

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Banking and Insurance Committee

BILL: SPB 7060

INTRODUCER: For consideration by the Banking and Insurance Committee

SUBJECT: Money Transmitters' Code

DATE: February 17, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Johnson	Deffenbaugh		Pre-meeting
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

Money services businesses (MSBs), also known as money transmitters, offer financial services such as check cashing, money transmittals (wire transfers), sales of monetary instruments and currency exchange outside the traditional banking environment. The MSB industry is expanding rapidly with limited supervision and has become an increasingly prevalent conduit for laundering illicit proceeds.

This proposed committee bill incorporates recommendations from the Senate Interim Project 2008-101, *“Regulation of Money Services Businesses,”* the Office of Financial Regulation (office), and other stakeholders designed to enhance the regulation of money services businesses in Florida. The bill provides the following changes:

General Provisions:

- Expands prohibited acts to include violations under 18 U.S.C., s. 1957, which pertains to engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity. This violation would be punishable as a third-degree felony.
- Adds acts that would be grounds for taking disciplinary action against a licensee to include having been convicted of a crime under 18 U.S.C., s. 1957; failure to pay a fine assessed by the office within 30 days of the due date; and failure by a licensee to supervise its authorized agents.
- Requires licensees to incur the costs of an examination. An examination of a licensee is required at least once every 5 years. Currently, there is not a statutory schedule and less than 40 percent of licensees have been examined in the last 5 years.

- Increases the record retention for licensees and the office from 3 to 5 years. The federal Bank Secrecy Act requires MSBs registered with the federal government to retain records for 5 years. Generally, the statute of limitations for financial crimes is 5 years.
- Requires the office to make referrals of violations of law that may be a felony to the appropriate criminal investigatory agency having jurisdiction.
- Requires the office to submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing its activities relating to the regulation of ch. 560 entities, including examinations, investigations, referrals and the disposition of such referrals.
- Provides technical, conforming changes to reflect changes in terminology and technology.

Money Transmitter Provisions:

- Revises net worth (assets minus liabilities) requirements for licensees by eliminating the use of the following assets: goodwill, advances or loans to an affiliated party, receivables from officers, directors, shareholders, or affiliated parties other than receivables in the normal course of business, and homes, home furnishings, automobiles, and other personal items.
- Increases the maximum net worth requirements for a licensee from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. The net worth requirements per location is reduced from \$50,000 to \$10,000.
- Revises the requirement for the registration of authorized agents to require licensees to notify the office prior to the agent engaging in business as an authorized agent of the licensee. Currently, a licensee is required to notify the office within 60 days after opening a location or authorizing an authorized agent to operate on behalf of the licensee.
- Requires all licensees to submit annual financial audit reports, which are used to determine whether net worth and other safety and soundness requirements are met. Currently licensees with 50 or fewer employees and agents and licenses with less than \$200,000 in transactions are exempt.

Check Casher Provisions:

- Eliminates the “incidental business” exemption from registration. Currently, the law provides that a person is engaged in check cashing which is incidental to its retail business if the check cashing compensation at each location does not exceed 5 percent of the total gross income of the retail business for the prior year. The PCB requires a check casher to register with the office if it engages in a check cashing transaction that exceeds \$2,000 per person per day at a location. The PCB shifts the burden of establishing the right to the exemption to the person claiming it.
- Requires a customer to present an acceptable identification and provide a thumbprint for checks greater than \$1,000.
- Requires check cashers subject to licensure to submit suspicious activity reports (SARs) to the federal government, if applicable. Currently, check cashers are not required to submit SARs under federal MSB laws and regulations.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 560.101, 560.103, 560.104, 560.105, 560.106, 560.109, 560.111, 560.113, 560.114, 560.115, 560.116, 560.118, 560.119, 560.123, 560.124, 560.125, 560.126, 560.127, 560.128, 560.129, 560.140, 560.200, 560.203, 560.204, 560.205, 560.208, 560.209, 560.210, 560.211, 560.212, 560.213, 560.303,

560.304, 560.309, 560.310, 560.403, 560.404, 560.405, 560.406, 560.408, 499.005, 499.0691, 501.95, and 896.104. The bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 560.1091, 560.110, 560.142, 560.143, and 560.2085. The bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 560.102, 560.1073, 560.108, 560.112, 560.117, 560.119, 560.202, 560.206, 560.207, 560.302, 560.305, 560.306, 560.307, 560.308, 560.402, and 560.407.

II. Present Situation:

The MSB industry assists in the remittance of funds within the United States and to other countries and also provides check cashing and payment instrument issuing services, such as traveler's checks and money orders. Persons without checking or savings accounts comprise an estimated 10 million households or approximately 75 million individuals in the United States.

Currently, Florida ranks first in the nation with respect to the total number of MSB firms, branches, and vendors (approximately 35,000) registered with the state regulator, the Office of Financial Regulation (office). In recent years, an increasing number of state and federal law enforcement actions have been taken against MSBs. Many of these actions have targeted those entities attempting to avoid the payments of state and federal taxes and workers' compensation premiums. Check cashers, in particular, can be used, knowingly or unknowingly, as facilitators of fraudulent workers' compensation insurance activity or money laundering activities.

Federal Regulation

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the U.S. Department of Treasury (FinCEN) serves as the nation's financial intelligence unit and is charged with safeguarding the U.S. financial system from the abuses of money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes. The FinCEN administers the Bank Secrecy Act and analyzes and shares financial intelligence with law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

The Federal Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 (BSA), which established the regulatory framework to prevent and detect money laundering, were strengthened in 2001 by the USA PATRIOT ACT. The BSA requires traditional banks and MSBs, as defined by federal regulations, to establish written anti-money laundering programs, maintain certain records, and file reports that have a high degree of usefulness in criminal and regulatory proceedings. The 2001 law included additional measures to prevent, detect, and prosecute terrorism activities and international money laundering. Many of the federal provisions of the Bank Secrecy Act have been codified in ch. 560, F.S., which has provided the Office of Financial Regulation, the state regulator, with additional compliance and enforcement tools.

Generally, a MSB is required to register with FinCEN if it conducts more than \$1,000 in business with one person in one or more transactions on the same day, in one or more of the following services: money orders, traveler's checks, check cashing, currency dealing or exchange. However, if a business provides money transfer services in any amount, it is required to be registered. Certain entities, such as traditional financial institutions, entities regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission are exempt from these federal registration requirements.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has adopted regulations to implement the provisions of the Bank Secrecy Act under 31 C.F.R. s. 103, which requires MSBs to maintain certain records and report certain currency transactions and suspicious activities. A MSB is also required to establish an anti-money laundering program (AML), to obtain and verify customer identity, and to document certain information concerning the transactions.

Currency dealers or exchangers, issuers, sellers or redeemers of money orders or traveler's checks, money transmitters, and the U.S. Postal Service are required to file suspicious activity reports (SARs) if a transaction is suspicious and the transaction involves \$2,000 or more. However, if the transaction involves an issuer of traveler's checks or money orders, the threshold is \$5,000. Presently, the SAR requirement does not apply to check cashers or to a seller or redeemer of stored-value cards. Cash transaction reports (CTRs) are required to be filed for cash transactions involving more than \$10,000.

State Regulation of Money Services Businesses

In 1994 the Legislature enacted the Money Transmitters' Code, (code) ch. 560, F.S. The code defines the term, "money transmitter" to mean any person located in or doing business in this state who acts as a payment instrument seller, foreign currency exchanger, check casher, funds transmitter, or deferred presentment provider (payday loan lender). The office, which is under the Financial Services Commission, is responsible for the regulation of the money transmitter industry (or money services businesses), which includes payment instrument sellers, foreign currency exchangers, check cashers, funds transmitters, and deferred presentment providers (payday loans) under the provisions of the code.

Licensure Requirements and Fees

In the last five years, the number of regulated entities has experienced dramatic growth. In fiscal year 2002-03, there were 690 licensed check cashers and money transmitters. For fiscal year ending 2006-07, there were 1,435.

Money transmitters or MSBs are registered under the following license categories: wire transfer businesses and money order sellers (Part II of ch. 560, F.S.) and check cashers and foreign currency exchangers (Part III of ch. 560, F.S.). Authorized vendors of a funds transmitter or payment instrument seller (part II registrant) acting within the scope of authority conferred by the registrant are exempt from regulation. Banks, credit unions, trust companies, associations, offices of an international banking corporation, or other financial depository institutions organized under the laws of any state of the United States are exempt from the provisions of ch. 560, F.S.

Part IV of ch. 560, F.S., regulates deferred presentment provider transactions (payday loans). A "deferred presentment provider" is a person who engages in a deferred presentment transaction, which is to provide currency or a payment instrument in exchange for a person's check and agreeing to hold the person's check for a period of time prior to presentment, deposit, or redemption. A deferred presentment provider must be licensed as a money transmitter pursuant to part II or part III of ch. 560, F.S.

Examinations

Currently there are 20 positions dedicated to the regulation of MSB activities, which include 11 examination positions assigned to the field offices. The examination process is intended to provide ongoing regulatory oversight. There is no examination schedule mandated by law. The office is authorized to contract with an independent third-party to conduct such examinations. However, the office has never used contract examiners.

Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

Generally, fund transmitters and check cashers are required to maintain specified accounts, books, and other records for a period of at least 3 years, pursuant to ss. 560.211(1) and 560.310(1), F.S. Any person who willfully fails to comply with this requirement commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, F.S. Failure to maintain, preserve, and keep available for examination all books, accounts, or documents required by specified federal provisions may result in disciplinary action by the office. Section 560.114, F.S., provides that money transmitters are subject to disciplinary action for operating in an “unsafe and unsound manner.” Section 560.103(21), F.S., defines “unsafe and unsound practice” to include failure to adhere to delineated federal regulations. These regulations require the implementation of an anti-money laundering (AML) program and complying with registration requirements.

Section 560.123, F.S., “The Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Transmitters Act,” requires money transmitters to submit reports of certain financial transactions and maintain specified records and provides administrative and criminal penalties for noncompliance. Section 560.123, F.S., requires the maintenance of each financial transaction known to involve currency or other monetary instrument of a value in excess of \$10,000 and the maintenance of appropriate procedures to ensure compliance with this section.

In addition, s. 560.123, F.S., requires MSBs to comply with the money laundering, enforcement, and reporting provisions of s. 655.50, F.S., relating to reports of transactions of currency reports and monetary instruments. Specifically, s. 560.123(5), F.S., requires a licensee to file a Cash Transaction Report (CTR) if the value of a transaction involving currency or a payment instrument is in excess of \$10,000. A person who willingly violates any provision of s. 560.123, F.S., commits a felony and is subject to criminal penalties, based on the value of the transaction.

Section 560.123, F.S., also authorizes the office to impose an administrative fine against any person found to have violated any provision of this section in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each willful violation or \$500 a day for each negligent violation. In addition, pursuant to s. 560.117, F.S., the office may impose an administrative fine, not to exceed \$10,000, for each violation of the code. In addition, the office may impose a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per day for each day a person violates the code by engaging in unlicensed activity.

Referrals by the Office

According to the office, a referral resulting from examination or an investigation case is made when violations of law or administrative rules have been documented by evidence and the office seeks legal assistance in taking enforcement action. The office stated that “criminal referrals are

frequently made to the State Attorney's office, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, and the United States Attorney's office."

Committee staff reviewed the disposition of referrals made to state and federal agencies during the last four fiscal years (2003-2004 through 2006-2007). During that period, the office indicated that a total of 11 referrals were made to one or more state or federal law enforcement agencies. The office referral rate as a percentage of the 429 closed examinations was approximately 2.6 percent.

Recent Law Enforcement Efforts in Florida Related to MSB Activities

In 2006, the Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud, together with the Broward County Sheriff's office, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, and the Office of Statewide Prosecutor arrested six men for racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering. The men used shell corporations to hide uninsured construction workers, thereby avoiding the payment of state and federal taxes and workers' compensation insurance premiums. The shell companies, which had no employees, were used to secure minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage. Contractors engaged these shell companies because of their low bids, which were due to the misrepresentation of workers' compensation premium. A contractor would write a check to the shell company and then representatives of the shell company would cash the check at a check cashing store. A local check cashing company would charge a fee for cashing the check. The shell company would also take a fee for providing the certificate of insurance to the contractor. The remaining cash would be given to the contractor who wrote the check. The construction day laborers were then paid in cash with the remaining funds. It is estimated that at least \$15 million was laundered through this scheme.

2008 Statewide Grand Jury Related to Check Cashing Activities

In August 2007, the Supreme Court of Florida ordered the empanelment of a statewide grand jury to investigate various criminal offenses, including activities relating to check cashers. The grand jury has not yet issued any report.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Part I – General Provisions

Expands prohibited acts delineated in s. 560.111, F.S., to include violations under 18 U.S.C. s. 1957, which pertains to engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity. This violation would be punishable as a third-degree felony. The bill also expands the acts, under s. 560.114, F.S., that would be grounds for taking disciplinary action against a licensee to include: conviction of a crime under 18 U.S.C., ss. 1957 or 1960 (unlicensed activity); failure to pay a fine assessed by the office within 30 days of the due date; noncompliance with recordkeeping requirements relating to reports of transportation of current or monetary instruments, and being the subject of final agency action issued by an appropriate regulator for engaging in unlicensed activity as a MSB or deferred presentment provider (DPP), and failure by a licensee to supervise its authorized agents pursuant to s. 560.208, F.S., or s. 560.2088, F.S.

The PCB creates a definition for the term, “money services businesses,” which is based on the current definition of the term, “money transmitter,” in s. 560.113(11), F.S., that was created in 1994. Since that time, federal laws and regulations and other states have replaced the term, “money transmitter,” with the term, “money services business” or “MSB,” which includes part II and part III registrants. The term, “money services business” excludes deferred presentment providers since the federal law does not include such entities in its definition of an MSB.

The term, “affiliated party,” is added, which is similar to the current definition of the term, “money transmitter affiliated party,” in s. 560.113(12), F.S.; however, it excludes an authorized vendor and an independent contractor of a money transmitter (or MSB). These persons are excluded from the definition of affiliated party since they do not generally exercise financial or management control of a licensee.

Section 560.140, F.S., clarifies that an applicant must establish an anti-money laundering program, as a condition of licensure. Also, an applicant must be registered with FinCEN, if applicable. A licensee must maintain and update, as necessary, an anti-money laundering program in accordance with 31 CFR s. 103.125.

A licensee would be required to incur the costs of an examination. Presently, the licensure and renewal fees are the only funding sources available for this regulatory program. However, the revenue derived from fees does not adequately fund or allow for the establishment of a comprehensive, risk-based examination schedule by in-house examiners. The last increase in fees for ch. 560 licensees occurred in 2001. The bill requires the office to conduct an examination of a licensee at least once every 5 years. Currently, there is no statutory schedule and less than 40 percent of licensees have been examined during the last 5 years. Although the office currently has the authority to contract with third parties to conduct examinations, which could address some of their staffing issues, the office has never engaged contract examiners. The PCB also provides criteria relating to fees and the use of contract examiners.

The PCB increases the record retention period for licensees from 3 to 5 years. The federal Bank Secrecy Act requires MSBs registered with the federal government to retain records for 5 years. The office is authorized to require a licensee, at the licensee’s expense, to provide a certified translation of records that are written in a language other than English.

The PCB requires the office to make referrals of alleged violations of law that may be a felony to the appropriate criminal investigatory agency having jurisdiction. Only 11 referrals were made to one or more state or federal law enforcement agencies during the last four fiscal years (2003-04 through 2006-2007). Since July 1, 2007, the Division of Insurance Fraud of the Department of Financial Services has received two referrals.

The PCB authorizes the office to seek restitution on behalf of customers and allows the office to request the appointment of a receiver. Currently, these provisions are not addressed in ch. 560, F.S.

To evaluate the performance and resource needs of this regulatory program, the PCB requires the office to submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing its activities relating to the

regulation of ch. 560 entities, including examinations, investigations, referrals and the disposition of such referrals.

Part II – Payment Instruments and Funds Transmission

The PCB significantly revises the net worth (assets minus liabilities) requirements for part II licensees, by prohibiting the inclusion of the following assets in the calculation: goodwill, advances or loans to an affiliated party, receivables from officers, directors, shareholders, or affiliated parties other than receivables in the normal course of business, and homes, home furnishings, automobiles, and other personal items. Under current law, there are no exclusions for these assets. Section 560.103, F.S., establishes the definition of “adjusted net worth,” which excludes these assets. Under generally accepted accounting principles, many of these assets would be allowed for purposes of calculating net worth, unless certain criteria were met. The PCB increases the maximum net worth requirement per licensee from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. The PCB also reduces the net worth requirements per location from \$50,000 to \$10,000 per location.

Effective January 1, 2009, the notification process and requirements for a licensee pertaining to the registration of authorized agents is revised. Licensees would be required to notify the office prior to the agent engaging in business as an authorized agent of the licensee. Currently, a licensee must notify the office within 60 days after opening a location or authorizing an authorized agent to operate on behalf of the licensee.

The PCB provides that the licensee is responsible for the acts of its authorized agents within the scope of its written contract with the agent. The PCB requires a licensee to place customer assets in a segregated account and maintain separate accounts for operating capital and the clearing of customer funds. The PCB requires that transmitted funds must be available to the designated recipient within 10 business days after receipt.

Section 560.2085, specifies certain information that must be contained in the licensee’s written contract with an authorized agent. These items include the scope and nature of the relationship and responsibilities of the agent. The agent is required to: report to the licensee the theft or loss of currency for a transmission or payment instrument; remit all amounts owed to the licensee for all transmissions accepted and payment instruments sold pursuant to the contractual agreement; consent to an examination or investigation by the office; hold in trust such money until the time the money is forwarded to the licensee; and adhere to state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to a money services business. The licensee is required to develop and implement written internal audit policies and procedures to monitor compliance with applicable state and federal laws by its authorized agents.

To provide greater consumer protection, the PCB requires all part II licensees to submit annual financial audit reports, which are used to determine whether net worth and other safety and soundness requirements are met. Generally, a part II registrant is required to submit annual, audited financial statements unless it is exempt pursuant to s. 560.118(2)(a), F.S. The current exemption applies to licensees with 50 or fewer employees and agents and licensees with less than \$200,000 in transactions.

Part III – Check Cashing and Foreign Currency Exchange

The PCB eliminates the incidental business exemption from licensure for certain check cashers. Currently, the law provides that a person is engaged in check cashing which is incidental to its retail business if the check cashing compensation at each location does not exceed 5 percent of the total gross income of the retail business for the prior year. The PCB would require a check casher to register if it engages in a check cashing transaction that exceeds \$2,000 per person per day, per location. The PCB places the burden of establishing the right to an exemption on the party claiming the exemption.

The PCB requires a customer to present an acceptable form of identification, as specified in the bill, and provide a thumbprint for checks with a face value that exceeds \$1,000. Under current law, identification is not required to be provided by the customer. In fact, s. 560.309, F.S., allows a licensee to charge a higher fee if the customer does not provide proof of identification.

The PCB eliminates the ability of a check casher to charge a higher fee if the customer presenting the check does not provide identification. The federal BSA requires check cashers and other MSBs to verify the identity of their customers. Currently, a check casher may charge up to 5 percent of the face amount of a payment instrument, or 6 percent without the provision of an identification or \$5, whichever is greater, if such payment instrument is not the payment of any kind of state public assistance or federal social security benefit payable to the bearer of the payment instrument. For such state or federal payments, the fees are capped at 3 and 4 percent, respectively. The bill also requires check cashers to maintain a customer files on all customers who cash corporate or third party checks exceeding \$1,000.

Upon acceptance of a payment instrument that is cashed by the licensee, the payment instrument must be endorsed using the legal name under which the licensee is licensed. Also, a licensee is required to deposit or sell payment instruments within 5 business days after acceptance of the payment instrument.

The bill requires check cashers, subject to licensure requirements, to submit suspicious activity reports (SARs) to the federal government, if applicable. Currently, check cashers are not required to submit SARs under state or federal MSB laws. However, part II registrants are subject to the SARs requirements under state and federal laws.

Part IV – Deferred Presentment Provider Transactions (“Payday Loans”)

The PCB requires a deferred presentment provider (DPP) to notify the office with 15 business days after ceasing operations. Pursuant to s. 560.404, F.S., the office maintains a database of deferred presentment transactions to ensure that consumers do not have more than one outstanding transaction at any one time. The DPP is required to enter certain data regarding a transaction and verify whether any open deferred presentment transactions exist for a particular person. The office has encountered problems in which the vendor has ceased operations and has failed to reconcile open transactions in the database. The PCB authorizes the Financial Services Commission to adopt rules regarding the reconciliation of open transactions. If the DPP does not comply with the notice requirement, the office is authorized to take administrative action to release all open and pending transactions in the database after the office becomes aware of the closure.

Section 560.404(24), F.S. prohibits a deferred presentment provider from accepting more than one check or authorization to initiate more than one automated clearinghouse transaction to collect on a deferred presentment transaction for a single transaction. The office noted situations in which the consumer takes out a \$500 loan, but the payday lender has the customer issue five separate checks. This practice has resulted in the payday lender being able to collect multiple insufficient fund fees if the consumer does not have sufficient funds in their account to cover the multiple checks.

The bill provides that no deferred presentment provider shall assess the costs of collections, other than charges for insufficient funds as allowed by law, without a judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction. This provision addresses the situation in which a check is dishonored and the DPP charges an extra fee, in addition to the insufficient funds fee, because the licensee has turned the issue over to a collection agency. This same provision has been added to s. 560.309, F.S., relating to check cashers.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. None. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The PCB requires that every licensee must be examined at least once every 5 years by the office or contract examiners and requires licensees to incur the costs of an examination. Presently, the licensee does not pay an examination fee and only pays license application and renewal fees.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The increased requirements and regulatory oversight of MSBs may result in greater prevention and detection of money laundering activities and avoidance of paying worker's compensation premiums and state and federal taxes.

The oversight and regulation of MSBs would be enhanced by mandating that every licensee must be examined at least once every 5 years by the office or contract examiners. The bill requires licensees to incur the costs of an examination, as noted in Tax/Fee Issues, above. The current revenues derived from license registration and renewal fees do

not adequately fund examination by in-house staffing. The office is presently authorized to contract with third parties to conduct such examinations; however, the office has never exercised this option.

An indeterminate number of check cashers who are currently exempt from licensure would be required to be licensed due to the change in the exemption criteria. These entities would be required to submit a \$250 fee for initial licensure and a renewal fee of \$500 every two years and to otherwise meet licensure requirements.

The PCB eliminates the additional fee that can be imposed on a customer cashing a check who cashes a check without providing a form of identification at the time of the transaction. The bill requires customers to present an acceptable form of identification together with a thumbprint for checks that exceed \$1,000.

The bill requires part II registrant to notify the office prior to an authorized agent engaging in transactions on behalf of the licensee. Presently, the licensee has 60 days after opening a location or engaging an authorized agent to notify the office.

The bill authorizes the office to examine the books and records of an authorized agent. However, the licensee is responsible for retaining specified records for a period of 5 years, and providing records to the office upon request. If an authorized agent is terminated, it could be difficult or impossible to locate such authorized agents or records relating to the licensee.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill requires the office to make referrals of alleged felony violations to the appropriate law enforcement agency, which will greatly assist law enforcement in tracking down and ultimately prosecuting persons engaged in criminal activities in a timely manner.

The number of additional check cashers that would be subject to regulation and application fee revenues derived from these entities is indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
