

1 **Sec. X.** PURPOSE

2 The purpose of this act is to authorize the rounding of cash transactions to
3 the nearest five cents where one-cent coins are unavailable or impractical,
4 while ensuring legal clarity and consumer fairness.

5 **Sec. X.** 9 V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:

6 CHAPTER 1. MONEY OF ACCOUNT

7 § 1. DOLLAR, CENT, AND MILL

8 The money of account in the State shall be the dollar, cent, and mill; and
9 accounts in public offices and proceedings in court shall be in conformity
10 herewith; but this section shall not affect an account, charge, or entry originally
11 made or a contract expressed in other money of account, but the same shall be
12 reduced to dollars and parts of a dollar in an action thereon.

13 § 2. NICKEL ROUNDING; AUTHORIZED

14 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

15 (1) “Cash” means coins or paper currency of the United States offered in
16 physical form.

17 (2) “Cash transaction” means a sale of goods or services where payment
18 is made entirely or partially in cash.

19 (3) “Rounding” means adjusting the final total amount due, after taxes
20 and fees, to the nearest five-cent increment.

21 (b) Rounding authorization.

1 (1) A person or business engaged in a cash transaction may round the
2 final amount due to the nearest \$0.05 as follows:

3 (A) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.01, \$0.02, \$0.06, or
4 \$0.07, rounded down to the nearest amount divisible by five.

5 (B) If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.03, \$0.04, \$0.08, or
6 \$0.09, rounded up to the nearest amount divisible by five.

7 (2) If a person or business rounds a cash transaction under this section,
8 any cash refund of the amount paid shall be issued to the purchaser in the exact
9 amount initially paid for the goods or service.

10 (c) Exclusions. This section shall not apply to:

11 (1) electronic and other noncash payments;

12 (2) payment of wages as that term is defined in 21 V.S.A. § 341;

13 (3) rebates or cash disbursements; and

14 (4) transactions governed by federal law that prohibits rounding.

15 (d) Application. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, rounding under
16 this section shall not constitute an unlawful price increase, surcharge, unfair or
17 deceptive act or practice in commerce, or discrimination.

18 (e) Required notice.

19 (1) A person or business rounding transactions under this section shall
20 post the following written disclosure in a clear and conspicuous manner at the
21 point of sale or at the entrance to the business:

1 “Vermont Law Authorizes the Rounding of Cash Transactions. A
2 person or business engaged in a cash transaction may round the final amount
3 due to the nearest \$0.05. If the final digit of the amount due is \$0.01, \$0.02,
4 \$0.06, or \$0.07, the final amount due may be rounded down. If the final digit
5 of the amount due is \$0.03, \$0.04, \$0.08, or \$0.09, the final amount due may
6 be rounded up. This does not impact electronic or other noncash payments.
7 For information or complaints, you may contact the Vermont Consumer
8 Assistance Program.”

9 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may issue a penalty
10 for the failure to provide the notice required under this subsection in
11 accordance with 6 V.S.A. § 687.

12 (f) Taxes and fees. All taxes and fees shall be calculated and remitted
13 based on the prerounding amount.

14 Sec. X. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.