Session of 2008

HOUSE BILL No. 2675

By Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions

1-24

AN ACT concerning licensing of insurance agents; pertaining to certain state's license revocation for nonpayment of income tax; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 40-4906 and, 40-4909 and 79-3234 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. 2007 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
- (3) 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. The commissioner and 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

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of revenue as authorized by subsection (c) shall be used only for the purpose authorized by this section. Any person employed by, or formerly 3 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 6 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. 2007 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. 2007 Supp. 40-4909, and amendments thereto, a nonresident person shall receive a nonresident agent license if:
- 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.
- 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.
- No fee or license application shall be required for any filing required by this subsection.
- Subject to the provisions of subsection (a), any person licensed as 42 a surplus lines agent in such person's home state shall receive a nonres-43 ident surplus lines agent license. Except as provided in subsection (a),

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41 42 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.
- 8 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 40-4909 is hereby amended to read as 9 follows: 40-4909. (a) The commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke or 10 refuse renewal of any license issued under this act if the commissioner 11 finds that the applicant or license holder has:
- 12 (1) Provided incorrect, misleading, incomplete or untrue information 13 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.
 - (12) Knowingly accepted insurance business from an individual who is not licensed.
- 43 (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.
- (e) (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;
- 42 (3) the licensee's failure to renew any license issued under this act; 43 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. 2007 Supp. 79-3234 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-3234. (a) All reports and returns required by this act shall be preserved for three years and thereafter until the director orders them to be destroyed.
- (b) Except in accordance with proper judicial order, or as provided in subsection (c) or in K.S.A. 17-7511, subsection (g) of K.S.A. 46-1106, K.S.A. 46-1114, or K.S.A. 79-32,153a, and amendments thereto, it shall be unlawful for the secretary, the director, any

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deputy, agent, clerk or other officer, employee or former employee of the department of revenue or any other state officer or employee or former state officer or employee to divulge, or to make known in any way, the amount of income or any particulars set forth or disclosed in any report, return, federal return or federal return information required under this act; and it shall be unlawful for the secretary, the director, any deputy, agent, clerk or other officer or employee engaged in the administration of this act to engage in the business or profession of tax accounting or to accept employment, with or without consideration, from any person, firm or corporation for the purpose, directly or indirectly, of preparing tax returns or reports required by the laws of the state of Kansas, by any other state or by the United States government, or to accept any employment for the purpose of advising, preparing material or data, or the auditing of books or records to be used in an effort to defeat or cancel any tax or part thereof that has been assessed by the state of Kansas, any other state or by the United States government.

- (c) The secretary or the secretary's designee may: (1) Publish statistics, so classified as to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns and the items thereof;
- (2) allow the inspection of returns by the attorney general or other legal representatives of the state;
- (3) provide the post auditor access to all income tax reports or returns in accordance with and subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of K.S.A. 46-1106 or K.S.A. 46-1114, and amendments thereto:
- (4) disclose taxpayer information from income tax returns to persons or entities contracting with the secretary of revenue where the secretary has determined disclosure of such information is essential for completion of the contract and has taken appropriate steps to preserve confidentiality;
- (5) disclose to the secretary of commerce specific taxpayer information related to financial information previously submitted by the taxpayer to the secretary of commerce concerning or relevant to any income tax credits, for purposes of verification of such information or evaluating the effectiveness of any tax credit program administered by the secretary of commerce;
- (6) disclose income tax returns to the state gaming agency to be used solely for the purpose of determining qualifications of licensees of and applicants for licensure in tribal gaming. Any information received by the state gaming agency shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except to the executive director,

employees of the state gaming agency and members and employees of the tribal gaming commission;

- (7) disclose the taxpayer's name, last known address and residency status to the department of wildlife and parks to be used solely in its license fraud investigations;
- (8) disclose the name, residence address, employer or Kansas adjusted gross income of a taxpayer who may have a duty of support in a title IV-D case to the secretary of the Kansas department of social and rehabilitation services for use solely in administrative or judicial proceedings to establish, modify or enforce such support obligation in a title IV-D case. In addition to any other limits on use, such use shall be allowed only where subject to a protective order which prohibits disclosure outside of the title IV-D proceeding. As used in this section, "title IV-D case" means a case being administered pursuant to part D of title IV of the federal social security act (42 U.S.C. §651 et seq.) and amendments thereto. Any person receiving any information under the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of subsection (b) and to the penalty provisions of subsection (e);
- (9) permit the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States, or the proper official of any state imposing an income tax, or the authorized representative of either, to inspect the income tax returns made under this act and the secretary of revenue may make available or furnish to the taxing officials of any other state or the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States or other taxing officials of the federal government, or their authorized representatives, information contained in income tax reports or returns or any audit thereof or the report of any investigation made with respect thereto, filed pursuant to the income tax laws, as the secretary may consider proper, but such information shall not be used for any other purpose than that of the administration of tax laws of such state, the state of Kansas or of the United States;
- (10) communicate to the executive director of the Kansas lottery information as to whether a person, partnership or corporation is current in the filing of all applicable tax returns and in the payment of all taxes, interest and penalties to the state of Kansas, excluding items under formal appeal, for the purpose of determining whether such person, partnership or corporation is eligible to be selected as a lottery retailer;
- (11) communicate to the executive director of the Kansas racing commission as to whether a person, partnership or corporation has failed to meet any tax obligation to the state of Kansas for the purpose of determining whether such person, partnership or cor-

poration is eligible for a facility owner license or facility manager license pursuant to the Kansas parimutuel racing act;

- (12) provide such information to the executive director of the Kansas public employees retirement system for the purpose of determining that certain individuals' reported compensation is in compliance with the Kansas public employees retirement act at K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto; and
- (13) provide taxpayer information of persons suspected of violating K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-766, and amendments thereto, to the staff attorneys of the department of labor for the purpose of determining compliance by any person with the provisions of K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-766, and amendments thereto, which information shall be limited to withholding tax and payroll information, the identity of any person that has been or is currently being audited or investigated in connection with the administration and enforcement of the withholding and declaration of estimated tax act, K.S.A. 79-3294 et seq., as amended, and the results or status of such audit or investigation; and
- (14) provide taxpayer information to the commissioner of insurance for the purpose of providing notices as required by section 1, and amendments thereto.
- (d) Any person receiving information under the provisions of subsection (c) shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of subsection (b) and to the penalty provisions of subsection (e).
- (e) Any violation of subsection (b) or (c) is a class A nonperson misdemeanor and, if the offender is an officer or employee of the state, such officer or employee shall be dismissed from office.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow disclosure of the amount of income or any particulars set forth or disclosed in any report, return, federal return or federal return information, where such disclosure is prohibited by the federal internal revenue code as in effect on September 1, 1996, and amendments thereto, related federal internal revenue rules or regulations, or other federal law.
- Sec. 4. 5. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 40-4906 and, 40-4909 and 79-3234 are hereby repealed.
 - Sec. 5. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.