



Ohio Revised Code

Section 1321.68 Consumer installment loan maximum interest rate; computation of interest; precomputed loans; permissible charges; insurance.

Effective: September 1, 2021

Legislation: House Bill 133 - 134th General Assembly

(A) A licensee may contract for and receive interest, calculated according to the actuarial method, at a rate or rates not exceeding twenty-five per cent per year on the unpaid principal balances of the loan. Loans may be interest-bearing or precomputed.

(B) For purposes of computation of time on interest-bearing and precomputed loans, including, but not limited to, the calculation of interest, a month is considered one-twelfth of a year, and a day is considered one three hundred sixty-fifth of a year when calculation is made for a fraction of a month. A year is as defined in section 1.44 of the Revised Code. A month is that period described in section 1.45 of the Revised Code. Alternatively, a licensee may consider a day as one three hundred sixtieth of a year and each month as having thirty days.

(C) With respect to interest-bearing loans:

(1)(a) Interest shall be computed on unpaid principal balances outstanding from time to time, for the time outstanding.

(b) As an alternative to the method of computing interest set forth in division (C)(1)(a) of this section, a licensee may charge and collect interest for the first installment period based on elapsed time from the date of the loan to the first scheduled payment due date, and for each succeeding installment period from the scheduled payment due date to the next scheduled payment due date, regardless of the date or dates the payments are actually made.

(c) Whether a licensee computes interest pursuant to division (C)(1)(a) or (b) of this section, each payment shall be applied first to unpaid charges, then to interest, and the remainder to the unpaid principal balance. However, 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 shall not be compounded, collected, or paid in advance. However, both of the following apply:

(a) Interest may be charged to extend the first monthly installment period by not more than fifteen days, and the interest charged for the extension may be added to the principal amount of the loan.

(b) If part or all of the consideration for a new loan contract is the unpaid principal balance of a prior loan, the principal amount payable under the new loan contract may include any unpaid interest that has accrued. The resulting loan contract shall be deemed a new and separate loan transaction for purposes of this section. The unpaid principal balance of a precomputed loan is the balance due after refund or credit of unearned interest as provided in division (D)(3) of this section.

(D) With respect to precomputed loans:

(1) Loans shall be repayable in monthly installments of principal and interest combined, except that:

(a) The first installment period may exceed one month by not more than fifteen days, and the first installment payment amount may be larger than the remaining payments by the amount of interest charged for the extra days.

(b) 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 maturity of the loan. A licensee may charge interest after the original or deferred maturity of a precomputed loan at the rate specified in division (A) of this section on all unpaid principal balances for the time outstanding.

(3) When any loan contract is paid in full by cash, renewal, refinancing, or a new loan, one month or more before the final installment due date, the 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, that follow the day of prepayment. If the prepayment is made other than on a scheduled



installment due date, the nearest scheduled installment due date shall be used in such computation. If the prepayment occurs prior to the first installment due date, the licensee may retain one-thirtieth of the applicable charge for a first installment period of one month for each day from date of loan to 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 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 installment. 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. If a loan is 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.

(E) A licensee, at the request of the borrower, may obtain, on one or more borrowers, credit life insurance, credit accident and health insurance, and unemployment insurance. The premium or identifiable charge for the insurance may be included in the principal amount of the loan and may not exceed the premium rate filed by the insurer with the superintendent of insurance and not disapproved by the superintendent. If a licensee obtains the insurance at the request of the borrower, the borrower shall have the right to cancel the insurance for a period of twenty-five days after the loan is made. If the borrower chooses to cancel the insurance, the borrower shall give the licensee written notice of this choice and shall return all of the policies or certificates of insurance or notices of proposed insurance to the licensee during such period, and the full premium or identifiable charge for the insurance shall be refunded to the borrower by the licensee. If the borrower requests, in the notice to cancel the insurance, that this refund be applied to reduce the balance of a precomputed



loan, the licensee shall credit the amount of the refund plus the amount of interest applicable to the refund to the loan balance. If the licensee obtains the insurance at the request of the borrower, the licensee shall not charge or collect interest on any insured amount that remains unpaid after the insured borrower's date of death.

(F) A licensee may require the borrower to provide insurance or a loss payable endorsement covering reasonable risks of loss, damage, and destruction of property used as security for the loan and with the consent of the borrower such insurance may cover property of the borrower other than that which is security for the loan. The amount and term of required property insurance shall be reasonable in relation to the amount and term of the loan contract and the type and value of the security, and the insurance shall be procured in accordance with the insurance laws of this state. The purchase of this insurance through the licensee or an agent or broker designated by the licensee shall not be a condition precedent to the granting of the loan. If the borrower purchases the insurance from or through the licensee or from another source, the premium may be included in the principal amount of the loan.

(G)(1) In addition to the interest and charges provided for by this section, no further or other amount, whether in the form of broker fees, placement fees, or any other fees whatsoever, shall be charged or received by the licensee, except that:

(a) The licensee may charge and receive costs and disbursements in connection with any suit to collect a loan or any lawful activity to realize on a security interest after default, including reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the licensee as a result of the suit or activity and to which the licensee becomes entitled by law.

(b) The licensee may include the following additional charges in the principal amount of the loan or collect the following additional charges at any time after the loan is made:

(i) The amounts of fees authorized by law to record, file, or release security interests on a loan;

(ii) Fees received from borrowers to record, file, or release a security interest on a loan for purposes either of purchasing insurance to insure the licensee against losses for failure to record or file or creating a self-insurance fund to reimburse the licensee against losses for failure to record or file;



(iii) Fees for credit investigations not exceeding twenty-five dollars provided a licensee obtains a consumer report in connection with an application for a grant, extension, or other provision of credit to a consumer that is based in whole or in part on the consumer report.

(2) Division (G)(1) of this section does not limit the rights of licensees to engage in other transactions with borrowers, provided the transactions are not a condition of the loan. As used in this division, a transaction shall not be considered a "condition of the loan" if it meets both of the following conditions:

(a) It is not required for the extension of the credit.

(b) It is a charge that is not considered a "finance charge" pursuant to 12 C.F.R. 1026.4.

(H) If the loan contract or security instrument contains covenants by the borrower to perform certain duties pertaining to insuring or preserving security and the licensee pursuant to the loan contract or security instrument pays for performance of the duties on behalf of the borrower, the licensee may add the amounts paid to the unpaid principal balance of the loan or collect them separately. A charge for interest may be made for sums advanced not exceeding the rate of interest permitted by division (A) of this section. Within a reasonable time after advancing a sum, the licensee shall notify the borrower in writing of the amount advanced, any interest charged with respect to the amount advanced, and any revised payment schedule, and shall include a brief description of the reason for the advance.

(I)(1) In addition to any other permissible fees and charges, a licensee may charge and receive the following:

(a) If the principal amount of the loan is five hundred dollars or less, loan origination charges not exceeding fifteen dollars;

(b) If the principal amount of the loan is more than five hundred dollars but less than one thousand dollars, loan origination charges not exceeding thirty dollars;



- (c) If the principal amount of the loan is at least one thousand dollars but less than two thousand dollars, loan origination charges not exceeding one hundred dollars;
- (d) If the principal amount of the loan is at least two thousand dollars but less than five thousand dollars, loan origination charges not exceeding two hundred dollars;
- (e) If the principal amount of the loan is at least five thousand dollars, loan origination charges not exceeding the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or one per cent of the principal amount of the loan.
- (2) Loan origination charges may be paid by the borrower at the time of the loan or may be included in the principal amount of the loan.
- (J) A licensee may charge and receive check collection charges not greater than twenty dollars plus any amount passed on from other depository institutions for each check, negotiable order of withdrawal, share draft, or other negotiable instrument returned or dishonored for any reason.
- (K) If the loan contract so provides, a licensee may collect a default charge on any installment not paid in full within ten days after its due date. For this purpose, all installments are considered paid in the order in which they become due. Any amounts applied to an outstanding loan balance as a result of voluntary release of a security interest, sale of security on the loan, or cancellation of insurance shall be considered payments on the loan, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing at the time the amounts are applied. A licensee shall not collect more than one default charge per unpaid installment regardless of the number of months the installment remains fully unpaid. The amount of the default charge shall not exceed the greater of five per cent of the scheduled installment or fifteen dollars.