(608) 266-7745 Toll Free: (800) 862-1092 Sen.Stafsholt@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

TO: Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business & Rural Issues

STATE SENATOR • 10th SENATE DISTRICT

FROM: Senator Rob Stafsholt DATE: February 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 645

Thank you, fellow members of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business and Rural Issues for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 645.

Under current law, a pawnbroker must communicate with customers by registered mail at least 30 days before selling an individual's personal property. If the pawnbroker sells the item for more than the value of the loan, the customer must be notified by registered mail that they are due a refund of the surplus.

This legislation will update Wisconsin's pawnbroker statutes and administrative rules to keep up with advances in technology. It allows pawnbrokers to send notices of sale and notices of surplus by registered mail or other means authorized under DFI's rules. The bill specifically allows a pawnbroker to provide notice by electronic mail or text message if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1. The pawnbroker receives the customer's written consent to receive notices by electronic mail or text message, which consent must state that the customer has the right to withdraw the consent and must be signed by the customer, except that no separate signature is required if the pawnbroker receives authorization by electronic mail or text message from the customer's electronic mail address or telephone number;
- 2. The pawnbroker requires at the time of the consent that the customer verify, using a specified method, the customer's electronic mail address or telephone number;
- 3. The pawnbroker retains records of the electronic mail or text message notices sent;
- 4. The pawnbroker sends notice to the customer's physical mailing address if the electronic mail or text message delivery fails or if the customer withdraws consent to receive notice by electronic mail or text message.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be happy to answer any questions.



## Tyler August

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 32<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

### Assembly Bill 653/Senate Bill 645

# Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business & Rural Issues February 10, 2022

Thank you Chairman Stafsholt and committee members for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 653/Senate Bill 645, a bill that updates procedures for pawnbrokers.

While most movies portray these transactions as an individual selling their item to a pawnbroker, it is actually a loan. An individual is able to have the item returned if they are able to pay the principle and interest within the time period agreed upon. If the loan is not paid within that time period, the pawnbroker then has the ability to sell the item in order to satisfy the loan. If the pawnbroker collects more than that amount, the excess is to be returned to the customer.

Under current law, the pawnbroker must notify the customer by certified mail that they plan on selling their item and then if there are excess funds after that sale. This bill would simply allow the customer to receive these notices by email or text. This would simply be optional and the customer could still receive the notices by certified mail.

If the customer wants to receive their notices by electronic means, the pawnbroker must send a test message by email or text to ensure they have the correct information. The pawnbroker must retain any records of this notification and if they find that the text or email doesn't go through, they must send the notification by regular mail.

Thank you, again, for hearing this much needed update to the pawnbroker industry.

# State of Wisconsin Electronic Pawn Notifications

**PawnAmerica** 

**Proposed Pawn America**Notification Process Flow

1

### **COMPANY OVERVIEW**

- Founded by Brad Rixmann in 1991
- Started in a single, modest, 900 square-foot location in Robbinsdale
- Grown to 16 Pawn America stores in two states (MN/WI)
- Employs 192 wonderful staff members
- Modern retailer with industry leading e-commerce practices



### PAWN AMERICA COMPANY OVERVIEW

- Pawn America is always looking forward, finding ways to improve,
- chooses locations in thriving areas of a community, where every retailer wants to be,
- want our neighbors to be glad we moved in,
- want to be seen as part of the community's bright future,
- values strong partnerships with our communities and local law enforcement agencies.

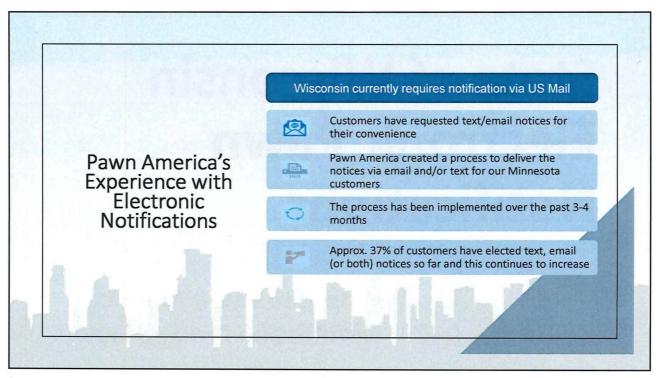


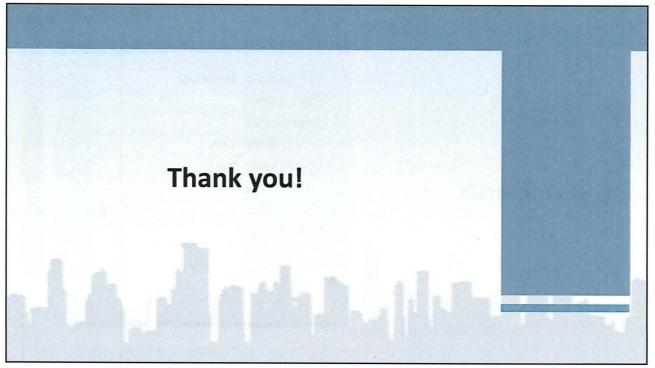
3

## **CURRENT MARKET**

- · Modernizing our business practices is an ongoing effort
- Customers are asking for cutting edge conveniences (not unlike banks, restaurants, etc.)
- Meeting our customer expectations is essential, builds loyalty and repeat business
- Pawn America, like all pawn businesses, is also a green company (predominantly via product reuse) – in this case we are seeking to significantly reduce, if not eliminate, the use of paper.







# State of Wisconsin Electronic Pawn Notifications

**PawnAmerica** 

**Proposed Pawn America**Notification Process Flow

7

Phone # 9528076082

Email

Driver Lic, ID#

LAST NAME Temp

FIRST NAME Bob

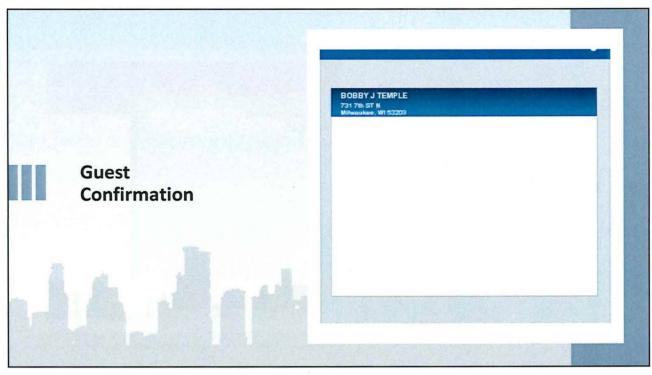
City

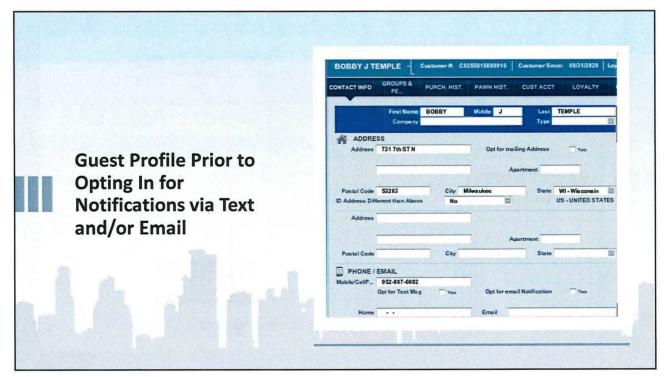
State

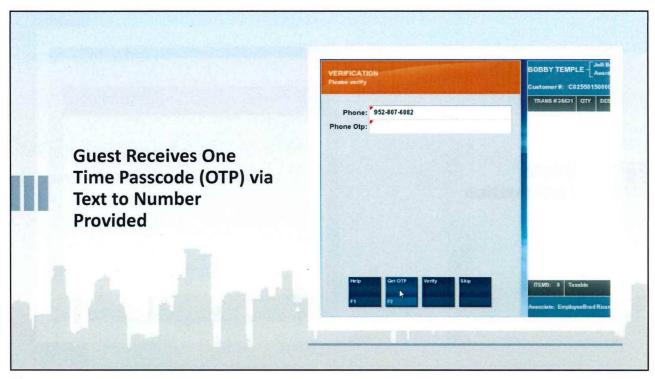
Postal Code

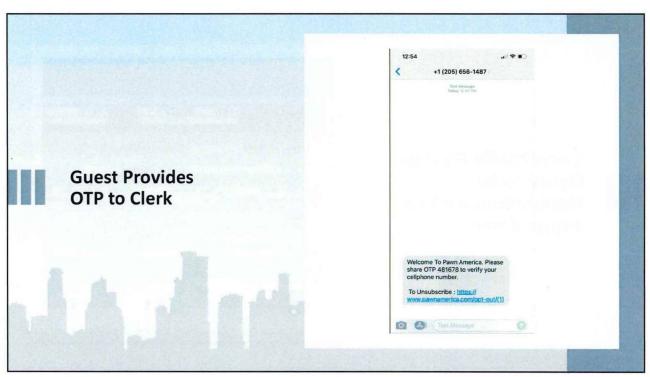
Loyalty #

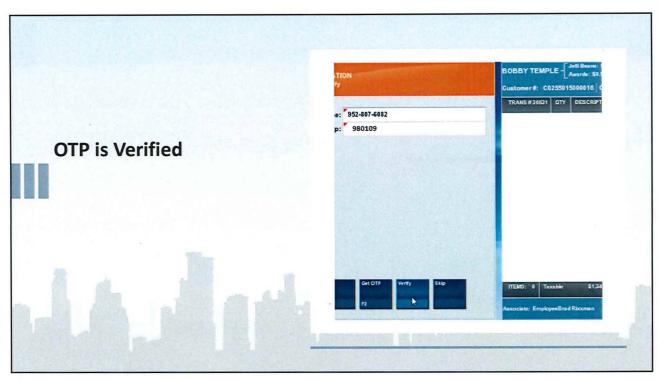
Customer #

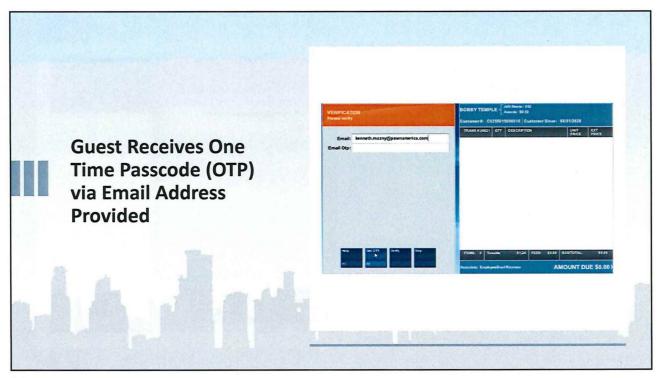




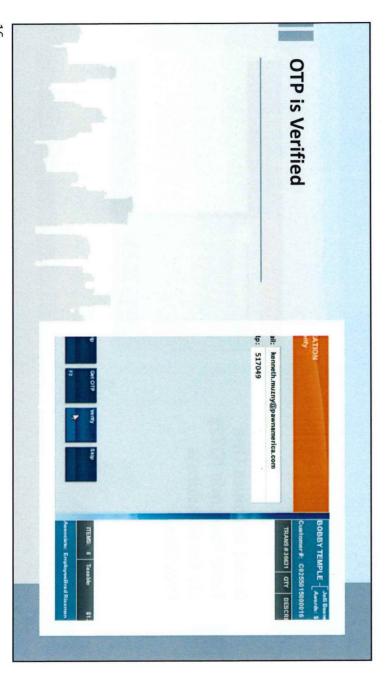


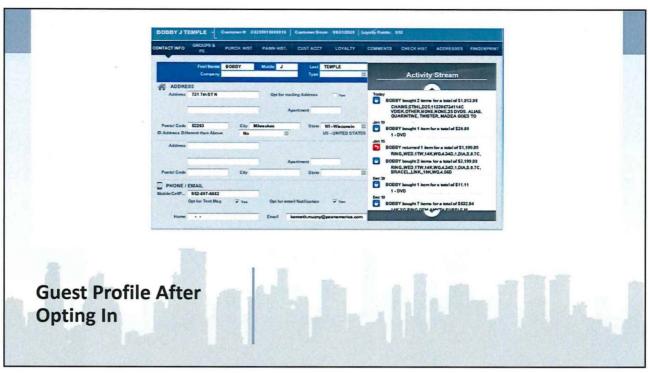




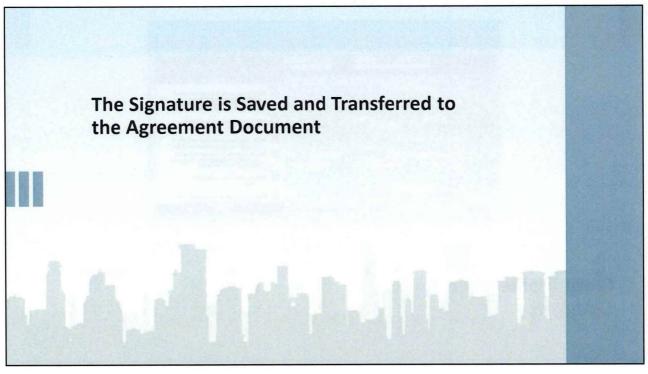












# Included in the Agreement are the Notification Terms

You authorize us to call any telephone number you have given us or you give to us in the future and to play prerecorded messages with information about the Pawn Agreement over the phone. You also give us permission to communicate such information to you by e-mail or Text Message. You understand that, when you receive such calls or e-mails, or Text messages, you may incur a charge from the company that provides you with telecommunications, wireless and/or internet services. You agree that we will not be liable to you for any fees, inconvenience, annoyance, or loss of privacy in connection with such calls or e-mails or Text messages. You understand that anyone with access to your telephone, answering machine or email account may listen to or read the messages, notwithstanding our efforts to communicate only with you. This authorization is part of this Agreement and we do not intend it to be revocable. However, to the extent we are required by applicable law to allow you to revoke your consent to these automatic reminders, you may do so by contacting us at 1-952-252-9199 or by visiting https://myaccount.pawnamerica.com or by writing to Pawn America Minnesota, LLC.

By signing below, you the Pledgor, also authorize		IDENTIFICATION OTHER THAN PLEDGOR	
		Name (Last Name First)	
Original Pledgor's Signature	Date	Address/Telephone No.	
Official Notary Signature and Seal	Date	Driver's Lic. No.	Other I.D. Type and No.

By signing below, you acknowledge receiving the attached arbitration agreement which is a part of this Agreement.

also oruges	05/20/2021	
Pledgor's Signature	Date	

# The next few slides are sample of the type of notifications that can be sent.

- 3 days prior to Due Date
- On the customers Due Date
- On the Grace date. (the day before the item(s) will be forfeited.
- Note: These notification periods are configurable (X days before, on target dates)

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