

HB0279S01 compared with HB0279

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0279 but was omitted in HB0279S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0279 but was inserted into HB0279S01

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1 **Earned Wage Access Services Act**

. 2025 GENERAL SESSION

. STATE OF UTAH

. **Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy**

. Senate Sponsor:

2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill enacts the Earned Wage Access Services Act.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

7 ▶ defines terms;

8 ▶ enacts provisions related to earned wage access services, including provider registration and renewal;

10 ▶ ~~{provides conditions for an earned wage access service provider to be exempt from state lender, money transmission, or debt collection requirements;}~~

12 ▶ directs the Division of Consumer Protection to administer and enforce the Earned Wage Access Services Act; ~~{and}~~

13 ▶ provides penalties for violation; and

14 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

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17 None

20 AMENDS:

21 **13-2-1** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 132 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2024, Chapter 132

22 ENACTS:

23 **13-75-101** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

24 **13-75-102** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

25 **13-75-103** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

26 **13-75-104** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

27

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **13-2-1** is amended to read:

30 **13-2-1. Consumer protection division established -- Functions.**

31 (1) There is established within the Department of Commerce the Division of Consumer Protection.

33 (2) The division shall administer and enforce the following:

34 (a) Chapter 10a, Music Licensing Practices Act;

35 (b) Chapter 11, Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act;

36 (c) Chapter 15, Business Opportunity Disclosure Act;

37 (d) Chapter 20, New Motor Vehicle Warranties Act;

38 (e) Chapter 21, Credit Services Organizations Act;

39 (f) Chapter 22, Charitable Solicitations Act;

40 (g) Chapter 23, Health Spa Services Protection Act;

41 (h) Chapter 25a, Telephone and Facsimile Solicitation Act;

42 (i) Chapter 26, Telephone Fraud Prevention Act;

43 (j) Chapter 28, Prize Notices Regulation Act;

44 (k) Chapter 32a, Pawnshop, Secondhand Merchandise, and Catalytic Converter Transaction Information
Act;

46 (l) Chapter 34, Utah Postsecondary School and State Authorization Act;

47 (m) Chapter 41, Price Controls During Emergencies Act;

48 (n) Chapter 42, Uniform Debt-Management Services Act;

49 (o) Chapter 49, Immigration Consultants Registration Act;

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- 50 (p) Chapter 51, Transportation Network Company Registration Act;
- 51 (q) Chapter 52, Residential Solar Energy Disclosure Act;
- 52 (r) Chapter 53, Residential, Vocational and Life Skills Program Act;
- 53 (s) Chapter 54, Ticket Website Sales Act;
- 54 (t) Chapter 56, Ticket Transferability Act;
- 55 (u) Chapter 57, Maintenance Funding Practices Act;
- 56 (v) Chapter 61, Utah Consumer Privacy Act;
- 57 (w) Chapter 63, Utah Social Media Regulation Act;
- 58 (x) Chapter 64, Vehicle Value Protection Agreement Act;
- 59 (y) Chapter 65, Utah Commercial Email Act;
- 60 (z) Chapter 67, Online Dating Safety Act;
- 61 (aa) Chapter 68, Lawyer Referral Consultants Registration Act;
- 62 (bb) Chapter 70, Automatic Renewal Contracts Act; ~~[f] and~~
- 63 (cc) Chapter 71, Utah Minor Protection in Social Media Act[-] ; and
- 64 (dd) Chapter 75, Earned Wage Access Services Act.
- 65 (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the division may make rules to establish:
- 67 (a) a public list that identifies a person [~~who~~] that:
- 68 (i) violates a chapter described in Subsection (2);
- 69 (ii) without proper legal justification, fails to comply with an order, subpoena, judgment, or other legal process issued by:
- 71 (A) the division; or
- 72 (B) a court of competent jurisdiction; or
- 73 (iii) breaches a settlement agreement, stipulation, assurance of voluntary compliance, or similar instrument signed by the person and the division; and
- 75 (b) a process by which a person may be removed from the list the division establishes as described in Subsection (3)(a).

77 Section 2. Section 2 is enacted to read:

78

CHAPTER 75. EARNED WAGE ACCESS SERVICES ACT

79 **13-75-101. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

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81 (1) "Consumer" means an individual who resides in the state.

82 (2) "Earned but unpaid income" means compensation, including salary, wages, or other income, that is:

84 (a) earned or accrued by a consumer through services provided to an employer or as an independent contractor; and

86 (b) not paid yet to the consumer by the employer or hiring party.

87 (3) "Earned wage access services" means the payment of funds to a consumer determined by:

89 (a)

88 ~~{(a)}~~ (i) a consumer's representation; and

89 ~~{(b)}~~ (ii) the provider's reasonable determination of earned but unpaid income~~{-}~~; or

91 (b) a representation to the provider from an employer or an employer's payroll service provider.

90 (4)

. (a) "Fee" means a charge the provider imposes on a consumer for earned wage access services, expedited delivery of funds, or a subscription or membership that includes earned wage access services.

93 (b) "Fee" does not include a voluntary tip, gratuity, or donation.

94 (5)

. (a) "Provider" means a person engaged in the business of offering earned wage access services ~~{to a consumer}~~.

96 (b) "Provider" does not include:

97 (i) a service provider, such as a payroll service provider, that verifies, but does not fund, earned wages;

99 (ii) an employer that advances a portion of earned wages directly to employees or independent contractors;

101 (iii) a deferred deposit lender as defined in Section 7-23-102; or

102 (iv) a money transmitter as defined in Section 7-25-102.

106 Section 3. Section 3 is enacted to read:

107 **13-75-102. Provider registration and registration renewal.**

105 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (4), a person may not act as a provider without registering with the division.

107 (2) To register as a provider, a person shall submit to the division an application for registration:

109 (a) in the manner the division determines; and

110 (b) that includes:

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- 111 (i) an application fee in an amount the division determines in accordance with Sections 13-1-2 and
112 63J-1-504; and
- 113 (ii) any {other} information that the division requires by rule made in accordance with Title 63G,
114 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 115 (3) Each year a provider shall renew the provider's registration by submitting to the division an
116 application for registration renewal:
- 117 (a) in a manner the division determines; and
- 118 (b) that includes:
- 119 (i) an application fee in an amount the division determines in accordance with Sections 13-1-2 and
120 63J-1-504; and
- 121 (ii) any {other} information the division requires by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter
122 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 123 (4) A person that acts as a provider on May 7, 2025, may continue to act as a provider:
- 124 (a) if the person:
- 125 (i) applies for registration in accordance with this section on or before October 6, 2025; and
- 126 (ii) complies with the requirements of this chapter; and
- 127 (b) until the day on which the division issues a decision on the application after which:
- 128 (i) a person for which an application is denied may no longer operate; and
- 129 (ii) a person for which an application is granted may operate as provider.
- 130 (5)
- 131 (a) The division shall require a provider's principal to:
- 132 (i) submit a fingerprint card in a form acceptable to the division; and
- 133 (ii) consent to a criminal background check by:
- 134 (A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- 135 (B) the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification; or
- 136 (C) another agency of any state that performs criminal background checks.
- 137 (b) The provider shall pay the cost of:
- 138 (i) the fingerprint card described in Subsection (5)(a)(i); and
- 139 (ii) the criminal background check described in Subsection (5)(a)(ii).
- 140 Section 4. Section 4 is enacted to read:
- 141 **13-75-103. Regulation of earned wage access services.**

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- 133 ~~{(1)}~~ }
- ~~{(a)}~~ (1) A provider is exempt from Title 7, Financial Institutions Act, and Title 12, Collection Agencies~~{, if the provider meets the requirements listed in Subsection (2) and does not engage in the prohibited acts described in Subsection (3)}~~ .
- 136 ~~{(b)}~~ ~~{A provider shall comply with Title 7, Financial Institutions Act, and Title 12, Collection Agencies, if the provider fails to meet any of the requirements listed in Subsection (2) or engages in prohibited acts described in Subsection (3).}~~ }
- 139 (2) A provider shall:
- 140 (a) develop and implement procedures to address consumer questions and complaints;
- 141 (b) before entering into an agreement for earned wage access services with a consumer, clearly disclose:
- 143 (i) the consumer's rights under the agreement; ~~{and}~~
- 144 (ii) all fees;~~and~~
- 153 (iii) voluntary tip, gratuity, or donation;
- 154 (c)
- (i) obtain customer consent to changes to terms and conditions of the earned wage access services; or
- 145 ~~{(e)}~~ (ii) ~~{inform the consumer of}~~ clearly and conspicuously disclose any material changes to terms and conditions of the earned wage access services ~~{thirty}~~ at least 30 days before ~~{implementing}~~ the effective date of the material changes ~~{for the consumer}~~ ;
- 147 (d) allow a consumer to cancel the use of earned wage access services at any time without incurring a penalty;
- 149 (e) offer at least one no-fee option to receive funds and ~~{explain}~~ clearly and conspicuously disclose how to select the no-fee option to receive funds;
- 151 (f) comply with all applicable local, state, and federal privacy and information security laws;
- 153 (g) deliver funds through any method agreed upon by the consumer and provider;
- 154 (h) reimburse overdraft or non-sufficient fund fees the consumer incurs as a result of the provider's error in disclosed or actual payment amount or payment date unless the funds were acquired by a consumer through fraudulent means; ~~{and}~~
- 157 (i) clearly disclose the voluntary nature of tips, gratuities, or donations and ensure the availability or terms of the earned wage access services are not contingent upon the payment of tips, gratuities, or donations~~{.}~~ ;
- 172 (j) provide information to a consumer on how to file a complaint with the division; and

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- 173 (k) provide the following disclosures to a consumer at the time the consumer makes a request for funds:
175 (i) the anticipated timeline the consumer will receive the requested funds;
176 (ii) the amount of funds the consumer has requested;
177 (iii) the amount of the fee charged;
178 (iv) the amount of funds the consumer will receive;
179 (v) the account that will receive the funds; and
180 (vi) the date the provider is authorized to withdraw funds from the consumer's account, including fees
and voluntary payments; and
182 (l) before initiating an advance, require the customer to acknowledge receiving the opportunity to view
all disclosures listed in Subsection (2)(k)(i) through (vi) and any imposed costs and fees.
160 (3) A provider may not:
161 (a) compel a consumer to repay funds by:
162 (i) using or threatening to use civil lawsuits, outbound calls, third-party collections, or debt sales;
164 (ii) reporting or threatening to report nonpayment to consumer reporting agencies; or
165 (iii) charging or threatening to charge interest, finance charges, late fees, or other penalties for
nonpayment;
167 (b) use a consumer's credit report or credit score to determine eligibility for earned wage access
services;
169 (c) accept payment with a credit card or charge card;
170 (d) condition receipt of funds based on fees, tips, gratuities, or donations; {or}
171 (e) mislead a consumer about the voluntary nature of tips, gratuities, or donations{:};
197 (f) charge a consumer a fee, interest, or any other penalty for failure to repay outstanding proceeds, fees,
tips, or gratuities; or
199 (g) provide earned wage access services in this state without first registering with the division.
201 (4) Each act performed in violation of Subsection (3) is a separate violation of this chapter.
202 Section 5. Section 5 is enacted to read:
203 **13-75-104. Penalties and Enforcement-- Powers -- Legal counsel -- Fees.**
174 ~~{(1) {The department may revoke the registration of a person that violates this chapter or that files~~
~~materially false information with an application for registration or a renewal under this chapter.}}~~
177 ~~{(2)}~~ (1) {Subject to} In accordance with Chapter 2, Division of Consumer Protection, and Title
63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act, {if} the {department determines that a person is

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engaging in the business of } division may initiate adjudicative proceedings to deny, suspend, or
revoke a { financial service other than earned wage access services, the department may } registration
statement, registration certificate, or state authorization certificate if:

208 (a) the division finds that the denial, suspension, or revocation is in the public interest; and

180 {(a)} (b) {revoke the person's} the registration {under this chapter;} statement is incomplete, false, or
misleading.

181 {(b) {issue a cease-and-desist order from committing any further violations;}}

182 {(c) {prohibit the person from acting as a provider;}}

211 (2) The attorney general, upon request, shall give legal advice to, and act as counsel for, the division in
the exercise of the division's responsibilities under this chapter.

213 (3)

. (a) In addition to the division's enforcement powers under Chapter 2, Division of Consumer Protection:

183 {(d)} (i) the division director may impose an administrative fine {not} of up to {exceed \$1,000 per }
\$2,500 for each violation of this chapter; {or} and

217 (ii) the division may bring an action in court to enforce a provision of this chapter.

218 (b) In a court action by the division to enforce a provision of this chapter, the court may:

184 {(e)} (i) {take any combination} declare that an act or practice violates a provision of {actions listed
under} this {Subsection (2);} chapter;

220 (ii) issue an injunction for a violation of this chapter;

221 (iii) order disgorgement of any money received in violation of this chapter;

222 (iv) order payment of disgorged money to an injured purchaser or consumer;

223 (v) impose a fine of up to \$2,500 for each violation of this chapter; or

224 (vi) award any other relief that the court deems reasonable and necessary.

225 (4) If a court grants judgment or injunctive relief to the division, the court shall award the division:

227 (a) reasonable attorney fees;

228 (b) court costs; and

229 (c) investigative fees.

230 (5)

. (a) A person that violates an administrative or court order issued for a violation of this chapter is subject
to a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 for each violation.

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(b) The court may impose a civil penalty authorized under this section in any civil action brought by the attorney general on behalf of the division.

234 (6) The division shall deposit all money received for the payment of a fine or civil penalty imposed under this section into the Consumer Protection Education and Training Fund created in Section 13-2-8.

237 Section 6. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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