HOUSE BILL No. 2213

By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

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AN ACT concerning the Kansas offender registration act; relating to registration requirements; creating a mechanism to waive fees; registration at a single location; creating a mechanism to seek relief from registration for violent offenders; amending K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4904, 22-4905, 22-4907 and 22-4908 and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. (a) A person required to register as an offender pursuant to the Kansas offender registration act may petition the district court in the county where the offender resides to waive payment of the registration fee required by K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto. Such offender shall submit an affidavit to the court on a form that shall be prescribed by the judicial council. There shall be no docket fee required.

- (b) The court may:
- (1) Question the offender under oath concerning the contents of the affidavit; and
- (2) require the offender to produce evidence on the issue of the offender's financial inability to make the payment required by K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto.
- (c) If it appears to the satisfaction of the court that requiring the payment will impose manifest hardship on the offender or the offender's immediate family, the court may:
 - (1) Waive the current payment owed by the offender;
 - (2) extend the time in which the offender has to make the payment; or
- (3) waive the payment for a specified period of time, not to exceed three years.
- (d) If the court issues an order modifying an offender's obligation to pay the registration fee required by K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto, the court shall provide the offender with a copy of the order. Such order shall be effective to modify the offender's obligation to pay the registration fee in any county where the offender is required to register.
- (e) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the Kansas offender registration act.
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4904 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-4904. (a) (1) At the time of conviction or adjudication for an

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 offense requiring registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4902, and amendments thereto, the court shall:

- (A) Inform any offender, on the record, of the procedure to register and the requirements of K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto; and
 - (B) if the offender is released:
- (i) Complete a notice of duty to register, which and such notice shall include title and statute number of conviction or adjudication, date of conviction or adjudication, case number, county of conviction or adjudication, and the following offender information: Name, address, date of birth, social security number, race, ethnicity and gender;
- (ii) require the offender to read and sign the notice of duty to register, which and such notice shall include a statement that the requirements provided in this subsection have been explained to the offender;
- (iii) order the offender to report within three business days to the registering law enforcement agency in the county or tribal land of conviction or adjudication and to the registering law enforcement agency in any place where the offender resides, maintains employment or attends school, to complete the registration form with all information and any updated information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto; and
- (iv) provide one copy of the notice of duty to register to the offender and, within three business days, send a copy of the form to the law enforcement agency having initial jurisdiction and to the Kansas bureau of investigation.
- (2) At the time of sentencing or disposition for an offense requiring registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4902, and amendments thereto, the court shall ensure the age of the victim is documented in the journal entry of conviction or adjudication.
- (3) Upon commitment for control, care and treatment by the Kansas department for aging and disability services pursuant to K.S.A. 59-29a07, and amendments thereto, the court shall notify the registering law enforcement agency of the county where the offender resides during commitment of such offender's commitment. Such notice shall be prepared by the office of the attorney general for transmittal by the court by electronic means, including by fax or e-mail.
- (b) The staff of any correctional facility or the registering law enforcement agency's designee shall:
- (1) At the time of initial custody, register any offender within three business days:
- (A) Inform the offender of the procedure for registration and of the offender's registration requirements as provided in K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto;
 - (B) complete the registration form with all information and updated

 information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto;

- (C) require the offender to read and sign the registration form, which and such form shall include a statement that the requirements provided in this subsection have been explained to the offender;
- (D) provide one copy of the form to the offender and, within three business days, send a copy of the form to the Kansas bureau of investigation; and
- (E) enter all offender information required by the national crime information center into the national sex offender registry system within three business days of completing the registration or electronically submit all information and updated information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto, within three business days to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- (2) notify the Kansas bureau of investigation of the incarceration of any offender and of the location or any change in location of the offender while in custody;
- (3) prior to any offender being discharged, paroled, furloughed or released on work or school release that does not require the daily return to a correctional facility:
- (A) Inform the offender of the procedure for registration and of the offender's registration requirements as provided in K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto;
- (B) complete the registration form with all information and updated information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto;
- (C) require the offender to read and sign the registration form, which and such form shall include a statement that the requirements provided in this subsection have been explained to the offender;
 - (D) photograph the offender's face and any identifying marks;
 - (E) obtain fingerprint and palm prints of the offender; and
- (F) provide one copy of the form to the offender and, within three business days, send a copy of the form and of the photograph or photographs to the law enforcement agency having initial jurisdiction and to the Kansas bureau of investigation; and
- (4) notify the law enforcement agency having initial jurisdiction and the Kansas bureau of investigation seven business days prior to any offender being discharged, paroled, furloughed or released on work or school release.
 - (c) The staff of any treatment facility shall:
- (1) Within three business days of an offender's arrival for inpatient treatment, inform the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the treatment facility is located of

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 the offender's presence at the treatment facility and the expected duration of the treatment, and immediately notify the registering law enforcement agency of an unauthorized or unexpected absence of the offender during the offender's treatment;

- (2) inform the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the treatment facility is located within three business days of an offender's discharge or release; and
- (3) provide information upon request to any registering law enforcement agency having jurisdiction relevant to determining the presence of an offender within the treatment facility.
- (d) The registering law enforcement agency, upon the reporting of any offender, shall:
- (1) Inform the offender of the duty to register as provided by the Kansas offender registration act;
- (2) (A) explain the procedure for registration and the offender's registration requirements as provided in K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto;
- (B) obtain the information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto; and
- (C) require the offender to read and sign the registration form, which and such form shall include a statement that the requirements provided in this subsection have been explained to the offender;
- (3) complete the registration form with all information and updated information required for registration, as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto, each time the offender reports to the registering law enforcement agency. All information and updated information reported by an offender shall be forwarded to the Kansas bureau of investigation within three business days;
- (4) maintain the original signed registration form, provide one copy of the completed registration form to the offender and, within three business days, send one copy of the completed form to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- (5) forward a copy of any certified letter used for reporting pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4905, and amendments thereto, when utilized, within three business days to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- (6) obtain registration information from every offender required to register regardless of whether or not the offender remits payment;
- (7) upon every required reporting, update the photograph or photographs of the offender's face and any new identifying marks and immediately forward copies or electronic files of the photographs to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- 42 (8) enter all offender information required by the national crime 43 information center into the national sex offender registry system within

 three business days of completing the registration or electronically submit all information and updated information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto, within three business days to the Kansas bureau of investigation;

- (9) maintain a special fund for the deposit and maintenance of fees paid by offenders. All funds retained by the registering law enforcement agency pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be credited to a special fund of the registering law enforcement agency—which that shall be used solely for law enforcement and criminal prosecution purposes and which shall not be used as a source of revenue to reduce the amount of funding otherwise made available to the registering law enforcement agency; and
- (10) forward any initial registration and updated registration information within three business days to any out-of-state jurisdiction where the offender is expected to reside, maintain employment or attend school.
 - (e) (1) The Kansas bureau of investigation shall:
- (A) Forward all additions or changes in information to any registering law enforcement agency, other than the agency that submitted the form, where the offender expects to reside, maintain employment or attend school;
- (B) ensure that offender information is immediately entered in the state registered offender database and the Kansas registered offender website, as provided in K.S.A. 22-4909, and amendments thereto;
- (C) transmit offender conviction or adjudication data, fingerprints and palm prints to the federal bureau of investigation; and
- (D) ensure all offender information required by the national crime information center is transmitted into the national sex offender registry system within three business days of such information being electronically submitted to the Kansas bureau of investigation.
- (2) The director of the Kansas bureau of investigation may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the Kansas offender registration act.
- (f) The attorney general shall, within 10 business days of an offender being declared a sexually violent predator, forward to the Kansas bureau of investigation all relevant court documentation declaring an offender a sexually violent predator.
- (g) The state department of education shall annually notify any school of the Kansas bureau of investigation internet website, and any internet website containing information on the Kansas offender registration act sponsored or created by the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the school is located, for the purpose of locating offenders who reside near such school. Such

 notification shall include information that the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction where such school is located is available to the school to assist in using the registry and providing additional information on registered offenders.

- (h) The secretary of health and environment shall annually notify any licensed child care facility of the Kansas bureau of investigation internet website, and any internet website containing information on the Kansas offender registration sponsored or created by the registering law enforcement agency of the county in which where the facility is located, for the purpose of locating offenders who reside near such facility. Such notification shall include information that the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction where such child care facility is located is available to the child care facilities to assist in using the registry and providing additional information on registered offenders.
- (i) Upon request, the clerk of any court of record shall provide the Kansas bureau of investigation copies of complaints, indictments, information, journal entries, commitment orders or any other documents necessary to the performance of the duties of the Kansas bureau of investigation under the Kansas offender registration act. No fees or charges for providing such documents may be assessed.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4905 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-4905. Any offender required to register as provided in the Kansas offender registration act shall:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, register in person with the registering law enforcement agency within three business days of coming into any county or location of jurisdiction—in—which where the offender resides or intends to reside, maintains employment or intends to maintain employment, or attends school or intends to attend school. Any such offender who cannot physically register in person with the registering law enforcement agency for such reasons including, but not limited to, incapacitation or hospitalization, as determined by a person licensed to practice medicine or surgery, or involuntarily committed pursuant to the Kansas sexually violent predator act, shall be subject to verification requirements other than in-person registration, as determined by the registering law enforcement agency having jurisdiction;
- (b) except as provided further, for any: (1) Sex offender, including a violent offender or drug offender who is also a sex offender, report in person four times each year to the registering law enforcement agency in the county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the offender resides, maintains employment or is attending a school; and (2) violent offender or drug offender, report in person four times each year to the registering law enforcement agency in the county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the offender resides, maintains employment or is attending a school,

 except that, at the discretion of the registering law enforcement agency, one of the four required reports may be conducted by certified letter. When utilized, the certified letter for reporting shall be sent by the registering law enforcement agency to the reported residence of the offender. The offender shall indicate any changes in information as required for reporting in person. The offender shall respond by returning the certified letter to the registering law enforcement agency within 10 business days by certified mail. The offender shall be required to report to the registering law enforcement agency once during the month of the offender's birthday and every third, sixth and ninth month occurring before and after the month of the offender's birthday. The registering law enforcement agency may determine the appropriate times and days for reporting by the offender, consistent with this subsection. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to alleviate any offender from meeting the requirements prescribed in the Kansas offender registration act;

- (c) provide the information required for registration as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto, and verify all information previously provided is accurate;
- (d) if in the custody of a correctional facility, register with the correctional facility within three business days of initial custody and shall not be required to update such registration until discharged, paroled, furloughed or released on work or school release from a correctional facility. A copy of the registration form and any updated registrations for an offender released on work or school release shall be sent, within three business days, to the registering law enforcement agency where the offender is incarcerated, maintains employment or attends school, and to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- (e) if involuntarily committed pursuant to the Kansas sexually violent predator act, register within three business days of arrival in the county where the offender resides during commitment. The offender shall not be required to update such registration until placed in a reintegration facility, on transitional release or on conditional release. Upon placement in a reintegration facility, on transitional release or on conditional release, the offender shall be personally responsible for complying with the provisions of the Kansas offender registration act;
- (f) notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), if the offender is transient, report in person to the registering law enforcement agency of such county or location of jurisdiction—in which where the offender is physically present within three business days of arrival in the county or location of jurisdiction. Such offender shall be required to register in person with the registering law enforcement agency every 30 days, or more often at the discretion of the registering law enforcement agency. Such offender shall comply with the provisions of the Kansas offender

registration act and, in addition, shall:

- (1) Provide a list of places where the offender has slept and otherwise frequented during the period of time since the last date of registration; and
- (2) provide a list of places where the offender may be contacted and where the offender intends to sleep and otherwise frequent during the period of time prior to the next required date of registration;
- (g) if required by out-of-state law, register in any out-of-state jurisdiction, where the offender resides, maintains employment or attends school;
- (h) register in person upon any commencement, change or termination of residence location, employment status, school attendance or other information as provided in K.S.A. 22-4907, and amendments thereto, within three business days of such commencement, change or termination, to the registering law enforcement agency or agencies where last registered and provide written notice to the Kansas bureau of investigation;
- (i) report in person to the registering law enforcement agency or agencies within three business days of any change in name;
- (j) if receiving inpatient treatment at any treatment facility, inform the treatment facility of the offender's status as an offender and inform the registering law enforcement agency of the county or location of jurisdiction—in—which where the treatment facility is located of the offender's presence at the treatment facility and the expected duration of the treatment:
- (k) submit to the taking of an updated photograph by the registering law enforcement agency on each occasion when the offender registers with or reports to the registering law enforcement agency in the county or location of jurisdiction—in—which where the offender resides, maintains—employment or attends school. In addition, such offender shall submit to the taking of a photograph to document any changes in identifying characteristics, including, but not limited to, scars, marks and tattoos;
- (l) remit payment to the sheriff's office in the amount of \$20 as part of the reporting process required pursuant to subsection (b) in each county-in which where the offender resides, maintains employment or is attending school. Registration will be completed regardless of whether or not the offender remits payment. Failure of the offender to remit full payment within 15 days of registration is a violation of the Kansas offender registration act and is subject to prosecution pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4903, and amendments thereto. Notwithstanding other provisions herein, payment of this fee is not required:
- (1) When an offender provides updates or changes in information or during an initial registration unless such updates, changes or initial registration is during the month of such offender's birthday and every

third, sixth and ninth month occurring before and after the month of the offender's birthday;

- (2) when an offender is transient and is required to register every 30 days, or more frequently as ordered by the registering law enforcement agency, except during the month of the offender's birthday and every third, sixth and ninth month occurring before and after the month of the offender's birthday; or
- (3) if an offender has, prior to the required reporting and within the last three years, been determined to be indigent by a court of law *in the criminal case for which the offender is required to register*, and the basis for that finding is recorded by the court; *or*
- (4) if the court has determined that requiring payment of the fee would impose manifest hardship on the offender or the offender's immediate family pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto;
- (m) annually renew any driver's license pursuant to K.S.A. 8-247, and amendments thereto, and annually renew any identification card pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 8-1325a, and amendments thereto;
- (n) if maintaining primary residence in this state, surrender all driver's licenses and identification cards from other states, territories and the District of Columbia, except if the offender is presently serving and maintaining active duty in any branch of the United States military or the offender is an immediate family member of a person presently serving and maintaining active duty in any branch of the United States military;
- (o) read and sign the registration form noting whether the requirements provided in this section have been explained to the offender;
 and
- (p) report in person to the registering law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction of the offender's residence and provide written notice to the Kansas bureau of investigation 21 days prior to any travel outside of the United States, and provide an itinerary including, but not limited to, destination, means of transport and duration of travel, or if under emergency circumstances, within three business days of making travel arrangements.
- Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4907 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-4907. (a) Registration as required by the Kansas offender registration act shall consist of a form approved by the Kansas bureau of investigation, which and such form shall include a statement that the requirements provided in this section have been reviewed and explained to the offender, and shall be signed by the offender and, except when such reporting is conducted by certified letter as provided in-subsection (b) of K.S.A. 22-4905(b), and amendments thereto, witnessed by the person registering the offender. Such registration form shall include the following offender information:

(1) Name and all alias names;

- (2) date and city, state and country of birth, and any alias dates or places of birth;
- (3) title and statute number of each offense or offenses committed, date of each conviction or adjudication and court case numbers for each conviction or adjudication;
 - (4) city, county, state or country of conviction or adjudication;
- (5) sex and date of birth or purported age of each victim of all offenses requiring registration;
- (6) current residential address, any anticipated future residence and any temporary lodging information including, but not limited to, address, telephone number and dates of travel for any place in which where the offender is staying for seven or more days; and, if transient, the locations where the offender has stayed and frequented since last reporting for registration;
- (7) all telephone numbers at which the offender may be contacted including, but not limited to, all mobile telephone numbers;
 - (8) social security number, and all alias social security numbers;
- (9) identifying characteristics such as race, ethnicity, skin tone, sex, age, height, weight, hair and eye color, scars, tattoos and blood type;
- (10) occupation and name, address or addresses and telephone number of employer or employers, and name of any anticipated employer and place of employment;
- (11) all current driver's licenses or identification cards, including a photocopy of all such driver's licenses or identification cards and their numbers, states of issuance and expiration dates;
- (12) all vehicle information, including the license plate number, registration number and any other identifier and description of any vehicle owned or operated by the offender, or any vehicle the offender regularly drives, either for personal use or in the course of employment, and information concerning the location or locations such vehicle or vehicles are habitually parked or otherwise kept;
- (13) license plate number, registration number or other identifier and description of any aircraft or watercraft owned or operated by the offender, and information concerning the location or locations such aircraft or watercraft are habitually parked, docked or otherwise kept;
 - (14) all professional licenses, designations and certifications;
- (15) documentation of any treatment received for a mental abnormality or personality disorder of the offender; for purposes of documenting the treatment received, registering law enforcement agencies, correctional facility officials, treatment facility officials and courts may rely on information that is readily available to them from existing records and the offender;

(16) a photograph or photographs;

- (17) fingerprints and palm prints;
- (18) any and all schools and satellite schools attended or expected to be attended and the locations of attendance and telephone number;
- (19) any and all: E-mail addresses; online identities used by the offender on the internet; information relating to membership in any and all personal web pages or online social networks; and internet screen names;
 - (20) all travel and immigration documents; and
- (21) name and telephone number of the offender's probation, parole or community corrections officer.
- (b) The offender shall provide biological samples for DNA analysis to the registering law enforcement agency as required by K.S.A. 21-2511, and amendments thereto. The biological samples shall be in the form using a DNA databank kit authorized by the Kansas bureau of investigation. The registering law enforcement agency shall forward such biological samples to the Kansas bureau of investigation. Prior to taking such sample, the registering law enforcement agency shall search the Kansas criminal justice information system to determine if such person's DNA profile is currently on file. If such person's DNA profile is on file with the Kansas bureau of investigation, the registering law enforcement agency is not required to take biological samples.
- (c) If an offender reports an employer pursuant to subsection (a)(10) or a school pursuant to subsection (a)(18) that is in a county other than the county where the offender resides or intends to reside, the Kansas bureau of investigation shall notify the sheriff of the county where the employer or school is located of the registration information for such offender.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4908 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-4908. (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b), a drug offender who is required to register under the Kansas offender registration act may file a verified petition for relief from registration requirements if the offender has registered for a period of at least five years after the date of parole, discharge or release, whichever date is most recent, or, if not confined, five years from the date of conviction or adjudication.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (b), a violent offender who is required to register under the Kansas offender registration act because of a conviction or adjudication of criminal restraint or a person felony when the court has made a finding that a deadly weapon was used, or an attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit either of those offenses, may file a verified petition for relief from registration requirements if the offender has registered for a period of at least five years after the date of parole, discharge or release, whichever date is most recent, or, if not confined, five years from the date of conviction or adjudication.

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 (b) An offender who is required to register pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4906(k), and amendments thereto, because of an out-of-state conviction or adjudication may not petition for relief from registration requirements in this state if the offender would be required to register under the law of the state or jurisdiction where the conviction or adjudication occurred. If the offender would no longer be required to register under the law of the state or jurisdiction where the conviction or adjudication occurred, the offender may file a verified petition pursuant to subsection (a).

- (c) Any period of time during which an offender is incarcerated in any jail or correctional facility or during which the offender does not substantially comply with the requirements of the Kansas offender registration act shall not count toward the duration of registration required in subsection (a).
- (d) (1) A verified petition for relief from registration requirements shall be filed in the district court in the county where the offender was convicted or adjudicated of the offense requiring registration. If the offender was not convicted or adjudicated in this state of the offense requiring registration, such petition shall be filed in the district court of any county where the offender is currently required to register. The docket fee shall be as provided in K.S.A. 60-2001, and amendments thereto.
 - (2) The petition shall include:
 - (A) The offender's full name;
- (B) the offender's full name at the time of conviction or adjudication for the offense or offenses requiring registration, if different than the offender's current name;
 - (C) the offender's sex, race and date of birth;
 - (D) the offense or offenses requiring registration;
- (E) the date of conviction or adjudication for the offense or offenses requiring registration;
- (F) the court in which the offender was convicted or adjudicated of the offense or offenses requiring registration;
- (G) whether the offender has been arrested, convicted, adjudicated or entered into a diversion agreement for any crime during the period the offender is required to register; and
- (H) the names of all treatment providers and agencies that have treated the offender for mental health, substance abuse and offense-related behavior since the date of the offense or offenses requiring registration.
- (3) The judicial council shall develop a petition form for use under this section.
- (4) When a petition is filed, the court shall set a date for a hearing on such petition and cause notice of the hearing to be given to the county or district attorney in the county where the petition is filed. Any person who may have relevant information about the offender may testify at the

hearing.

- (5) The county or district attorney shall notify any victim of the offense requiring registration who is alive and whose address is known or, if the victim is deceased, the victim's family if the family's address is known. The victim or victim's family shall not be compelled to testify or provide any discovery to the offender.
- (6) The county or district attorney shall have access to all applicable records, including records that are otherwise confidential or privileged.
- (e) (1) The court may require—a drug an offender who is petitioning for relief under this section to undergo a risk assessment.
- (2) Any risk assessment ordered under this subsection shall be performed by a professional agreed upon by the parties or a professional approved by the court. Such risk assessment shall be performed at the offender's expense.
- (f) The court shall order relief from registration requirements if the offender shows by clear and convincing evidence that:
- (1) The offender has not been convicted or adjudicated of a felony, other than a felony violation or aggravated felony violation of K.S.A. 22-4903, and amendments thereto, within the five years immediately preceding the filing of the petition, and no proceedings involving any such felony are presently pending or being instituted against the offender;
- (2) the offender's circumstances, behavior and treatment history demonstrate that the offender is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant relief; and
- (3) registration of the offender is no longer necessary to promote public safety.
- (g) If the court denies an offender's petition for relief, the offender shall not file another petition for relief until three years have elapsed, unless a shorter time period is ordered by the court.
- (h) If the court grants relief from registration requirements, the court shall order that the offender be removed from the offender registry and that the offender is no longer required to comply with registration requirements. Within 14 days of any order, the court shall notify the Kansas bureau of investigation and any local law enforcement agency that registers the offender that the offender has been granted relief from registration requirements. The Kansas bureau of investigation shall remove such offender from any internet website maintained pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4909, and amendments thereto.
- (i) An offender may combine a petition for relief under this section with a petition for expungement under K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 21-6614, and amendments thereto, if the offense requiring registration is otherwise eligible for expungement.
 - Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 22-4904, 22-4905, 22-4907 and 22-4908

- 1 are hereby repealed.
- 2 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
- 3 publication in the statute book.