SENATE BILL 331

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Peter Wirth

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AN ACT

RELATING TO LENDING; AMENDING THE NEW MEXICO BANK INSTALLMENT LOAN ACT OF 1959 AND THE NEW MEXICO SMALL LOAN ACT OF 1955; ADDING AND AMENDING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; IMPOSING A CAP ON INTEREST RATES AND FEES FOR CERTAIN LOANS; AMENDING PAYDAY LOAN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS; REPEALING A SECTION OF THE NEW MEXICO SMALL LOAN ACT OF 1955.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 58-7-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1959, Chapter 327, Section 1) is amended to read:

"58-7-1. SHORT TITLE.--[This act shall be known] Chapter 58, Article 7 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959"."

Section 2. Section 58-7-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 190, Section 15) is amended to read:

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2	Installment Loan Act of 1959 applies to a loan that is a
3	precomputed loan repayable in installments [or that is clearly
4	identified on the loan documents as being made under that
5	act]."
6	Section 3. Section 58-7-3.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983,
7	Chapter 96, Section 1) is amended to read:
8	"58-7-3.1. LOAN DEFINITIONSPRECOMPUTED LOAN INTEREST
9	CALCULATION
10	A. As used in the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan
11	Act of 1959:
12	(1) "installment loan" means a loan that is to
13	be repaid in a minimum of four successive substantially equal
14	payment amounts to pay off that loan in its entirety with a
15	period of not less than one hundred twenty days to maturity;
16	and
17	(2) "precomputed loan" means an installment
18	loan in which the loan principal and interest owed are computed
19	and scheduled for payment over the life of the loan.
20	\underline{B} . If $[\frac{\text{the}}{\text{d}}]$ \underline{a} loan is a precomputed loan
21	transaction, the interest charge may be calculated on the
22	assumption that all scheduled payments will be made when due,
23	and the effect of prepayment is governed by the provisions of
24	rebate upon prepayment in Section 58-7-5 NMSA 1978."
25	Section 4. Section 58-7-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1959,

"58-7-3. LOANS COVERED BY ACT.--The New Mexico Bank

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Chapter	327,	Section	10,	as	amended)	is	amended	to	read:
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- None of the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 are amended or repealed by the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959.
- With the exception of precomputed loan transactions, a lender is not bound by the provisions of the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 in making loans where the loan is made in accordance with the provisions of Sections 56-8-9 through 56-8-14 NMSA 1978.
- C. None of the provisions of the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 apply to the assignment or purchase of retail installment contracts originated under the provisions of Sections 58-19-1 through 58-19-14 NMSA 1978 or originated under the provisions of Sections 56-1-1 through 56-1-15 NMSA 1978.
- In the event of a conflict between a requirement of the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 and a requirement of the Home Loan Protection Act, the requirement of the Home Loan Protection Act shall control.
- As used in the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959:
- (1) "year" means three hundred sixty-five days; and
 - "month" means one-twelfth of a year. (2)

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- F. The director of the financial institutions division of the regulation and licensing department shall issue and file as required by law interpretive regulations to effectuate the purposes of the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959. In issuing, amending or repealing interpretive regulations, the director shall issue the regulation amendment or repeal of the regulation as a proposed regulation amendment or repeal of a regulation and file it for public inspection in the office of the director of the financial institutions division. Distribution thereof shall be made to interested persons, and their comments shall be invited. After the proposed regulation has been on file for not less than two months, the director may issue it as a final regulation by filing as required by law. Any person who is or may be adversely affected by the adoption, amendment or repeal of a regulation under this section may file an appeal of that action in the district court in Santa Fe county within thirty days after the filing of the adopted regulation, amendment or repeal as required by law.
- Any person, corporation or association complying with the regulations adopted by the director of the financial institutions division of the regulation and licensing department is deemed to have complied with the provisions of the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959.
- [All loans other than precomputed] A loan .174956.3SA

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[transactions] transaction made [under] pursuant to the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 shall be clearly identified on the loan documents as being made [under] pursuant to that act."

Section 58-15-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Section 5. Chapter 128, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-2. DEFINITIONS.--The following words and terms when used in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires a different meaning. The meaning ascribed to the singular form applies also to the plural:

- "consumer" means a person who enters into a loan agreement and receives the loan proceeds in New Mexico;
- В. "debit authorization" means an authorization signed by a consumer to electronically transfer or withdraw funds from the consumer's account for the specific purpose of repaying a loan;
- "department" or "division" means the financial institutions division of the regulation and licensing department;
 - D. "director" means the director of the division;
- "installment loan" means a loan that is to be Ε. repaid in a minimum of four successive substantially equal payment amounts to pay off [a] that loan in its entirety with a period of no less than one hundred twenty days to maturity,

except as otherwise provided in Subsection C of Section

58-15-20.1 NMSA 1978. "Installment loan" does not mean a loan
in which a licensee requires, as a condition of making the
loan, the use of postdated checks or debit authorizations for
repayment of that loan;

F. "license" means a permit issued under the
authority of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 to make

- F. "license" means a permit issued under the authority of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 to make loans and collect charges therefor strictly in accordance with the provisions of that act at a single place of business. It shall constitute and shall be construed as a grant of a revocable privilege only to be held and enjoyed subject to all the conditions, restrictions and limitations contained in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and lawful regulations promulgated by the director and not otherwise;
- G. "licensee" means a person to whom one or more licenses have been issued pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 upon the person's written application electing to become a licensee and consenting to exercise the privilege of a licensee solely in conformity with the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and the lawful regulations promulgated by the director under that act and whose name appears on the face of the license;
- H. "payday loan" means a loan in which the licensee accepts a personal check or debit authorization tendered by the consumer and agrees [in writing] to defer presentment of that .174956.3SA

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4	(l) includes a
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6	fee, finance charge or other co
7	(a) acce
8	debit authorization from a cons
9	repaying a payday loan;
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12	time prior to negotiating or de
13	debit authorization; or
14	(c) pays
15	consumer's account or pays anot
16	consumer the amount of an instr
17	paid pursuant to the New Mexico
18	(2) does not i
19	(a) an o
20	offered by a banking corporatio
21	or credit union; and
22	(b) inst
23	I. "payday loan pro
24	payment plan pursuant to Sectio
25	J. "person" include
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check or use of the debit authorization until the consumer's next payday or another date agreed to by the licensee and the

- any advance of money or dit whereby the licensee, for a nsideration:
- pts a dated personal check or sumer for the specific purpose of
- es to hold a dated personal om a consumer for a period of positing the personal check or
- to the consumer, credits to the her person on behalf of the ument actually paid or to be Small Loan Act of 1955; but
 - include:
- verdraft product or service on, savings and loan association
 - allment loans;
- duct" means a payday loan or a on 58-15-35 NMSA 1978;
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"precomputed loan" means an installment loan in which the loan principal and interest owed is computed and scheduled for payment over the life of the loan;

[K.] L. "renewed payday loan" means a loan in which a consumer pays in cash the administrative fee payable under a payday loan agreement and refinances all or part of the unpaid principal balance of an existing payday loan with a new payday loan from the same licensee. A "renewed payday loan" includes a transaction in which a consumer pays off all or part of an existing payday loan with the proceeds of a payday loan from the same licensee; and

 $[\underbrace{\text{H.}}]$ M. "simple interest" means a method of calculating interest in which the amount of interest is calculated based on the annual interest rate disclosed in the loan agreement and is computed only on the outstanding principal balance of the loan."

Section 6. Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-3. APPLICABILITY OF ACT--EXEMPTIONS--EVASIONS--PENALTY. --

A person shall not engage in the business of [lending in amounts of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less for a loan] making loans without first having obtained a license from the director. Nothing contained in .174956.3SA

this subsection shall restrict or prohibit a licensee under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 from making <u>precomputed</u> loans in any amount under the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 in accordance with the provisions of Section 58-7-2 NMSA 1978; <u>provided</u>, however, that loans in an amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less shall be made only pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955.

- B. Nothing in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall apply to a person making individual advances of [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less under] ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less pursuant to a written agreement providing for a total loan or line of credit in excess of [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)] ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
- association or credit union operating under the laws of the United States or of a state shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, nor shall that act apply to business transacted by any person under the authority of and as permitted by any such law nor to any bona fide pawnbroking business transacted under a pawnbroker's license nor to bona fide commercial loans made to dealers upon personal property held for resale. Nothing contained in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall be construed as abridging the rights of any of those exempted from the

1	operations of that act from contracting for or receiving
2	interest or charges not in violation of an existing applicable
3	statute of this state.
4	D. The provisions of Subsection A of this section
5	apply to:
6	(1) a person who owns an interest, legal or
7	equitable, in the business or profits of a licensee and whose
8	name does not specifically appear on the face of the license,
9	except a stockholder in a corporate licensee; and
10	(2) a person who seeks to evade its
11	application by any device, subterfuge or pretense whatsoever,
12	including but not thereby limiting the generality of the
13	foregoing:
14	(a) the loan, forbearance, use or sale
15	of credit (as guarantor, surety, endorser, comaker or
16	otherwise), money, goods or things in action;
17	(b) the use of collateral or related
18	sales or purchases of goods or services or agreements to sell
19	or purchase, whether real or pretended;
20	(c) receiving or charging compensation
21	for goods or services, whether or not sold, delivered or
22	provided; and
23	(d) the real or pretended negotiation,
24	arrangement or procurement of a loan through any use or
25	activity of a third person, whether real or fictitious.
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E. A person, copartnership, trust or a trustee or beneficiary thereof or an association or corporation or a member, officer, director, agent or employee thereof who violates or participates in the violation of a provision of Subsection A of this section is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. A contract or loan in the making or collection of which an act is done that violates Subsection A or D of this section is void and the lender has no right to collect, receive or retain any principal, interest or charges whatsoever.

F. A person making a loan pursuant to the New

Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall not use a device or

agreement that would have the effect of charging or collecting

more fees, charges or interest than that allowed by law by

entering into a different type of transaction with the borrower

that would have that effect."

Section 7. Section 58-15-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-9. EXAMINATION OF LICENSEE'S BOOKS AND RECORDS--WITNESSES.--

A. At least once each year, the director or the director's authorized representative shall make an examination of the place of business of each licensee and the loans, transactions, books, papers and records of the licensee insofar .174956.3SA

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as they pertain to the business licensed under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 as the director may deem necessary. The licensee shall pay to the director for such annual examination a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).

- Within a reasonable time after the completion of an examination of a licensed office, the director shall mail to the licensee a copy of the report of the examination, together with any comments, exceptions, objections or criticisms of the director concerning the conduct of the licensee and the operation of the licensed office.
- C. For the purpose of discovering violations of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 or of securing information lawfully required under that act, the director or the director's authorized representative may at any time investigate the business and examine the books, accounts, papers and records used therein, including income tax returns or other reports filed in the office of the director of the revenue processing division of the taxation and revenue department of:
 - (1) any licensee;
- any other person engaged in the business (2) described in Subsection A of Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 or participating in such business as principal, agent, broker or otherwise; and
- any person whom the director has .174956.3SA

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reasonable cause to believe is violating any provision of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, whether the person claims to be within the authority or beyond the scope of that act.

- D. For the purposes of this section, a person who advertises, solicits or makes any representation as being willing to make loan transactions in any amount, except persons, financial institutions or lending agencies operating under charters or licenses issued by a state or federal agency or under any special statute, shall be subject to investigation under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 and shall be presumed to be engaged in the business described in Subsection A of Section 58-15-3 NMSA 1978 as to any loans [of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less].
- E. To facilitate the examinations and investigations by the director and fully disclose the operations and methods of operation of each licensed office, the licensee shall, in each licensed office, keep on file as part of the records of the office all office manuals, communications or directives containing statements of loan policy to office managers and employees. If the licensee is an individual, corporation, trust or association, the licensee shall keep in at least one office for information of the director a record of the several individuals, firms, beneficiaries of any trust and corporations deriving or receiving any part of the benefits, net income or profits from .174956.3SA

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the operation of the licensee within New Mexico.

For the purposes of this section, the director or the director's authorized representative shall have and be given free access to the offices and places of business, files, safes and vaults of all licensees and shall have authority to require the attendance of any person and to examine the person under oath relative to such loans or business or to the subject matter of any examination, investigation or hearing as provided in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. Notices to appear before the director for examination under oath may be served by registered mail. If the party notified to appear is the licensee, any person named on the face of the license being investigated or any agent, employee or manager participating in the licensee's business and the party fails to appear for examination or refuses to answer questions submitted, the director may, forthwith and without further notice to the licensee, suspend the license involved pending compliance with the notice. Upon failure of any other person to appear or to answer questions, the director may apply to and invoke the aid of any district court of New Mexico in compelling the attendance and testimony of any such person and the production of books, records, written instruments and documents relating to the business of the licensee. The district court whose aid is so invoked by the director may, in case of contumacy or refusal to obey any order of the district court issued to

compel the attendance of the person or the production of books, records, written instruments and documents, punish the person as for contempt of court.

- G. The director shall prescribe rules of procedure for all hearings, examinations or investigations provided for in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. The director is not bound by the usual common law or statutory rules of evidence or by any technical or formal rules of procedure or pleading and specification of charges other than as specifically provided in the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 but may conduct hearings, examinations and investigations in the manner best calculated to ascertain the substantial rights of the parties interested.
- H. The director has the power to administer oaths, certify official acts and records of the director's office, issue subpoenas for witnesses in the name of and under the seal of the director's office and compel the production of papers, books, accounts and documents. The director shall issue subpoenas at the instance of any party to a hearing before the division upon payment of a fee of two dollars fifty cents (\$2.50) for each subpoena so issued.
- I. Depositions may be taken with or without a commission, and written interrogatories may be submitted in the same manner and on the same grounds provided by law for the taking of depositions or submission of written interrogatories in civil actions pending in the district courts of this state.

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J. Each witness who appears before the director by the director's order shall receive the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil actions in the district court. Fees and mileage shall be paid by the state, but no witness subpoenaed at the instance of parties other than the director is entitled to compensation from the state for attendance or mileage unless the director certifies that the witness' testimony is material.

Whenever the director has reasonable cause to believe that a person is violating a provision of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, the director may, in addition to all actions provided for in that act and without prejudice thereto, enter an order requiring the person to desist or to refrain from the violation. An action may be brought on the relation of the attorney general and the director to enjoin the person from engaging in or continuing the violation or from doing any act in furtherance of the violation. In any such action, an order or judgment may be entered awarding a preliminary or final injunction as may be deemed proper. addition to all other means provided by law for the enforcement of a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction or final injunction, the court in which such action is brought shall have power and jurisdiction to impound and to appoint a receiver for the property and business of the defendants, including books, papers, documents and records pertaining

thereto or so much thereof as the court may deem reasonably necessary to prevent further violations of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 through or by means of the use of the property and business. The receiver, when appointed and qualified, shall have powers and duties as to custody, collection, administration, winding up and liquidation of the property and business as are from time to time conferred upon the receiver by the court."

Section 8. Section 58-15-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-12. ADVERTISING.--A licensee or other person subject to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall not advertise, display, distribute or broadcast or cause or permit to be advertised, displayed, distributed or broadcast in any manner whatsoever a false, misleading or deceptive statement or representation with regard to the charges, terms or conditions for loans [in the amount or of the value of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less]. The director may require that charges or rates of charge, if stated by a licensee, be stated fully and clearly in such manner as the director deems necessary to prevent misunderstanding by prospective borrowers. The director may permit or require licensees to refer in their advertising to the fact that their business is under state supervision, subject to conditions imposed by the director to prevent erroneous impressions as to the scope or degree of

protection provided by the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955."

Section 9. A new section of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, Section 58-15-20.1 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"58-15-20.1. [NEW MATERIAL] CONSUMER LOANS--MAXIMUM INTEREST RATES--MINIMUM LOAN PERIOD.--

A. The stated contract rate of interest for any loan with a principal amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less entered into pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall be:

- (1) for a loan with a principal amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less, no greater than forty-five percent per annum; and
- (2) for a loan with a principal amount greater than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) but not greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), no greater than thirty-six per cent per annum.
- B. A person required to be a licensee pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955, when making a loan with a principal amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall not charge any interest or fees not provided for in Subsection A of this section or in Section 58-15-20 NMSA 1978.
- C. A loan made pursuant to the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 shall be an installment loan payable in substantially equal monthly payments and have the following .174956.3SA

minimum loan periods:

- (1) sixty days for a loan with a principal amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less; and
- (2) one hundred twenty days for a loan with a principal amount greater than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) but not greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
- D. The provisions of this section do not apply to payday loans."

Section 10. Section 58-15-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 19, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-21. WHAT CONSTITUTES LOAN OF MONEY--WAGE

PURCHASES.--The payment of [two thousand five hundred dollars
(\$2,500) or less in] money, credit, goods or things in action,
as consideration for any sale or assignment of or order for the
payment of wages, salary, commission or other compensation for
services, whether earned or to be earned, shall, for the
purposes of regulation under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of
1955, be deemed a loan of money secured by [such] the sale,
assignment or order. The amount by which [such] compensation
so sold, assigned or ordered paid exceeds the amount of [such]
consideration actually paid shall for the purpose of regulation
under the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 be deemed interest
or charges upon [such] the loan from the date of [such] payment
to the date [such] the compensation is payable. [Such] The

transaction shall be governed by and subject to the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955."

Section 11. Section 58-15-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 22, as amended) is amended to read:

"58-15-24. LOANS MADE ELSEWHERE.--No loan made outside this state to a resident of New Mexico [in the amount or of the value of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less] for which a greater rate of interest, consideration, charge or compensation to the lender than is permitted by the [general] laws of New Mexico [presently in force governing money, interest and usury] has been charged, contracted for or received shall be enforced in this state. Every person in any way participating in such a loan in this state [shall be] is subject to the provisions of the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955. Any loan made to a nonresident of New Mexico in conformity with the law of the state where made may be enforced in this state."

Section 12. Section 58-15-38 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007, Chapter 86, Section 20) is amended to read:

"58-15-38. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES WHEN MAKING PAYDAY LOANS--REQUIRED SIGNAGE.--

A. A licensee making payday loans shall provide a notice immediately above the consumer's signature on each payday loan agreement in at least twelve-point bold type using the following language:

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"(1) A payday loan is not intended to meet long-term financial needs.

- (2) You should use a payday loan only to meet short-term cash needs.
- (3) A payday loan is a high-cost loan. You should consider what other lower-cost loans are available to you.
- (4) If you cannot fully repay a payday loan when due, you have a right to enter into a payment plan requiring payment within a minimum of one hundred thirty days, in relatively equal installments, based upon your scheduled pay periods. If you enter into a payment plan, you will not have to pay an additional administrative fee or interest on the outstanding principal balance or any unpaid administrative fees.
- (5) If you have had payment obligations under a payment plan pursuant to Section 58-15-35 NMSA 1978, you may not enter into a new payday loan until at least ten calendar days have passed since you have completed all payment obligations pursuant to all of your outstanding payday loan products, including that payment plan.".
- B. Each licensee shall <u>prominently</u> display in each licensed place of business, in a place where it will be readily legible by consumers, a sign <u>in at least sixty-point bold type</u> containing the following notice in both English and Spanish:

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"If you cannot fully repay a payday loan when due, you have a
right to enter into a payment plan requiring payment within a
minimum of one hundred thirty days, in relatively equal
installments, based upon your scheduled pay periods. If you
enter into a payment plan, you will not have to pay an
additional administrative fee or interest on the outstanding
principal balance or any unpaid administrative fees."

Section 13. REPEAL.--Section 58-15-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1955, Chapter 128, Section 17) is repealed.

Section 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2009.

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