

By: McQueeney

H.B. No. 700

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to disclosures for certain commercial sales-based financing transactions, the effect of certain commercial sales-based financing contract provisions, and the registration of commercial sales-based financing brokers; authorizing a fee and providing a civil penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 5, Finance Code, is amended by adding Chapter 398 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 398. COMMERCIAL SALES-BASED FINANCING

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 398.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commercial sales-based financing" or "commercial sales-based financing transaction" means an extension of sales-based financing to a recipient by a provider, the proceeds of which the recipient does not intend to use primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

(2) "Commercial sales-based financing broker" means a person who, for compensation or the expectation of compensation, obtains commercial sales-based financing for a recipient or offers to obtain commercial sales-based financing for a recipient from a provider.

(3) "Disbursement amount" means the amounts paid to the recipient or on the recipient's behalf. The term does not

1 include any finance charges that are deducted or withheld at
2 disbursement.

3 (4) "Finance charge" means the cost of commercial
4 sales-based financing expressed as a dollar amount. The term
5 includes a charge payable, directly or indirectly, by the recipient
6 that is imposed, directly or indirectly, by the provider of the
7 financing as an incident to, or a condition of, the extension of
8 financing.

9 (5) "Person" means an individual, corporation,
10 partnership, limited liability company, joint venture,
11 association, joint stock company, trust, sole proprietorship or
12 other unincorporated organization, or other similar entity.

13 (6) "Provider" means a person who provides or will
14 provide commercial sales-based financing to a recipient or who
15 extends a specific offer of commercial sales-based financing to a
16 person applying for that financing or the person's authorized
17 representative. The term includes a commercial sales-based
18 financing broker.

19 (7) "Recipient" means a person, or the authorized
20 representative of a person, who applies for commercial sales-based
21 financing and is made a specific offer of commercial financing by a
22 provider. The term does not include a person acting as a commercial
23 sales-based financing broker.

24 (8) "Sales-based financing" means a transaction that
25 is repaid by the recipient to the provider of the financing:

26 (A) as a percentage of sales or revenue, in which
27 the payment amount may increase or decrease according to the volume

1 of sales made or revenue received by the recipient; or

2 (B) according to a fixed payment mechanism that
3 provides for a reconciliation process that adjusts the payment to
4 an amount that is a percentage of sales or revenue.

5 (9) "Specific offer" means the specific terms of
6 commercial sales-based financing. The term includes a price or
7 amount quoted to a recipient by a person providing the financing
8 based on information obtained from or about the recipient that, if
9 accepted by the recipient, would be binding on the provider,
10 subject to specific requirements in the financing terms.

11 (10) "Total repayment amount" means the sum of the
12 disbursement amount and finance charge.

13 Sec. 398.002. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter
14 applies to a provider who offers, obtains, or provides commercial
15 sales-based financing services over the Internet to or for a
16 recipient of this state, regardless of whether the provider
17 maintains a physical presence in this state in the same manner and
18 to the same extent to which this chapter applies to a commercial
19 sales-based financing broker.

20 Sec. 398.003. EXEMPTIONS. This chapter does not apply to a
21 provider that is:

22 (1) a bank, out-of-state bank, bank holding company,
23 credit union, federal credit union, out-of-state credit union, or
24 any subsidiary or affiliate of those financial institutions;

25 (2) a person acting in the capacity of a technology
26 services provider to an entity exempt under this section as part of
27 the exempt entity's commercial sales-based financing program if the

person has no interest, arrangement, or agreement to purchase any interest in the commercial sales-based financing extended in connection with the program;

(3) a lender regulated under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. Section 2001 et seq.); or

(4) a person who extends or brokers:

(A) a commercial sales-based financing transaction secured by real property;

(B) a lease, as defined by Section 2A.103, Business & Commerce Code;

(C) a commercial sales-based financing transaction entered into under a commercial sales-based financing agreement or commercial open-end credit plan of \$50,000 or more in which the recipient is:

(i) a dealer, as defined by Section 503.001, Transportation Code; or

(ii) a motor vehicle rental company or an affiliate of a motor vehicle rental company; or

(D) a commercial sales-based financing transaction in connection with the sale of products or services that:

(i) the person manufactures, licenses, or distributes; or

(ii) a parent company, subsidiary, or affiliate of the person described by Subparagraph (i) manufactures, licenses, or distributes.

Sec. 398.004. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAW. A sales-based

financing transaction is not a form of an account purchase transaction for purposes of Section 306.103, regardless of the principal amount of the advance.

Sec. 398.005. ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER; RULEMAKING. (a) The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner shall administer, implement, and enforce this chapter.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner may:

(1) bring enforcement actions;

(2) terminate or suspend registrations; and

(3) assess civil penalties.

(c) The Finance Commission of Texas shall adopt rules as necessary to administer, implement, and enforce this chapter, including rules to prohibit certain acts or practices by providers, including acts or practices that:

(1) the commission considers unfair because:

(A) the act or practice causes or is likely to cause substantial injury to a recipient that the recipient cannot reasonably avoid; and

(B) the injury outweighs the benefits to recipients or to market competition;

(2) are material acts or practices that will or likely will mislead a recipient who, given the circumstances, has a reasonable interpretation of the act or practice;

(3) materially interfere with a recipient's ability to understand a term or condition of a commercial sales-based financing transaction; or

1 (4) take unreasonable advantage of:

2 (A) a recipient's lack of understanding of the
3 material risks, costs, or conditions of the commercial sales-based
4 financing transaction; or

5 (B) a recipient's inability to protect the
6 recipient's interest in selecting or using a commercial sales-based
7 financing product.

8 (d) The Finance Commission of Texas may not adopt a maximum
9 annual percentage rate, finance charge, or fee for commercial
10 sales-based financing transactions.

11 SUBCHAPTER B. REGULATION AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

12 Sec. 398.051. DISCLOSURES. (a) If a provider extends a
13 specific offer of commercial sales-based financing of less than \$1
14 million to a recipient in this state, the provider shall disclose to
15 the recipient:

16 (1) the total amount of the financing;

17 (2) the disbursement amount;

18 (3) the finance charge;

19 (4) the total repayment amount;

20 (5) the estimated period for the periodic payments to
21 equal the total repayment amount under the terms of the financing;

22 (6) the payment amounts as follows:

23 (A) if the payment amounts are fixed, the amounts
24 and the frequency of payments; or

25 (B) if the payment amounts are variable:

26 (i) a payment schedule or a description of
27 the method used to calculate the amounts and frequency of payments;

1 and

2 (ii) the amount of the average projected
3 payments per month;

4 (7) a description of all other potential fees and
5 charges not included in the finance charge, including draw fees,
6 late payment fees, and returned payment fees;

7 (8) any finance charge the recipient will be required
8 to pay if the recipient pays off or refinances the commercial
9 sales-based financing before the transaction is scheduled to be
10 repaid in full;

11 (9) any additional fees, not included in the finance
12 charge, the recipient will be required to pay if the recipient pays
13 off or refinances the commercial sales-based financing before the
14 transaction is scheduled to be repaid in full;

15 (10) a description of collateral requirements or
16 security interests, if applicable; and

17 (11) a statement outlining whether the provider will
18 pay compensation directly to a commercial sales-based financing
19 broker in connection with the specific offer of sales-based
20 financing and, if applicable, the amount of the compensation.

21 (b) If, as a condition of obtaining commercial sales-based
22 financing, the provider requires the recipient to pay off the
23 outstanding balance of an existing commercial sales-based
24 financing, the provider shall disclose to the recipient:

25 (1) the amount of the new commercial sales-based
26 financing used to pay off the portion of the outstanding balance of
27 the existing commercial sales-based financing that consists of:

1 (A) prepayment charges required to be paid; and

2 (B) any unpaid interest expense or finance
3 charges that were not forgiven at the time of renewal of the
4 transaction; and

5 (2) if the disbursement amount will be reduced to pay
6 down any unpaid portion of the outstanding balance, the actual
7 dollar amount by which the disbursement amount will be reduced.

8 Sec. 398.052. SIGNATURE. The provider shall obtain the
9 recipient's signature on the disclosures required by Section
10 398.051 before finalizing the application for the commercial
11 sales-based financing transaction.

12 Sec. 398.053. BROKER REGISTRATION. (a) A person may not
13 engage in business as a commercial sales-based financing broker for
14 compensation in this state unless, before conducting business, the
15 person registers with the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner.
16 The registration is effective on receipt by the commissioner of a
17 completed registration form as provided by Subsection (d) and the
18 required registration fee and remains effective until renewal or
19 termination by the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner.

20 (b) On or before January 31 of each year after filing an
21 initial registration, a broker shall file a renewal registration
22 form with the required renewal registration fee.

23 (c) The broker shall pay a registration fee on filing an
24 initial registration and a renewal registration fee on filing a
25 renewal registration.

26 (d) The registration or renewal registration form must
27 include:

1 (1) the name of the broker;

2 (2) the name under which the broker transacts
3 business, if different from the name of the broker;

4 (3) the address of the broker's principal office,
5 which may be outside this state;

6 (4) the name and address in this state of a designated
7 agent for service of process; and

8 (5) any judgment, memorandum of understanding, cease
9 and desist order, or conviction against the provider or broker, or
10 any person that otherwise controls the provider or broker or a
11 director or officer of the provider or broker, related to a
12 violation of law, act of fraud, breach of trust, or money
13 laundering.

14 (e) The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner shall:

15 (1) by rule set the registration fee and registration
16 renewal fee in amounts sufficient to cover the registration costs;
17 and

18 (2) adopt a form to be used for a registration or
19 renewal registration under this section.

20 Sec. 398.054. UPDATE OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT. A
21 commercial sales-based financing broker shall update information
22 contained in the registration statement not later than the 90th day
23 after the date on which the information changes.

24 Sec. 398.055. UNENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN CONTRACT
25 PROVISIONS. A commercial sales-based financing contract that
26 contains a confession of judgment provision or any similar
27 provision is void and unenforceable.

SUBCHAPTER C. ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 398.101. CIVIL PENALTY. A person who violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each violation.

Sec. 398.102. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION NOT AUTHORIZED. This chapter does not create a private right of action against any person based on compliance or noncompliance with this chapter.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2026, a person engaging in business as a commercial sales-based financing broker or provider on the effective date of this Act must register under Section 398.053, Finance Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2026:

(1) the Finance Commission of Texas shall adopt initial rules under Section 398.005(c), Finance Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner shall adopt rules setting the registration and registration renewal fees and adopting a form for the registration of providers and commercial sales-based financing brokers as required under Section 398.053, Finance Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.