Session of 2021

## HOUSE BILL No. 2135

By Committee on Insurance and Pensions

1-26

AN ACT concerning the Kansas uniform securities act; relating to victims 1 2 of securities violations; powers of the administrator; administrative 3 proceedings; criminal penalties; establishing the securities act victim 4 restitution program; securities act victim restitution fund; amending K.S.A. 75-3036 and 77-547 and K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 17-12a508, 17-5 6 12a601 and 17-12a609 and repealing the existing sections. 7 8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas: 9 Section 1. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 17-12a508 is hereby amended to read 10 as follows: 17-12a508. (a) Criminal penalties. (1) Except as provided in 11 subsections (a)(2) through (a)(4), a conviction for an intentional violation 12 of the Kansas uniform securities act, or a rule adopted or order issued 13 under this act, except K.S.A. 17-12a504, and amendments thereto, or the 14 notice filing requirements of K.S.A. 17-12a302 or 17-12a405, and amendments thereto, is a severity level 7, nonperson felony. An individual 15 convicted of violating a rule or order under this act may be fined, but may 16 not be imprisoned, if the individual did not have knowledge of the rule or 17 18 order. 19 (2) A conviction for an intentional violation of K.S.A. 17-12a501 or 20 17-12a502, and amendments thereto, if the violation resulted in a loss of 21 an amount of: 22 (A) \$1,000,000 or more is a severity level 2, nonperson felony; 23 (B) at least \$250,000 but less than \$1,000,000 is a severity level 3, 24 nonperson felony; 25 at least \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 is a severity level 4, (C) 26 nonperson felony: 27 (D) at least \$25,000 but less than \$100,000 is a severity level 5, 28 nonperson felony: or 29 (E) less than \$25,000 is a severity level 6, nonperson felony. 30 (3) A conviction for an intentional violation of K.S.A. 17-12a301, 17-31 12a401(a), 17-12a402(a), 17-12a403(a) or 17-12a404(a), and amendments 32 thereto, is: 33 (A) A severity level 5, nonperson felony if the violation resulted in a loss of \$100,000 or more: 34 35 a severity level 6, nonperson felony if the violation resulted in a (B) 36 loss of at least \$25,000 but less than \$100,000; or

1 (C) a severity level 7, nonperson felony if the violation resulted in a 2 loss of less than \$25,000.

3

(4) A conviction for an intentional violation of:

(A) K.S.A. 17-12a404(e) or 17-12a505, and amendments thereto, or
an order to cease and desist issued by the administrator pursuant to K.S.A.
17-12a412(c) or 17-12a604(a), and amendments thereto, is a severity level
5, nonperson felony.

8 (B) K.S.A. 17-12a401(c), 17-12a403(c) or 17-12a506, and 9 amendments thereto, is a severity level 6, nonperson felony.

10 (C) K.S.A. 17-12a402(d) or 17-12a403(d), and amendments thereto, 11 is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

12 (5) Any violation of K.S.A. 17-12a301, 17-12a401(a), 17-12a402(a), 13 17-12a403(a), 17-12a404(a), 17-12a501 or 17-12a502, and amendments 14 thereto, resulting in a loss of \$25,000 or more shall be presumed 15 imprisonment.

16 (6) A conviction for an intentional violation of the Kansas uniform securities act, K.S.A. 17-12a101 et seq., and amendments thereto, 17 committed against an elder person, as defined in K.S.A. 50-676, and 18 19 amendments thereto, shall be ranked on the nondrug scale at one severity level above the appropriate level for the underlying or completed crime, if 20 21 the trier of fact finds that the victim was an elder person at the time of the 22 crime. It shall not be a defense under this paragraph that the defendant did 23 not know the age of the victim or reasonably believed that the victim was 24 not an elder person.

(7) When amounts are obtained in violation of this act under one
scheme or continuing course of business, whether from the same or several
sources, the conduct may be considered as one continuing offense, and the
amounts aggregated in determining the grade of the offense.

(b) *Statute of limitations.* (1) Except as provided by K.S.A. 2020
Supp. 21-5107(e), and amendments thereto, no prosecution for any crime
under this act may be commenced more than 10 years after the alleged
violation-if the victim is the Kansas public employees retirement system
and no prosecution for any other crime under this act may be commenced
more than five years after the alleged violation.

(2) If a crime under this act is a continuing offense, the statute of
limitations does not begin to run until the last act in the scheme or course
of business is completed. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the
exclusion of a time period pursuant to K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5107(e), and
amendments thereto.

40 (3) A prosecution is commenced when a complaint or information is 41 filed, or an indictment returned, and a warrant thereon is delivered to the 42 sheriff or other officer for execution, except that no prosecution shall be 43 deemed to have been commenced if the warrant so issued is not executed 1 without unreasonable delay.

2 (c) *Criminal reference*. The administrator shall prepare and refer such 3 evidence as may be available concerning criminal violations of this act or 4 of any rules and regulations or order hereunder to the attorney general, or 5 in consultation with the attorney general to the proper county or district 6 attorney, who may, in such prosecutor's discretion, with or without such a 7 reference, institute the appropriate criminal proceedings under the laws of 8 this state. The administrator may pay extradition and witness expenses and 9 other costs associated with the case. The administrator and persons 10 employed by the administrator shall assist in the prosecution of criminal cases as requested by the attorney general or county or district attorney. 11

(d) No limitation on other criminal enforcement. This act does not
limit the power of this state to punish a person for conduct that constitutes
a crime under other laws of this state.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 77-547 is hereby amended to read as follows: 77-547.
For purposes of administrative proceedings of the insurance department, *including the office of the securities commissioner of the state of Kansas*,
under the Kansas administrative procedure act; *and the Kansas uniform securities act:*

(a) "Administrator" means the securities commissioner of Kansas or
 the assistant commissioner of insurance when assigned to perform the
 hearing duties of the securities commissioner of Kansas; and

(b) "agency head" means the commissioner of insurance or the
 assistant commissioner of insurance, when acting on behalf of the
 commissioner.

26 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 17-12a601 is hereby amended to read as 27 follows: 17-12a601. (a) *Administration*. (1) This act shall be administered 28 by the securities commissioner of Kansas.

29 (2) All fees herein provided for shall be collected by the
30 administrator. All salaries and expenses necessarily incurred in the
31 administration of this act shall be paid from the securities act fee fund.

32 (3) The administrator shall remit all moneys received from all fees, 33 charges, deposits or penalties which have been collected under this act or 34 other laws of this state regulating the issuance, sale or disposal of 35 securities or regulating dealers in this state to the state treasurer at least 36 monthly. Upon receipt of any such remittance, the state treasurer shall 37 deposit the entire amount thereof in the state treasury. In accordance with 38 K.S.A. 75-3170a, and amendments thereto, 10% of each such deposit shall 39 be credited to the state general fund and, except as provided in subsection 40 (d), the balance shall be credited to the securities act fee fund.

41 (4) *Except as provided in subsection (e),* on the last day of each fiscal
42 year, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the securities
43 act fee fund to the state general fund any remaining unencumbered amount

1 in the securities act fee fund exceeding \$50,000 so that the beginning 2 unencumbered balance in the securities act fee fund on the first day of 3 each fiscal year is \$50,000. All expenditures from the securities act fee 4 fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of 5 the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved 6 by the administrator or by a person or persons designated by the 7 administrator.

8 (5) All amounts transferred from the securities act fee fund to the 9 state general fund under paragraph (4) are to reimburse the state general 10 fund for accounting, auditing, budgeting, legal, payroll, personnel and 11 purchasing services and any other governmental services which *that* are 12 performed on behalf of the state agency involved by other state agencies 13 which *that* receive appropriations from the state general fund to provide 14 such services.

15 (b) *Prohibited conduct.* (1) It is unlawful for the administrator or an 16 officer, employee, or designee of the administrator to use for personal 17 benefit or the benefit of others records or other information obtained by or filed with the administrator that are not public under K.S.A. 17-12a607(b), 18 19 and amendments thereto. This act does not authorize the administrator or 20 an officer, employee, or designee of the administrator to disclose the 21 record or information, except in accordance with K.S.A. 17-12a602, 17-22 12a607(c); or 17-12a608, and amendments thereto.

(2) Neither the administrator nor any employee of the administrator
 shall be interested as an officer, director, or stockholder in securing any
 authorization to sell securities under the provisions of this act.

(c) No privilege or exemption created or diminished. This act does
not create or diminish a privilege or exemption that exists at common law,
by statute or rule; or otherwise.

29 (d) Investor education and protection. (1) The administrator may 30 develop and implement investor education and protection initiatives to 31 inform the public about investing in securities and protect the public from 32 violations of the Kansas uniform securities act, K.S.A. 17-12a101 et seq., 33 and amendments thereto. Such initiatives shall have a particular emphasis 34 on the prevention, detection, enforcement and prosecution of securities 35 fraud. In developing and implementing these initiatives, the administrator 36 may collaborate with public and nonprofit organizations with an interest in 37 investor education or protection. The administrator may accept a grant or 38 donation from a person that is not affiliated with the securities industry or 39 from a nonprofit organization, regardless of whether the organization is 40 affiliated with the securities industry, to develop and implement investor education and protection initiatives. This subsection does not authorize the 41 42 administrator to require participation or monetary contributions of a 43 registrant in an investor education program.

5

(2) There is hereby established in the state treasury the investor 1 education and protection fund. Such fund shall be administered by the 2 administrator for the purposes described in subsection (d) paragraph (1) 3 and for the education of registrants, including official hospitality. Moneys 4 collected as civil penalties under this act shall be credited to the investor 5 6 education and protection fund. The administrator may also receive 7 payments designated to be credited to the investor education and 8 protection fund as a condition in settlements of cases arising out of 9 investigations or examinations. All expenditures from the investor education and protection fund shall be made in accordance with 10 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports 11 12 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the administrator or by a person or persons designated by the administrator the administrator's designee. 13 The administrator shall remit all moneys received under this paragraph to 14 the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, 15 16 and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state 17 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the investor education and protection fund. 18

(e) (1) The administrator may develop and implement a securities act
victims restitution program to provide restitution assistance to victims of
securities violations who were awarded restitution as the result of a legal
or administrative action for violations of this act but who have no
reasonable likelihood of receiving the full amount of awarded restitution.

(2) There is hereby established in the state treasury the securities act 24 25 victim restitution fund to be administered by the administrator. All expenditures of moneys from the securities act victim restitution fund shall 26 27 be used to provide restitution assistance to victims of securities violations 28 who were awarded restitution as the result of a legal or administrative 29 action for violations of this act but who have no reasonable likelihood of 30 receiving the full amount of awarded restitution. All such expenditures shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the 31 director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by 32 33 the administrator or by the administrator's designee. The administrator may accept all gifts, grants, donations and bequests to the fund. The 34 35 administrator shall remit all moneys received under this paragraph to the 36 state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and 37 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state 38 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit 39 of the securities act victim restitution fund.

40 *(3)* For purposes of administering the securities act victims 41 restitution program:

42 (A) "Claimant" means a person who files an application for 43 restitution assistance from the securities act victim restitution fund on 1 behalf of a victim, including the person awarded restitution in a final order for a violation of this act, the executor of such person and the heirs 2 and assigns of such person. The claimant and the victim may be, but need 3 4 not be, the same person.

5 "Final order" means an order issued by the administrator or an (B)6 order issued in a legal action brought by the administrator or the attorney 7 general pursuant to this act that is not subject to further judicial review or 8 appeal.

9 "Fund" means the securities act victim restitution fund created by (C)10 this subsection.

11 (D) "Restitution assistance" means payment from the fund to an 12 eligible claimant.

13 "Securities violation" means a violation of this act, or rules and (E)regulations adopted or an order issued under this act. 14

"Victim" means a person who was awarded restitution in a final 15 (F)16 order.

17 "Vulnerable person" means a person who met the definition of (G)18 elder person or dependent adult as defined in K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5417, 19 and amendments thereto, at the time of the securities violation that 20 resulted in an award of restitution in a final order.

21 (4) Only natural persons who were residents of the state of Kansas at 22 the time of the securities violation that resulted in an award of restitution 23 in a final order are eligible to receive restitution assistance from the fund. The administrator shall not pay such restitution assistance from the fund: 24

25

To more than one claimant per victim: (A)

unless the person ordered to pay restitution has not paid the full 26 (B) amount of restitution owed to the victim before the application for 27 28 restitution assistance from the fund is due; 29

*(C)* on behalf of a person who is not a victim:

(D) to or on behalf of a person who sustained monetary injury as a 30 31 result of committing, attempting to commit, participating in or assisting in 32 the securities violation that resulted in the restitution award for which a claimant seeks restitution assistance from the fund; or 33

34

(E) if there was no award of restitution in the final order.

(5) A claimant's application for restitution assistance from the fund 35 shall be received by the administrator no later than two years after the 36 37 date upon which the order that awarded restitution meets the definition of 38 a final order.

39 (6) The administrator may grant, in whole or in part, and in the 40 administrator's sole discretion, a claimant's application and award payment of restitution assistance from the fund, if: 41

(A) A claimant demonstrates eligibility for restitution assistance from 42 43 the fund;

7

1 *(B)* the administrator receives a timely application for such 2 assistance; and

3 (C) the administrator concludes that there is no reasonable likelihood 4 that the claimant will receive the full amount of restitution awarded by the 5 final order.

6

(7) *Restitution assistance may be awarded as follows:* 

7 (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the maximum 8 restitution assistance award per victim from the fund shall be the lesser of 9 \$25,000 or 25% of the amount of restitution awarded in the final order, 10 excluding any interest awarded, that remains unpaid at the time the 11 administrator awards restitution assistance under this subsection; and

12 (B) if the victim is a vulnerable person, the maximum restitution 13 assistance award per victim from the fund shall be the lesser of \$50,000 or 14 50% of the amount of restitution awarded in the final order, excluding any 15 interest awarded, that remains unpaid at the time the administrator 16 awards restitution assistance under this subsection.

(8) On July 1, 2021, or as soon as moneys become available, the 17 director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$250,000 from the 18 19 securities act fee fund to the securities act victim restitution fund. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and in each fiscal 20 21 year thereafter, in the administrator's discretion, the administrator may 22 increase the balance in the securities act victim restitution fund by 23 transferring amounts from the investor education and protection fund, 24 however the remaining balance in the investor education and protection 25 fund after any such transfer shall be at least \$50,000.

(9) The administrator may establish procedures for the application
and determination of restitution assistance awards from the fund by rules
and regulations adopted or an order issued under this act.

(10) Determinations made by the administrator with respect to the
fund and applications for restitution assistance are subject to the sole
discretion of the administrator and shall not be subject to judicial review
in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas judicial review act.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 17-12a609 is hereby amended to read as follows: 17-12a609. A final order issued by the administrator under this act is subject to judicial review in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas judicial review act, *except as provided in K.S.A. 17-12a601(e), and amendments thereto.* 

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 75-3036 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-3036. (a) The state general fund is exclusively defined as the fund into which shall be placed all public moneys and revenue coming into the state treasury not specifically authorized by the constitution or by statute to be placed in a separate fund, and not given or paid over to the state treasurer in trust for a particular purpose, which unallocated public moneys and revenue shall constitute the general fund of the state. Moneys received or
 to be used under constitutional or statutory provisions or under the terms
 of a gift or payment for a particular and specific purpose are to be kept as
 separate funds and shall not be placed in the general fund or ever become a
 part of it.

6 (b) The following funds shall be used for the purposes set forth in the 7 statutes concerning such funds and for no other governmental purposes. It 8 is the intent of the legislature that the following funds and the moneys 9 deposited in such funds shall remain intact and inviolate for the purposes 10 set forth in the statutes concerning such funds: Board of accountancy fee fund, K.S.A. 1-204 and 75-1119b, and amendments thereto, and special 11 12 litigation reserve fund of the board of accountancy; bank commissioner fee 13 fund, K.S.A. 9-1703, 16a-2-302 and 75-1308, and amendments thereto, bank investigation fund, K.S.A. 9-1111b, and amendments thereto, 14 15 consumer education settlement fund and litigation expense fund of the 16 state bank commissioner; securities act fee fund-and, investor education 17 and protection fund and securities act victim restitution fund, K.S.A. 17-18 12a601, and amendments thereto, of the office of the securities 19 commissioner of Kansas; credit union fee fund, K.S.A. 17-2236, and amendments thereto, of the state department of credit unions; court 20 21 reporters fee fund, K.S.A. 20-1a02, and amendments thereto, and bar 22 admission fee fund, K.S.A. 20-1a03, and amendments thereto, of the 23 judicial branch; fire marshal fee fund, K.S.A. 31-133a and 31-134, and 24 amendments thereto, and boiler inspection fee fund, K.S.A. 44-926, and 25 amendments thereto, of the state fire marshal; food service inspection reimbursement fund, K.S.A. 36-512, and amendments thereto, of the 26 27 Kansas department of agriculture; wage claims assignment fee fund, 28 K.S.A. 44-324, and amendments thereto, and workmen's compensation fee 29 fund, K.S.A. 74-715, and amendments thereto, of the department of labor; 30 veterinary examiners fee fund, K.S.A. 47-820, and amendments thereto, of 31 the state board of veterinary examiners; mined-land reclamation fund, 32 K.S.A. 49-420, and amendments thereto, of the department of health and 33 environment; conservation fee fund and well plugging assurance fund, 34 K.S.A. 55-155, 55-176, 55-609, 55-711 and 55-901, and amendments 35 thereto, gas pipeline inspection fee fund, K.S.A. 66-1,155, and 36 amendments thereto, and public service regulation fund, K.S.A. 66-1503, 37 and amendments thereto, of the state corporation commission; land survey 38 fee fund, K.S.A. 58-2011, and amendments thereto, of the state historical 39 society; real estate recovery revolving fund, K.S.A. 58-3074, and 40 amendments thereto, of the Kansas real estate commission; appraiser fee 41 58-4107, and amendments thereto, and appraisal fund. K.S.A. 42 management companies fee fund of the real estate appraisal board; 43 amygdalin (laetrile) enforcement fee fund, K.S.A. 65-6b10, and

1 amendments thereto; mortuary arts fee fund, K.S.A. 65-1718, and 2 amendments thereto, of the state board of mortuary arts; board of 3 barbering fee fund, K.S.A. 65-1817a, and amendments thereto, of the 4 Kansas board of barbering; cosmetology fee fund, K.S.A. 65-1951 and 74-5 2704, and amendments thereto, of the Kansas state board of cosmetology; 6 healing arts fee fund, K.S.A. 65-2011, 65-2855, 65-2911, 65-5413, 65-7 5513, 65-6910, 65-7210 and 65-7309, and amendments thereto, and 8 medical records maintenance trust fund, of the state board of healing arts; 9 other state fees fund, K.S.A. 65-4024b, and amendments thereto, of the 10 Kansas department for aging and disability services; board of nursing fee fund, K.S.A. 74-1108, and amendments thereto, of the board of nursing; 11 12 dental board fee fund, K.S.A. 74-1405, and amendments thereto, and 13 special litigation reserve fund, of the Kansas dental board; optometry fee 14 fund, K.S.A. 74-1503, and amendments thereto, and optometry litigation 15 fund, of the board of examiners in optometry; state board of pharmacy fee 16 fund, K.S.A. 74-1609, and amendments thereto, and state board of 17 pharmacy litigation fund, of the state board of pharmacy; abstracters' fee fund, K.S.A. 74-3903, and amendments thereto, of the abstracters' board of 18 19 examiners; athletic fee fund, K.S.A. 74-50,188, and amendments thereto, 20 of the department of commerce; hearing instrument board fee fund, K.S.A. 21 74-5805, and amendments thereto, and hearing instrument litigation fund 22 of the Kansas board of examiners in fitting and dispensing of hearing 23 instruments; commission on disability concerns fee fund, K.S.A. 74-6708, 24 and amendments thereto, of the governor's department; technical 25 professions fee fund, K.S.A. 74-7009, and amendments thereto, and special litigation reserve fund of the state board of technical professions; 26 27 behavioral sciences regulatory board fee fund, K.S.A. 74-7506, and 28 amendments thereto, of the behavioral sciences regulatory board; 29 governmental ethics commission fee fund, K.S.A. 25-4119e, and 30 amendments thereto, of the governmental ethics commission; emergency 31 medical services board operating fund, K.S.A. 75-1514, and amendments 32 thereto, of the emergency medical services board; fire service training 33 program fund, K.S.A. 75-1514, and amendments thereto, of the university 34 of Kansas; uniform commercial code fee fund, K.S.A. 75-448, and 35 amendments thereto, of the secretary of state; prairie spirit rails-to-trails 36 fee fund of the Kansas department of wildlife, parks and tourism; water 37 marketing fund, K.S.A. 82a-1315c, and amendments thereto, of the Kansas 38 water office; insurance department service regulation fund, K.S.A. 40-112, 39 and amendments thereto, of the insurance department; state fair special 40 cash fund, K.S.A. 2-220, and amendments thereto, of the state fair board; 41 scrap metal theft reduction fee fund, K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 50-6,109a, and 42 amendments thereto; and any other fund in which fees are deposited for 43 licensing, regulating or certifying a person, profession, commodity or

1 product.

2 (c) If moneys received pursuant to statutory provisions for a specific 3 purpose by a fee agency are proposed to be transferred to the state general 4 fund or a special revenue fund to be expended for general government 5 services and purposes in the governor's budget report submitted pursuant 6 to K.S.A. 75-3721, and amendments thereto, or any introduced house or 7 senate bill, the person or business entity who paid such moneys within the 8 preceding 24-month period shall be notified by the fee agency within 30 9 days of such submission or introduction:

(1) By electronic means, if the fee agency has an electronic address
on record for such person or business entity. If no such electronic address
is available, the fee agency shall send written notice by first class mail; or

(2) any agency that receives fees from a tax, fee, charge or levy paid
 to the commissioner of insurance shall post the notification required by
 this subsection on such agency's website.

16 (d) Any such moneys-which that are wrongfully or by mistake placed 17 in the general fund shall constitute a proper charge against such general 18 fund. All legislative appropriations which do not designate a specific fund 19 from which they are to be paid shall be considered to be proper charges 20 against the general fund of the state. All revenues received by the state of 21 Kansas or any department, board, commission, or institution of the state of 22 Kansas, and required to be paid into the state treasury shall be placed in 23 and become a part of the state general fund, except as otherwise provided 24 by law.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the 10% credited
to the state general fund to reimburse the state general fund for accounting,
auditing, budgeting, legal, payroll, personnel and purchasing services, and
any and all other state governmental services, as provided in K.S.A. 753170a, and amendments thereto.

(f) Beginning on January 8, 2018, the director of the budget shall prepare a report listing the unencumbered balance of each fund in subsection (b) on June 30 of the previous fiscal year and January 1 of the current fiscal year. Such report shall be delivered to the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before the first day of the regular legislative session each year.

(g) As used in this section, "fee agency" shall include includes the
state agencies specified in K.S.A. 75-3717(f), and amendments thereto,
and any other state agency that collects fees for licensing, regulating or
certifying a person, profession, commodity or product.

40 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 75-3036 and 77-547 and K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 17-12a508, 17-12a601 and 17-12a609 are hereby repealed.

42 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its 43 publication in the statute book.