

STATE OF NEW YORK

7929--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 15, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ, FALL, RIVERA, LUNSFORD, MEEKS, FORREST, JACKSON, CLARK, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, EPSTEIN, ZINERMAN, GALLAGHER, ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to prohibiting food stores and retail establishments from refusing to accept payment in cash

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

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section
2 396-ii to read as follows:

3 § 396-ii. Cashless policies prohibited. a. As used in this section,
4 the following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 (i) "Cash" means United States coins and currency, including federal
6 reserve notes. Cash does not include foreign currency; any paper instru-
7 ment other than a federal reserve note, including, but not limited to,
8 any check, bond, or promissory note; or any foreign metal coin.

9 (ii) "Consumer commodity" means any article, good, merchandise, prod-
10 uct or commodity of any kind or class produced, distributed or offered
11 for retail sale for consumption by individuals, or for personal, house-
12 hold or family purposes.

13 (iii) "Food store" means an establishment which gives or offers for
14 sale food or beverages to the public for consumption or use on or off
15 the premises, or on or off a pushcart, stand or vehicle.

16 (iv) "Retail establishment" means an establishment wherein consumer
17 commodities are sold, displayed or offered for sale, or where services
18 are provided to consumers at retail. This definition does not include
19 banks or trust companies as such terms are defined in section two of the
20 banking law.

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

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1 b. It shall be unlawful for a food store or a retail establishment to
2 refuse to accept payment in cash from consumers, provided that such food
3 store or retail establishment may refuse to accept payment:

4 (i) In cash bills denominated above twenty dollars; or

5 (ii) In cash for any telephone, mail, or internet-based transaction,
6 unless the payment for such transaction takes place on the premises of
7 such food store or retail establishment.

8 c. No food store or retail establishment shall charge a higher price
9 for the same consumer commodity to a consumer who pays in cash than to a
10 consumer who pays for such commodity through a cash-less transaction.

11 d. A food store or retail establishment that violates this section is
12 liable for a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for the
13 first violation and a civil penalty of not more than one thousand five
14 hundred dollars for each succeeding violation.

15 e. (i) This section shall not apply to a food store or retail estab-
16 lishment that provides a device on premises that converts cash, without
17 charging a fee or requiring a minimum deposit amount greater than one
18 dollar, into a prepaid card that allows a consumer to complete a trans-
19 action at such food store or retail establishment.

20 (ii) Upon request, such device shall provide each consumer with a
21 receipt indicating the amount of cash such consumer deposited onto the
22 prepaid card.

23 (iii) Cash deposits onto such a prepaid card shall not be subject to
24 an expiration date and there shall be no limit on the number of trans-
25 actions that may be completed on such prepaid card.

26 (iv) In the event that such device malfunctions, the food store or
27 retail establishment where such device is located shall accept payment
28 in cash from consumers throughout the time period in which such device
29 does not function in accordance with the standards set forth in this
30 section. Such food store or retail establishment shall place a conspic-
31 uous sign on or immediately adjacent to such device indicating that such
32 food store or retail establishment is required by law to accept cash if
33 such device malfunctions, and that consumers may report any violation to
34 the department of state division of consumer protection. The department
35 of state may establish by rule additional requirements relating to such
36 signs and the display of such signs.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
38 it shall have become a law.