

the cardholder's account are deemed to have been applied, in the order indicated, to the payment of: (1) late charges in the order of their entry to the account; (2) finance charges in order of their entry to the account; and (3) debits to the account other than those set forth above, in the order in which each debit entry to the account was made.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title I, §170, as added Pub. L. 93-495, title III, §306, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1515.)

**§ 1666i-1. Limits on interest rate, fee, and finance charge increases applicable to outstanding balances**

**(a) In general**

In the case of any credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan, no creditor may increase any annual percentage rate, fee, or finance charge applicable to any outstanding balance, except as permitted under subsection (b).

**(b) Exceptions**

The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) an increase in an annual percentage rate upon the expiration of a specified period of time, provided that—

(A) prior to commencement of that period, the creditor disclosed to the consumer, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the length of the period and the annual percentage rate that would apply after expiration of the period;

(B) the increased annual percentage rate does not exceed the rate disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(C) the increased annual percentage rate is not applied to transactions that occurred prior to commencement of the period;

(2) an increase in a variable annual percentage rate in accordance with a credit card agreement that provides for changes in the rate according to operation of an index that is not under the control of the creditor and is available to the general public;

(3) an increase due to the completion of a workout or temporary hardship arrangement by the obligor or the failure of the obligor to comply with the terms of a workout or temporary hardship arrangement, provided that—

(A) the annual percentage rate, fee, or finance charge applicable to a category of transactions following any such increase does not exceed the rate, fee, or finance charge that applied to that category of transactions prior to commencement of the arrangement; and

(B) the creditor has provided the obligor, prior to the commencement of such arrangement, with clear and conspicuous disclosure of the terms of the arrangement (including any increases due to such completion or failure); or

(4) an increase due solely to the fact that a minimum payment by the obligor has not been received by the creditor within 60 days after the due date for such payment, provided that the creditor shall—

(A) include, together with the notice of such increase required under section 1637(i) of this title, a clear and conspicuous written statement of the reason for the increase and that the increase will terminate not later than 6 months after the date on which it is imposed, if the creditor receives the required minimum payments on time from the obligor during that period; and

(B) terminate such increase not later than 6 months after the date on which it is imposed, if the creditor receives the required minimum payments on time during that period.

**(c) Repayment of outstanding balance**

**(1) In general**

The creditor shall not change the terms governing the repayment of any outstanding balance, except that the creditor may provide the obligor with one of the methods described in paragraph (2) of repaying any outstanding balance, or a method that is no less beneficial to the obligor than one of those methods.

**(2) Methods**

The methods described in this paragraph are—

(A) an amortization period of not less than 5 years, beginning on the effective date of the increase set forth in the notice required under section 1637(i) of this title; or

(B) a required minimum periodic payment that includes a percentage of the outstanding balance that is equal to not more than twice the percentage required before the effective date of the increase set forth in the notice required under section 1637(i) of this title.

**(d) Outstanding balance defined**

For purposes of this section, the term "outstanding balance" means the amount owed on a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan as of the end of the 14th day after the date on which the creditor provides notice of an increase in the annual percentage rate, fee, or finance charge in accordance with section 1637(i) of this title.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title I, §171, as added Pub. L. 111-24, title I, §101(b)(2), May 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 1736.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 171 of Pub. L. 90-321 was renumbered section 173 and is classified to section 1666j of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 9 months after May 22, 2009, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 111-24, set out as an Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 1602 of this title.

**§ 1666i-2. Additional limits on interest rate increases**

**(a) Limitation on increases within first year**

Except in the case of an increase described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of section 1666i-1(b) of this title, no increase in any annual percentage rate, fee, or finance charge on any credit card account under an open end consumer credit

plan shall be effective before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date on which the account is opened.

**(b) Promotional rate minimum term**

No increase in any annual percentage rate applicable to a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan that is a promotional rate (as that term is defined by the Bureau) shall be effective before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date on which the promotional rate takes effect, subject to such reasonable exceptions as the Bureau may establish, by rule.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title I, §172, as added Pub. L. 111-24, title I, §101(d), May 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 1738; amended Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1100A(2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2107.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-203 substituted “Bureau” for “Board” in two places.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 9 months after May 22, 2009, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 111-24, set out as an Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 1602 of this title.

**§ 1666j. Applicability of State laws**

**(a) Consistency of provisions**

This part does not annul, alter, or affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this part from complying with, the laws of any State with respect to credit billing practices, except to the extent that those laws are inconsistent with any provision of this part, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency. The Bureau is authorized to determine whether such inconsistencies exist. The Bureau may not determine that any State law is inconsistent with any provision of this part if the Bureau determines that such law gives greater protection to the consumer.

**(b) Exemptions by Bureau from credit billing requirements**

The Bureau shall by regulation exempt from the requirements of this part any class of credit transactions within any State if it determines that under the law of that State that class of transactions is subject to requirements substantially similar to those imposed under this part or that such law gives greater protection to the consumer, and that there is adequate provision for enforcement.

**(c) Finance charge or other charge for credit for sales transactions involving cash discounts**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subchapter, any discount offered under section 1666f(b) of this title shall not be considered a finance charge or other charge for credit under the usury laws of any State or under the laws of any State relating to disclosure of information in connection with credit transactions, or relat-

ing to the types, amounts or rates of charges, or to any element or elements of charges permissible under such laws in connection with the extension or use of credit.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title I, §173, formerly §171, as added Pub. L. 93-495, title III, §306, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1516; amended Pub. L. 94-222, §3(d), Feb. 27, 1976, 90 Stat. 198; renumbered §173, Pub. L. 111-24, title I, §101(b)(1), May 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 1736; Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §§1087, 1100A(2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2086, 2107.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 111-203, §1100A(2), which directed the substitution of “Bureau” for “Board” wherever appearing in title I of Pub. L. 90-321, was executed to this section, which is section 173 of title I of Pub. L. 90-321. Section 1087 of Pub. L. 111-203, which directed the making of an identical amendment in title III of Pub. L. 93-495, which added this section to title I of Pub. L. 90-321, has not been executed.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 111-203, §1100A(2), substituted “Bureau” for “Board” wherever appearing. See Codification note above.

1976—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-222 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

PART E—CONSUMER LEASES

**§ 1667. Definitions**

For purposes of this part—

(1) The term “consumer lease” means a contract in the form of a lease or bailment for the use of personal property by a natural person for a period of time exceeding four months, and for a total contractual obligation not exceeding \$50,000,<sup>1</sup> primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, whether or not the lessee has the option to purchase or otherwise become the owner of the property at the expiration of the lease, except that such term shall not include any credit sale as defined in section 1602(g)<sup>2</sup> of this title. Such term does not include a lease for agricultural, business, or commercial purposes, or to a government or governmental agency or instrumentality, or to an organization.

(2) The term “lessee” means a natural person who leases or is offered a consumer lease.

(3) The term “lessor” means a person who is regularly engaged in leasing, offering to lease, or arranging to lease under a consumer lease.

(4) The term “personal property” means any property which is not real property under the laws of the State where situated at the time offered or otherwise made available for lease.

(5) The terms “security” and “security interest” mean any interest in property which secures payment or performance of an obligation.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title I, §181, as added Pub. L. 94-240, §3, Mar. 23, 1976, 90 Stat. 257; amended

<sup>1</sup> See Adjustments for Inflation note below.

<sup>2</sup> See References in Text note below.