

Act No. 393
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
May 29, 2002
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Senator Steil

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 779

AN ACT to amend 1939 PA 21, entitled "An act to define and regulate the business of making regulatory loans; to permit the licensing of persons engaged in that business; to provide for the administration of this act and for the promulgation of rules; and to prescribe penalties," by amending sections 1 and 12 (MCL 493.1 and 493.12), as amended by 2001 PA 270, and by adding sections 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e, 9f, and 9g.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 1. (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as the "regulatory loan act".

(2) As used in this act:

(a) "Advertising" means publishing or broadcasting, or causing to be published or broadcast, material that has been prepared for public distribution by means of newspapers, magazines, or electronic media. Advertising does not include a stockholder communication, such as an annual report, interim financial report, registration statement, security, prospectus, application for listing a security on a stock exchange, or proxy materials. Advertising does not include a communication addressed to a person who has previously executed a loan agreement relative to that person's account.

(b) "Assets" means liquid assets, collectible loans made in accordance with this act, and personal property acquired in the general conduct of business transacted under this act.

(c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the office of financial and insurance services in the department of consumer and industry services.

(d) "Control person" means a director or executive officer of a licensee or a person who has the authority to participate in the direction, directly or indirectly through 1 or more other persons, of the management or policies of a licensee.

(e) "Executive officer" means an officer, member, or partner of a licensee, including chief executive officer, president, vice president, chief financial officer, controller, compliance officer, or any other similar position.

(f) "Financial licensing act" means any act listed in section 2 of the consumer financial services act, 1988 PA 161, MCL 487.2052.

(g) "License" means a single license issued to a single place of business.

(h) "Licensee" means a person licensed or required to be licensed under this act.

(i) "Liquid assets" means cash, unrestricted deposits in banks, and readily marketable securities at their then market value.

(j) “Loan” or “regulatory loan” means a loan made by a licensee to an individual for personal, family, or household use.

(k) “Person” means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity.

Sec. 9a. (1) If in the opinion of the commissioner a licensee is, has, or is about to engage in a practice that poses a threat of financial loss or threat to the public welfare or is, has, or is about to violate a law or rule, the commissioner may serve a notice of intention to issue a cease and desist order as provided in subsection (2).

(2) A notice served under this section shall contain a statement of the facts constituting the alleged practice or violation and fix a time and place at which a hearing will be held to determine whether an order to cease and desist should be issued against the licensee.

(3) If the licensee fails to appear at the hearing by a duly authorized representative, the licensee shall have consented to the issuance of the cease and desist order.

(4) In the event of consent under subsection (3) or if, upon the record made at the hearing, the commissioner finds that the practice or violation specified in the notice has been established, the commissioner may serve upon the licensee an order to cease and desist from the practice or violation. The order may require the licensee and its officers, directors, members, partners, trustees, employees, agents, and control persons to cease and desist from the practice or violation and to take affirmative action to correct the conditions resulting from the practice or violation.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6) or to the extent it is stayed, modified, terminated, or set aside by the commissioner or a court, a cease and desist order shall become effective on the date of service.

(6) A cease and desist order issued upon consent shall become effective at the time specified in the order and remain effective and enforceable as provided in the order.

Sec. 9b. (1) As provided in section 10, the commissioner may investigate or conduct an examination of any person and conduct hearings as the commissioner considers necessary to determine whether a licensee or any other person has violated this act, or whether a licensee has conducted business in a manner that would justify suspension or revocation of its license.

(2) Upon the filing of a complaint or the taking of action against a licensee under section 9c, the commissioner may issue and serve upon a licensee an order suspending that person’s license. The order shall be supported by an affidavit from a person familiar with the facts set forth in the affidavit and shall contain information that an imminent threat of financial loss or threat to the public welfare exists.

(3) Upon service of the order under subsection (2), the licensee shall have 20 days to file with the commissioner a request for a hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within 20 days of the receipt of a request filed under this subsection.

(4) A suspension of a license under this section shall continue until the commissioner finds that the threat of financial loss or threat to the public welfare no longer exists.

Sec. 9c. (1) If in the opinion of the commissioner a person has engaged in fraud, the commissioner may serve upon that person a written notice of intention to prohibit that person from being employed by, an agent of, or control person of a licensee under this act or a licensee or registrant under a financial licensing act. For purposes of this section, “fraud” shall include actionable fraud, actual or constructive fraud, criminal fraud, extrinsic or intrinsic fraud, fraud in the execution, in the inducement, in fact, or in law, or any other form of fraud.

(2) A notice issued under subsection (1) shall contain a statement of the facts supporting the prohibition and, except as provided under subsection (7), set a hearing to be held not more than 60 days after the date of the notice. If the person does not appear at the hearing, he or she is considered to have consented to the issuance of an order in accordance with the notice.

(3) If after a hearing held under subsection (2) the commissioner finds that any of the grounds specified in the notice have been established, the commissioner may issue an order of suspension or prohibition from being a licensee or registrant or from being employed by, an agent of, or control person of any licensee under this act or a licensee or registrant under a financial licensing act.

(4) An order issued under subsection (2) or (3) is effective upon service upon the person. The commissioner shall also serve a copy of the order upon the licensee of which the person is an employee, agent, or control person. The order remains in effect until it is stayed, modified, terminated, or set aside by the commissioner or a reviewing court.

(5) After 5 years from the date of an order issued under subsection (2) or (3), the person subject to the order may apply to the commissioner to terminate the order.

(6) If the commissioner considers that a person served a notice under subsection (1) poses an imminent threat of financial loss to applicants for loans, mortgage loans, secondary mortgage loans, credit card arrangements, or

installment sales credit, borrowers on loans, obligors on installment sale contracts, loan servicing customers, purchasers of mortgage loans or interests in mortgage loans, or purchasers of checks from a licensee, the commissioner may serve upon the person an order of suspension from being employed by, an agent of, or control person of any licensee. The suspension is effective on the date the order is issued and, unless stayed by a court, remains in effect pending the completion of a review as provided under this section and the commissioner has dismissed the charges specified in the order.

(7) Unless otherwise agreed to by the commissioner and the person served with an order issued under subsection (6), the hearing required under subsection (2) to review the suspension shall be held not earlier than 5 days or later than 20 days after the date of the notice.

(8) If a person is convicted of a felony involving fraud, dishonesty, or breach of trust, the commissioner may issue an order suspending or prohibiting that person from being a licensee and from being employed by, an agent of, or control person of any licensee under this act or a licensee or registrant under a financial licensing act. After 5 years from the date of the order, the person subject to the order may apply to the commissioner to terminate the order.

(9) the commissioner shall mail a copy of any notice or order issued under this section to the licensee of which the person subject to the notice or order is an employee, agent, or control person.

Sec. 9d. (1) A hearing under sections 9, 9a, and 9c shall be conducted under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. Within 30 days after the commissioner has notified the parties that the case has been submitted to him or her for final decision, the commissioner shall render a decision that shall include findings of fact supporting the decision and serve upon each party to the proceeding a copy of the decision and an order consistent with the decision.

(2) Except for a consent order, a party to the proceeding or a person affected by an order issued under sections 9, 9a, and 9c may obtain a judicial review of the order. A consent order may be reviewed as provided under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. Except for an order under judicial review, the commissioner may terminate or set aside any order. The commissioner may terminate or set aside an order under judicial review with the permission of the court.

(3) Unless ordered by the court, the commencement of proceedings for judicial review under subsection (2) does not stay the commissioner's order.

Sec. 9e. The commissioner may apply to the circuit court of Ingham county for the enforcement of any outstanding order issued under section 9, 9a, 9b, or 9c.

Sec. 9f. Any current or former executive officer, director, agent, or control person who violates a final order issued under section 9c is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

Sec. 9g. A control person who is subject to an order issued under section 9c and who meets all of the following requirements is not in violation of the order:

(a) The control person shall not in any manner, directly or indirectly, participate in the control of a licensee after the date the order is issued.

(b) The control person shall within 6 months after the date the order is final transfer any interest the control person owns in a licensee to an unrelated third party.

Sec. 12. (1) A licensee or other person shall not advertise, print, display, publish, distribute, or broadcast or cause or permit to be advertised, printed, displayed, published, distributed, or broadcast, in any manner whatsoever a false, misleading, or deceptive statement or representation with regard to the rates, terms, or conditions for the lending of money, credit, goods, or things in action.

(2) A licensee shall not take a lien upon real estate as security for a loan made under this act, except a lien acquired by execution or otherwise after the entry of a judgment.

(3) A licensee shall not take a confession of judgment or a power of attorney to appear or to confess judgment on behalf of a borrower. A licensee shall not take a note or evidence of indebtedness that does not accurately disclose the actual amount of the loan, the time for which it is made, and the agreed rate of charge, or an instrument in which blanks are left to be filled in after execution.

(4) A licensee shall not discriminate against a person in the extension of credit on the basis of sex or marital status.

(5) Except as provided under section 9g, a licensee shall not knowingly permit a person to violate an order that has been issued under this act or any other financial licensing act that prohibits that person from being employed by, an agent of, or a control person of the licensee.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate.

Sam E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved _____

Governor.