

CHAPTER 26—DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELER'S CHECKS

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§ 2501. Congressional findings and declaration of purpose

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the books and records of banking and financial organizations and business associations engaged in issuing and selling money orders and traveler's checks do not, as a matter of business practice, show the last known addresses of purchasers of such instruments;

(2) a substantial majority of such purchasers reside in the States where such instruments are purchased;

(3) the States wherein the purchasers of money orders and traveler's checks reside should, as a matter of equity among the several States, be entitled to the proceeds of such instruments in the event of abandonment;

(4) it is a burden on interstate commerce that the proceeds of such instruments are not being distributed to the States entitled thereto; and

(5) the cost of maintaining and retrieving addresses of purchasers of money orders and traveler's checks is an additional burden on interstate commerce since it has been determined that most purchasers reside in the State of purchase of such instruments.

(Pub. L. 93-495, title VI, §601, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1525.)

APPLICABILITY TO SUMS PAYABLE ON MONEY ORDERS, ETC., DEEMED ABANDONED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 1965; EXCEPTION

Section 604 of Pub. L. 93-495 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] shall be applicable to sums payable on money orders, traveler's checks, and similar written instruments deemed abandoned on or after February 1, 1965, except to the extent that such sums have been paid over to a State prior to January 1, 1974."

§ 2502. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) "banking organization" means any bank, trust company, savings bank, safe deposit company, or a private banker engaged in business in the United States;

(2) "business association" means any corporation (other than a public corporation), joint stock company, business trust, partnership, or any association for business purposes of two or more individuals; and

(3) "financial organization" means any savings and loan association, building and loan association, credit union, or investment company engaged in business in the United States.

(Pub. L. 93-495, title VI, §602, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1525.)

§ 2503. State entitlement to escheat or custody

Where any sum is payable on a money order, traveler's check, or other similar written instrument (other than a third party bank check) on

which a banking or financial organization or a business association is directly liable—

(1) if the books and records of such banking or financial organization or business association show the State in which such money order, traveler's check, or similar written instrument was purchased, that State shall be entitled exclusively to escheat or take custody of the sum payable on such instrument, to the extent of that State's power under its own laws to escheat or take custody of such sum;

(2) if the books and records of such banking or financial organization or business association do not show the State in which such money order, traveler's check, or similar written instrument was purchased, the State in which the banking or financial organization or business association has its principal place of business shall be entitled to escheat or take custody of the sum payable on such money order, traveler's check, or similar written instrument, to the extent of that State's power under its own laws to escheat or take custody of such sum, until another State shall demonstrate by written evidence that it is the State of purchase; or

(3) if the books and records of such banking or financial organizations or business association show the State in which such money order, traveler's check, or similar written instrument was purchased and the laws of the State of purchase do not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the sum payable on such instrument, the State in which the banking or financial organization or business association has its principal place of business shall be entitled to escheat or take custody of the sum payable on such money order, traveler's check, or similar written instrument, to the extent of that State's power under its own laws to escheat or take custody of such sum, subject to the right of the State of purchase to recover such sum from the State of principal place of business if and when the law of the State of purchase makes provision for escheat or custodial taking of such sum.

(Pub. L. 93-495, title VI, §603, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1525.)

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