1		AN	ACT relating to consumer loan companies.
2	Be i	t enac	ted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:
3		→ S	ection 1. KRS 286.4-410 is amended to read as follows:
4	(1)	As u	ised in this subtitle, unless the context requires otherwise:
5		(a)	"Applicant" means a person filing an application under this
6			subtitle; ["Commissioner" means the commissioner of financial institutions;
7			and]
8		(b)	"Consumer loan company" means a person licensed under this subtitle to
9			engage in the business of making loans to a consumer for personal, family,
10			or household use in the amount or value of fifteen thousand dollars
11			(\$15,000) or less;
12		<u>(c)</u>	"Control" means the power to direct the management or policies of a
13			licensee or applicant, whether through ownership of securities, by contract,
14			or otherwise;
15		<u>(d)</u>	"Executive officer" means a natural person holding the title or
16			responsibility of president, vice president, chief executive officer, chief
17			financial officer, chief operational officer, or chief compliance officer;
18		<u>(e)</u>	"Licensee" means a person licensed under this subtitle;[and]
19		<u>(f)</u>	"Managing principal" means a natural person who meets the requirements
20			of Section 4 of this Act and actively participates in and is primarily
21			responsible for the operations of a licensee;
22		<u>(g)</u>	"Material fact" means a fact that a reasonable person knows, or should
23			know, that could reasonably be expected to influence any decision or action
24			taken by the commissioner under this subtitle;
25		<u>(h)</u>	"Nationwide consumer reporting agency" means a consumer reporting
26			agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide
27			basis as defined by Section 603(p) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15

 $Page \ 1 \ of \ 30$ HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

1		<u>U.S.C. sec. 1681a(p); and</u>
2		(i) "Person in control of a licensee or applicant" means, with respect to an
3		applicant or licensee, any of the following:
4		1. A director, general partner, or executive officer;
5		2. In the case of a limited liability company, a managing member or
6		manager;
7		3. Any person who directly or indirectly has the right to vote twenty-five
8		percent (25%) or more of a class of voting securities;
9		4. Any person who has the power to sell or direct the sale of twenty-five
10		percent (25%) or more of a class of voting securities;
11		5. In the case of a partnership or limited liability company, any person
12		that has the right to receive twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the
13		capital upon dissolution; or
14		6. Any person that exercises control
15		[(c) "Person" means an individual, partnership, association, trust, corporation and
16		any other legal entity].
17	(2)	This subtitle shall not apply to any person doing business under and as permitted by
18		any law of this state or of the United States relating to banks, savings banks, trust
19		companies, <u>savings</u> [building] and loan associations, <u>agricultural</u> cooperative[
20		marketing] associations, credit unions, industrial loan[and investment] companies,
21		or licensed pawnbrokers. This subtitle does not apply to the purchase or acquisition,
22		directly or indirectly, of notes, chattel mortgages, installment or conditional sales
23		contracts, embodying liens or evidencing title retention arising from the bona fide
24		sale of goods or services by a seller of <u>the</u> [such] goods or services.
25		→ Section 2. KRS 286.4-430 is amended to read as follows:
26	(1)	Each application for a license under this subtitle shall be made in writing, under
27		oath or affirmation, in \underline{a} {such} form{as} the commissioner prescribes.

Page 2 of 30
HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX
Engrossed

1	(2)	<u>Eac</u>	<u>h</u> [The] application shall contain <u>the following information</u> :
2		(a)	In the case of an applicant that is a natural person, [individual, his] the name,
3			<u>electronic mail address</u> , and [the]physical address of the[his] residence and
4			place of business of both the applicant and, if applicable, the managing
5			principal;
6		(b)	In the case of an applicant that is a partnership, limited liability company, or
7			association: [, the name]
8			1. Names, electronic mail addresses, and physical addresses [address] of
9			every member and managing principal; [thereof] and [the]
10			2. The physical address[of the place] where the business is to be
11			conducted;
12		(c)	In the case of <u>an applicant that is</u> a corporation: [, the]
13			1. The names, electronic mail addresses, and physical addresses of the
14			principal officers, [and] directors, and managing principal; [thereof]
15			and [the]
16			2. The physical address of the place where the business is to be conducted;
17			and
18		(d)	Such additional information as the commissioner prescribes.
19		→ S	ection 3. KRS 286.4-440 is amended to read as follows:
20	[(1)] Eac	ch applicant, at the time of making application, shall pay the following to the
21		<u>com</u>	missioner:
22	<u>(1)</u>	Five	hundred dollars (\$500)[two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the commissioner]
23		as a	fee for investigating the application to conduct business as a consumer loan
24		<u>com</u>	pany[for the initial location] in Kentucky; [, or a fee of one hundred fifty dollars
25		(\$15	(0) for additional locations,] and
26	<u>(2)</u>	The	additional sum of <u>five hundred dollars (\$500)</u> [four hundred dollars (\$400)] as
27		an a	nnual license fee for each location for the period terminating on the last day of

Page 3 of 30
HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX
Engrossed

1		the current calendar year. [If the application is filed after June 30 in any year, the
2		payment shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) as a license fee in addition to the fee
3		for investigation.
4	(2)	If any person regulated by the department desires to purchase an existing licensed
5		location or locations, the person shall submit an application to the commissioner
6		containing the information as the commissioner may prescribe. The fee for this
7		application shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) per location not to exceed one
8		thousand dollars (\$1,000).]
9		→ Section 4. KRS 286.4-450 is amended to read as follows:
10	(1)	For any new application for a license, submitted on or after January 1, 2020, to
11		qualify for a license, an applicant shall satisfy and maintain, for the duration of
12		licensure under this subtitle, the following bonding requirements, which shall
13		cover all licensed locations:
14		(a) The applicant shall deposit with the commissioner, in a form directed by the
15		commissioner, one (1) of the following instruments that satisfy the
16		requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection:
17		1. An irrevocable letter of credit;
18		2. A corporate surety bond;
19		3. Evidence that the applicant has established an account payable to the
20		commissioner in a federally insured financial institution in this state
21		and has deposited United States currency in an amount that satisfies
22		the requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection, with a signed
23		and notarized acknowledgement from the financial institution; or
24		4. A savings certificate of a federally insured financial institution in this
25		state that is not available for withdrawal except by direct order of the
26		commissioner, with a signed and notarized acknowledgement from the
27		financial institution. Interest earned on the certificate shall accrue to

1	the applicant;
2	(b) The instruments identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall:
3	1. Be made payable to the commissioner;
4	2. Be in the following amounts:
5	a. One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), if the applicant is
6	privately held; or
7	b. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), if the applicant
8	is publicly traded;
9	3. Provide for claim on the instrument by the commissioner who has a
10	cause of action under this subtitle. The total liability of the surety,
11	cumulative or otherwise, shall not exceed the amount specified in the
12	instrument; and
13	4. Be available for the recovery of expenses, fines, and fees levied or
14	imposed by the commissioner under this subtitle, and for losses or
15	damages that are determined by the commissioner to have been
16	incurred by any customer as a result of the applicant's or licensee's
17	failure to comply with the requirements of this subtitle; and
18	(c) No claim shall be maintained to enforce any liability on an instrument
19	under this subsection unless the claim is brought within three (3) years
20	after the act upon which it is based.
21	(2) (a) For any application submitted on or after January 1, 2020, including
22	renewal applications, an applicant or licensee shall demonstrate that its
23	financial condition is sufficient to effectively conduct the business of a
24	licensee in one (1) or more licensed Kentucky locations by having and
25	maintaining, for the duration of licensure under this subtitle:
26	1. If the applicant is privately held:
27	a. A total net worth of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000),

1			when receivables are one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or less; or
2			b. A total net worth of at least one hundred thousand dollars
3			(\$100,000), when receivables are more than one million dollars
4			(\$1,000,000); or
5			2. If the applicant is publicly traded, a total net worth in excess of two
6			hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).
7		<u>(b)</u>	For the purposes of this subsection, receivables shall be determined upon
8			the initial application, or for renewal applications, based on the most recent
9			annual report filed under KRS 286.4-590.
10	<u>(3)</u>	(a)	Each applicant shall have, at the time of making application and for the
11			duration of licensure under this subtitle, at least one (1) managing
12			principal.
13		<u>(b)</u>	Prior to a change in managing principal, each licensee shall file a written
14			request for the change with the department. The written request shall
15			include sufficient proof that the new managing principal has experience to
16			satisfy the requirements of this subsection, and the commissioner may deny
17			the requested change.
18		<u>(c)</u>	Each person named as a managing principal in an application or written
19			request under this subsection shall provide the commissioner with sufficient
20			proof that the managing principal has at least two (2) years of lending
21			experience working in a financial institution. The commissioner shall
22			determine from the application or written request whether an applicant has
23			sufficient experience to satisfy this requirement and may withhold approval
24			based on this determination.
25	<u>(4)</u>	(a)	At the time of application, the commissioner shall require each managing
26			principal and person in control of an applicant or licensee to submit to a
27			<u>criminal background check.</u>

1		(b) The cost of each records background check shall be borne by the applicant
2		or licensee.
3	<u>(5)</u>	The commissioner may deem an application incomplete if the applicant fails to
4		pay any fee, or submit any documentation or information, required under this
5		subtitle within sixty (60) days from the date the application was filed. After sixty
6		(60) days, if the application is incomplete, it shall be considered abandoned.
7	<u>(6)</u>	(a) Once a completed application is filed, and after an investigation, the
8		commissioner shall[, after investigation,] issue to the applicant a license to
9		make loans in accordance with this subtitle, if the commissioner[:
10		(a) Approves the form of the application;
11		(b)] finds that the financial responsibility, financial condition, experience,
12		character, and general fitness of the applicant <u>reasonably demonstrate that</u> [,
13		and of the members thereof if the applicant is a partnership or association, and
14		of the officers and directors thereof if the applicant is a corporation, command
15		the confidence of the community and to warrant the belief that the business
16		of] the applicant, its managing principal, and each person in control of the
17		applicant will operate[be operated] honestly, fairly, and efficiently in
18		accordance with the purposes of this subtitle [; and
19		(c) Finds that the applicant has complied with KRS 286.4-440].
20		$\underline{(b)}$ If the commissioner \underline{finds} that the applicant does not meet the
21		requirements under paragraph (a) of this subsection [does not so find], he or
22		she shall not issue a license and shall [notify the applicant of the denial and]
23		return any license fee the sum paid by the applicant as a license fee, but
24		shall retain the five hundred dollars (\$500) [retaining the two hundred fifty
25		dollars (\$250)] investigation fee to cover the cost of investigating the
26		application.
27		(c) When determining whether an applicant has satisfied the qualifications

1		requirea unaer this subsection, the commissioner shall consider the
2		grounds set forth in Section 8 of this Act.
3		(\underline{d}) The commissioner shall approve or deny every application for license
4		within sixty (60) days from the <u>receipt of a completed application, [filing</u>
5		thereof with the fees] unless the time is extended by a written agreement
6		between the applicant and the commissioner.
7		(e) If the commissioner denies a license, the applicant may, within twenty (20)
8		days from the date of denial, file a written petition requesting a hearing to
9		appeal with the office of the commissioner. Upon the timely filing of a
10		petition to appeal,[and upon appeal] an administrative hearing shall be
11		conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. If the applicant does not
12		file a petition within the required time frame, he or she shall be deemed to
13		have waived the right to appeal.
14		(\underline{f}) The official record of the hearing shall be filed in the office of the
15		commissioner as \underline{a} public \underline{record} [records], open to public inspection.
16	<u>(7)</u>	Any applicant, or person in control of an applicant, that has a license denied by
17		the commissioner shall not be eligible to apply for a license under this subtitle, or
18		serve as a person in control of an applicant or licensee, until the expiration of
19		one (1) year from the date a final order denying the license is entered by the
20		commissioner.
21		→ Section 5. KRS 286.4-460 is amended to read as follows:
22	(1)	Every license shall state the <u>physical</u> address of the office at which the business is
23		to be conducted, the name of the licensee, any assumed names used by the licensee
24		at that location, and the initial date of licensure [if the licensee is a partnership or
25		association, and the names of the members thereof].
26	(2)	The license[shall be kept displayed in the office of the licensee and] shall not be
27		transferable or assignable without the prior written approval of the commissioner

1		pursuant to Section 16 of this Act. Not more than one (1) place of business shall be
2		maintained under the same license but the commissioner may issue more than one
3		(1) license to the same licensee upon compliance with all the provisions of this
4		subtitle for each license, [;] except that [provided, however,] nothing herein shall be
5		deemed to require a license for any place of business devoted to accounting,
6		recordkeeping, or administrative purposes.
7	(3)	Whenever a licensee desires to change <u>the physical</u> [his or her] place of business to
8		another location, [within the same county] the licensee shall give written notice to
9		the commissioner at least fifteen (15) days prior to the location change [, who, if he
10		or she finds that the interests of the community will be served thereby, shall indorse
11		on the license a transfer to the new place of business, with the date of transfer,
12		which indorsement shall be authority for the operation of the business at the new
13		location. No change in the place of business of a licensee to a location outside of the
14		original county shall be permitted under the same license].
15	<u>(4)</u>	No licensee shall transact business for which this subtitle requires a license
16		under a name that is not designated on the license, unless the licensee has given
17		written notice to the commissioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the name
18		<u>change.</u>
19		→ Section 6. KRS 286.4-470 is amended to read as follows:
20	(1)	No licensee shall conduct the business authorized by this subtitle in any office,
21		room, or place of business in which any other business, except purchase of retail
22		and installment sales contracts, tax preparation, and motor club memberships, is
23		solicited or engaged in, or in association or conjunction therewith, except upon a
24		written authorization from the commissioner. The commissioner shall have sixty
25		(60) days to either approve or deny the written authorization request.
26	(2)	Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to limit the loans of any licensee to

HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

27

residents of the community in which the licensed place of business is situated, nor

1		to prohibit the making and collecting of loans by mail.
2	(3)	Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to limit the ability of any licensee to
3		make a loan or loans in the principal amount greater than fifteen thousand dollars
4		(\$15,000) at the licensed location at the same rates as provided in KRS 360.010.
5		→ Section 7. KRS 286.4-480 is amended to read as follows:
6	<u>(1)</u>	Each license shall remain in full force and effect until it is surrendered by the
7		licensee, [or] suspended, [or] revoked, or expired as provided in this subtitle. Each
8		licensee shall, on or before each December 31[20], pay to the commissioner the
9		annual license fee for the next succeeding calendar year.
10	<u>(2)</u>	Failure of a licensee to pay the annual license fee required by this section shall
11		result in the expiration of the licensee's license on January 1 of the following
12		<u>year.</u>
13	<u>(3)</u>	The commissioner may reinstate an expired license if, within thirty-one (31) days
14		of expiration, the licensee:
15		(a) Satisfies all requirements set forth in this subtitle; and
16		(b) Pays a one hundred dollar (\$100) late fee.
17	<i>(4)</i>	Any reinstatement under subsection (3) of this section shall be retroactive to
18		January 1 of the calendar year in which it expired.
19		→SECTION 8. KRS 286.4-490 IS REPEALED AND REENACTED TO READ
20	AS l	FOLLOWS:
21	<u>(1)</u>	For the purposes of this section, "adverse action" means the suspension of,
22		revocation of, conditioning or restricting of, or refusal to issue or renew a license
23		or acceptance of the surrender of a license in lieu of a revocation or suspension.
24	<u>(2)</u>	The commissioner may take adverse action against a licensee, applicant, or
25		person in control of a licensee or applicant, or issue a cease-and-desist order to
26		one of those persons, if the commissioner finds, after a thorough investigation,

 $Page \ 10 \ of \ 30$ HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

27

that the person:

1	<u>(a)</u>	Has failed to open an office within one hundred twenty (120) days from the
2		date a license is granted unless good cause is shown;
3	<u>(b)</u>	Has committed fraud or made a misrepresentation of material fact;
4	<u>(c)</u>	Does not meet, has failed to comply with, or has violated any provisions of
5		this subtitle, or any administrative regulation or order of the commissioner
6		issued under the subtitle;
7	<u>(d)</u>	Has made a false statement of material fact in the application for a license
8		or failed to give a truthful reply to a question in the application;
9	<u>(e)</u>	Has demonstrated incompetence or untrustworthiness to act as a licensee;
10	<u>(f)</u>	Is unfit, through lack of financial responsibility or experience, to conduct
11		the business of a licensee;
12	<u>(g)</u>	Does not conduct business in accordance with the law or conducts business
13		by a method that includes activities that are illegal where performed;
14	<u>(h)</u>	Is insolvent;
15	<u>(i)</u>	Is the subject of an active administrative cease-and-desist order or similar
16		order, or a permanent or temporary injunction of any court of competent
17		jurisdiction entered under any other federal or state law applicable to the
18		financial services industry;
19	<u>(j)</u>	Has made or caused to be made to the commissioner a false representation
20		of material fact or has suppressed or withheld from the commissioner
21		information that the applicant or licensee possesses and which, if submitted,
22		would have rendered the applicant or licensee ineligible to be licensed
23		under this subtitle;
24	<u>(k)</u>	Has refused to permit a lawful examination or investigation by the
25		commissioner, or has refused or failed, within a reasonable time, to furnish
26		to the commissioner any information or records, or make any report, that
27		may be required under this subtitle;

1	<u>(l)</u>	Has been convicted of a felony;
2	<u>(m)</u>	Has been convicted of any misdemeanor of which an essential element is
3		fraud, breach of trust, or dishonesty;
4	<u>(n)</u>	Has had any license, registration, or claim of exemption related to the
5		financial services industry denied, revoked, suspended, conditioned,
6		restricted, or probated under the laws of this state, or has surrendered,
7		withdrawn, or terminated any license, registration, or claim of exemption
8		issued or registration granted by this state under threat of administrative
9		action;
10	<u>(0)</u>	Has knowingly employed or contracted with a person who has failed to
11		obtain any necessary license or registration related to the financial services
12		industry or has had a license, registration, or claim of exemption related to
13		the financial services industry denied, revoked, suspended, conditioned,
14		restricted, or probated in this state or another jurisdiction;
15	<u>(p)</u>	Has failed to pay any fee required under this subtitle;
16	<u>(q)</u>	Has failed to comply with an administrative or court order imposing child
17		support obligations;
18	<u>(r)</u>	Has failed to pay state income taxes or comply with any administrative or
19		court order directing the payment of state income tax;
20	<u>(s)</u>	Has filed for an adjudication of bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement,
21		or other relief under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. secs.
22		101 to 110, within the last ten (10) years;
23	<u>(t)</u>	Has suspended payment of its obligations or has made an assignment for
24		the benefit of its creditors;
25	<u>(u)</u>	Has violated any of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the
26		United States government, including 31 U.S.C. secs. 5311 to 5332; or
27	(v)	No longer meets the requirements of this subtitle to hold a license.

Page 12 of 30 HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

1	<u>(3)</u>	If the reason for adverse action taken by the commissioner at any one location is
2		generally applicable to all locations operated by a licensee, the commissioner may
3		apply the adverse action to all licenses issued to a licensee.
4	<u>(4)</u>	Any person, or person in control of a licensee, who has had a license revoked by
5		the commissioner shall not be eligible to apply for a license under this subtitle or
6		to serve as a person in control of a licensee until after expiration of two (2) years
7		from the date a final order of revocation is entered by the commissioner. A
8		person whose license has been revoked twice shall be deemed permanently
9		revoked and shall not be eligible for a license, or to serve as a person in control of
10		a licensee, under this subtitle.
11	<u>(5)</u>	A person, or person in control of a licensee, against whose license adverse action
12		has been taken under this section shall not:
13		(a) Participate in any business for which a license is required under this
14		subtitle; or
15		(b) Engage in any business activity on the premises where a licensee is
16		conducting its business without prior written approval of the commissioner.
17	<u>(6)</u>	(a) Adverse action taken against a license, or the expiration of a license, shall
18		not abrogate or modify:
19		1. The civil or criminal liability of a licensee for acts committed prior to
20		the surrender or expiration; or
21		2. The obligation of any preexisting contract between a licensee and a
22		customer.
23		(b) The surrender or expiration of a license shall not affect a proceeding to
24		suspend or revoke a license.
25	<u>(7)</u>	(a) If the commissioner has reason to believe from evidence satisfactory to the
26		commissioner that a person has violated, or is about to violate, a provision
27		in this subtitle, the commissioner may file a complaint in the Franklin

 $Page \ 13 \ of \ 30$ HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

1			Circuit Court, or any court of competent jurisdiction, for temporary or
2			permanent relief against any person.
3		<u>(b)</u>	The court shall have jurisdiction over the proceeding and shall have the
4			power to enter an order or judgment awarding preliminary or final
5			injunctive relief and any other relief that the court deems proper.
6		<u>(c)</u>	Any person who violates a temporary restraining order or injunction issued
7			by the court, in addition to being held in contempt of court, may be assessed
8			a civil penalty under Section 21 of this Act by the court.
9		→ S	ection 9. KRS 286.4-500 is amended to read as follows:
10	<u>(1)</u>	(a)	Notice of entry of any order denying a license shall be in writing and served
11			personally or sent by certified mail to the last known address of the
12			applicant.
13		<u>(b)</u>	A person whose application has been denied may, within twenty (20) days of
14			service of the notice, submit a written petition to the commissioner
15			requesting a hearing. The hearing shall be held in accordance with KRS
16			Chapter 13B.
17		<u>(c)</u>	If no written petition is received, the commissioner may enter a final order
18			denying the license.
19	<u>(2)</u>	(a)	The commissioner may file an administrative complaint against any person
20			or licensee that the commissioner believes has or may have violated this
21			subtitle and the violation of which is subject to the penalties set forth in
22			Section 8 or 21 of this Act.
23		<u>(b)</u>	1. The commissioner shall serve an administrative complaint against a
24			person or licensee personally or by certified mail, return receipt
25			requested, postage prepaid, to the last known address of each person
26			or licensee named in the complaint.
27			2. The person or licensee named in the complaint shall be entitled to a

1		hearing on the complaint, held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
2		A written request for a hearing shall be submitted to the department,
3		along with a written answer to the complaint, within twenty (20) days
4		of being served the complaint.
5		3. If a written answer and request for hearing are not filed within twenty
6		(20) days of being served the complaint, the person or licensee shall be
7		deemed to have waived the hearing and the commissioner may enter a
8		final order granting the relief requested in the complaint.
9	<u>(3)</u>	Whenever the commissioner denies any application for a license or assesses any of
10		the penalties set forth in Section 8 or 21 of this Act [under the provisions of this
11		subtitle or revokes any license issued pursuant to this subtitle], the commissioner
12		shall[forthwith] file in his or her office a written order to that effect, stating his or
13		her findings with respect to the order[thereto] and the reasons for the action.[The
14		commissioner shall also forthwith serve upon the applicant for licensee a
15		copy of the order, and the applicant or licensee may appeal to the Circuit Court of
16		Franklin County, within thirty (30) days after the service of a copy of the order.]
17	<u>(4)</u>	Any final order shall be served in the same manner as an administrative
18		complaint under subsection (2) of this section.
19	<u>(5)</u>	Service by certified mail under this subtitle shall be deemed complete as provided
20		<u>in KRS 13B.050(2).</u>
21		→ Section 10. KRS 286.4-533 is amended to read as follows:
22	Noty	vithstanding the provisions of KRS 286.4-530(10) or of any other law, in any
23	exte	nsion of credit in accordance with this subtitle [Subtitle 4 of KRS Chapter 286], the
24	licen	see may charge and collect the following:
25	(1)	A fee, or premium for insurance, in lieu of perfecting a security interest to the extent
26		that the fee or premium does not exceed the fee payable to public officials for
27		perfecting the security interest;

Page 15 of 30
HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX
Engrossed

1	(2)	A bad check charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25), or the amount passed on from
2		other financial institutions, whichever is greater, for any check, draft, negotiable
3		order of withdrawal, or like instrument returned or dishonored for any reason by a
4		depository institution, which charge licensee may charge and collect, through
5		regular billing procedures, or otherwise from the borrower;

6 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee, in connection with the collection of a loan, actually incurred by the licensee and paid to an attorney who is not an employee of the licensee;

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- (4) A <u>loan processing fee of five percent (5%) of the original</u> [charge for credit investigations of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for each fifty dollars (\$50) or fraction thereof of the] principal amount of the loan. This charge shall be <u>limited to a maximum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150)</u> [permitted only on the first two thousand dollars (\$2,000) of the principal amount of the loan]. <u>Any charge collected up to and including fifty dollars (\$50) shall be nonrefundable. In the event of prepayment, any loan processing fee above fifty dollars (\$50) shall be subject to refund in the same manner as other charges pursuant to KRS 286.4-530(6). A loan processing fee may only be charged once on a loan or refinance within any ninety day (90) period [No charge shall be collected unless a loan has been made as a result of the investigation];</u>
- 20 (5) An alternative to the default charge described in KRS 286.4-530(4), not to exceed five percent (5%) of each scheduled installment, or fifteen dollars (\$15), whichever is greater. Only one (1) charge may be collected for each scheduled installment; and Costs or other expenses authorized for a secured party in accordance with KRS 355.9-207 and 355.9-607.
- 25 → Section 11. KRS 286.4-580 is amended to read as follows:
- 26 (1) No licensee shall take any confession of judgment or any power of attorney running to *the licensee*[himself] or to any third person to confess judgment or to appear for

1		the borrower in a judicial proceeding; nor take any note or promise to pay that does
2		not disclose the date and amount of the loan obligation, a schedule or description of
3		the payments to be made thereon, and the rate or aggregate amount of the agreed
4		charges; nor take any instrument that is incomplete at the time in which blanks are
5		left to be filled in after] the loan is made.
6	(2)	No licensee shall enter into any contract of loan under this subtitle <u>unless:</u>
7		(a) [under which] The borrower agrees to make any scheduled repayment of
8		principal within:
9		1. [more than]Sixty (60) months and fifteen (15) days from the date of
10		making \underline{the} [such] contract if the principal amount of the loan exclusive
11		of interest and charges is three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or less:[,] or
12		2. One hundred and twenty (120) months from the date of making the
13		contract if the principal amount of the loan exclusive of interest and
14		charges exceeds three thousand dollars $(\$3,000)_{\underbrace{:}[,]}$ and
15		(b) The [every such] contract provides [shall provide] for repayment of the amount
16		lent in substantially equal installments at approximately equal periodic
17		intervals of time, [;] except[provided, however,] that when appropriate for the
18		purpose of facilitating payment in accordance with the seasonable nature of
19		obligor's main source of income, payments may be deferred or omitted, if all
20		other payments are increased in \underline{a} {such} manner that \underline{the} {such} other payments
21		are substantially equal in amount and sufficient in the aggregate to retire the
22		loan in the period of months as [hereinabove] provided in this subsection.
23	(3)	No licensee shall take any mortgage or other lien instrument upon real estate as
24		security for any loan under this subtitle in which the principal is three thousand
25		dollars (\$3,000) or less, unless <u>the</u> [such] lien is subject to a prior mortgage.
26		→ Section 12. KRS 286.4-600 is amended to read as follows:

Page 17 of 30
HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX
Engrossed

(1) (a) To enable the commissioner to determine whether the licensee is complying

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1		with the provisions of this subtitle, and with the administrative regulations
2		promulgated under it, each licensee shall keep and use in his or her business
3		books, accounts, records, or card systems in accordance with sound
4		accounting principles and practices.
5	<u>(b)</u>	Unless applicable state or federal law requires a longer retention period, the
6		licensee shall, after making the final entry in them, preserve any books,
7		accounts, records, or card systems[and shall preserve for at least two (2)
8		years after making the final entry therein, such books, accounts, records, or
9		card systems]:
10		1. For at least two (2) years; or
11		2. [in accordance with sound accounting principles and practices to enable
12		the commissioner to determine whether the licensee is complying with
13		the provisions of this subtitle, and with the regulations [made pursuant
14		thereto], and]For at least three (3) years on loans secured by residential
15		property.
16	(2) (a)	Any licensee that intends to cease operation of any office or offices licensed
17		under this subtitle shall:
18		1. Give the commissioner at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice of
19		the cessation of operations, along with a plan for ceasing operations
20		that is sufficient to safeguard the interest of the public; and
21		2. Designate a custodian of records prior to the cessation of operations,
22		who shall:
23		a. Agree in writing to serve in that capacity and to comply with the
24		requirements of this section; and
25		b. Notify the commissioner of:
26		i. The designation of a custodian, including but not limited to
27		the custodian's name, physical address, electronic mail

1		address, and telephone number; and
2		ii. The physical location where the records required to be kept
3		under this subtitle will be preserved.
4		(b) This subsection shall not apply to changes of location authorized under
5		Section 5 of this Act.
6	<u>(3)</u>	(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, all records
7		referenced in this section shall be made accessible to the commissioner or
8		the commissioner's designated representative upon demand.
9		(b) Records held by a designated custodian under subsection (2) of this section
10		shall be made accessible upon five (5) business days' written notice.
11	<u>(4)</u>	If good cause is demonstrated, the commissioner may approve a written request
12		for the destruction of records required to be preserved under this subtitle prior to
13		the minimum retention period required under this section.
14	<u>(5)</u>	It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly withhold, abstract, alter,
15		remove, mutilate, destroy, or secrete any books, records, or other information
16		required to be preserved under this subtitle for the purpose of obstructing a
17		subpoena issued, or investigation or examination conducted, by the
18		<u>commissioner.</u>
19		→ Section 13. KRS 286.4-610 is amended to read as follows:
20	(1)	The provisions of this subtitle shall be enforced by the commissioner, who may [,
21		after notice to licensees and a hearing,] promulgate administrative regulations in
22		accordance with KRS Chapter 13A[, referenced to the section or sections which set
23		forth the legislative standards they interpret or apply,] for the proper conduct of the
24		business licensed under this subtitle. All regulations of general application shall
25		state the date of promulgation and the effective date. A copy of every[-such]
26		regulation shall be sent to all licensees before the effective date thereof and a copy
27		shall be kept in an indexed permanent book in the office of the commissioner as a

Page 19 of 30
HB028520.100 - 449 - XXXX Engrossed

1		publ	ic record.
2	(2)	<u>(a)</u>	The commissioner shall <u>examine</u> [make an annual examination of] the affairs,
3			business, office, and records of every licensee at least once during every
4			twenty-four (24) month period, but not more frequently than once during
5			every twelve (12) month period[, and such further examinations or
6			investigations as the commissioner deems necessary for the purpose of
7			discovering violations of this subtitle or of securing information necessary for
8			its proper enforcement]. Every licensee shall pay a <u>reasonable</u> fee sufficient to
9			cover the cost of each <u>routine</u> examination based upon fair compensation for
10			time and actual expenses.
11		<u>(b)</u>	The commissioner may also conduct investigations of licensees or persons
12			within or outside of the state as the commissioner deems necessary to
13			discover violations of this subtitle or to secure information necessary for its
14			proper enforcement.
15		<u>(c)</u> [(3)] For the purpose of making[such] examinations or investigations <u>under</u>
16			<u>this section</u> , the commissioner and his or her representatives:
17			1. May[require the attendance of and]:
18			a. Compel the attendance of any person or obtain any documents
19			by subpoenas;
20			b. Administer oaths and affirmations; and
21			\underline{c} . Examine under oath $\underline{or \ affirmation}$ all persons whose testimony
22			he or she may require, relative to the loans or business of the [any
23			such] licensee[,]; and
24			2. Shall have free access to the accounts, papers, records, files, safes,
25			vaults, offices, and places of business used in connection with any
26			business conducted under any license issued in accordance with this
27			subtitle.

 $Page\ 20\ of\ 30$ $HB028520.100\ -\ 449\ -\ XXXX$ Engrossed

I	(3) (a) The commissioner may investigate any person who is or appears to be
2	engaging in the business regulated by this subtitle without first securing a
3	<u>license.</u>
4	(b) For the purpose of investigations of unlicensed persons, the commissioner
5	or his or her representative may:
6	1. Compel the attendance of any person or obtain any documents by
7	<u>subpoenas;</u>
8	2. Administer oaths and affirmations; and
9	3. Examine under oath or affirmation all persons whose testimony he or
10	she may require, relative to the loans or business of the person.
11	(4) If any person fails to comply with a subpoena issued by the commissioner under
12	this section, the commissioner may petition the Franklin Circuit Court or any
13	court of competent jurisdiction for enforcement of the subpoena.
14	(5) In order to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, the commissioner may:
15	(a) Retain examiners, auditors, investigators, attorneys, accountants, or other
16	professionals and specialists to conduct or assist in the conduct of any
17	examination, investigation, or enforcement action; and
18	(b) Use, hire, contract, or employ public or private analytical systems, methods,
19	or software.
20	(6) The authority of this section shall remain in effect whether a person acts or
21	claims to act under any licensing law of this subtitle or acts or claims to act
22	without such authority.
23	→SECTION 14. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
24	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
25	(1) As used in this section, "registry" means the State Regulatory Registry, LLC, or
26	its successor organization.
27	(2) When an application, report, or approval request is required under this subtitle to

1	be filed with the commissioner, the commissioner may require, by administrative
2	regulation or order, that the filing, including any applicable fees and any
3	supporting documentation, be submitted to:
4	(a) The State Regulatory Registry, LLC, or its successor organization;
5	(b) The registry's parent, affiliate, or operating subsidiary; or
6	(c) Other agencies or authorities as part of a nationwide licensing system,
7	which may act as an agent for receiving, requesting, and distributing
8	information to and from any source directed by the commissioner.
9	(3) The commissioner may report violations of this subtitle, enforcement actions, and
10	other relevant information to the registry, notwithstanding any provision of this
11	subtitle to the contrary.
12	(4) The commissioner may use the registry as an agent for requesting information
13	from and distributing information to the United States Department of Justice or
14	other governmental agencies.
15	→SECTION 15. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
16	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
17	Every person licensed under this subtitle shall maintain an agent in this
18	Commonwealth for service of process. The name, physical address, telephone number,
19	and electronic mail address of the agent shall be filed with the application for
20	licensure. The commissioner shall be notified in writing by the licensee at least five (5)
21	days prior to any change in the status of an agent.
22	→SECTION 16. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
23	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
24	(1) As used in this section, "change of control" means any of the following:
25	(a) A transfer of ownership interest that results in giving a person the power to
26	direct the management or policies of a licensee;
27	(b) For publicly traded licensees, a transfer of at least ten percent (10%) of the

 $Page\ 22\ of\ 30$ $HB028520.100\ -\ 449\ -\ XXXX$ Engrossed

1	outstanding voting stock;
2	(c) For privately held licensees, a transfer of at least twenty-five percent (25%)
3	of the outstanding voting stock; or
4	(d) The acquisition of an existing licensed location or locations by a licensee.
5	(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a change of control
6	of a licensee or an existing licensed location shall be approved in writing b
7	the commissioner prior to the change.
8	(b) For the following changes of control, a licensee shall file an application
9	with the commissioner within fifteen (15) days after learning of the chang
10	of control:
11	1. A change of control that results when a person acquires control of
12	licensee by devise or descent;
13	2. A change of control that results when a person acquires authority t
14	act:
15	a. As a personal representative, custodian, guardian, conservator
16	or trustee;
17	b. As an officer appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
18	c. By operation of law;
19	3. A change of control that results from the public offering of securities
20	<u>and</u>
21	4. A change of control that has been exempted by regulation or order of
22	the commissioner, if the commissioner makes a finding that it is in the
23	public interest to do so.
24	(3) The licensee shall make an application to the commissioner for approval of
25	change of control on a form prescribed by the commissioner.
26	(4) (a) For changes of control resulting in an existing licensee obtaining control of
27	an existing licensed location or locations, the application fee shall be on

1	hundred dollars (\$100) per location, except that the total fee for a single
2	application shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) regardless of the
3	number of locations acquired.
4	(b) For all other changes of control, the application fee shall be the fees set
5	forth in Section 3 of this Act.
6	(5) The commissioner shall approve an application for a change of control if the
7	commissioner determines that the requirements of this subtitle for obtaining a
8	license will be satisfied after the change of control.
9	(6) (a) Before filing an application for approval of a change of control, a licensee
10	may submit a written request for a determination from the commissioner as
11	to whether a proposed transaction constitutes a change of control.
12	(b) If the commissioner determines that a proposed transaction would not
13	constitute a change of control, then the commissioner shall respond in
14	writing to that effect, and the licensee shall not be subject to the
15	requirements of this section.
16	(c) In the event the commissioner does not make a determination as to whether
17	a proposed transaction would constitute a change of control within sixty
18	(60) days from the date of the request, then no application for a change of
19	control shall be required.
20	→SECTION 17. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
21	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
22	In addition to the requirements contained in this subtitle, every person or licensee shall
23	comply with all applicable federal and state laws relating to financial services.
24	However, the regulatory penalties utilized to address violations of this section shall be
25	limited to those authorized in this subtitle.
26	→SECTION 18. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
27	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

 $Page\ 24\ of\ 30$ $HB028520.100\ -\ 449\ -\ XXXX$ Engrossed

1	<u>(1)</u>	The following shall be considered confidential by law and privileged, and shall
2		not be subject to disclosure under the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to
3		<u>61.884:</u>
4		(a) Reports of examination, and correspondence that relates to a report of
5		examination, of a licensee;
6		(b) Investigations, and records that relate to an investigation, conducted under
7		this subtitle;
8		(c) Annual reports filed under KRS 286.4-590; and
9		(d) Any confidential and privileged documents, materials, reports, or
10		information received by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (5)(c) of
11		this section.
12	<u>(2)</u>	Confidential and privileged documents shall not be subject to subpoena, and
13		shall not be subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any civil action,
14		unless the commissioner determines or, after notice to the commissioner and a
15		hearing, a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the commissioner
16		would not be prejudiced.
17	<u>(3)</u>	(a) Subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, all other documents, materials,
18		reports, or other information that are provided to or filed with the commissioner
19		under this subtitle shall be open to public inspection.
20		(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, the commissioner may, as
21		authorized by the provisions of KRS Chapter 61, classify as confidential or
22		withhold from public inspection for a period of time, as he or she considers
23		necessary, any information which in his or her judgment, the public welfare
24		or the welfare of any licensee or its customers requires to be withheld.
25	<u>(4)</u>	Neither the commissioner nor any person who receives documents, materials,
26		reports, or other information while acting under the authority of the
2.7		commissioner shall be required to testify in any civil action concerning any

 $Page\ 25\ of\ 30$ $HB028520.100\ -\ 449\ -\ XXXX$ Engrossed

1	<u>confidenti</u>	al documents, materials, reports, or information.
2	(5) In order	to assist in the performance of the commissioner's duties, the
3	<u>commissio</u>	ner may:
4	(a) Use,	disclose, or make public the confidential and privileged documents or
5	<u>infor</u>	mation referenced in subsection (1) of this section in furtherance of
6	any r	egulatory or legal action brought as part of the commissioner's official
7	<u>dutie</u>	<u>s;</u>
8	(b) Shar	e the confidential and privileged documents referenced in subsection
9	<u>(1) o</u>	f this section with other state and federal regulatory agencies, or with
10	<u>local</u>	, state, federal, and international law enforcement authorities, if the
11	<u>recip</u>	ient agrees to maintain the confidential and privileged status of the
12	<u>docu</u>	ments in accordance with any sharing or use agreements referenced in
13	paras	graph (d) of this subsection;
14	(c) Rece	ive documents, materials, reports, or other information, including
15	<u>other</u>	wise confidential and privileged documents, materials, reports, or
16	<u>infor</u>	mation, from other state, federal, and international regulatory
17	<u>agen</u>	cies, the related associations, affiliates, or subsidiaries, and from local,
18	state,	federal, and international law enforcement authorities, except that the
19	comn	nissioner shall maintain as confidential and privileged any documents,
20	<u>mate</u>	rials, reports, or information received with notice or the understanding
21	that	they are confidential and privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction
22	that i	is the source of the documents, materials, reports, or information; and
23	(d) Ente	r into agreements governing the sharing and use of confidential
24	<u>docu</u>	ments and information when the sharing or use is serving a legitimate
25	gover	rnmental need or is necessary in the performance of a legitimate
26	gover	rnmental function, including the furtherance of any regulatory or legal
27	actio	n brought as part of the recipient's official duties.

1	(6) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in documents
2	materials, reports, or information shall occur as a result of the disclosures
3	authorized under this section.
4	→SECTION 19. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
5	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
6	(1) The commissioner may enter an emergency order suspending, conditioning
7	limiting, or restricting a license issued under this subtitle without notice or
8	hearing if, after a thorough investigation and written findings, it appears upon
9	grounds satisfactory to the commissioner that the licensee has engaged or is
10	engaging in unsafe, unsound, or illegal practices that pose an imminent threat to
11	the public interest.
12	(2) The commissioner may enter an emergency cease-and-desist order against an
13	unlicensed person if, after a thorough investigation, it appears upon grounds
14	satisfactory to the commissioner that the unlicensed person has engaged or is
15	engaging in unsafe or unsound practices, or actions contrary to this subtitle, that
16	pose an imminent threat to the public interest.
17	(3) One (1) or more of the following circumstances shall be considered sufficient
18	grounds for an emergency order under this section if it appears on grounds
19	satisfactory to the commissioner that:
20	(a) The licensee has willfully failed to comply with more than one (1) of the
21	requirements of this subtitle;
22	(b) The licensee is in such financial condition that it cannot continue in
23	business with safety to its customers;
24	(c) The licensee, or a person in control of the licensee, has been found guilty of
25	any act involving fraud, deception, theft, or breach of trust, or is the subject
26	of an active administrative cease-and-desist order or similar order, or of a
27	permanent or temporary injunction currently in effect entered by any cour

1		or agency of competent jurisdiction;
2		(d) The licensee has made a misrepresentation of material fact to, or concealed
3		an essential or material fact from, a person in the course of doing business,
4		or has engaged in a course of business that has worked or tended to work a
5		fraud or deceit upon a person or would so operate;
6		(e) The licensee has refused to permit a lawful examination or investigation, or
7		has refused or failed, within a reasonable time, to furnish any information
8		or make any report that may have been requested or required by the
9		commissioner in connection with a lawful investigation or examination; or
10		(f) The licensee has had any license, registration, or claim of exemption related
11		to the financial services industry denied, suspended, or revoked under the
12		laws of this state, or has surrendered or terminated any license, registration,
13		or claim of exemption issued by this state under threat of administrative
14		action.
15	<u>(4)</u>	An emergency order issued under this section, compliant with KRS 13B.125,
16		becomes effective when served by the commissioner. The emergency order shall
17		be delivered by personal service or certified mail to the last known address of
18		every affected party.
19	<u>(5)</u>	A person aggrieved by an emergency order issued by the commissioner under this
20		section may request an emergency hearing. The request for hearing shall be filed
21		with the commissioner within twenty (20) days of service of the emergency order.
22	<u>(6)</u>	Upon receipt of a timely written request for an emergency hearing, an emergency
23		hearing shall be conducted as set forth in KRS 13B.125.
24	<u>(7)</u>	An emergency order issued under this section shall remain in effect until it is
25		stayed, withdrawn, or superseded by an order of the commissioner or until it is
26		terminated by a court order.
27		→SECTION 20. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286

1	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
2	Unless a remedy is otherwise specifically provided in this subtitle, any licensee or
3	person aggrieved by a final decision of the commissioner issued pursuant to this
4	subtitle may, within twenty (20) days of service of notice of the decision, request an
5	administrative hearing which shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter
6	<u>13B.</u>
7	→SECTION 21. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 4 OF KRS CHAPTER 286
8	IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
9	(1) (a) For any repetitive violation of this subtitle or an administrative regulation
10	promulgated under this subtitle, or any willful violation of an order of the
11	commissioner entered under this subtitle, the commissioner may levy a civil
12	penalty against any licensee.
13	(b) The civil penalty shall not be less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or
14	more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation, plus
15	the state's costs and expenses for the examination and prosecution of the
16	matter, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.
17	(2) (a) For an occurrence of consumer harm by any licensee resulting from any
18	violation of this subtitle, administrative regulation promulgated under this
19	subtitle, or order of the commissioner entered under this subtitle, the
20	commissioner may:
21	1. Order any remedy authorized in subsection (4) of this section; and
22	2. Levy a civil penalty against the licensee if the total amount of
23	consumer harm exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
24	(b) The civil penalty shall be:
25	1. The lesser of:
26	a. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) per consumer harmed; or
27	b. Ten percent (10%) of the total cumulative amount of ordered

1	rescission, restitution, refund, disgorgement, or the recovery of
2	expenses; and
3	2. The state's costs and expenses for the examination and prosecution of
4	the matter, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.
5	(3) (a) The commissioner shall levy a civil penalty against any unlicensed person
6	who violates any provision of this subtitle, administrative regulation
7	promulgated under this subtitle, or order of the commissioner entered under
8	this subtitle.
9	(b) The civil penalty shall not be less than two thousand five hundred dollars
10	(\$2,500) or more than seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per
11	violation, plus the state's costs and expenses for the examination,
12	investigation, and prosecution of the matter, including reasonable
13	attorney's fees and court costs.
14	(4) The commissioner may order rescission, restitution, refund, disgorgement,
15	recovery of expenses, and direct such other affirmative action as the
16	commissioner deems necessary against any licensee or person who violates any
17	order issued by the commissioner or any provision of, or administrative
18	regulation promulgated under, this subtitle. The commissioner shall have
19	jurisdiction to institute an action in Franklin Circuit Court or any court of
20	competent jurisdiction for the enforcement of these orders.
21	(5) The commissioner may notify the Kentucky Department of Revenue, which may
22	institute an action in the name of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in Franklin
23	Circuit Court, or any court of competent jurisdiction, for the recovery of any civil
24	penalty, fine, cost, or fee assessed or levied under this subtitle.
25	→ Section 22. The following KRS section is repealed:
26	286.4-630 Review of commissioner's rulings.