

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 223

Short Title: Loan Origination/Late Payment Charge Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Conrad, Jones, Grange, and B. Turner (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Banking, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 28, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE LOAN ORIGATION FEE FOR NORTH CAROLINA
BANKS AND TO ADJUST THE LATE PAYMENT CHARGE FOR CERTAIN LOANS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 24-1.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 24-1.1. Contract rates and fees.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter or other applicable law, the parties to a loan, purchase money loan, advance, commitment for a ~~loan~~loan, or ~~forbearance~~forbearance, other than a credit card, open-end, or similar ~~loan~~loan, may contract in writing for the payment of interest not in excess ~~of~~of the following:

- (1) Where the principal amount is twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or less, the rate set under subsection (c) of this ~~section~~or section.
- (2) Any rate agreed upon by the parties where the principal amount is more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(b) As used in this section, interest shall not be deemed in excess of the rates provided where interest is computed monthly on the outstanding principal balance and is collected not more than 31 days in advance of its due date. Nothing in this section ~~shall be construed to authorize~~authorizes the charging of interest on committed funds prior to the disbursement of ~~said~~the funds.

(c) On the fifteenth day of each month, the Commissioner of Banks shall announce and publish the maximum rate of interest permitted by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section on that date. ~~Such~~The rate shall be the latest published noncompetitive rate for U.S. Treasury bills with a six-month maturity as of the fifteenth day of the month plus six percent (6%), rounded upward or downward, as the case may be, to the nearest one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) or sixteen percent (16%), whichever is greater. If there is no nearest one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%), the Commissioner shall round downward to the lower one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%). The rate so announced shall be the maximum rate permitted for the term of loans made under this section during the following calendar month when the parties to ~~such~~the loans have agreed that the rate of interest to be charged by the lender and paid by the borrower shall not vary or be adjusted during the term of the loan. The parties to a loan made under this section may agree to a rate of interest ~~which~~that shall vary or be adjusted during the term of the loan in which case the maximum rate of interest permitted on ~~such~~the loans during a month during the term of the loan shall be the greater of the rate announced by the Commissioner in (i) the preceding calendar month or (ii) the calendar month preceding that in which the rate is varied or adjusted.



(d) Any bank or savings institution organized under the law of North Carolina or of the United States may charge a party to a loan or extension of credit governed by this section a fee for the modification, renewal, extension, or amendment of any terms of the loan or extension of credit, ~~such fee not to credit. The fee shall not exceed the greater of one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) of the balance outstanding at the time of the modification, renewal, extension, or amendment of terms, or fifty dollars (\$50.00).~~

(e) Any bank or savings institution organized under the law of North Carolina or of the United States may charge a party to a loan or extension of credit not secured by real property governed by this section an origination fee ~~not to exceed the greater of one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) of the outstanding balance or fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ as follows:

(1) For a loan or extension of credit with a principal amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or greater, the maximum origination fee is one quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) of the principal amount.

(2) For a loan or extension of credit with a principal amount less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the origination fee shall not exceed the amounts in the following table:

<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Origination Fee</u>
<u>\$0 to \$1,499.99</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>\$1,500 to \$19,999.99</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
<u>\$20,000 to \$29,999.99</u>	<u>\$175.00</u>
<u>\$30,000 to \$49,999.99</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>\$50,000 to \$99,999.99</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>

(3) If (i) the loan or extension of credit has a principal amount less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), (ii) the borrower is a natural person, and (iii) the debt is incurred primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, the loan or extension of credit shall not have an annual percentage rate that exceeds thirty-six percent (36%), inclusive of the origination fees permitted by this subsection and the interest permitted by subsection (c) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, "annual percentage rate" shall be calculated in accordance with the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, Chapter 41 of Title 15 of the United States Code, (Truth in Lending Act) and the regulations adopted under it.

(f) This section ~~shall not be construed to~~ does not limit fees on loans or extensions of credit in excess of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)."

SECTION 2. G.S. 24-10.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 24-10.1. Late fees.

(a) Subject to the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, any lender may charge a party to a loan or extension of credit governed by ~~the provisions of~~ G.S. 24-1.1 or G.S. 24-1.1A a late payment charge as agreed upon by the parties in the loan contract.

(b) ~~No lender may charge a late payment charge.~~ All of the following limitations apply to a late payment charge:

(1) ~~In excess of four percent (4%) of the amount of the payment past due; or~~ A late payment charge shall not exceed any of the following:

a. The amount disclosed with particularity to the borrower pursuant to the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, Chapter 41 of Title 15 of the United States Code, (Truth in Lending Act) and the regulations adopted under it, if that act applies to the transaction.

b. For a loan or extension of credit that meets all of the following conditions, the greater of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) or four percent (4%) of the amount of the payment past due:

1 payment charge in excess of that permitted in this section, the loan ~~shall not be deemed to be~~ is
2 not unlawful if: if all of the following are true:

3 (1) No late fee in excess of those permitted in this section has been assessed or
4 collected by the ~~lender;~~ lender.

5 (2) One of the following is true:

6 a. If the loan is executed on or after July 14, 1993, the lender provides
7 written notice to the borrower within 90 days of the date of execution
8 of the loan documents that the late payment charge with respect to the
9 loan shall be four percent (4%) or ~~less;~~ or less.

10 b. If the loan was executed prior to July 14, 1993, the lender provides
11 written notice to the borrower within six months of that date that the
12 late payment charge with respect to the loan shall be four percent (4%)
13 or less."

14 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to contracts
15 entered into, renewed, or modified on or after that date.