## SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

A bill for an act

relating to commerce; preventing unfair business practices by credit and debit

S.F. No. 1107

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOWE, Kelash and Kubly)

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DATED-PGOFFICIAL STATUS04/07/20111236Introduction and first reading<br/>Referred to Commerce and Consumer Protection04/28/20111451Author added Kubly

1.3 1.4	card companies; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 325O.
1.5	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
1.6	Section 1. TITLE.
1.7	This act may be cited as the Minnesota Credit and Debit Card Fairness Act.
1.8	Sec. 2. [3250.01] DEFINITIONS.
1.9	Subdivision 1. Terms. For purposes of sections 2 to 8, the terms defined in this
1.10	section have the meanings given.
1.11	Subd. 2. <b>Debit card.</b> "Debit card" means a card or payment device issued by a
1.12	financial institution and containing a magnetic stripe, microprocessor chip, or other means
1.13	for storage of or access to information that allows the user to obtain, purchase, or receive
1.14	credit, money, a good, a service, or anything of value through the transfer of funds from
1.15	the transaction account associated with the device.
1.16	Subd. 3. Electronic payment system. "Electronic payment system" means an
1.17	entity that: (1) directly, or through licensed members, processors, or agents, provides
1.18	the proprietary services, infrastructure, and software that route information and data to
1.19	facilitate transaction authorization, clearance, and settlement; and (2) merchants access
1.20	in order to accept a specific brand of general purpose credit cards, charge cards, debits
1.21	cards, or store-value cards or devices as payment for goods or services. A merchant is

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not an electronic payment system.

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	Subd. 4. Financial institution. "Financial institution" means an office of a bank,
<u>bar</u>	ak and trust, trust company with banking powers, savings bank, industrial loan
cor	npany, savings association, credit union, or regulated lender.
	Subd. 5. Merchant. "Merchant" means a person or entity doing business in this
<u>sta1</u>	te that offers goods or services for sale in this state.
	Subd. 6. PIN. "PIN" means a personal identification code that identifies the
car	dholder.
	Subd. 7. PIN-enabled debit card. "PIN-enabled debit card" means a debit card
<u>ha</u>	t enables a person or entity that accepts such cards in connection with a transaction
o ţ	prompt the cardholder to provide the PIN associated with the card when conducting a
rai	nsaction and to conduct the transaction as a PIN debit transaction. To comply with this
ec	tion, a PIN-enabled debit card must be physically and electronically identifiable as a
PΙΝ	N-enabled debit card, and have the capability to access at least one regional PIN debit
<u>net</u>	work that is widely available statewide.
	Subd. 8. Signature-enabled debit card. "Signature-enabled debit card" means a
<u>let</u>	oit card that: (1) enables a person or entity that accepts such cards in connection with a
rar	nsaction to authorize the transaction by means of an approved signature; (2) is physically
nc	l electronically identifiable as a signature-enabled debit card; and (3) has the capability
to a	access at least one regional signature debit network that is widely available statewide.
(	Sec. 3. [3250.02] PROTECTION OF RETAIL COMPETITION FROM CREDIT
AN	D DEBIT CARD UNFAIR PRACTICES.
	With respect to transactions involving merchants in this state, no electronic payment
sys	tem may, directly or through any agent, acquirer, processor, or member of the system:
	(1) impose a requirement, condition, penalty, or fine in a contract with a merchant
rela	ating to the display of pricing for goods or services for sale by the merchant;
	(2) inhibit the ability of a merchant to offer its customers discounts or in-kind
inc	entives for using, or to otherwise express a preference for or promote the use of, a
<u>for</u>	m of payment such as cash, check, debit card, or credit card or any other form of
pay	ment device;
	(3) inhibit the ability of a merchant to offer its customers discounts or in-kind
inc	entives for using, or to otherwise express a preference for or promote the use of, a
pay	ment card of another electronic payment system;
	(4) inhibit the ability of a merchant to offer its customers discounts or in-kind
inc	entives for using, or to otherwise express a preference for or promote the use of, a

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ticular product over another within the electronic payment system product suite, such
a standard credit card as opposed to a rewards or platinum credit card;
(5) prevent a merchant from setting a minimum or maximum dollar value for its
eeptance of a payment card product;
(6) inhibit the ability of a merchant to decide not to accept the products of an
ctronic payment system at one or more of its locations;
(7) prevent a merchant from deciding not to accept certain products of an electronic
yment system while still accepting other products of that electronic payment system;
(8) prevent a merchant from choosing how to route a transaction; or
(9) inhibit the ability of a merchant to communicate to consumers the cost incurred
the merchant when a consumer uses a particular electronic payment system, type of
oduct within that electronic payment system, or other form of payment.
Sec. 4. [3250.03] DEBIT CARDS; PIN-ENABLED AND
GNATURE-ENABLED REQUIREMENT.
(a) A financial institution shall not issue a debit card to a resident of this state unless
card is both a PIN-enabled debit card and a signature-enabled debit card. Nothing
this section prohibits an issuer from disabling the PIN functionality or the signature
actionality on a debit card at the cardholder's request.
(b) A financial institution shall not impose a surcharge, fee, or other penalty on
ardholder in connection with a debit card transaction for the purchase of goods or
vices that discriminates between PIN and signature transactions.
(c) A person or entity that accepts an access device in connection with a transaction
y choose to use either PIN or signature processing.
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE.</b> This section is effective 30 days after final enactment.
Sec. 5. [325O.04] PENALTIES.
(a) An electronic payment system found to have violated section 325O.02 shall
mburse all affected merchants for all fines related to the prohibitions described in
etion 325O.02 which were collected from affected merchants directly or through
y agent, processor, or member of the system during the period of time in which the
ctronic payment system was in violation, and is liable for a civil penalty of \$10,000 per
e levied in violation of section 325O.02.
(b) A financial institution found to have violated section 325O.03 is liable for a civil

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4.1	(c) A merchant whose rights under section 325O.02 have been violated may
4.2	maintain a civil action for damages or equitable relief as provided for in this section,
4.3	including the costs of the action, together with attorney fees, if any.
4.4	(d) A merchant or cardholder whose rights under section 325O.03 have been violated
4.5	may maintain a civil action for damages or equitable relief as provided for in this section,
4.6	including the costs of the action, together with attorney fees, if any.
4.7	(e) The attorney general may investigate any alleged violation of section 325O.02 or
4.8	325.03 and, having reasonable cause to believe that a violation is imminent, is occurring,
4.9	or has occurred, the attorney general may institute on behalf of the state, any of its
4.10	departments and agencies, or any of its political subdivisions a court action seeking
4.11	appropriate relief. The investigatory authority of the attorney general under section
4.12	325O.04 includes, but is not limited to, the authority provided for in section 8.31.
4.13	(f) In determining the amount of award in a class action, the court shall consider,
4.14	among other relevant factors, the amount of any actual damages awarded, the frequency
4.15	and persistence of failures of compliance by the issuer, the resources of the issuer, the
4.16	number of persons adversely affected, and the extent to which the issuer's failure of
4.17	compliance was intentional.
4.18	(g) The remedies under this section are cumulative and do not restrict any other right
4.19	or remedy otherwise available.

Sec. 5.