

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2002 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 897

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 6.1-249, 6.1-330.55, 6.1-439, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 6.1 a chapter numbered 18, consisting of sections numbered 6.1-444 through 6.1-471, relating to payday lending; penalty.

[H 940]

Approved May 17, 2002

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 6.1-249, 6.1-330.55, 6.1-439 and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 6.1 a chapter numbered 18, consisting of sections numbered 6.1-444 through 6.1-471, as follows:

§ 6.1-249. Compliance with chapter; license required.

A. No person shall engage in the business of lending any principal amounts to individuals for personal, family, household or other nonbusiness purposes, and charge, contract for, or receive, directly or indirectly, on or in connection with any loan, any interest, charges, compensation, consideration or expense which in the aggregate is greater than the interest permitted by § 6.1-330.55, except as provided in and authorized by this chapter *or Chapter 18 (§ 6.1-444 et seq.) of this title* and without first having obtained a license from the Commission.

B. However, subject to §§ 6.1-251 and 6.1-281 of this chapter, the prohibition in subsection A of this section shall not be construed to prevent any person, other than a licensee, from making a mortgage loan pursuant to §§ 6.1-330.69 and 6.1-330.70 or §§ 6.1-330.71 and 6.1-330.72 in any principal amount or from extending credit as described in § 6.1-330.78 in any amount.

§ 6.1-330.55. Contracts for more than legal rate of interest.

Except as otherwise permitted by law, no contract shall be made for the payment of interest on a loan greater than twelve percent per year.

For statutes which permit payment of interest greater than twelve percent per year, reference is hereby made to Article 6 (§ 6.1-330.60 et seq.), Article 7 (§ 6.1-330.64), Article 8 (§ 6.1-330.65 et seq.), Article 9 (§ 6.1-330.69 et seq.), Article 10 (§ 6.1-330.75 et seq.) and Article 11 (§ 6.1-330.77 et seq.) of this chapter. Further reference is hereby made to Chapter 6 (§ 6.1-244 et seq.) *of this title*, relating to powers of consumer finance companies; *to Chapter 18 (§ 6.1-444 et seq.) of this title, relating to payday lenders*; to § 38.2-1806, relating to interest chargeable by insurance agents; to §§ 38.2-4700 through 38.2-4712, relating to interest chargeable by premium finance companies; and to § 58.1-3018, relating to interest and origination fees payable under third-party taxpayer agreements.

In the case of any loan upon which a person is not permitted to plead usury, interest and other charges may be imposed and collected as agreed by the parties.

Those provisions of this chapter providing that a loan or extension of credit may be enforced as agreed in the contract of indebtedness, shall not be construed to preclude the charging or collecting of other loan fees and charges permitted by law, in addition to the stated interest rate, and such other loan fees and charges need not be included in the rate of interest stated in the contract of indebtedness.

§ 6.1-439. Prohibited practices.

No person required to be registered under this chapter shall:

1. Engage in the business of making loans of ~~money~~, credit, goods, or things; or discounting notes, bills of exchange, items, or other evidences of debt; or accepting deposits or bailments of money or items without meeting the requirements of the laws of the Commonwealth;

2. Cash post-dated items, other than government or payroll checks;

3. Use, or cause to be published or disseminated, any advertisement or communication ~~which~~ *that* (i) contains any false, misleading or deceptive statement or representation or (ii) identifies the person by any name other than the name set forth on the registration; ~~or~~

4. Engage in unfair, deceptive or fraudulent practices; *or*

5. *Make loans unless such person is licensed under, and the loans are made in accordance with, Chapter 18 (§ 6.1-444 et seq.) of this title.*

CHAPTER 18. PAYDAY LOAN ACT.

§ 6.1-444. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Check" means a draft drawn on the account of an individual or individuals at a depository institution.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Financial Institutions.

"Financial institution" means a bank, savings institution, or credit union.

"Licensee" means a person to whom a license has been issued under this chapter.

"Payday loan" means a small, short-maturity loan on the security of (i) a check, (ii) any form of assignment of an interest in the account of an individual or individuals at a depository institution, or (iii) any form of assignment of income payable to an individual or individuals.

"Person" means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or legal or commercial entity or group of individuals however organized.

"Principal" means any person who, directly or indirectly, owns or controls (i) ten percent or more of the outstanding stock of a stock corporation or (ii) a ten percent or greater interest in a nonstock corporation or a limited liability company.

§ 6.1-445. License requirement.

A. No person shall engage in the business of making payday loans except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and without having first obtained a license under this chapter from the Commission.

B. No person shall engage in the business of arranging or brokering payday loans.

§ 6.1-446. Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any bank, savings institution or credit union that does not elect to become licensed under this chapter. Electing to become licensed under this chapter, however, shall constitute a waiver of the benefit of any and all laws of this Commonwealth and other states, territories, possessions, and districts of the United States and federal laws preemptive of, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this chapter.

§ 6.1-447. Application for license; form; content; fee.

A. An application for a license under this chapter shall be made in writing, under oath and on a form provided by the Commissioner.

B. The application shall set forth:

- 1. The name and address of the applicant;*
- 2. If the applicant is a firm or partnership, the name and address of each member of the firm or partnership;*
- 3. If the applicant is a corporation or a limited liability company, the name and address of each officer, director, registered agent and each principal;*
- 4. The addresses of the locations of the business to be licensed; and*
- 5. Such other information concerning the financial responsibility, background, experience and activities of the applicant and its members, officers, directors and principals as the Commissioner may require.*

C. The application shall be accompanied by payment of an application fee of \$500.

D. The application fee shall not be refundable in any event. The fee shall not be abated by surrender, suspension or revocation of the license.

§ 6.1-448. Bond required.

The application for a license shall also be accompanied by a bond filed with the Commissioner with corporate surety authorized to execute such bond in this Commonwealth, in the sum of \$10,000 per location, not to exceed a total of \$50,000. The form of such bond shall be approved by the Commission. Such bond shall be continuously maintained thereafter in full force. Such bond shall be conditioned upon the applicant or licensee performing all written agreements with borrowers or prospective borrowers, correctly and accurately accounting for all funds received by him in his licensed business, and conducting his licensed business in conformity with this chapter and all applicable law. Any person who may be damaged by noncompliance of the licensee with any condition of such bond may proceed on such bond against the principal or surety thereon, or both, to recover damages. The aggregate liability under the bond shall not exceed the penal sum of the bond.

§ 6.1-449. Investigation of applications.

The Commissioner may make such investigations as he deems necessary to determine if the applicant has complied with all applicable provisions of law and regulations promulgated thereunder.

§ 6.1-450. Qualifications.

A. Upon the filing and investigation of an application for a license, and compliance by the applicant with the provisions of §§ 6.1-447 and 6.1-448, the Commission shall issue and deliver to the applicant the license applied for to engage in business under this chapter at the locations specified in the application if it finds:

- 1. That the financial responsibility, character, reputation, experience and general fitness of the applicant and its members, senior officers, directors and principals are such as to warrant belief that the business will be operated efficiently and fairly, in the public interest and in accordance with law; and*
- 2. That the applicant has unencumbered liquid assets per location available for the operation of the business of at least \$25,000.*

B. If the Commission fails to make such findings, no license shall be issued and the Commissioner shall notify the applicant of the denial and the reasons for such denial.

§ 6.1-451. Licenses; places of business; changes.

A. Each license shall state the address or addresses at which the business is to be conducted and shall state fully the name of the licensee. Each license shall be prominently posted in each place of business of the licensee. Licenses shall not be transferable or assignable, by operation of law or otherwise. No licensee shall use any name other than the name set forth on the license issued by the Commission.

B. No licensee shall open an additional office or relocate any place of business without prior approval of the Commission. Applications for such approval shall be made in writing on a form provided by the Commissioner and shall be accompanied by payment of a \$150 nonrefundable application fee. The application shall be approved unless the Commission finds that the applicant does not have the required liquid assets or has not conducted business under this chapter efficiently, fairly, in the public interest, and in accordance with law. The application shall be deemed approved if notice to the contrary has not been mailed by the Commission to the applicant within thirty days of the date the application is received by the Commission. After approval, the applicant shall give written notice to the Commissioner within ten days of the commencement of business at the additional location or relocated place of business.

C. Every licensee shall within ten days notify the Commissioner, in writing, of the closing of any business location and of the name, address and position of each new senior officer, member, partner, or director and provide such other information with respect to any such change as the Commissioner may reasonably require.

D. Every license shall remain in force until it has been surrendered, revoked or suspended. The surrender, revocation or suspension of a license shall not affect any preexisting legal right or obligation of such licensee.

§ 6.1-452. Acquisition of control; application.

A. Except as provided in this section, no person shall acquire, directly or indirectly, twenty-five percent or more of the voting shares of a corporation or twenty-five percent or more of the ownership of any other person licensed to conduct business under this chapter unless such person first:

1. Files an application with the Commission in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe from time to time;

2. Delivers such other information to the Commissioner as the Commissioner may require concerning the financial responsibility, background, experience, and activities of the applicant, its directors, senior officers, principals and members, and of any proposed new directors, senior officers, principals or members of the licensee; and

3. Pays such application fee as the Commission may prescribe.

B. Upon the filing and investigation of an application, the Commission shall permit the applicant to acquire the interest in the licensee if it finds that the applicant, its members if applicable, its directors, senior officers and principals, and any proposed new directors, members, senior officers and principals have the financial responsibility, character, reputation, experience and general fitness to warrant belief that the business will be operated efficiently and fairly, in the public interest, and in accordance with law. The Commission shall grant or deny the application within sixty days from the date a completed application accompanied by the required fee is filed unless the period is extended by order of the Commissioner reciting the reasons for the extension. If the application is denied, the Commission shall notify the applicant of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) the acquisition of an interest in a licensee, directly or indirectly, including an acquisition by merger or consolidation, by or with a person licensed by this chapter, (ii) the acquisition of an interest in a licensee, directly or indirectly, including an acquisition by merger or consolidation, by or with a person affiliated through common ownership with the licensee, or (iii) the acquisition of an interest in a licensee by a person by bequest, descent, survivorship or operation of law. The person acquiring an interest in a licensee in a transaction that is exempt from filing an application by this subsection shall send written notice to the Commissioner of such acquisition within thirty days of its closing.

§ 6.1-453. Retention of books, accounts, and records.

Every licensee shall maintain in its licensed offices such books, accounts and records as the Commission may reasonably require in order to determine whether such licensee is complying with the provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations adopted in furtherance thereof. Such books, accounts and records shall be maintained apart and separate from any other business in which the licensee is involved. Such records relating to loans shall be retained for at least three years after final payment is made on any loan.

§ 6.1-454. Annual report.

Each licensee under this chapter shall annually, on or before March 25, file a written report with the Commissioner containing such information as the Commissioner may require concerning his business and operations during the preceding calendar year as to each licensed place of business. Reports shall be made under oath and shall be in the form prescribed by the Commissioner.

§ 6.1-455. Other reporting requirements.

Within fifteen days following the occurrence of any of the following events, a licensee shall file a

written report with the Commission describing such event and its expected impact upon the business of the licensee:

1. The filing of bankruptcy, reorganization or receivership proceedings by or against the licensee;
2. The institution of administrative or regulatory proceedings against the licensee by any governmental authority;
3. Any felony indictments of the licensee or any of its members, partners, directors, officers, or principals;
4. Any felony conviction of the licensee or any of its members, partners, directors, officers, or principals; and
5. Such other event as the Commission may prescribe by regulation.

§ 6.1-456. Investigations; examinations.

The Commission may, by its designated officers and employees, as often as it deems necessary, investigate and examine the affairs, business, premises and records of any person licensed or required to be licensed under this chapter insofar as they pertain to any business for which a license is required by this chapter. Examinations of licensees shall be conducted at least once in each three-year period. In the course of such investigations and examinations, the owners, members, officers, directors, partners and employees of such person being investigated or examined shall, upon demand of the person making such investigation or examination, afford full access to all premises, books, records and information that the person making such investigation or examination deems necessary. For the foregoing purposes, the person making such investigation or examination shall have authority to administer oaths, examine under oath all the aforementioned persons, and compel the production of papers and objects of all kinds.

§ 6.1-457. Annual fees.

A. In order to defray the costs of their examination, supervision and regulation, every licensee under this chapter shall pay an annual fee calculated in accordance with a schedule set by the Commission. The schedule shall bear a reasonable relationship to the business volume of such licensees, the actual costs of their examinations, and to other factors relating to their supervision and regulation. All such fees shall be assessed on or before September 15 for every calendar year. All such fees shall be paid by the licensee to the State Treasurer on or before October 15 following each assessment.

B. In addition to the annual fee prescribed in subsection A, when it becomes necessary to examine or investigate the books and records of a licensee under this chapter at a location outside the Commonwealth, the licensee shall be liable for and shall pay to the Commission within thirty days of the presentation of an itemized statement, the actual travel and reasonable living expenses incurred on account of its examination, supervision and regulation, or shall pay at a reasonable per diem rate approved by the Commission.

§ 6.1-458. Rules and regulations.

The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems appropriate to effect the purposes of this chapter. Before promulgating any such regulation, the Commission shall give reasonable notice of its content and shall afford interested parties an opportunity to be heard, in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission.

§ 6.1-459. Required and prohibited business methods.

Each licensee shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Each payday loan shall be evidenced by a written loan agreement, which shall be signed by the borrower and a person authorized by the licensee to sign such agreements and dated the same day the loan is made and disbursed. The loan agreement shall set forth, at a minimum: (i) the principal amount of the loan; (ii) the fee charged; (iii) the annual percentage rate, which shall be stated using that term, applicable to the transaction calculated in accordance with Federal Reserve Board Regulation Z; (iv) evidence of receipt from the borrower of a check, dated the same date, as security for the loan, stating the amount of the check; (v) an agreement by the licensee not to present the check for payment or deposit until a specified maturity date, which date shall be at least seven days after the date the loan is made and after which date interest shall not accrue at a greater rate than six percent per year; (vi) an agreement by the licensee that the borrower shall have the right to cancel the loan transaction at any time before the close of business on the next business day following the date of the transaction by paying to the licensee, in the form of cash or other good funds instrument, the amount advanced to the borrower; and (vii) an agreement that the borrower shall have the right to prepay the loan prior to maturity by paying the licensee the principal amount advanced and any accrued and unpaid fees.
2. The licensee shall give a duplicate original of the loan agreement to the borrower at the time of the transaction.
3. A licensee shall not obtain any agreement from the borrower (i) giving the licensee or any third person power of attorney or authority to confess judgment for the borrower; (ii) authorizing the licensee or any third party to bring suit against the borrower in a court outside the Commonwealth; or (iii) waiving any right the borrower has under this chapter.
4. A licensee shall not require, or accept, more than one check from the borrower as security for any loan at any one time.

5. A licensee shall not cause any person to be obligated to the licensee in any capacity at any time in the principal amount of more than five hundred dollars.

6. A licensee shall not refinance, renew or extend any loan.

7. A licensee shall not cause a borrower to be obligated upon more than one loan at any time for the purpose of increasing charges payable by the borrower.

8. A licensee shall not require or accept a post-dated check as security for, or in payment of, a loan.

9. A licensee shall not threaten, or cause to be instigated, criminal proceedings against a borrower if a check given as security for a loan is dishonored.

10. A licensee shall not take an interest in any property other than a check payable to the licensee as security for a loan.

11. A licensee shall not make a loan to a borrower to enable the borrower to pay for any other product or service sold at the licensee's business location.

12. Loan proceeds shall be disbursed in cash or by the licensee's business check. No fee shall be charged by the licensee or an affiliated check casher for cashing a loan proceeds check.

13. A check given as security for a loan shall not be negotiated to a third party.

14. Upon receipt of a check given as security for a loan, the licensee shall stamp the check with an endorsement stating: "This check is being negotiated as part of a payday loan pursuant to Chapter 18 (§ 6.1-444 et seq.) of this title, and any holder of this check takes it subject to all claims and defenses of the maker."

15. Before entering into a payday loan, the licensee shall provide each borrower with a pamphlet, in form consistent with regulations promulgated by the Commission, explaining in plain language the rights and responsibilities of the borrower and providing a toll-free number at the Commission for assistance with complaints.

16. Before disbursing funds pursuant to a payday loan, a licensee shall provide a clear and conspicuous printed notice to the borrower indicating that a payday loan is not intended to meet long-term financial needs and that the borrower should use a payday loan only to meet short-term cash needs.

17. A borrower shall be permitted to make partial payments, in increments of not less than five dollars, on the loan at any time, without charge. The licensee shall give the borrower signed, dated receipts for each payment made, which shall state the balance due on the loan.

18. Each licensee shall conspicuously post in its licensed location a schedule of fees and interest charges, with examples using a \$300 loan payable in fourteen days and thirty days.

§ 6.1-460. Fee.

A licensee may charge, as a fee for each loan, an amount not to exceed fifteen percent of the amount of the loan proceeds advanced to the borrower.

§ 6.1-461. Additional charges.

In addition to the loan principal and the fee permitted under § 6.1-460, no further or other amount whatsoever shall be directly or indirectly charged, contracted for, collected, received or recovered except (i) any deposit item return fee incurred by the licensee, not to exceed twenty-five dollars, if the check given by the borrower as security is returned because the account on which it was drawn was closed by the borrower or contained insufficient funds, or the borrower stopped payment on the check, and (ii) if judgment is obtained against the borrower, court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees if awarded by the court, incurred as a result of the returned check in an amount not to exceed \$250. A licensee shall not be entitled to collect or recover from a borrower any sum otherwise permitted pursuant to § 8.01-27.2.

§ 6.1-462. Advertising.

No person licensed or required to be licensed under this chapter shall use or cause to be published any advertisement that (i) contains any false, misleading or deceptive statement or representation; or (ii) identifies the person by any name other than the name set forth on the license issued by the Commission.

§ 6.1-463. Other business.

No licensee shall conduct the business of making payday loans under this chapter at any office, suite, room, or place of business where any other business is solicited or conducted except a registered check cashing business or such other business as the Commission determines should be permitted, and subject to such conditions as the Commission deems necessary and in the public interest. No such other business shall be allowed except as permitted by Commission regulation or upon the filing of a written application with the Commission, payment of a \$300 fee, and provision of such information as the Commission may deem pertinent. The Commission shall not, however, permit the sale of insurance or the enrolling of borrowers under group insurance policies.

§ 6.1-464. Suspension or revocation of license.

A. The Commission may suspend or revoke any license issued under this chapter upon any of the following grounds:

1. Any ground for denial of a license under this chapter;
2. Any violation of the provisions of this chapter or regulations promulgated by the Commission

pursuant thereto, or a violation of any other law or regulation applicable to the conduct of the licensee's business;

3. A course of conduct consisting of the failure to perform written agreements with borrowers;
4. Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving fraud, misrepresentation or deceit;
5. Entry of a judgment against the licensee involving fraud, misrepresentation or deceit;
6. Entry of a federal or state administrative order against such licensee for violation of any law or any regulation applicable to the conduct of his business;
7. Refusal to permit an investigation or examination by the Commission;
8. Failure to pay any fee or assessment imposed by this chapter; or
9. Failure to comply with any order of the Commission.

B. For the purposes of this section, acts of any officer, director, member, partner or principal shall be deemed acts of the licensee.

§ 6.1-465. Cease and desist orders.

If the Commissioner determines that any person licensed or required to be licensed hereunder has violated any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted hereunder, he may, upon twenty-one days' notice in writing, order such person to cease and desist from such practices and to comply with the provisions of this chapter. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to the principal place of business of such person or other address authorized under § 12.1-19.1 and shall state the grounds for the contemplated action. Within fourteen days of mailing the notice, the person or persons named therein may file with the Clerk of the Commission a written request for a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the Commissioner shall not issue a cease and desist order except based upon findings made at such hearing. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 12.1. The Commission may enforce compliance with any such order issued under this section by imposition and collection of such fines and penalties as may be prescribed by law.

§ 6.1-466. Notice of proposed suspension or revocation.

The Commission shall not revoke or suspend the license of any person licensed under this chapter upon any of the grounds set forth in § 6.1-464 until it has given the licensee twenty-one days' notice in writing of the reasons for the proposed revocation or suspension and an opportunity to introduce evidence and be heard. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to the principal place of business of the licensee or other address authorized under § 12.1-19.1 and shall state with particularity the grounds for the contemplated action. Within fourteen days of mailing the notice, the person or persons named therein may file with the Clerk of the Commission a written request for a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the Commission shall not suspend or revoke the license except based upon findings made at such hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 12.1.

§ 6.1-467. Fines for violations.

In addition to the authority conferred under §§ 6.1-464 and 6.1-465, the Commission may impose a fine or penalty not exceeding \$1,000 upon any person licensed or required to be licensed under this chapter who it determines, in proceedings commenced in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission, has violated any of the provisions of this chapter. For the purposes of this section, each separate violation shall be subject to the fine or penalty herein prescribed, and in the case of a violation of § 6.1-445, each loan made or arranged shall constitute a separate violation.

§ 6.1-468. Criminal penalties.

Any person violating § 6.1-445 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 6 felony. For the purposes of this section, each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 6.1-469. Private right of action.

Any person who suffers loss by reason of a violation of any provision of this chapter may bring a civil action to enforce such provision. Any person who is successful in such action shall recover reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees and court costs incurred by bringing such action.

§ 6.1-470. Authority of Attorney General; referral by Commission to Attorney General.

A. If the Commission determines that a person is in violation, or has violated, any provision of this chapter, the Commission may refer the information to the Attorney General and may request that the Attorney General investigate such violations. In the case of such referral, the Attorney General is hereby authorized to seek to enjoin violations of this chapter. The circuit court having jurisdiction may enjoin such violations notwithstanding the existence of an adequate remedy at law.

B. Upon such referral of the Commission, the Attorney General may also seek, and the circuit court may order or decree, damages and such other relief allowed by law, including restitution to the extent available to borrowers under applicable law. Persons entitled to any relief as authorized by this section shall be identified by order of the court within 180 days from the date of the order permanently enjoining the unlawful act or practice.

C. In any action brought by the Attorney General by virtue of the authority granted in this provision, the Attorney General shall be entitled to seek reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

§ 6.1-471. Violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a prohibited practice in accordance with § 59.1-200 and shall be subject to any and all of the enforcement provisions of the Virginia

Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.).

§ 59.1-200. Prohibited practices.

A. The following fraudulent acts or practices committed by a supplier in connection with a consumer transaction are hereby declared unlawful:

1. Misrepresenting goods or services as those of another;
2. Misrepresenting the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services;
3. Misrepresenting the affiliation, connection or association of the supplier, or of the goods or services, with another;
4. Misrepresenting geographic origin in connection with goods or services;
5. Misrepresenting that goods or services have certain quantities, characteristics, ingredients, uses, or benefits;
6. Misrepresenting that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or model;
7. Advertising or offering for sale goods which are used, secondhand, repossessed, defective, blemished, deteriorated, or reconditioned, or which are "seconds," irregulars, imperfects, or "not first class," without clearly and unequivocally indicating in the advertisement or offer for sale that the goods are used, secondhand, repossessed, defective, blemished, deteriorated, reconditioned, or are "seconds," irregulars, imperfects or "not first class";
8. Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised, or with intent not to sell at the price or upon the terms advertised.

In any action brought under this subdivision, the refusal by any person, or any employee, agent, or servant thereof, to sell any goods or services advertised or offered for sale at the price or upon the terms advertised or offered, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this subdivision. This paragraph shall not apply when it is clearly and conspicuously stated in the advertisement or offer by which such goods or services are advertised or offered for sale, that the supplier or offeror has a limited quantity or amount of such goods or services for sale, and the supplier or offeror at the time of such advertisement or offer did in fact have or reasonably expected to have at least such quantity or amount for sale;

9. Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions;

10. Misrepresenting that repairs, alterations, modifications, or services have been performed or parts installed;

11. Misrepresenting by the use of any written or documentary material which appears to be an invoice or bill for merchandise or services previously ordered;

12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, using in any manner the words "wholesale," "wholesaler," "factory," or "manufacturer" in the supplier's name, or to describe the nature of the supplier's business, unless the supplier is actually engaged primarily in selling at wholesale or in manufacturing the goods or services advertised or offered for sale;

13. Using in any contract or lease any liquidated damage clause, penalty clause, or waiver of defense, or attempting to collect any liquidated damages or penalties under any clause, waiver, damages, or penalties which are void or unenforceable under any otherwise applicable laws of this Commonwealth, or under federal statutes or regulations;

14. Using any other deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, or misrepresentation in connection with a consumer transaction;

15. Violating any provision of §§ 3.1-796.78, 3.1-796.79, or § 3.1-796.82, relating to the sale of certain animals by pet dealers which is described in such sections, is a violation of this chapter;

16. Failing to disclose all conditions, charges, or fees relating to:

a. The return of goods for refund, exchange, or credit. Such disclosure shall be by means of a sign attached to the goods, or placed in a conspicuous public area of the premises of the supplier, so as to be readily noticeable and readable by the person obtaining the goods from the supplier. If the supplier does not permit a refund, exchange, or credit for return, he shall so state on a similar sign. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any retail merchant who has a policy of providing, for a period of not less than twenty days after date of purchase, a cash refund or credit to the purchaser's credit card account for the return of defective, unused, or undamaged merchandise upon presentation of proof of purchase. In the case of merchandise paid for by check, the purchase shall be treated as a cash purchase and any refund may be delayed for a period of ten banking days to allow for the check to clear. This subdivision does not apply to sale merchandise which is obviously distressed, out of date, post season, or otherwise reduced for clearance; nor does this subdivision apply to special order purchases where the purchaser has requested the supplier to order merchandise of a specific or unusual size, color, or brand not ordinarily carried in the store or the store's catalog; nor shall this subdivision apply in connection with a transaction for the sale or lease of motor vehicles, farm tractors, or motorcycles as defined in § 46.2-100;

b. A layaway agreement. Such disclosure shall be furnished to the consumer (i) in writing at the time of the layaway agreement, or (ii) by means of a sign placed in a conspicuous public area of the premises of the supplier, so as to be readily noticeable and readable by the consumer, or (iii) on the bill of sale. Disclosure shall include the conditions, charges, or fees in the event that a consumer breaches

the agreement;

16a. Failing to provide written notice to a consumer of an existing open-end credit balance in excess of five dollars (i) on an account maintained by the supplier and (ii) resulting from such consumer's overpayment on such account. Suppliers shall give consumers written notice of such credit balances within sixty days of receiving overpayments. If the credit balance information is incorporated into statements of account furnished consumers by suppliers within such sixty-day period, no separate or additional notice is required;

17. If a supplier enters into a written agreement with a consumer to resolve a dispute which arises in connection with a consumer transaction, failing to adhere to the terms and conditions of such an agreement;

18. Violating any provision of the Virginia Health Spa Act, Chapter 24 (§ 59.1-294 et seq.) of this title;

19. Violating any provision of the Virginia Home Solicitation Sales Act, Chapter 2.1 (§ 59.1-21.1 et seq.) of this title;

20. Violating any provision of the Automobile Repair Facilities Act, Chapter 17.1 (§ 59.1-207.1 et seq.) of this title;

21. Violating any provision of the Virginia Lease-Purchase Agreement Act, Chapter 17.4 (§ 59.1-207.17 et seq.) of this title;

22. Violating any provision of the Prizes and Gifts Act, Chapter 31 (§ 59.1-415 et seq.) of this title;

23. Violating any provision of the Virginia Public Telephone Information Act, Chapter 32 (§ 59.1-424 et seq.) of this title;

24. Violating any provision of § 54.1-1505;

25. Violating any provision of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Warranty Adjustment Act, Chapter 17.6 (§ 59.1-207.34 et seq.) of this title;

26. Violating any provision of § 3.1-949.1, relating to the pricing of merchandise;

27. Violating any provision of the Pay-Per-Call Services Act, Chapter 33 (§ 59.1-429 et seq.) of this title;

28. Violating any provision of the Extended Service Contract Act, Chapter 34 (§ 59.1-435 et seq.) of this title;

29. Violating any provision of the Virginia Membership Camping Act, Chapter 25 (§ 59.1-311 et seq.) of this title;

30. Violating any provision of the Comparison Price Advertising Act, Chapter 17.7 (§ 59.1-207.40 et seq.) of this title;

31. Violating any provision of the Virginia Travel Club Act, Chapter 36 (§ 59.1-445 et seq.) of this title;

32. Violating any provision of §§ 46.2-1231 and 46.2-1233.1;

33. Violating any provision of Chapter 40 (§ 54.1-4000 et seq.) of Title 54.1; ~~and~~

34. Violating any provision of Chapter 10.1 (§ 58.1-1031 et seq.) of Title 58.1; *and*

35. *Violating any provision of Chapter 18 (§ 6.1-444 et seq.) of Title 6.1.*

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate or make unenforceable any contract or lease solely by reason of the failure of such contract or lease to comply with any other law of the Commonwealth or any federal statute or regulation, to the extent such other law, statute or regulation provides that a violation of such law, statute or regulation shall not invalidate or make unenforceable such contract or lease.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities and is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.