



## ***CREDIT UNION DEPARTMENT***

**DATE:**        **March 7, 2013**

**TO:**            **State Chartered Credit Unions**

**SUBJECT:**    **Change 33 to Update the Texas Rules for Credit Unions**

The attached pages constitute changes to the Texas Rules for Credit Unions. Your book of rules should be updated as follows:

### **REMOVE PAGES**

### **INSERT**

### **AMENDMENTS OR NEW RULES**

Rules for CUs Cover

Rules for CUs Cover

Updated Cover

91-23 thru 91-28-b

91-23 thru 91-28-b

Corrected printing error in Rule 91.407 provided in Change 25

97-1 thru 97-8-b

97-1 thru 97-8-b

Readopted Rules 97.101, 97.102, 97.103, 97.104, 97.105, 97.107, 97.113, 97.114, 97.115, and 97.116 with no changes

97-9 thru 97-10

97-9 thru 97-10

Readopted Rules 97.200 and 97.205 with no changes

97-13 thru 97-14

97-13 thru 97-14

Readopted Rule 97.300 with no changes

97-15 thru 97-16

97-15 thru 97-16

Readopted Rule 97.401 with no changes

**FOR YOUR RECORDS** - Please keep this letter of transmittal behind the **Update Tab** of the Rules Section of your binder as a record to show your rules are up to date.



**RULES FOR CREDIT UNIONS**

adopted by the

**CREDIT UNION COMMISSION**

Thomas F. Butler — Chair  
Deer Park, Texas

Manuel "Manny" Cavazos -- Member  
Austin, Texas

Gary L. Janacek -- Member  
Temple, Texas

Dale E. Kimble -- Member  
Denton, Texas

Sherri B. Merket -- Member  
Midland, Texas

Allyson "Missy" Morrow -- Member  
San Benito, Texas

Rob Kyker -- Member  
Richardson, Texas

Gary D. Tuma -- Vice Chair  
Sugar Land, Texas

A. John Yoggerst -- Member  
San Antonio, Texas

## **DISCLAIMER**

Please be advised that we must disclaim perfect accuracy in providing this material. Although we strive to present totally accurate information and offer this material to assist you, you are solely responsible for any use of it that you may make.

The official copy of the Texas Administrative Code is maintained by the Secretary of State for the State of Texas and is available on their website at <http://sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml>.

## Subchapter D. Powers of Credit Unions

### §91.401. Purchase, Lease, or Sale of Fixed Assets.

(a) Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Fixed Assets--real property, premises, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

(2) Furniture, fixtures, and equipment--all office furnishings, office machines, computer hardware and software, automated terminals, and heating and cooling equipment, including capitalized leases of such items.

(3) Immediate family member--a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

(4) Premises--any office, service center, parking lot, or other facility where the credit union transacts or intends to transact business. It also includes capitalized leases, leasehold improvements, and remodeling costs to existing premises.

(5) Real property--land and anything growing on, attached to, or erected on it that is acquired and intended primarily for the credit union's own use in conducting business. It does not include any real property which may be conveyed to the credit union in satisfaction of debts previously contracted in the course of business, nor any real estate that the credit union purchases at sale on judgments, decrees, mortgage or deed of trust foreclosures under a security agreement held by the credit union.

(6) Senior Management Employee--the chief executive officer, any assistant chief executive officers (e.g. vice presidents and above) and the chief financial officer.

(b) Fixed Asset Investment Limitations.

A credit union may purchase fixed assets or enter into a contract for the purchase or lease of fixed assets primarily for its own use in conducting business if the aggregate of all such investments does not exceed the lesser of 70% of the credit union's retained earnings or six percent of total assets.

(c) Restrictions.

(1) A credit union shall not purchase real estate (land or buildings) for the principal purpose of engaging in real estate rentals or speculation.

(2) A credit union bidding at a foreclosure or similar sale shall not bid a larger amount than is necessary to satisfy the debts and costs owed the credit union.

(d) Transactions with insiders.

Without the prior approval of a disinterested majority of the board of directors recorded in the minutes or, if a disinterested majority cannot be obtained, the prior written approval of the commissioner, a credit union may not directly or indirectly:

(1) sell or lease an asset of the credit union to a director, committee member, or senior management employee, or immediate family members of such individual; or

(2) purchase or lease an asset in which a director, committee member, senior management employee, or immediate family members of such individual has an interest.

(e) Use requirement.

If real property or leasehold interest is acquired and intended, in good faith, for use in future expansion, the credit union must partially satisfy the "primarily for its own use in conducting business" requirement within five years after the credit union makes the investment.

(f) Waiver.

The commissioner may, upon written application, waive or modify any of the limitations or restrictions placed on the investment of fixed assets.

(g) Written application.

A credit union requesting a waiver or modification of the fixed asset investment limits, shall submit statements and reports required by the commissioner, including but not limited to:

- (1) a description of the proposal's cost, usage, location, and method of financing;
- (2) a statement of the business reasons for making the investment and the economic advantages and disadvantages relating to the proposed investment;
- (3) evidence that the increase in operating expenses caused by the project can be supported after accounting for the current level of expenses and dividend commitments; and
- (4) the credit union's latest balance sheet, income statement and loan delinquency report.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.401 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2306; readopted to be effective October 27, 2005, 30 TexReg 7505; reviewed and amended to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1978.*

#### **§91.402. Insurance for Members.**

(a) Authority. A credit union may make insurance products available to its members, including insurance products at the individual member's expense, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the purchase of any type of insurance coverage by a member must be voluntary, and a copy of the signed and dated written election to purchase the insurance must be on file at the credit union.

(2) Insurance may be required on a loan if the coverage and the charges for the insurance bear a reasonable relationship to:

- (A) the value of the collateral;
- (B) the existing hazards or risk of loss, damage, or destruction; and
- (C) the amount, term, and conditions of the loan.

(3) if the insurance is a condition of a loan, the credit union shall give the member written notice that clearly and conspicuously states;

- (A) that insurance is required in connection with the loan; and
- (B) that the member may purchase or provide the insurance from a carrier of the member's choice, or the member [who is borrowing] may assign any existing insurance coverage.

(4) An officer, director, employee, or committee member of a credit union may not accept anything of value from an insurance agent, insurance company, or other insurance provider offered to induce the credit union to sell or offer to sell insurance or other related products or services to the members of the credit union.

(5) If a credit union replaces an existing loan or renews a loan and sells the member new credit life or disability insurance, the credit union shall cancel the prior insurance and provide the member with a refund or credit of the unearned premium or identifiable charge before selling the new insurance to the member.

(6) The person selling or offering for sale any insurance product in any part of a credit union's office or on its behalf must be at all times appropriately qualified and licensed under applicable State insurance licensing standards with regard to the specific products being sold or recommended.

(b) **Unsafe and Unsound Practice.** It is an unsafe and unsound practice for any director, officer, or employee of a credit union, who is involved in the sale of insurance products to members, to take advantage of that business opportunity for personal profit. Recommendations to members to buy insurance should be based on the benefits of the policy, not the compensation received from the sale.

(c) **Prohibited Practices.** A director, officer, or employee of a credit union may not engage in any practice that would lead a member to believe that a loan or extension of credit is conditional upon either:

(1) The purchase of an insurance product from the credit union or any of its affiliates;  
or

(2) An agreement by the member not to obtain, or a prohibition on the member from obtaining, an insurance product from an unaffiliated entity.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.402 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2306; amended to be effective March 13, 2006, 31 TexReg 1647; reviewed and amended to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1978.*

### **§91.403. Debt Cancellation Products; Federal Parity.**

(a) **Authority.** Provided it complies with this section, a credit union may offer any debt cancellation product a federal credit union is permitted to offer. For the purposes of this section, a debt cancellation product is a two-party agreement between the credit union and the member under which the credit union agrees to waive, suspend, defer, or cancel all or part of a member's obligation to pay an indebtedness under a lease, loan, or other extension of credit upon the occurrence of a specified event. Debt cancellation products are considered loan products, not insurance products and, consequently, are not regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance. The credit union may offer debt cancellation products for a fee. If the debt cancellation product is offered for a fee basis, then the member's participation must be optional.

(b) **Anti-tying and Refund Rules.** For any debt cancellation product offered by a credit union:

(1) The credit union may not extend credit nor alter the terms or conditions of an extension of credit conditioned upon the member entering into a debt cancellation product with the credit union; and

(2) The debt cancellation product must provide for refunding or crediting to the member any unearned fees resulting from termination of the member's participation in the product, whether by prepayment of the extension of credit or otherwise. Any unearned fees must be calculated using a method that produces a result at least as favorable to the member as the actuarial method. Before the member purchases the debt cancellation product, the credit union must state in writing that the purchase of the debt cancellation product is optional, the conditions for and method of calculating any refund of the debt cancellation fee, including when fees are considered earned by the credit union, and that the member should carefully review all of the terms and conditions of the debt cancellation agreement prior to signing the agreement.

(c) **Notice to Department.** A credit union must notify the commissioner in writing of its intent to offer any type of debt cancellation product at least 30 days prior to the product being offered to members. The notice must contain a statement describing the type(s) of debt cancellation product(s) that the credit union will offer to its membership.

(d) **Risk Management and Controls.** Before offering any debt cancellation products, each credit union's board of directors, shall adopt written policies that establish and maintain effective risk

management and control processes for these products. Such processes include appropriate recognition and financial reporting of income, expenses, assets and liabilities, and appropriate treatment of all expected and unexpected losses associated with the products. A credit union should also assess the adequacy of its internal control and risk mitigation activities in view of the nature and scope of its debt cancellation program. In addition, the policies shall establish reasonable fees, if any, that will be charged, the appropriate disclosures that will be given, and the claims processing procedures that will be utilized.

(e) For purposes of this section “actuarial method” means the method of allocating payments made on a debt between the amount financed and the finance charge pursuant to which a payment is applied first to the accumulated finance charge and any remainder is subtracted from, or any deficiency is added to, the unpaid balance of the amount financed.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.403 adopted to be effective May 13, 1999, 24 TexReg 3473; readopted to be effective August 2, 2002, 27 TexReg 6874; amended to be effective June 8, 2003, 28 TexReg 4411; amended to be effective March 6, 2005, 30 TexReg 1064; readopted to be effective October 27, 2005, 30 TexReg 7505; reviewed and amended to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1979.*

#### **§91.404. Purchasing Assets and Assuming Deposits and Liabilities of another Financial Institution.**

(a) Scope. A credit union must obtain the approval of the Department before purchasing all or substantially all of the assets and/or assuming certain deposits and other liabilities of another financial institution. This section does not apply to purchases of assets that occur as a result of a credit union’s ordinary and ongoing business of acquiring obligations of its members.

(b) Approval Requirement.

(1) A credit union must file an application and obtain the written approval of the Department before entering into any type of purchase and assumption agreement.

(2) In determining whether to approve an application under this section, the Department will consider the purpose of the transaction, its impact on the safety and soundness of the credit union, and any effect on the credit union’s existing members. The Department may deny the application if the transaction would have a negative effect on any of those factors.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.404 adopted to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1980.*

#### **§91.405. Records Retention and Preservation.**

(a) General. Every credit union shall keep records of its transactions in sufficient detail to permit examination, audit and verification of financial statements, schedules, and reports it is required to file with the Department or which it issues to its members. Credit union accounts, books and other records shall be maintained in appropriate form and for the minimum periods prescribed by this section. The retention period for each record starts from the last entry or final action date and not from the inception of the record.

(b) Manner of maintenance. Records may be maintained in whatever manner, or format a credit union deems appropriate; provided, however, the records must clearly and accurately reflect the information required, provide an adequate basis for the examination and audit of the information, and be retrievable easily and in a readable and useable format. A credit union may contract with third party service providers to maintain records required under this part.

(c) Permanent retention. It is recommended that the following records be retained permanently in their original form:

(1) charter, bylaws, articles of incorporation, and amendments thereto; and  
(2) currently effective certificates or licenses to operate under programs of various government agencies, such as a certificate to act as issuing agent for the sale of United States savings bonds.

(d) Ten year retention. Records which are significant to the continuing operation of the credit union must be retained until the expiration of ten years following the making of the record or the last entry thereon or the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations, whichever is later. The records are:

(1) minutes of meetings of the members, the board of directors, and board committees;  
(2) journal and cash record;  
(3) general ledger and subsidiary ledgers;  
(4) for active accounts, one copy of each individual share and loan ledger or its equivalent;  
(5) comprehensive annual audit reports including evidence of account verification; and  
(6) examination reports and official correspondence from the department or any other government agency acting in a regulatory capacity.

(e) Five year retention. The following records must be retained until the expiration of five years following the making of the record or the last entry thereon or the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations, whichever is later:

(1) records related to closed accounts including membership applications, joint membership agreements, payable on death agreements, signature cards, share draft agreements, and any other account agreements; loan agreements; and

(2) for an active account, any account agreement which is no longer in effect.

(f) Other records. Subject to applicable law, any other type of document not specifically delineated in this rule may be destroyed after five years or upon expiration of an applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer.

(g) Data processing records. Provisions of this section apply to records produced by a data processing system. Output reports that substitute for standard conventional records or that provide the only support for entries in the journal and cash record should be retained for the minimum period specified in this rule.

(h) Protection and storage of records. A credit union shall provide reasonable protection from damage by fire, flood and other hazards for records required by this section to be preserved and, in selection of storage space, safeguard such records from unnecessary exposure to deterioration from excessive humidity, dryness, or lack of proper ventilation.

(i) Records destruction. The board of directors shall adopt a written policy authorizing the destruction of specified records on a continuing basis upon expiration of specified retention periods.

(j) Records preservation. All state chartered credit unions are required to maintain a records preservation program to identify and store vital records in order that they may be reconstructed in the event the credit union's records are destroyed. Storage of vital records is the responsibility of the board but may be delegated to the responsible person(s). A vital records storage center should be established at some location that is far enough from the credit union office to avoid the simultaneous loss of both sets of records in the event of a disaster. Records must be stored every calendar quarter within 30 days following quarter-end at which time records stored for the previous quarter may be destroyed. Stored records may be in any form which can be used to reconstruct the credit union's records. This includes machine copies, microfilm, or any other usable copy. The records to be stored shall be for the most recent month-end and are:

(1) a list of all shares and/or deposits and loan balances for each member's account. Each balance on the list is to be identified by an account name or number. Multiple balances of either shares or loans to one account shall be listed separately;

(2) a financial statement/statement of financial condition which lists all the credit union's assets and liability accounts;

(3) a listing of the credit union's banks, insurance policies and investments. This information may be marked "permanent" and updated only when changes are made.

(k) Records preservation compliance. Credit unions that have some or all of their records maintained by an off-site data processor are considered to be in compliance so long as the processor meets the minimum requirements of this section. Credit unions that have in-house capabilities shall make the necessary provisions to safeguard the backup of data on a continuing basis.

(l) Reproduction of records. A credit union shall furnish promptly, at its own expense, legible, true and complete copies of any record required to be kept by this section as requested by the department.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.405 adopted to be effective May 11, 2000, 25 TexReg 3950; readopted to be effective December 18, 2003, 29 TexReg 235, amended to be effective March 13, 2006, 31 TexReg 1647; amended to be effective November 16, 2008, 33 TexReg 9073; reviewed and readopted to be effective October 19, 2009, 34 TexReg 7657.*

#### **§91.406. Credit Union Service Contracts.**

A credit union may enter into contractual agreements with one or more credit unions or other organizations for the purpose of engaging in authorized activities that relate to electronic data processing, electronic fund transfers, or other member services on behalf of the credit union. Agreements must be in writing and shall advise all parties that the activities and services may be subject to commission rules and examination by the commissioner to the extent permitted by law.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.406 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2635; readopted to be effective October 27, 2005, 30 TexReg 7505; reviewed and readopted to be effective October 19, 2009 34 TexReg 7657.*

#### **§91.407. Electronic Notification.**

A credit union may, in accordance with written board policy, satisfy any "written" member notification requirement of the Act, commission rules, or the credit union's bylaws by electronic means provided:

(1) the member agrees in writing or electronically to use electronic instead of hard-copy notifications;

(2) the member has the ability to print or download the notification;

(3) evidence of the electronic notification is retained in accordance with §91.405 (relating to Records Retention); and

(4) both the credit union and the member have the capacity to receive electronic messages.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.407 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2636; readopted to be effective October 27, 2005, 30 TexReg 7505; reviewed and readopted to be effective October 19, 2009, 34 TexReg 7657.*

**§91.408. User Fee for Shared Electronic Terminal.**

A credit union that owns an electronic terminal that is connected to a shared network may impose a fee on a non-member for the use of that terminal if imposition of the fee is disclosed in compliance with applicable federal law.

*Source: The provisions of this §91.408 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2636, readopted to be effective October 27, 2005, 30 TexReg 7505; reviewed and readopted to be effective October 19, 2009, 34 TexReg 7657.*

**(THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)**

# CHAPTER 97

## Subchapter A. General Provisions

### **§97.101. Meetings.**

The time and place of regular and special meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be determined by the applicable chair and posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (Government Code, Chapter 551). The minutes of each meeting shall be in writing, shall be posted on the Department's website, and shall be available to any person to examine during the Department's regular office hours.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.101 adopted to be effective March 8, 1984, 9 TexReg 1211; amended to be effective July 8, 1994, 19 TexReg 4946; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4513; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

### **§97.102. Delegation of Duties.**

The Commissioner is authorized to complete all filings necessary to facilitate the rule making powers of the Commission. The Commissioner may draft and sign final adoption orders and other such instruments where delegation is not restricted by statute or rule. Notwithstanding other provisions of this rule, this authority is conveyed only to promote administrative efficiency and to expedite properly approved decisions of the Commission.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.102 adopted to be effective May 4, 1995, 20 TexReg 3015; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091, reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4513; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

### **§97.103. Recusal or Disqualification of Commission Members.**

- (a) A commission member may not vote on or otherwise participate in the deliberation or decision of a matter pending before the commission:
  - (1) in which the commission member has a personal or private interest; or
  - (2) which directly affects the credit union of which the commission member is an officer, director, or member.
- (b) The term "personal or private interest" shall be given the meaning as prescribed in Texas Government Code, Section 572.058, and includes a direct personal or financial interest in a credit union or other matter which is the subject of commission action.
- (c) A commission member who is disqualified under subsection (a) of this section shall publicly disclose the fact to the commission in a meeting called and held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. The disclosure shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting.

(d) A commission member who is recused or disqualified will be counted in determining a quorum.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.103 adopted to be effective February 17, 1998, 23 TexReg 1303; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

#### **§97.104. Petitions for Adoption or Amendment of Rules.**

(a) An interested party may submit a petition to the Department to adopt or amend a rule pursuant to Government Code, <\*>2001.021. The petition must be in writing, must be directed to the commissioner, and must include:

- (1) a brief explanation of the proposed rule or of the proposed amendment to the rule;
- (2) the full text of the proposed rule, or, if the petition is to amend an existing rule, the text of the rule that clearly identifies any words to be added or deleted from the existing text by underlining new language and striking through language to be deleted; and
- (3) any additional information the commissioner may request.

(b) If the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall notify the applicant that the petition has been accepted for filing and will be processed in accordance with subsection (c) of this section. If the petition does not comply, the Department shall notify the applicant in writing of the deficiencies and give the applicant an opportunity to cure them by filing an amended petition. If the applicant does not file an amended petition curing the deficiencies by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day following the date that the Department mailed a notice of deficiencies to the applicant, the petition shall be deemed denied for the reasons stated in the deficiency notice without the necessity of further action.

(c) Within 60 days of the date that a petition is accepted for filing, the Department must either deny the petition for reasons stated in writing or initiate a rulemaking proceeding.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.104 adopted to be effective March 10, 2011, 36 TexReg 1658; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

#### **§97.105. Frequency of Examination.**

The department shall perform an examination of each credit union authorized to do business under the Act at least once each year. Intervals between examinations shall not exceed 18 months, unless a longer interval is authorized in writing by the commission. In lieu of conducting an examination required by this rule, the commissioner in the exercise of discretion may accept examinations or reports from other credit union supervisory agencies or insuring organizations.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.105 adopted to be effective March 8, 1984, 9 TexReg 1211; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

### **§97.107. Related Entities.**

(a) Definition. For the purposes of this section, a related entity is defined as:

1. a credit union service organization in which a credit union has a material interest by contracting with, lending to or investing in the organization;
2. a subsidiary or affiliate of a credit union service organization that is wholly owned or controlled by a credit union;
3. an organization engaged primarily in the business of managing a credit union; and
4. third-party contractors providing electronic data processing, electronic fund transfers, or other member services to or on behalf of a credit union.

(b) General Supervision. A credit union should perform a thorough analytical assessment to identify, measure, monitor, and establish controls to manage the risks associated with related entities and avoid excessive risk-taking that may threaten the safety and soundness of a credit union. The department may review the risks associated with any related entity and its activities together with other credit union risks using its supervision-by-risk framework. The department shall assess the effectiveness of a credit union's oversight program of related entities, including its strategic planning, third-party selection process, and ongoing monitoring.

(c) Examination. A credit union's use of related entities to achieve its strategic goals does not diminish the responsibility of the department to ensure that the activity is conducted in a safe and sound manner and in compliance with applicable law. Although in most situations, these activities should be conducted in the same manner that would be expected if the credit union were conducting the activities directly, the department shall consider the following factors in determining whether to examine exam related entities:

1. the high risk or unusual nature of the activities conducted by the related entity for the credit union;
2. the significance of the activities conducted by the related entity for the credit union to the credit union's operations and income; and
3. the extent to which the credit union has sufficient systems, controls, and personnel to adequately monitor, measure, and control risks arising from activities conducted by the related entity. The department may examine a related entity, as the commissioner deems necessary to ensure that a credit union is not assuming excessive risk.

(d) Examination Fee. The related entity shall pay a supplemental examination fee as prescribed in §97.113(e) of this title (relating to Supplemental examination fees). A credit union may elect to pay the fee on behalf of the related entity. The supplemental examination fee for a related entity may be waived or reduced if the commissioner determines it is appropriate.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.107 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2639; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091, reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg4514; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

**(THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)**

## Subchapter B. Fees

### §97.113. Fees and Charges.

(a) Remittance of fees.

(1) Each credit union authorized to do business under the Act shall remit to the department an annual operating fee. The fee shall be paid in semi-annual installments, billed effective September 1 and March 1 of each year. The final installment may be adjusted as provided by subsection (d) of this section. Installments received after September 30 or March 30 of each year will be subject to a monthly 10% late fee unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

(2) Credit unions that exit the Texas credit union system on or before August 31 or February 28 of a given year, will not be subject to the semi-annual assessment for the period beginning September 1 or March 1, respectively. Only those credit unions leaving the state credit union system prior to the close of business on those dates avoid paying the semi-annual assessment for the period beginning September 1 or March 1, as applicable.

(b) Calculation of operating fees. The schedule provided in this section shall serve as the basis for calculating operating fees. The base date shall be June 30 of the year in which operating fees are calculated. The asset base may be reduced by the amount of reverse-repurchase balances extant on the June 30 base date. The commissioner is authorized to increase the fee schedule once each year as needed to match revenue with appropriations. An increase greater than 5% shall require prior approval of the commission. The commissioner shall notify the commission of any such adjustment at the first meeting of the commission following the determination of the fee schedule.

#### **For Credit Unions with Total Assets Of:**

#### **The Operating Fee is:**

Less than \$200,000	\$200
\$200,000 but less than \$1M	\$200 plus .001625 of excess over \$200,000
\$1M but less than \$10M	\$1,500 plus .00034 of excess over \$1M
\$10M but less than \$25M	\$4,560 plus .00014 of excess over \$10M
\$25M but less than \$50M	\$6,660 plus .00017 of excess over \$25M
\$50M but less than \$100M	\$10,910 plus .00019 of excess over \$50M

\$100M but less than \$500M	\$20,410 plus .000080 of excess over \$100M
\$500M but less than \$1,000M	\$52,410 plus .000072 of excess over \$500M
\$1,000M but less than \$2,000M	\$88,410 plus .000069 of excess over \$1,000M
\$2,000M and over	\$157,410 plus .000062 of excess over \$2,000M

(c) Waiver of operating fees. The commissioner is authorized to waive the operating fee for an individual credit union when good cause exists. The commissioner shall document the reason(s) for each waiver of operating fees and report such waiver to the commission at its next meeting.

(d) Adjustment of an installment. The commissioner in the exercise of discretion may, after review and consideration of actual revenues to date and projected revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year, lower the amount of the final installment due from credit unions.

(e) Supplemental examination fees.

(1) If the commissioner or deputy commissioner schedules a special examination in addition to the regular examination, the credit union is subject to a supplemental charge to cover the cost of time and expenses incurred in the examination.

(2) The credit union shall pay a supplemental fee of \$50 for each hour of time expended on the examination. The commissioner may waive the supplemental fee or reduce the fee, individually or collectively, as he deems appropriate. Such waiver or reduction shall be in writing and signed by the commissioner. The department shall fully explain the time and charges for each special examination to the president or designated official in charge of operations of a credit union.

(f) Foreign credit union branches. Credit unions operating branch offices in Texas as authorized by §91.210 of this title (relating to Foreign Credit Unions) shall pay an annual operating fee of \$500 per branch office.

(g) Credit union conversion fee. A credit union organized under the laws of the United States or of another State that converts to a credit union organized under the laws of this State shall remit to the department an annual operating fee within 30 days after the issuance of a charter by the commissioner. The schedule provided in subsection (b) of this section shall serve as the basis for calculating the operating fee. All provisions set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall apply to converting credit unions with the following exceptions:

(1) Should the effective date of the conversion fall on or after October 31, the base date shall be the calendar quarter end immediately preceding the issuance date of a charter by the commissioner.

(2) The amount of the operating fee calculated under this section will be prorated based upon the number of full months remaining until September 1. For example, should the effective date of the conversion be January 31, the converting credit union will remit seven-twelfths of the amount of the operating fee calculated using December 31 base date.

(3) Any fee received more than 30 days after the issuance of a charter will be subject to a monthly 10% late fee unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

(h) Mergers/Consolidations. In the event a credit union in existence as of June 30 merges or consolidates with another credit union and the merger/consolidation is completed on or before August 31, the surviving credit union's asset base, for purposes of calculating the operating fee prescribed in subsection (b) of this section, will be increased by the amount of the merging credit union's total assets as of the June 30 base date.

(i) Special assessment. The commission may approve a special assessment to cover material expenditures, such as major facility repairs and improvements and other extraordinary expenses.

(j) Foreign credit union fee for field of membership expansion. A foreign credit union applying to expand its field of membership in Texas shall pay a fee of \$200. This fee shall be paid at the time of filing to cover the cost of processing the application. In addition, the applicant shall pay any cost incurred by the department in connection with a hearing conducted at the request of the applicant.

(k) Foreign credit union examination fees.

(1) If the commissioner schedules an examination of a foreign credit union, the credit union is subject to supplemental charges to cover the cost of time and expenses incurred in the examination.

(2) The foreign credit union shall pay a fee of \$50 for each hour of time expended by each examiner on the examination. The commissioner may waive the examination fee or reduce the fee as he deems appropriate.

(3) The foreign credit union shall also reimburse the department for actual travel expenses incurred in connection with the examination, including mileage, public transportation, food, and lodging in addition to the fee set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection. The commissioner may waive this charge at his discretion.

(l) Contract Services. In addition, the commissioner may charge, or otherwise cause to be paid by, a credit union, a foreign credit union or related entities the actual cost incurred by the department for an examination or a review of all or part of the operations or activities of a credit union, a foreign credit union or related entity that is performed under a personal services contract entered into between the department and third parties.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.113 adopted to be effective November 13, 2000, 25 TexReg 11279; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4514; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

#### **§97.114. Charges for Public Records.**

(a) Reproduction Charges. Copies of documents not excepted from disclosure by the Texas Public Information Act (Government Code, Chapter 552) may be obtained upon written request to the department at rates established by the Office of the Attorney General in 1 TAC Sections §§70.1-70.12 (relating to Cost of Copies of Public Information) or other applicable law.

(b) Request for Information. The following guidelines apply to requests for records under the Public Information Act (Government Code, Chapter 552).

(1) Request must be in writing and reasonably identify the records requested.

(2) Records access will be by appointment only.

(3) Records access is available only during the regular business hours of the department.

(4) Generally, unless confidential information is involved, review may be by physical access or by duplication, at the requestor's option. Any person, however, whose request would be unduly disruptive to the ongoing business of the office may be denied physical access and will be provided only the option of receiving copies by duplication.

(5) When the safety of any public record is at issue, physical access may be denied, and the records will be provided by duplication as previously described.

(6) Confidential files will not be made available for inspection or for duplication unless required by a court order or Attorney General decision.

(c) Waiver of Fees or Charges. The commissioner may waive or reduce an established charge when, in his or her discretion, a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because furnishing the information primarily benefits the general public. The fee may also be waived if the cost of processing the collection of a charge will exceed the amount of the charge.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.114 adopted to be effective September 1, 1994, 19 TexReg 6557; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9778; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4515; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

#### **§97.115. Reimbursement of Legal Expenses.**

(a) The commissioner may seek reimbursement of expenses from an individual credit union for legal fees incurred solely and necessarily because the credit union acted in an unreasonable or egregious manner or acted outside the course and scope of what is permitted by statute or regulation. To ensure that the rights and interest of all parties are protected, this section shall not apply to any adjudicative proceedings in which the legal rights, duties, or privileges of the credit union are being determined by the Department after an opportunity for hearing. This section also does not apply to court proceedings where the individual credit union's legal rights, duties, or privileges are being determined as against the Department.

(b) The credit union has thirty days from the date it receives the assessment to pay in full or to appeal in writing to the Commission.

(c) If a credit union files a written notice of appeal, the Commission shall hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. In making its decision, the Commission shall consider whether the credit union acted reasonably under the circumstances or acted within its legal rights.

(d) When possible, the Department will notify a credit union before the Department requests legal assistance which may be charged to a credit union under this section.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.115 adopted to be effective November 7, 2010, 29 TexReg 9722; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

#### **§97.116. Recovery of Costs for Extraordinary Services Not Related to an Examination.**

(a) The commissioner may seek reimbursement from an individual credit union for non examination-related expenses incurred solely and necessarily because the credit union acted in an unreasonable or egregious manner, or acted outside the course and scope of what is permitted by statute or regulation. Expenses can include personnel costs, transportation costs, meals, lodging, and other incidental expenses. If the commissioner determines that recovery of costs is appropriate, the Department shall provide advance notice to the credit union of its intention to recover the expenses.

(b) In seeking reimbursement, the commissioner shall consider the amount of the costs involved, the nature of the credit union's conduct, the service provided, the financial impact on the credit union, and the impact of the activity on other Department services. The commissioner may reduce the charges and bill the credit union less than the full amount of the costs.

(c) The credit union has thirty days from the date it receives the assessment to pay in full or to appeal in writing to the Commission.

(d) If a credit union files a written notice of appeal, the Commission shall hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. In making its decision, the Commission shall consider whether the credit union acted reasonably under the circumstances or acted within its legal rights.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.116 adopted to be effective November 7, 2010, 35 TexReg 9723; readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

**(THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)**

## Subchapter C. Department Operations

### §97.200. Employee Training Program.

(a) Components of program. The employee training program for the department consists of one or more of the following components:

(1) Agency-sponsored training to include in-house training sessions and on-the-job training;

(2) Formal training program conducted through the National Credit Union Administration as administrator of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(3) Seminars and conferences; and

(4) Formal course of study at an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education.

(b) In order for the cost of training and the time related to that training to be reimbursed by the department, the employee must demonstrate that the course has direct applicability to the employee's job with the department. Attendance at an approved training session described in subsection (a)(1)-(3) will be considered part of the employee's normal work duties and will not require the employee to use accrued leave to attend.

(c) Requests to attend an external training program, seminar or conference pursuant to this section must be approved by the commissioner. Approval of a request is contingent upon availability of funds. If limited funds are available, and more than one employee wishes to participate, a decision regarding who will attend will be based upon the extent of their previous use of funds, the training's merit and its value to the department's operations.

(d) Continuing education courses. Continuing education courses required by licensing or certifying bodies for employees to maintain a professional license or designation will only be reimbursed if such courses relate directly to the employee's job duties with the department and there are funds available.

(e) Tuition reimbursement.

(1) The department may reimburse full-time employees for part or all of tuition and required fees for formal courses of study described in subsection (a)(4) provided the eligibility criteria set forth below are met.

(A) An employee must have completed 24 consecutive months of full-time employment with the department prior to requesting approval to receive tuition reimbursement. However, the 24-month requirement may be waived if the commissioner finds that the employee needs a particular course to fulfill his or her work duties.

(B) An employee must be performing consistently above that normally expected or required and must have achieved an overall performance rating of at least 3.50 on the employee's most recent performance evaluation.

(C) An employee must not have been subject to formal disciplinary action for at least twelve months prior to requesting approval. As used in this section, "disciplinary action" includes a formal written reprimand, suspension without pay, or salary reduction for disciplinary reasons.

(D) The course work must be related to a current or prospective duty assignment within the department.

(E) An employee, before the course begins, must agree in writing to the repayment requirement stated in paragraph 3 of this subsection.

(F) At the time of the request for approval to receive tuition reimbursement, comparable training must not be scheduled to be offered in-house or through the National Credit Union Administration during the period of time covered by the tuition reimbursement.

(G) The employee's participation must not adversely affect workload or performance.

(H) The employee must complete the course within the semester for which tuition reimbursement was requested.

(I) The employee must receive a passing grade in the course. A passing grade is a grade which will entitle the employee to receive credit for the course from the educational institution offering the course.

(2) Reimbursable costs. Criteria addressing the extent to which cost of tuition may be reimbursed are as follows:

(A) The maximum amount an employee may be reimbursed for an approved tuition reimbursement request is \$250 per semester, not to exceed \$500 per fiscal year. The maximum amount of reimbursement may be increased up to \$400 per semester for good cause shown upon approval by the commissioner.

(B) Reimbursable costs include tuition, related fees, and required textbooks and workbooks. Employees will not be reimbursed for auditing a course.

(C) Costs described in subparagraph (2)(B) will be paid to the employee at the completion of the course upon the employee submitting proof that the course was completed and a passing grade was received.

(3) Repayment. Should an employee separate from department service within 12 months of completion of the course, the employee must reimburse the department for all reimbursable costs expended by the department for that course in accordance with section 656.103 of the Texas Government Code (relating to Restrictions on Certain Training Costs). The commission may adopt an order waiving this requirement upon finding that such action is in the best interest of the department or is warranted because of an extreme personal hardship suffered by the employee.

(4) Prohibition on use of state resources. Employees may not use department equipment, such as computers, calculators or typewriters to complete course work.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.200 adopted to be effective February 16, 2000, 25 TexReg 91099; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

### **§97.205. Use of Historically Underutilized Businesses.**

Pursuant to Chapter 2161 of the Government Code, the Department hereby incorporates by reference the rules of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, 34 TAC §§20.11-20.28 (relating to Historically Underutilized Business Program), or any successor rules, regarding historically underutilized businesses. The Department shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the requirements of these rules when purchasing goods and services that are paid for with State appropriated money.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.205 adopted to be effective November 13, 2000, 25 TexReg 11279; readopted to be effective June 22, 2004, 29 TexReg 6423; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4515; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

## Subchapter D. Gifts and Bequests

### §97.300. Gifts of Money or Property.

(a) The department may accept money or property by gift, bequest, devise, or otherwise (“Donation”), only from an organization described in Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for the purposes of funding or performing any authorized activity (“Donor”).

(b) All Donations must be accepted in an open meeting by a majority of the commission members present and reported in the minutes of the meeting setting forth the name of the Donor and the purpose of the Donation. Before accepting a Donation, the commission may require the Donor to provide information that the commission deems reasonable and necessary to ensure itself that the Donation is not being conveyed to directly or indirectly influence an official act of the department or the commission.

(c) The department may not solicit money or property from any person or organization to settle an administrative action or to keep the department from taking formal enforcement action.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.300 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2640, readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4516; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*

**(THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)**

## Subchapter E. Advisory Committees

### §97.401. General Requirements.

- (a) Definition. For purposes of this rule, the term “advisory committee” means a committee, council, board, task force, or other entity with multiple members established to provide advice and counsel to the commission.
- (b) Creation. The commission may establish advisory committees to advise the commission on issues within the jurisdiction of the department.
- (c) Function. Unless otherwise provided by law, an advisory committee’s responsibility is limited to those matters about which advice or counsel is sought. An advisory committee will have no authority to make rules or establish department policy.
- (d) Expiration of advisory committee. Unless expressly provided in this subchapter or other law, an advisory committee will expire on the fourth anniversary of the date of its creation. The date of creation shall be the effective date of the rule establishing the advisory committee.
- (e) Membership and Quorum. The chairman may appoint a maximum of 24 individuals to serve on an advisory committee. A majority of those individuals shall constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise provided by specific statute, the appointments shall be balanced to ensure representation of credit unions regulated by the department and consumers of services provided by those credit unions. Each advisory committee shall include at least one department employee as an ex officio member. This employee shall not be considered a committee member for purposes of establishing the maximum number of members or for purposes of determining a quorum.
- (f) Term of members. Unless expressly provided in this subchapter or other law, each member of an agency advisory committee will serve a term of four years. The terms may be staggered. Members' terms will expire at the end of four years or upon the termination of the advisory committee, whichever is earlier. Members may be reappointed. Members serve at the will of the chairman and may be removed at any time by the chairman.
- (g) Presiding officer. The presiding officer of each advisory committee shall be selected by the members of the advisory committee from its membership. The chairman may make a recommendation to the advisory committee regarding the presiding officer.
- (h) Meetings. Meetings shall be subject to the requirements of Chapter 551 of the Government Code. Each committee shall meet at least annually, but may meet as often as necessary. The department ex officio member of each advisory committee shall work with the presiding officer to schedule advisory committee meetings and provide adequate notice to department staff and to other members.
- (i) Reports. On or before October 1 of each year, each advisory committee shall submit a report to the commission. Upon receipt of the report, the commission shall evaluate the advisory committee's work, usefulness, and costs related to the committee's existence, including the cost of department staff time spent in support of the committee's activities. Each report shall include the following:
  - (1) a summary or minutes of meetings conducted during the previous fiscal year (September 1-August 31);
  - (2) a summary of recommendations from the advisory committee; and
  - (3) other information determined by the advisory committee or the chairman to be appropriate and useful.
- (j) Expenses. Members of each advisory committee will serve without compensation or reimbursement for travel or other out-of-pocket expenses.

(k) Rules. For each advisory committee appointed, the commission shall adopt rules that address the purpose of the advisory committee and membership qualifications, including experience requirements, geographic representation, and training requirements. Such rules may also address the terms of service, operating procedures, and other standards to ensure the effectiveness of an advisory committee appointed under this subchapter.

*Source: The provisions of this §97.401 adopted to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1980; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378.*