

HOUSE BILL No. 2771

AN ACT concerning employment; amending K.S.A. 44-1112 and 44-1118 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-710 and 44-717 and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. The secretary of labor shall enforce K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-1131 and 44-1132, and amendments thereto, and may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-1132, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-710 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-710. (a) *Payment.* Contributions shall accrue and become payable by each contributing employer for each calendar year in which the contributing employer is subject to the employment security law with respect to wages paid for employment. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by each contributing employer to the secretary for the employment security fund in accordance with such rules and regulations as the secretary may adopt and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the wages of individuals in such employer's employ. In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of \$.01 shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$.01. Should contributions for any calendar quarter be less than ~~\$1~~ \$5, no payment shall be required.

(b) *Rates and base of contributions.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each contributing employer shall pay contributions on wages paid by the contributing employer during each calendar year with respect to employment as provided in K.S.A. 44-710a and amendments thereto.

(2) (A) If the congress of the United States either amends or repeals the Wagner-Peyser act, the federal unemployment tax act, the federal social security act, or subtitle C of chapter 23 of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, or any act or acts supplemental to or in lieu thereof, or any part or parts of any such law, or if any such law, or any part or parts thereof, are held invalid with the effect that appropriations of funds by congress and grants thereof to the state of Kansas for the payment of costs of administration of the employment security law are no longer available for such purposes, or (B) if employers in Kansas subject to the payment of tax under the federal unemployment tax act are granted full credit against such tax for contributions or taxes paid to the secretary of labor, then, and in either such case, beginning with the year in which the unavailability of federal appropriations and grants for such purpose occurs or in which such change in liability for payment of such federal tax occurs and for each year thereafter, the rate of contributions of each contributing employer shall be equal to the total of .5% and the rate of contributions as determined for such contributing employer under K.S.A. 44-710a and amendments thereto. The amount of contributions which each contributing employer becomes liable to pay under this paragraph (2) over the amount of contributions which such contributing employer would be otherwise liable to pay shall be credited to the employment security administration fund to be disbursed and paid out under the same conditions and for the same purposes as other moneys are authorized to be paid from the employment security administration fund, except that, if the secretary determines that as of the first day of January of any year there is an excess in the employment security administration fund over the amount required to be disbursed during such year, an amount equal to such excess as determined by the secretary shall be transferred to the employment security fund.

(c) *Charging of benefit payments.* (1) The secretary shall maintain a separate account for each contributing employer, and shall credit the contributing employer's account with all the contributions paid on the contributing employer's own behalf. Nothing in the employment security law shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in such employer's service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by such employer into the employment security fund either on such employer's own behalf or on behalf of such individuals. Benefits paid shall be charged against the accounts of each base period employer in the proportion that the base period wages paid to an eligible individual by each such employer bears to the total wages in the base period. Benefits shall be charged to contributing employers' accounts and rated governmental employers' ac-

counts upon the basis of benefits paid during each twelve-month period ending on the computation date.

(2) (A) Benefits paid in benefit years established by valid new claims shall not be charged to the account of a contributing employer or rated governmental employer who is a base period employer if the examiner finds that claimant was separated from the claimant's most recent employment with such employer under any of the following conditions: (i) Discharged for misconduct or gross misconduct connected with the individual's work; or (ii) leaving work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the claimant's work or the employer.

(B) Where base period wage credits of a contributing employer or rated governmental employer represent part-time employment and the claimant continues in that part-time employment with that employer during the period for which benefits are paid, then that employer's account shall not be charged with any part of the benefits paid if the employer provides the secretary with information as required by rules and regulations. For the purposes of this subsection (c)(2)(B), "part-time employment" means any employment when an individual works concurrently for two or more employers and also works less than full-time for at least one of those employers because the individual's services are not required for the customary, scheduled full-time hours prevailing at the work place or the individual does not customarily work the regularly scheduled full-time hours due to personal choice or circumstances.

(C) No contributing employer or rated governmental employer's account shall be charged with any extended benefits paid in accordance with the employment security law, except for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1978, all contributing governmental employers and governmental rated employers shall be charged an amount equal to all extended benefits paid.

(D) No contributing employer, rated governmental employer or reimbursing employer's account shall be charged for any additional benefits paid during the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

(E) No contributing employer or rated governmental employer's account will be charged for benefits paid a claimant while pursuing an approved training course as defined in subsection (s) of K.S.A. 44-703 and amendments thereto.

(F) No contributing employer or rated governmental employer's account shall be charged with respect to the benefits paid to any individual whose base period wages include wages for services not covered by the employment security law prior to January 1, 1978, to the extent that the employment security fund is reimbursed for such benefits pursuant to section 121 of public law 94-566 (90 Stat. 2673).

(G) With respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1977, wages for insured work shall include wages paid for previously uncovered services. For the purposes of this subsection (c)(2)(G), the term "previously uncovered services" means services which were not covered employment, at any time during the one-year period ending December 31, 1975, except to the extent that assistance under title II of the federal emergency jobs and unemployment assistance act of 1974 was paid on the basis of such services, and which:

(i) Are agricultural labor as defined in subsection (w) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, or domestic service as defined in subsection (aa) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, or

(ii) are services performed by an employee of this state or a political subdivision thereof, as provided in subsection (i)(3)(E) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, or

(iii) are services performed by an employee of a nonprofit educational institution which is not an institution of higher education.

(H) No contributing employer or rated governmental employer's account shall be charged with respect to their pro rata share of benefit charges if such charges are of \$100 or less.

(3) The examiner shall notify any base period employer whose account will be charged with benefits paid following the filing of a valid new claim and a determination by the examiner based on all information relating to the claim contained in the records of the division of employment security. Such notice shall become final and benefits charged to the base period employer's account in accordance with the claim unless within 10 calendar days from the date the notice was sent, the base period

employer requests in writing that the examiner reconsider the determination and furnishes any required information in accordance with the secretary's rules and regulations. In a similar manner, a notice of an additional claim followed by the first payment of benefits with respect to the benefit year, filed by an individual during a benefit year after a period in such year during which such individual was employed, shall be given to any base period employer of the individual who has requested such a notice within 10 calendar days from the date the notice of the valid new claim was sent to such base period employer. For purposes of this subsection (c)(3), if the required information is not submitted or postmarked within a response time limit of 10 days after the base period employer notice was sent, the base period employer shall be deemed to have waived its standing as a party to the proceedings arising from the claim and shall be barred from protesting any subsequent decisions about the claim by the secretary, a referee, the board of review or any court, except that the base period employer's response time limit may be waived or extended by the examiner or upon appeal, if timely response was impossible due to excusable neglect. The examiner shall notify the employer of the reconsidered determination which shall be subject to appeal, or further reconsideration, in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 44-709 and amendments thereto.

(4) *Time, computation and extension.* In computing the period of time for a base period employer response or appeals under this section from the examiner's or the special examiner's determination or from the referee's decision, the day of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

(d) *Pooled fund.* All contributions and payments in lieu of contributions and benefit cost payments to the employment security fund shall be pooled and available to pay benefits to any individual entitled thereto under the employment security law, regardless of the source of such contributions or payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments.

(e) *Election to become reimbursing employer; payment in lieu of contributions.* (1) Any governmental entity, Indian tribes or tribal units, (subdivisions, subsidiaries or business enterprises wholly owned by such Indian tribes), for which services are performed as described in subsection (i)(3)(E) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, or any nonprofit organization or group of nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986 which is exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of such code, that becomes subject to the employment security law may elect to become a reimbursing employer under this subsection (e)(1) and agree to pay the secretary for the employment security fund an amount equal to the amount of regular benefits and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the extended benefits paid that are attributable to service in the employ of such reimbursing employer, except that each reimbursing governmental employer, Indian tribes or tribal units shall pay an amount equal to the amount of regular benefits and extended benefits paid for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1978, for governmental employers and December 21, 2000, for Indian tribes or tribal units to individuals for weeks of unemployment which begin during the effective period of such election.

(A) Any employer identified in this subsection (e)(1) may elect to become a reimbursing employer for a period encompassing not less than four complete calendar years if such employer files with the secretary a written notice of such election within the 30-day period immediately following January 1 of any calendar year or within the 30-day period immediately following the date on which a determination of subjectivity to the employment security law is issued, whichever occurs later.

(B) Any employer which makes an election to become a reimbursing employer in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subsection (e)(1) will continue to be liable for payments in lieu of contributions until such employer files with the secretary a written notice terminating its election not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the calendar year for which such termination shall first be effective.

(C) Any employer identified in this subsection (e)(1) which has remained a contributing employer and has been paying contributions under

the employment security law for a period subsequent to January 1, 1972, may change to a reimbursing employer by filing with the secretary not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of any calendar year a written notice of election to become a reimbursing employer. Such election shall not be terminable by the employer for four complete calendar years.

(D) The secretary may for good cause extend the period within which a notice of election, or a notice of termination, must be filed and may permit an election to be retroactive but not any earlier than with respect to benefits paid after January 1 of the year such election is received.

(E) The secretary, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the secretary may adopt, shall notify each employer identified in subsection (e)(1) of any determination which the secretary may make of its status as an employer and of the effective date of any election which it makes to become a reimbursing employer and of any termination of such election. Such determinations shall be subject to reconsideration, appeal and review in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 44-710b and amendments thereto.

(2) *Reimbursement reports and payments.* Payments in lieu of contributions shall be made in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (A) of this subsection (e)(2) by all reimbursing employers except the state of Kansas. Each reimbursing employer shall report total wages paid during each calendar quarter by filing quarterly wage reports with the secretary which shall be filed by the last day of the month following the close of each calendar quarter. Wage reports are deemed filed as of the date they are placed in the United States mail.

(A) At the end of each calendar quarter, or at the end of any other period as determined by the secretary, the secretary shall bill each reimbursing employer, except the state of Kansas, (i) an amount to be paid which is equal to the full amount of regular benefits plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount of extended benefits paid during such quarter or other prescribed period that is attributable to service in the employ of such reimbursing employer; and (ii) for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1978, each reimbursing governmental employer and December 21, 2000, for Indian tribes or tribal units shall be certified an amount to be paid which is equal to the full amount of regular benefits and extended benefits paid during such quarter or other prescribed period that is attributable to service in the employ of such reimbursing governmental employer.

(B) Payment of any bill rendered under paragraph (A) of this subsection (e)(2) shall be made not later than 30 days after such bill was mailed to the last known address of the reimbursing employer, or otherwise was delivered to such reimbursing employer, unless there has been an application for review and redetermination in accordance with paragraph (D) of this subsection (e)(2).

(C) Payments made by any reimbursing employer under the provisions of this subsection (e)(2) shall not be deducted or deductible, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in the employ of such employer.

(D) The amount due specified in any bill from the secretary shall be conclusive on the reimbursing employer, unless, not later than 15 days after the bill was mailed to the last known address of such employer, or was otherwise delivered to such employer, the reimbursing employer files an application for redetermination in accordance with K.S.A. 44-710b and amendments thereto.

(E) Past due payments of amounts certified by the secretary under this section shall be subject to the same interest, penalties and actions required by K.S.A. 44-717 and amendments thereto. (1) If any nonprofit organization or group of nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986 or governmental reimbursing employer is delinquent in making payments of amounts certified by the secretary under this section, the secretary may terminate such employer's election to make payments in lieu of contributions as of the beginning of the next calendar year and such termination shall be effective for such next calendar year and the calendar year thereafter so that the termination is effective for two complete calendar years. (2) Failure of the Indian tribe or tribal unit to make required payments, including assessment of interest and penalty within 90 days of receipt of the bill will cause the Indian tribe to lose the option to make payments in lieu of contributions as described pursuant to paragraph (e)(1) for the following

tax year unless payment in full is received before contribution rates for the next tax year are calculated. (3) Any Indian tribe that loses the option to make payments in lieu of contributions due to late payment or non-payment, as described in paragraph (2), shall have such option reinstated, if after a period of one year, all contributions have been made on time and no contributions, payments in lieu of contributions for benefits paid, penalties or interest remain outstanding.

(F) Failure of the Indian tribe or any tribal unit thereof to make required payments, including assessments of interest and penalties, after all collection activities deemed necessary by the secretary have been exhausted, will cause services performed by such tribe to not be treated as employment for purposes of subsection (i)(3)(E) of K.S.A. 44-703 and amendments thereto. If an Indian tribe fails to make payments required under this section, including assessments of interest and penalties, within 90 days of a final notice of delinquency, the secretary shall immediately notify the United States internal revenue service and the United States department of labor. The secretary may determine that any Indian tribe that loses coverage pursuant to this paragraph may have services performed on behalf of such tribe again deemed “employment” if all contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, penalties and interest have been paid.

(G) In the discretion of the secretary, any employer who elects to become liable for payments in lieu of contributions and any nonprofit organization or group of nonprofit organizations described in section 501 (c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986 or governmental reimbursing employer or Indian tribe or tribal unit who is delinquent in filing reports or in making payments of amounts certified by the secretary under this section shall be required within 60 days after the effective date of such election, in the case of an eligible employer so electing, or after the date of notification to the delinquent employer under this subsection (e)(2)(G), in the case of a delinquent employer, to execute and file with the secretary a surety bond, except that the employer may elect, in lieu of a surety bond, to deposit with the secretary money or securities as approved by the secretary or to purchase and deliver to an escrow agent a certificate of deposit to guarantee payment. The amount of the bond, deposit or escrow agreement required by this subsection (e)(2)(G) shall not exceed 5.4% of the organization’s taxable wages paid for employment by the eligible employer during the four calendar quarters immediately preceding the effective date of the election or the date of notification, in the case of a delinquent employer. If the employer did not pay wages in each of such four calendar quarters, the amount of the bond or deposit shall be as determined by the secretary. Upon the failure of an employer to comply with this subsection (e)(2)(G) within the time limits imposed or to maintain the required bond or deposit, the secretary may terminate the election of such eligible employer or delinquent employer, as the case may be, to make payments in lieu of contributions, and such termination shall be effective for the current and next calendar year.

(H) The state of Kansas shall make reimbursement payments quarterly at a fiscal year rate which shall be based upon: (i) The available balance in the state’s reimbursing account as of December 31 of each calendar year; (ii) the historical unemployment experience of all covered state agencies during prior years; (iii) the estimate of total covered wages to be paid during the ensuing calendar year; (iv) the applicable fiscal year rate of the claims processing and auditing fee under K.S.A. 75-3798 and amendments thereto; and (v) actuarial and other information furnished to the secretary by the secretary of administration. In accordance with K.S.A. 75-3798, and amendments thereto, the claims processing and auditing fees charged to state agencies shall be deducted from the amounts collected for the reimbursement payments under this paragraph (H) prior to making the quarterly reimbursement payments for the state of Kansas. The fiscal year rate shall be expressed as a percentage of covered total wages and shall be the same for all covered state agencies. The fiscal year rate for each fiscal year will be certified in writing by the secretary to the secretary of administration on July 15 of each year and such certified rate shall become effective on the July 1 immediately following the date of certification. A detailed listing of benefit charges applicable to the state’s reimbursing account shall be furnished quarterly by the secretary to the secretary of administration and the total amount of charges deducted

from previous reimbursing payments made by the state. On January 1 of each year, if it is determined that benefit charges exceed the amount of prior reimbursing payments, an upward adjustment shall be made therefor in the fiscal year rate which will be certified on the ensuing July 15. If total payments exceed benefit charges, all or part of the excess may be refunded, at the discretion of the secretary, from the fund or retained in the fund as part of the payments which may be required for the next fiscal year.

(3) *Allocation of benefit costs.* The reimbursing account of each reimbursing employer shall be charged the full amount of regular benefits and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount of extended benefits paid except that each reimbursing governmental employer's account shall be charged the full amount of regular benefits and extended benefits paid for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1978, to individuals whose entire base period wage credits are from such employer. When benefits received by an individual are based upon base period wage credits from more than one employer then the reimbursing employer's or reimbursing governmental employer's account shall be charged in the same ratio as base period wage credits from such employer bear to the individual's total base period wage credits. Notwithstanding any other provision of the employment security law, no reimbursing employer's or reimbursing governmental employer's account shall be charged for payments of extended benefits which are wholly reimbursed to the state by the federal government.

(A) *Proportionate allocation (when fewer than all reimbursing base period employers are liable).* If benefits paid to an individual are based on wages paid by one or more reimbursing employers and on wages paid by one or more contributing employers or rated governmental employers, the amount of benefits payable by each reimbursing employer shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid to the individual as the total base period wages paid to the individual by such employer bears to the total base period wages paid to the individual by all of such individual's base period employers.

(B) *Proportionate allocation (when all base period employers are reimbursing employers).* If benefits paid to an individual are based on wages paid by two or more reimbursing employers, the amount of benefits payable by each such employer shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid to the individual as the total base period wages paid to the individual by such employer bear to the total base period wages paid to the individual by all of such individual's base period employers.

(4) *Group accounts.* Two or more reimbursing employers may file a joint application to the secretary for the establishment of a group account for the purpose of sharing the cost of benefits paid that are attributable to service in the employment of such reimbursing employers. Each such application shall identify and authorize a group representative to act as the group's agent for the purposes of this subsection (e)(4). Upon approval of the application, the secretary shall establish a group account for such employers effective as of the beginning of the calendar quarter in which the secretary receives the application and shall notify the group's representative of the effective date of the account. Such account shall remain in effect for not less than four years and thereafter such account shall remain in effect until terminated at the discretion of the secretary or upon application by the group. Upon establishment of the account, each member of the group shall be liable for payments in lieu of contributions with respect to each calendar quarter in the amount that bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid in such quarter that are attributable to service performed in the employ of all members of the group as the total wages paid for service in employment by such member in such quarter bear to the total wages paid during such quarter for service performed in the employ of all members of the group. The secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations as the secretary deems necessary with respect to applications for establishment, maintenance and termination of group accounts that are authorized by this subsection (e)(4), for addition of new members to, and withdrawal of active members from such accounts, and for the determination of the amounts that are payable under this subsection (e)(4) by members of the group and the time and manner of such payments.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-717 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-717. (a) (1) *Penalties on past-due reports, interest on past-due contributions, payments in lieu of contributions and benefit cost payments.* Any employer or any officer or agent of an employer, who fails to file any wage report or contribution return by the last day of the month following the close of each calendar quarter to which they are related shall pay a penalty as provided by this subsection (a) for each month or fraction of a month until the report or return is received by the secretary of labor. The penalty for each month or fraction of a month shall be an amount equal to .05% of the total wages paid by the employer during the quarter, except that no penalty shall be less than \$25 nor more than \$200 for each such report or return not timely filed. Contributions and benefit cost payments unpaid by the last day of the month following the last calendar quarter to which they are related and payments in lieu of contributions unpaid 30 days after the mailing of the statement of benefit charges, shall bear interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of a month until payment is received by the secretary of labor except that an employing unit, which is not theretofore subject to this law and which becomes an employer and does not refuse to make the reports, returns and contributions, payments in lieu of contributions and benefit cost payments required under this law, shall not be liable for such penalty or interest if the wage reports and contribution returns required are filed and the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments required are paid within 10 days following notification by the secretary of labor that a determination has been made fixing its status as an employer subject to this law. Upon written request and good cause shown, the secretary of labor may abate any penalty or interest or portion thereof provided for by this subsection (a). Interest amounting to less than ~~\$1~~ \$5 shall be waived by the secretary of labor and shall not be collected. Penalties and interest collected pursuant to this subsection shall be paid into the special employment security fund. For all purposes under this section, amounts assessed as surcharges under subsection (j) or under K.S.A. 44-710a, and amendments thereto, shall be considered to be contributions and shall be subject to penalties and interest imposed under this section and to collection in the manner provided by this section. For purposes of this subsection, a wage report, a contribution return, a contribution, a payment in lieu of contribution or a benefit cost payment is deemed to be filed or paid as of the date it is placed in the United States mail.

(2) Notices of payment and reporting delinquency to Indian tribes or their tribal units shall include information that failure to make full payment within the prescribed time frame:

- (i) will cause the Indian tribe to be liable for taxes under FUTA;
- (ii) will cause the Indian tribe to lose the option to make payments in lieu of contributions;
- (iii) could cause the Indian tribe to be excepted from the definition of “employer,” as provided in paragraph (h)(3) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, and services in the employ of the Indian tribe, as provided in paragraph (i)(3)(E) of K.S.A. 44-703, and amendments thereto, to be excepted from “employment.”

(b) *Collection.* (1) If, after due notice, any employer defaults in payment of any penalty, contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, or interest thereon the amount due may be collected by civil action in the name of the secretary of labor and the employer adjudged in default shall pay the cost of such action. Civil actions brought under this section to collect contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, penalties, or interest thereon from an employer shall be heard by the district court at the earliest possible date and shall be entitled to preference upon the calendar of the court over all other civil actions except petitions for judicial review under this act and cases arising under the workmen’s compensation act. All liability determinations of contributions due, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments due shall be made within a period of five years from the date such contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments were due except such determinations may be made for any time when an employer has filed fraudulent reports with intent to evade liability.

(2) Any employing unit which is not a resident of this state and which

exercises the privilege of having one or more individuals perform service for it within this state and any resident employing unit which exercises that privilege and thereafter removes from this state, shall be deemed thereby to appoint the secretary of state as its agent and attorney for the acceptance of process in any civil action under this subsection. In instituting such an action against any such employing unit the secretary of labor shall cause such process or notice to be filed with the secretary of state and such service shall be sufficient service upon such employing unit and shall be of the same force and validity as if served upon it personally within this state. The secretary of labor shall send notice immediately of the service of such process or notice, together with a copy thereof, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to such employing unit at its last-known address and such return receipt, the affidavit of compliance of the secretary of labor with the provisions of this section, and a copy of the notice of service, shall be appended to the original of the process filed in the court in which such civil action is pending.

(3) The district courts of this state shall entertain, in the manner provided in subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2), actions to collect contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments and other amounts owed including interest thereon for which liability has accrued under the employment security law of any other state or of the federal government.

(c) *Priorities under legal dissolutions or distributions.* In the event of any distribution of employer's assets pursuant to an order of any court under the laws of this state, including but not limited to any probate proceeding, interpleader, receivership, assignment for benefit of creditors, adjudicated insolvency, composition or similar proceedings, contributions or payments in lieu of contributions then or thereafter due shall be paid in full from the moneys which shall first come into the estate, prior to all other claims, except claims for wages of not more than \$250 to each claimant, earned within six months of the commencement of the proceedings. In the event of an employer's adjudication in bankruptcy, judicially confirmed extension proposal, or composition, under the federal bankruptcy act of 1898, as amended, contributions then or thereafter due shall be entitled to such priority as is provided in that act for taxes due any state of the United States.

(d) *Assessments.* If any employer fails to file a report or return required by the secretary of labor for the determination of contributions, or payments in lieu of contributions, or benefit cost payments, the secretary of labor may make such reports or returns or cause the same to be made, on the basis of such information as the secretary may be able to obtain and shall collect the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments as determined together with any interest due under this act. The secretary of labor shall immediately forward to the employer a copy of the assessment by registered or certified mail to the employer's address as it appears on the records of the agency, and such assessment shall be final unless the employer protests such assessment and files a corrected report or return for the period covered by the assessment within 15 days after the mailing of the copy of assessment. Failure to receive such notice shall not invalidate the assessment. Notice in writing shall be presumed to have been given when deposited as certified or registered matter in the United States mail, addressed to the person to be charged with notice at such person's address as it appears on the records of the agency.

(e) (1) *Lien.* If any employer or person who is liable to pay contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments neglects or refuses to pay the same after demand, the amount, including interest and penalty, shall be a lien in favor of the state of Kansas, secretary of labor, upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to such employer or person. Such lien shall not be valid as against any mortgagee, pledgee, purchaser or judgment creditor until notice thereof has been filed by the secretary of labor in the office of register of deeds in any county in the state of Kansas, in which such property is located, and when so filed shall be notice to all persons claiming an interest in the property of the employer or person against whom filed. The register of deeds shall enter such notices in the financing statement record and shall also record the same in full in miscellaneous record

and index the same against the name of the delinquent employer. The register of deeds shall accept, file, and record such notice without prepayment of any fee, but lawful fees shall be added to the amount of such lien and collected when satisfaction is presented for entry. Such lien shall be satisfied of record upon the presentation of a certificate of discharge by the state of Kansas, secretary of labor. Nothing contained in this subsection (e) shall be construed as an invalidation of any lien or notice filed in the name of the unemployment compensation division or the employment security division and such liens shall be and remain in full force and effect until satisfied as provided by this subsection (e).

(2) *Authority of secretary or authorized representative.* If any employer or person who is liable to pay any contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments, including interest and penalty, neglects or refuses to pay the same within 10 days after notice and demand therefor, the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may collect such contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments, including interest and penalty, and such further amount as is sufficient to cover the expenses of the levy, by levy upon all property and rights to property which belong to the employer or person or which have a lien created thereon by this subsection (e) for the payment of such contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments, including interest and penalty. As used in this subsection (e), "property" includes all real property and personal property, whether tangible or intangible, except such property which is exempt under K.S.A. 60-2301 et seq. and amendments thereto. Levy may be made upon the accrued salary or wages of any officer, employee or elected official of any state or local governmental entity which is subject to K.S.A. 60-723, and amendments thereto, by serving a notice of levy as provided in subsection (d) of K.S.A. 60-304 and amendments thereto. If the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative makes a finding that the collection of the amount of such contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments, including interest and penalty, is in jeopardy, notice and demand for immediate payment of such amount may be made by the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative and, upon failure or refusal to pay such amount, immediate collection of such amount by levy shall be lawful without regard to the 10-day period provided in this subsection (e).

(3) *Seizure and sale of property.* The authority to levy granted under this subsection (e) includes the power of seizure by any means. A levy shall extend only to property possessed and obligations existing at the time thereof. In any case in which the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may levy upon property or rights to property, the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may seize and sell such property or rights to property.

(4) *Successive seizures.* Whenever any property or right to property upon which levy has been made under this subsection (e) is not sufficient to satisfy the claim of the secretary for which levy is made, the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may proceed thereafter and as often as may be necessary, to levy in like manner upon any other property or rights to property which belongs to the employer or person against whom such claim exists or upon which a lien is created by this subsection (e) until the amount due from the employer or person, together with all expenses, is fully paid.

(f) *Warrant.* In addition or as an alternative to any other remedy provided by this section and provided that no appeal or other proceeding for review permitted by this law shall then be pending and the time for taking thereof shall have expired, the secretary of labor or an authorized representative of the secretary may issue a warrant certifying the amount of contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, interest or penalty, and the name of the employer liable for same after giving 15 days prior notice. Upon request, service of final notices shall be made by the sheriff within the sheriff's county, by the sheriff's deputy or some person specially appointed by the secretary for that purpose, or by the secretary's designee. A person specially appointed by the secretary or the secretary's designee to serve final notices may make service any place in the state. Final notices shall be served as follows:

(1) *Individual.* Service upon an individual, other than a minor or incapacitated person, shall be made by delivering a copy of the final notice

to the individual personally or by leaving a copy at such individual's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, by leaving a copy at the business establishment of the employer with an officer or employee of the establishment, or by delivering a copy to an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process, but if the agent is one designated by a statute to receive service, such further notice as the statute requires shall be given. If service as prescribed above cannot be made with due diligence, the secretary or the secretary's designee may order service to be made by leaving a copy of the final notice at the employer's dwelling house, usual place of abode or business establishment.

(2) *Corporations and partnerships.* Service upon a domestic or foreign corporation or upon a partnership or other unincorporated association, when by law it may be sued as such, shall be made by delivering a copy of the final notice to an officer, partner or resident managing or general agent thereof by leaving a copy at any business office of the employer with the person having charge thereof or by delivering a copy to any other agent authorized by appointment or required by law to receive service of process, if the agent is one authorized by law to receive service and, if the law so requires, by also mailing a copy to the employer.

(3) *Refusal to accept service.* In all cases when the person to be served, or an agent authorized by such person to accept service of petitions and summonses, shall refuse to receive copies of the final notice, the offer of the duly authorized process server to deliver copies thereof and such refusal shall be sufficient service of such notice.

(4) *Proof of service.* (A) Every officer to whom a final notice or other process shall be delivered for service within or without the state, shall make return thereof in writing stating the time, place and manner of service of such writ, and shall sign such officer's name to such return.

(B) If service of the notice is made by a person appointed by the secretary or the secretary's designee to make service, such person shall make an affidavit as to the time, place and manner of service thereof in a form prescribed by the secretary or the secretary's designee.

(5) *Time for return.* The officer or other person receiving a final notice shall make a return of service promptly and shall send such return to the secretary or the secretary's designee in any event within 10 days after the service is effected. If the final notice cannot be served it shall be returned to the secretary or the secretary's designee within 30 days after the date of issue with a statement of the reason for the failure to serve the same. The original return shall be attached to and filed with any warrant thereafter filed.

(6) *Service by mail.* (A) Upon direction of the secretary or the secretary's designee, service by mail may be effected by forwarding a copy of the notice to the employer by registered or certified mail to the employer's address as it appears on the records of the agency. A copy of the return receipt shall be attached to and filed with any warrant thereafter filed.

(B) The secretary of labor or an authorized representative of the secretary may file the warrant for record in the office of the clerk of the district court in the county in which the employer owing such contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, interest, or penalty has business property. The warrant shall certify the amount of contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, interest and penalty due, and the name of the employer liable for such amount. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the district court to file such warrant of record and enter the warrant in the records of the district court for judgment and decrees under the procedure prescribed for filing transcripts of judgment.

(C) The clerk shall enter, on the day the warrant is filed, the case on the appearance docket, together with the amount and the time of filing the warrant. From the time of filing such warrant, the amount of the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, interest, and penalty, certified therein, shall have the force and effect of a judgment of the district court until the same is satisfied by the secretary of labor or an authorized representative or attorney for the secretary. Execution shall be issuable at the request of the secretary of labor, an authorized representative or attorney for the secretary, as is provided in the case of other judgments.

(D) Postjudgment procedures shall be the same as for judgments according to the code of civil procedure.

(E) Warrants shall be satisfied of record by payment to the clerk of the district court of the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, penalty, interest to date, and court costs. Warrants may also be satisfied of record by payment to the clerk of the district court of all court costs accrued in the case and by filing a certificate by the secretary of labor, certifying that the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, benefit cost payments, interest and penalty have been paid.

(g) *Remedies cumulative.* The foregoing remedies shall be cumulative and no action taken shall be construed as an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy or action under this section to the exclusion of any other remedy or action for which provision is made.

(h) *Refunds.* If any individual, governmental entity or organization makes application for refund or adjustment of any amount paid as contributions, benefit cost payments or interest under this law and the secretary of labor determines that such amount or any portion thereof was erroneously collected, except for amounts less than ~~\$1~~ \$5, the secretary of labor shall allow such individual or organization to make an adjustment thereof, in connection with subsequent contribution payments, or if such adjustment cannot be made the secretary of labor shall refund the amount, except for amounts less than ~~\$1~~ \$5, from the employment security fund, except that all interest erroneously collected which has been paid into the special employment security fund shall be refunded out of the special employment security fund. No adjustment or refund shall be allowed with respect to a payment as contributions, benefit cost payments or interest unless an application therefor is made on or before whichever of the following dates is later: (1) One year from the date on which such payment was made; or (2) three years from the last day of the period with respect to which such payment was made. For like cause and within the same period adjustment or refund may be so made on the secretary's own initiative. The secretary of labor shall not be required to refund any contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments based upon wages paid which have been used as base-period wages in a determination of a claimant's benefit rights when justifiable and correct payments have been made to the claimant as the result of such determination. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1997, interest at the rate prescribed in K.S.A. 79-2968, and amendments thereto, shall be allowed on a contribution or benefit cost payment which the secretary has determined was erroneously collected pursuant to this section.

(i) (1) *Cash deposit or bond.* If any contributing employer is delinquent in making payments under the employment security law during any two quarters of the most recent four-quarter period, the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative shall have the discretionary power to require such contributing employer either to deposit cash or to file a bond with sufficient sureties to guarantee the payment of contributions, penalty and interest owed by such employer.

(2) The amount of such cash deposit or bond shall be not less than the largest total amount of contributions, penalty and interest reported by the employer in two of the four calendar quarters preceding any delinquency. Such cash deposit or bond shall be required until the employer has shown timely filing of reports and payment of contributions for four consecutive calendar quarters.

(3) Failure to file such cash deposit or bond shall subject the employer to a surcharge of 2.0% which shall be in addition to the rate of contributions assigned to the employer under K.S.A. 44-710a and amendments thereto. Contributions paid as a result of this surcharge shall not be credited to the employer's experience rating account. This surcharge shall be effective during the next full calendar year after its imposition and during each full calendar year thereafter until the employer has filed the required cash deposit or bond or has shown timely filing of reports and payment of contributions for four consecutive calendar quarters.

(j) Any officer, major stockholder or other person who has charge of the affairs of an employer, which is an employing unit described in section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1954 or which is any

other corporate organization or association, or any member or manager of a limited liability company, or any public official, who willfully fails to pay the amount of contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments required to be paid under the employment security law on the date on which such amount becomes delinquent, shall be personally liable for the total amount of the contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments and any penalties and interest due and unpaid by such employing unit. The secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may assess such person for the total amount of contributions, payments in lieu of contributions or benefit cost payments and any penalties, and interest computed as due and owing. With respect to such persons and such amounts assessed, the secretary shall have available all of the collection remedies authorized or provided by this section.

(k) *Electronic filing of wage report and contribution return and electronic payment of contributions, benefit cost payments or reimbursing payments. The following employers or third party administrators shall file all wage reports and contribution returns and make payment of contributions, benefit cost payments or reimbursing payments electronically as follows:*

(1) *Wage reports, contribution returns and payments due after June 30, 2008, for those employers with 250 or more employees or third party administrators with 250 or more client employees at the time such filing or payment is first due;*

(2) *wage reports, contribution returns and payments due after June 30, 2009, for those employers with 100 or more employees or third party administrators with 100 or more client employees at the time such filing or payment is first due; and*

(3) *wage reports, contribution returns and payments due after June 30, 2010, for those third party administrators with 50 or more client employees at the time such filing or payment is first due.*

The requirements of this subsection may be waived by the secretary for an employer if the employer demonstrates a hardship in complying with this subsection.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 44-1112 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1112. As used in this act:

(a) "Age" means an age of ~~18~~ 40 or more years.

(b) "Commission" means the Kansas human rights commission created pursuant to K.S.A. 44-1003 and amendments thereto.

(c) "Employee" does not include any individual employed by the individual's parents, spouse or child.

(d) "Employer" means any person in this state who employs four or more persons and any person acting directly or indirectly for such a person, and includes the state and all political subdivisions of the state.

(e) "Employment agency" includes any person or governmental agency undertaking with or without compensation to procure opportunities to work, or to procure, recruit, refer or place employees.

(f) "Firefighter" means an employee, the duties of whose position are primarily to perform work directly connected with the control and extinguishment of fires or the maintenance and use of firefighting apparatus and equipment, including an employee engaged in this activity who is transferred to a supervisory or administrative position.

(g) "Labor organization" includes any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection in relation to employment.

(h) "Law enforcement officer" means an employee, the duties of whose position are primarily the investigation, apprehension or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of Kansas or of offenses against any ordinance or resolution which imposes criminal sanctions and is adopted by a city, county or other political subdivision of Kansas, including an employee engaged in this activity who is transferred to a supervisory or administrative position. For the purposes of this subsection, "detention" includes the duties of employees assigned to guard individuals incarcerated in any penal institution.

(i) "Person" means individual, partnership, association, organization,

corporation, legal representative, trustee, trustee in bankruptcy or receiver.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 44-1118 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-1118. (a) The provisions of this act shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of its purposes.

(b) *Nothing in this act shall be construed to be inconsistent with the nondiscrimination provisions under another provision of state or federal law.*

(c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to mean that an employer shall be forced to hire unqualified or incompetent personnel, or discharge qualified or competent personnel.

~~(e)~~ (d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit compulsory retirement of any employee who has attained 65 years of age and who, for the two-year period immediately before retirement, is employed in a bona fide executive or a high policymaking position, if such employee is entitled to an immediate nonforfeitable annual retirement benefit from a pension, profit-sharing, savings or deferred compensation plan, or any combination of such plans, of the employer of such employee, which equals, in the aggregate, at least \$44,000.

~~(d)~~ (e) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit, before January 1, 1994, compulsory retirement of any employee who has attained 70 years of age and who is serving under a contract of unlimited tenure (or similar arrangement providing for unlimited tenure) at an institution of higher education.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 44-1112 and 44-1118 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 44-710 and 44-717 are hereby repealed.

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

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

HOUSE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

SENATE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.