

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5176

As Passed House
April 8, 1993

Title: An act relating to the cashing of government issued checks or warrants.

Brief Description: Concerning the cashing of government issued checks or warrants.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Vognild, Pelz, Moore, Wojahn and Fraser).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:

Financial Institutions & Insurance, April 1, 1993, DPA;
Passed House - Amended, April 8, 1993, 97-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 16 members: Representatives Zellinsky, Chair; Scott, Vice Chair; Mielke, Ranking Minority Member; Dyer, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson; Dellwo; Dorn; Grant; R. Johnson; Kessler; Kremen; Lemmon; R. Meyers; Reams; Schmidt; and Tate.

Staff: John Conniff (786-7119).

Background: Some financial institutions will not cash a government issued check or public assistance check for a non-customer. Those institutions that will cash such checks sometimes charge a fee for the service. Some institutions charge a fixed fee, ranging from less than \$1 to \$7. Other institutions charge a fee of approximately 2 percent of the face amount of the check. Many of these financial institutions are qualified public depositories that hold public funds.

Qualified public depositories are those financial institutions approved by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission to accept public funds and include many commercial banks, savings banks, and savings and loan associations.

Summary of Bill: State financial institution regulators in conjunction with the State Treasurer's Office and the Department of Social and Health Services are required to study methods to facilitate fund transfers from the state to public assistance recipients including limitation on check cashing fees, low cost checking accounts, and greater use of automated fund transfer systems.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: None.