STATE OF NEW YORK

8340

IN SENATE

May 2, 2018

Introduced by Sen. PHILLIPS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Banks

AN ACT to amend the banking law, in relation to internet lending services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The banking law is amended by adding a new article 3-C to 2 read as follows:

INTERNET LENDING SERVICES Section 156. Limited state charter for internet lending services. 156-a. Establishment of an internet lending services corration. 156-b. Application for a limited state charter. 156-c. General powers and limitations. 10 156-d. Regulation and examination of the limited state charter internet lending services corporation; grounds revocation or suspension of the limited state charter procedure. 14 156-e. Books and records; reports. 15 156-f. Restrictions concerning advertising; liens on restate; and names under which loans are made. 17 156-g. Restrictions on loans subject to the provisions of the article; interest; other charges. 19 156-h. Acts required of state chartered internet lending services corporations; acts prohibited.
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156-b. Application for a limited state charter. 156-c. General powers and limitations. 10 156-d. Regulation and examination of the limited state charter. 11 internet lending services corporation; grounds revocation or suspension of the limited state charter. 12 procedure. 14 156-e. Books and records; reports. 15 156-f. Restrictions concerning advertising; liens on restate; and names under which loans are made. 17 156-g. Restrictions on loans subject to the provisions of the article; interest; other charges. 19 156-h. Acts required of state chartered internet lending services corporations; acts prohibited.
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18 <u>article; interest; other charges.</u> 19 <u>156-h. Acts required of state chartered internet lend</u> 20 <u>services corporations; acts prohibited.</u>
19 <u>156-h. Acts required of state chartered internet lend</u> 20 <u>services corporations; acts prohibited.</u>
20 services corporations; acts prohibited.
21 <u>156-i. Limitation on state chartered internet lending servi</u>
22 <u>corporations' charges on loans.</u>
23 <u>156-j. Restrictions on assignments of compensation for service</u>
24 <u>156-k. Solicitation of loans.</u>
25 <u>156-1. Insurance.</u>
26 <u>156-m. Penalties.</u>
27 <u>156-n. Authority of superintendent.</u>

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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156-o. Short title.
156-p. Severability.

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 § 156. Limited state charter for internet lending services. The department shall recognize a limited state charter for internet lending services. Any entity seeking to be awarded such limited state charter shall comply with all the requirements of this article. Upon the granting of such limited state charter, the internet lending services corporation shall be subject to all of the regulations of the superintendent authorized under this article.

§ 156-a. Establishment of an internet lending services corporation.

1. To apply for a limited state charter to operate under this article as an internet lending services corporation, the entity shall establish a business corporation pursuant to the business corporation law, specifying in its articles of incorporation that the purpose for which it is formed, is that the corporation shall operate as an internet lending services corporation in accordance with this article.

2. Any internet lending services corporation formed under the business corporation law shall specify a home office of the corporation within New York state, and shall apply to the superintendent for a limited state charter to operate under this article, within thirty days of being recognized as a business corporation by the department of state. No lending services corporation shall conduct any lending services authorized under this article, until such time as it has been awarded its limited state charter by the superintendent.

§ 156-b. Application for a limited state charter. 1. An internet lending services corporation may apply to the superintendent for a limited state charter to operate as a lending services corporation in accordance with this article. The superintendent shall develop an application for an internet lending services corporation, to apply for such limited state charter, pursuant to the qualifications specified under this chapter.

- 2. The application for the limited state charter shall be in writing and signed under oath by the chief executive officer of the corporation that all the information provided therein is accurate and correct. At the time of the making of the application for the limited state charter, the applicant corporation shall pay to the superintendent a fee as prescribed pursuant to section eighteen-a of this chapter for investigating the application.
- 3. In connection with an application for a limited state charter under this article, the applicant corporation shall submit an affidavit of financial solvency, and signed under oath by the chief financial officer of the corporation noting such capitalization requirements and access to such credit as may be prescribed by the regulations of the superintendent.
- 4. The applicant corporation shall also prove, in form satisfactory to the superintendent, that the applicant has available for the operation of the business as a state chartered internet lending services corporation liquid assets of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars. This amount shall be maintained for the period within which the applicant makes loans in the amounts prescribed in subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article.
- 5. In the event the superintendent does not approve the corporation's application submitted pursuant to this section, within sixty days of its submission, such application shall be deemed approved unless the superintendent can demonstrate, in writing, that such application does not meet the legal requirements of this article, or that the financial

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responsibility, experience, character, and general fitness of the officers and/or directors of the applicant internet lending services corporation, are such as to not command the confidence of the community nor to warrant belief that the business will be operated honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this article.

- 6. If the superintendent shall find that the applicant has otherwise met the requirements of this article, and would be available for the operation of the business of being an internet lending services corporation, and can maintain and operate a secure internet or other type of electronic platform for the conduct of such business, and can maintain liquid assets of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars, then the superintendent shall thereupon issue such internet lending service corporation a limited state charter to make loans in accordance with the provisions of this article.
- 7. Upon the issuance of the limited state charter, the superintendent shall transmit one copy of such limited state charter to the applicant internet lending services corporation and file the same in the office of the department. Each such limited state charter shall remain in full force and effect until it is surrendered by the internet lending services corporation or until it is revoked or suspended, or until the internet lending services corporation is dissolved as a business corpo-
- § 156-c. General powers and limitations. Every state chartered internet lending services corporation shall, subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this chapter, have the following powers and limitations:
- 1. To engage in the business of making loans over an internet or electronic platform, and to provide a customer with the funds of an approved loan, whereby the application of the customer seeking the loan is taken, and such loan is approved or denied, by the internet lending services corporation, over the internet, or by other electronic means approved by the superintendent.
- 2. Pursuant to subdivision one of this section, make loans and collect payments on a loan in the principal amount of twenty-five thousand dollars or less, for any loan to an individual for personal, family, household, or investment purposes; and in a principal amount of fifty thousand dollars or less, for business and commercial loans; and charge, contract for, or receive a rate of interest in accordance with the provisions of this article.
- 3. For the purposes of this section, an internet lending services corporation shall be considered as engaging in the business of making loans in New York, and subject to the requirements of this article, if such internet lending services corporation solicits loans in the amounts prescribed by this section, within this state, and in connection with such solicitation, makes loans to individuals then resident in this state.
- 4. No internet lending services corporation, or any other person or entity shall be considered as engaging in the business of making loans in this state in violation of this article, if such entity is licensed 50 or regulated by any federal entity responsible for licensing or regulat-51 ing banking and/or loan making entities.
- 5. No internet lending services corporation, or any other person or entity, that does not maintain a limited state charter in accordance 54 with this article, or that is not licensed or regulated by any federal entity responsible for licensing or regulating banking and/or loan making entities, or that is not otherwise authorized to engage in the

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 business of making loans pursuant to this chapter, shall engage in the business of making loans over an internet or electronic platform.

- § 156-d. Regulation and examination of the limited state chartered internet lending services corporation; grounds for revocation or suspension of the limited state charter; procedure. 1. An internet lending services corporation that is issued a limited state charter pursuant to this article shall be subject to the regulation of, and examination by, the superintendent in accordance with the provisions of this article.
- 2. The superintendent is authorized to examine a limited state chartered internet lending services corporation in accordance with this article. For the purpose of discovering violations of this article or securing information lawfully required pursuant thereto, the superintendent may at any time, and as often as may be determined, either personally or by a person duly designated by the superintendent, investigate the loans and business and examine the books, accounts, records, and files used therein of every limited state chartered internet lending services corporation. For that purpose the superintendent and duly designated representatives shall have free access to the offices and place of business, books, accounts, papers, records, files, computers, networks, electronic platforms, safes and vaults of all such limited state chartered internet lending services corporations. The superintendent shall further have authority to require the attendance of, and to examine under oath, all persons whomsoever whose testimony may be required relative to such loans or such business.
- 3. The superintendent may impose a fine in accordance with section forty-four of this chapter, or suspend or revoke any license issued pursuant to this article if the superintendent shall find that:
- (a) the state chartered internet lending services corporation has failed to pay any sum of money lawfully demanded by the superintendent or to comply with any lawful demand, ruling, or requirement of the superintendent;
- (b) the state chartered internet lending services corporation has violated any provisions of this article, the act of congress entitled "Truth in Lending Act" and the regulations thereunder, as such act and regulations may from time to time be amended, or of any rule or regulation lawfully made by the superintendent; or
- (c) any fact or condition exists which, if it had existed at the time of the original application for such limited state charter, clearly would have warranted the superintendent in refusing originally to issue such limited state charter.
- 4. The superintendent may, upon written notice to a state chartered internet lending services corporation, and upon good cause shown, and with a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the state administrative procedure act, suspend any limited state charter for a period not exceeding sixty days, pending investigation. Upon written notice to the state chartered internet lending services corporation, and upon good cause, prior to the hearing required by this subdivision, the superintendent may issue an emergency suspension of a limited state charter, for a period not exceeding five days.
- 5. Any state chartered internet lending services corporation may
 surrender its limited state charter by delivering to the superintendent
 written notice that such internet lending services corporation thereby
 surrenders such limited state charter, but such surrender shall not
 affect such internet lending services corporation's civil or criminal
 liability for acts committed prior to such surrender. Any dissolution of
 an internet lending services corporation in accordance with the business

corporation law, shall be deemed to constitute a surrender of its limited state charter in accordance with this subdivision.

- 6. No revocation or suspension or surrender of any limited state charter under this article shall impair or affect the obligation of any pre-existing lawful contract between the state chartered internet lending services corporation and any borrower.
- 7. Every limited state charter issued under this article shall remain in force and effect until it shall have been surrendered, revoked, or suspended in accordance with the provisions of this article, but the superintendent shall further have the authority to reinstate suspended limited state charters or to issue new limited state charters to an internet lending services corporation whose limited state charter shall have been revoked if no fact or condition then exists which clearly would have warranted the superintendent in refusing originally to issue such limited state charter under this article.
- 8. In addition to any other requirements of this article, whenever the superintendent shall revoke or suspend a limited state charter issued pursuant to this article, the superintendent shall execute a written order to that effect and serve a copy of the same upon such internet lending services corporation in accordance with this subdivision. The superintendent shall further file one copy of such order in the office of the department and serve a copy upon such internet lending services corporation, which order may be reviewed in the manner provided by article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules. Such special proceeding for review as authorized by this section must be commenced within thirty days from the date such order of suspension or revocation was served upon such internet lending services corporation.
- § 156-e. Books and records; reports. 1. Each state chartered internet lending services corporation shall keep and use in its business such books, accounts, and records as will enable the superintendent to determine whether such state chartered internet lending services corporation is complying with the provisions of this article and with the rules and regulations lawfully made by the superintendent pursuant thereto.
- 2. Every state chartered internet lending services corporation shall preserve such books, accounts, and records, for at least two years after making the final entry on any loan recorded therein. Preservation of photographic reproduction thereof or records in photographic form, including an optical disk storage system and the use of electronic data processing equipment that provides comparable records to those otherwise required and which are available for examination upon request shall constitute compliance with the requirements of this section.
- 3. Each state chartered internet lending services corporation shall annually, on or before the first day of April, file a report with the superintendent giving such information as the superintendent may require concerning the business and operations during the preceding calendar year concerning the state chartered internet lending services corporation's business conducted within the state under authority of this article. Such report shall be subscribed and affirmed as true by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the state chartered internet lending services corporation, under penalty of perjury, and shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent who shall make and publish annually a consolidated statement of condition showing the combined assets and liabilities of all state chartered internet lending services corporations. Such consolidated statement of condition shall be based upon the information contained in such reports. In addition to annual reports, the superintendent may require, upon good cause,

such additional regular or special reports as may be deemed necessary to the proper supervision of the state chartered internet lending services corporation under this article. Such additional reports shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall also be subscribed and affirmed as true by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the state chartered internet lending services corporation, under the penalty of perjury.

- § 156-f. Restrictions concerning advertising; liens on real estate; and names under which loans are made. 1. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall advertise, print, display, publish, distribute, or broadcast or cause or permit to be advertised, printed, displayed, published, distributed, or broadcasted, in any manner whatsoever any statement or representation with regard to the rates, terms, or conditions for the loaning of money, credit, goods, or things in action which is false, misleading or deceptive, or in violation of chapter three of the act of congress entitled "Truth in Lending Act" and the regulations thereunder, as such act and regulations may from time to time be amended.
- 2. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall further make, directly or indirectly, orally or in writing, by any method, practice or device, any representation that it is chartered under this chapter, except a representation that such internet lending services corporation is chartered as a state chartered internet lending services corporation by the department or except as authorized in writing by the superintendent.
- 3. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall take a lien upon real estate as security for any loan under the provisions of this article, unless such lien is less than or equal to the amount of the loan authorized pursuant to subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article, or except if such lien as is created by law upon the recording of a judgment.
- 4. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall transact business or make any loan provided for by this article under any other name than that named in its limited state charter, except as may be authorized by the superintendent.
- § 156-g. Restrictions on loans subject to the provisions of this article; interest; other charges. 1. Every internet lending services corporation issued a limited state charter under this article may loan any sum of money not exceeding the maximum principal amounts prescribed in subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article, and may, subject to the provisions of this article, charge, contract for, and receive thereon interest at the rate or rates agreed to by the state chartered internet lending services corporation and the borrower.
- 2. The rate of interest on any loan made pursuant to this article may: (a) be calculated on the actual unpaid principal balances of the loan; or
- (b) in the case of a loan commitment from the date of each advance thereunder for the actual time outstanding, be calculated according to a generally accepted actuarial method at a fixed or variable rate and in accordance with the provisions of the evidence of the indebtedness; or
 - (c) be precomputed under subdivision seven of this section.
- 3. On any loan with a variable rate of interest made pursuant to this article, the rate shall be determined at regular intervals as set forth in the evidence of indebtedness and in accordance with such regulations as the superintendent shall prescribe, but said rate shall not vary more

often than once in any three month period and shall be based on a published index that is:

(a) readily available;

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- (b) independently verifiable;
- 5 (c) beyond the control of the state chartered internet lending 6 services corporation; and
 - (d) approved by the superintendent.
 - 4. The superintendent shall adopt regulations to provide for the following including, but not limited to:
- 10 (a) disclosure to the borrower by the state chartered internet lending 11 services corporation of the circumstances under which the rate may increase, any limitations on the increase, the effect of an increase and 12 an example of the payment terms that would result from an increase; 13
- 14 (b) disclosure to the borrower by the the state chartered internet lending services corporation of a history of the fluctuations of the index over a reasonable period of time; and
- (c) notice to the borrower from the state chartered internet lending services corporation prior to any rate increase or change in the terms 18 19 of payment.
 - 5. Loans may be granted under this article for an open end or closed end loan agreement providing for a fixed or variable rate.
 - 6. Interest, consideration, or charges for the use of money under this article shall not be deducted or received in advance, and shall be computed on unpaid principal balances. Such interest, consideration, or charges shall not be compounded; provided that, if part or all of the principal amount of any loan contract is the unpaid principal balance of a prior loan, the unpaid interest, consideration or charges for the use of money on such prior loan which have accrued within sixty days before the making of such loan contract may be incorporated as interest bearing principal in the principal amount of such loan contract, and for the purposes of this subdivision any such new loan shall be deemed a separate loan transaction.
 - 7. When a closed-end loan agreement requires repayment in substantially equal and consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest combined, the interest may be precomputed at the agreed rate on scheduled unpaid principal balances according to the terms of the agreement and added to the principal amount of the loan. Every payment may be applied to the combined total of principal and precomputed interest until the loan agreement is fully paid and the acceptance or payment of interest on loans made under the provisions of this subdivision shall not be deemed to constitute payment, deduction or receipt thereof in advance nor compounding under subdivision six of this section. Such precomputed interest shall be subject to the following adjustments:
- (a) If the loan agreement is prepaid in full by cash, a new loan, 44 45 refinancing or otherwise before the final installment date, the borrower 46 shall receive a refund of:
 - (i) the unearned portion of the interest the amount of which portion shall be determined according to a generally accepted actuarial method; provided, however, that if the amount of precomputed interest:
 - (A) is less than ten dollars, then no refund shall be required; or
- 51 (B) exceeds the sum of ten dollars and the earned interest is less 52 than that amount, then the state chartered internet lending services 53 corporation may retain such an additional amount as will bring the 54 earned interest to ten dollars and refund the remainder, and provided 55 further, that unless the loan is refinanced, no refund shall be required if it amounts to less than one dollar; and

(ii) if a charge was made to the borrower for credit related insurance for insuring the borrower the excess of the charge to the borrower therefor over the insurance charges paid or payable by the state chartered internet lending services corporation, if such insurance charges were paid or payable by the state chartered internet lending services corporation periodically, or the refund for such insurance charges received or receivable by the state chartered internet lending services corporation, if such premium was paid or payable in a lump sum by the state chartered internet lending services corporation, provided that no such refund shall be required if it amounts to less than ten dollars.

(b) In the event:

- (i) the maturity of the loan is accelerated due to the default of the borrower or otherwise and judgment is obtained; or
- (ii) repayment is made pursuant to any credit related insurance policy for which a charge was made to the borrower for the premium thereon,
- the borrower or legal representative, as the case may be, shall be entitled to the same refund of interest and insurance charges as if the loan had been prepaid in full on the date of acceleration or repayment.
- (c) (i) In the event of default of more than ten days in the payment of any scheduled installment, the state chartered internet lending services corporation may charge and collect a default charge not exceeding five percent of the installment in default. This charge may not be collected more than once for the same default and may be collected at the time of such default or at any time thereafter.
- (ii) After the final due date or upon acceleration of maturity for default, the state chartered internet lending services corporation may charge interest at the original agreed rate on actual unpaid balances if the loan agreement so provides.
- (d) If payment of all unpaid installments on which no default charge has been charged and collected is deferred one or more full months, and if the loan agreement so provides, the state chartered internet lending services corporation may charge and collect an amount which shall be equal to the difference between the refund that would be required for prepayment in full as of the scheduled due date of the first deferred installment and the amount which would be required for prepayment in full as of one month prior to said date, multiplied by the number of months in the deferment period. The deferment period is that period in which no scheduled payment has been made and in which no payment is required by reason of the deferment. Such charge may be collected at the time of deferment or may be collected at any time thereafter. If a refund of precomputed interest is required during a deferment period the borrower shall also receive a refund of the deferment charge for the number of months remaining in said period, for which purpose a portion of a month exceeding fifteen days shall be deemed a month.
- (e) If two or more installments or parts thereof are in default for five days or more, the state chartered internet lending services corporation may, if the loan agreement so provides, elect to convert the loan from a precomputed one to one in which interest is paid on actual unpaid balances. In this event, the state chartered internet lending services corporation shall make the same refund of interest as if the loan were prepaid in full on the scheduled payment due date preceding the date of conversion and thereafter may charge interest at the agreed rate, by the actuarial method, on actual unpaid balances for the time actually outstanding.
- 8. (a) In addition to the interest, consideration, or charges specified in this section, no further or other charge or amount whatsoever

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for any examination, service, brokerage, commission, expense, fee, or 1 bonus or other thing or otherwise shall be directly or indirectly 2 3 charged, contracted for, or received, except the premium or identifiable 4 charge for insurance authorized by section one hundred fifty-six-l of 5 this article; the lawful fees, if any, actually and necessarily paid out 6 by the state chartered internet lending services corporation to any 7 public officer for filing, recording, or releasing in any public office 8 any instrument securing the loan, which fees may be collected when the 9 loan is made or at any time thereafter or non-filing insurance premiums 10 not in excess of ten dollars in lieu of filing, recording or releasing 11 any such instrument; an annual fee on open end loans authorized by the superintendent and made pursuant to subdivision five of this section, 12 13 provided, however, that no such fee shall exceed an amount equal to one 14 percent of the amount of the loan or fifty dollars, whichever is less; and a fee, not to exceed the amount set forth in section 5-328 of the 15 16 general obligations law, for return by a depository institution of a 17 dishonored check, negotiable order of withdrawal, or share draft. 18

- (b) Any state chartered internet lending services corporation which knowingly receives, reserves or charges a greater rate of interest than that authorized by this section shall forfeit the entire interest which the note, or other evidence of debt carries with it, or which has been agreed to be paid thereon, and if a greater rate of interest has been paid, the person paying the same or his legal representative may recover from the state chartered internet lending services corporation twice the entire amount of interest thus paid.
- (c) In addition to other such information as the superintendent may require, any state chartered internet lending services corporation which charges an annual fee on open-end loan accounts shall annually report, in a manner and form prescribed by the superintendent, information to the department on open-end loan borrowers, which shall include:
 - (i) the average annual income of borrowers at the time of the loan;
- (ii) the average amount of loans outstanding at the end of each calendar year;
- (iii) the average interest charged, average amount of annual fees; and (iv) the geographic distribution of loans made by the state chartered internet lending services corporation.
- § 156-h. Acts required of state chartered internet lending services corporations; acts prohibited. 1. Every state chartered internet lending services corporation shall:
- (a) Deliver to the borrower at the time any loan is made or prior to the first advance under an open-end loan agreement, a statement, in the English language, which may be in electronic form, showing in clear and distinct terms the name and address of the borrower and of the state chartered internet lending services corporation and all items required to be disclosed by the act of congress entitled "Truth in Lending Act" and the regulations thereunder, as such act and regulations may from time to time be amended;
- (b) Give, for each cash payment made on account of any closed-end loan, to the person making it at the time the payment is made, a plain and complete receipt, which may be in electronic form, containing the 51 information required by regulations of the superintendent; and
- (c) Permit payment to be made in advance in any amount on any loan 52 53 agreement at any time, but the state chartered internet lending services 54 corporation may initially apply such payment to all interest and other 55 charges due to the date of such payment.

2. Upon repayment of a loan in full, the state chartered internet lending services corporation shall mark indelibly every obligation signed by the borrower or a copy thereof with the word "paid" or "cancelled", and shall release any mortgage or security agreement no longer securing an obligation of the borrower, and shall restore any pledge, cancel and return any note or a copy thereof, and cancel and return any assignment or a copy thereof given to the state chartered internet lending services corporation by the borrower.

- 3. An open-end loan shall not be deemed to be repaid in full for the purposes of this article unless any balance is paid in full and the borrower relinquishes all power to receive further advances under the contract and makes a written request for the release of all collateral for the loan.
- 4. Every state chartered internet lending services corporation which holds collateral of a borrower shall be fully liable for the return of the collateral upon payment of the indebtedness in full.
- 5. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall take any confession of judgment, or any power of attorney running to itself or to any third person to confess judgment or to appear for the borrower in a judicial proceeding.
- 6. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall further take any instrument in which blanks are left to be filled in after execution.
- § 156-i. Limitation on state chartered internet lending services corporations' charges on loans. 1. No state chartered internet lending services corporation shall directly or indirectly charge, contract for, or receive any interest, discount, or consideration upon the loan, use, or forbearance of money, goods, or things in action, or upon the loan, use, or sale of credit, of the amount or value of more than the maximum amounts prescribed in this article, and/or greater than the rate permitted by section 5-501 of the general obligations law.
- 2. The prohibition in subdivision one of this section shall also apply to any state chartered internet lending services corporation which permits any person, as borrower or as endorser, guarantor, or surety for any borrower or otherwise, to owe directly or contingently or both to the state chartered internet lending services corporation at any time more than the maximum amounts prescribed in subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article.
- § 156-j. Restrictions on assignments of compensation for services. 1.

 A state chartered internet lending services corporation shall not take
 an assignment of unearned wages or other earnings unless:
- 42 <u>(a) the assignment by its terms is revocable at the will of the 43 borrower; or </u>
 - (b) the assignment is a payroll deduction plan.
 - 2. No assignment of wages or other earnings given to secure any loan hereunder shall be valid unless the amount of such loan is paid to the borrower simultaneously with its execution.
- § 156-k. Solicitation of loans. 1. Any loan in an amount exceeding the maximum amounts prescribed in subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article, where solicitation of the loan was made within this state, and/or where the interest, discount, consideration or other charge contracted for or received exceeds that permitted to a state chartered internet lending services corporation under the laws of this state shall be void, and the state chartered internet lending services corporation shall have no right to collect or receive any prin-

56 <u>cipal</u>, <u>interest or charge whatsoever</u>.

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2. No action to enforce a loan made in violation of subdivision one of this section may be maintained, even though the amount demanded to be paid in such action does not exceed that permitted to a state chartered internet lending services corporation under the provisions of this article.

- 3. For purposes of this article, solicitation of a loan shall include any solicitation, request or inducement to enter into a loan made by means of or through a direct mailing, television or radio announcement or advertisement, advertisement in a newspaper, magazine, leaflet or pamphlet distributed within this state, or visual display within this state, or by electronic means on the internet or other electronic platform, whether or not such solicitation, request or inducement constitutes an offer to enter into a contract.
- § 156-1. Insurance. 1. A state chartered internet lending services corporation may require a borrower, on loans of two hundred fifty dollars or more, excluding insurance premiums and precomputed interest, to insure tangible personal property, except household goods, taken as security for a loan against any substantial risk of loss, damage or destruction for an amount not to exceed the lesser of the reasonable value of the property insured or the principal amount of the loan, and for the customary insurance term approximating the term of the loan contract.
- 2. The insurance policy required by the state chartered internet lending services corporation in subdivision one of this section may insure the interest of the borrower as well as the interest of the state chartered internet lending services corporation.
- 3. The insurance policy required by the state chartered internet lending services corporation in subdivision one of this section, covering a motor vehicle securing the loan may also insure the borrower against liability for bodily injury and property damage, but such liability insurance shall be at the option of the borrower and shall not be required by the state chartered internet lending services corporation.
- 4. The premiums for all such insurance policies required by the state chartered internet lending services corporation in subdivision one of this section shall not exceed the premiums chargeable in accordance with rate filings made with the superintendent for such insurance by the insurer.
- 5. The insurance policy required by the state chartered internet lending services corporation in subdivision one of this section shall be written by, or through, a duly licensed insurance agent or broker, or shall be provided directly by a company qualified to do business in this
- 6. For purposes of this section, the term "household goods" shall mean 44 clothing, furniture, appliances, one radio and one television, linens, china, crockery, kitchenware, and personal effects (including wedding rings) owned by the consumer and his or her dependents, but shall not include works of art, other electronic entertainment equipment, items acquired as antiques, or other jewelry.
- 7. When a state chartered internet lending services corporation 49 provides credit life insurance, credit accident and health insurance, or 50 51 credit unemployment insurance, or credit property insurance pursuant to section two thousand three hundred forty of the insurance law, or any 52 53 combination thereof with respect to one or more borrowers, such state 54 chartered internet lending services corporation may collect from the borrower a premium or identifiable charge which shall not exceed the 55 premium rates or identifiable charges chargeable in accordance with rate

filings made with the superintendent for such insurance by the insurer, subject to a refund of the insurance charge computed as provided in paragraph (a) of subdivision seven of section one hundred fifty-six-g of this article, in the event of prepayment by cash, a new loan, refinancing or otherwise. Only one such amount may be collected in connection with any loan contract irrespective of the number of obligors and only one obligor need be insured.

- 8. The insurance authorized by this section, with the exception of insurance provided under group insurance policies, may be written by or arranged through the state chartered internet lending services corporation or an affiliate, associate or employee of the state chartered internet lending services corporation only if such state chartered internet lending services corporation, affiliate, associate or employee is a duly licensed insurance agent or broker, provided, however, no state chartered internet lending services corporation shall decline new or existing insurance which meets or exceeds the standards set forth in this section, nor prevent any borrower from obtaining such insurance coverage from other sources.
- 9. If a borrower procures such insurance by or through a state chartered internet lending services corporation, the statement required by section one hundred fifty-six-h of this article shall disclose the cost or rate of charge to the borrower and the type of insurance, and the state chartered internet lending services corporation shall cause to be delivered to the borrower a copy of the policy, certificate, or other evidence thereof within a reasonable time.
- 10. The insurance authorized by this section and all benefits or returns therefrom accruing to the state chartered internet lending services corporation or to any affiliate, associate or employee of the state chartered internet lending services corporation shall not be prohibited by any other provision of this article.
- 11. No insurance shall be required, requested, sold or offered for sale in connection with any loan made under this article, except as and to the extent authorized by this section or as provided in subdivision eight of section one hundred fifty-six-g of this article.
- 12. If the borrowers on any loan are husband and wife, joint credit life insurance and joint credit accident and health insurance may be issued on such loan pursuant to this section.
 - § 156-m. Penalties. Any state chartered internet lending services corporation, including the officers, directors, agents, and employees thereof, which shall willfully violate or participate in the willful violation of any of the provisions of section one hundred fifty-six-c of this article shall be quilty of a misdemeanor.
 - § 156-n. Authority of superintendent. The superintendent is hereby authorized and empowered to make such general and lawful rules and regulations, and such specific rulings, demands, and findings as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business authorized under and for the enforcement of this article, in addition thereto and not inconsistent therewith.
 - § 156-o. Short title. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "New York limited state charter for internet lending services law".
- § 156-p. Severability. If any provision of this article or the application thereof to any natural person, corporation or circumstances is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are severable.

1 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 44 of the banking law, 2 as amended by chapter 155 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as 3 follows:

(a) Without limiting any power granted to the superintendent under any 5 other provision of this chapter, the superintendent may, in a proceeding after notice and a hearing, require any safe deposit company, licensed lender, licensed casher of checks, licensed sales finance company, licensed insurance premium finance agency, licensed transmitter of 9 money, licensed mortgage banker, registered mortgage broker, licensed 10 mortgage loan originator, registered mortgage loan servicer or licensed 11 budget planner, or state chartered internet lending services corporation to pay to the people of this state a penalty for any violation of this 12 13 chapter, any regulation promulgated thereunder, any final or temporary 14 order issued pursuant to section thirty-nine of this article, any condi-15 tion imposed in writing by the superintendent in connection with the 16 grant of any application or request, or any written agreement entered 17 into with the superintendent.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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