

## HOUSE BILL No. 2141

By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

1-27

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1 AN ACT concerning bail enforcement agents; relating to licensure by the  
2 attorney general; sureties and bail agents; amending K.S.A. 2014 Supp.  
3 22-2809a and repealing the existing section.

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

6 New Section 1. As used in sections 1 through 9, and amendments  
7 thereto:

8 (a) "Surety" means a person or commercial surety, other than a  
9 defendant in a criminal proceeding, that guarantees the appearance of a  
10 defendant in a criminal proceeding, by executing an appearance bond.

11 (b) "Bail agent" means a person authorized by a surety to execute  
12 surety bail bonds on its behalf.

13 (c) "Bail enforcement agent" means a person not performing the  
14 duties of a law enforcement officer who tracks down, captures and  
15 surrenders to the custody of a court a fugitive who has violated a surety or  
16 bail bond agreement, commonly referred to as a bounty hunter.

17 New Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be  
18 unlawful for any person to engage in the business of a bail enforcement  
19 agent in this state unless such person is licensed as a bail enforcement  
20 agent under sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto.

21 (b) The following persons shall not be deemed to be engaging in the  
22 bail enforcement business:

23 (1) A surety, authorized as such in the state of Kansas, who is  
24 attempting to enforce a bail bond; or

25 (2) a bail agent attempting to enforce a bail bond.

26 New Sec. 3. (a) Every person desiring to be licensed in Kansas as a  
27 bail enforcement agent shall make application therefor to the attorney  
28 general. An application for a license shall be on a form prescribed by the  
29 attorney general and accompanied by the required application fee. An  
30 application shall be verified and shall include:

31 (1) The full name and business address of the applicant;

32 (2) two photographs of the applicant taken within 30 days before the  
33 date of application, of a type prescribed by the attorney general, and two  
34 classifiable sets of the applicant's fingerprints, one of which shall be  
35 submitted to the federal bureau of investigation for a fingerprint check for  
36 any criminal history of the applicant;

1 (3) a statement of the applicant's employment history; and

2 (4) a statement of the applicant's criminal history, if any.

3 (b) In accordance with the summary proceedings provisions of the  
4 Kansas administrative procedure act, the attorney general may deny a  
5 license if the applicant has:

6 (1) Committed any act which, if committed by a licensee, would be  
7 grounds for the suspension or revocation of a license under sections 1  
8 through 9, and amendments thereto;

9 (2) been convicted of a felony, unless such conviction has been  
10 expunged;

11 (3) while unlicensed, committed or aided and abetted the commission  
12 of any act for which a license is required by sections 1 through 9, and  
13 amendments thereto; or

14 (4) knowingly made any false statement in the application.

15 (c) The attorney general may charge a fee for initial application forms  
16 and materials in an amount fixed by the attorney general pursuant to  
17 section 8, and amendments thereto. Such fee shall be credited against the  
18 application fee of any person who subsequently submits an application.

19 (d) Every application for an initial or a renewal license shall be  
20 accompanied by a fee in an amount fixed by the attorney general pursuant  
21 to section 8, and amendments thereto.

22 New Sec. 4. (a) The license, when issued, shall be in such form as  
23 may be determined by the attorney general and shall include the:

24 (1) Name of the licensee; and

25 (2) number and date of the license.

26 (b) The license at all times shall be posted in a conspicuous place in  
27 the principal place of business of the licensee. Upon the issuance of a  
28 license, a pocket card of such size, design and content as determined by  
29 the attorney general shall be issued without charge to each licensee. Such  
30 card shall be evidence that the licensee is duly licensed pursuant to  
31 sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto. When any licensee  
32 terminates such licensee's activities as a bail enforcement agent, or such  
33 licensee's license has been suspended or revoked, the card shall be  
34 surrendered, within five days after such termination, suspension or  
35 revocation, to the attorney general for cancellation. Within 30 days after  
36 any change of address or of any change in its officers, directors, partners  
37 or associates, a licensee shall notify the attorney general thereof. The  
38 principal place of business may be at a residence or at a business address,  
39 but it shall be the place at which the licensee maintains a permanent office.

40 New Sec. 5. (a) Any license issued under sections 1 through 9, and  
41 amendments thereto, shall expire two years from the date of issuance and  
42 may be renewed every two years thereafter. Renewal of any such license  
43 shall be made in the manner prescribed for obtaining an original license,

1 including payment of the appropriate fee required by section 8, and  
2 amendments thereto, except that:

3 (1) The application for renewal shall provide the information required  
4 of original applicants if the information shown on the original application  
5 or any renewal thereof on file with the attorney general is no longer  
6 accurate;

7 (2) a new photograph shall be submitted with the application for  
8 renewal only if the photograph on file with the attorney general has been  
9 on file more than two years; and

10 (3) additional information may be required by rules and regulations  
11 adopted by the attorney general.

12 (b) A license issued under sections 1 through 9, and amendments  
13 thereto, shall not be assignable.

14 New Sec. 6. (a) The attorney general may censure, limit, condition,  
15 suspend or revoke a license issued under sections 1 through 9, and  
16 amendments thereto, if, after notice and opportunity for hearing in  
17 accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act,  
18 the attorney general determines that the licensee has:

19 (1) Made any false statement or given any false information in  
20 connection with an application for a license or a renewal or reinstatement  
21 thereof;

22 (2) violated any provisions of sections 1 through 9, and amendments  
23 thereto;

24 (3) been convicted of a felony;

25 (4) committed any act, while the license was expired, which would be  
26 cause for the suspension or revocation of a license, or grounds for the  
27 denial of an application for a license; or

28 (5) committed any act which is grounds for denial of an application  
29 for a license.

30 (b) The record of conviction, or a certified copy thereof, shall be  
31 conclusive evidence of such conviction as that term is used in this section  
32 or in section 3, and amendments thereto, and a plea or verdict of guilty or a  
33 conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a  
34 conviction within the meaning thereof.

35 New Sec. 7. (a) The licensing and regulation of bail enforcement  
36 agents shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction and control of the attorney  
37 general, as provided in sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto, and  
38 no city may adopt any ordinance which provides for the licensing or  
39 regulation of bail enforcement agents. Any such ordinance which is so  
40 adopted, or which has been adopted on or before July 1, 2015, is hereby  
41 declared null and void.

42 (b) The attorney general shall adopt such rules and regulations as may  
43 be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 1 through 9, and

1 amendments thereto.

2 New Sec. 8. (a) In each fiscal year, the attorney general shall  
3 determine the amount of funds which will be required during the next  
4 ensuing fiscal year to properly administer the laws which the attorney  
5 general is directed to enforce and administer relating to the licensure and  
6 regulation of bail enforcement agents. The attorney general, by the  
7 adoption of rules and regulations, shall fix fees in accordance with this  
8 section in such reasonable sums as may be necessary for such purposes.

9 (b) After fixing such fees, the attorney general may charge and collect  
10 the fees, in advance for the following purposes, subject to the following  
11 limitations:

12 (1) For initial application forms and materials, not to exceed \$15;

13 (2) for application for licensure, not to exceed \$200; and

14 (3) for renewal of license, not to exceed \$175.

15 (c) A duplicate license shall be issued upon the filing of a statement  
16 covering the loss of the license and the payment of a fee of \$5 for the  
17 issuance of a duplicate license. Each duplicate license shall have the word  
18 "duplicate" stamped across the face thereof and shall bear the same  
19 number as the original.

20 New Sec. 9. The attorney general shall remit all moneys received  
21 from fees or charges imposed pursuant to sections 1 through 9, and  
22 amendments thereto, to the state treasurer in accordance with the  
23 provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of  
24 each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in  
25 the state treasury to the credit of the bail enforcement agents fee fund,  
26 which is hereby created. Moneys in the bail enforcement agents fee fund  
27 shall be used solely for the purpose of administering and implementing  
28 sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto, and any other law relating  
29 to the licensure and regulation of bail enforcement agents. All expenditures  
30 from such fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon  
31 warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to  
32 vouchers approved by the attorney general or by a person or persons  
33 designated by the attorney general.

34 Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 22-2809a is hereby amended to read as  
35 follows: 22-2809a. (a) As used in this section:

36 (1) "Surety" means a person or commercial surety, other than a  
37 defendant in a criminal proceeding, that guarantees the appearance of a  
38 defendant in a criminal proceeding, by executing an appearance bond;

39 (2) ~~"agent of a surety" means a person not performing the duties of a~~  
40 ~~law enforcement officer who tracks down, captures and surrenders to the~~  
41 ~~custody of a court a fugitive who has violated a surety or bail bond~~  
42 ~~agreement~~ "bail agent" means a person authorized by a surety to execute  
43 surety bail bonds on behalf of such surety; and

1       (3) *"bail enforcement agent" means a person not performing the duties*  
2 *of a law enforcement officer who tracks down, captures and surrenders to*  
3 *the custody of a court a fugitive who has violated a surety or bail bond*  
4 *agreement, commonly referred to as a bounty hunter, but is not a surety or*  
5 *bail agent.*

6       (b) ~~Any surety or agent of a surety, commonly referred to as a bounty~~  
7 ~~hunter, bail agent or bail enforcement agent~~ who intends to apprehend any  
8 person in this state pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2809, and amendments thereto,  
9 or under similar authority from any other state, shall inform law  
10 enforcement authorities in the city or county in which such surety ~~or agent~~  
11 ~~of a surety, bail agent or bail enforcement agent~~ intends such  
12 apprehension, before attempting such apprehension. The surety ~~or agent of~~  
13 ~~a surety, bail agent or bail enforcement agent~~ shall present to the local law  
14 enforcement authorities a certified copy of the bond, a valid government-  
15 issued photo identification, written appointment of agency, if not the actual  
16 surety, and all other appropriate paperwork identifying the principal and  
17 the person to be apprehended. Local law enforcement may accompany the  
18 surety ~~or agent, bail agent or bail enforcement agent.~~

19       (c) No person who has been convicted, in this or any other  
20 jurisdiction, of a felony shall act as a surety ~~or as an agent of a surety, bail~~  
21 ~~agent or bail enforcement agent, unless such conviction has been~~  
22 ~~expunged.~~

23       (d) *A bail enforcement agent must be licensed under sections 1*  
24 *through 9, and amendments thereto, in order to apprehend a person*  
25 *pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2809, and amendments thereto.*

26       (e) An out-of-state surety ~~or agent of a surety, bail agent or bail~~  
27 ~~enforcement agent~~ who intends to apprehend any person in this state  
28 pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2809, and amendments thereto, or under similar  
29 authority from any other state, ~~shall contract with an individual that has~~  
30 ~~been authorized by any court in this state to act as a surety or agent of a~~  
31 ~~surety, before attempting such apprehension, and be accompanied by such~~  
32 ~~individual during such apprehension shall:~~

33       (1) *Have a bail enforcement agent's license pursuant to sections 1*  
34 *through 9, and amendments thereto;*

35       (2) *contract with an individual that has been authorized by any court*  
36 *in this state to act as a surety and be accompanied by such individual*  
37 *during such apprehension; or*

38       (3) *contract with an individual who is currently a licensed bail*  
39 *enforcement agent pursuant to sections 1 through 9, and amendments*  
40 *thereto, and be accompanied by such individual during such apprehension.*

41       (⊖) (f) Violation of this section is a class A nonperson misdemeanor  
42 for the first conviction of a violation and a severity level 9, nonperson  
43 felony upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation.

1        Sec. 11. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 22-2809a is hereby repealed.

2        Sec. 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
3        publication in the statute book.