

The White House- Legislation originating in the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Sub-Committee, Chaired by Congressman Spencer Bachus, was signed into law today by President Bush. C
Congressman Bachus joined the President in the Oval Office for the ceremony.

This Bill, the Check Clearing for the 21st

Century Act (Check 21), is a landmark effort to modernize and improve the American financial system.

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Electronic check imaging and the ability of financial institutions to exchange checks electronically is the first major innovation in the check handling and processing since the 1950's

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This will make our check clearing system a model for the world.”

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Aside from the technological advancements of the Check 21 legislation, there are significant benefits to all financial customers. “The economic benefits that will accrue from this technology are immense.

Consumers, in particular, will benefit because the legislation will enable depository institutions to offer their customers a host of new products and services.

For example, customers in rural areas may be offered extended deposit

hours because financial institutions will be able to transmit the images of the check through the check clearing process, rather than having to send couriers out to remote branches or ATM's to pick up the deposited checks.

In addition, consumer and business customers will benefit from quicker collection and return of checks.”

Today's signing is the realization of efforts of Congressman Bachus and others to improve an antiquated system that has long needed restructuring.

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This legislation brings America's check clearing process into the 21st

century. The old system burned fuel, wasted money, and clogged our airports and highways, with absolutely no benefit to the consumer.

I am proud to have co-sponsored this key legislation.”