

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment
In the Matter of Finance Select, Inc., File No. 132 3262

The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”) has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from Finance Select, Inc. The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the FTC will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement and take appropriate action or make final the agreement’s proposed order.

The respondent is a car title loan company. According to the FTC complaint, respondent has advertised its loans with advertisements that broadly state that the title loans are available for “1st 30 Days 0%.” In much smaller print, these advertisements state “New Customers Only.” However, respondent’s advertisements fail to disclose that unless the loan is completely repaid in 30 days, the 0% offer does not apply and there is a significant finance charge. If a consumer does not repay the loan *in full* in 30 days, he or she would then be required to pay the finance charge for the first 30 days in addition to any additional finance charges incurred on day 31 (to start the second 30-day period). The advertisements also fail to disclose the amount of the finance charge after expiration of the 30-day introductory period. The proposed complaint alleges that these material omissions constitute a deceptive act or practice under Section 5 of the FTC Act.

The proposed order is designed to prevent the respondent from engaging in similar deceptive practices in the future. Part I prohibits the respondent from stating an introductory or temporary finance charge without disclosing, clearly and conspicuously, the finance charge after the introductory or temporary period ends; or the full effect of failing to make a timely complete repayment of the loan within the introductory or temporary time period. Respondent must further disclose all qualifying terms associated with obtaining the loan at its advertised rate, including but not limited to, minimum loan requirements, new customer requirements, and any other material term; all costs associated with obtaining the loan, including but not limited to transaction costs. Respondent also cannot misrepresent registration costs or fees, recording costs or fees, and title fees; and respondent cannot misrepresent any other material fact about the terms of the loan.

Parts II through VI of the proposed order are reporting and compliance provisions. Part II is an order distribution provision that requires respondent to provide the order to current and future principals, officers, directors, and managers and to all current employees, agents, and representatives having responsibilities with respect to the advertisement of consumer credit. Part III of the proposed order requires respondent to maintain and upon request make available to the Commission certain compliance-related records, including all advertisements and also consumer complaints and records that demonstrate compliance with the proposed order for a period of five years. Part IV requires respondent to notify the Commission of corporate changes that may affect compliance obligations within 30 days of such a change. Part V requires respondent to submit a compliance report to the Commission 60 days after entry of the order, and also additional compliance reports within 10 business days of a written request by the Commission. Part VI “sunsets” the order after 20 years, with certain exceptions.

The purpose of this analysis is to aid public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the complaint or proposed order, or to modify in any way the proposed order's terms.