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2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1800

5 By: Representative Lundstrum
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS STATE SECURITIES LAWS; TO
9 REGULATE SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13
14 TO AMEND VARIOUS STATE SECURITIES LAWS;
15 AND TO REGULATE SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS.
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301(211), concerning the enumeration
21 of special revenues, is repealed.

22 ~~(211) That portion of fines collected in the Investor Education~~
23 ~~Fund in excess of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in any one~~
24 ~~(1) fiscal year, § 23-42-213(e);~~
25

26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-6-301, concerning special revenues
27 enumerated, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

28 (255) That portion of notice filing fees and penalties, § 23-42-
29 509(a);
30

31 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 19-6-475 is amended to read as follows:

32 19-6-475. Securities Department Fund.

33 The Securities Department Fund shall consist of ~~those special revenues~~
34 ~~as specified in § 19-6-301(211), the first four million dollars (\$4,000,000)~~
35 the first two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) of those
36 special revenues as specified in § 19-6-301(173), (174), ~~and~~ (245), and (255)



1 and such other funds as may be provided by law or regulatory action, there to
 2 be used for maintenance, operation, support, and improvement of the State
 3 Securities Department in carrying out its functions, powers, and duties as
 4 set out by law and by rule and regulation not inconsistent with law, as set
 5 out in § 23-42-211.

6
 7 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-42-102(1)(B)(i)(c), concerning the
 8 definition of an "agent" under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to
 9 read as follows:

10 (c) Effecting transactions in covered
 11 securities exempted by:

12 (1) Section 18(b)(3) of the Securities
 13 Act of 1933, concerning sales to qualified purchasers;

14 (2) ~~Section 18(b)(4)(D)~~ Section
 15 18(b)(4)(E) of the Securities Act of 1933, concerning sales of securities
 16 exempt under Section 3(a) of the Securities Act of 1933; or

17 (3) Rule or order of the commissioner;

18
 19 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-42-102(1)(B), concerning the definition
 20 of an "agent" under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to add an
 21 additional subdivision to read as follows:

22 (iii) A person who is a registered broker-dealer in
 23 a state other than Arkansas who does not:

24 (a) Have a place of business in this state;
 25 and

26 (b) Effect securities transactions with more
 27 than three (3) persons in this state during any period of twelve (12)
 28 consecutive months as described in subdivision (3)(B)(iv) of this section.

29
 30 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 23-42-102(6), concerning the definition of
 31 a "farm cooperative" under the Arkansas Securities Act, is repealed.

32 ~~(6)(A) "Farm cooperative" means any cooperative formed for the~~
 33 ~~purpose of:~~

34 ~~(i) Purchasing, producing, processing, marketing,~~
 35 ~~distributing, or selling crops or livestock for, or on behalf of, its~~
 36 ~~members; or~~

1 sustaining the burden of proof that the buyer did not know, and in the
 2 exercise of reasonable care could not have known, of the untruth or omission.

3 (2)(A) In a successful action under subdivision (b)(1) of this
 4 section, the seller may recover costs and reasonable attorney's fees plus:

5 (i) Upon tender of the consideration the seller
 6 received in a transaction under subdivision (b)(1) of this section:

7 (a) The security; or

8 (b) The security plus any income or other
 9 distributions in cash or other property received directly or indirectly by
 10 the purchaser; or

11 (ii)(a) Damages together with interest at six
 12 percent (6%) per year from the date of purchase.

13 (b) Damages may include out-of-pocket losses
 14 or losses for the benefit of the bargain.

15 (B) ~~Notice of willingness to pay the amount specified in~~
 16 ~~exchange for the security is a valid tender~~ A tender made under subdivision
 17 (b)(2)(A)(i) of this section ~~pending acceptance of the tender by the~~
 18 ~~purchaser~~ only requires notice in writing of the present ability to pay the
 19 amount tendered and willingness to take the security for the amount
 20 specified.

21
 22 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 23-42-106(c), concerning the civil
 23 liability for providing investment advice under the Arkansas Securities Act,
 24 is amended to read as follows:

25 (c)(1) A person that directly or indirectly receives consideration for
 26 providing investment advice to another party:

27 (A) In violation of § 23-42-301 is liable to the other
 28 party for:

29 (i) ~~the~~ The consideration paid for the advice; ~~;~~

30 (ii) ~~interest~~ Interest at the rate of six percent
 31 (6%) per year from the date of payment; ~~;~~

32 (iii) ~~costs,~~ Costs; and

33 (iv) ~~a reasonable~~ Reasonable attorney's ~~fee~~ fees; or

34 (B) By employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud
 35 the other party or ~~engages by engaging~~ in an act, practice, or course of
 36 business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the other

1 party is liable to the other party for:

2 (i) The consideration paid for the advice plus
3 interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per year from the date of payment;

4 (ii) Damages caused by the fraudulent or deceitful
5 conduct less the amount of any income received as a result of the fraudulent
6 or deceitful conduct;

7 (iii) Costs; and

8 (iv) ~~A reasonable~~ Reasonable attorney's ~~fee fees~~.

9 (2) Subdivision (c)(1) of this section does not apply to a
10 broker-dealer or its agents if:

11 (A) The investment advice provided is solely incidental to
12 transacting business as a broker-dealer; and

13 (B) ~~No special~~ Special compensation is not paid for the
14 investment advice.

15
16 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 23-42-106(d)(1), concerning the civil
17 liability of a secondary offender under the Arkansas Securities Act, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (d)(1) A secondary offender has joint and several liability with a
20 right of contribution for the actions of a primary offender unless the
21 secondary offender satisfies the burden of proving that the secondary
22 offender did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have
23 known, of the existence of the actions of a ~~a~~ the primary offender that give
24 rise to liability under this section.

25
26 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 23-42-106(h), concerning ability to sue
27 under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to read as follows:

28 (h) A ~~person may~~ buyer shall not sue under this section:

29 (1) If the buyer received a written offer, before suit and at a
30 time when ~~he or she~~ the buyer owned the security, to refund the consideration
31 paid together with interest at six percent (6%) per year from the date of
32 payment less the amount of any income received on the security, and ~~he or she~~
33 the buyer failed to accept the offer within thirty (30) days of its receipt;
34 or

35 (2) If the buyer received such an offer before suit and at a
36 time when ~~he or she~~ the buyer did not own the security unless ~~he or she~~ the

1 buyer rejected the offer in writing within thirty (30) days of its receipt.

2
3 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 23-42-209 is amended to read as follows:
4 23-42-209. Injunction, mandamus, or other ancillary relief.

5 (a)(1)(A) Whenever it appears to the Securities Commissioner, upon
6 sufficient grounds or evidence satisfactory to the commissioner, that any
7 person has engaged or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting
8 a violation of any provision of this chapter, except the provisions of § 23-
9 42-509, or any rule or order under this chapter, including any order issued
10 under § 23-42-509, ~~he or she~~ the commissioner may summarily order the person
11 to cease and desist from the act or practice.

12 (B) Upon the entry of the order, the commissioner shall
13 promptly notify the person that the order has been entered, of the reasons
14 therefor, and of his or her right to a hearing on the order.

15 (2)(A) A hearing shall be held on the written request of the
16 person aggrieved by the order if the request is received by the commissioner
17 within thirty (30) days of the date of the entry of the order, or if ordered
18 by the commissioner.

19 (B) If ~~no~~ a hearing is not requested and none is ordered
20 by the commissioner, the order will remain in effect until it is modified or
21 vacated by the commissioner.

22 (C) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the
23 commissioner may:

24 (i) Affirm, modify, or vacate the cease and desist
25 order under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section; and

26 (ii) For a violation of this chapter other than a
27 violation of § 23-42-509, by order, levy a fine not to exceed:

28 (a) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each
29 violation or an amount equal to the total amount of money received in
30 connection with each violation; or

31 (b) If a victim of a violation is sixty-five
32 (65) years of age or older:

33 (1) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)
34 for each violation; or

35 (2) Two (2) times the amount of money
36 received in connection with each violation.

1 ~~(3)~~(b)(1) The commissioner may apply to the Pulaski County
 2 Circuit Court to temporarily or permanently enjoin an act or practice that
 3 violates this chapter and to enforce compliance with this chapter or any rule
 4 or order under this chapter:

5 (A) After an order is issued under subdivision (a)(1) or
 6 subdivision (a)(2) of this section; or

7 (B) Without issuing an order under subdivision (a)(1) or
 8 subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

9 ~~(4)~~(2) Upon a proper showing, a permanent or temporary
 10 injunction, restraining order, or writ of mandamus shall be granted.

11 ~~(5)~~(3) The court ~~may~~ shall not require the commissioner to post
 12 a bond.

13 ~~(b)~~(4) The commissioner may also obtain upon proper showing any
 14 other ancillary relief in the public interest, including without limitation:

15 ~~(1)~~(A) The appointment of a receiver, temporary receiver,
 16 or conservator;

17 ~~(2)~~(B) A declaratory judgment;

18 ~~(3)~~(C) An accounting;

19 ~~(4)~~(D) Disgorgement of profits;

20 ~~(5)~~(E) Restitution; or

21 ~~(6)~~(F) The assessment of a fine in an amount of not more
 22 than the total amount of money received in connection with a violation of
 23 this chapter.

24 (c) ~~Nothing herein shall~~ This chapter does not prohibit or restrict
 25 the informal disposition of a proceeding or allegations which might give rise
 26 to a proceeding by stipulation, settlement, consent, or default, in lieu of a
 27 formal or informal hearing on the allegations or in lieu of the sanctions
 28 authorized by this section.

29
 30 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 23-42-210(a)(1), concerning judicial
 31 review of a final order of the Securities Commissioner under the Arkansas
 32 Securities Act, is amended to read as follows:

33 (a)(1) ~~Any~~ A person aggrieved by a final order of the Securities
 34 Commissioner may obtain a review of the order in any state court of competent
 35 jurisdiction by filing in court, within ~~sixty (60)~~ thirty (30) days after the
 36 entry of the order, a written petition praying that the order be modified or

1 set aside in whole or in part.

2
3 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 23-42-211(a), concerning the Securities
4 Department Fund, is amended to read as follows:

5 (a)(1) There is created on the books of the Chief Fiscal Officer of
6 the State, the Auditor of State, and the Treasurer of State a fund to be
7 known as the "Securities Department Fund".

8 (2) The fund shall be used for the maintenance, operation,
9 support, and improvement of the State Securities Department in carrying out
10 its functions, powers, and duties as set out by law and by rule ~~and~~
11 ~~regulation~~ not inconsistent with law.

12 (3) The fund shall consist of those portions of fees designated
13 for deposit into the fund ~~pursuant to~~ under §§ 23-42-304(a)(2), (a)(4), and
14 (a)(5), ~~and § 23-42-404(b)(1), and § 23-42-509(a) and such other funds as may~~
15 ~~be provided by law or regulatory action.~~

16 (4) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(3) of this section, no more
17 than ~~four million dollars (\$4,000,000)~~ two million five hundred thousand
18 dollars (\$2,500,000) shall be deposited into the fund in any one (1) fiscal
19 year.

20
21 SECTION 15. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 23-42-213(b),
22 concerning the Investor Education Fund, is amended to read as follows:

23 (b) Except as provided by subsection (c) of this section, all fines
24 imposed and collected ~~or moneys collected in lieu of a fine~~ under §§ 23-42-
25 209 and 23-42-308 shall be deposited as special revenues into the State
26 Treasury and credited to the Investor Education Fund, to be administered by
27 the Securities Commissioner for the following purposes:

28
29 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 23-42-213(c), concerning disposition of
30 fines under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to read as follows:

31 (c) ~~Funds~~ Fines collected in excess of one hundred fifty thousand
32 dollars (\$150,000) ~~collected~~ in any one (1) fiscal year shall be ~~designated~~
33 ~~as special revenues and deposited into the Securities Department Fund as~~
34 general revenues.

35
36 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 23-42-302(a) and (b), concerning

1 registration requirements of broker-dealers, agents, and investment advisers
2 under the Arkansas Securities Act, are amended to read as follows:

3 (a)(1) A broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, representative, or
4 branch office may obtain an initial or renewal registration by filing with
5 the Securities Commissioner or the commissioner's designee an application and
6 fee, together with a consent to service of process under § 23-42-107(a).

7 (2) The commissioner may by rule or order approve a limited
8 registration with such limitations, qualifications, or conditions as the
9 commissioner deems appropriate.

10 (b) The commissioner may by rule set forth the form and content of the
11 application and establish a procedure for renewal registration or initial
12 registration ~~whereby registration may become effective prior to the filing of~~
13 ~~a completed application or fee.~~

14
15 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 23-42-304(a), concerning registration
16 filing fees under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) Every applicant for initial or renewal registration and every
18 person making a notice filing as required by § 23-42-301(c) shall pay a
19 filing fee of:

20 (1) Three hundred dollars (\$300) in the case of a broker-dealer;

21 (2) Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) in the case of an agent, of
22 which twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be designated as special revenues
23 and shall be deposited into the Securities Department Fund;

24 (3) Three hundred dollars (\$300) in the case of an investment
25 adviser;

26 (4) Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) in the case of a
27 representative, of which twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be designated as
28 special revenues and shall be deposited into the ~~fund~~ Securities Department
29 Fund; ~~and~~

30 (5) Fifty dollars (\$50.00) in the case of a branch office, of
31 which the entire amount shall be designated as special revenues and deposited
32 into the ~~fund~~ Securities Department Fund; and

33 (6) Three hundred dollars (\$300) in the case of an exempt
34 reporting adviser or investment adviser to a private fund that complies with
35 exemption requirements.

36

1 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 23-42-308(a), concerning the action
2 against a registration under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to read
3 as follows:

4 (a) The Securities Commissioner may by order deny, suspend, make
5 conditional or probationary, or revoke any registration if he or she finds
6 that:

7 (1) The order is in the public interest; and

8 (2) The applicant or registrant or, in the case of a broker-
9 dealer or investment adviser, any partner, officer, or director; any person
10 occupying a similar status or performing similar functions; or any person
11 directly or indirectly controlling the broker-dealer or investment adviser:

12 (A) Has filed an application for registration, which as of
13 its effective date, or as of any date after filing in the case of an order
14 denying effectiveness, was incomplete in any material respect or contained
15 any statement which was, in light of the circumstances under which it was
16 made, false or misleading with respect to any material fact;

17 (B) Has willfully violated or willfully failed to comply
18 with any provision of this chapter or a predecessor act or any rule or order
19 under this chapter or a predecessor act;

20 (C) Has:

21 (i) ~~been~~ Been convicted, ~~of:~~

22 (a) A felony; or

23 (b) ~~within~~ Within the ~~past~~ previous ten (10)
24 years, ~~of any~~ a misdemeanor involving a security, a commodity future or
25 option contract, or any aspect of ~~the~~ a business involving securities
26 business, commodities, investments, franchises, insurance, banking, or
27 finance; or

28 (ii) ~~of any felony, or has pending~~ Pending against
29 him or her a charge of unlawful conduct involving securities or any aspect of
30 the securities business;

31 (D) Is permanently or temporarily enjoined by any court of
32 competent jurisdiction from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice
33 involving any aspect of the securities business;

34 (E) Is the subject of an order of the commissioner,
35 including without limitation an order denying, suspending, revoking, or
36 making conditional or probationary a registration as a broker-dealer, agent,

1 investment adviser, or representative;

2 (F)(i) Is the subject of an order entered within the past

3 five (5) years by:

4 (a) The securities administrator of any other

5 state;

6 (b) Any national securities, commodities, or

7 banking agency or jurisdiction;

8 (c) Any national securities or commodities

9 exchange;

10 (d) Any securities or commodities self-

11 regulatory organization;

12 (e) Any registered securities association or

13 clearing agency denying, revoking, suspending, or expelling him or her from

14 registration as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or

15 representative, or the substantial equivalent of those terms;

16 (f) Is the subject of a United States postal

17 fraud order; or

18 (g) The insurance administrator of any state.

19 (ii) However, the commissioner ~~may~~ shall not:

20 (a) Institute a revocation or suspension

21 proceeding under this subdivision (a)(2)(F) more than five (5) years from the

22 date of the order relied on; and

23 (b) Enter an order under this subdivision

24 (a)(2)(F) on the basis of an order under another state act, unless that order

25 was based on facts which would currently constitute a ground for an order

26 under this section;

27 (G) Has engaged in dishonest or unethical practices in the

28 securities business;

29 (H) Is insolvent, either in the sense that his or her

30 liabilities exceed his or her assets or in the sense that he or she cannot

31 meet his or her obligations as they mature, but the commissioner may not

32 enter an order against a broker-dealer or investment adviser under this

33 subdivision (a)(2)(H) without a finding of insolvency as to the broker-dealer

34 or investment adviser;

35 (I) Is not qualified on the basis of such factors as

36 training, experience, and knowledge of the securities business, except that:

1 (i) The commissioner ~~may~~ shall not enter an order
2 against a broker-dealer on the basis of the lack of qualification of any
3 person other than the broker-dealer himself or herself, if he or she is an
4 individual, or an agent of the broker-dealer;

5 (ii) The commissioner ~~may~~ shall not enter an order
6 against an investment adviser on the basis of the lack of qualification of
7 any person other than the investment adviser himself or herself, if he or she
8 is an individual, or any other person who represents the investment adviser
9 in doing any of the acts which make him or her an investment adviser;

10 (iii) The commissioner ~~may~~ shall not enter an order
11 solely on the basis of lack of experience if the applicant or registrant is
12 qualified by training or knowledge, or both;

13 (iv) The commissioner shall consider that an agent
14 who will work under the supervision of a registered broker-dealer need not
15 have the same qualifications as a broker-dealer; and

16 (v) The commissioner shall consider that an
17 investment adviser or representative is not necessarily qualified solely on
18 the basis of experience as a broker-dealer or agent;

19 (J) Has failed reasonably to supervise the agents or
20 employees of the broker-dealer or the representatives or employees of the
21 investment adviser; or

22 (K) Has failed to pay the proper filing fee, but the
23 commissioner may enter only a denial order under this subdivision (a)(2)(K),
24 and he or she shall vacate the order when the deficiency has been corrected.

25
26 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 23-42-308(e)(1), concerning withdrawal of
27 registration under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (e)(1) Withdrawal from registration as a broker-dealer, agent,
30 investment adviser, or representative becomes effective thirty (30) days
31 after receipt of an application to withdraw, or within such shorter period of
32 time as the commissioner may determine, unless a revocation or suspension
33 proceeding is pending when the application to withdraw is filed or a
34 proceeding to deny, revoke, or suspend or to impose conditions upon the
35 withdrawal is instituted within thirty (30) days after the application to
36 withdraw is filed.

1
2 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 42, Subchapter 3, is
3 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

4 23-42-309. Protection of vulnerable adults from financial exploitation
5 - Definitions.

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Agencies" means:

8 (A) The Adult Protective Services Unit of the Department
9 of Human Services; and

10 (B) The Securities Commissioner;

11 (2) "Eligible adult" means a person who is:

12 (A) Sixty-five (65) years of age or older; or

13 (B) Subject to supervision by the Arkansas Adult
14 Protective Services Unit of the Department of Human Services; and

15 (3) "Financial exploitation" means:

16 (A) The wrongful or unauthorized taking, withholding,
17 appropriation, or use of funds, assets, or property of an eligible adult; or

18 (B) Any act or omission made by a person, including
19 through the use of an eligible adult's power of attorney, guardianship, or
20 conservatorship, to:

21 (i) Obtain control, through deception, intimidation,
22 or undue influence, over the eligible adult's funds, assets, or property that
23 results in depriving the eligible adult of rightful ownership, use, benefit,
24 access to, or possession of his or her money, assets, or property; or

25 (ii) Convert funds, assets, or property of an
26 eligible adult to deprive the eligible adult of the rightful ownership, use,
27 benefit, access to, or possession of his or her funds, assets, or property.

28 (b) If an individual reasonably believes that financial exploitation
29 of an eligible adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being
30 attempted, the individual:

31 (1) Should promptly disclose this information to the agencies;

32 (2) Who in good faith and exercising reasonable care makes a
33 disclosure under subdivision (b)(1), shall be immune from administrative or
34 civil liability that might otherwise arise from the disclosure or for any
35 failure to notify the eligible adult of the disclosure; and

36 (3)(A) May notify a third party previously designated by the

1 eligible adult.

2 (B) Disclosure shall not be made to any designated third
3 party that is suspected of financial exploitation or other abuse of the
4 eligible adult.

5 (C) If an individual makes a disclosure under subdivision
6 (b)(3)(A) of this section, the individual is immune from any administrative
7 or civil liability that might otherwise arise from the disclosure.

8 (c)(1) A broker-dealer or investment adviser may delay a disbursement
9 from an account of an eligible adult or an account on which an eligible adult
10 is a current beneficiary if:

11 (A) Financial exploitation is suspected;

12 (B) After an internal review of a requested disbursement,
13 the broker-dealer, investment adviser, or individual reasonably believes that
14 the requested disbursement may result in financial exploitation; and

15 (C) The broker-dealer or investment adviser immediately or
16 within two (2) business days after the requested disbursement:

17 (i) Provides to all parties authorized to transact
18 business on the account written notification of the delay and the reason for
19 the delay, unless any such party is reasonably believed to have engaged in
20 suspected or attempted financial exploitation;

21 (ii) Notifies the agencies; and

22 (iii) Continues its internal review of the suspected
23 or attempted financial exploitation, as necessary, and reports the
24 investigation's results to the agencies within seven (7) business days after
25 the requested disbursement.

26 (2)(A) Except as provided under subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this
27 section, a delay of a disbursement under this section shall expire upon the
28 earliest of:

29 (i) A determination by the broker-dealer or
30 investment adviser that the disbursement will not result in financial
31 exploitation; or

32 (ii) Fifteen (15) business days after the date on
33 which the broker-dealer or investment adviser first delayed disbursement of
34 the funds.

35 (B) If either of the agencies requests that the broker-
36 dealer or investment adviser extend the delay of disbursement, the delay

1 shall expire:

2 (i) No more than twenty-five (25) business days
3 after the date on which the broker-dealer or investment adviser first delayed
4 disbursement of the funds;

5 (ii) Upon the termination by the agencies of the
6 hold on the disbursement; or

7 (iii) As directed by an order of a court of
8 competent jurisdiction.

9 (3) A court of competent jurisdiction may enter an order
10 extending the delay of the disbursement of funds or may order other
11 protective relief upon application by:

12 (A) The agencies;

13 (B) The broker-dealer or investment adviser that initiated
14 the delay of disbursement under subdivision (c)(1) of this section; or

15 (C) Any other interested party.

16 (4) If a broker-dealer or investment adviser delays a
17 disbursement under subdivision (c)(1) of this section in good faith and
18 exercising reasonable care and complies with this subsection, the broker-
19 dealer or investment adviser is immune from any administrative or civil
20 liability that might otherwise arise from the delay in a disbursement.

21 (d)(1) A broker-dealer or investment adviser shall provide access to
22 or copies of records that are relevant to the suspected or attempted
23 financial exploitation, either as part of a referral or pursuant to an
24 investigation, to:

25 (A) An agency charged with administering state adult
26 protective services law; and

27 (B) A law enforcement agency or entity.

28 (2) The records may include historical records as well as
29 records relating to recent transactions that may comprise financial
30 exploitation.

31 (3) The records, materials, data, and information made available
32 by a broker-dealer or investment adviser under subdivision (d)(1) of this
33 section are confidential and are not subject to examination or disclosure as
34 public information under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101
35 et seq.

36 (e) This section does not limit or otherwise impede the authority of

1 the commissioner to access or examine the books and records of broker-dealers
 2 and investment advisers as otherwise provided by § 23-42-101 et seq.

3
 4 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 23-42-503(c) and (d), concerning
 5 regulation of exempt securities under the Arkansas Securities Act, is amended
 6 to read as follows:

7 (c) The following ~~shall~~ apply to ~~farm cooperatives~~ a cooperative
 8 organized under the laws of this state as a business corporation but operated
 9 as a cooperative, or organized and operated in this state under laws
 10 addressing cooperatives, § 2-2-101 et seq., §§ 2-2-401 – 2-2-411, 2-2-413 –
 11 ~~2-2-429~~ 2-2-430, 4-30-101 – ~~4-30-117~~ 4-30-118, 4-30-201, 4-30-202, and 4-30-
 12 204 – 4-30-207, and to any nonprofit ~~farm~~ cooperative ~~which~~ that is qualified
 13 to do business in this state:

14 (1) Any common stock, preferred stock, promissory note,
 15 debenture, or other security may be issued to any cooperative member, if no
 16 commission or other remuneration is paid in connection with the sale or
 17 issuance of the securities or a registered agent is used, after either:

18 (A) ~~compliance~~ Compliance with subsection (d) of this
 19 section; or

20 (B) ~~delivery~~ Delivery to the cooperative member and
 21 filing, with the commissioner, of financial statements of the ~~farm~~
 22 cooperative for each of the two (2) fiscal years as of a date not earlier
 23 than four hundred fifty-five (455) days ~~prior to~~ before the issuance of the
 24 security, all of which statements shall have been audited, examined, and
 25 certified by independent public accountants to have been prepared in
 26 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles consistently
 27 maintained by the cooperative during the fiscal years represented by the
 28 statements. ~~No registered agent shall be required if no commission or other~~
 29 ~~remuneration is to be paid in connection with the offer and sale of such~~
 30 ~~securities; or~~

31 (2) Any interest or agreement ~~which~~ that qualifies its holder to
 32 be a member or other patron of a ~~farm~~ cooperative or ~~which~~ that represents
 33 the terms or conditions by which members or other patrons ~~purchase or sell~~
 34 ~~agricultural products or commodities from, to, or through a farm~~ conduct
 35 permitted business of a cooperative as set forth in § 2-2-101 et seq.; the
 36 Cooperative Marketing Act, § 2-2-401 et seq.; § 4-30-101 et seq.; and §§ 4-

1 30-201 – 4-30-207, or which represents a capital retain, or patronage
2 distribution issued by a ~~farm~~ cooperative solely to its members or other
3 patrons shall not be considered to be a security under this chapter and shall
4 not be subject to the provisions of this chapter, provided:

5 (A) The instruments or interests are properly identified
6 and not labeled with the traditional names of investment securities as
7 defined by § 23-42-102(17);

8 (B) The instruments or interests are not part of a class
9 of instruments or interests regularly bought or sold for investment purposes
10 or for which an active trading market exists. However, this limitation shall
11 not in any way restrict the bona fide pledge of the instruments or interests;
12 and

13 (C) No commission or other remuneration is paid in
14 connection with the sale or issuance to members or other patrons of the
15 interests and instruments. This exemption shall not apply to those interests
16 or instruments which possess the characteristics of an investment contract or
17 other security as interpreted under the laws of the State of Arkansas; and

18 (3) The commissioner may render foreign nonprofit ~~farm~~
19 cooperatives the privilege afforded Arkansas nonprofit ~~farm~~ cooperatives set
20 forth in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, provided the foreign cooperative
21 first files supporting documents verifying that it is qualified to do
22 business in Arkansas, that members have substantially the same rights as
23 members of ~~farm~~ cooperatives organized under the nonprofit ~~farm~~ cooperative
24 corporate laws of this state, that the offering is within the scope of
25 subdivision (c)(2) of this section, and any other information which the
26 commissioner deems appropriate.

27 (d)(1) Before any security may be issued as an exempted security under
28 subdivision (a)(7) of this section or subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section,
29 a proof of exemption must first be filed with the commissioner, and the
30 commissioner by order shall not have disallowed the exemption within the next
31 ten (10) full business days.

32 (2) The proof of exemption shall contain a statement of the
33 grounds upon which the exemption is claimed and a designation of the
34 subsection of this section under which the exemption is claimed.

35 (3) Proofs of exemption which have not been completed within a
36 period of one hundred eighty (180) days after filing with the commissioner

1 may be deemed abandoned and considered withdrawn by the applicant, provided
 2 the applicant has been notified of the deficiencies to the proof and afforded
 3 a reasonable opportunity to correct the deficiencies.

4 (4) Each offering shall be effective only for twelve (12)
 5 consecutive months.

6 (5) For every proof of exemption filed with the commissioner,
 7 under:

8 (A) Subdivision (a)(7) of this section, there shall be
 9 paid to the commissioner a filing fee ~~equal to one tenth percent (0.1%) of~~
 10 ~~the maximum aggregate offering price at which the securities are to be~~
 11 ~~offered in this state. The fee shall in no case be less than one hundred~~
 12 ~~dollars (\$100) nor more than of five hundred dollars (\$500).—The~~
 13 ~~commissioner shall have authority under this subsection to amend or rescind~~
 14 ~~the filing fees by rule or order if the commissioner determines that the fee~~
 15 ~~is excessive under the circumstances; and~~

16 (B) Subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, there shall be
 17 paid to the commissioner a filing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100).

18
 19 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 23-42-504(a), concerning exempt
 20 transactions, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) The following transactions are exempted from §§ 23-42-501 and 23-
 22 42-502:

23 (1) Any isolated nonissuer transactions, whether effected
 24 through a broker-dealer or not, provided that repeated or successive
 25 transactions shall be prima facie evidence that the transactions are not
 26 isolated nonissuer transactions;

27 (2) Any nonissuer transaction by a registered agent of a
 28 registered broker-dealer, and any resale transaction by a sponsor of a unit
 29 investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in a
 30 security of a class that has been outstanding in the hands of the public for
 31 at least ninety (90) days, provided at the time of the transaction:

32 (A) The issuer of the security is actually engaged in
 33 business and not in the organization stage or in bankruptcy or receivership
 34 and is not a blank check, blind pool, or shell company whose primary plan of
 35 business is to engage in a merger or combination of the business with, or an
 36 acquisition of, an unidentified person or persons;

1 (B) The security is sold at a price reasonably related to
2 the current market price of the security;

3 (C) The security does not constitute the whole or part of
4 an unsold allotment to, or a subscription or participation by, the broker-
5 dealer as an underwriter of the security;

6 (D) A nationally recognized securities manual designated
7 by rule or order of the ~~commissioner~~ Securities Commissioner or a document
8 filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission that is
9 publicly available through the United States Securities and Exchange
10 Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval System and
11 contains:

12 (i) A description of the business and operations of
13 the issuer;

14 (ii) The names of the issuer's officers and
15 directors, if any, or, in the case of an issuer not domiciled in the United
16 States, the corporate equivalents of such persons in the issuer's country of
17 domicile;

18 (iii) An audited balance sheet of the issuer as of a
19 date within eighteen (18) months or, in the case of a reorganization or
20 merger when the parties to the reorganization or merger had such audited
21 balance sheets, a pro forma balance sheet; and

22 (iv) An audited income statement for each of the
23 issuer's immediately preceding two (2) fiscal years, or for the period of
24 existence of the issuer, if in existence for less than two (2) years, or, in
25 the case of a reorganization or merger when the parties to the reorganization
26 or merger had such audited income statements, a pro forma income statement;
27 and

28 (E) The issuer of the security has a class of equity
29 securities listed on a national securities exchange registered under the
30 Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78a et seq., as it existed on
31 January 1, 2011, unless:

32 (i) The issuer of the security is a unit investment
33 trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. § 80a-1
34 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2011;

35 (ii) The issuer and predecessors of the issuer of
36 the security have been engaged in continuous business for at least three (3)

1 years; or

2 (iii) The issuer of the security has total assets of
3 at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000) based on:

4 (a) An audited balance sheet dated within the
5 past eighteen (18) months; or

6 (b) In the case of a reorganization or merger
7 of parties with audited balance sheets dated within the past eighteen (18)
8 months showing total assets of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000), a
9 pro forma balance sheet;

10 (3) Any transaction between the issuer or other person on whose
11 behalf the offering is made and an underwriter, or among underwriters;

12 (4) Any transaction in a bond or other evidence of indebtedness
13 secured by a real or chattel mortgage or deed of trust, or by an agreement
14 for the sale of real estate or chattels if the entire mortgage, deed of
15 trust, or agreement, together with all the bonds or other evidences of
16 indebtedness secured thereby, is offered and sold as a unit;

17 (5) Any transactions by an executor, administrator, sheriff,
18 marshal, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, guardian, or conservator;

19 (6) Any transaction executed by a bona fide pledgee without any
20 purpose of evading this chapter;

21 (7) A transaction by a person exempted from registration under §
22 23-42-102(3)(B)(v) if the transaction would be lawful in the place of
23 residence of the offeree or purchaser had it occurred there instead of in
24 this state;

25 (8) Any offer or sale:

26 (A) By an issuer to a person in a state other than this
27 state if that offer or sale would be lawful if made in the other state; or

28 (B) To a bank, savings institution, trust company,
29 insurance company, investment company as defined in the Investment Company
30 Act of 1940, pension or profit-sharing trust, or other financial institution
31 or institutional buyer, or to a broker-dealer, whether the purchaser is
32 acting for itself or in some fiduciary capacity. ~~The Securities Commissioner~~
33 commissioner may by order, upon petition by any person, determine if the
34 petitioner may be deemed, upon the basis of knowledge, experience, volume,
35 and number of transactions, and other securities background, an
36 "institutional buyer" for purposes of this subdivision (a)(8);

1 (9)(A) Any transaction pursuant to an offer and sale to not more
2 than thirty-five (35) purchasers other than those designated in subdivision
3 (a)(8) of this section during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months,
4 if:

5 (i) The seller reasonably believes that all the
6 buyers are purchasing for investment; and

7 (ii) ~~No~~ A commission or other remuneration shall not
8 be paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any prospective buyer
9 in this state unless the person receiving any such commission or remuneration
10 is registered ~~pursuant to~~ under § 23-42-301.

11 (B) However, the commissioner may by rule or order, as to
12 any security or transaction or any type of security or transaction, withdraw
13 or further condition this exemption, or increase or decrease the number of
14 purchasers permitted, or waive the conditions in subdivisions (a)(9)(A)(i)
15 and (ii) of this section with or without the substitution of a limitation on
16 remuneration;

17 (10) Any transaction pursuant to an offer to existing security
18 holders of the issuer, including persons who at the time of the transaction
19 are holders of convertible securities or warrants, if no commission or other
20 remuneration, other than a standby commission, is paid or given directly or
21 indirectly for soliciting any security holder in this state, unless the
22 commissioner shall, upon written application, permit the payment of a
23 commission or other remuneration with or without the substitution of a
24 limitation on remuneration;

25 (11) Any offer, but not a sale, of a security for which
26 registration statements have been filed under both this chapter and the
27 Securities Act of 1933 if no order or refusal order is in effect and no
28 public proceeding or examination looking toward such an order is pending
29 under either act; ~~and~~

30 (12) An offer or sale of a security by an issuer if:

31 (A) Either of the following applies:

32 (i) The issuer of the security is a corporation or
33 other business entity organized and operating under the laws of this state
34 and that has its principal place of business in Arkansas and the transaction
35 meets the requirements of the federal exemption for intrastate offerings in
36 section 3(a)(11) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77c(a)(11), as it

1 existed on January 1, 2017, and Rule 147 of the United States Securities
2 Exchange Commission, as it existed on January 1, 2017, and as such, the
3 securities shall be offered to and sold only to persons who are residents of
4 this state at the time of purchase; or

5 (ii) The issuer of the security is a corporation or
6 other business entity with its principal place of business in Arkansas and
7 the transaction meets the requirements of the federal exemption for
8 intrastate offerings in section 28 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1933, 15
9 U.S.C. § 77z-3, as it existed on January 1, 2017, and Rule 147A of the United
10 States Securities and Exchange Commission, as it existed on January 1, 2017,
11 and as such, the securities shall be sold only to persons who are residents
12 of this state at the time of purchase;

13 (B) The sum of all cash and other consideration to be
14 received for all sales of the security in reliance upon the exemption
15 described in this subdivision (a)(12) shall not exceed one million dollars
16 (\$1,000,000), less the aggregate amount received for all sales of securities
17 by the issuer within six (6) months after the completion of the offering;

18 (C) The issuer shall not accept more than five thousand
19 dollars (\$5,000) from any single purchaser unless the purchaser is an
20 accredited investor as defined by Rule 501 of United States Securities
21 Exchange Commission Regulation D, 17 C.F.R. 230.501, as it existed on January
22 1, 2017;

23 (D) The issuer should reasonably believe that all
24 purchasers of securities are purchasing for investment and not for sale in
25 connection with a distribution of the security;

26 (E) A commission or remuneration shall not be paid or
27 given, directly or indirectly, for a person's participation in the offer or
28 sale of securities for the issuer unless the person is registered as a
29 broker-dealer or agent under this chapter;

30 (F) The commissioner may by rule or order, as to any
31 security or transaction or any type of security or transaction, withdraw or
32 further condition the exemption under this subdivision (a)(12); and

33 (G) A filing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be
34 paid to the commissioner for every proof of exemption filed with the
35 commissioner under this subdivision (a)(12); and

36 (13) Any other transaction ~~which~~ that the commissioner by rule

1 or order exempts as not being necessary or appropriate in the public interest
2 for the protection of investors.

3
4 SECTION 24. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 23-42-
5 509(c)(1), concerning covered securities, is amended to read as follows:

6 (c)(1) With respect to a covered security under section ~~18(b)(4)(E)~~
7 18(b)(4)(F) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77r(b)(4)(F), as it
8 existed on January 1, 2017, the commissioner may by rule or order require
9 that no later than fifteen (15) days after the first sale of a covered
10 security, the issuer:

11
12 SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 23-42-509(d)(2), concerning covered
13 securities transactions, is amended to read as follows:

14 ~~(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(2)(B) of this~~
15 ~~section, pay a fee in the amount of one tenth percent (0.1%) of the maximum~~
16 ~~aggregate offering price at which the securities are to be offered in this~~
17 ~~state~~ Pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100).

18 ~~(B) The fee shall be at least one hundred dollars (\$100)~~
19 ~~and no more than five hundred dollars (\$500).~~

20
21 SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 23-42-509(e), concerning covered
22 securities transactions, is amended to read as follows:

23 (e) ~~In addition to a filing required by subsection (c) or subsection~~
24 ~~(d) of this section, the commissioner may by rule or order require~~ Except as
25 provided under subsection (c) or subsection (d) of this section, with respect
26 to a covered security under section 18(b)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933,
27 15 U.S.C. § 77r(b)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2017, or section 18(b)(4)
28 of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77r(b)(4), as it existed on
29 January 1, 2017, the commissioner may by rule or order require the issuer to:

30 (1) ~~The concurrent filing of any document filed with the~~
31 ~~Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933~~
32 ~~concerning a covered security under section 18(b)(3) or section 18(b)(4) of~~
33 ~~the Securities Act of 1933 as it existed on January 1, 2013~~ Concurrently file
34 with the commissioner any document or information required to be filed with
35 the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; and

36 (2) A Pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) ~~for the filing.~~