

CHAPTER 56

REGULATED LOANS

56.131 *Maximum rates and charges.*

56.131 MAXIMUM RATES AND CHARGES.

Subdivision 1. **Interest rates and charges.** (a) On any loan in a principal amount not exceeding \$35,000 or 15 percent of a corporate licensee's capital stock and surplus as defined in section 53.015, if greater, a licensee may contract for and receive interest, calculated according to the actuarial method, not exceeding the equivalent of the greater of any of the following:

(1) the total of: (i) 33 percent per year on that part of the unpaid balance of the principal amount not exceeding \$750; and (ii) 19 percent per year on that part of the unpaid balance of the principal amount exceeding \$750; or

(2) 21.75 percent per year on the unpaid balance of the principal amount.

(b) On any loan where interest has been calculated according to the method provided for in paragraph (a), clause (1), interest must be contracted for and earned as provided in that provision or at the single annual percentage rate computed to the nearest 1/100 of one percent that would earn the same total interest at maturity of the contract as would be earned by the application of the graduated rates provided in paragraph (a), clause (1), when the debt is paid according to the agreed terms and the calculations are made according to the actuarial method.

(c) Loans may be interest-bearing or precomputed.

(d) To compute time on interest-bearing and precomputed loans, including, but not limited to the calculation of interest, a day is considered 1/30 of a month when calculation is made for a fraction of a calendar month. A year is 12 calendar months. A calendar month is that period from a given date in one month to the same numbered date in the following month, and if there is no same numbered date, to the last day of the following month. When a period of time includes a whole month and a fraction of a month, the fraction of a month is considered to follow the whole month.

In the alternative, for interest-bearing loans, a licensee may charge interest at the rate of 1/365 of the agreed annual rate for each actual day elapsed.

(e) With respect to interest-bearing loans:

(1) Interest must be computed on unpaid principal balances outstanding from time to time, for the time outstanding. Each payment must be applied first to the accumulated interest and the remainder of the payment applied to the unpaid principal balance; provided however, that if the amount of the payment is insufficient to pay the accumulated interest, the unpaid interest continues to accumulate to be paid from the proceeds of subsequent payments and is not added to the principal balance.

(2) Interest must not be payable in advance or compounded. However, if part or all of the consideration for a new loan contract is the unpaid principal balance of a prior loan, then the principal amount payable under the new loan contract may include any unpaid interest which has accrued. The unpaid principal balance of a precomputed loan is the balance due after refund or credit of unearned interest as provided in paragraph (f), clause (3). The resulting loan contract is deemed a new and separate loan transaction for all purposes.

(f) With respect to precomputed loans:

(1) Loans must be repayable in substantially equal and consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest combined, except that the first installment period may be more or less than one month by not more than 15 days, and the first installment payment amount may be larger than the remaining payments by the amount of interest charged for the extra days and must be reduced by the amount of interest for the num-

ber of days less than one month to the first installment payment; and monthly installment payment dates may be omitted to accommodate borrowers with seasonal income.

(2) Payments may be applied to the combined total of principal and precomputed interest until the loan is fully paid. Payments must be applied in the order in which they become due.

(3) When any loan contract is paid in full by cash, renewal or refinancing, or a new loan, one month or more before the final installment due date, a licensee shall refund or credit the borrower with the total of the applicable charges for all fully unexpired installment periods, as originally scheduled or as deferred, which follow the day of prepayment; if the prepayment is made other than on a scheduled payment date, the nearest scheduled installment payment date must be used in the computation; provided further, if the prepayment occurs prior to the first installment due date, the licensee may retain 1/30 of the applicable charge for a first installment period of one month for each day from the date of the loan to the date of prepayment, and shall refund or credit the borrower with the balance of the total interest contracted for. If the maturity of the loan is accelerated for any reason and judgment is entered, the licensee shall credit the borrower with the same refund as if prepayment in full had been made on the date the judgment is entered.

(4) If an installment, other than the final installment, is not paid in full within ten days of its scheduled due date, a licensee may contract for and receive a default charge not exceeding five percent of the amount of the installment, but not less than \$4.

A default charge under this subdivision may not be collected on an installment paid in full within ten days of its scheduled due date, or deferred installment due date with respect to deferred installments, even though a default or deferral charge on an earlier installment has not been paid in full. A default charge may be collected at the time it accrues or at any time thereafter.

(5) If the parties agree in writing, either in the loan contract or in a subsequent agreement, to a deferment of wholly unpaid installments, a licensee may grant a deferment and may collect a deferment charge as provided in this section. A deferment postpones the scheduled due date of the earliest unpaid installment and all subsequent installments as originally scheduled, or as previously deferred, for a period equal to the deferment period. The deferment period is that period during which no installment is scheduled to be paid by reason of the deferment. The deferment charge for a one-month period may not exceed the applicable charge for the installment period immediately following the due date of the last undeferred payment. A proportionate charge may be made for deferment for periods of more or less than one month. A deferment charge is earned pro rata during the deferment period and is fully earned on the last day of the deferment period. Should a loan be prepaid in full during a deferment period, the licensee shall make or credit to the borrower a refund of the unearned deferment charge in addition to any other refund or credit made for prepayment of the loan in full.

(6) If two or more installments are delinquent one full month or more on any due date, and if the contract so provides, the licensee may reduce the unpaid balance by the refund credit which would be required for prepayment in full on the due date of the most recent maturing installment in default. Thereafter, and in lieu of any other default or deferment charges, the single annual percentage rate permitted by this subdivision may be charged on the unpaid balance until fully paid.

(7) Following the final installment as originally scheduled or deferred, the licensee, for any loan contract which has not previously been converted to interest-bearing under clause (6), may charge interest on any balance remaining unpaid, including unpaid default or deferment charges, at the single annual percentage rate permitted by this subdivision until fully paid.

(8) With respect to a loan secured by an interest in real estate, and having a maturity of more than 60 months, the original schedule of installment payments must fully amortize the principal and interest on the loan. The original schedule of installment payments for any other loan secured by an interest in real estate must provide for payment amounts that are sufficient to pay all interest scheduled to be due on the loan.

[For text of subds 2 to 6, see M.S.1990]

History: 1990 c 464 s 2,3