

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2630

To make it unlawful for any physical retail establishment to refuse to accept cash as payment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2019

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To make it unlawful for any physical retail establishment to refuse to accept cash as payment, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited to as the “CASH Act” or the
5 “Cash Always Should be Honored Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIRED ACCEPTANCE OF LEGAL TENDER.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any phys-
8 ical retail establishment to refuse to accept legal tender

1 as payment for any products or services offered for sale
2 by such physical retail establishment.

3 (b) ONLINE TRANSACTIONS.—For any physical retail
4 establishment that also offers products and services for
5 sale through an internet-based platform, subsection (a)
6 shall not apply to a transaction conducted through such
7 platform if the individual making a payment in such trans-
8 action is not physically present in the physical retail estab-
9 lishment at the time of the transaction.

10 (c) TELEPHONE TRANSACTIONS.—For any physical
11 retail establishment that also offers products and services
12 for sale by way of the telephone, subsection (a) shall not
13 apply to a transaction conducted by way of the telephone
14 if the individual making a payment in such transaction
15 is not physically present in the physical retail establish-
16 ment at the time of the transaction.

17 (d) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMIS-
18 SION.—

19 (1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
20 TICES.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be treated
21 as a violation of a regulation under section
22 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act
23 (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)) regarding unfair or decep-
24 tive acts or practices.

1 (2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The Federal
2 Trade Commission shall enforce subsection (a) in
3 the same manner, by the same means, and with the
4 same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all
5 applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade
6 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incor-
7 porated into and made a part of this section. Any
8 person who violates this section shall be subject to
9 the penalties and entitled to the privileges and im-
10 munities provided in the Federal Trade Commission
11 Act.

12 (3) RULEMAKING.—The Federal Trade Com-
13 mission may promulgate regulations under section
14 553 of title 5, United States Code, to implement this
15 section.

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

17 (1) LEGAL TENDER.—The term “legal tender”
18 means any United States coin or currency.

19 (2) PHYSICAL RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT.—The
20 term “physical retail establishment” means any
21 physical establishment where goods or services are
22 offered for sale and sold to individuals who are phys-
23 ically present in such physical establishment.

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