1) year shall not exceed Two Thousand Dollars
- 1039 (\$2,000.00).
- 1040 (5) The commissioner may impose and collect an
- 1041 administrative fine against any person found to have charged or
- 1042 collected a service charge or advance fee from a borrower before a

- 1043 loan is actually found, obtained and closed for such borrower.
- 1044 Such fine shall not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for
- 1045 each violation.
- 1046 (6) Whenever the commissioner has reasonable cause to
- 1047 believe that any person is violating any of the provisions of this
- 1048 chapter, in addition to all other remedies provided herein, the
- 1049 commissioner may, by, through and on the relation of the Attorney
- 1050 General, district attorney or county attorney, apply to a court of
- 1051 competent jurisdiction for an injunction, both temporary and
- 1052 permanent, to restrain such person from engaging in or continuing
- 1053 such violation of the provisions of this chapter or from doing any
- 1054 act or acts in furtherance thereof.
- 1055 (7) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose
- 1056 <u>an administrative fine against any licensee if the licensee or</u>
- 1057 <u>employee is adjudged by the commissioner to be in violation of the</u>
- 1058 provisions of this chapter. The administrative fine shall not
- 1059 <u>exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per violation and shall be</u>
- 1060 <u>deposited into the Consumer Finance Fund of the Department of</u>
- 1061 <u>Banking and Consumer Finance.</u>
- SECTION 31. Section 81-19-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1063 amended as follows:
- 1064 81-19-19. All funds coming into the possession of the
- 1065 commissioner as a result of this chapter, including all annual
- 1066 fees and examination fees \* \* \*, shall be deposited by the
- 1067 commissioner into the special fund in the State Treasury known as
- 1068 the "Consumer Finance Fund," and shall be expended by the
- 1069 commissioner solely and exclusively for the administration and
- 1070 enforcement of this chapter. \* \* \*
- 1071 SECTION 32. The following section shall be codified as a
- 1072 separate code section within Chapter 19 of Title 81, Mississippi
- 1073 Code of 1972:
- 1074 <u>81-19-\_\_.</u> The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 1075 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this
- 1076 chapter and for the purpose of determining whether persons are
- 1077 subject to the provisions of this chapter, may examine persons

- 1078 licensed under this chapter and persons reasonably suspected by
- 1079 the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license
- 1080 under this chapter, including all relevant books, records and
- 1081 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their
- 1082 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath
- 1083 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or
- 1084 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of
- 1085 violations of this chapter, including without limitation the
- 1086 conduct of business without a license as required under this
- 1087 chapter.
- 1088 SECTION 33. Section 81-21-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1089 amended as follows:
- 1090 81-21-1. The following words and phrases shall have the
- 1091 meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly indicates
- 1092 otherwise:
- 1093 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Banking
- 1094 and Consumer Finance.
- 1095 (b) "Person" means an individual, partnership,
- 1096 association, business corporation, nonprofit corporation,
- 1097 common-law trust, joint stock company or any other entity, however
- 1098 organized.
- 1099 (c) "Premium finance agreement" means an agreement by
- 1100 which an insurance or prospective insured promises to pay to a
- 1101 premium finance company the amount advanced or to be advanced to
- 1102 an insurer or to an insurance agent or broker in payment of
- 1103 premiums of an insurance contract together with interest or
- 1104 discount and a service charge, as authorized and limited by
- 1105 Sections 81-21-13 through 81-21-23.
- 1106 (d) "Premium finance company" means a person engaged in
- 1107 the business of entering into premium finance agreements or
- 1108 acquiring premium finance agreements from other premium finance
- 1109 companies.
- 1110 (e) "Records" or "documents" means any item in hard
- 1111 copy or produced in a format of storage commonly described as
- 1112 <u>electronic</u>, <u>imaged</u>, <u>magnetic</u>, <u>microphotographic</u> or <u>otherwise</u>, <u>and</u>

- 1113 any reproduction so made shall have the same force and effect as
- 1114 the original thereof and be admitted in evidence equally with the
- 1115 <u>original.</u>
- 1116 SECTION 34. Section 81-21-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1117 amended as follows:
- 1118 81-21-3. (1) No person shall engage in the business of a
- 1119 premium finance company in this state without first having
- 1120 obtained a license as a premium finance company from the
- 1121 commissioner.
- 1122 (2) With each initial application for a license, the
- 1123 applicant shall pay to the commissioner at the time of making the
- 1124 <u>application a license fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars</u>
- 1125 (\$750.00), and for renewal applications, an annual renewal fee of
- 1126 <u>Four Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$475.00)</u> payable as of the
- 1127 first day of July of each year to the commissioner for deposit
- 1128 into the special fund in the State Treasury designated as the
- 1129 "Consumer Finance Fund." The commissioner may employ persons as
- 1130 necessary to administer this chapter and to examine or investigate
- 1131 and make reports on violations of this chapter.
- 1132 (3) The commissioner may charge the licensee an examination
- 1133 <u>fee in an amount not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor</u>
- 1134 more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per examination of each
- 1135 office or location within the State of Mississippi, plus any
- 1136 <u>actual expenses incurred while examining the licensee's records or</u>
- 1137 books that are located outside the State of Mississippi. However,
- 1138 <u>in no event shall a licensee be examined more than once in a</u>
- 1139 <u>two-year period unless for cause shown based upon consumer</u>
- 1140 complaint and/or other exigent reasons as determined by the
- 1141 <u>commissioner.</u> Such fees shall be payable in addition to other
- 1142 fees and taxes now required by law and shall be expendable
- 1143 receipts for the use of the commissioner in defraying the cost of
- 1144 the administration of this chapter.
- 1145 All fees, license tax and penalties provided for in this
- 1146 chapter which are payable to the commissioner shall, when
- 1147 collected by him or his designated representative, be deposited in

- 1148 the special fund in the State Treasury known as the "Consumer
- 1149 Finance Fund" and shall be expended by the commissioner solely and
- 1150 exclusively for the purpose of administering and enforcing the
- 1151 provisions of this chapter.
- 1152 (4) Application for licensing shall be made on forms
- 1153 prepared by the commissioner and shall contain the following
- 1154 information:
- 1155 (a) Name, business address and telephone number of the
- 1156 premium finance company;
- 1157 (b) Name and business address of corporate officers and
- 1158 directors or principals or partners; and
- 1159 (c) A sworn statement by an appropriate officer,
- 1160 principal or partner of the premium finance company that:
- 1161 (i) The premium finance company is financially
- 1162 capable to engage in the business of insurance premium financing;
- 1163 (ii) If a corporation, that the corporation is
- 1164 authorized to transact business in this state; and
- 1165 (iii) If any material change occurs in the
- 1166 information contained in the registration form, a revised
- 1167 statement shall be submitted to the commissioner.
- 1168 (5) The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and
- 1169 regulations to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. All such
- 1170 rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the
- 1171 provisions of the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law.
- 1172 SECTION 35. Section 81-21-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 1173 amended as follows:
- 1174 81-21-9. (1) In lieu of revoking or suspending the license
- 1175 for any of the causes enumerated in this chapter, after a hearing
- 1176 as provided in Section 81-21-7, the commissioner may subject such
- 1177 company to a penalty not to exceed <a href="#five-Hundred Dollars">Five Hundred Dollars</a> (\$500.00)
- 1178 for each offense when the commissioner finds that the public
- 1179 interest would not be harmed by the continued operation of the
- 1180 company. The amount of any such penalty shall be paid by such
- 1181 company to the commissioner for deposit into the special fund in
- 1182 the State Treasury designated as the "Consumer Finance Fund." At

- 1183 any hearing provided by this chapter, the commissioner shall have
- 1184 authority to administer oaths to witnesses. Anyone testifying
- 1185 falsely, after having been administered such oath, shall be
- 1186 subject to the penalty of perjury.
- 1187 (2) If any person engages in business as provided for in
- 1188 this chapter without paying the license fee provided for in this
- 1189 chapter before commencing business or before the expiration of the
- 1190 person's current license, as the case may be, then the person
- 1191 shall be liable for the full amount of the license fee, plus a
- 1192 penalty in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
- 1193 for each day that the person has engaged in the business without a
- 1194 <u>license or after the expiration of a license.</u>
- 1195 SECTION 36. The following section shall be codified as a
- 1196 separate code section within Chapter 21 of Title 81, Mississippi
- 1197 Code of 1972:
- 1198 81-21- The commissioner, or his duly authorized
- 1199 representative, for the purpose of discovering violations of this
- 1200 chapter and for the purpose of determining whether persons are
- 1201 subject to the provisions of this chapter, may examine persons
- 1202 licensed under this chapter and persons reasonably suspected by
- 1203 the commissioner of conducting business that requires a license
- 1204 under this chapter, including all relevant books, records and
- 1205 papers employed by those persons in the transaction of their
- 1206 business, and may summon witnesses and examine them under oath
- 1207 concerning matters relating to the business of those persons, or
- 1208 such other matters as may be relevant to the discovery of
- 1209 violations of this chapter, including without limitation the
- 1210 conduct of business without a license as required under this
- 1211 chapter.
- 1212 SECTION 37. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 1213 and after its passage.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-19-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO

2DEFINE THE TERM "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE MOTOR 3VEHICLE SALES FINANCE LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 63-19-11, MISSISSIPPI 4 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE LICENSE FEE UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE 5 SALES FINANCE LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 63-19-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 61972, TO DELETE THE PROVISION WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE COMMISSIONER 7 OF BANKING SHALL ENDORSE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE 8 SALES FINANCE COMPANY ON THE LICENSE WITHOUT CHARGE; TO AMEND 9 SECTION 63-19-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE 10 COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO CHARGE MOTOR VEHICLE SALES FINANCE 11LICENSEES AN EXAMINATION FEE; TO AMEND SECTION 63-19-31, 12MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CORRECT SEVERAL INTERNAL REFERENCES; 13TO AMEND SECTION 63-19-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE 14THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR 15 VIOLATIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE SALES FINANCE LAW; TO CREATE A NEW 16 CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN CHAPTER 19 OF TITLE 63, 17MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING 18TO EXAMINE PERSONS REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS 19 THAT REQUIRES A LICENSE UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE SALES FINANCE LAW; 20 TO AMEND SECTION 75-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE 21 TERM "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SALE OF CHECKS 22LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 75-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO 23 REVISE THE LICENSE FEE UNDER THE SALE OF CHECKS LAW; TO AMEND 24 SECTION 75-15-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE 25 COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO CHARGE LICENSEES UNDER THE SALE OF 26 CHECKS LAW AN EXAMINATION FEE; TO AMEND SECTION 75-15-31, 27MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING 28TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SALE OF CHECKS 29 LAW; TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN CHAPTER 15 30 OF TITLE 75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE 31 COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO EXAMINE PERSONS REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF 32 CONDUCTING BUSINESS THAT REQUIRES A LICENSE UNDER THE SALE OF 33 CHECKS LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 34 TO DEFINE THE TERM "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE  $35\,\mathrm{SMALL}$  LOAN REGULATORY LAW; TO AMEND SECTION  $75-67-115\,,$  MISSISSIPPI  $36\,\mathrm{CODE}$  OF  $1972\,,$  TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO CHARGE 37LICENSEES UNDER THE SMALL LOAN REGULATORY LAW AN EXAMINATION FEE; 38TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-203, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE 39 THE TERM "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SMALL LOAN 40 PRIVILEGE TAX LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-213, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 411972, TO REVISE THE LICENSE FEE UNDER THE SMALL LOAN PRIVILEGE TAX 42LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-215, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF 43 BANKING TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SMALL LOAN 44 PRIVILEGE TAX LAW; TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED 45WITHIN ARTICLE 5 OF CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 461972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO EXAMINE PERSONS 47REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS WHICH REQUIRES A 48LICENSE UNDER THE SMALL LOAN PRIVILEGE TAX LAW; TO AMEND SECTION  $49\,75-67-229\,,$  MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  $1972\,,$  TO ALLOW THE COMMISSIONER OF  $50\,BANKING$  TO CHARGE A FEE WHEN ISSUING A NEW LICENSE FOR THE 51UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE YEAR SHOWING A NEW LOCATION OF THE SMALL 52LOAN BUSINESS; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-403, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 531972, TO AUTHORIZE A TITLE PLEDGE LENDER TO ENCUMBER THE TITLE AS 54 PART OF THE TITLE PLEDGE TRANSACTION BY PERFECTING ITS SECURITY 55 INTEREST IN THE TITLED PROPERTY; TO DEFINE THE TERM 56 "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE TITLE PLEDGE ACT; TO  $57\,\mathrm{AMEND}$  SECTION 75-67-409, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE 58TITLE PLEDGE LENDERS TO MAINTAIN RECORDS CONTAINING A COMPLETE 59 PAYMENT HISTORY OF EACH CUSTOMER; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-413, 60MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE A PLEDGOR TO REDUCE THE 61PRINCIPAL AMOUNT FINANCED BY AT LEAST 10% BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST 62EXTENSION OR CONTINUATION, RATHER THAN BEGINNING WITH THE THIRD; 63TO PROVIDE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF FUNDS ON THE SAME 64 PLEDGED PROPERTY MUST BE EVIDENCED BY A SEPARATE TITLE PLEDGE 65 AGREEMENT; TO PROHIBIT A TITLE PLEDGE LENDER FROM ADVANCING FUNDS 66TO A PLEDGOR TO PAY OFF AN EXISTING TITLE PLEDGE AGREEMENT; TO 67AMEND SECTION 75-67-419, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE 68FEE FOR A TITLE PLEDGE LENDER LICENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 75-67-421, 69MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE INITIAL APPLICATION 70 AND BOND FOR A TITLE PLEDGE LENDER LICENSE SHALL BE FILED WITH THE

71COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, INSTEAD OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES; TO 72AMEND SECTION 75-67-435, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE 73THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO CHARGE TITLE PLEDGE LICENSEES AN 74 EXAMINATION FEE; TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED 75WITHIN ARTICLE 9 OF CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 761972, TO PROHIBIT LICENSEES UNDER THE TITLE PLEDGE ACT FROM 77 ADVERTISING, DISPLAYING OR PUBLISHING ANY STATEMENT OR 78 REPRESENTATION THAT IS FALSE, MISLEADING OR DECEPTIVE; TO CREATE A 79NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN ARTICLE 9 OF CHAPTER 67 OF 80TITLE 75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER 81OF BANKING TO EXAMINE PERSONS REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF CONDUCTING 82BUSINESS WHICH REQUIRES A LICENSE UNDER THE TITLE PLEDGE LOAN ACT; 83TO AMEND SECTION 81-19-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE 84TERM "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CONSUMER LOAN 85BROKER ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 81-19-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 86TO REVISE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY THE FEE FOR A CONSUMER 87LOAN BROKER LICENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 81-19-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE 880F 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO IMPOSE 89 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER LOAN BROKER 90 ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 81-19-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO 91PROVIDE THAT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE FINES SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE 92CONSUMER FINANCE FUND AND NOT THE STATE GENERAL FUND; TO CREATE A 93NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN CHAPTER 19 OF TITLE 81, 94MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING 95TO EXAMINE PERSONS REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS 96WHICH REQUIRES A CONSUMER LOAN BROKER LICENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 9781-21-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE TERM 98 "RECORDS/DOCUMENTS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE INSURANCE PREMIUM 99 FINANCE COMPANY LICENSURE LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 81-21-3, 100 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE LICENSE FEE FOR INSURANCE 101 PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANIES; TO AMEND SECTION 81-21-9, MISSISSIPPI 102 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST ANY INSURANCE 103 PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANY WHICH FAILS TO TIMELY PAY THE REQUIRED 104LICENSE FEE; TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN 105 CHAPTER 21 OF TITLE 81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE 106 COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO EXAMINE PERSONS REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF 107 CONDUCTING BUSINESS WHICH REQUIRES A PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANY 108LICENSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.