

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 225 (H.F. 2335/S.F. 1885)

SESSION: 2012 Regular Session

TOPIC: Regulation of debt collectors

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Overview

This act makes a variety of changes in Commerce Department regulation of debt collection agencies and individual debt collectors that work for agencies.

- 1 Notice.** Requires an individual registered debt collector to give the Commerce Department notice of a change in the collector's name, assumed name, or address within 30 days after the change. Also makes technical changes to separate what and when the individual collector has to report from what and when the collection agency has to report.
- 2 Screening process requirement.** Specifies a personnel screening process that a debt collection agency must follow in hiring and retaining individual collectors. Under prior law, the agency just had to establish its own procedures, which the Commerce Department had the right to review.
- 3 Prior conviction or judgment as disqualification.** Revises current law that specifies the past events that disqualify a person from registration as a debt collector. The categories for disqualification are still certain types of criminal convictions, a certain type of civil court judgment, and having had a license to practice law suspended or revoked for cause.

Effective date: Not specified, therefore August 1, 2012.