

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators

From: Representative Joy Goeben

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

RE: **Co-sponsorship of LRB 1099/1, relating to: requiring retail sellers to accept cash and providing a penalty.**

Deadline: **Wednesday, April 23 at 4 PM**

As technology continues to develop and is integrated in our daily lives, an increasing number of retailers are moving to a cashless transaction model.

Many people do not have the necessary credit to obtain a credit or debit card. Cashless policies like the one described above discriminate against those people. In addition, all United States paper currency carries the statement “This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private.”

This legislation would require retail sellers to accept cash as a legal form of payment. Given the rise in surcharges on debit/credit transactions, individuals should have the right to pay for goods and services via cash if they prefer.

The language of this bill does account for large scale venues (ie Lambeau Field, American Family Field, Summerfest), where not every vendor at the location would have to accept

cash. Rather, at least one vendor on premise would have to accept cash, but not every vendor.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this email or contact Representative Goeben's office at 9105 or Senator Cabral-Guevara's office at 60718 by **Friday, April 23, 2025 at 4 PM**. All co-sponsors will be added to both versions of the bill unless otherwise specified.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires a retailer who sells goods or services from a physical location to accept cash as payment during a face-to-face sale with a consumer at one or more points of sale at the physical location, unless the person is otherwise prohibited by law from accepting cash. A retailer who violates this requirement is subject to a civil forfeiture of \$200 to \$5,000.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.