



July to September 2007, Volume 3, Issue #3

(This Newsletter is a quarterly publication containing topics of interest to the categories of MSBs regulated by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. We hope that you will find this publication to be informative and valuable for providing information about the issues affecting your industry. If there are any issues you would like for the Department to highlight or address in future editions, please e-mail your questions or suggestions to <a href="mailto:dbfmort@dbf.state.ga.us">dbfmort@dbf.state.ga.us</a>.)

## REGULATORY MATTERS

Changes in the Statutes - Effective July 1, 2007

Several changes were made in this year's legislative session which has a significant impact on licensees. One of these regards Quarterly Reporting requirements, which have now been changed to SEMI-ANNUAL reports. Please make a note that reports of agents and financial information will now *only* be reportable for January to June and July to December. The last report will be taken with the renewal. <u>SEMI-ANNUAL reports will begin in DECEMBER. Current reporting for June 30 will be for the months of April to June, 2007, the last QUARTERLY report to be submitted.</u>

Currently the reporting is underway. Note the NEW screens you will see in December below. Direct links are available from the Department's MSB website:

http://dbf.georgia.gov/msbforms

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING FORMS: Sale of Check Companies & Money Transmitters:
Semi-Annual Report for Sale of Check Licensees
Semi-Annual Report for Money Transmitter Licensees

Or you may use the links noted for each type:

The websites are:

- <a href="https://bkgfin.dbf.state.ga.us/MTQtrReport.html">https://bkgfin.dbf.state.ga.us/MTQtrReport.html</a> for Money Transmitters, and:
- https://bkgfin.dbf.state.ga.us/CSQtrReport.html for licensed Check Cashers.

# Other Significant Statutory Changes

Significant changes were made in 2007 to the Official Code of Georgia relating to the sale and issuance of checks, cashing of checks, and money transmission in the State of Georgia and are noted herein. Changes to the Department's Regulations regarding these code changes are anticipated in

the 2nd half of 2007. The most significant changes relate to Check Casher licensing, registration, or exemption. Other changes of note, additions and deletions, to the Code Sections, are noted for your reference. A revised copy of the MSB regulations as of 7-1-2007 is available at:

http://dbf.georgia.gov/msbforms

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## <u>Check Casher Licensing, Registration, or</u> Exemption

Generally, the changes in licensing, registration, and exemption qualifications passed by the General Assembly in the 2007 Legislative session are as follows:

- License A full service license is required if you charge a fee that exceeds the greater of \$2.00 or 2% of the face amount of the check. Advertising is permitted ONLY by Full Service Licensees.
- Registration A registration is required if you charge a fee, the fee DOES NOT exceed the greater of \$2.00 or 2% of the face amount of the check, and you DO NOT advertise.
- **Exemptions** An entity that cashes checks for which NO FEE is charged for the service is exempt from the provisions of Article 4A.

All registrations and exemptions which were based on incidental retail sales and levels of income from check cashing activity have been eliminated. License requirements are now based on amount of fees charged and the advertising of check cashing services. Please note the following examples.

## Check Cashing Full Service License Required

- ▶ If your fees charged for check cashing services EVER exceed the greater of \$2 or 2% of the face amount of the check, then a full service LICENSE is required, regardless of whether or not you advertise such services.
- ▶ If your fees charged for check cashing services NEVER exceed the greater of \$2 or 2% of the face amount of the check, but you DO advertise such services, then a full service LICENSE is required.

#### **Check Cashing Registration Required**

- ▶ If your fees charged for check cashing services NEVER exceed the greater of \$2 or 2% of the face amount of the check, AND you DO NOT advertise such services, then an application as a REGISTERED check casher is permitted.
- ► If you charge any fee and advertise the service, then a full service LICENSE is required.

## <u>Exemption from Check Cashing Licensing or</u> Registration

▶ If you DO NOT charge a FEE to cash a check - you DO NOT need to obtain a license or registration.

#### **Background Checks**

Check Sellers, Money Transmitters, and Check Cashers are affected by changes to both Articles 4 and 4A relating to the requirement that applicants, licensees, and additionally in the case of check cashers, registrants, are required to perform background checks on all persons working in the licensed activity of the applicant, licensee or registrant *PRIOR TO HIRING* the individual. The law has always prohibited the hiring of felons to work in these regulated businesses. The requirement to perform the required background check prior to hiring to help ensure that felons are not working in the business has been added.

See O.C.G.A. 7-1-682 (e) relating to the requirement for check sellers and money transmitters, and O.C.G.A. 7-1-702 (d) for check casher licensees and registrants.

## <u>License/Registration transfers, sales, etc.</u>

A provision clarifying that the license or registration held by Check Sellers, Money Transmitters, or Check Cashers (licensees and registrants) is *NOT* transferable, assignable, or subject to a change of ownership without prior application to and approval by the department has been added to both Articles 4 and 4A.

See O.C.G.A. 7-1-682 (f) relating to the requirement for check sellers and money transmitters, and O.C.G.A. 7-1-702 (e) for check casher licensees and registrants.

## **Administrative Actions**

Significant changes to the administrative action process regarding licensees and registrants have been made. See O.C.G.A. 7-1-689 (a) and (b) relating to the requirement for check sellers and money transmitters, and O.C.G.A. 7-1-707 (b) for check casher licensees and registrants.





# <u>Department Issues Proposed Rules for</u> Comment August 10, 2007

Pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) Chapter 50-13 and by authority of O.C.G.A. § § 7-1-61, 7-1-663; 7-1-1012, and other cited statutes, the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt new and amended rules. The proposed changes may be downloaded from:

http://dbf.georgia.gov

The proposed changes are in part responsive to law changes in the 2007 Legislation. A synopsis and purpose precedes each proposed rule, with background information and explanation where applicable. The Department will review all comments. It may contact those providing

**OTHER NEWS** 

# A FEW IMPORTANT BSA ISSUES FOR CHECK CASHERS

Common issues noted during examinations of check cashers involve several different statutes and regulations. Some of the federal regulations that apply to check cashers are for the larger purpose of protecting the whole country against terrorists, money launderers and other risks. The following is a VERY BRIEF description of actions you need to take to be in compliance with some federal regulations. For information that you need to **PLEASE** refer read, to our website: http://dbf.georgia.gov/00/channel\_title/0,2094,4341 4745 46385621,00.html. This is the Money Services Business, Forms and Applications page. To review our MSB information look down the page to the section in the chart titled Bank Secrecy Act Information & News Items. You can read about the requirements for completing Currency Transaction Reports, Suspicious Activity Reports, conducting independent review and other topics. Remember that your risk level may not be the same as your neighbors risk level and your program must be written based on the risks posed

comments to discuss their suggestions. After the comment period has closed the final rules will be prepared.



## **RULES COMMENTS**

Comments to the Department of Banking and Finance concerning the rules which have been published must be received by:

# August 10, 2007, at the close of business.

Please send all comments to:

Rob Braswell, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Banking and Finance
2990 Brandywine Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30341-5565
Fax: (770) 986-1654 or 1655

by the location, size, nature and volume of the financial services provided by you.

You should also visit <a href="www.msb.gov">www.msb.gov</a> for more information, including a Fact Sheet found at <a href="http://www.msb.gov/pdf/FinCENfactsheet.pdf">http://www.msb.gov/pdf/FinCENfactsheet.pdf</a>. Spend some time on the <a href="www.fincen.gov">www.fincen.gov</a> website also. If you read and understand this information you should be able to put together a program to protect your company that meets the requirements of the regulation.

Minimum BSA compliance requires the following:

- Registration with the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. This registration must be renewed every two years (for those who handle transactions of \$1,000 or more, for one person, in one day).
- Cash Transaction Reports must be filed for all transactions greater than \$10,000.
- A Monetary Instrument Log must be maintained for all sales of money orders between \$3,000 and \$10,000 to the same customer in a day.





- The licensee has to have incorporated the following four items into an Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Compliance Program:
  - I. The licensee must incorporate policies, procedures, and internal controls reasonably designed to assure compliance with the BSA. These must be written.
  - The licensee must designate a compliance officer to be responsible for day-to-day compliance with the BSA and the AML compliance program. This designation must be in writing.
  - The licensee must provide education and/or training of appropriate personnel. The proof of the education or required reading must be in writing.
  - 4. The licensee must provide for an independent review to monitor and maintain an adequate program.

In addition, check cashers must have a policy that explains procedures used to comply with the Office of Foreign Asset Control. Go to their website to understand more about their purpose: http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/

There is a list called "Specially Designated Nationals List" and if you complete a transaction with a person that is on this list, the federal government may pursue additional actions against your business. When you check the list and identify a customer on the list, you will need to call the OFAC hotline. Read the information at <a href="http://www.fincen.gov/hotlineterrorist.pdf">http://www.fincen.gov/hotlineterrorist.pdf</a>. Also go to and read "Protecting Our National Security: The Critical Nature of OFAC Compliance for Money Service Business" here:

http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/regulations/msb\_reg.pdf

If you don't have access to the internet, please visit a library to review all of the information referenced here.

Other important issues related to the state law and regulations include:

- Section 7-1-705(g) and Rule 80-3-1-.06(2): report fraudulent or forged checks
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(5)(b): maintain logs of checks cashed (specific information required)
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(5)(c) maintain a daily reconcilement of cash (specific information required)
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(5)(g) provide all customers with a receipt (specific information required)
- Section 7-1-705(a) post fees charged for cashing checks
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(3) post the license in plain view
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(I) have sufficient financial resources, you must provide current financial statements
- Rule 80-3-1-.01(5)(e) maintain a general ledger in order to produce quarterly financial statements
- Rule 80-3-1-.02(6) maintain personnel files (specific information required)

These are not the only state rules and regulations that require compliance. You MUST refer to our law and rules to read the details of the above and all other law and rules that have not been mentioned. These are all found on our website and are changed annually so remember to update your copy and review it often.

#### **Upcoming Speaking Engagements**

- Deputy Commissioner Rod Carnes & Supervisory Manager Joel Byers will be speaking at the MSBGA conference on August 2nd at 9:00 a.m. the Gwinnett Center on recent statutory changes and examination issues.
- Director of Money Service Businesses
   Mortgage Licensing Melinda Kinard
   and Supervisory Manager Joel Byers will
   be speaking at 8:30 on August 9 at the
   offices of Troutman Sanders, LLP.

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## **IN MEMORY**

## **DAVID G. SORRELL: 1951—2007**

The Department is saddened to announce the death of former Commissioner David Sorrell, who passed away July 1, 2007 of an apparent heart attack.

David had been with the Department since 1974 when he began as an examiner in the Northeast Georgia area. David served as Acting Commissioner from January 2002 until his appointment as Commissioner in June 2003, and he retired from the Department as Commissioner on December 1, 2005. He also served as the Senior Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner for Supervision, and as the Director of Administration. From 1973 to 1974, David worked in credit analysis and loan review with the Bank of North Carolina, N.A., Jacksonville, N.C. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), Board of Directors of National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS), as well as serving on several committees for these organizations.

David had a tremendous impact upon financial institution supervision in Georgia and around the country through his interaction with fellow state and federal regulators. He will be truly missed by all of us who had the privilege of working with him as a colleague and knowing him as a friend.

#### Suspicious Activity Reports Reminder

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has revised Form TD F 90-22.56, <u>Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business</u>, to simplify the reporting process. The new report is FinCEN Form 109, <u>Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business</u>, and is effective for use after March 31, 2007. The old form, TD F 90-22.56, *will not be accepted* by the Enterprise Computing Center-Detroit after September 30, 2007. The revised SAR-MSB may be found at <u>www.msb.gov</u> under "What's New". Be sure to download the form's instructions, as these contain critical "How to" information for completing the form. Any questions regarding the revised format may be directed to the BSA Forms Manager via the FinCEN Helpline at 1-800-949-2732.





# ACTION ON APPLICATIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

# APPROVED CHECK CASHERS (License/Registration) - Second Quarter 2007

Lic#	Company Name	DBA	CITY	Туре	Approved
22420	Order Express, Inc.		Chicago	L	04/03/2007
22458	Hamp's, Inc.	Flint Hill Package Store	Manchester	L	04/27/2007
22465	O&DJ Trading, Inc.	Quick Mart	Conyers	R	04/06/2007
22473	Golden Forest Spirits, Inc.	Hal's Beer and Wine	Decatur	L	04/06/2007
22475	Kritika Investment, Inc.	Discount Check Cashing	Americus	L	04/06/2007
22476	Dhruti Investments, Inc.	Dhruti Check Cashing	Americus	L	04/06/2007
22480	Trouts Beverages, Inc.	Trouts Beverages	Jasper	L	04/10/2007
22483	The H & S Choe Corp.	Handee Mart	Columbus	R	04/10/2007
22500	Ballantine Enterprises, Inc.	C & J Market	Augusta	L	04/24/2007
22511	Tara Investments, LLC	Mableton Chevron	Mableton	L	04/27/2007
22516	Heet Food, Inc.	Pig Jig Mart	Vienna	L	04/24/2007
22522	ABH Corporation	Quick Pick Food Store	Austell	R	04/27/2007
22526	Chu, Yong Chan	Pine Hill Food Store	Hephzibah	R	04/30/2007
22536	Samee Investment, Inc.	Citgo Food Mart	Alpharetta	L	05/01/2007
22539	AVS Food Mart, LLC	Short Trip	Cartersville	L	05/02/2007
22540	Kwon's Enterprise, Inc.	Kwon's Check Cashing	Chamblee	L	05/02/2007
22541	Ramiz Business, Inc.	Phillip's 66 Food Mart	Jonesboro	R	05/03/2007
22543	Buford Express, Inc.	Buford Money Express	Doraville	L	05/07/2007
22544	Vansh Corporation	King's Food Mart	Macon	R	05/07/2007
22547	Nobel Business, Inc.	Marathon Food Mart	Jonesboro	R	05/04/2007
22552	Caroline Sun Corporation	Pak-N-Go	Augusta	L	06/05/2007
22558	Sara G, Inc.	Sara G	Atlanta	L	05/14/2007
22561	Edwards Package Store, Inc.	Edwards Package Store	Elberton	R	06/05/2007
22573	BBS Enterprise, Inc.	Redan Package	Stone Mountain	L	05/17/2007
22575	Dimpal Enterprises, Inc.	Alpha Convenience Store	Alpharetta	R	05/17/2007
22577	MNB, Inc.	Discount Beverage	Reidsville	R	05/17/2007
22578	Perpetual Enterprises, Inc.	124 Package	Lithonia	L	05/17/2007
22581	Choudary, Khawar I.	Select One Food Mart	Murrayville	R	05/22/2007
22582	Moreland, Inc.	Buddy's Food Mart	Atlanta	R	05/22/2007
22584	Vince Check Cashing, Inc.	Vince Check Cashing	Jonesboro	L	05/17/2007
22585	Navisun International, LLC	Griffin Package	Grifin	R	05/22/2007
22599	Z & W Enterprises, Inc.	Z & W Enterprises	Riverdale	L	06/05/2007
22603	Webb, Frankie	Mail Bag	Decatur	L	06/05/2007
22605	Wan Hee, Inc.	Jumbo Package Store	Stone Mountain	L	05/25/2007
22611	Matthew's Marketplace, Inc.	Matthew's Marketplace	Conyers	L	06/07/2007
22612	Cole, Jacquelyn T.	Checks 4 Less	Waynesboro	L	06/07/2007
22616	Refresh Enterprises, Inc.	Baker Road Bottle Shop	Acworth	R	06/04/2007
22618	Su, Suk B.	Danneman's Supermarket	Atlanta	R	06/06/2007





Lic#	Company Name	DBA	CITY	Туре	Approved
22620	Quick Cash Plus, Inc.	Quick Cash Plus	Atlanta	L	06/07/2007
22628	Downtown Starlite, Inc.	J & C Food Mart	Atlanta	R	06/07/2007
22629	Arshad, Umar	Twin Pic	Forest Park	R	06/07/2007
22638	Rizq Food, Inc.	Shell Food Mart	Cumming	R	06/14/2007
22639	Aaron & Suma, LLC	Marathon Food Mart	Lawrenceville	L	06/13/2007
22640	Sixth Era, Inc.	Country Food	Stone Mountain	L	06/13/2007
22641	Breckenridge Food Mart, Inc.	Breckenridge Food Mart	Duluth	R	06/13/2007
22647	Garcia-Escobar, Juan	Miscelania Guatemex	Cairo	R	06/15/2007
22648	Mun Kom, Inc.	Spalding Liquor	Griffin	L	06/15/2007
22649	Atlanta Drinks, LLC	Skyland Point Bottle Store	Atlanta	L	06/19/2007
22655	Shree Ram, Inc.	Rocky's Food Mart	Warner Robins	R	06/19/2007
22657	Swity, Inc.	Chapel Hill Package	Douglasville	R	06/19/2007
22660	Huendo, Mercedes J.	El Bazaar	Cartersville	R	06/21/2007
22661	Arora, Suraj B.	Liquor & More	Martinez	R	06/21/2007
22663	Prabhu, Inc.	Fast Stop	Warner Robins	R	06/21/2007
22666	Desai, Guatam	DJ Petro	Waynesboro	R	06/25/2007
22670	DOS Enterprise, LLC	M&S Check Cashing	Lawrenceville	L	06/27/2007
Total	·	·	55		

R=Registrant L=Full Service

# EXPIRED/CLOSED CHECK CASHERS (License/Registration)

Lic#	Applicant	City	Closed	Туре
9506	B and B Spirits, Inc.	Decatur	04/06/2007	LD
18862	Han, Kwang II	Augusta	04/13/2007	LD
19576	Texmex Investments, LLC	Norcross	04/06/2007	RD
19579	M&E Food, Inc.	Atlanta	05/15/2007	RD
20521	Gbadebo, Adesola	Decatur	05/01/2007	RD
20634	Kash Group, Inc.	Cumming	06/07/2007	LD
20895	Georgia Distributor, Inc.	Chamblee	05/01/2007	LD
21076	Kemin Enterprises, Inc.	Vienna	04/20/2007	LD
21423	Sharon Package Store, Inc.	Atlanta	06/19/2007	LD
21551	Jateen Corporation	Macon	05/03/2007	LD
21652	LADEL5, Inc.	Duluth	06/19/2007	LD
21822	Lim, Duk Taek	Lawrenceville	06/18/2007	LD
Total		12		





### APPROVED/EXPIRED CHECK SELLERS/ MONEY TRANSMITTERS

LicNUM	Applicant Name	DBA	City	ST	Approved	Closed
22442	Trans-Fast Remittance LLC		New York	NY	04/13/2007	
22515	Hong Lan Services, Inc.		Westminster	CA	05/10/2007	
22583	Amacif, Inc.		Decatur	GA	05/25/2007	
		Trans-Fast				
18960	Trans-Fast Remittance, Inc.	Remittance	New York	NY	02/10/2004	04/13/2007
19574	TelecommUSA, Ltd.	TelecommUSA	Charlotte	SC	07/13/2004	04/04/2007
	Ready Remittance Company,					
22283	LLC	Atlanta	GA	02/16/2007	06/21/2007	
Upgrade from Money Transmitter to Check Seller						
19076	Order Express, Inc.	Order Express	Chicago	IL	03/05/2007	
Total		7				

#### FY 2008 Check Casher Renewals

The FY2008 CHECK CASHER on-line license renewal is in process. Remember the license classification may have changed since the last renewal (See Information on Page 1). Late renewal fines will be assessed after midnight August 1. ALL licensees MUST complete their application ON-LINE. The website is <a href="https://bkgfin.dbf.state.ga.us/CCRenewalFY08.html">https://bkgfin.dbf.state.ga.us/CCRenewalFY08.html</a>.

Licensees should use their USER ID and PASSWORD which was mailed with the renewal notice. Please note the following:

- PAYMENT: ACH or credit card ONLY. Most major cards accepted.
- PASSWORDS: Provided in your renewal notice. Contact the Department if you misplace this information.
- INCOMPLETE or "INFORMATION REQUIRED" APPLICATIONS: Supplemental information should be mailed in. Should any additional information be required based on review of your renewal, the licensee or registrant will be contacted by e-mail or fax *ONLY*. Renewals requiring additional information cannot be approved until such information is received and approved. All fines and fees must be paid.
- LATE FILINGS: If you have attempted access but been unable to utilize the on-line system, please contact the
  Department for instructions to complete your application. HARD COPY FORMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE
  INTERNET. Failure to request assistance in a timely manner will NOT prevent the assessment of the late fee if
  the deadline has passed.





# **Department Contact Information**

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Atlanta, GA 30341-5565

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Phone & Fax Numbers: Phone: (770) 986-1633 or

Toll Free: (888) 986-1633 Fax: (770) 986-1655 or 1029



## **E-MAILING THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department would like to encourage you to correspond with us using e-mail. Providing written details in the e-mail regarding any questions or concerns you may have allows the Department to forward the request to the appropriate person who handles that area, and if sufficient details are included in the request, that person can then more efficiently provide you an answer. The main Division e-mail address is <a href="mailto:dbf.state.qa.us">dbfmort@dbf.state.qa.us</a>

In the event you still need additional information or you do not receive a timely response to your e-mail, please contact us by phone.

**NOTE**: This publication is delivered to interested parties via e-mail and is also available from the Department's website at: <a href="http://www.gadbf.org">http://www.gadbf.org</a> under Publications, Bulletins. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:dbfcorp@dbf.state.ga.us">dbfcorp@dbf.state.ga.us</a> and indicate your name, the company you are with, license or registration # (if applicable), and phone number.