

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 289*

Short Title: NC Money Transmitters Act.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Jeter, and Hardister (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Banking, if favorable, Finance.

March 19, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA MONEY TRANSMITTERS ACT AS
3 REQUESTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF
4 BANKS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 53 of the North Carolina General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new Article to read:

8 "Article 16B.

9 "Money Transmitters Act.

10 "**§ 53-208.41. Title.**

11 This act may be cited as the "North Carolina Money Transmitters Act."

12 "**§ 53-208.42. Definitions.**

13 For purposes of this Article, the following definitions apply:

- 14 (1) Applicant. – A person filing an application for a license under this Article.
- 15 (2) Authorized delegate. – An entity designated by the licensee under the
16 provisions of this Article to engage in the business of money transmission on
17 behalf of a licensee from a branch office in this State.
- 18 (3) Branch office. – Any physical retail location within this State operated by
19 the licensee or the licensee's authorized delegate at which the licensee
20 engages in the business of money transmission. For the purposes of this
21 Article, this includes automated kiosks.
- 22 (4) Commissioner. – The Commissioner of Banks of the State of North
23 Carolina.
- 24 (5) Control. – The power, directly or indirectly, to direct the management or
25 policy of the licensee or person subject to this Article, whether through
26 ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. Any person that (i) is a
27 director, general partner, or executive officer; (ii) directly or indirectly has
28 ownership of or the power to vote ten percent (10%) or more of a class of
29 outstanding voting securities; (iii) in the case of a limited liability company,
30 is a managing member; or (iv) in the case of a partnership, has the right to
31 receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, ten percent (10%) or more of
32 the capital, is presumed to control the licensee or person subject to this
33 Article.



- 1 (6) Controlling person. – Any person in control of a licensee or person subject to
2 this Article.
- 3 (7) Depository institution. – Any bank, savings association, mutual savings
4 bank, savings bank, or other institution as defined in Section 3 of the Federal
5 Deposit Insurance Act and any credit union whose share and deposit
6 accounts are insured by the National Credit Union Administration under the
7 Federal Credit Union Act.
- 8 (8) Engage in the business of. – For compensation or gain, or in expectation of
9 compensation or gain, either directly or indirectly, to make available
10 monetary transmission services to North Carolina consumers for personal,
11 family, or household purposes.
- 12 (9) Executive officer. – The chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief
13 financial officer, chief compliance officer, chief technology officer, or any
14 other individual the Commissioner identifies who exercises significant
15 influence over, or participates in, major policy making decisions of the
16 applicant or licensee without regard to title, salary, or compensation.
- 17 (10) Licensee. – A person licensed under this Article.
- 18 (11) Material litigation. – Any litigation that, according to generally accepted
19 accounting principles, is deemed significant to an applicant's or licensee's
20 financial health and would be required to be referenced in that entity's annual
21 audited financial statements, report to shareholders, or similar documents.
- 22 (12) Money transmission. – To engage in the business of any of the following:
23 a. Sale or issuance of payment instruments or stored value primarily for
24 personal, family, or household purposes; or
25 b. Receiving money or monetary value for transmission or holding
26 funds incidental to transmission within the United States or to
27 locations abroad by any and all means, including payment
28 instrument, stored value, wire, facsimile, or electronic transfer,
29 primarily for personal, family, or household purposes. This includes
30 maintaining control of virtual currency on behalf of others.
- 31 (13) Monetary value. – A medium of exchange, whether or not redeemable in
32 money.
- 33 (14) NMLS. – The Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry or its
34 successors.
- 35 (15) Outstanding transmission obligation. –
36 a. Any payment instrument or stored value issued by the licensee which
37 has been sold in the United States directly by the licensee, or any
38 payment instrument or stored value issued by the licensee which has
39 been sold by an authorized delegate of the licensee in the United
40 States, but in either case has not yet been paid or refunded by the
41 licensee.
42 b. Any money or monetary value received by the licensee for
43 transmission that has not been remitted to the payee or refunded to
44 the sender.
45 To the extent that the outstanding transmission obligation was received in
46 virtual currency, for the purposes of compliance with this Article, the
47 obligation shall be denominated in the amount or value to be transmitted to
48 the payee.
- 49 (16) Payment instrument. – A check, draft, money order, traveler's check, or other
50 instrument for the transmission or payment of money or monetary value,
51 whether or not negotiable. The term does not include a credit card voucher,

- 1 letter of credit, or any other instrument that is redeemable by the issuer
2 exclusively in goods or services.
- 3 (17) Permissible investments. – One or more of the following, but only to the
4 extent that they are maintained in an account located in the United States:
- 5 a. Cash.
6 b. Certificates of deposit or other debt obligations of a depository
7 institution, either domestic or foreign.
8 c. Bills of exchange or time drafts drawn on and accepted by a
9 commercial bank, otherwise known as bankers' acceptances, which
10 are eligible for purchase by member banks of the Federal Reserve
11 System.
12 d. Any investment bearing a rating of one of the three highest grades as
13 defined by a nationally recognized organization that rates securities.
14 e. Investment securities that are obligations of the United States, its
15 agencies, or instrumentalities or obligations that are guaranteed fully
16 as to principal and interest of the United States or any obligations of
17 any state, municipality, or any political subdivision thereof.
18 f. Shares in a money market mutual fund, interest-bearing bills or notes
19 or bonds, debentures, or preferred stock traded on any national
20 securities exchange or on a national over-the-counter market, or
21 mutual funds primarily composed of such securities or a fund
22 composed of one or more permissible investments as set forth herein.
23 g. Any demand borrowing agreement or agreements made to a
24 corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose capital stock is
25 listed on a national exchange.
26 h. Value of receivables due to the licensee that are no more than 90
27 days past due or otherwise doubtful of collection.
28 i. Virtual currency owned by the licensee, but only to the extent of
29 outstanding transmission obligations received by the licensee in
30 like-kind virtual currency.
31 j. Any other investments or security device approved by the
32 Commissioner.
- 33 (18) Person. – Any individual, partnership, limited liability company, limited
34 partnership, association, joint-stock association, trust, corporation, or other
35 group engaged in joint business activities however organized.
- 36 (19) Stored value. – Monetary value representing a claim against the issuer that is
37 stored on an electronic or digital medium and is evidenced by an electronic
38 or digital record, and that is intended and accepted for use as a means of
39 redemption for money or monetary value or payment for goods or services.
40 The term does not include stored value that is redeemable by the issuer
41 exclusively in goods or services; stored value that is redeemable exclusively
42 in goods or services limited to transactions involving a defined merchant or
43 location or set of locations, such as a specific retailer or retail chain, college
44 campus, or subway system; or program points, miles, or other units issued in
45 connection with a customer affinity or rewards program, even if there is a
46 secondary market for the stored value.
- 47 (20) Virtual currency. – A digital representation of value that can be digitally
48 traded and functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store
49 of value but only to the extent defined as stored value under
50 G.S. 53-208.42(19), but does not have legal tender status as recognized by
51 the United States Government.

1 **"§ 53-208.43. License requirement.**

2 (a) No person except those exempt pursuant to G.S. 53-208.44 shall engage in the
3 business of money transmission in this State without a license as provided in this Article.

4 (b) A licensee may conduct its business in this State at one or more locations, directly
5 or indirectly owned, or through one or more authorized delegates, or both, pursuant to the
6 single license granted under this Article.

7 (c) For the purposes of this Article, a person is considered to be engaged in the business
8 of money transmission in this State if that person solicits or advertises money transmission
9 services from a Web site that North Carolina citizens may access in order to enter into those
10 transactions by electronic means.

11 **"§ 53-208.44. Exemptions.**

12 (a) This Article shall not apply to any of the following:

13 (1) The United States or any department, agency, or instrumentality or by a
14 contractor thereof.

15 (2) The United States Postal Service.

16 (3) The State or any political subdivisions or by a contractor thereof.

17 (4) Banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or mutual
18 banks organized under the laws of any state or the United States.

19 (5) A person registered as a securities broker-dealer under federal or state
20 securities laws to the extent of its operation as a broker-dealer.

21 (6) The provision of electronic transfer of government benefits for any federal,
22 state, or county governmental agency as defined in Regulation E, 12 C.F.R.
23 § 1005 et seq., by a contractor for and on behalf of the United States or any
24 department, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or any state or any political
25 subdivisions thereof.

26 (7) A person that is engaged exclusively in any of the following:

27 a. Delivering wages or salaries on behalf of employers to employees;

28 b. Facilitating the payment of payroll taxes to State and federal
29 agencies;

30 c. Making payments relating to employee benefit plans;

31 d. Making distribution of other authorized deductions from employees'
32 wages or salaries; or

33 e. Transmitting other funds on behalf of an employer in connection
34 with transactions related to employees.

35 (8) A person appointed by a payee to collect and process payments as the bona
36 fide agent of the payee, provided the person can demonstrate to the
37 Commissioner that:

38 a. There exists a written agreement between the payee and agent
39 directing the agent to collect and process payments on the payee's
40 behalf;

41 b. The payee holds the agent out to the public as accepting payments on
42 the payee's behalf; and

43 c. Payment is treated as received by the payee upon receipt by the
44 agent.

45 This exemption would extend to those otherwise engaged in money
46 transmission as set forth in G.S. 53-208.42(12)b., including those
47 transactions conducted in whole or in part in virtual currency.

48 (b) Any person who seeks to engage in the business of money transmission in this State
49 subject to exemption under (a)(7) or (a)(8) of this section shall submit a written request for
50 verification of exemption to the Commissioner. Such request shall be in a form acceptable to

1 the Commissioner and shall include a copy of any written agreement and related documentation
2 that is the basis for the specified exemption.

3 (c) Licensees may authorize delegates to engage in money transmission on their behalf
4 subject to this Article subject to an express written agreement, which shall provide the
5 following:

6 (1) The licensee appoints the person as its delegate with authority to engage in
7 money transmission on behalf of the licensee in this State.

8 (2) Neither a licensee nor an authorized delegate may authorize sub-delegates
9 without the written consent of the Commissioner.

10 (3) Authorized delegates, in their capacity as agents of the licensee, are subject
11 to the supervision and regulation by the Commissioner notwithstanding
12 exemption from licensure.

13 (4) The licensee shall issue a certificate of authority for each branch office at
14 which it conducts licensed activities in this State through an authorized
15 delegate, which shall be posted in public view and read as follows: "Money
16 transmission on behalf of (licensee) is conducted at this location pursuant to
17 the North Carolina Money Transmitters Act, N.C.G.S. § 53-208.41 et seq."

18 Licensees conducting money transmission subject to this Article are required to maintain
19 full charge, control, and supervision of any authorized delegate and are responsible for ensuring
20 any activity undertaken by an authorized delegate on behalf of the licensee is in compliance
21 with this Article.

22 (d) The Commissioner may, by rule or by order, exempt from all or part of this Article
23 any person, transaction, or class of persons or transactions if the Commissioner finds such
24 action to be in the public interest and that the regulation of such persons or transactions is not
25 necessary for the purposes of this Article.

26 **§ 53-208.45. License application.**

27 (a) Applications under this Article shall be filed through the NMLS in a form
28 acceptable to the Commissioner. To be considered complete, all applications shall be verified
29 by oath or affirmation of the applicant or a designee thereof and shall contain:

30 (1) The legal name, along with any assumed names or trade names, principal
31 address, contact information, and social security number or taxpayer
32 identification number of the applicant.

33 (2) The applicant's form and place of organization, if applicable.

34 (3) A certificate of good standing from the state in which the applicant was
35 incorporated, if applicable.

36 (4) A certificate of authority from the North Carolina Secretary of State to
37 conduct business in this State, if required by the North Carolina Business
38 Corporations Act, Chapter 55 of the General Statutes, or other evidence of
39 applicant's registration or qualification to do business in this State.

40 (5) A copy of the applicant's active money service business registration with the
41 United States Department of Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement
42 Network.

43 (6) A detailed description of the organizational structure of the applicant,
44 including the identity of parents or subsidiaries of the applicant, and the
45 disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded on any
46 stock exchange.

47 (7) A detailed business plan, including a description of the activities conducted
48 by the applicant, including a history of any existing operations and a
49 description of the money transmission activities in which the applicant seeks
50 to be engaged in the State.

- 1 (8) A copy of the applicant's policies and procedures, including the anti-money
2 laundering compliance program.
- 3 (9) A detailed description of the applicant's internal business controls, including
4 controls specific to information technology and data integrity.
- 5 (10) The history of the material civil litigation and a record of any criminal
6 convictions for the applicant, controlling person, and key management
7 personnel for a 10-year period prior to the date of the application, including
8 authorization to perform a federal and State criminal background check.
- 9 (11) The name, business and residence address, and employment history for the
10 past five years for any controlling person and key management personnel.
- 11 (12) A sample payment instrument, if applicable, which bears the name and
12 address or telephone number of the issuer clearly printed on the payment
13 instrument.
- 14 (13) If the applicant seeks to engage in money transmission in this State through
15 authorized delegates:
- 16 a. A list identifying the proposed authorized delegates, including the
17 name, mailing address, and other contact information of a
18 representative of the authorized delegate and associated branch
19 locations;
- 20 b. A sample authorized delegate contract.
- 21 (14) The name and address of the clearing bank or banks on which the applicant's
22 payment instruments will be drawn or through which the payment
23 instruments will be payable.
- 24 (15) A copy of the applicant's most recent audited financial statement, including
25 the balance sheet, statement of income or loss, statement of changes in
26 shareholder equity, if applicable, and statement of changes in financial
27 position and the applicant's audited financial statements for the immediately
28 preceding two-year period. However, if the applicant is a wholly owned
29 subsidiary of another corporation, the applicant may submit either the parent
30 corporation's consolidated audited financial statements for the current year
31 and for the immediately preceding two-year period or the parent
32 corporation's Form 10K reports filed with the United States Securities and
33 Exchange Commission for the prior three years in lieu of the applicant's
34 financial statements. If the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of a
35 corporation having its principal place of business outside the United States,
36 similar documentation filed with the parent corporation's non-United States
37 regulator may be submitted to satisfy this provision.
- 38 (16) Copies of all filings, if any, made by the applicant with the United States
39 Securities and Exchange Commission, or with a similar regulator in a
40 country other than the United States, within the year preceding the date of
41 filing of the application.
- 42 (a) Upon request by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee, the applicant
43 shall furnish any additional information necessary to enable the Commissioner to evaluate the
44 application as required by G.S. 53-208.50.
- 45 (b) The Commissioner is authorized, for good cause shown, to waive any requirements
46 of this section with respect to any application or to permit any applicant to submit equivalent
47 information in lieu of the information required by this section.
- 48 **"§ 53-208.46. Minimum net worth.**
- 49 (a) An applicant shall possess and a licensee shall maintain at all times a net worth of
50 not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) calculated in accordance with
51 generally accepted accounting principles.

1 **(b)** The Commissioner may by order increase the amount of net worth required of an
2 applicant or licensee if the Commissioner determines additional net worth is necessary to
3 ensure safe and sound operation based on consideration of the following factors:

4 **(1)** The nature and volume of the projected or established business.

5 **(2)** The number of locations at or through which money transmission is or will
6 be conducted.

7 **(3)** The amount, nature, quality, and liquidity of assets.

8 **(4)** The amount and nature of liabilities.

9 **(5)** The history of operations and prospects for earning and retaining income.

10 **(6)** The quality of operations and management.

11 **(7)** The nature and quality of controlling persons.

12 **(8)** The history of compliance with applicable State and federal law.

13 **(9)** Any other factors the Commissioner deems relevant.

14 "**§ 53-208.47. Surety bond.**

15 **(a)** Applicants shall be required to post a surety bond with the Commissioner at
16 application and licensees shall maintain a surety bond in the amount of one hundred fifty
17 thousand dollars (\$150,000) to be subsequently adjusted as set forth in subsection (b) of this
18 section.

19 **(b)** The surety bond amount required subsequent to initial licensure shall consist of a
20 base amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for money transmission volumes
21 in this State of no more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000). However, if a licensee has
22 transmission volume in North Carolina in a 12-month period ending December 31 in excess of
23 one million dollars (\$1,000,000) but less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000), then the
24 licensee's bond amount shall be one hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$175,000); if a
25 licensee has transmission volume in North Carolina in a 12-month period ending December 31
26 in excess of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) but less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000),
27 then the licensee's bond amount shall be two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000); if a licensee
28 has transmission volume in North Carolina in a 12-month period ending December 31 in excess
29 of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) but less than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), then the
30 licensee's bond amount shall be two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000); and if a
31 licensee has transmission volume in North Carolina in a 12- month period ending December 31
32 in excess of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), then the licensee's bond amount shall be two
33 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

34 **(c)** Any increased surety bond required under subsection (b) shall be filed with the
35 Commissioner on or before May 31 annually. Failure to obtain the additional surety bond
36 required is grounds for summary suspension pursuant to G.S. 53-208.57(d)(2).

37 **(d)** The surety bond shall be in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner and shall run to
38 the State for the benefit of any claimants against the licensee to secure the faithful performance
39 of the obligations of the licensee with respect to the receipt, handling, transmission, and
40 payment of money or monetary value in connection with the sale and issuance of payment
41 instruments, stored value, or transmission of money. The Commissioner has the discretion to
42 require the applicant obtain additional insurance coverage to address related cybersecurity risks
43 inherent in the applicant's business model as it relates to virtual currency transmission and to
44 the extent such risks are not within the scope of the required surety bond.

45 **(e)** The aggregate liability of the surety in no event shall exceed the principal sum of
46 the bond. Claimants against the licensee may themselves bring suit directly on the security
47 bond, or the Commissioner may bring suit on behalf of claimants, either in one action or in
48 successive actions.

49 **(f)** In lieu of a surety bond, the licensee may deposit with the Commissioner, or with
50 any bank in this State designated by the licensee and approved by the Commissioner, an

1 aggregate amount, based upon principal amount or market value, whichever is lower, of not
 2 less than the amount of the surety bond or portion thereof, the following:

- 3 (1) Unencumbered cash.
- 4 (2) Unencumbered interest-bearing bonds.
- 5 (3) Unencumbered notes.
- 6 (4) Unencumbered debentures.
- 7 (5) Unencumbered obligations of the United States or any agency or
 8 instrumentality thereof, or guaranteed by the United States.
- 9 (6) Unencumbered obligations of this State or of any political subdivision of the
 10 State, or guaranteed by this State.

11 The securities or cash shall be deposited as aforesaid and held to secure the same
 12 obligations as would the surety bond, but the depositor shall be entitled to receive all interest
 13 and dividends thereon, shall have the right, with the approval of the Commissioner, to
 14 substitute other securities for those deposited, and shall be required to do so on written order of
 15 the Commissioner made for good cause shown.

16 (g) The surety bond shall remain in effect until cancellation, which may occur only after
 17 90 days' written notice to the Commissioner. Cancellation shall not affect any liability incurred
 18 or accrued during that period.

19 (h) The surety bond shall remain in place for no less than five years after the licensee
 20 ceases money transmission operations in the State. However, notwithstanding this provision,
 21 the Commissioner may permit the surety bond to be reduced or eliminated prior to that time to
 22 the extent that the amount of the licensee's outstanding payment instruments, stored value
 23 obligations, and money transmitted in this State is reduced.

24 (i) The surety bond proceeds and any cash or other collateral posted as security by a
 25 licensee shall be deemed by operation of law to be held in trust for the benefit of the purchasers
 26 and holders of the licensee's outstanding payment instruments, stored value obligations, and
 27 money transmissions and to the State in the event of the bankruptcy of the licensee.

28 **"§ 53-208.48. Permissible investments and statutory trust.**

29 (a) Each licensee under this Article shall possess at all times unencumbered permissible
 30 investments having an aggregate market value, calculated in accordance with generally
 31 accepted accounting principles, of not less than the aggregate face amount of all outstanding
 32 transmission obligations. This requirement may be waived by the Commissioner if the dollar
 33 volume of a licensee's outstanding transmission obligations does not exceed the bond or other
 34 security devices posted by the licensee pursuant to G.S. 53-208.47.

35 (b) Permissible investments, even if commingled with other assets of the licensee, shall
 36 be deemed by operation of law to be held in trust for the benefit of the purchasers and holders
 37 of the licensee's outstanding payment instruments and stored value obligations in the event of
 38 the bankruptcy of the licensee.

39 **"§ 53-208.49. Application fees and annual assessment.**

40 (a) Application Fees. Each application for initial licensure shall be accompanied by a
 41 nonrefundable filing fee of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

42 (b) Annual Assessment. For the purpose of meeting the cost of regulation under this
 43 Article, each licensee shall pay to the Commissioner an annual assessment as provided in this
 44 subsection. The annual assessment shall consist of a base amount of five thousand dollars
 45 (\$5,000) for volumes of no more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) plus an additional sum,
 46 calculated on the transmission dollar volume reported by the licensee pursuant to
 47 G.S. 53-208.53 for the previous calendar year. The cumulative assessment shall be calculated
 48 as follows:

<u>Transmission in U.S. Dollar Volume</u>	<u>Per U.S. Dollar</u>
<u>\$1,000,001 to \$5,000,000</u>	<u>\$0.0008</u>

1	<u>\$5,000,001 to \$10,000,000</u>	<u>\$0.0006</u>
2	<u>\$10,000,001 to \$50,000,000</u>	<u>\$0.00004</u>
3	<u>More Than \$50,000,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.0000006</u>

4
5 The Commissioner may collect the assessment provided for in this subsection annually or
6 in periodic installments as approved by the State Banking Commission.

7 **"§ 53-208.50. Issuance of license.**

8 (a) Upon receipt of a complete license application, as set forth under G.S. 53-208.45,
9 the Commissioner shall investigate the financial condition and responsibility, financial and
10 business experience, the character and general fitness of the applicant, and any other matters
11 deemed relevant by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may require additional information
12 and may require the amendment of the application in the course of the investigation. An
13 applicant's failure to furnish all required information within 30 days after filing the application
14 or within 30 days of a request by the Commissioner for additional information may be
15 considered an abandonment of the application. In the course of the investigation, the
16 Commissioner may conduct an on-site examination of the applicant, the reasonable cost of
17 which shall be borne by the applicant.

18 (b) The Commissioner may only approve an application for licensure when the
19 Commissioner has determined that all of the following requirements have been satisfied or are
20 reasonably likely to be satisfied within a reasonable time period as specified by the
21 Commissioner in the order of approval:

- 22 (1) The applicant has satisfied the requirements imposed by this Article;
- 23 (2) The applicant's business will be conducted honestly, fairly, and in a manner
24 commanding the confidence and trust of the community;
- 25 (3) The applicant has demonstrated net worth necessary to satisfy the
26 requirements in accordance with G.S. 53-208.46;
- 27 (4) The applicant has obtained a surety bond in conformance with
28 G.S. 53-208.47;
- 29 (5) That neither the applicant nor any controlling person are identified on the
30 Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List prepared by the
31 United States Department of the Treasury or the United States Department
32 of State subject to Presidential Executive Order No. 13224, Blocking
33 Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons who Commit, Threaten
34 to Commit, or Support Terrorism;
- 35 (6) The controlling persons and key management personnel, as a group, have
36 degrees of character, competence, and experience which command the
37 confidence and trust of the community and justify the belief that the
38 applicant will operate safely, soundly, and in compliance with the law;
- 39 (7) The anticipated volume and nature of business projected in the application
40 are reasonable and indicate a reasonable likelihood of safe and sound
41 operation.

42 (c) Licenses issued under this Article are perpetual and not assignable. Control of a
43 licensee shall not be acquired through a stock purchase, merger, or other device without prior
44 written consent of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall not give written consent if the
45 Commissioner finds that any of the grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension as set forth
46 under G.S. 53-208.56 are applicable to the acquiring person.

47 **"§ 53-208.51. Prohibited practices.**

48 No person required to be licensed under this Article shall:

- 49 (1) Fail to remit all money or monetary value received for transmission pursuant
50 to G.S. 53-208.42(12)b., or give instructions committing equivalent money

1 or monetary value to the person designated by the sender within 10 days
2 after receipt by the licensee unless otherwise directed by the sender;

3 (2) Fail to immediately notify the Commissioner in writing if the licensee
4 dishonors or fails to satisfy any money transmission transaction within the
5 10 days following receipt for any reason other than direction by the sender;

6 (3) Engage in the business of money transmission in the State under any name
7 other than that which it is organized or otherwise authorized to do business
8 in the State;

9 (4) Fail to comply with the Federal Bank Secrecy Act, 31 U.S.C. 5311 et seq.,
10 and 31 C.F.R. Part 1022, including maintenance of active registration with
11 the United States Department of Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement
12 Network;

13 (5) Fail to comply with the Federal Electronic Funds Transfer Act, 12
14 U.S.C.1693 et seq., and Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. 1005 et seq.;

15 (6) Fail to safeguard identifying information obtained in the course of money
16 transmission and otherwise comply with the requirements set forth under
17 G.S. 75-60 et seq.;

18 (7) Fail to comply with applicable State and federal laws and regulations related
19 to the business of money transmission;

20 (8) Use or cause to be published or disseminated any advertising communication
21 which contains any false, misleading, or deceptive statement or
22 representation; or

23 (9) Engage in unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices.

24 **"§ 53-208.52. Maintenance of records.**

25 (a) Each licensee shall maintain such books, accounts, and other records as the
26 Commissioner may require for a period of no less than three years unless the Commissioner, by
27 rule, prescribes otherwise for particular types of records. Such records shall be segregated from
28 any other business in which the licensee is engaged and, at a minimum, include:

29 (1) A record or records of each payment instrument sold.

30 (2) A general ledger containing all assets, liability, capital, income, and expense
31 accounts, which general ledger shall be posted at least monthly.

32 (3) Settlement sheets received from authorized delegates.

33 (4) Bank statements and bank reconciliation records.

34 (5) Records of outstanding transmissions, payment instruments, and stored
35 value.

36 (6) Records of each payment instrument paid within the three-year period.

37 (7) A list of the names and addresses of all of the licensee's proposed authorized
38 delegates, if any, and a copy of each written agreement in conformance with
39 G.S. 53-208.44(c)(1).

40 (a) Maintenance of the documents required by this section in the form of any digital or
41 electronic medium shall constitute compliance with this section provided records remain
42 readily convertible into legible, tangible documents and shall be treated as originals for the
43 purposes of any examination or investigation conducted pursuant to this Article.

44 (b) All records required to be maintained shall be secured against unauthorized access
45 and damage and may be maintained at a location outside this State so long as they are made
46 accessible to the Commissioner on seven days' written notice.

47 (c) All records required to be maintained under this Article shall be prepared in
48 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, where applicable.

49 (d) A licensee shall notify the Commissioner of any change in the location of its records
50 within 10 days following such change.

51 **"§ 53-208.53. Reporting.**

1 (a) Annual Report. No later than 90 days after the end of the calendar year, licensees
2 shall file an annual report in a form prescribed by the Commissioner through NMLS, which
3 shall include:

4 (1) A copy of its most recent audited consolidated annual financial statement,
5 including balance sheet, statement of income or loss, statement of changes in
6 shareholder's equity, if applicable, and statement of changes in financial
7 position, or, in the case of a licensee that is a wholly owned subsidiary of
8 another corporation, the consolidated audited annual financial statement of
9 the parent corporation may be filed in lieu of the licensee's audited financial
10 statement;

11 (2) The total amount of outstanding transmission obligations;

12 (3) Any material changes to any of the information submitted by the licensee on
13 its original application, which have not been previously reported to the
14 Commissioner on any other report required to be filed under this Article;

15 (4) Copies of bank statements and other documentation necessary to document
16 the existence and quality of the licensee's permissible investments; and

17 (5) A list of the branch offices at which business regulated by this Article is
18 being conducted by either the licensee or its authorized delegates.

19 (b) Quarterly Reports. No later than 60 days after the calendar quarter has ended,
20 licensees shall file a quarterly call report in a form prescribed by the Commissioner through
21 NMLS, which shall at a minimum include:

22 (1) The number and dollar volume of money transmission transactions in the
23 State by activity type; and

24 (2) The total amount of outstanding transmission obligations;

25 (c) Other Reports of Condition. A licensee shall submit to the Commissioner through
26 the NMLS reports of condition and any other reports requested by the Commissioner in order
27 to carry out the purposes of this Article.

28 (d) Failure to timely submit any reports required under this section is grounds for
29 summary suspension pursuant to G.S. 53-208.57(d)(2).

30 **"§ 53-208.54. Notice of Material Event.**

31 (a) Within 15 days of a change or acquisition of control of a licensee, the licensee shall
32 provide notice of the event to the Commissioner through NMLS in writing and in a form
33 prescribed by the Commissioner. The notice shall be accompanied by any information, data,
34 and records required by the Commissioner.

35 (b) Within 15 days of the occurrence of any one of the events listed below, a licensee
36 shall file a written report with the Commissioner through NMLS describing the event and its
37 expected impact on the licensee's activities in the State:

38 (1) The filing for bankruptcy or reorganization by the licensee.

39 (2) The institution of revocation or suspension proceedings against the licensee
40 by any State or governmental authority with regard to the licensee's money
41 transmission activities.

42 (3) Any felony indictment of the licensee or any controlling person or key
43 management personnel related to money transmission activities.

44 (4) Any felony conviction of the licensee or any controlling person or key
45 management personnel related to money transmission activities.

46 (c) If the information contained in any document filed with the Commissioner or the
47 NMLS is or becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any material respect, the licensee or applicant
48 shall within 30 days file a correcting amendment to the information contained in the document.

49 **"§ 53-208.55. Examination and investigation authority.**

50 (a) For purposes of initial licensure, suspension, conditioning, revocation, or
51 termination, or general or specific inquiry, investigation, or examination to determine

1 compliance with this Article, the Commissioner may access, receive, and use any books,
2 accounts, records, files, documents, information, or evidence including:

3 (1) Criminal, civil, and administrative history information;

4 (2) Personal history and experience information;

5 (3) Any other documents, information, or evidence the Commissioner deems
6 relevant to the inquiry, investigation, or examination regardless of the
7 location, possession, control, or custody of the documents, information, or
8 evidence.

9 (b) For purposes of investigating violations or complaints arising under this Article, or
10 for the purposes of examination, the Commissioner may review, investigate, or examine any
11 licensee, individual, or person subject to this Article in order to carry out the purposes of this
12 Article. The Commissioner may interview the controlling persons, employees, independent
13 contractors, delegates, third-party vendors, and customers of the licensee concerning the
14 licensee's business. The Commissioner may direct, subpoena, or order the person to produce
15 books, accounts, records, files, and any other documents the Commissioner deems relevant to
16 the inquiry. Any investigation or examination that, in the opinion of the Commissioner,
17 requires extraordinary review, investigation, or special examination shall be subject to the
18 actual costs of the additional expenses and the hourly rate for the staff's time, to be determined
19 annually by the State Banking Commission.

20 (c) Each person subject to this Article shall make available to the Commissioner upon
21 request the books and records relating to the operations of the licensee or person. No person
22 subject to examination or investigation under this section may knowingly withhold, abstract,
23 remove, mutilate, destroy, or secrete any books, records, or other information retained in any
24 format. Each person subject to this Article shall also make available for interview by the
25 Commissioner the controlling persons, employees, independent contractors, delegates, and
26 third-party vendors of the person concerning money transmission subject to this Article.

27 (d) Each person subject to this Article shall make or compile such reports or prepare
28 other information as may be directed or requested by the Commissioner in order to carry out
29 the purposes of this section.

30 (e) In making any examination or investigation authorized by this Article, the
31 Commissioner may control access to any documents and records of the person under
32 examination or investigation. The Commissioner may take possession of the documents and
33 records, or place a person in exclusive charge of the documents and records in the place where
34 they are usually kept. During the period of control, no person shall remove or attempt to
35 remove any of the documents and records except pursuant to a court order or with consent of
36 the Commissioner. Unless the Commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe the documents
37 or records have been or are at risk of destruction, the person shall retain access as necessary to
38 conduct its ordinary business.

39 (f) In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the Commissioner may:

40 (1) Enter into agreements or relationships with other government officials or
41 regulatory associations in order to improve efficiencies and reduce
42 regulatory burden by sharing resources, standardized or uniform methods or
43 procedures, and records and related information obtained under this section;

44 (2) Use, hire, contract, or employ analytical systems, methods, or software to
45 examine or investigate any person subject to this Article;

46 (3) Accept and rely on examination or investigation reports made by other
47 government officials, within or without this State;

48 (4) Accept audit reports made by an independent certified public accountant or
49 other qualified third-party auditor for any person subject to this Article and
50 may incorporate the audit report in the report of examination or
51 investigation.

"§ 53-208.56. Licensure authority.

The Commissioner may by order, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a license under this Article, or may restrict or limit the manner in which a licensee or applicant engages in the business of money transmission, if the Commissioner finds both of the following:

- (1) That the order is in the public interest; and
- (2) Any of the following circumstances apply:
 - a. Any fact or condition exists that, if it had existed at the time of application, would have been grounds for denial;
 - b. The licensee or applicant has filed any application, report, or other document with the Commissioner containing statements that, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, were false or misleading with respect to a material fact;
 - c. The licensee or applicant fails at any time to meet the requirements of G.S. 53-208.46, 53-208.47, or 53-208.48;
 - d. A controlling person or key management personnel of the licensee or applicant has been convicted of:
 1. A misdemeanor in the last 10 years involving fraud, money laundering, theft or wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses or involving any financial service or financial service-related business; or
 2. Any felony in the last seven years.
 - e. The licensee or applicant has violated or failed to comply with any provision of this Article, rule issued pursuant to this Article, or order of the Commissioner;
 - f. The licensee has conducted its business in an unsafe or unsound manner;
 - g. The licensee or applicant is insolvent, has suspended payment of its obligations, has made an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or has admitted in writing its inability to pay its debts as they become due;
 - h. The licensee fails to respond to and cooperate fully with notices from the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee related to the scheduling and conducting of an examination or investigation pursuant to § 53-208.55;
 - i. The licensee or applicant fails to respond to inquiries from the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee regarding any complaints filed, which allege or involve violation of this Article;
 - j. The licensee fails to make any report required by this Article;
 - k. The licensee or applicant is permanently or temporarily enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice involving any aspect of the money transmission business; or
 - l. The licensee or applicant is the subject of an order entered within the past five years by the authority of any state or federal agency with jurisdiction over the business of money transmission.

"§ 53-208.57. Disciplinary authority.

(a) Unless otherwise provided, all administrative actions and hearings conducted pursuant to this Article shall proceed in accordance with Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

1 **(b)** Upon issuance of any summary order permitted under this Article the Commissioner
2 shall promptly notify the person subject to the order that the order has been entered and the
3 reasons for the order. Within 20 days of receiving notice of the order, the person subject to the
4 order may request in writing a hearing before the Commissioner. Upon receipt of such a
5 request, the Commissioner shall calendar a hearing within 15 days. If a licensee does not
6 request a hearing, the order will remain in effect unless it is modified or vacated by the
7 Commissioner.

8 **(c)** The Commissioner may by order:

9 **(1)** Impose a civil money penalty upon any person required to be licensed under
10 this Article for any violation of or failure to comply with this Article or any
11 order of the Commissioner in an amount specified by the Commissioner, not
12 to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation or, in the case of
13 a continuing violation, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day that the
14 violation continues. Each violation of or failure to comply with this Article
15 shall be a separate and distinct violation. All civil money penalties collected
16 under this Article shall be paid to the county school fund.

17 **(2)** Require that any person required to be licensed under this Article to disgorge
18 and pay to the sender any amounts that were not remitted or refunded in
19 violation of G.S. 53-208.51(1).

20 **(d)** In addition to the summary suspension procedures authorized by G.S. 150B-3(c), if
21 the Commissioner has reason to believe that a licensee or person subject to this Article may
22 have violated or failed to comply with any provision of this Article and has reason to believe
23 that such violation or failure to comply presents an imminent threat to the public, the
24 Commissioner may:

25 **(1)** Summarily order the licensee or person subject to this Article to cease and
26 desist from any harmful activities or violations of this Article;

27 **(2)** Summarily suspend the license of a licensee under this Article.

28 **(e)** When a licensee is subject to disciplinary action under this Article, the licensee,
29 with the consent and approval of the Commissioner, may surrender the license and all the rights
30 and privileges pertaining to it. A person who surrenders a license shall not be eligible for or
31 submit any application for licensure under this Article during any period specified by the
32 Commissioner.

33 **(f)** If it appears to the Commissioner that any person has committed or is about to
34 commit a violation of any provision of this Article or of any rule or order of the Commission,
35 the Commission may apply to Wake County Superior Court for an order enjoining the person
36 from violating or continuing to violate this Article or any rule, regulation, or order and for
37 injunctive or such other relief as the nature of the case may require.

38 **(g)** The requirements of this Article apply to any person who seeks to avoid its
39 application by any device, subterfuge, or pretense whatsoever, including structuring a
40 transaction in a manner to avoid classification of the transaction as money transmission.

41 **(h)** The Commissioner, in the exercise of reasonable judgment, may compromise, settle,
42 and collect civil penalties with any person for violations of any provision of this Article, or of
43 any rule, regulation, or order issued or promulgated to this Article.

44 **"§ 53-208.58. Criminal penalties.**

45 **(a)** Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this Article for
46 which a penalty is not specifically provided is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

47 **(b)** Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a material, false statement in any
48 document filed or required to be filed under this Article with the intent to deceive the recipient
49 of the document is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

50 **(c)** Any person who knowingly and willfully engages in the business of money
51 transmission without a license as provided herein shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

"§ 53-208.59. Confidentiality.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all information or reports obtained by the Commissioner from an applicant, licensee, or authorized delegate, whether obtained through reports, applications, examination, audits, investigation, or otherwise, including (i) all information contained in or related to examination, investigation, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Commissioner; and (ii) financial statements, balance sheets, or authorized delegate information are subject to confidential treatment as set forth under G.S. 53C-2-7.

(b) The Commissioner is authorized to enter agreements or sharing arrangements with other governmental agencies or associations representing governmental agencies and may share otherwise confidential information pursuant to these written agreements, but only to the extent permitted by G.S. 53C-2-7(d). Information shared pursuant to the agreements authorized under this section shall retain any and all applicable privilege and related confidentiality protections provided by State or federal law.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner from releasing to the public a list of persons licensed under this Article or aggregated financial data on those licensees.

"§ 53-208.60. Rules.

(a) The State Banking Commission may adopt rules necessary to implement this Article.

(b) Pursuant to G.S. 53C-2-6(b), any person aggrieved by any rule or order of the Commissioner under this Act may appeal to the State Banking Commission for review upon providing notice in writing within 20 days after the act complained of is adopted, issued, or done. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any aggrieved party to a decision of the State Banking Commission shall be entitled to petition for judicial review pursuant to G.S. 53C-2-6(b).

"§ 53-208.61. Service of process.

(a) Any person subject to this Article is deemed to have:

- (1) Consented to the jurisdiction of the courts of this State for all actions arising under this Article; and
- (2) Appointed the Secretary of State as such person's agent for the purpose of accepting service of process in any action, suit, or proceeding that may arise under this Article.

(b) For the purposes of this Article, the Commissioner shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of law concerning service of process upon mailing by certified mail any notice required or permitted to a person subject to this Article, postage prepaid and addressed to the last known address on file with the Commissioner.

"§ 53-208.62. Commissioner's participation in nationwide registry.

(a) The Commissioner may require all persons subject to this Article to be licensed through the NMLS, and upon issuing such requirement, the Commissioner shall establish a reasonable transition period. In order to carry out these requirements, the Commissioner is authorized to participate in the NMLS.

(b) The Commissioner is authorized to establish relationships or contracts with the NMLS or other entities designated by the NMLS to collect and maintain records and process transaction fees or other fees related to licensees or other person subject to this Article.

(c) For the purpose of participating in the NMLS, the Commissioner is authorized to waive or modify, in whole or in part, any or all of the requirements as reasonably necessary to participate in the NMLS.

"§ 53-208.63. Severability.

Should any provision, sentence, clause, section, or part of this Article for any reason be held unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall

1 not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or parts of
2 this Article.

3 **"§ 53-208.64. Transition.**

4 Any person who holds in good standing a money transmitters license issued by the
5 Commissioner on or after November 1, 2014, may continue to engage in such business subject
6 to the requirements of this Article."

7 **SECTION 2.** Article 16A of Chapter 53 of the General Statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.