

News you can use

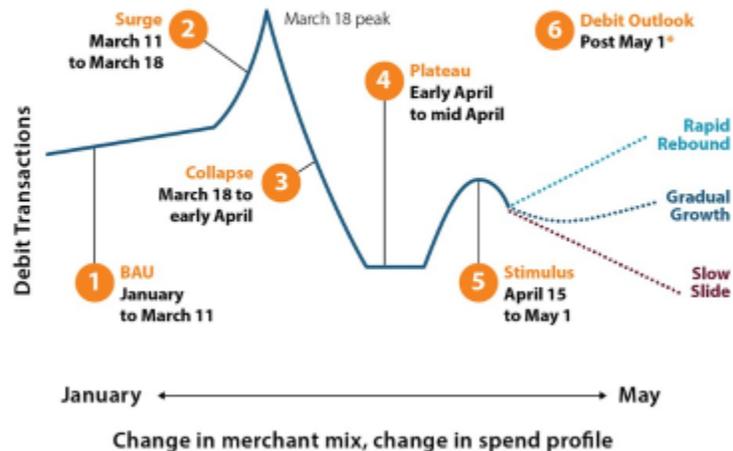
Capitol Report Maine Bankers Association

August 20, 2020

News from Washington (Legislative & Regulatory)

Pulse Released their Debit Issuer Study. This year's Study is based on primary research with 55 financial institutions that manage approximately 157 million debit cards, representing about 42% of all U.S. debit transactions. The sample spans national banks, regional banks, community banks and credit unions. The Study noted, "COVID-19 pandemic has had a limited impact on debit, due to consumers making fewer, but larger, purchases. But issuers are uncertain about how soon – and how rapidly – the global economy will recover." Click [here](#) to review the Report for more details on other findings.

COVID-19 impact on debit transactions, 2020



Lending and Consumer Trade Associations Oppose the New 0.5% GSE Fee. The new "Adverse Market Refinance Fee" was announced by the GSEs last week. "The additional 0.5% fee on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac refinance mortgages will raise costs for families trying to make ends meet in

these challenging times. In addition, the September 1 effective date means that thousands of borrowers who did not lock in their rates could face unanticipated cost increases just days from closing.” Click [here](#) to review the full joint statement.

ICBA Sends Letter to the SBA Regarding the Interaction Between the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program and the Forgiveness of the PPP. ICBA states, “An issue that has repeatedly arisen, causing confusion for banks and for borrowers, is the interaction between the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (“EIDL”) Program and the forgiveness of PPP loans. Specifically, under the EIDL program, borrowers may receive up to a \$10,000 advance payment (“EIDL Advance”), designed to provide relief for small businesses and nonprofits experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. While first appearances indicate that this advance functions similarly to a grant—in that it does not need to be repaid to the SBA by the borrower—the amount is deducted from the forgiveness received for a PPP loan.” The ICBA letter asks the SBA not to deduct EIDL Advances from the amount of the PPP forgiveness. Or at a minimum, the SBA should consider not deducting the EIDL Advances in instances where the advances are not used for the same purposes as the PPP loan or in instances where they are used outside the PPP covered period.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the ICBA’s letter.

State News

Governor Mills Announced Today the New Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program. The program is funded by \$200 million in Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). The Governor stated that qualifying businesses “must demonstrate a need for financial relief based on lost revenues minus expenses incurred since March 1, 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts or related public health response”. Click [here](#) for more information regarding the Grant Program. The Administrations states that the application will be available on August 21st.

Secretary of State Matt Dunlap Announced on Monday that the Online Absentee Ballot Request Form for the November 3, 2020 General Election is now available. “Any registered Maine voter may choose to vote absentee, either via mail or in person at their town or city hall prior to Election Day. Voters do not need to provide a reason to vote absentee.” Click [here](#) for more information about Maine’s Absentee Ballot Request Services.



A Division of Bankers Alliance

Co-owned by Maine Bankers Association and 28 other state banker associations across the country. Contact C/A’s Membership Development Team at (888) 353-3933 or info@compliancealliance.com for more information about C/A’s products.

Compliance Alliance Feature Article

A Second Round of Stimulus Checks?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27th, 2020. As part of the CARES Act, stimulus checks were issued to over 150 million individuals of up to \$1,200 for each qualifying adult, and an additional \$500 per qualifying dependent. As the COVID-19 disaster continues to spread across the country, Congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle along with White House officials all agree a second round of stimulus checks is necessary. It's uncertain how much these payments would be for, who would receive the checks, or when they would be sent. However, the current momentum seems to suggest a second round of stimulus checks is coming. So, let's take a look at a few key issues that plagued the first round, and how they may affect a potential second round of stimulus checks.

Read the full article [here](#).

Maine Bankers Association
2 Thomas Drive
Westbrook, ME 04092

207-791-8400 | [Website](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)