

House of Representatives

File No. 933

General Assembly

January Session, 2025 (Reprint of File No. 318)

Substitute House Bill No. 7082 As Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner May 16, 2025

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE MONEY TRANSMISSION STATUTES, STATE PAYMENTS AND INVESTMENTS IN VIRTUAL CURRENCY AND MINORS' MONEY SHARING APPLICATION ACCOUNTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 36a-596 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- As used in sections 36a-595 to 36a-614, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 5 (1) "Advertise" or "advertising" has the same meaning as provided in 6 section 36a-485.
- 7 (2) "Authorized delegate" means a person designated by a person
 8 licensed pursuant to sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive, to provide
 9 money transmission services on behalf of such licensed person.

10 (3) "Control" means (A) the power to vote, directly or indirectly, at 11 least twenty-five per cent of the outstanding voting shares or voting 12 interests of a licensee or person in control of a licensee, (B) the power to 13 elect or appoint a majority of key individuals or executive officers, 14 managers, directors, trustees or other persons exercising managerial 15 authority of a person in control of a licensee, or (C) the power to exercise, 16 directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or 17 policies of a licensee or person in control of a licensee. For purposes of 18 this subdivision, (i) a person is presumed to exercise a controlling 19 influence when the person holds the power to vote, directly or 20 indirectly, at least ten per cent of the outstanding voting shares or voting 21 interests of a licensee or person in control of a licensee, (ii) a person 22 presumed to exercise a controlling influence can rebut such 23 presumption if the person is a passive investor, and (iii) to determine 24 the percentage of control, a person's interest shall be aggregated with 25 the interest of any other immediate family member, including the 26 person's spouse, parent, child, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, 27 son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and any other 28 person who shares the person's home.

(4) "Control person" means any individual in control of a licensee or
applicant, any individual who seeks to acquire control of a licensee or a
key individual.

(5) "Digital wallet" means any electronic or digital functionality that
 (A) stores stored value or virtual currency for a consumer, including,
 but not limited to, in encrypted or tokenized form, and (B) transmits,
 routes or otherwise processes such stored value or virtual currency to

36 <u>facilitate a consumer payment transaction.</u>

[(5)] (6) "Electronic payment instrument" (A) means a card or other tangible object (i) for the transmission of money or monetary value or payment of money, (ii) which contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe or other means for the storage of information, (iii) that is prefunded, and (iv) for which the value is decremented upon each use, and (B) does not include a card or other tangible object that is 43 redeemable by the issuer in the issuer's goods or services.

[(6)] (7) "Existing customer" means a consumer who (A) is engaging
in a <u>virtual currency</u> transaction [at a virtual currency kiosk in the state]
with a licensee, (B) has performed not fewer than three virtual currency
transactions with the [owner or operator of such virtual currency kiosk]
<u>licensee</u>, and (C) has been registered as a customer of such [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> for more than seventy-two hours.

50 [(7)] (8) "Holder" means a person, other than a purchaser, who is 51 either in possession of a payment instrument and is the named payee 52 thereon or in possession of a payment instrument issued or endorsed to 53 such person or bearer or in blank. "Holder" does not include any person 54 who is in possession of a lost, stolen or forged payment instrument.

55 [(8)] (9) "Key individual" means any individual ultimately 56 responsible for establishing or directing policies and procedures of the 57 licensee, including, but not limited to, an executive officer, manager, 58 director or trustee.

59 [(9)] (10) "Licensee" means any person licensed or required to be 60 licensed pursuant to sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive.

[(10)] (<u>11)</u> "Main office" has the same meaning as provided in section
36a-485.

[(11)] (12) "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange, whether
or not redeemable in money.

65 [(12)] (13) "Money transmission" means engaging, directly or through an authorized delegate, in the business of issuing or selling payment 66 67 instruments or stored value, receiving money or monetary value for 68 current or future transmission or the business of transmitting money or 69 monetary value within the United States or to locations outside the 70 United States by any and all means including, but not limited to, 71 payment instrument, wire, facsimile, electronic transfer, [or] virtual 72 currency kiosk or digital wallet, including, but not limited to, a digital

73 <u>wallet utilized in connection with a consumer payment mobile</u>
74 <u>application</u>.

[(13)] (<u>14</u>) "New customer" means a consumer who (A) is engaging in
a <u>virtual currency</u> transaction [at a virtual currency kiosk in the state]
<u>with a licensee</u>, (B) has performed fewer than three virtual currency
transactions with the [owner or operator of such virtual currency kiosk]
<u>licensee</u>, and (C) has been registered as a customer of such [owner or
operator] <u>licensee</u> for less than seventy-two hours.

81 [(14)] (15) "Outstanding" means (A) in the case of a payment 82 instrument or stored value, that (i) such instrument or value is sold or 83 issued in the United States, (ii) a report of such instrument or value has 84 been received by a licensee from its authorized delegates, and (iii) such 85 instrument or value has not yet been paid by the issuer, and (B) for all 86 other money transmissions, the value reported to the licensee for which 87 the licensee or any authorized delegate has received money or its 88 equivalent value from the customer for transmission, but has not yet 89 completed the money transmission by delivering the money or 90 monetary value to the person designated by the customer.

91 [(15)] (16) "Passive investor" means a person that (A) does not have 92 the power to elect a majority of key individuals or executive officers, 93 managers, directors, trustees or other persons exercising managerial 94 authority of a person in control of a licensee, (B) is not employed by and 95 does not have any managerial duties of the licensee or person in control 96 of a licensee, (C) does not have the power to exercise, directly or 97 indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of a 98 licensee or person in control of a licensee, and (D) attests to 99 subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of this subdivision in the form and 100 manner prescribed by the commissioner.

101 [(16)] (<u>17</u>) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, money order, 102 travelers check or electronic payment instrument that evidences either 103 an obligation for the transmission of money or monetary value or 104 payment of money, or the purchase or the deposit of funds for the purchase of such check, draft, money order, travelers check or electronicpayment instrument.

107 [(17)] (18) "Permissible investment" means (A) (i) cash in United 108 States currency, including, but not limited to, demand deposits, savings 109 deposits and funds in demand deposit and savings deposit accounts 110 held for the benefit of a licensee's customers in an insured depository 111 institution, and (ii) cash equivalents, including, but not limited to, (I) 112 automated clearing house items in transit to a licensee or payee, (II) 113 international wires in transit to a payee, (III) cash in transit via armored 114 car, (IV) cash in smart safes, (V) cash in locations owned by licensees, 115 (VI) transmission receivables that are funded by debit cards or credit 116 cards and owed by any bank, and (VII) money market mutual funds 117 rated "AAA" or the equivalent by S & P Global, Incorporated, in the "S 118 & P Global Ratings" or by any other rating service recognized by the 119 commissioner, (B) time deposits, as defined in section 36a-2, or other 120 debt instruments of a bank, (C) bills of exchange or bankers acceptances 121 which are eligible for purchase by member banks of the Federal Reserve 122 System, (D) commercial paper of prime quality, (E) interest-bearing 123 bills, notes, bonds, debentures or other obligations issued or guaranteed 124 by (i) the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or (ii) 125 any state, or any agency, instrumentality, political subdivision, school 126 district or legally constituted authority of any state if such investment is of prime quality, (F) interest-bearing bills or notes, or bonds, debentures 127 128 or preferred stocks, traded on any national securities exchange or on a 129 national over-the-counter market, if such debt or equity investments are 130 of prime quality, (G) receivables due from authorized delegates 131 consisting of the proceeds of the sale of payment instruments which are 132 not past due or doubtful of collection, (H) gold, and (I) any other 133 investments approved by the commissioner. Notwithstanding the 134 provisions of this subdivision, if the commissioner at any time finds that 135 an investment of a licensee is unsatisfactory for investment purposes, 136 the investment shall not qualify as a permissible investment.

[(18)] (<u>19</u>) "Prime quality" of an investment means that it is within the
 top four rating categories in any rating service recognized by the
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139 commissioner unless the commissioner determines for any licensee that140 only those investments in the top three rating categories qualify as141 prime quality.

[(19)] (20) "Purchaser" means a person who buys or has bought a
payment instrument or who has given money or monetary value for
current or future transmission.

[(20)] (21) "Receipt" means a paper record, electronic record or other
written confirmation of a money transmission transaction.

[(21)] (22) "Stored value" means monetary value that <u>represents a</u> claim against the issuer of such monetary value and is evidenced by an electronic <u>or digital</u> record. For the purposes of this subdivision, ["electronic record"] <u>"electronic or digital record"</u> means information that is stored in an electronic medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

[(22)] (23) "Travelers check" means a payment instrument for the payment of money that contains a provision for a specimen signature of the purchaser to be completed at the time of a purchase of the instrument and a provision for a countersignature of the purchaser to be completed at the time of negotiation.

[(23)] (24) "Unique identifier" has the same meaning as provided in
section 36a-485.

160 [(24)] (25) "Virtual currency" means any type of digital unit that is 161 used as a medium of exchange or a form of digitally stored value or that 162 is incorporated into payment system technology. Virtual currency shall 163 be construed to include digital units of exchange that (A) have a 164 centralized repository or administrator, (B) are decentralized and have 165 no centralized repository or administrator, or (C) may be created or 166 obtained by computing or manufacturing effort. Virtual currency shall 167 not be construed to include digital units that are used (i) solely within 168 online gaming platforms with no market or application outside such 169 gaming platforms, or (ii) exclusively as part of a consumer affinity or

rewards program, and can be applied solely as payment for purchases
with the issuer or other designated merchants, but cannot be converted
into or redeemed for fiat currency.

173 [(25)] <u>(26)</u> "Virtual currency address" means an alphanumeric 174 identifier representing a destination for a virtual currency transfer that 175 is associated with a virtual currency wallet.

(27) "Virtual currency control services vendor" means a person who
 controls virtual currency under an agreement with another person who,
 on behalf of a third person, assumes control of virtual currency.

179 [(26)] (28) "Virtual currency kiosk" means an electronic terminal 180 acting as a mechanical agent of the owner or operator to enable the 181 owner or operator to facilitate the exchange of virtual currency for fiat 182 currency or other virtual currency, including, but not limited to, by (A) 183 connecting directly to a separate virtual currency exchanger that 184 performs the actual virtual currency transmission, or (B) drawing upon 185 the virtual currency in the possession of the owner or operator of the 186 electronic terminal.

[(27)] (29) "Virtual currency wallet" means a software application or
other mechanism providing a means for holding, storing and
transferring virtual currency.

190 Sec. 2. Section 36a-603 of the general statutes is repealed and the 191 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

192 (a) Each licensee shall at all times maintain permissible investments 193 having a value, computed in accordance with generally accepted 194 accounting principles, at least equal to the aggregate amount of its 195 outstanding money transmissions in this state, provided the value of 196 receivables due from authorized delegates consisting of the proceeds of 197 the sale of payment instruments that are not past due or doubtful of 198 collection shall not exceed thirty per cent of the permissible investments 199 held by the licensee and receivables due from any one person shall not 200 exceed ten per cent of the value of permissible investments held by the

201 licensee.

202 (b) Each licensee that engages in the business of money transmission 203 in this state by receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody 204 or control of virtual currency on behalf of another person shall at all 205 times hold virtual currency of the same type and amount owed or obligated to such other person. As used in subsection (a) of this section, 206 207 outstanding money transmissions does not include any virtual currency 208 held pursuant to this subsection, and "value" means the lower of book 209 or market value, except that with regard to debt obligations which the 210 licensee as a matter of policy retains until maturity, "value" means the 211 greater of book or market value unless the commissioner orders that for 212 some or all investments of a particular licensee, "value" means the lower 213 of book or market value.

214 (c) Permissible investments and virtual currency held pursuant to 215 subsection (b) of this section, even if commingled with other assets of 216 the licensee, shall be deemed by operation of law to be (1) property 217 interests of any claimants against the licensee, on a pro rata basis and in 218 the type and amount of virtual currency to which such claimants are 219 entitled, without regard to the time when (A) such claimants became 220 entitled to such virtual currency, or (B) the licensee obtained control of 221 such virtual currency, (2) held in trust for the benefit of any claimants 222 against the licensee to serve the faithful performance of the obligations 223 of the licensee and the licensee's authorized delegates with respect to 224 the licensee's money transmission business in this state in the event of 225 the bankruptcy of the licensee, and [shall be] (3) immune from 226 attachment by creditors or judgment creditors.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 36a-607 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*1, 2025):

(a) [A] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of
 section 36a-613, as amended by this act, a licensee may conduct its
 business at one or more locations within this state as follows:

233 (1) The business may be conducted by the licensee or through or by 234 means of such authorized delegates as the licensee may periodically 235 designate or appoint on the system in such form and manner as required 236 by the commissioner. The licensee shall pay any associated processing 237 fees imposed by the system. The licensee shall notify the commissioner 238 on the system of all authorized delegates that act on its behalf. An 239 authorized delegate may not engage in the business of money 240 transmission in this state on behalf of a licensee through or by means of 241 any person who is not identified on the system as an authorized 242 delegate of the licensee.

(2) No license under sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive, shall berequired of any authorized delegate.

(3) Each authorized delegate shall, from the moment of receipt, hold
the proceeds of a sale or delivery of a licensee's money transmissions in
this state in trust for the benefit of such licensee.

(4) A licensee shall be liable for the loss caused to any purchaser or
holder of the licensee's payment instruments or stored value sold in this
state by the failure of an authorized delegate to forward to the licensee
the amount due from the proceeds of a sale or delivery of the licensee's
payment instruments or stored value, or money or monetary value
received for transmission.

254 (5) The licensee shall enter into a contract with each of its authorized 255 delegates that requires the authorized delegate to operate in full 256 compliance with sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive, and provides 257 that appointment of the authorized delegate is not effective during any 258 period when the license of the licensee has been suspended. The licensee 259 shall provide each authorized delegate with policies and procedures 260 sufficient to ensure compliance with sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, 261 inclusive.

(6) An authorized delegate shall remit all money owing to the licenseein accordance with the terms of the contract between the licensee andthe authorized delegate.

265 (7) An authorized delegate shall not provide money transmission
266 services in this state outside the scope of activity permissible under the
267 contract between the authorized delegate and the licensee.

Sec. 4. Section 36a-613 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

270 (a) [The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk] Each licensee 271 that engages in the business of money transmission in this state by 272 receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or control of 273 <u>virtual currency</u> shall, in establishing a relationship with a customer and 274 prior to entering into an initial virtual currency transaction for, on behalf 275 of or with the customer, disclose in clear, conspicuous and legible 276 writing in the English language all material risks associated with virtual 277 currency generally, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) A disclosure, which shall be acknowledged by the customer,
provided separately from the disclosures provided pursuant to
subdivisions (2) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection and written
prominently and in bold type, stating the following: "WARNING:
LOSSES DUE TO FRAUDULENT OR ACCIDENTAL TRANSACTIONS
MAY NOT BE RECOVERABLE AND TRANSACTIONS IN VIRTUAL
CURRENCY ARE IRREVERSIBLE.";

(2) Virtual currency is not backed or insured by the government and
accounts and value balances are not subject to Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration or
Securities Investor Protection Corporation protections;

(3) Some virtual currency transactions shall be deemed to be made
when recorded on a public ledger, which may not be the date or time
when the customer initiates the virtual currency transaction;

(4) The value of virtual currency may be derived from the continued
willingness of market participants to exchange fiat currency for virtual
currency, which may result in the permanent and total loss of the value
of a particular virtual currency, if the market for that virtual currency

296 disappears;

(5) The volatility and unpredictability of the price of virtual currency
relative to fiat currency may result in a significant loss over a short
period of time;

(6) Any bond maintained by the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> for the
benefit of the customers of such [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> may not be
sufficient to cover all losses incurred by such customers; and

303 (7) Virtual currency transactions are irreversible and are used by 304 persons seeking to defraud customers, including, but not limited to, a 305 person impersonating a customer's loved one, threatening jail time, 306 stating that a customer's identity has been stolen, insisting that a 307 customer withdraw money from the customer's bank account and 308 purchase cryptocurrency or alleging a customer's personal computer 309 has been hacked.

310 (b) [The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk] <u>Each licensee</u> 311 that engages in the business of money transmission in this state by 312 receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or control of 313 virtual currency shall, when opening an account for a new customer and 314 prior to entering into an initial virtual currency transaction for, on behalf 315 of or with such customer, disclose in clear, conspicuous and legible 316 writing in the English language, using not less than twenty-four point 317 sans-serif-type font, all relevant terms and conditions associated with 318 the products, services and activities of the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> and virtual currency generally, including, but not limited to, the 319 320 following:

321 (1) The customer's liability for unauthorized virtual currency322 transactions;

323 (2) The customer's right to stop payment of a preauthorized virtual
324 currency transfer and the procedure used to initiate a stop-payment
325 order;

326 (3) Under what circumstances the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> will,
327 absent a court or government order, disclose information concerning the
328 customer's account to third parties;

329 (4) The requirement that the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u>
330 communicate to the customer what customer information may be
331 disclosed to third parties;

(5) [The] For any transaction that utilizes a virtual currency kiosk, the
customer's right to receive a physical, printed receipt for a virtual
currency transaction at the time of the transaction; and

(6) Upon any change in the rules or policies of the [owner or operator]
<u>licensee</u>, the customer's right to consent to such changed rules or policies
prior to performing any transaction after such change.

338 (c) [The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk] Each licensee 339 that engages in the business of money transmission in this state by 340 receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or control of 341 <u>virtual currency</u> shall, prior to each [transaction in] virtual currency 342 transaction for, on behalf of or with a customer, disclose to such 343 customer in clear, conspicuous and legible writing in the English 344 language, using not less than twenty-four point sans-serif-type font, the 345 terms and conditions of the virtual currency transaction, including, but 346 not limited to, the following:

347 (1) The amount of the transaction;

348 (2) Any fees, expenses and charges borne by the customer, including,349 but not limited to, applicable exchange rates;

350 (3) The type and nature of the virtual currency transaction;

351 (4) A warning that, once executed, the virtual currency transaction352 may not be undone, if applicable;

(5) [A] For any transaction that utilizes a virtual currency kiosk, the
 applicable daily virtual currency transaction limit [in accordance with]

355 established pursuant to subsection [(g)] (h) of this section; and 356 (6) The difference in the sale price of the virtual currency versus the 357 current market price. 358 (d) [The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk] Each licensee 359 that engages in the business of money transmission in this state by 360 receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or control of 361 virtual currency shall ensure that each customer acknowledges receipt 362 of all disclosures required under this section. 363 (e) (1) [The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk] Each 364 licensee that engages in the business of money transmission in this state 365 by receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or control of 366 <u>virtual currency</u> shall, upon the completion of any virtual currency 367 transaction, provide to the customer a receipt containing the following 368 information: 369 (A) The name of, and contact information for, the [owner or operator] 370 licensee, including, but not limited to, the [owner or operator's] 371 licensee's business address and a customer service telephone number 372 established by the [owner or operator] licensee to answer questions and 373 register complaints; 374 (B) The name of the customer; 375 (C) The type, value, date and precise time of such virtual currency 376 transaction, and each virtual currency address; 377 (D) The amount of such virtual currency transaction expressed in 378 United States currency; 379 (E) The full unique transaction hash or identification number;

- 380 (F) The public virtual currency address of the customer;
- 381 (G) The unique identifier;

382 383 384	(H) Any fee charged, including, but not limited to, any fee charged directly or indirectly by the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> or a third party involved in such virtual currency transaction;		
385	(I) The exchange rate, if applicable;		
386 387	(J) Any tax collected by the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> for such virtual currency transaction;		
388 389	(K) A statement of the liability of the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> for nondelivery or delayed delivery;		
390 391	(L) A statement of the refund policy of the [owner or operator] <u>licensee</u> ;		
392 393 394 395 396	(M) The name and telephone number of the Department of Banking and a statement disclosing that the [owner or operator's] <u>licensee's</u> customers may contact the department with questions or complaints about the [owner or operator's] <u>licensee's</u> virtual currency [kiosk] services; and		
397 398	(N) Any additional information the Banking Commissioner may require.		
399	(2) The receipt required under subdivision (1) of this subsection:		
400 401 402 403	(A) Shall be provided in (i) a retainable form, (ii) the English language, and (iii) the language principally used by the [owner or operator of the virtual currency kiosk] <u>licensee</u> to advertise, solicit or negotiate, either orally or in writing; and		
404 405 406	(B) May be provided electronically, [if] <u>provided</u> , if the transaction <u>utilizes a virtual currency kiosk</u> , the customer requests or agrees to receive an electronic receipt.		
407 408	(f) A licensee that engages in the business of money transmission in this state by receiving, transmitting, storing or maintaining custody or		

409 <u>control of virtual currency shall not:</u>

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410	<u>(1) Sell, transfer, assign, lend, hypothecate, pledge or otherwise use</u>			
411	or encumber virtual currency stored, held, controlled, maintained by, or			
412	under the custody or control of, such licensee on behalf of a person,			
413	except for the sale, transfer of ownership or assignment of such virtual			
414	currency at the direction of such person; or			
415	(2) Directly or indirectly use or engage any other person, including,			
416	but not limited to, a virtual currency control services vendor, to store or			
417	hold custody or control of virtual currency for or on behalf of a			
418	customer, unless such other person is (A) licensed pursuant to sections			
419	36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive, (B) a federally insured federal bank, out-			
420	of-state bank, Connecticut bank, Connecticut credit union, federal credit			
421	union or out-of-state credit union that is exempt from licensure under			
422	section 36a-609, or (C) approved by the Banking Commissioner to store			
423	or hold custody or control of virtual currency for or on behalf of a			
424	customer.			
425	[(f)] (g) The total amount of any fee and commission charged by an			
426	owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk for a virtual currency			
427				
428	transaction shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the amount of the virtual currency transaction.			
120				
429	[(g)] (h) There are established the following maximum daily virtual			
430	currency kiosk transaction limits:			
431	(1) Two thousand dollars for each new customer of a virtual currency			
432	kiosk; and			
10-				
433	(2) Five thousand dollars for each existing customer of a virtual			
434	currency kiosk.			
435	[(b)] (i) The owner or operator of a virtual currency kieck shall allow			
435 436	[(h)] (i) The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk shall allow			
437	a new customer, upon the request of the new customer, to cancel and			
438	receive a full refund for any fraudulent virtual currency transactions that occurred not later than seventy-two hours after the new customer			
439	registered as a customer of such owner or operator if, not later than			
440	thirty days after the last virtual currency transaction that occurred			
110	time days after the last virtual currency transaction that occurred			

441 during such seventy-two hour period, the new customer: 442 (1) Contacts such owner or operator and a government or law 443 enforcement agency to inform such owner or operator and government 444 or law enforcement agency of the fraudulent nature of such virtual 445 currency transaction; and 446 (2) Files a report with a government or law enforcement agency 447 memorializing the fraudulent nature of such virtual currency 448 transaction. 449 [(i)] (i) Each owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk shall: 450 (1) Obtain a copy of a government-issued identification card that 451 identifies each customer of such owner or operator; 452 (2) Maintain restrictions that prevent more than one customer of such 453 owner or operator from using the same virtual currency wallet; 454 (3) Be able to prevent designated virtual currency wallets from being 455 used at any virtual currency kiosk owned or operated by such owner or 456 operator; 457 (4) Use an established third party that specializes in performing 458 blockchain analyses to preemptively perform such analyses to identify 459 and prevent high risk or sanctioned virtual currency wallets from being 460 used by customers at virtual currency kiosks owned or operated by such 461 owner or operator; 462 (5) Define, in such owner or operator's policies and procedures, a 463 risk-based method of monitoring customers of such owner or operator 464 on a post-transaction basis; 465 (6) Offer, during the hours of operation of the virtual currency kiosks 466 owned or operated by such owner or operator, live customer support

467 by telephone from a telephone number prominently displayed at or on468 such virtual currency kiosks;

469 (7) Identify and speak by telephone with any new customer over sixty 470 years of age prior to such new customer completing such new 471 customer's first virtual currency transaction with such owner or 472 operator. During such communication, which shall be recorded and 473 retained by such owner or operator, the owner or operator shall (A) 474 reconfirm any attestations made by such new customer at a virtual 475 currency kiosk owned or operated by such owner or operator, (B) 476 discuss the transaction, and (C) discuss types of fraudulent schemes 477 relating to virtual currency. Such owner or operator's approval of the 478 transaction shall be dependent upon such owner or operator's 479 assessment of such communication;

480 (8) Identify and speak by telephone with any new customer 481 attempting to perform a virtual currency transaction that exceeds an 482 amount that has been predesignated by such owner or operator as a 483 large transaction amount before such transaction may be completed. 484 During such communication, which shall be recorded and retained by 485 such owner or operator, the owner or operator shall (A) positively 486 identify such new customer, (B) review such new customer's stated 487 purpose of the transaction, and (C) discuss types of fraudulent schemes 488 relating to virtual currency. Such owner or operator's approval of the 489 transaction shall be dependent upon such owner or operator's 490 assessment of such communication;

491 (9) Designate and employ a chief compliance officer who shall:

(A) Be qualified to coordinate and monitor a compliance program to
ensure compliance with this section and all other applicable federal and
state laws, rules and regulations;

(B) Be employed on a full-time basis by such owner or operator; and

496 (C) Not own more than twenty per cent of the virtual currency kiosk497 owner or operator that employs such officer; and

498 (10) Use full-time employees to fulfill such owner or operator's 499 compliance responsibilities under federal and state laws, rules and 500 regulations.

501 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Neither the state nor any 502 political subdivision of the state shall (1) accept or require payment in 503 the form of virtual currency for an amount due to the state or the 504 political subdivision, or (2) purchase, hold, invest in or establish a 505 reserve of virtual currency. For purposes of this section, "virtual 506 currency" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-596 of the 507 general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 36a-611 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*1, 2025):

511 (c) (1) The unique identifier of any person licensed under section 36a-512 600 shall be clearly shown on all solicitations and advertisements, 513 including any business card used to solicit money transmission business 514 and Internet web site, and any other documents as established by rule, 515 regulation or order of the commissioner, and shall be clearly stated in 516 all audio solicitations and advertisements. The solicitations or 517 advertisements of any person licensed under section 36a-600 (A) shall 518 not include any statement that such person is endorsed in any way by 519 this state, except that such solicitations and advertisements may include 520 a statement that such person is licensed in this state; (B) shall not include 521 any statement or claim that is deceptive, false or misleading; (C) except 522 as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, shall not include any 523 statement or claim that funds deposited with such person are eligible 524 for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation protections; (D) shall 525 otherwise conform to the requirements of sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, 526 inclusive, any regulations issued thereunder and any other applicable 527 law; and [(D)] (E) shall be retained for two years from the date of use of 528 such solicitation or advertising.

529 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 530 subsection, an advertisement or solicitation on a third-party Internet 531 web site need not include the unique identifier of a person licensed under section 36a-600, provided such advertisement or solicitation
contains a link to a solicitation, advertisement or Internet web site that
clearly shows the unique identifier of such person.

535 (3) The solicitations or advertisements of a person licensed under 536 section 36a-600 may include a statement or claim that funds deposited 537 with such person are eligible for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 538 protections if (A) such funds are placed in a deposit account at a 539 depository institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance 540 Corporation in a manner that qualifies such funds for deposit insurance 541 coverage under applicable federal law; and (B) such statement or claim 542 (i) clearly identifies such insured depository institution; (ii) accurately 543 describes the extent and conditions of such coverage; and (iii) does not 544 suggest or imply that such person or any nondeposit product, virtual 545 currency or digital asset is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance 546 Corporation.

547 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this 548 section:

(1) "Authenticate" means to use reasonable means and make a
commercially reasonable effort to determine whether a request to
exercise any right afforded under subsection (c) of this section has been
submitted by, or on behalf of, the minor who is entitled to exercise such
right;

(2) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515of the general statutes;

(3) "Licensee" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-596 ofthe general statutes, as amended by this act;

(4) "Minor" means any consumer who is younger than eighteen yearsof age;

560 (5) "Money sharing application" means an Internet-based service or 561 application that is (A) owned or operated by a licensee, (B) used by a consumer in this state, and (C) primarily intended to allow users to send
and receive money. "Money sharing application" does not include any
Internet-based service or application that is owned or operated by a
person that is exempt from the provisions of sections 36a-597 to 36a-607,
inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and sections
36a-611, as amended by this act, and 36a-612 of the general statutes
pursuant to section 36a-609 of the general statutes; and

(6) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-570 515 of the general statutes.

571 (b) On and after October 1, 2025, no licensee shall allow an individual 572 to sponsor, open or establish a money sharing application account for or 573 on behalf of a minor unless such licensee has received a notarized 574 statement from such individual attesting that such individual is such 575 minor's parent or legal guardian.

576 (c) (1) Not later than fifteen business days after a licensee receives a 577 request from a minor or such minor's parent or legal guardian to delete 578 such minor's money sharing application account with such licensee, the 579 licensee shall delete such minor's money sharing application account and cease processing such minor's personal data except where the 580 581 preservation of such minor's money sharing application account or 582 personal data is otherwise permitted or required by applicable law, 583 including, but not limited to, sections 42-515 to 42-525, inclusive, of the 584 general statutes. A licensee may extend such fifteen-business-day 585 period by an additional fifteen business days if such extension is 586 reasonably necessary considering the complexity and number of the 587 minor's, parent's or legal guardian's requests, provided the licensee 588 informs the minor or such minor's parent or legal guardian, as 589 applicable, within the initial fifteen-business-day response period of 590 such extension and the reason for such extension.

591 (2) Any request made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection 592 may include a request by the minor or such minor's parent or legal 593 guardian to provide to the minor or such minor's parent or legal 594 guardian, as applicable, all data associated with the money sharing 595 application account that is the subject of such request. Such data shall 596 include, but need not be limited to, an itemization of each transaction 597 associated with such account and the identity of the person who opened 598 such account. A licensee shall provide such data to the minor or such 599 minor's parent or legal guardian, as applicable, within the timeframe 600 established by the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) A licensee shall establish, and shall describe in a notice provided
to consumers that have a money sharing application account with such
licensee, one or more secure and reliable means for submitting a request
pursuant to this subsection. A licensee that provides a mechanism for a
minor or the minor's parent or legal guardian to initiate a process to
delete such minor's money sharing application account shall be deemed
to be in compliance with the provisions of this subdivision.

608 (d) If a licensee is unable to authenticate a request submitted 609 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the licensee shall (1) not be 610 required to comply with such request, and (2) provide a notice to the 611 minor, parent or legal guardian who submitted such request disclosing 612 that such licensee (A) is unable to authenticate such request, and (B) will 613 not be able to authenticate such request until such minor, parent or legal 614 guardian provides the additional information that is reasonably 615 necessary to authenticate such request.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:					
Section 1	October 1, 2025	36a-596			
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	36a-603			
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	36a-607(a)			
Sec. 4	October 1, 2025	36a-613			
Sec. 5	October 1, 2025	New section			
Sec. 6	October 1, 2025	36a-611(c)			
Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	New section			

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes several virtual currency-related changes to the state's money transmission license, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state because the Department of Banking can implement these changes with existing resources.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and makes various clarifying changes that result in the fiscal impact above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis sHB 7082 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO VIRTUAL CURRENCY MONEY TRANSMISSION LICENSEES AND PROPERTY INTERESTS IN VIRTUAL CURRENCY AND PROHIBITING STATE PAYMENTS AND INVESTMENTS IN VIRTUAL CURRENCY.

SUMMARY

This bill imposes several virtual currency-related requirements and restrictions on people who are or must be licensed as money transmitters ("licensees") under the state's Money Transmission Act, which regulates businesses, other than banks or credit unions, that receive and transmit money.

The bill prohibits licensees who control other people's virtual currency from, generally, selling or transferring it without the person's authorization, or using a virtual currency control services vendor or other person to store or hold custody of the virtual currency unless they are qualified to do so. The bill also specifies that virtual currency held by licensees is a property interest of any claimants against it on a proportional basis. Additionally, the bill takes several existing disclosure and receipt requirements that apply to virtual currency kiosk owners and operators and extends most of them to licensees that engage in the business of money transmission in Connecticut by receiving, transmitting, storing, or maintaining custody or control of virtual currency (collectively "virtual currency transmitters" for the purposes of this bill analysis).

The bill also regulates minors' access to certain money sharing applications by imposing restrictions and duties on licensees. Generally, the bill prohibits any licensee, beginning on October 1, 2025, from allowing anyone to sponsor, open, or establish a money sharing application account for a minor unless the licensee receives a notarized statement from the person attesting that he or she is the minor's parent or legal guardian. The bill also requires, with exceptions, licensees to delete a minor's money sharing application account within 15 business days after receiving a request to do so from the minor or the minor's parent or legal guardian.

Separate from money transmission, the bill also prohibits Connecticut and its political subdivisions from accepting or requiring payment in the form of virtual currency, or purchasing, holding, investing in, or establishing a virtual currency reserve (§ 5).

The bill also makes minor changes to the definitions and advertising restrictions in the Money Transmission Act as well as technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

*<u>House Amendment "A"</u> (1) extends most existing virtual currency transaction disclosure and receipt requirements to apply to virtual currency transmitters instead of subjecting them to separate requirements from virtual currency kiosk owners and operators, (2) regulates minors' access to certain money sharing applications by imposing restrictions and duties on licensees, (3) allows licensed money transmitters to include a statement or claim that funds deposited with them are eligible for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protections, and (4) makes definition changes that specify the scope of "money transmission" under the Money Transmission Act.

§ 1 — MONEY TRANSMISSION ACT DEFINITIONS

Under current law, "money transmission" includes, among other things, engaging in the business of issuing or selling payment instruments or stored value. The bill specifies that this includes direct engagement or engagement through an "authorized delegate" (i.e. someone designated by a licensee to provide money transmission services on the licensee's behalf). It also relatedly changes the "stored value" definition, which is currently monetary value that is evidenced by an "electronic record" (i.e. information stored in an electronic medium and retrievable in perceivable form). The bill renames the record as "electronic or digital record" and specifies that "stored value" is monetary value that represents a claim against the issuer of the monetary value.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the methods of "money transmission" include using a digital wallet, such as in connection with a consumer payment mobile application. Under the bill, a "digital wallet" is any electronic or digital functionality that (1) stores stored value or virtual currency for a consumer, including in encrypted or tokenized form, and (2) transmits, routes, or otherwise processes the stored value or virtual currency to facilitate a consumer payment transaction.

1, 3 & 4 — VIRTUAL CURRENCY CUSTODY AND CONTROL RESTRICTIONS

The bill imposes two restrictions on the handling of virtual currency by virtual currency transmitters. First, it prohibits them from selling, transferring, assigning, lending, hypothecating, pledging, or otherwise using or encumbering virtual currency stored, held, controlled, maintained by, or under the custody or control of the licensee on a person's behalf, except for the sale, transfer of ownership, or assignment at the person's direction.

Second, it limits current law's provisions authorizing virtual currency transmitters to use designated agents to provide money transmission services on their behalf. Regardless of those current authorizations, the bill prohibits these transmitters from directly or indirectly using or engaging any other person, including a virtual currency control services vendor, to store or hold virtual currency for or on behalf of a customer, unless the other person is a licensed money transmitter, a qualified bank or credit union, or approved by the banking commissioner to do so.

Under the bill, a "virtual currency control services vendor" is a person who controls virtual currency under an agreement with another person who assumes control of this currency on a third person's behalf.

§§ 1 & 4 — VIRTUAL CURRENCY TRANSACTION DISCLOSURES AND RECEIPTS

The bill extends many existing disclosure requirements so that they apply to virtual currency transmitters. Specifically, it extends those that currently apply to virtual currency kiosk owners and operators when establishing a relationship with a customer before entering into an initial virtual currency transaction.

The bill also extends most of the existing disclosures required (1) when opening an account for a new customer before entering into an initial virtual currency transaction and (2) before each virtual currency transaction. (The bill continues to only apply to transactions using virtual currency kiosks the requirement to disclose (1) in the former context, the customer's right to receive a physical, printed receipt for a virtual currency transaction at the time of the transaction and (2) in the latter context, the applicable daily virtual currency transaction limit.)

As under existing law for virtual currency kiosk owners and operators, the bill requires virtual currency transmitters to ensure that each customer acknowledges receipt of all applicable disclosures. The bill also extends to virtual currency transmitters the existing receipt requirements that apply once a virtual currency transaction is completed. (The bill continues to only apply to transactions using virtual currency kiosks a restriction that receipts may only be given electronically if the customer requests or agrees to it.)

§ 2 — PROPERTY INTERESTS OF CLAIMANTS AGAINST LICENSEES

Under existing law, licensees that engage in the business of money transmission in Connecticut by receiving, transmitting, storing, or maintaining custody or control of virtual currency on behalf of another person must at all times hold virtual currency of the same type and amount owed or obligated to the other person. The bill specifies that this virtual currency is a property interest of any claimants against the licensee on a proportional basis and in the type and amount to which the claimants are entitled, without regard to when the claimants became entitled or the licensee obtained control.

§ 6 — MONEY TRANSMISSION ACT ADVERTISING RESTRICTIONS

The bill adds a restriction on advertising by money transmission licensees. It specifically prohibits them from including any statement or claim in their solicitations or advertisements that funds deposited with them are eligible for FDIC protections. Existing law already prohibits licensees from including any statement or claim that is deceptive, false, or misleading. (The FDIC generally only supervises and insures certain banks and savings associations, which are exempt from the Money Transmission Act.)

However, the bill allows solicitations and advertisements by licensed money transmitters to include a statement or claim that funds deposited with them are eligible for FDIC protections if the (1) funds are placed in a deposit account at an FDIC-insured depository institution in a way that qualifies the fund for deposit insurance coverage under applicable federal law and (2) statement or claim clearly identifies the institution, accurately describes the extent and conditions of the coverage, and does not suggest or imply that the transmitter or any nondeposit product, virtual currency, or digital asset is FDIC-insured.

§ 7 — MINORS' ACCESS TO MONEY SHARING APPLICATIONS

The bill defines "money sharing application" as an Internet-based service or application that is (1) owned or operated by a licensee, (2) used by a consumer in Connecticut, and (3) primarily intended to allow users to send and receive money. Under the bill, a "minor" is a consumer younger than age 18, and a "consumer" is a state resident and generally excludes anyone acting in a commercial or employment context.

General Procedures and Exceptions

When responding to requests to delete a minor's account, the bill generally requires licensees to stop processing the minor's personal data within the 15-business-day response period after receiving the request.

By law and under the bill, "personal data" is any information that is linked, or reasonably linkable, to an identified or identifiable individual, excluding de-identified data or publicly available information. ("Deidentified data" is generally data that cannot reasonably be used to infer information about, or otherwise be linked to, a specific individual or his or her device and "publicly available information" is generally information that is lawfully available through federal, state, or municipal government records, or widely distributed media (CGS § 42-515).)

Under the bill, licensees do not have to follow its account deletion and personal data processing requirements if other applicable law, such as Connecticut's laws on consumer data privacy and online monitoring, allow or require them to preserve a minor's account or personal data.

Additionally, the bill allows licensees to extend the time to delete an account and stop processing personal data by an additional 15 business days if (1) it is reasonably necessary to do so based on the complexity and number of, presumably, additional requests from the requestor, and (2) the licensee informs the requestor about the extension and reason for it within the initial 15-business-day response period.

As part of deletion requests, the bill allows requestors to also request licensees provide all data associated with the minor's account. Under the bill, this means, at a minimum, an itemization of each account transaction and the identity of who opened the account. Licensees must provide the data within the deletion timeframe above.

Relatedly, the bill requires licensees to (1) establish one or more secure and reliable ways for minors and their parents and legal guardians to submit requests to delete minors' accounts and (2) describe them in a notice given to consumers who have a money sharing application account with the licensee. Licensees that provide a mechanism to initiate a process to delete an account are deemed to be in compliance with this provision.

Inability to Authenticate Requests

In addition to the exceptions above, the bill allows licensees to ignore requests they cannot authenticate if they notify the requestor that they cannot authenticate the request and will not be able to do so until the requestor provides additional reasonably necessary information. Under the bill, to "authenticate" is to use reasonable means and make a commercially reasonable effort to determine if the requestor is the minor for the account or the minor's parents or legal guardians.

BACKGROUND

Virtual Currency Definition

By law and under the bill, "virtual currency" is a digital unit (1) used as a medium of exchange or form of digitally stored value or (2) incorporated into payment system technology. It includes digital units of exchange that have a centralized repository or administrator, are decentralized without a centralized repository or administrator, or may be created or obtained by computing or manufacturing effort. Virtual currency does not include digital units used:

- 1. solely in online gaming platforms with no other market or application, or
- 2. exclusively in a consumer affinity or rewards program that (a) can be used only as payment for purchases with the issuer or another designated merchant and (b) cannot be converted into, or redeemed for, fiat currency.

Related Bills

sHB 6991 (File 194), favorably reported by the Banking Committee, makes similar definition changes that specify the scope of "money transmission" under the Money Transmission Act.

sSB 1338 (File 182), favorably reported by the Banking Committee,

contains substantially similar provisions regulating minors' access to money sharing applications.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Banking Committee

Joint Favorable Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)