

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 252

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the attorney general to study the inconsistent practices among businesses in this state regarding the rounding of cash transactions following the cessation of penny production by the United States Mint, the imposition of convenience fees or surcharges on consumers who use credit cards or debit cards to complete transactions, and the combined effect of such practices on consumer confidence and trust in commercial transactions.

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2025, the president of the United States ordered the United States Department of the Treasury to cease production of new pennies, citing the rising cost of production and the diminishing utility of the one-cent coin in modern commerce; and

WHEREAS, the United States Mint ceased production of pennies for general circulation on November 12, 2025, ending more than two hundred thirty years of continuous penny production; and

WHEREAS, while existing pennies remain legal tender, the number of pennies currently in circulation will gradually diminish as coins are lost, damaged, or removed from circulation, and no new pennies will be produced to replace them; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no federal regulations governing how cash transactions are to be rounded in the absence of one-cent coins, and no uniform policy exists in this state to guide businesses in adopting consistent cash-handling practices; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of uniform guidance, businesses across this state have adopted widely varying practices in handling cash transactions, such as rounding up to the nearest five cents, rounding down, rounding to the nearest five cents using symmetric rounding, requiring exact change, or even refusing to accept cash altogether; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistency of these practices among businesses has created confusion among consumers, who cannot reasonably predict how any given transaction will be handled and who may perceive that certain rounding practices result in unfair overcharges; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond has estimated that rounding practices associated with the elimination of the penny could impose a cost on consumers of approximately six million dollars annually nationwide, a burden that falls disproportionately on individuals who rely primarily on cash for their purchases; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, a growing number of businesses in this state have begun imposing convenience fees, surcharges, or service charges on consumers who use credit cards or debit cards to complete purchases; and

WHEREAS, these fees vary widely among businesses in both amount and application, such as imposing flat fees, imposing percentage-based surcharges, or imposing fees only on certain card types or transaction amounts, creating further uncertainty and confusion for consumers at the point of sale; and

WHEREAS, consumers who pay with cash may be subject to unfavorable rounding practices or may be unable to receive exact change, while consumers who pay with a credit card or debit card to avoid rounding may then be subject to a convenience fee or surcharge, leaving consumers to face unpredictable and opaque costs regardless of the method of payment they choose; and

WHEREAS, this environment of inconsistent and unpredictable transaction costs erodes consumer confidence and trust in the fairness of commercial transactions, and has the potential to harm the relationship between businesses and the consumers they serve; and

WHEREAS, small businesses and cash-intensive industries in this state, including restaurants, convenience stores, and retail establishments, also face uncertainty regarding best practices for rounding and fee policies, and would benefit from clear and uniform guidance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 51:1404, the consumer protection section of the public protection division of the office of the attorney general is vested with the power and duty to investigate, conduct studies and research, and conduct hearings into commercial and trade practices in the distribution, financing, and furnishing of goods and services to, or for the use of consumers, and to advise the governor and the legislature on matters of consumer protection; and

WHEREAS, the consumer protection section of the public protection division of the office of the attorney general is uniquely positioned to study the effects of inconsistent business practices on consumers, to receive and analyze consumer complaints regarding rounding and convenience fee practices, and to recommend appropriate legislative or administrative remedies; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes its responsibility to protect the economic interests of the citizens and businesses of this state and to promote fairness, transparency, and consumer confidence in the marketplace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the attorney general to conduct a comprehensive study of the inconsistent practices among businesses in this state regarding the rounding of cash transactions following the cessation of penny production and the imposition of convenience fees or surcharges on consumers who use credit cards or debit cards, and the effect of such practices on consumer confidence, trust, and fairness in commercial transactions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

(1) A survey and analysis of the varying rounding practices currently employed by businesses in this state for cash transactions, including whether those practices are applied consistently, disclosed to consumers, and conducted in a manner that is fair and transparent.

(2) An analysis of the prevalence, amount, and application of convenience fees, surcharges, or service charges imposed on consumers in this state for the use of credit cards or debit cards, and the extent to which those fees are clearly disclosed to consumers prior to the completion of a transaction.

(3) An assessment of the combined effect of inconsistent rounding practices and convenience fees on consumers, including whether these practices create an environment in which consumers are unable to complete routine transactions without incurring unpredictable or opaque costs regardless of their chosen method of payment.

(4) An evaluation of the disproportionate impact, if any, of these practices on low-income consumers, elderly residents, and other populations that rely primarily on cash or that may be less equipped to absorb additional transaction costs.

(5) A review of the rounding standards, convenience fee regulations, and consumer protection policies adopted by other states and nations, and whether any of those policies ought to be adopted by this state.

(6) Recommendations as to whether legislation, administrative rules, or other state policy is necessary or advisable to establish uniform rounding standards for cash transactions, to regulate the imposition and disclosure of convenience fees for card transactions, and to promote consumer confidence and trust in the fairness and transparency of commercial transactions in this state.

(7) Any other matters the attorney general deems relevant to ensuring fairness and transparency in commercial transactions in light of the cessation of penny production and the proliferation of convenience fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attorney general is hereby urged and requested to consult with the Louisiana Retailers Association, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Louisiana Bankers Association, the Department of Revenue, and any other stakeholders the office deems appropriate in conducting this study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attorney general shall submit a written report of his findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House Committee on Commerce, the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attorney general shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the public protection division of the office of the attorney general, the secretary of the Department of Revenue, the chair of the Louisiana Retailers Association, the chair of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, and the president of the Louisiana Bankers Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES