
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MONEY TRANSMITTERS MODERNIZATION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 489D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "permissible investments"
3 to read as follows:

4 ""Permissible investments" means:

- 5 (1) Cash;
- 6 (2) Certificates of deposit or other debt obligations of a
7 financial institution, either domestic or foreign;
- 8 (3) Bills of exchange or time drafts drawn on and accepted
9 by a commercial bank, known as bankers' acceptances,
10 that are eligible for purchase by member banks of the
11 Federal Reserve System;
- 12 (4) Any investment bearing a rating of one of the three
13 highest grades as defined by a nationally recognized
14 organization that rates securities;
- 15 (5) Investment securities that are obligations of the
16 United States, its agencies, or its instrumentalities,
17 obligations that are guaranteed fully as to principal
18 and interest by the United States, or any obligations

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- 1 of any state, municipality, or any political
2 subdivision thereof;
- 3 (6) Shares in a money market mutual fund, interest-bearing
4 bills, notes, or bonds, debentures or stock traded on
5 any national securities exchange or on a national
6 over-the-counter market, mutual funds primarily
7 composed of these securities, or a fund composed of
8 one or more permissible investments as set forth in
9 paragraphs (1) to (5);
- 10 (7) Any demand borrowing agreement or agreements made with
11 a corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose
12 capital stock is listed on a national exchange;
- 13 (8) Receivables that are due to a licensee from its
14 authorized delegates pursuant to a contract under
15 section 489D-21, that are not past due or doubtful of
16 collection; [~~or~~]
- 17 (9) Receivables that are due to the licensee from its
18 payment processors for debit or credit card
19 transactions authorized by the licensee's customers
20 for money transmission services obtained from the
21 licensee; or

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1 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) Any other investments or security device
2 approved by the commissioner."

3 SECTION 2. Section 489D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) A licensee shall maintain at all times a tangible net
6 worth of the greater of:

7 (1) \$100,000 [~~or three per cent of tangible assets for the~~
8 ~~first \$100,000,000;~~

9 ~~(2) Two per cent of additional assets for \$100,000,000 to~~
10 ~~\$1,000,000,000; and~~

11 ~~(3) 0.5 per cent of additional assets for over~~
12 ~~\$1,000,000,000.]; or~~

13 (2) The total of

14 (A) Three per cent of total assets for the first
15 \$100,000,000; and

16 (B) Two per cent of additional assets for
17 \$100,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000; and

18 (C) 0.5 per cent of additional assets for over
19 \$1,000,000,000.

20 ~~[Tangible net worth at all times shall be calculated in~~
21 ~~accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.]"~~

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1 SECTION 3. Section 489D-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§489D-10~~ **Application and license fees.** (a) Each
4 application shall be accompanied by[+]

5 ~~(1)~~ A] a nonrefundable application fee in the amount of
6 \$5,000 [~~+and~~

7 ~~(2)~~ ~~An initial annual license fee of \$5,000].~~

8 (b) [~~The license fee shall be refunded if the application~~
9 ~~is denied.~~] An initial license fee of \$5,000 shall be assessed
10 upon approval of the application."

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
14 on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Madeline K. Puelker

17

BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2025

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Report Title:

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Division of Financial Institutions; Money Transmitter; Permissible Investments

Description:

Aligns the State's Money Transmitters Modernization Act with the Model Money Transmitters Modernization Act, thereby enabling Hawaii to work within a network of states to license, supervise, and examine transglobal money transmission companies as a multistate system; adopts nationwide standards that provide clarity and consistency in calculating the tangible net worth of licensees; ensures that licensees have sufficient financial resources to conduct their business in a safe and sound manner; and promotes efficiency throughout the licensing process.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MONEY TRANSMITTERS MODERNIZATION ACT.

PURPOSE: To align the State's money transmitters law with the Model Money Transmitters Modernization Act, thereby enabling Hawaii to work within a network of states to license, supervise, and examine transglobal money transmission companies as a multi-state system; to clarify that the tangible net worth calculation is calculated using total assets, which is the aggregate assets of a licensee; to ensure that licensees have sufficient financial resources to conduct their businesses in a safe and sound manner and to promote efficiency throughout the licensing process with consistent requirements for financial condition.

MEANS: Amend the definition of "permissible investments" in section 489D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and amend sections 489D-6(a) and 489D-10, HRS.

JUSTIFICATION: Currently, financial components of the Money Transmitters Modernization Act, chapter 489D, HRS, are based on an older model law. The new definition and calculation of tangible net worth financial condition will comport with nationwide standards. Tangible assets differ from total assets in that they exclude all intangible assets, less liabilities, as determined in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles. The tangible net worth financial condition requirement calculation would ensure that licensees can operate and conduct their business in a safe and sound manner across the nation and in Hawaii. The amendments incorporate an updated definition of "permissible investments" that includes certain receivables, provides clarification that tangible net worth is based on "total

assets", and provides assurance that licensees can operate and conduct business activities in a safe and sound manner.

The bill also streamlines the application process by removing the refundable \$5,000 requirement for the initial license fee upon denial of a license and instead allow the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department to collect the initial licensee fee when the application is approved. The process of refunding fees upon denial of licensure during the application process is cumbersome and is frustrating to the applicant. The processing of the refunds takes approximately 8-10 weeks and refunds are treated as the division's expenses instead of the money transmitter's expenses.

Impact on the public: These amendments will protect consumers and help the Division of Financial Institutions to license, regulate, and supervise nationally and globally operating money transmission companies without impacting money transmission businesses that operate regionally or in a single state. The amendments will further align Hawaii's law with the Money Transmitter Model Act. Customers and consumers will have the assurance that the money transmitter company is operating in a safe and sound manner using national standards.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
None.

GENERAL FUNDS: None.
OTHER FUNDS: None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: CCA-104.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025.