

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #3

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1995 JUL 31 PM 3:29

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: WV Division of Banking TITLE NUMBER: 106

CITE AUTHORITY WV Code §31A-4-26 (a)(5)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 9

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Legislative Rule Pertaining to the
Legal Lending Limit

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.


Authorized Signature

7-60



DIVISION OF BANKING

Building #3, Room 311 • State Capitol Complex • 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East • Charleston, WV 25305-0240 • FAX: (304) 558-0442
(304) 558-2294

CONSENT TO FILE RULE

June 29, 1995

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

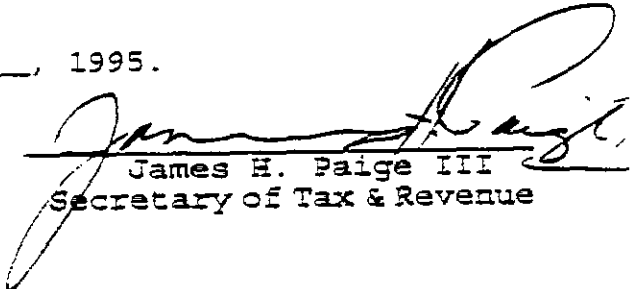
Title of Rule: Legislative Rule Pertaining to the Legal Lending
Limit

Title Number: 106

Series Number: 9

Pursuant to West Virginia Code §§ 5F-2-2(a) and 64-7-4(c),
the undersigned hereby consents to the filing of the foregoing
rule.

Signed this 29th day of June, 1995.


James H. Paige III
Secretary of Tax & Revenue



DIVISION OF BANKING

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(304) 558-2294

COMMISSIONER OF BANKING LEGISLATIVE RULE PERTAINING TO THE LEGAL LENDING LIMIT 106 CSR 9

Statement of Circumstances

The proposed amendments to this legislative rule are required in part by an amendment to the West Virginia Code during the past legislative session which altered the amount a bank may loan to any one person or common entity based upon marketable staples as security.

The restriction placed on over lending to any one accomodating party is needed to prevent a bank from relying too heavily on any one person as a cosignor to loans, and thereby placing the bank's financial security at risk if that one person were to be unable to meet his/her obligations in the event of multiple defaults.

The issue of whether it was proper to rely on individual lessees rather than the leasing company for purposes of calculating the lending limit, needed to be clarified to establish the criteria under which it would be proper.

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: Legislative Rule Pertaining to the Legal Lending Limit

Type of Rule: **Legislative** **Interpretive** **Procedural**

Agency WV Division of Banking

Address State Capitol Complex
Bldg 3, Rm 311
Charleston, WV 25305

1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL FISCAL YEAR				
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CONSTANT	NET	TOTAL
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
PERSONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-
CURRENT EXPENSE	-	-	-	-	-
REPAIRS & ALTERNATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER	-	-	-	-	-

2. Explanation of above estimates:

The rule does not create any new expense to the agency or any other agency of state government, but merely conforms the rule to statutory changes and clarifies issues involving the determination of a bank's lending limit to any one person or entity.

3. Objectives of these rules:

The rule amendments are intended to conform the rule to recently enacted statutory changes to the banks lending limit law restrictions, and to clarify issues that have arisen in determining the lending limit.

Rule Title: Legislative Rule Pertaining to the Legal Lending Limit
106 CSR 9

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government.

None

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific groups of Citizens.

Assists bank lending to leasing companies and may result in some banks restructuring loans where the loan portfolio is too reliant on one person as a source for cosigning notes.

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.

None

Date: June 29, 1995

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

James S. Rice

DATE: July 31, 1995

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: Timothy Winslow
General Counsel- WV Division of Banking

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Legislative Rule Pertaining to the Legal Lending Limit

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation WV Code §31A-4-26(a)(5)

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of ~~Hearing~~ Comment Period
June 29, 1995

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?

Sent to each person/business on the WV Division of Banking's "Official Notification" list.

c. Date of ~~Hearing(s)~~ Comment Period
June 29, 1995 to July 30, 1995

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached No comments received

e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

July 31, 1995

f. Name and phone number(s) of agency person(s) to contact for additional information:

Timothy Winslow 558-2294

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

N/A

b. Date of hearing: N/A

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

N/A

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached N/A



DIVISION OF BANKING

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COMMISSIONER OF BANKING
LEGISLATIVE RULE PERTAINING TO
THE LEGAL LENDING LIMIT
106 CSR 9

Summary of Proposed Rule Amendments

The proposed amendments to this legislative rule are required in part by amendments to the West Virginia Code which altered the amount a bank may loan to any one person or common entity [See W. Va. Code §31A-4-26(a)(3)(C)]. In particular, the law now limits the total amount which can be loaned based upon marketable staples as security to 35% of the bank's unimpaired capital and surplus. This 35% is comprised of the general 15% loan limitation together with the 20% additional amount when fully secured by marketable staples.

The change to the obligations of accommodation parties is needed to prevent the bank from becoming too reliant on any one person cosigning notes as a secondary source of recovery, even when the cosigner is not intending to benefit from the loan. Such over reliance would create similar dangers to a bank's safety and soundness, as would over extension of credit to that person directly. Thus the rule amendment would limit such loans to no more than 50% of the institution's unimpaired capital and surplus.

The amended rule also clarifies the ability of banks to look to a lessee rather than the leasing company for purposes of calculated lending limits involving repayment of monies borrowed by the leasing company secured by the leased equipment under certain limited enumerated circumstances.

106CSR9

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TITLE 106
LEGISLATIVE RULES
COMMISSIONER OF BANKING

1995 JUL 31 PM 3:30
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 9
LEGISLATIVE RULE PERTAINING TO THE LEGAL LENDING LIMIT

§106-9-1. General.

1.1 Scope.-- This rule establishes the general method for implementing West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26; it applies to all loans and/or extensions of credit made by state-chartered banking institutions and their domestic operating subsidiaries.

This rule does not apply to loans made by a state-chartered banking institution to its affiliates (as that term is defined in subsection (b)(1) of Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 371c(b)(1))) or operating subsidiaries. West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26 and this rule are intended to prevent one (1) individual, or a relatively small group, from borrowing an unduly large amount of the state-chartered bank's funds. The statute and this rule are intended to safeguard the depositors of state-chartered banks by spreading the loans and/or extensions of credit among a relatively large number of persons engaged in different lines of business.

1.2 Authority.-- WV Code §31A-4-26(a)(5)

1.3 Filing Date.-- ~~April 5, 1995~~

1.4 Effective Date.-- ~~May 5, 1995~~

§106-9-2. Definitions.

For purposes of this rule:

2.1. "Loans and Extensions of Credit" means any direct or indirect advance of funds (including obligations of makers and endorsers arising from the discounting of commercial paper) to a person made on the basis of any obligation of that person to repay the funds or repayable from specific property pledged by or on behalf of a person. "Loans and Extensions of Credit" also includes a "Contractual Commitment to Advance Funds" as that term is defined in section 2.4 of this rule;

2.2. "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, society, firm, institution, syndicate, trust, estate, business trust, public or private corporation, not-for-profit corporation, sovereign

government or agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, or any similar entity or organization;

2.3 "Unimpaired Capital and Unimpaired Surplus" means the amount of total equity capital outstanding as indicated in the bank's most recent quarterly report of condition and income as filed with the Commissioner of Banking pursuant to West Virginia Code § 31A-4-19, plus the amount of the allowance for loan losses, minus the amount of goodwill or other nonmarketable intangible assets included in such quarterly report pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles. Unrealized gains and losses on the bank's securities and loan portfolios shall be included in the calculation of total equity capital to the extent required by generally accepted accounting principles and applicable federal or state law, rule or regulation.

2.4. "Contractual Commitment to Advance Funds" means (a) an obligation on the part of the bank to make payments (directly or indirectly) to a designated third party contingent upon a default by the bank's customer in the performance of an obligation under the terms of that customer's contract with the third party or (b) an obligation to guarantee or stand as surety for the benefit of a third party. The term includes, but is not limited to, standby letters of credit (as defined in section 2.5 of this rule), guarantees, puts and other similar arrangements. For purposes of this rule, undisbursed loan funds and loan commitments not yet drawn upon but which the bank has through written agreement obligated itself to disburse upon request are contractual commitments to advance funds as defined in this subsection. The definition does not include commercial letters of credit and similar instruments where the issuing banks expect the beneficiary to draw upon the issuer, which do not "guarantee" payment of a money obligation, and which do not provide for payment in the event of a default by the account party; and

2.5. A "Standby Letter of Credit" is any letter of credit, or similar arrangement, however named or described, which represents an obligation to the beneficiary on the part of the issuer (a) to repay money borrowed by or advanced to or for the account of the account party, or (b) to make payment on account of any indebtedness undertaken by the account party, or (c) to make payment on account of any default by the account party in the performance of an obligation.

§106-9-3. Limitations and Compliance.

3.1. General limitation.

The total loans and extensions of credit made by a state-chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise and not fully secured, as determined in a manner consistent with subsection 3.2 of this rule, shall not exceed fifteen percent of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus

of that state-chartered banking institution initially determined for the period that the loan or extension of credit is made.

3.2. Additional general limitation; loans fully secured by readily marketable collateral.

Where the total loans and extensions of credit by a state-chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise are fully secured by readily marketable collateral having a market value, as determined by reliable and continuously available price quotations, at least equal to the outstanding amount of those loans and extensions, then the bank may provide these loans or extensions of up to ten percent of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus of that state-chartered banking institution initially determined for the period that the loan or extension is made. This limitation shall be separate from and in addition to the limitation contained in subsection 3.1 of this rule.

3.3. Definition of readily marketable collateral. For purposes of this rule, "Readily Marketable Collateral" means financial instruments and bullion which are salable under ordinary circumstances with reasonable promptness at a fair market value determined by quotations based on actual transactions on an auction or a similarly available daily bid and ask price market. "Financial Instruments" include stocks, notes, bonds, and debentures traded on a national securities exchange, "OTC Margin Stocks" (as defined in Regulation U of the Federal Reserve Board), commercial paper, negotiable certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and shares in money market and mutual funds of the type which issue shares in which banks may perfect a security interest. The term "Financial Instruments" does not include mortgages.

3.4. Compliance with West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(2);

(a) Each loan or extension of credit based on the limitation contained in West Virginia Code subdivision (2), subsection (a), section twenty-six, article four, chapter thirty-one-a shall be secured by readily marketable collateral having a current market value of at least one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the loan or extension of credit at all times. "Current Market Value" means the bid or closing price listed for an item in a regularly published listing or an electronic reporting service.

(b) Each bank must institute adequate procedures to ensure that the collateral value fully secures the outstanding loan at all times.

(c) Financial instruments may be denominated in foreign currencies which are freely convertible to United States dollars. If collateral is denominated and payable in a currency other than that of the loan or extension of credit which it secures, the bank's procedures must require that the collateral be revalued at least monthly, using appropriate foreign exchange rates, in addition to being repriced at current market value.

(d) If collateral values fall below one hundred percent (100%) of the outstanding loan, to the extent that the loan is no longer in conformance with this section and exceeds the general fifteen percent (15%) limitation, the loan must be brought into conformance within five (5) business days, except where judicial proceedings, regulatory actions or other extraordinary occurrences prevent the bank from taking action.

3.5 Material decline of unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus.

(a) Where there is a material decline in a state-chartered bank's unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus causing it to decrease during any quarterly reporting period more than 20% from that amount reported in the bank's most recent report of income and condition or causing it to decrease more than 30% in any twelve month period, the bank shall review its outstanding loans and extensions and report to the commissioner of banking those loans and extensions that exceed the limitations of this section using the bank's current re-evaluated unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus. The report shall detail the bank's position in each such loan and extension. The commissioner may, within his or her discretion, require that these loans and extensions be brought into conformity with the bank's current re-evaluated legal lending and investment limitation.

(b) The commissioner of banking retains the authority to direct any state-chartered bank to recalculate its lending limits at more frequent intervals than provided in this section and require all outstanding loans and extensions of credit to be brought into conformance with the re-evaluated limitation in order to ensure a bank's safety and soundness. In such cases, the commissioner will provide the bank a written notice explaining briefly the specific reasons why the determination was made to require the more frequent calculations.

§106-9-4. Combining loans to separate borrowers.

4.1. General Rule. - Loans or extensions of credit to one (1) person will be attributed to other persons, for purposes of this rule, when

(a) the proceeds of the loans or extensions of credit are to be used for the direct benefit of the other person or persons or

(b) a "Common Enterprise" is deemed to exist between the persons.

4.2. Definition of a common enterprise.

(a) Whether two (2) or more persons are engaged in a "Common Enterprise" will depend upon a realistic evaluation of the facts and circumstances of particular transactions.

(b) Where the expected source of repayment for each loan or extension of credit is the same for each person, a "Common Enterprise" will be deemed to exist and the loans or extensions of credit must be combined.

(c) Where loans or extensions of credit are made by persons who are related through common control, including where one person is controlled by another person, a "Common Enterprise" will be deemed to exist if the persons are engaged in interdependent businesses or there is substantial financial interdependence among them. A "Common Enterprise" will be deemed to exist when fifty percent (50%) or more of one person's gross receipts or gross expenditures (on an annual basis) are derived from transactions with one or more persons related through common control (as defined in Section 4.3 of this rule). Gross receipts and expenditures include gross revenues/expenses, intercompany loans, dividends, capital contributions, and similar receipts or payments.

(d) A "Common Enterprise" will also be deemed to exist when separate persons borrow from a bank for the purpose of acquiring a business enterprise of which those persons will own more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting securities.

4.3 Definition of control.-- For the purposes of Section 4.2(c) of this rule, "Control" shall be presumed to exist when:

(a) One or more persons acting in concert directly or indirectly own, control or have power to vote twenty-five percent (25%) or more of any class of voting securities of another person; or

(b) One or more persons, acting in concert, control, in any manner, the election of a majority of the directors, trustees or other persons exercising similar functions of another person; or

(c) Any other circumstances exist which indicate that one or more persons acting in concert directly or indirectly exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of another person.

§106-9-5. Loans to corporations.

5.1. Definition of subsidiary.-- For purposes of this rule, a corporation is a "Subsidiary" of any person which owns or beneficially owns more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting stock of the corporation. The ownership need not be direct. For example, if A owns more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting stock of Corporation X which, in turn, owns more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting stock of Corporation Y, Corporation Y would be considered a subsidiary of both A and of Corporation X.

5.2. General rule.-- Loans or extensions of credit to a person and its subsidiary or to subsidiaries of one person need not be combined where the state-chartered banking institution has determined that the person and subsidiaries involved are not engaged in a "Common Enterprise" as that term is defined in Section 4.2 of this rule.

5.3. Exceptions.-- Notwithstanding Section 5.2 of this rule, loans or extensions of credit by a state-chartered banking institution to a "Corporate Group" may not exceed fifty percent (50%) of that state-chartered banking institution's unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus. This aggregate limitation applies only to loans made pursuant to West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(1) and (2). A "Corporate Group" includes a person and all of its subsidiaries.

§106-9-6. Loans to partnerships, joint ventures, and associations.

6.1. General rule.-- Loans or extensions of credit to a partnership, joint venture or association shall, for purposes of this rule, be considered loans or extensions of credit to each member of the partnership, joint venture or association.

6.2. Attributing.-- Loans or extensions of credit to members of a partnership, joint venture or association shall, for the purpose of this rule, be attributed to the partnership, joint venture or association where one or more of the tests set forth in section 4 of this rule is satisfied with respect to one or more members. However, loans to members of a partnership, joint venture or association will not be attributed to other members of the partnership, joint venture or association under this subsection unless one or more of the tests set forth in section 4 of this rule is satisfied with respect to the other members. The tests set forth in section 4 of this rule shall be deemed to be satisfied when loans or extensions of credit are made to members of a partnership, joint venture or association for the purpose of purchasing an interest in the partnership, joint venture or association.

6.3. Exception.-- The rule set forth in Section 6.1 of this rule is not applicable to limited partners in limited partnerships or to members of joint ventures or associations if the partners or members, by the terms of the partnership or membership agreement, are not to be held liable for the debts or actions of the partnership, joint venture or association. However, the rules set forth in Section 4.1 of this rule are applicable to these partners or members.

§106-9-7. Exceptions to the lending limits.

7.1. Discount of commercial or business paper.-- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a) (4) (A):

Loans or extensions of credit arising from the discount of commercial or business paper evidencing an obligation to the person negotiating it with recourse shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

(a) This exception applies to negotiable paper given in payment of the purchase price of commodities in domestic or export transactions purchased for resale or to be used in connection with the fabrication of a product or to be used for any other business purpose which may reasonably be expected to provide funds for payment of the paper. Loans or extensions of credit arising from the discount of paper of the kind described in this subsection must bear the full recourse endorsement of the owner. However, loans or extensions of credit arising from the discount of such paper in export transactions may be endorsed by the owner without recourse or with limited recourse, or may be accompanied by a separate agreement for limited recourse: Provided, That if transferred without full recourse, the paper must be supported by an assignment of appropriate insurance covering the political, credit and transfer risks applicable to the paper. Insurance provided by the Export-Import Bank or the Foreign Credit Insurance Association is considered appropriate for this purpose. Loans or extensions of credit based on this exception are not subject to any limitation.

(b) Since the reason for the unlimited credit under this exception is that the paper arises from the sale of a commodity which may reasonably be expected to provide funds for payment of the paper, failure to pay either principal or interest when due removes the reason for unlimited credit. Therefore, although the line of credit to the maker or endorser should not be classified as excessive by reasons of the default, the paper on which the default has occurred must thereafter be taken into consideration in determining whether additional loans or extension of credit may be made within the limits of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a). The same principles of disqualification from the exception applies to any renewal or extension of either the entire loan or an installment of the loan.

7.2. Bankers' acceptances.-- West Virginia subdivisions (B) and (4), subsection (a), section twenty-six, article four, chapter thirty-one-a provides:

The purchase of bankers' acceptances of the kind described in section thirteen of the Federal Reserve Act and issued by other banks shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

(a) This exception permits the purchase by a state-chartered banking institution without limitation of bankers' acceptances created by other banks: Provided, that the acceptances are of the kind described in 12 U.S.C. § 372 (eligible acceptances). Acceptances other than those described in 12 U.S.C. § 372 must be included within the purchasing state-chartered banking institution's lending limit to each acceptor bank.

(b) The limits under which a state-chartered banking institution may itself accept drafts eligible for rediscount are contained in 12 U.S.C. § 372. These limits are distinct from the limits under West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a). Acceptances by a bank of "Ineligible" drafts, i.e., time drafts which do not meet the requirements for discount with a Federal Reserve Bank, are subject to the limitations of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a).

(c) During any period within which a state-chartered banking institution holds its own acceptances, eligible or ineligible, having given value therefore, the amount given is considered, for purposes of this rule, to be a loan or extension of credit to the customer for whom the acceptance was made and is subject to the lending limits. To the extent that a loan or extension of credit created by discounting the acceptance is covered by a bona fide participation agreement, the discounting bank need only consider that portion of the discounted acceptance which it retains as being subject to the limitations of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a).

7.3. Loans secured by bills of lading or warehouse receipts covering readily marketable staples. --

(a) The total loans and extensions of credit made by a state chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise may exceed fifteen percent of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus of that state chartered banking institution at the time the loans or extensions of credit are made if they are fully secured by bills of lading or other documents giving a lien on readily marketable staples, as determined in a manner consistent with subdivision 7.3(b) of this rule, notwithstanding the collateral requirements in subsection 3.2 of this rule.

(b) Where the total loans and extensions of credit by a state chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise are fully secured by bills of lading or other documents giving a lien on readily marketable staples the market value of which at all times equals or exceeds one hundred fifteen percent (115%) of the outstanding amount of such loans or extensions of credit, the bank may provide such loans or extensions of credit of up to ~~an additional thirty five percent (35%)~~ twenty percent (20%) of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus of that state chartered banking institution. This limitation is ~~separate from and~~ in addition to the 15% limitation contained in subsection 3.1 of this rule. The total amount allowed under this provision may thus not exceed thirty-

five percent (35%) of a bank's unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus (viz. 20% + 15%).

(c) The maximum term of a loan or extension of credit extended under subdivision 7.3(b) of this rule shall be ten (10) months.

(d) A "Readily Marketable Staple" means an article of commerce, agriculture or industry of such uses as to make it the subject of dealings in a ready market with sufficiently frequent price quotations as to make the price easily and definitely ascertainable, and the staple itself easy to sell at any time at a price determined in an organized market. Staples eligible for this exception must be nonperishable and must be fully covered by insurance when such insurance is customary. This exception is intended to apply primarily to basic commodities, such as wheat and other grains, cotton, wool, and basic metals such as tin, copper, lead and the like. Whether a commodity is readily marketable depends upon existing conditions and it is possible that a commodity that qualifies at one time may cease to qualify at a later date. Fabricated commodities which do not constitute standardized interchangeable units and do not possess uniformly broad marketability do not qualify as readily marketable staples.

(e) Commodities sometimes fail to qualify as nonperishable because of the manner in which they are handled or stored during the life of the loan or extension of credit. Accordingly, the question as to whether a staple is nonperishable must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

(f) The important characteristic of warehouse receipts, order bills of lading or other similar documents is that the holder of the documents has control of the commodity and can obtain immediate possession. (However, the existence of brief notice periods or similar procedural requirements under state law, for the disposal of the collateral will not affect the eligibility of instruments for this exception.) Only documents with these characteristics are eligible security for loans under this exception. In the event of default on a loan secured by such documents, the bank must be in a position to sell the underlying commodity and promptly transfer title and possession to the purchaser, thus being able to protect itself without extended litigation. Generally, documents of title qualifying under the Uniform Commercial Code [W. Va. Code § 46-1-201] are "Similar Documents" qualifying for this exception.

(g) Field warehouse receipts are an acceptable form of collateral when they are issued by a duly bonded and licensed grain elevator or warehouse having exclusive possession and control of the commodities even though the grain elevator or warehouse is maintained on the commodity owner's premise.

(h) Warehouse receipts issued by the borrower-owner which is a grain elevator or warehouse company, duly bonded and licensed and regularly inspected by state and federal authorities, may be

considered eligible collateral under this exception only when the receipts are registered with an independent registrar whose consent is required before the commodities can be withdrawn from the warehouse.

(i) If collateral values fall below the levels required by subdivision 7.3(b) of this rule, to the extent that a loan is no longer in conformance with the collateral requirements and exceeds the general fifteen percent (15%) limitation, the loan must be brought into conformance within five (5) business days, except where judicial proceedings, regulatory actions or other extraordinary occurrences prevent the bank from taking action.

7.4. Loans secured by obligations of the United States and West Virginia.-- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(4)(D) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit secured by bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness or treasury bills of the United States or by other such obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States or by bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness which are general obligations of the state of West Virginia or by other such obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the state of West Virginia shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

(a) This exception applies only to the extent that loans or extensions of credit are fully secured by the current market value of obligations of the United States or the state of West Virginia or guaranteed by the United States of the state of West Virginia.

(b) If the market value of the collateral declines to the extent that the loan is no longer in conformance with this exception and exceeds the general fifteen percent (15%) limitation, the loan must be brought into conformance within five (5) business days.

7.5. Loans to or guaranteed by a federal agency or the state of West Virginia.-- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(4)(E) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit to or secured by unconditional takeout commitments or guarantees of any department, agency, bureau, board, commission or establishment of the United States or of the State of West Virginia or any corporation wholly owned directly or indirectly by the United States shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

(a) This exception may apply to only that portion of a loan or extension of credit that is covered by a federal government or state of West Virginia guarantee or commitment.

(b) For purposes of this exception, the commitment or guarantee must be payable to cash or its equivalent within sixty (60) days after demand for payment is made.

(c) A guarantee or commitment is unconditional if the protection afforded the bank is not substantially diminished or impaired in the case of loss resulting from factors beyond the bank's control. Protection against loss is not materially diminished or impaired by procedural requirements, such as an agreement to take over only in the event of default, including default over a specific period of time, a requirement that notification of default be given within a specific period after its occurrence, or a requirement of good faith on the part of the bank.

7.6. Loans secured by segregated deposit accounts.-- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(4)(F) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit secured by a segregated deposit account in the lending bank shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

(a) The lending bank must ensure that a security interest has been perfected in the deposit, including the assignment of a specifically identified deposit and any other actions required by state law.

(b) Deposit accounts which may qualify for this exception include deposits in any form generally recognized as deposits. In the case of a deposit eligible for withdrawal prior to the maturity of the secured loan, the bank must establish internal procedures which will prevent the release of the security.

(c) A deposit which is denominated and payable in a currency other than that of a loan or extension of credit which it secures may be eligible for this exception if it is freely convertible to United States dollars. The deposit must be revalued at least monthly, using appropriate foreign exchange rates to ensure that the loan or extension of credit remains fully secured. This exception applies to only that portion of the loan or extension of credit that is covered by the United States dollar value of the deposit. If the United States dollar value of the deposit falls to the extent that the loan is in nonconformance with this exception and exceeds the general fifteen percent (15%) limitation, the loan must be brought into conformance within five (5) business days, except where judicial proceedings, regulatory actions or other extraordinary occurrences prevent the bank from taking such action. This exception is not authority for state-chartered banking institutions to take deposits denominated in foreign currencies.

7.7. Loans to ~~state-chartered banking~~ depository institutions with the approval of the Commissioner.-- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(4)(G) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit to any banking institution or to any receiver, conservator or other agent in charge of the business and property of such banking institution or other federally insured depository institution, when such loans or extensions of credit are approved by the Commissioner of banking, shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

This exception is intended to apply only in emergency situations where a state-chartered banking institution is called upon to provide assistance to another depository institution.

For purposes of this subsection, depository institution means a commercial bank, savings bank, trust company, savings association or credit union.

7.8. Discount of installment consumer paper.

(a) Loans and extensions of credit arising from the discount of negotiable or nonnegotiable installment consumer paper which carries a full recourse endorsement or unconditional guarantee of any one person or common enterprise transferring the paper are subject under this section to a maximum limitation equal to ~~twenty-five percent (25%) of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus, notwithstanding the collateral requirements set forth in subsection 3.2 of this rule.~~ 10 percent (10%) of the bank's unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus, notwithstanding the collateral requirements set forth in subsection 3.2 of this rule. This limitation is separate from and in addition to the amount allowed under the bank's general limitation set forth in subsection 3.1 of this rule. Thus, the total amount allowable under this provision may not exceed 25% of the bank's total unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus.

The unconditional guarantee may be in the form of a repurchase agreement or a separate guarantee agreement. A condition reasonably within the power of the bank to perform, such as the repossession of collateral, will not be considered to make conditional an otherwise unconditional agreement.

(1) For purposes of this section of this rule only, "Consumer" means the user of any products, commodities, goods, or services, whether leased or purchased, and does not include any person who purchases products or commodities for the purpose of resale or for fabrication into goods for sale.

(2) For purposes of this section of the rule only, "Consumer Paper" includes paper relating to automobiles, mobile homes, residences, office equipment, household items, tuition fees, insurance premium fees and similar consumer items. Also included is paper covering the lease (where the bank is not the owner or lessor) or purchase of equipment for use in manufacturing, farming, construction or excavation.

(b) Under certain circumstances, installment consumer paper which otherwise meets the requirements of this section will be considered a loan or extension of credit to the maker of the paper rather than the seller or transferor of the paper. Specifically, where (A) through a review of the bank's files it has been determined that the financial condition of each maker is reasonably adequate to repay the loan or extension of credit and (B) an officer designated by the bank's Chairman or Chief Executive Officer pursuant to authorization by the board of directors certifies in writing that the bank is relying primarily upon the maker to repay the loan or extension of credit, the loan or extension of credit is subject only to the lending limits of the maker of the paper. Where paper is purchased in substantial quantities, the records, evaluation and certification may be in such form as is appropriate for the class and quantity of paper involved. The bank may use sampling techniques, or other appropriate methods, to independently verify the reliability of the credit information supplied by the seller.

7.9 Loans and extensions of credit secured by livestock.

(a) The total loans and extensions of credit made by a state chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise may exceed fifteen percent of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus of that state chartered banking institution at the time the loans or extensions of credit are made if they are fully secured by documents or instruments securing title or giving a lien on livestock, as determined in a manner consistent with subdivision 7.9(b) of this rule.

(b) Where the total loans and extensions of credit by a state-chartered banking institution to any one person or common enterprise are fully secured by:

(i) shipping documents or instruments transferring or securing title covering livestock or giving a first lien on livestock when the market value of the livestock securing the obligation is not at any time less than one hundred fifteen percent (115%) of the face amount of the obligation; or,

(ii) discounted paper given in payment for livestock by dealers, which carries a full recourse endorsement or unconditional guarantee of the seller, and which is secured by a first lien on the livestock being sold when the market value of the livestock securing the obligation is not at any time less than one hundred percent (100%) of the face amount of the obligation;

Then, the bank may provide those loans or extensions of up to an additional ten percent of the unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus of that state chartered banking institution calculated at the time that loan or extension is made. This limitation is separate from and in addition to the limitation contained in subsection 3.1 of this rule.

(c) "Livestock" as the term is used in this subsection, includes dairy and beef cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, horses, mules, poultry and fish, whether or not held for resale.

(d) Banks must maintain in their files an inspection and ~~appraisal~~ valuation report on the livestock pledged, in order to demonstrate compliance with this subsection. The inspection and ~~appraisal~~ valuation report should be performed at least every twelve (12) months or more frequently as considered prudent.

(e) Liens on the livestock must be in a form which allows the bank to maintain a perfected security interest in the livestock under applicable state law.

(f) If collateral values fall below the levels required by subdivision 7.9(b) of this rule, to the extent that the loan is no longer in conformance with the collateral requirements and exceeds the general fifteen percent (15%) limitation, the loan must be brought into conformance within thirty (30) business days, except where judicial proceedings, regulatory actions or other extraordinary occurrences prevent the bank from taking action.

7.10. Loans to Student Loan Marketing Association. -- West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(1) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit to the Student Loan Marketing Association shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

7.11. Loans to a corporation owning the property in which that state-chartered banking institution is located.--West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(4)(K) provides:

Loans or extensions of credit to a corporation owning the property in which that state-chartered banking institution located, when that state-chartered banking institution has an unimpaired capital and surplus of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or when approved in writing by the Commissioner of Banking, shall not be subject to any limitation based on capital and surplus.

§106-9-8. Miscellaneous.

8.1. Obligations of accommodation parties.-- The liability of a drawer, endorser or guarantor who does not receive any of the proceeds, or the benefit of the proceeds, of the loan or extension of credit is not a loan or extension of credit to such person for purposes of this rule unless one of the tests set forth in Section 4 of this rule is satisfied. However, no person shall serve as an accomodation party on loans exceeding

fifty percent (50%) of a state chartered banking institution's unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus.

8.2. Sale of federal funds and limitations on interbank liabilities.

(a) "Sale of Federal Funds" means, for purposes of this subsection, any transaction among depository institutions involving the transfer of immediately available funds resulting from credits to deposit balances at federal reserve banks or from credits to new or existing deposit balances due from a correspondent depository institution.

(b) "Continuing Contract" means, for purposes of this subsection, an agreement that remains in effect for more than one business day but has no specified maturity and requires no advance notice for termination.

(c) Sales of federal funds with a maturity of one (1) business day or under a continuing contract are not "Loans and Extensions of Credit" for purposes of this rule and are governed by the guidelines set forth in Federal Reserve Board Regulation F [12 CFR 206].

(d) Extensions of credit or sales of federal funds to other banking or depository institutions with a maturity of more than one business day are subject to the legal lending limits generally set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (a), section twenty-six, article four, chapter thirty-one-a of the state code.

8.3. Purchase of third-party paper.-- Where a bank purchases third-party paper subject to an agreement that the seller will repurchase the paper upon default or at the end of a stated period after default, the seller's obligation to repurchase is subject to West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(1) and is measured by the total unpaid balance of the paper owned by the bank less any applicable dealer reserves. Where the seller's obligation to repurchase is limited, the seller's total loans or extensions of credit, for the purpose of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a)(1) are measured by the total amount of paper the seller may ultimately be obligated to repurchase. Where no more than an agreed percentage of the purchase price is retained by the bank and credited to a reserve to be held as a form of collateral security, but the bank has no direct or indirect recourse to the seller, the loans or extensions of credit do not constitute loans or extensions of credit to the seller subject to the expanded limitations of subsection 7.8(a) of this rule.

8.4. Overdrafts.-- Overdrafts, whether or not prearranged, are "Loans and Extensions of Credit" for purposes of this rule. This rule does not apply to "Intra-day" or "Daylight" overdrafts.

8.5. Loans charged off; in whole or in part.-- The legal lending limits apply to all existing loans or extensions of credit to a person by the bank, including loans or extensions of credit which have been charged off on the books of the bank in whole or in part. Loans or extensions of credit which have become unenforceable by reason of discharge in bankruptcy or are no longer legally enforceable for other reasons are not "Loans and Extensions of Credit" for purposes of this rule.

8.6. Sale of loan participation.

(a) When a bank sells a participation in a loan or extension of credit, including the discount of a bank's own applicable acceptance, that portion of the loan that is sold on a nonrecourse basis will not be applied to the bank's lending limits. In order to remove a loan or extension of credit from a bank's lending limit, a participation must result in a pro rata sharing of credit risk proportionate to the respective interests of the originating and participating lenders. This is so even where the participation agreement provides that repayment must be applied first to the shares sold. In that case, the pro rata sharing may only be accomplished if the agreement also provides that, in case of a default or comparable event defined in the agreement, participants shall share in all subsequent repayments and collections in proportion to the percentage of participation at the time of the occurrence of the event.

(b) The provisions of subsection 8.6(a) of this rule apply to all "Loans and Extensions of Credit," as defined in Section 2 of this rule, including "Contractual Commitment(s) to Advance Funds," as defined in Section 2.4 of this rule.

8.7. Interest or discount on loans.-- The legal lending limits do not apply to the portion of a loan or extension of credit that represents accrued or discount interest.

8.8. Loans to or guaranteed by general obligations of a state or political subdivision.

(a) A loan or extension of credit to a bank customer which is guaranteed or secured by a "General Obligation" of any state or political subdivision thereof, is not considered an obligation of the customer for purposes of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a). The lending bank should obtain the opinion of competent counsel that the guarantee or collateral is a valid and enforceable obligation of the public body.

(b) A loan or extension of credit to a state or political subdivision of the state is not subject to any limitation based on capital or surplus if the loan or extension of credit constitutes a "general obligation" of the state or political subdivision. The lending bank should obtain the opinion of competent counsel that the loan or extension of credit is a valid and enforceable obligation of the borrower.

8.9. Loans to industrial development authorities.-- A loan or extension of credit to an industrial development authority or similar public entity created for the purpose of constructing and leasing a plant facility, including a health care facility, to an industrial occupant is not a loan or extension of credit to the authority for the purposes of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a) if:

(a) The bank relies on the credit of the industrial occupant in making the loan;

(b) The authority's liability with respect to the loan is limited solely to whatever interest it has in the particular facility;

(c) The authority's interest is assigned to the bank as security for the loan or a promissory note from the lessee to the bank provides a higher order of security than the assignment of a lease; and

(d) The industrial occupant's lease rentals are assigned and paid directly to the bank. A loan or extension of credit meeting the above criteria will be considered a loan or extension of credit to the lessee and will be combined with other obligations of the lessee for the purposes of West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a).

8.10. Loans to leasing companies.-- A loan or extension of credit to a leasing company for the purpose of purchasing personal property for lease will be deemed a loan to the lessee, provided that:

(a) The bank evaluates the creditworthiness of the lessee before the loan is extended to the leasing corporation;

(b) The loan is without recourse to the leasing corporation;

(c) The bank is given a security interest in the personal property and in the event of default, may proceed directly against the property and the lessee for any deficiency resulting from the sale of the property;

(d) The leasing corporation assigns all of its rights under the lease to the bank;

(e) The lessee's lease payments are assigned and paid to the bank; and

(f) The lease terms are subject to the same limitations that would apply to a state bank acting as the originating lessor.

—8.10. 8.11. Separate limitations for West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a). -- The legal lending limits prescribed by West Virginia Code subsection (a), section twenty-six, article four, chapter thirty-one-a are separate and distinct from the investment limits prescribed by West Virginia Code subsection

(b), section twenty-six, article four, chapter thirty-one-a. Accordingly, a state-chartered banking institution may make loans or extensions of credit to one borrower up to the full amount permitted by West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(a) and also hold eligible investment securities of the same obligor up to the full amount permitted by West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(b). In order for a security to be an "Investment Security", it must be eligible for investment by a state-chartered banking institution in accordance with the standards set forth in West Virginia Code § 31A-4-26(b).



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COMMISSIONER OF BANKING LEGISLATIVE RULE PERTAINING TO THE LEGAL LENDING LIMIT 106 CSR 9

Comments Received

The only comment received regarding the above-referenced rule was made orally by Deborah Sink, Esq. on behalf of the WV Bankers Association. Ms. Sink suggested that language in 7.8 of the rule be reworded to clarify that the exception created therein was not subject to the collateralization requirement in 3.2 of the rule. It was also suggested that 8.10 be amended to substitute the word "personal property" in lieu of the term "equipment" since the latter term has a more narrow meaning under the UCC and therefore might be misconstrued. Lastly, she noted that subsection (f) to section 8.10 clearly note that it refers to the situation where the bank is the originator of the lease.

Response to Comment

The proposed rule was amended to reflect the comment's suggestions.



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COMMISSIONER OF BANKING LEGISLATIVE RULE PERTAINING TO THE LEGAL LENDING LIMIT 106 CSR 9

Amendments Made in Response to Comment

The phrase "notwithstanding the collateral requirements set forth in subsection 3.2 of this rule" was readded to 106 CSR § 9-7.8(a) so as to make clear that these collateral requirements did not apply.

The term "equipment" in 106 CSR § 9-8.10 was changed to read "personal property" to avoid an overly restrictive meaning being interpreted into the provision by referral to the UCC.

Lastly, 106 CSR § 9-8.10(f) was modified to made clear the reference was to the situation where the bank "originated" the lease.

Reasons for the Amendment

The amendments were made to accommodate the situations noted in the comments, and to improve clarity of the rule's purpose and application.