

## **Assembly Bill No. 2789**

### CHAPTER 612

An act to repeal and add Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 1800) of, and to repeal Chapter 14A (commencing with Section 1851) of, Division 1 of, and to repeal Division 16 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Financial Code, relating to money transmission.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2010. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 30, 2010.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2789, Committee on Banking and Finance. Money transmission.

Existing law provides for the regulation and licensure by the Commissioner of Financial Institutions of money transmitters, issuers of travelers checks, and sellers of payment instruments.

This bill would repeal those provisions and enact the Money Transmission Act, which would provide for the regulation and licensure by the commissioner of persons in the business of money transmission, defined to mean the selling or issuing of payment instruments or stored value and the receiving of money for transmission. The bill would prohibit a person from engaging in the business of money transmission in California or advertising, soliciting, or holding itself out as providing money transmission unless licensed by the commissioner or exempt from licensure. The bill would provide that only a corporation or limited liability company may be licensed to engage in the business of money transmission. The bill would require specified information to be included in an application for a license. The bill would authorize the commissioner to conduct an examination of an applicant, at the applicant's expense, and would require the commissioner to approve an application for a license if the commissioner makes specified findings, including that the applicant has adequate tangible shareholders' equity, as defined, and is competent to engage in the business of money transmission. The bill would require licensees to file with the commissioner audit reports within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year and other specified reports each calendar quarter. The bill would impose various fees and would require the commissioner to levy assessments on licensees for the purposes of administering these provisions regulating money transmission. The bill would establish requirements in order for a licensee to appoint an agent to conduct money transmission on behalf of the licensee. The bill would require a licensee to maintain eligible securities, as defined, meeting specified requirements. The bill would authorize the commissioner to issue an order requiring the licensee to maintain and obtain specified securities if the commissioner finds that the financial condition of a licensee is unstable, as specified. The bill would require a licensee to provide specified notices and

disclosures to customers, including a notice relative to a customer's right to a refund, disclosures relating to rates of exchange, a notice indicating that payment instruments are not insured, and a notice providing information on making complaints to the commissioner against a licensee. The bill would require licensees to maintain certain financial records for a 3-year period. The bill would authorize the commissioner to examine the business and office of a licensee and to suspend or revoke a license if the commissioner finds that a licensee or agent of a licensee has, among other things, violated the provisions of the act or engaged in fraud or unsound practices and would authorize the commissioner to assess specified civil penalties against a person that violates these provisions. The bill would also make it a crime for a person to engage in the business of money transmission without a license or an exemption from licensure or for a person to intentionally make a false statement, misrepresentation, or false certification in a record filed or required to be maintained under these provisions. By establishing new crimes, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 1800) of Division 1 of the Financial Code is repealed.

SEC. 2. Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 1800) is added to Division 1 of the Financial Code, to read:

#### CHAPTER 14. MONEY TRANSMISSION ACT

##### Article 1. General Provisions

1800. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Money Transmission Act.

1801. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Money transmission businesses conduct a significant amount of business in this state and technological advances are occurring in the provision of money transmission services.

(b) Persons who use money transmission businesses in this state use those businesses for, among other purposes, paying for the necessities of life and transmitting money to family members.

(c) The failure of money transmission businesses to fulfill their obligations would cause loss to consumers, disrupt the payments mechanism in this state, undermine public confidence in financial institutions doing business

in this state, and adversely affect the health, safety, and general welfare of persons in this state.

(d) To protect the interests of consumers of money transmission businesses in this state, to maintain public confidence in financial institutions doing business in this state, and to preserve the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state, it is necessary to regulate money transmission businesses in this state.

1802. It is the intent of the Legislature that the provisions of this act accomplish all of the following:

(a) Protect the interests of persons in this state who use money transmission services.

(b) Provide for the safe and sound conduct of the business of licensees.

(c) Maintain public confidence in licensees.

1803. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Affiliate," when used with respect to a specified person, means any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, that specified person, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries. For purposes of subdivisions (q) and (v), a specified person is affiliated with another person if that person controls, is controlled by, or under common control through the ownership directly or indirectly of shares or equity securities possessing more than 50 percent of the voting power of that specified person.

(b) "Agent" means a person that provides money transmission in California on behalf of the licensee, provided that the licensee becomes liable for the money transmission from the time money or monetary value is received by that person. However, "agent" does not include any officer or employee of the licensee when acting as such at an office of a licensee.

(c) "Applicant" means a person that files an application for a license or for acquisition of control of a licensee under this chapter.

(d) "Average daily outstanding" means the amount of outstanding money transmission obligations in California at the end of each day in a given period of time, added together, and divided by the total number of days in that period of time.

(e) "Branch office" means any office in this state of a licensee or agent at which the licensee receives money or monetary value to provide money transmission, either directly or through an agent.

(f) "Business day" means one of the following:

(1) When used with respect to any act to be performed in this state, any day other than Saturday, Sunday, or any other day that is provided for as a holiday in the Government Code.

(2) When used with respect to any act to be performed in any jurisdiction other than this state, any day other than a day that is a legal holiday under the laws of that jurisdiction.

(g) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Financial Institutions.

(h) "Control" has the meaning set forth in Section 700.

(i) "Day" means calendar day.

(j) “In California” or “in this state” means physically located in California, or with, to, or from persons located in California.

(k) “Issue” and “issuer” mean, with regard to a payment instrument, the entity that is the maker or drawer of the instrument in accordance with the California Commercial Code and is liable for payment. With regard to stored value, “issue” and “issuer” mean the entity that is liable to the holder of stored value and has undertaken or is obligated to pay the stored value. Only a licensee may issue stored value or payment instruments.

(l) “Licensee” means a corporation or limited liability company licensed under this chapter.

(m) “Monetary value” means a medium of exchange, whether or not redeemable in money.

(n) “Money” means a medium of exchange that is authorized or adopted by the United States or a foreign government. The term includes a monetary unit of account established by an intergovernmental organization or by agreement between two or more governments.

(o) “Money transmission” means any of the following:

- (1) Selling or issuing payment instruments.
- (2) Selling or issuing stored value.
- (3) Receiving money for transmission.

(p) “Outstanding,” with respect to payment instruments and stored value, means issued or sold by the licensee in the United States and not yet paid or refunded by the licensee, or issued or sold on behalf of the licensee in the United States by its agent and reported as sold, but not yet paid or refunded by the licensee. “Outstanding,” with respect to receiving money for transmission means all money or monetary value received in the United States for transmission by the licensee or its agents but not yet paid to the beneficiaries or refunded to the person from whom the money or monetary value was received. All outstanding money transmission of a licensee is and shall remain a liability of the licensee until it is no longer outstanding.

(q) “Payment instrument” means a check, draft, money order, traveler’s check, or other instrument for the transmission or payment of money or monetary value, whether or not negotiable. The term does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or any instrument that is redeemable by the issuer for goods or services provided by the issuer or its affiliate.

(r) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, proprietorship, syndicate, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, public corporation or joint stock company, or any other organization or legal or commercial entity, provided, however, that “person,” when used with respect to acquiring control of or controlling a specified person, includes any combination of two or more persons acting in concert.

(s) “Receiving money for transmission” or “money received for transmission” means receiving money or monetary value in the United States for transmission within or outside the United States by electronic or other means. The term does not include sale or issuance of payment instruments and stored value.

(t) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(u) “State” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(v) “Stored value” means monetary value representing a claim against the issuer that is stored on an electronic or digital medium and evidenced by an electronic or digital record, and that is intended and accepted for use as a means of redemption for money or monetary value or payment for goods or services. The term does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or any stored value that is only redeemable by the issuer for goods or services provided by the issuer or its affiliate, except to the extent required by applicable law to be redeemable in cash for its cash value.

(w) “Traveler’s check” means an instrument that meets all of the following:

(1) Is designated on its face by the term “traveler’s check” or by any substantially similar term or is commonly known and marketed as a traveler’s check.

(2) Contains a provision for a specimen signature of the purchaser to be completed at the time of purchase.

(3) Contains a provision for a countersignature of the purchaser to be completed at the time of negotiation.

## Article 2. Exemptions

1805. This chapter does not apply to the following:

(a) The United States or a department, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including any federal reserve bank and any federal home loan bank.

(b) Money transmission by the United States Postal Service or by a contractor on behalf of the United States Postal Service.

(c) A state, county, city, or any other governmental agency or governmental subdivision of a state.

(d) A commercial bank or industrial bank, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor, or any foreign (other nation) bank that is licensed under Article 3 (commencing with Section 1750) of Chapter 13.5 or that is authorized under federal law to maintain a federal agency or federal branch office in this state; a trust company licensed pursuant to Section 401 or a national association authorized under federal law to engage in a trust banking business; an association or federal association, as defined in Section 5102 the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor; and any federally or state chartered credit union the member accounts of which are insured or guaranteed as provided in Section 14858.

(e) Electronic funds transfer of governmental benefits for a federal, state, county, or local governmental agency by a contractor on behalf of the United

States or a department, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or a state or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof.

(f) A board of trade designated as a contract market under the federal Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. Secs. 1-25, incl.) or a person that, in the ordinary course of business, provides clearance and settlement services for a board of trade to the extent of its operation as or for such a board.

(g) A person that provides clearance or settlement services pursuant to a registration as a clearing agency or an exemption from registration granted under the federal securities laws to the extent of its operation as such a provider.

(h) An operator of a payment system to the extent that it provides processing, clearing, or settlement services, between or among persons excluded by this section, in connection with wire transfers, credit card transactions, debit card transactions, stored value transactions, automated clearing house transfers, or similar funds transfers, to the extent of its operation as such a provider.

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

(j) A person listed under subdivision (d) is exempted from all the provisions of this chapter, except Sections 1827 and 1828.

1806. The commissioner may, by regulation or order, either unconditionally or upon specified terms and conditions or for specified periods, exempt from this chapter any person or transaction or class of persons or transactions, if the commissioner finds such action to be in the public interest and that the regulation of such persons or transactions is not necessary for the purposes of this chapter.

### Article 3. Licenses

1810. (a) A person shall not engage in the business of money transmission in this state, or advertise, solicit, or hold itself out as providing money transmission in this state, unless the person is licensed or exempt from licensure under this chapter or is an agent of a person licensed or exempt from licensure under this chapter.

(b) A license under this chapter is not transferable or assignable.

1811. (a) No person other than a corporation or limited liability company may apply for or be issued a license.

(b) No person other than the following may be issued a license:

(1) A corporation or limited liability company organized under the laws of this state.

(2) A corporation, other than a corporation organized under the laws of this state, that is qualified to transact intrastate business in this state under Chapter 21 (commencing with Section 2100) of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.

(3) A limited liability company, other than a limited liability company organized under the laws of this state, that is qualified to transact intrastate

business in this state under Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 17450) of Title 2.5 of the Corporations Code, except that a limited liability company that is organized outside the United States shall not be issued a license.

1812. (a) In this section, “material litigation” means litigation that according to United States generally accepted accounting principles is significant to an applicant’s or a licensee’s financial health and would be required to be disclosed in the applicant’s or licensee’s annual audited financial statements, report to shareholders, or similar records.

(b) An applicant for licensure under this chapter shall pay to the commissioner a nonrefundable fee of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

(c) An applicant for a license under this chapter shall do so in a form and in a medium prescribed by the commissioner by order or regulation. The application shall state or contain all of the following:

(1) The legal name and residential business address of the applicant and any fictitious or trade name used by the applicant in conducting its business.

(2) A list of any criminal convictions of the applicant and any material litigation in which the applicant has been involved in the 10-year period next preceding the submission of the application.

(3) A description of any money transmission services previously provided by the applicant and the money transmission services that the applicant seeks to provide in this state.

(4) A list of the applicant’s proposed agents and the locations in this state where the applicant and its agents propose to engage in money transmission.

(5) A list of other states in which the applicant is licensed to engage in money transmission and any license revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary action taken against the applicant in another state.

(6) Information concerning any bankruptcy or receivership proceedings affecting the licensee.

(7) A sample form of payment instrument or instrument upon which stored value is recorded, if applicable.

(8) A sample form of receipt for transactions that involve money received for transmission.

(9) The name and address of any bank through which the applicant’s payment instruments and stored value will be paid.

(10) A description of the source of money and credit to be used by the applicant to provide money transmission services.

(11) The date of the applicant’s incorporation or formation and the state or country of incorporation or formation.

(12) A certificate of good standing from the state or country in which the applicant is incorporated or formed.

(13) A description of the structure or organization of the applicant, including any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded.

(14) The legal name, any fictitious or trade name, all business and residential addresses, and the employment, in the 10-year period next preceding the submission of the application, of each executive officer,

manager, director, or person that has control, of the applicant, and the education background for each such person.

(15) A list of any criminal convictions and material litigation in which any executive officer, manager, director, or person in control, of the applicant has been involved in the 10-year period next preceding the submission of the application.

(16) A copy of the applicant's audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year and, if available, for the two-year period next preceding the submission of the application.

(17) A copy of the applicant's unconsolidated financial statements for the current fiscal year, whether audited or not, and, if available, for the two-year period next preceding the submission of the application.

(18) If the applicant is publicly traded, a copy of the most recent report filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 13 of the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 78m).

(19) If the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of:

(A) A corporation publicly traded in the United States, a copy of audited financial statements for the parent corporation for the most recent fiscal year or a copy of the parent corporation's most recent report filed under Section 13 of the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. Section 78m) and, if available, for the two-year period next preceding the submission of the application.

(B) A corporation publicly traded outside the United States, a copy of similar documentation filed with the regulator of the parent corporation's domicile outside the United States.

(20) The name and address of the applicant's registered agent in this state.

(21) The applicant's plan for engaging in money transmission business, including without limitation three years of pro forma financial statements.

(22) Any other information the commissioner requires with respect to the applicant.

(d) The commissioner may waive any of the information required under subdivision (c) or permit an applicant to submit other information instead of the required information.

1813. (a) The commissioner may conduct an examination of the applicant and the applicant shall pay the reasonable cost of the examination.

(b) If the commissioner finds all of the following with respect to an application for a license, the commissioner shall approve the application:

(1) The applicant has adequate tangible shareholders' equity, as specified in Section 1820 to engage in the business of money transmission and the financial condition of the applicant is otherwise such that it will be safe and sound for the applicant to engage in the business of money transmission.

(2) The applicant, the directors and officers of the applicant, any person that controls the applicant, and the directors and officers of any person that controls the applicant are of good character and sound financial standing.



(3) The applicant is competent to engage in the business of money transmission.

(4) The applicant's plan for engaging in the business of money transmission affords reasonable promise of successful operation.

(5) It is reasonable to believe that the applicant, if licensed, will engage in the business of money transmission and will comply with all applicable provisions of this chapter and of any regulation or order issued under this chapter.

(c) The commissioner shall deny an application for a license if he or she finds, after notice and a hearing, that the requirements of subdivision (b) have not been satisfied.

1814. (a) Before any corporation or limited liability company is issued a license, the corporation or limited liability company shall file with the commissioner, in such form as the commissioner may by regulation or order require, an appointment irrevocably appointing the commissioner to be the corporation's or limited liability company's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal judicial or administrative proceeding against the corporation or limited liability company, or any of its successors, that arises under this chapter or under any regulation or order issued under this chapter after such appointment has been filed, with the same force and validity as if served personally on the corporation or limited liability company or its successor, as the case may be.

(b) Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process at any office of the commissioner, but that service is not effective unless (1) the party making that service, who may be the commissioner, sends notice of service and a copy of the process by registered or certified mail to the party served at its last address on file with the commissioner, and (2) an affidavit of compliance with this section by the party making service is filed in the case on or before the return date, if any, or within such further time as the court, in the case of a judicial proceeding, or the administrative agency, in the case of an administrative proceeding, allows.

(c) The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in limitation of, other provisions of law relating to service of process.

1815. (a) No person shall, directly or indirectly, acquire control of a licensee unless the commissioner has first approved, in writing, the acquisition of control. An application to acquire control of a licensee shall be in writing, under oath, and in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall contain that information which the commissioner may require.

(b) The commissioner shall not approve the application unless the commissioner finds all of the following:

(1) The applicant and all of the officers and directors of the applicant are of good character and sound financial standing.

(2) The applicant is competent to engage in the business of money transmission.

(3) It is reasonable to believe that, if the applicant acquires control of the licensee, the applicant and the licensee will comply with all applicable

provisions of this chapter and any regulation or order issued under this chapter.

(4) The applicant's plans, if any, to make any major change in the business, corporate structure, or management of the licensee are not detrimental to the safety and soundness of the licensee.

(c) For the purposes of subdivision (b), the commissioner may find an applicant's plan to make major changes in the management of a licensee is detrimental to the licensee if the plan provides for a person who is not of good character to become a director or officer of the licensee. The grounds specified in this subdivision shall not be deemed to be the only grounds upon which the commissioner may find, for the purposes of subdivision (b), that an applicant's plan to make a major change in the management of a licensee is detrimental to the licensee.

(d) If it appears to the commissioner that any person is violating or failing to comply with this section, the commissioner may direct the person to comply with this section by an order issued over the commissioner's official seal.

(e) Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any person has committed or is about to commit a violation of any provision of this section or of any regulation or order of the commissioner issued pursuant to this section, the commissioner may apply to the superior court for an order enjoining the person from violating or continuing to violate this section or that regulation or order, and for other equitable relief as the nature of the case or interests of the licensee, the controlling person, the creditors or shareholders of the licensee or controlling person or the public may require.

(f) The commissioner may, for good cause, amend, alter, suspend, or revoke any approval of a proposal to acquire control of a licensee issued pursuant to this section.

(g) There shall be exempted from the provisions of this section any transaction which the commissioner by regulation or order exempts as not being comprehended within the purposes of this section and the regulation of which he or she finds is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of a licensee or the customers of a licensee.

(h) The commissioner may conduct an examination of the applicant and the applicant shall pay the reasonable cost of the examination.

1816. The commissioner may impose on any authorization, approval, license, or order issued pursuant to this chapter any conditions that he or she deems reasonable or necessary to the public interest.

1817. (a) As security, each licensee shall deposit and thereafter maintain on deposit with the Treasurer cash in an amount not less than, or securities having a market value not less than, such amount as the commissioner may find and order from time to time as necessary to secure the faithful performance of the obligations of the licensee with respect to money transmission in California. These securities shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner and shall consist of interest-bearing bonds, notes, or other obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or of the State of California, or of any city, county, or city and

county, political subdivision or district of the State of California, or that are guaranteed by the United States or the State of California.

(b) So long as a licensee that maintains securities on deposit with the Treasurer pursuant to this section is solvent, that licensee shall be entitled to receive any interest paid on the securities.

(c) In lieu of the deposit of cash or securities pursuant to subdivision (a), a licensee may deliver to the commissioner the bond of a surety company, in form and written by a company satisfactory to the commissioner, in an amount not less than the amount of the deposit of cash or securities required of the licensee, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the obligations of the licensee with respect to money transmission in California. The commissioner shall deposit such bond with the Treasurer.

(d) A licensee that sells or issues payment instruments or stored value shall maintain securities on deposit or a bond of a surety company in an amount of no less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or 50 percent of the average daily outstanding payment instrument and stored value obligations in California, whichever is greater; provided that such amount shall not be more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000).

(e) A licensee that engages in receiving money for transmission shall maintain securities on deposit or a bond of a surety company in an amount greater than the average daily outstanding obligations for money received for transmission in California, provided that such amount shall not be less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) nor more than seven million dollars (\$7,000,000).

(f) The amount of securities on deposit or a bond of a surety company required to be maintained by subdivisions (d) and (e) are cumulative.

(g) The money and securities deposited with the State Treasurer pursuant to this section and the proceeds of any bond held by the State Treasurer pursuant to this section shall constitute a trust fund for the benefit of persons in California who purchased payment instruments or stored value from the licensee or its agent, or persons in California who delivered to any licensee or its agent money or monetary value for money transmission. Suit to recover on any bond may be brought by any party aggrieved in a court of competent jurisdiction of any county in which the licensee has an agent.

(h) Securities on deposit or a bond shall cover claims for so long as the commissioner specifies, but for at least four years after the licensee ceases to provide services under this chapter in this state. However, the commissioner may permit the amount of the security to be reduced or eliminated before the expiration of that time to the extent the amount of the licensee's payment instruments or stored value obligations outstanding, or outstanding money or monetary value received for money transmission, is less than the deposit or bond. The commissioner may permit a licensee to substitute another form of security acceptable to the commissioner for the security effective at the time the licensee ceases to provide money transmissions in this state.

1818. Fees shall be paid to, and collected by, the commissioner, as follows:

(a) The fee for filing an application for a license is five thousand dollars (\$5,000), as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 1812.

(b) The fee for filing an application for approval to acquire control of a licensee is three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

(c) A licensee shall pay annually on or before July 1, a licensee fee of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

(d) A licensee shall pay annually on or before July 1, one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each licensee branch office in this state.

(e) A licensee shall pay annually on or before July 1, twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each agent branch office in this state.

(f) Whenever the commissioner examines a licensee or any agent of a licensee, the licensee shall pay, within 10 days after receipt of a statement from the commissioner, a fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75) per hour for each examiner engaged in the examination plus, if it is necessary for any examiner engaged in the examination to travel outside this state, the travel expenses of the examiner.

(g) Whenever the commissioner examines an applicant, the applicant shall pay, within 10 days after receipt of a statement from the commissioner, a fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75) per hour for each examiner engaged in the examination plus, if it is necessary for any examiner engaged in the examination to travel outside this state, the travel expenses of the examiner.

(h) Each fee for filing an application shall be paid at the time the application is filed with the commissioner. No fee for filing an application shall be refundable, regardless of whether the application is approved, denied, or withdrawn.

1819. (a) The commissioner may by order or regulation grant exemptions from this section in cases where the commissioner finds that the requirements of this section are not necessary or may be duplicative.

(b) In addition to such other reports as may be required pursuant to Sections 283, 284, and 285, each licensee shall, within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, or within such extended time as the commissioner may prescribe, file with the commissioner an audit report for the fiscal year that shall comply with all of the following provisions:

(1) The audit report shall contain audited financial statements of the licensee for or as of the end of the fiscal year prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles and such other information as the commissioner may require.

(2) The audit report shall be based upon an audit of the licensee conducted in accordance with United States generally accepted auditing standards and such other requirements as the commissioner may prescribe.

(3) The audit report shall be prepared by an independent certified public accountant or independent public accountant who is not unsatisfactory to the commissioner.

(4) The audit report shall include or be accompanied by a certificate of opinion of the independent certified public accountant or independent public accountant that is satisfactory in form and content to the commissioner. If the certificate or opinion is qualified, the commissioner may order the

licensee to take such action as the commissioner may find necessary to enable the independent or certified public accountant or independent public accountant to remove the qualification.

(c) Each licensee shall, not more than 45 days after the end of each calendar year quarter, or within a longer period as the commissioner may by regulation or order specify, file with the commissioner a report containing all of the following:

(1) Financial statements, including balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in shareholders' equity, and statement of cashflows, for, or as of the end of, that calendar year quarter, verified by two of the licensee's principal officers. The verification shall state that each of the officers making the verification has a personal knowledge of the matters in the report and that each of them believes that each statement on the report is true.

(2) For issuers and sellers of payment instruments and stored value, a schedule of eligible securities owned by the licensee pursuant to Section 1830.

(3) Other information as the commissioner may by regulation or order require.

(d) Each licensee, not more than 45 days after the end of each calendar year quarter, shall file with the commissioner a report containing all of the following:

(1) The current address of each branch office of the licensee in this state. If a branch office was opened or closed during the calendar year quarter, the date it was opened or closed. If a branch office was relocated during the calendar year quarter, the addresses of the old and new locations and the date of relocation.

(2) The name of each person who acted as an agent in this state of the licensee during the calendar year quarter and the address for each agent branch office. If a person was appointed or terminated as an agent during the calendar year quarter, the date of appointment or termination. If an agent branch office relocated, the addresses for the old and new locations and the date of relocation.

(3) The total volume of activities, number of transactions conducted, and outstanding money transmission obligations in California under this chapter and in the United States in the calendar year quarter categorized by type of money transmission. For money received for transmission, a report of the average daily outstanding transmission liabilities in California, and, if applicable, a schedule of each foreign country to which money was sent, along with the total amount of money sent to that foreign country in that calendar year quarter. For payment instruments and stored value, a report of the average daily outstanding payment instruments and stored value liabilities in California in that calendar year quarter.

(4) Other information as the commissioner may by regulation or order require.

(e) Each licensee shall file with the commissioner other reports as and when the commissioner may by regulation or order require.

1820. (a) A licensee under this chapter shall maintain tangible shareholders' equity in an amount determined to be adequate by the commissioner from time to time, but in no event shall tangible shareholders' equity be less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). "Tangible shareholders' equity" means shareholders' or members' equity minus intangible assets as determined in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) The commissioner at any time may require a licensee to write down any asset held by it to a valuation that will represent its then fair market value. Any receivable or debt due to a licensee that is past due and unpaid for the period of one year shall be charged off, unless it is well secured or is in process of collection.

(c) The aggregate value of a licensee's accounts receivable, excluding money transmission receivables, loans or extensions of credit to any one person, or that person's affiliates, cannot exceed 50 percent of the licensee's tangible shareholders' equity without the advanced written approval of the commissioner. Whenever such amount equals or exceeds 20 percent of the licensee's tangible shareholders' equity, the licensee shall maintain records evidencing such amount and any security or other source of payment for the amount owed, and such other records as the commissioner may require by order or regulation.

1821. (a) A licensee shall conduct money transmission in California under its true name unless it has complied with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 17900) of Part 3 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code.

(b) A licensee may only conduct money transmission in California under its true name unless it has provided 30-day advance written notice to the commissioner. A licensee may also use a trade name or logo, so long as there is reasonable disclosure of its true name.

1822. (a) In addition to the fees provided in Section 1818, the commissioner shall levy an assessment each fiscal year, on a pro rata basis, on those licensees that at any time during the preceding calendar year engaged in the business of money transmission in California in an amount that is, in his or her judgment, sufficient to meet the commissioner's expenses in administering the provisions of this chapter and to provide a reasonable reserve for contingencies.

(b) For licensees that sell or issue payment instruments or stored value, the amount of the annual assessment on any licensee shall not exceed the sum of the products determined by multiplying (1) increments of the aggregate face amount of payment instruments and stored value issued or sold in California by the licensee, directly or indirectly through agents, in the calendar year next preceding the date of such assessment, by (2) percentages of the base assessment rate, according to the following table:

Aggregate face amount of payment instruments and stored value sold (in millions)	Percentage of base assessment rate
First \$ 1.....	100.0

Next \$9.....	25.0
Next \$40.....	12.5
Next \$50.....	6.0
Next \$400.....	3
Next \$500.....	2
Excess over \$1,000.....	1

The base assessment rate shall be fixed from time to time by the commissioner but shall not exceed one dollar (\$1) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) face amount of payment instruments and stored value sold.

(c) For licensees receiving money for transmission, the basis of the apportionment of the assessment among the licensees assessed shall be the proportion that the total amount of money received for transmission by the licensee in California bears in relation to the total amount of money received for transmission by all licensees in California, as shown by the reports of licensees to the commissioner for the preceding calendar year. The assessment rate shall be fixed from time to time by the commissioner but shall not exceed one dollar (\$1) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of money received for transmission in California by the licensee.

(d) The commissioner shall notify each licensee by mail of the amount levied against it. The licensee shall pay the amount levied within 20 days. If payment is not made to the commissioner within that time, the commissioner shall assess and collect, in addition to the annual assessment, a penalty of 5 percent of the assessment for each month or part thereof that the payment is delinquent.

Article 4. Agents

1825. (a) In this section, “remit” means to make direct payments of money to a licensee or its representative authorized to receive money or to deposit money in a bank in an account specified by the licensee.

(b) No licensee shall appoint or continue any person as agent, unless the licensee and the person have made a written contract. A written contract between a licensee and an agent shall require the agent to operate in full compliance with this chapter.

(c) The written contract shall contain each of the following provisions:

(1) That the licensee appoints the person as its agent with authority to conduct money transmission on behalf of the licensee.

(2) That the agent shall make and keep accounts, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records as the commissioner by regulation or order requires and preserve the records for the time specified by the regulation or order.

(3) That all money or monetary value, less fees due agents provided for and expressly set forth in the written agreement, received by the agent for money transmission on behalf of the licensee shall be trust funds owned by and belonging to the licensee until the time when the money or an equivalent

amount are remitted by the agent to the licensee in accordance with this section.

(4) That the money must be remitted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(5) Any other provisions that the commissioner may by regulation or order find to be necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter.

(d) An agent shall remit all money owing to the licensee in accordance with the terms of the contract between the licensee and the agent.

(e) An agent of a licensee shall remit any money, less fees, received on behalf of the licensee for money transmission as follows:

(1) Within three business days of receipt.

(2) In case the aggregate face amount of the money, less fees, does not in any calendar week exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), within 10 business days of receipt.

(3) Within a period longer than three business days of receipt, if the agent has previously deposited with, and during such period maintains on deposit with, an office of an insured bank or of an insured savings and loan association located in the United States in an account that is in the sole and exclusive name of the licensee an amount that, for each day by which such period exceeds three business days, is not less than the aggregate face amount of money received on behalf of the licensee for money transmission that the agent usually sells per day.

(4) Within such shorter period as the licensee may provide.

(f) An agent may not provide money transmission outside the scope of activity permissible under the contract between the agent and the licensee. All money or monetary value, less fees, received by an agent of a licensee shall, from the time when the money is received by the agent until the time when the money or an equivalent amount is remitted by the agent to the licensee, constitute trust funds owned by and belonging to the licensee.

(g) An agent may not use a subagent to conduct money transmissions on behalf of a licensee.

(h) Each licensee shall exercise reasonable supervision over its agents to ensure compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations with respect to money transmission.

(i) No agent of a licensee shall, nor shall any licensee cause or knowingly permit any of its agents to, conduct money transmission on behalf of the licensee without concurrently receiving money, monetary value or its equivalent, credit card, or payment instrument, or a combination of same believed to be valid in an amount not less than the amount of the money transmission being provided. In the case of a sale of payment instruments or stored value to an insured bank, an insured savings and loan association, or an insured credit union, the licensee or agents of the licensee may receive such amounts the next business day after the sale.

(j) If any agent of a licensee shall commingle any money or monetary value, less fees, received on behalf of the licensee for money transmission with any other property owned or controlled by the agent, all such property



shall be impressed with a trust in favor of the licensee in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of such money so commingled. No money or monetary value, less fees, received by any agent on behalf of the licensee for money transmission, while held by such agent, nor any property impressed with a trust pursuant to this subdivision, shall be subject to attachment, levy of execution, or sequestration by order of any court, except for the benefit of the licensee.

(k) Each licensee shall be liable as a principal for the money or monetary value from the time when the money or monetary value is received by the agent. Each licensee shall be liable as the maker or drawer on each payment instrument issued or sold by such licensee.

1826. (a) No licensee shall appoint any person as an agent unless it has conducted a review of the proposed agent's fitness to act as an agent and has determined that the proposed agent and any persons who control the proposed agent are of good character and sound financial standing.

(b) A licensee shall maintain records of this review for each agent while the agent is providing money transmission on behalf of the licensee, and for three years after the relationship with the agent has terminated.

1827. A person may not provide money transmissions on behalf of a person not licensed or not exempt from licensure under this chapter. A person that engages in that activity provides money transmissions services to the same extent as if the person was a licensee, and shall be jointly and severally liable with the unlicensed or nonexempt person.

1828. (a) No agent of a licensee who has actual notice that the commissioner has suspended or revoked the license of the licensee or that the commissioner has issued an order taking possession of the property and business of the licensee shall conduct money transmission on behalf of the licensee.

(b) If any agent of a licensee, after first having actual notice that the commissioner has suspended or revoked the license of the licensee or that the commissioner has issued an order taking possession of the property and business of the licensee, conducts money transmission on behalf of the licensee, the agent shall be jointly and severally liable with the licensee for payment of the money transmission.

#### Article 5. Eligible Securities

1830. (a) A licensee shall at all times own eligible securities having an aggregate market value computed in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles of not less than the aggregate amount of all of its outstanding payment instruments and stored value obligations issued or sold in the United States and all outstanding money received for transmission in the United States.

(b) If the commissioner finds that the financial condition of a licensee is impaired, or that the financial condition of a licensee is such that its business is being conducted in an unsafe and unsound manner, the commissioner, to

protect the public interest, may issue an order, subject to the procedures set forth in Section 1864, doing one or both of the following:

(1) Increasing the amount of eligible securities that the licensee must maintain.

(2) Requiring the licensee to obtain, as security for the payment of outstanding money transmission obligations, additional security in the form of financial guarantees.

(c) Eligible securities, even if commingled with other assets of the licensee, are deemed to be held in trust for the benefit of the purchasers and holders of the licensee's outstanding payment instrument and stored value obligations, and all senders of outstanding money received for transmission, in the event of bankruptcy or receivership of the licensee, or in the event of an action by a creditor against the licensee who is not a beneficiary of this statutory trust. No eligible securities impressed with a trust pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to attachment, levy of execution, or sequestration by order of any court, except for a beneficiary of this statutory trust.

(d) All outstanding payment instruments and stored value issued or sold by a licensee or its agent, and all outstanding money received for transmission by a licensee or its agent, shall remain a liability of the licensee from the time money or monetary value is received by the licensee or its agent until the licensee receives confirmation that such money or monetary value was received by the beneficiary, or until the outstanding payment instrument or stored value obligation has been paid, or until the money is refunded to the customer.

(e) A licensee shall maintain a record in the United States of proof of receipt by the beneficiary or refund to the customer of money received for transmission.

1831. (a) "Eligible security" means any United States currency eligible security or foreign currency eligible security.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, the following are United States currency eligible securities:

(1) Cash.

(2) Any deposit in an insured bank or an insured savings and loan association or insured credit union.

(3) Any bond, note, or other obligation that is issued or is guaranteed by the United States or any agency of the United States.

(4) Any bond, note, or other obligation that is issued or guaranteed by any state of the United States or by any governmental agency of or within any state of the United States and that is assigned an eligible rating by an eligible securities rating service.

(5) Any bankers acceptance that is eligible for discount by a federal reserve bank.

(6) Any commercial paper that is assigned an eligible rating by an eligible rating securities service.

(7) Any bond, note, or other obligation that is assigned an eligible rating by an eligible securities rating service.

(8) Any share of an investment company that is an open-end management company, that is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1, et seq.), that holds itself out to investors as a money market fund, and that operates in accordance with all provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission applicable to money market funds, including Section 270.2a-7 of the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (17 C.F.R. Sec. 270.2a-7).

For purposes of this paragraph and paragraph (9), “investment company,” “management company,” and “open-end” have the meanings set forth in Sections 3, 4, and 5, respectively, of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Secs. 80a-4, and 80a-5, respectively).

(9) Any share of an investment company that is an open-end management company, that is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1 et seq.), and that invests exclusively in securities that constitute eligible securities that comply with valuation requirements of this chapter.

(10) Any account due to any licensee from any agent in the United States on account of the receipt of money on behalf of the licensee for money transmission by the agent, if the account is current and not past due or otherwise doubtful of collection.

(11) Any other security or class of securities that the commissioner has by regulation or order declared to be eligible securities.

(c) “Foreign currency eligible security” means any of the following that is denominated in a foreign currency:

(1) Cash.

(2) Any deposit in an office of a bank acceptable to the commissioner that is located in a foreign country.

(3) Any other security or class of securities that the commissioner has by regulation or order declared to be eligible securities pursuant to Section 1835.

(d) For the purposes of this chapter, “value” means the following:

(1) When used with respect to an eligible security owned by a licensee of the type described in paragraph (10) of subdivision (b), net carrying value as determined in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles. However, in computing the value of the account, any amount that consists of money that has not been remitted to the licensee or refunded within 45 business days of receipt by the agent shall be excluded from the value of the account and shall be excluded from the calculation of eligible securities.

(2) Market value when used with respect to any other eligible security owned by a licensee.

1832. (a) In computing for purposes of Section 1831 the aggregate value of eligible securities owned by a licensee, all of the following shall be excluded:

(1) The value of any eligible security if and to the extent that the value of the eligible security, when combined with the aggregate value of all other

eligible securities owned by the licensee that are issued or guaranteed by the same person or by any affiliate of the same person by whom the eligible security is issued or guaranteed, exceeds 10 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee.

(2) The portion of the aggregate value of all eligible securities of the type described in paragraph (10) of subdivision (b) of Section 1831 that exceeds 25 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee; and that portion of the aggregate value of agent receivables from any one person that exceeds 10 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee, or any higher percentage that the commissioner may approve for the licensee, up to a maximum of 20 percent.

(3) The portion of the aggregate value of all eligible securities of the type described in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 1831 that exceeds 20 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee.

(4) The portion of the aggregate value of all eligible securities of the type described in paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 1831 that exceeds 20 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee.

(5) The portion of the aggregate value of all eligible securities of the type described in paragraph (8) of subdivision (b) of Section 1831, except for a money market fund that invests exclusively in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or any agency of the United States, that exceeds 20 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee.

(6) The portion of the aggregate value of all eligible securities of the type described in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) of subdivision (b) of Section 1831 that exceeds 50 percent of the aggregate value of all eligible securities owned by the licensee.

(b) Subdivision (a) shall not be deemed to require the exclusion of the value of any of the following eligible securities, and each of the following eligible securities shall be exempted from the limitations of subdivision (a):

(1) The following eligible securities:

(A) Cash.

(B) Any deposit in an insured bank, insured savings and loan association, or insured credit union.

(C) Any bond, note, or other obligation for the payment of which the full faith and credit of the United States are pledged.

(2) Any eligible security that the commissioner, in view of the financial condition of the obligor or issuer and such other factors as may in the opinion of the commissioner be relevant, finds to be of such quality that exclusion of the value of such eligible security pursuant to subdivision (a) is not necessary for the purposes of this chapter and which the commissioner by regulation or order exempts, in whole or in part, from the limitations of subdivision (a).

1833. (a) A licensee shall be deemed to own an eligible security only if the following apply:

(1) The licensee owns the eligible security solely and exclusively in its own right, both of record and beneficially.

(2) The eligible security is not subject to any pledge, lien, or security interest.

(3) The licensee can freely negotiate, assign, or otherwise transfer the eligible security.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), no licensee shall be deemed not to own an eligible security solely on account of any of the following facts, provided that, but for that fact, the licensee would be deemed to own the eligible security under the provisions of subdivision (a):

(1) The fact that the eligible security is owned of record by a documented nominee of the licensee or by a securities depository.

(2) The fact that the licensee has pledged the eligible security with the United States or any state of the United States to secure payment by the licensee of transmission money.

1834. If the commissioner finds that any eligible security or class of eligible securities is not of sufficient liquidity or quality to be eligible securities, the commissioner may by regulation or order declare the security or class of securities to be ineligible.

1835. If the commissioner finds that any security or class of securities that is not an eligible security is of sufficient liquidity and quality to be an eligible security, the commissioner may by regulation or order declare the security or class of securities to be eligible securities.

1836. (a) If the commissioner finds that a rating assigned to a class of securities by an eligible securities rating service indicates that the class of securities is of sufficient quality to be eligible securities, the commissioner may by regulation or order declare the rating to be an eligible rating.

(b) With respect to this chapter “eligible rating” means any rating assigned to such security or class of securities by such eligible securities rating service which the commissioner has by regulation or order declared to be an eligible rating.

1837. (a) The commissioner may by regulation or order declare a securities rating service to be an eligible securities rating service if the commissioner finds the following with respect to the securities rating service:

(1) It has been continuously engaged in the business of rating securities for a period of not less than three years.

(2) It is competent to rate securities and is nationally recognized for rating securities in a competent manner.

(3) It publishes its ratings of securities on a nationwide basis.

(b) With respect to this chapter “eligible securities rating service” means any securities rating service that the commissioner by regulation or order declared to be an eligible securities ratings service.

1838. A licensee shall maintain eligible securities that are adequately diversified, predominantly of a duration commensurate with the licensee’s outstanding money transmission obligations, and of sufficient liquidity and quality to promptly pay the outstanding money transmission obligations of the licensee.

## Article 6. Consumer Disclosures

1840. (a) (1) Each licensee shall file with the commissioner a certified copy of every receipt form used by it or by its agent for receiving money for transmission prior to its first use. No licensee or its agent shall use any receipt, a certified copy of which has not been filed with the commissioner, or use a receipt that the commissioner has deemed not to be in compliance pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) If the commissioner determines, within 30 business days of the filing date of a receipt, that the receipt does not comply with the requirements of this section or Sections 1842 and 1843, the commissioner shall notify the licensee in writing that the receipt is not in compliance with those requirements.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), before a new licensee issues its first receipt to a customer, it shall file with the commissioner a certified copy of the receipt forms to be used by it or its agents for receiving money for transmission. The new licensee shall not use the receipt forms until approved by the commissioner. For purposes of this subdivision, a new licensee is a licensee that has not been previously licensed by the commissioner as a money transmitter or has not previously received money for transmission in California.

(c) If a receipt is required by this chapter to be in English and another language, the English version of the receipt shall govern any dispute concerning the terms of the receipt. However, any discrepancies between the English version and any other version due to the translation of the receipt from English to another language including errors or ambiguities shall be construed against the licensee or its agent and the licensee or its agent shall be liable for any damages caused by these discrepancies.

(d) Any licensee violating the requirements of this section shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50) for each violation. This provision is in addition to any other enforcement provisions that may apply to such a violation.

(e) If any licensee or its agent uses a receipt form, a certified copy of which has not been filed with the commissioner, the licensee shall be liable for the acts of its agent whether or not the licensee authorized the agent to use that form.

(f) The receipt form shall comply with the requirements of Sections 1842 and 1843.

1841. Every licensee or its agent shall forward all money received for transmission or give instructions committing equivalent money to the person designated by the customer within 10 days after receiving that money, unless otherwise ordered by his or her customer.

1842. (a) Every licensee or its agent shall refund to the customer within 10 days of receipt of the customer's written request for a refund any and all money received for transmission unless any of the following occurs:

(1) The money has been forwarded within 10 days of the date of receipt.

(2) Instructions have been given committing an equivalent amount of money to the person designated by the customer within 10 days of the date of the receipt of the money from the customer.

(3) The customer instructs the licensee to transmit the money at a time beyond 10 days. If the customer gives instructions as to when the money shall be forwarded or transmitted and the moneys have not yet been forwarded or transmitted, the licensee or its agent shall refund the customer's money within 10 days of receipt of the customer's written request for a refund.

(4) Refund would violate law.

(b) In the case of money received for transmission, a receipt shall be provided by a licensee or its agent to all customers which shall be made available to the customer in English and in the language principally used by that licensee or that agent to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing, at that branch office if other than English. The receipt shall either include or have attached a conspicuous statement in English and in the language principally used by the licensee or that agent to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing at that branch office if other than English in a size equal to at least 10 point bold type, as follows:

#### RIGHT TO REFUND

"You, the customer, are entitled to a refund of the money to be transmitted as the result of this agreement if \_\_\_\_\_ (name of licensee) does not forward the money received from you within 10 days of the date of its receipt, or does not give instructions committing an equivalent amount of money to the person designated by you within 10 days of the date of the receipt of the funds from you unless otherwise instructed by you.

If your instructions as to when the moneys shall be forwarded or transmitted are not complied with and the money has not yet been forwarded or transmitted, you have a right to a refund of your money.

If you want a refund, you must mail or deliver your written request to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of licensee) at \_\_\_\_\_ (mailing address of licensee). If you do not receive your refund, you may be entitled to your money back plus a penalty of up to \$1,000 and attorney's fees pursuant to Section 1842 of the California Financial Code."

(c) A cause of action under this section may be brought in small claims court if it does not exceed the jurisdiction of that court, or in any other appropriate court. The customer shall be entitled to recover each of the following:

(1) Any and all money received for transmission, plus any fees and charges paid by the customer.

(2) A penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The court shall award the prevailing party costs and attorney's fees.

1843. (a) The receipt presented to each customer for money received for transmission pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1842 shall clearly state the rate of exchange for the particular transaction, if any, the amount of commission or fees, and the net exchange after all fees and commissions have been deducted. The receipt shall also state the total amount of money presented by the customer and the total amount to be delivered to the beneficiary designated by the customer. These disclosures shall be in English and in the same language as that principally used by the licensee or any agent of the licensee to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing, at that branch office if other than English.

(b) If window and exterior signs concerning the rates of exchange for money received for transmission are used, they shall clearly state in English and in the same language principally used by the licensee or any agent of the licensee to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing, at that branch office if other than English, the rate of exchange for exchanging the currency of the United States for foreign currency. If an interior sign or any advertising is used that quotes exchange rates, it shall, in addition to clearly stating the rates of exchange for exchanging the currency of the United States for foreign currency, also state all commissions and fees charged on all such transactions.

(c) At each branch office, there shall be disclosed the exchange rates, fees, and commissions charged in English and in the same language principally used by the licensee or any agent of the licensee to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing, with respect to money received for transmission at that branch office. At each branch office, there shall be signage clearly identifying the name of the licensee as well as any trade names used by the licensee at that branch office.

(d) If the customer does not specify at the time the money is presented to the licensee or its agent the country to which the money is to be transmitted, the rate of exchange for the transaction is not required to be set forth on the receipt. If the customer does specify at the time the money is presented to the licensee or its agent the country to which the money is to be transmitted but the specified country's laws require the rate of exchange for the transaction to be determined at the time the transaction is paid out to the intended recipient, the rate of exchange for the transaction is not required to be set forth on the receipt.

1844. Each licensee or agent shall prominently post on the premises of each branch office that issues or sells payment instruments, and at machines located in this state and operated by the licensee or agent that issues or sells payment instruments, a notice clearly stating that payment instruments are not insured by the federal government, the state government, or any other public or private entity. This notice shall be printed in English and in the same language principally used by the licensee or any agent of the licensee to advertise, solicit, or negotiate, either orally or in writing, with respect to the purchase of payment instruments. The information required in this notice shall be clear, legible, and in letters not less than one-half inch in height. The notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the unobstructed



view of the public within the premises. The licensee shall provide to each of its agents the notice required by this section. In those locations operated by an agent, the agent, not the licensee, shall be responsible for the failure to properly post the required notice.

1845. (a) Each licensee or agent shall prominently post on the premises of each branch office that conducts money transmission a notice stating that:

“If you have complaints with respect to any aspect of the money transmission activities conducted at this location, you may contact the California Department of Financial Institutions at its toll-free telephone number, 1-800-622-0620, by e-mail at [consumer.complaint@dfi.ca.gov](mailto:consumer.complaint@dfi.ca.gov), or by mail at Department of Financial Institutions, Consumer Services, 1810 13th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.”

(b) The commissioner may by order or regulation modify the content of the notice required by this section. This notice shall be printed in English and in the same language principally used by the licensee or any agent of the licensee to advertise, solicit, or negotiate either orally or in writing, with respect to money transmission at that branch office. The information required in this notice shall be clear, legible, and in letters not less than one-half inch in height. The notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the unobstructed view of the public within the premises. The licensee shall provide to each of its agents the notice required by this section. In those locations operated by an agent, the agent, and not the licensee, shall be responsible for the failure to properly post the required notice.

1846. (a) No licensee shall sell or issue any form of payment instrument in California unless a certified copy of the payment instrument has first been filed with the commissioner. The payment instrument shall clearly identify the licensee as the issuer.

(b) The commissioner may by order or regulation declare that a form of payment instrument is prohibited if it is misleading in any material respect or otherwise does not comply with applicable law.

(c) A payment instrument that identifies the agent through which the licensee sells the payment instrument shall identify the agent as such and shall identify the licensee at least as conspicuously as it does the agent.

#### Article 7. Examinations, Special Reports, and Records

1850. (a) The commissioner may at any time and from time to time examine the business and any office, within or outside this state, of any licensee or any agent of a licensee in order to ascertain whether that business is being conducted in a lawful manner and whether all money transmission is properly accounted for.

(b) The directors, officers, and employees of any licensee or agent of a licensee being examined by the commissioner shall exhibit to the

commissioner, on request, any or all of the licensee's accounts, books, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and other records and shall otherwise facilitate the examination so far as it may be in their power to do so.

1851. The commissioner may consult and cooperate with other state or federal money transmission regulators in enforcing and administering this chapter. They may jointly pursue examinations and take other official action that they are otherwise empowered to take.

1852. A licensee shall file a report with the commissioner within five business days after the licensee has reason to know of the occurrence any of the following events:

(a) The filing of a petition by or against the licensee under the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Secs. 101-110, incl.) for bankruptcy or reorganization.

(b) The filing of a petition by or against the licensee for receivership, the commencement of any other judicial or administrative proceeding for its dissolution or reorganization, or the making of a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors.

(c) The commencement of a proceeding to revoke or suspend its license in a state or country in which the licensee engages in business or is licensed.

(d) The cancellation or other impairment of the licensee's bond or other security.

(e) A charge or conviction of the licensee or of an executive officer, manager, director, or person in control of the licensee for a felony.

(f) A charge or conviction of an agent for a felony.

1853. A licensee that is a money services business under the regulations adopted pursuant to the United States Bank Secrecy Act (31 C.F.R. Part 103) and the agents of the licensee that are money services businesses shall comply with those regulations.

1854. (a) A licensee shall maintain the following records for determining its compliance with this chapter for at least three years:

(1) A record of each payment instrument or stored value obligation sold.

(2) A general ledger posted at least monthly containing all asset, liability, capital, income, and expense accounts.

(3) Bank statements and bank reconciliation records.

(4) Records of outstanding payment instruments and stored value obligations.

(5) Records of each payment instrument and stored-value obligation paid within the three-year period.

(6) A list of the last known names and addresses of all of the licensee's agents and their branch offices.

(7) Any other records the commissioner reasonably requires by order or regulation.

(b) A licensee or its agent shall maintain records of any receipts provided pursuant to Section 1842 for six months or a longer period of time specified in the contract between the licensee and its agent.

(c) The items specified in subdivisions (a) and (b) may be maintained in any form of record.

(d) Records may be maintained outside this state if they are made available to the commissioner on seven days' notice that is sent in a record.

(e) If records not required to be maintained in English pursuant to Section 286 are in a language other than English, the licensee shall provide records translated into English within seven days' notice that is sent in a record.

#### Article 8. Enforcement

1860. (a) If it appears to the commissioner that a licensee is violating or failing to comply with any law of this state, the commissioner may direct the licensee to comply with the law by an order issued under the commissioner's official seal, or if it appears to the commissioner that any licensee is conducting its business in an unsafe or injurious manner, the commissioner may in like manner direct it to discontinue the unsafe or injurious practices. The order shall require the licensee to show cause before the commissioner, at a time and place to be fixed by the commissioner, as to why the order should not be observed.

(b) If, upon any hearing held pursuant to subdivision (a), the commissioner finds that the licensee is violating or failing to comply with any law of this state or is conducting its business in an unsafe or injurious manner, the commissioner may make a final order directing it to comply with the law or to discontinue the unsafe or injurious practices. A licensee shall comply with the final order unless, within 10 days after the issuance of the order, its enforcement is restrained in a proceeding brought by the licensee.

1861. (a) The commissioner may issue an order suspending or revoking a license, or taking possession of and placing a licensee in receivership, if after notice and an opportunity for hearing, the commissioner finds that:

(1) The licensee is violating this chapter or a regulation adopted or an order issued under this chapter, or a condition of approval issued under this chapter.

(2) The licensee does not cooperate with an examination or investigation by the commissioner.

(3) The licensee engages in fraud, intentional misrepresentation, or gross negligence.

(4) The competence, experience, character, or general fitness of the licensee, or any director, officer, employee, or person in control of a licensee, indicates that it is not in the public interest to permit the person to provide money transmission services.

(5) The licensee engages in an unsafe or unsound practice.

(6) The licensee is insolvent, suspends payment of its obligations, or makes a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors.

(7) The licensee does not remove an agent after the commissioner issues and serves upon the licensee a final order including a finding that the agent has violated this chapter.

(8) The licensee has applied for an adjudication of bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement, or other relief under any bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, or moratorium law, or any person has applied for any such relief under that law against the licensee and the licensee has by any affirmative act approved of or consented to the action or the relief has been granted.

(9) Any fact or condition exists that, if it had existed at the time when the licensee applied for its license, would have been grounds for denying the application.

(b) In determining whether a licensee is engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice, the commissioner may consider the size and condition of the licensee's provision of money transmission services, the magnitude of the loss, the gravity of the violation of this chapter, and the previous conduct of the person involved.

1862. (a) The commissioner may issue an order suspending or revoking the designation of an agent if, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, the commissioner finds that:

(1) The agent violated this chapter or a regulation adopted or an order issued under this chapter.

(2) The agent did not cooperate with an examination or investigation by the commissioner.

(3) The agent engaged in fraud, intentional misrepresentation, or gross negligence.

(4) The agent is convicted of a violation of a state or federal anti-money laundering statute.

(5) The competence, experience, character, or general fitness of the agent, or any director, officer, employee, or person in control of the agent, indicates that it is not in the public interest to permit the agent to provide money transmissions.

(6) The agent is engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice.

(7) The agent has made or caused to be made in any application or report filed with the commissioner or in any proceeding before the commissioner, any statement that was at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it was made, false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or has omitted to state in any of those applications, reports, or proceedings any material fact which is required to be stated therein.

(8) The agent is an agent of a licensee who, because of its operations and financial condition, is not competent to supervise and monitor the agent.

(9) The agent will not comply with all applicable provisions of this chapter and of any regulation or order issued under this chapter.

(b) In determining whether an agent is engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice, the commissioner may consider the size and condition of the agent's provision of money transmission services, the magnitude of the loss, the gravity of the violation of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter, and the previous conduct of the agent.

(c) No licensee shall appoint as an agent any person with respect to whom an order issued under this section is in effect.

(d) No person with respect to whom an order issued under this section is in effect shall become or continue to be an agent of any licensee.

(e) If applicable, the commissioner may disclose to the licensee criminal history information upon which an order is based.

1863. (a) Every order, decision, or other official act of the commissioner is subject to review in accordance with law.

(b) Whenever the commissioner has taken possession of the property and business of any licensee, the licensee, within 10 days after that taking, if it deems itself aggrieved thereby, may apply to the superior court in the county in which the head office of the licensee is located to enjoin further proceedings. The court, after citing the commissioner to show cause why further proceedings should not be enjoined and after a hearing and a determination of the facts upon the merits, may dismiss the application or enjoin the commissioner from further proceedings and direct the commissioner to surrender the property and business to the licensee.

1864. (a) If the commissioner finds that any of the factors set forth in Section 1861 is true with respect to any licensee and that it is necessary for the protection of the public interest, the commissioner may issue an order immediately suspending or revoking the licensee's license.

(b) Within 30 days after the license is suspended or revoked pursuant to subdivision (a), the licensee may file with the commissioner an application for a hearing on the suspension or revocation.

(c) If the commissioner fails to commence a hearing within 15 business days after the application is filed with the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (b) or within a longer period of time agreed to by the licensee, the suspension or revocation shall be deemed rescinded.

(d) Within 30 days after the hearing, the commissioner shall affirm, modify, or rescind the suspension or revocation. Otherwise, the suspension or revocation shall be deemed rescinded.

(e) The right of the licensee to petition for judicial review of the suspension or revocation shall not be affected by the failure of the licensee to apply to the commissioner for a hearing on the suspension or revocation pursuant to subdivision (b).

1865. (a) If the commissioner finds that any of the factors set forth in Section 1862 is true with respect to any agent and that it is necessary for the protection of the public interest, the commissioner may issue an order immediately suspending or barring that agent from continuing to be or becoming an agent of any licensee during the period for which that order is in effect.

(b) Within 30 days after an order is issued pursuant to subdivision (a), the licensee or the agent or former agent with respect to whom the order was issued may file with the commissioner an application for a hearing on the order.

(c) If the commissioner fails to commence a hearing within 20 business days after the application is filed with the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (b) or within a longer period of time agreed to by the parties, the suspension or revocation shall be deemed rescinded.

(d) Within 30 days after the hearing, the commissioner shall affirm, modify, or rescind the order.

(e) The right of the licensee or agent or former agent to petition for judicial review of the order shall not be affected by the failure of that person to apply to the commissioner for a hearing on the order pursuant to subdivision (b).

1866. The commissioner may assess a civil penalty against a person that violates this chapter or a regulation adopted or an order issued under this chapter in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation or, in the case of a continuing violation, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day or part thereof during which the violation continues, plus this state's costs and expenses for the investigation and prosecution of the matter, including reasonable attorney's fees.

1867. (a) A person that intentionally makes a false statement, misrepresentation, or false certification in a record filed or required to be maintained under this chapter or that intentionally makes a false entry or omits a material entry in such a record is guilty of a felony.

(b) A person that knowingly engages in an activity for which a license is required under this chapter without being licensed or exempt from licensure under this chapter is guilty of a felony.

(c) Nothing in this chapter limits the power of the state to punish any person for any act that constitutes a crime under any statute.

1868. The enforcement provisions of this chapter are in addition to any other enforcement powers that the commissioner may have under law.

#### Article 9. Voluntary Surrender of License and Miscellaneous Provisions

1870. Any licensee may surrender its license by filing with the commissioner the license and a report with any information as the commissioner requires. The voluntary surrender of the license shall become effective at the time and upon the conditions as the commissioner specifies by order.

1871. If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, that invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

1872. (a) A license issued under Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 1800), Chapter 14A (commencing with Section 1851), or Division 16 (commencing with Section 33000) that is in effect immediately before January 1, 2011, shall remain in effect as a valid license under this chapter.

(b) Any person that, prior to January 1, 2011, was not required to obtain a license under Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 1800), Chapter 14A (commencing with Section 1851), or Division 16 (commencing with Section 33000), but is required to have a license under this chapter, shall file an

application for a license pursuant to this chapter by July 1, 2011, in order to continue conducting money transmission in this state directly or through agents. If the application is timely filed and pending with the commissioner, that person may continue to conduct money transmission in this state, until the application has been approved, abandoned, or denied.

SEC. 3. Chapter 14A (commencing with Section 1851) of Division 1 of the Financial Code is repealed.

SEC. 4. Division 16 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Financial Code is repealed.

SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.