



# City of Philadelphia

City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office  
402 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**BILL NO. 260396**

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**Introduced April 23, 2026**

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**Councilmember Bass**

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**Referred to the  
Committee on Commerce & Economic Development**

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## **AN ORDINANCE**

Amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions," by adding provisions prohibiting retail establishments from rounding transaction totals upward when a customer tenders cash without exact coinage, and requiring rounding downward to the nearest five-cent increment; all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to add a new Section as follows:

TITLE 9. REGULATION OF BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

\* \* \*

CHAPTER 9-600. SERVICE AND OTHER BUSINESSES.

\* \* \*

*§ 9-648. Prohibition on Upward Rounding of Cash Transactions.*

*(1) Definitions.*

*(a) Cash Transaction shall mean any retail sale in which payment is made in physical United States currency.*

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*(b) Retail Establishment shall mean any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity selling goods or services directly to consumers within the City of Philadelphia.*

*(c) Rounding shall mean adjusting the final transaction total to the nearest increment of five cents (\$0.05) or ten cents (\$0.10) due to the absence of exact coinage.*

*(2) Prohibited Conduct. No retail establishment shall round the total amount of a cash transaction upward to the nearest five-cent (\$0.05) or ten-cent (\$0.10) increment when a customer tenders payment without exact change.*

*(3) Required Rounding Practice.*

*(a) In any cash transaction where exact change in one-cent increments is unavailable, the retail establishment shall round the total transaction amount downward to the nearest five-cent (\$0.05) increment.*

*(b) Under no circumstances shall the rounded amount exceed the originally calculated total.*

*(4) Consumer Protection.*

*(a) Retail establishments shall clearly disclose, at the point of sale, their rounding policy in a manner visible to consumers.*

*(b) Any practice that results in a net financial disadvantage to the consumer through systematic upward rounding is considered an unfair trade practice.*

*(5) Enforcement and Penalties.*

*(a) The Department of Licenses and Inspections, or such other agency as designated by the Mayor, shall enforce the provisions of this Section*

*(b) Any retail establishment found in violation shall be subject to:*

*(i) A warning for a first offense;*

*(ii) A fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$300 for a second offense;*

*(iii) A fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.*

*(6) Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.*

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SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after enactment.

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Explanation:

*Italics* indicate new matter added.