Session of 2005

HOUSE BILL No. 2771

By Committee on Insurance

1-31

AN ACT concerning licensing of insurance agents; pertaining to certain states' license revocation for nonpayment of income tax; amending K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4906 and 40-4909 and repealing the existing sections.

 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) The commissioner of insurance shall furnish to the secretary of revenue a list of all insurance agents licensed pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4906, and amendments thereto, for the states identified in subsection (b). The list shall contain for each licensee the licensee's:

- (1) Name and address;
- (2) social security number or taxpayer identification number or federal employer identification number, whichever is applicable; and
 - date of license renewal.
- (b) The commissioner of insurance shall certify to the secretary of revenue a list of those states which withhold nonresident license renewal for Kansas insurance agents pending proof of filing income tax returns by such Kansas insurance agents in the nonresident state.
- (c) Such list shall be provided electronically in the format required by the secretary of revenue not less than 60 days prior to the renewal date. Within 30 days of receipt of such list from the. The commissioner, the secretary of revenue shall review the listed licensees for income tax delinquency and shall mail a notice of income tax delinquency to any licensee who is delinquent in the payment of income taxes or the filing of income tax returns and to the commissioner. The secretary of revenue shall notify the commissioner promptly whenever any listed licensee has satisfied the income tax delinquency.
- (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law prohibiting disclosure by the secretary of revenue of the contents of taxpayer records or information and notwithstanding any confidentiality statute administered by the commissioner, all information exchanged among or disclosed by the secretary of revenue to the commissioner of insurance pursuant to this subsection is lawful.

- (e) The information obtained by the commissioner from the secretary of revenue as authorized by subsection (c) shall be used only for the purpose authorized by this section. Any person employed by, or formerly employed, by the commissioner and who receives such information shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 79-3234, and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 79-3614, and amendments thereto, as applicable, with respect to any confidential taxpayer information, and shall be subject to the same duty of confidentiality with respect to such confidential information imposed by law on officers and employees of the department of revenue and shall be subject to any civil or criminal penalties imposed by law for violations of such duty of confidentiality.
- (f) this section shall be supplemental to and a part of the uniform insurance agents licensing act.
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4906 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-4906. (a) Unless denied, *suspended*, *revoked or refused renewal* licensure pursuant to K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4909, and amendments thereto, a nonresident person shall receive a nonresident agent license if:
- (1) Such person is currently licensed as a resident and in good standing in such person's home state;
- (2) such person has submitted the proper request for licensure and has paid to the commissioner a nonrefundable application fee of \$30 and a biennial fee of \$50;
- (3) such person has submitted or transmitted to the commissioner of insurance a copy of the application for licensure that such person submitted to such person's home state, or in lieu of the same, a completed application on a form prescribed by the commissioner; and
- (4) such person's home state awards a nonresident agent license to residents of this state on the same basis.
- (b) The commissioner may verify the insurance agent's licensing status through the producer database maintained by the NAIC, its affiliates or subsidiaries.
- (c) (1) Any nonresident agent who is licensed in this state and who moves from one state to another state or a resident agent who moves from this state to another state shall file with the commissioner within 30 days a change of address and provide certification from the new resident state.
- (2) Any insurance agent who resides in this state and who moves from this state to another state shall file with the commissioner within 30 days a change of address and provide certification from the new resident state.
- (3) No fee or license application shall be required for any filing required by this subsection.
- (d) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a), any person licensed as a surplus lines agent in such person's home state shall receive a nonres-

ident surplus lines agent license. Except as provided in subsection (a), nothing in this section shall be construed to amend or supersede any provision of K.S.A. 40-246b and amendments thereto.

- (e) Subject to the provisions of subsection (a), any person licensed as a limited line credit insurance or other type of limited lines agent in such person's home state shall receive a nonresident limited lines agent license in this state granting the same scope of authority as granted under the license issued by the such insurance agent's home state.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4909 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-4909. (a) The commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke or refuse renewal of any license issued under this act if the commissioner finds that the applicant or license holder has:
- (1) Provided incorrect, misleading, incomplete or untrue information in the license application.
 - (2) Violated:
- (A) Any provision of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or any rule and regulation promulgated thereunder:
 - (B) any subpoena or order of the commissioner;
 - (C) any insurance law or regulation of another state; or
- (D) any subpoena or order issued by the regulatory official for insurance in another state.
- (3) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license under this act through misrepresentation or fraud.
- (4) Improperly withheld, misappropriated or converted any moneys or properties received in the course of doing insurance business.
- (5) Intentionally misrepresented the provisions, terms and conditions of an actual or proposed insurance contract or application for insurance.
 - (6) Been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony.
- (7) Admitted to or been found to have committed any insurance unfair trade practice or fraud in violation of K.S.A. 40-2404 and amendments thereto.
- (8) Used any fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practice, or demonstrated any incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere.
- (9) Had an insurance agent license, or its equivalent, denied, suspended or revoked in any other state, district or territory.
- (10) Forged another person's name to an application for insurance or to any document related to an insurance transaction.
- (11) Improperly used notes or any other reference material to complete an examination for an insurance license issued under this act.
- 42 (12) Knowingly accepted insurance business from an individual who 43 is not licensed.

- (13) Failed to comply with any administrative or court order imposing a child support obligation upon the applicant or license holder.
- (14) Failed to pay any state income tax or comply with any administrative or court order directing payment of state income tax.
- (15) Rebated the whole or any part of any insurance premium or offered in connection with the presentation of any contract of insurance any other inducement not contained in the contract of insurance.
- (16) Made any misleading representation or incomplete comparison of policies to any person for the purposes of inducing or tending to induce such person to lapse, forfeit or surrender such person's insurance then in force.
- (b) In addition, the commissioner may suspend, revoke or refuse renewal of any license issued under this act if the commissioner finds that the interests of the insurer or the insurable interests of the public are not properly served under such license.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (e), any action taken under this section which affects any license or imposes any administrative penalty shall be taken only after notice and an opportunity for a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedures act.
- (d) The license of any business entity may be suspended, revoked or refused renewal if the insurance commissioner finds that any violation committed by an individual licensee employed by or acting on behalf of such business entity was known by or should have been known by one or more of the partners, officers or managers acting on behalf of the business entity and:
- (1) Such violation was not reported to the insurance commissioner by such business entity; or
 - (2) such business entity failed to take any corrective action.
- (e) Whenever the commissioner receives a notice of income tax delinquency from the secretary of revenue pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto, pertaining to a nonresident agent licensee the commissioner shall deny, suspend, revoke or refuse renewal of any license of such nonresident agent licensee.
- (f) None of the following actions shall deprive the commissioner of any jurisdiction or right to institute or proceed with any disciplinary proceeding against such license, to render a decision suspending, revoking or refusing to renew such license, or to establish and make a record of the facts of any violation of law for any lawful purpose:
 - (1) The imposition of an administrative penalty under this section;
- (2) the lapse or suspension of any license issued under this act by operation of law;
 - (3) the licensee's failure to renew any license issued under this act;

or

- (4) the licensee's voluntary surrender of any license issued under this act. No such disciplinary proceeding shall be instituted against any licensee after the expiration of two years from the termination of the license.
- (f) (g) Whenever the commissioner imposes any administrative penalty or denies, suspends, revokes or refuses renewal of any license pursuant to subsection (a), any costs incurred as a result of conducting an administrative hearing authorized under the provisions of this section shall be assessed against the person who is the subject of the hearing or any business entity represented by such person who is the party to the matters giving rise to the hearing. As used in this subsection, "costs" shall include witness fees, mileage allowances, any costs associated with the reproduction of documents which become a part of the hearing record and the expense of making a record of the hearing.
- $\stackrel{\hbox{\scriptsize (g)}}{}(h)$ No person whose license as an agent or broker had been suspended or revoked shall be employed by any insurance company doing business in this state either directly, indirectly, as an independent contractor or otherwise to negotiate or effect contracts of insurance, suretyship or indemnity or perform any act toward the solicitation of or transaction of any business of insurance during the period of such suspension or revocation.
- $\frac{\text{(h)}}{\text{(i)}}$ In lieu of taking any action under subsection (a), the commissioner may:
 - (1) Censure the person; or
- (2) issue an order imposing an administrative penalty up to a maximum of \$500 for each violation but not to exceed \$2,500 for the same violation occurring within any six consecutive calendar months from the date of the original violation unless such person knew or should have known that the violative act could give rise to disciplinary action under subsection (a). If such person knew or reasonably should have known the violative act could give rise to any disciplinary proceeding authorized by subsection (a), the commissioner may impose a penalty up to a maximum of \$1,000 for each violation but not to exceed \$5,000 for the same violation occurring within any six consecutive calendar months from the date of the imposition of the original administrative penalty.
 - Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 40-4906 and 40-4909 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.