
HOUSE BILL 1458

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Zellinsky, Mielke, Dorn, R. Johnson and Fuhrman

Read first time 01/29/93. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance.

1 AN ACT Relating to regulating the assignment of retail charge
2 agreements; amending RCW 63.14.010; adding a new section to chapter
3 63.14 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 63.14.010 and 1992 c 134 s 16 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (1) "Goods" means all chattels personal when purchased primarily
9 for personal, family, or household use and not for commercial or
10 business use, but not including money or, except as provided in the
11 next sentence, things in action. The term includes but is not limited
12 to merchandise certificates or coupons, issued by a retail seller, to
13 be used in their face amount in lieu of cash in exchange for goods or
14 services sold by such a seller and goods which, at the time of sale or
15 subsequently, are to be so affixed to real property as to become a part
16 thereof, whether or not severable therefrom;

17 (2) "Lender credit card" means a card or device under a lender
18 credit card agreement pursuant to which the issuer gives to a
19 cardholder residing in this state the privilege of obtaining credit

1 from the issuer or other persons in purchasing or leasing property or
2 services, obtaining loans, or otherwise, and the issuer of which is
3 not: (a) Principally engaged in the business of selling goods; or (b)
4 a financial institution;

5 (3) "Lender credit card agreement" means an agreement entered into
6 or performed in this state prescribing the terms of retail installment
7 transactions pursuant to which the issuer may, with the buyer's
8 consent, purchase or acquire one or more retail sellers' indebtedness
9 of the buyer under a sales slip or memorandum evidencing the purchase,
10 lease, loan, or otherwise to be paid in accordance with the agreement.
11 The issuer of a lender credit card agreement shall not be principally
12 engaged in the business of selling goods or be a financial institution;

13 (4) "Financial institution" means any bank or trust company, mutual
14 savings bank, credit union, or savings and loan association organized
15 pursuant to the laws of any one of the United States of America or the
16 United States of America, or the laws of a foreign country if also
17 qualified to conduct business in any one of the United States of
18 America or pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;

19 (5) "Services" means work, labor, or services of any kind when
20 purchased primarily for personal, family, or household use and not for
21 commercial or business use whether or not furnished in connection with
22 the delivery, installation, servicing, repair, or improvement of goods
23 and includes repairs, alterations, or improvements upon or in
24 connection with real property, but does not include services for which
25 the price charged is required by law to be determined or approved by or
26 to be filed, subject to approval or disapproval, with the United States
27 or any state, or any department, division, agency, officer, or official
28 of either as in the case of transportation services;

29 (6) "Retail buyer" or "buyer" means a person who buys or agrees to
30 buy goods or obtain services or agrees to have services rendered or
31 furnished, from a retail seller;

32 (7) "Retail seller" or "seller" means a person engaged in the
33 business of selling goods or services to retail buyers;

34 (8) "Retail installment transaction" means any transaction in which
35 a retail buyer purchases goods or services from a retail seller
36 pursuant to a retail installment contract, a retail charge agreement,
37 or a lender credit card agreement, as defined in this section, which
38 provides for a service charge, as defined in this section, and under
39 which the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid balance in one or more

1 installments or which provides for no service charge and under which
2 the buyer agrees to pay the unpaid balance in more than four
3 installments;

4 (9) "Retail installment contract" or "contract" means a contract,
5 other than a retail charge agreement, a lender credit card agreement,
6 or an instrument reflecting a sale made pursuant thereto, entered into
7 or performed in this state for a retail installment transaction. The
8 term "retail installment contract" may include a chattel mortgage, a
9 conditional sale contract, and a contract in the form of a bailment or
10 a lease if the bailee or lessee contracts to pay as compensation for
11 their use a sum substantially equivalent to or in excess of the value
12 of the goods sold and if it is agreed that the bailee or lessee is
13 bound to become, or for no other or a merely nominal consideration, has
14 the option of becoming the owner of the goods upon full compliance with
15 the provisions of the bailment or lease. The term "retail installment
16 contract" does not include: (a) A "consumer lease," heretofore or
17 hereafter entered into, as defined in RCW 63.10.020; (b) a lease which
18 would constitute such "consumer lease" but for the fact that: (i) It
19 was entered into before April 29, 1983; (ii) the lessee was not a
20 natural person; (iii) the lease was not primarily for personal, family,
21 or household purposes; or (iv) the total contractual obligations
22 exceeded twenty-five thousand dollars; or (c) a lease-purchase
23 agreement under chapter 63.19 RCW;

24 (10) "Retail charge agreement," "revolving charge agreement," or
25 "charge agreement" means an agreement between a retail buyer and a
26 retail seller or another person that is entered into or performed in
27 this state ((prescribing)) and that prescribes the terms of retail
28 installment transactions which may be ((made thereunder)) financed from
29 time to time and under the terms of which a service charge, as defined
30 in this section, is to be computed in relation to the buyer's unpaid
31 balance from time to time. A retail charge agreement may be assigned.
32 Except as exempt under RCW 63.14.165, a retail installment transaction
33 financed under an agreement after assignment is regulated under this
34 chapter as a transaction under a retail charge agreement;

35 (11) "Service charge" however denominated or expressed, means the
36 amount which is paid or payable for the privilege of purchasing goods
37 or services to be paid for by the buyer in installments over a period
38 of time. It does not include the amount, if any, charged for insurance

1 premiums, delinquency charges, attorneys' fees, court costs, or
2 official fees;

3 (12) "Sale price" means the price for which the seller would have
4 sold or furnished to the buyer, and the buyer would have bought or
5 obtained from the seller, the goods or services which are the subject
6 matter of a retail installment transaction. The sale price may include
7 any taxes, registration and license fees, and charges for transferring
8 vehicle titles, delivery, installation, servicing, repairs,
9 alterations, or improvements;

10 (13) "Official fees" means the amount of the fees prescribed by law
11 for filing, recording, or otherwise perfecting, and releasing or
12 satisfying, a retained title, lien, or other security interest created
13 by a retail installment transaction;

14 (14) "Time balance" means the principal balance plus the service
15 charge;

16 (15) "Principal balance" means the sale price of the goods or
17 services which are the subject matter of a retail installment contract
18 less the amount of the buyer's down payment in money or goods or both,
19 plus the amounts, if any, included therein, if a separate identified
20 charge is made therefor and stated in the contract, for insurance and
21 official fees;

22 (16) "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture,
23 corporation, association, or any other group, however organized;

24 (17) "Rate" means the percentage which, when multiplied times the
25 outstanding balance for each month or other installment period, yields
26 the amount of the service charge for such month or period.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 63.14 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 No person may pursue any remedy alleging a violation of this
30 chapter on the basis of any act or omission that does not constitute a
31 violation of this chapter as amended by section 1, chapter . . . , Laws
32 of 1993 (section 1 of this act), this section, and section 3, chapter
33 . . . , Laws of 1993 (section 3 of this act). For purposes of this
34 section, the phrase "pursue any remedy" includes pleading a defense,
35 asserting a counterclaim or right of offset or recoupment, commencing,
36 maintaining, or continuing any legal action, or pursuing or defending
37 any appeal. This section applies to all actions not final as of the
38 date of enactment of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies retrospectively as well as
2 prospectively.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
6 effect immediately.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
8 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
9 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
10 persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- END ---