
DIGEST

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Ivey

HB No. 724

Abstract: Requires state agencies to accept credit cards, debit cards, or electronic payments and provides relative to the collection of fees associated with such payments charged to the customer.

Present law authorizes state agencies to accept credit cards, debit cards, or similar payment devices approved by the treasurer and provides for the treasurer to establish fees for such transactions (R.S. 49:316.1) and provides for a separate authorization for the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services (R.S. 40:1322(A)) to accept similar cards. Proposed law requires state agencies to accept credit cards on transactions.

Present law (R.S. 40:1322) authorizes the collection of convenience fees on credit card transactions authorized for the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections including a \$1 fee for transactions through a telephone or Internet and a fee on transactions where the customer appears in person with a minimum charge of \$1 and a maximum charge of \$150 allowed. Present law further provides that the percentage rate used to calculate the fee on in-person transactions is the percentage rate used by the bank to calculate its processing fee. Proposed law requires the collection of the convenience fees in present law and removes the minimum and maximum allowed amounts.

Present law (R.S. 49:316.1) requires agencies that accept credit card payments to assess certain fees, as established by the treasurer, when accepting payment as authorized in present law. Proposed law removes requirement to assess such fee and provides that the assessment of the fee is permissive.

Proposed law changes one of the payment methods authorized to be accepted from "similar payment devices" to "electronic payments" to broaden the forms of payment that can be accepted by state agencies.

Present law allows certain agencies to use a third party processor to collect a convenience fee on payments authorized in present law. Further, the amount of the convenience fee shall be approved by the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and The House Committee on Ways and Means. The agencies permitted in present law to use the third party processor are the following:

- (1) Department of Revenue.

- (2) Department of Insurance Department of Transportation and Development.
- (3) Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (4) Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (5) Department of Environmental Quality.

Proposed law changes the agencies allowed to use a third party solution to collect a convenience fee from those agencies specifically authorized in present law to any state entity.

Proposed law provides that present and proposed law shall not apply to any payments made through a nationwide licensing or registry system, nor any payments made pursuant to the Louisiana Securities Law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 40:1322(A) and (B)(2) and R.S. 49:316.1)