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## SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1219

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State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Benson, Anderson, Upthegrove, Rockefeller and Simpson; by request of Governor Locke)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/03.

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- AN ACT Relating to violations connected with the offer, sale, or purchase of securities; amending RCW 43.320.110, 21.20.400, 21.20.410,
- 3 21.20.110, 21.20.390, 21.20.395, and 9A.20.021; adding a new section to
- 4 chapter 43.320 RCW; and prescribing penalties.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.320.110 and 2002 c 371 s 912 are each amended to read as follows:
  - There is created a local fund known as the "financial services regulation fund" which shall consist of all moneys received by the divisions of the department of financial institutions, except for the division of securities which shall deposit thirteen percent of all moneys received, except as provided in section 2 of this act, and which shall be used for the purchase of supplies and necessary equipment; the
- shall be used for the purchase of supplies and necessary equipment; the
- 14 payment of salaries, wages, and utilities; the establishment of
- 15 reserves; and other incidental costs required for the proper regulation
- 16 of individuals and entities subject to regulation by the department.
- 17 The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund. Disbursements 18 from the fund shall be on authorization of the director of financial
- 19 institutions or the director's designee. In order to maintain an

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effective expenditure and revenue control, the fund shall be subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditures and payment of obligations from the fund.

((Between July 1, 2001, and December 31, 2001, the legislature may transfer up to two million dollars from the financial services regulation fund to the digital government revolving account. During the 2001-2003 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the financial services regulation fund to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the fund and appropriations reductions made by the 2002 supplemental appropriations act for administrative efficiencies and savings.))

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.320 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) The securities prosecution fund is created in the custody of the state treasurer and shall consist of all fines received by the division of securities under RCW 21.20.400(2), 21.20.110, and 21.20.395 and all undistributed funds from orders of disgorgement and restitution under RCW 21.20.110(8) and 21.20.390(6). No appropriation is required to permit expenditures from this fund, but the account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW.
- (2) Expenditures from this fund may be used solely for administering the fund and for payment of costs, expenses, and charges incurred in the preparation, initiation, and prosecution of criminal charges for violations of chapters 21.20, 21.30, 19.100, and 19.110 RCW. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund.
- (3) Applications for fund expenditures must be submitted by the attorney general or the proper prosecuting attorney to the director. The application must clearly identify the alleged criminal violations identified in subsection (2) of this section and indicate the purpose for which the funds will be used. The application must also certify that any funds received will be expended only for the purpose requested. Funding requests must be approved by the director prior to any expenditure being incurred by the requesting attorney general or prosecuting attorney. At the conclusion of the prosecution, the attorney general or prosecuting attorney shall provide the director

with an accounting of fund expenditures, a summary of the case, and certify his or her compliance with any rules adopted by the director relating to the administration of the fund.

- (4) If the balance of the securities prosecution fund reaches one million dollars, all fines received by the division of securities under RCW 21.20.400(2), 21.20.110, and 21.20.395 and all undistributed funds from orders of disgorgement and restitution under RCW 21.20.110(8) and 21.20.390(6) shall be deposited in the financial services regulation fund until such time as the balance in the fund falls below one million dollars, at which time the fines received by the division of securities under RCW 21.20.400(2), 21.20.110, and 21.20.395 and all undistributed funds from orders of disgorgement and restitution under RCW 21.20.110(8) and 21.20.390(6) shall be deposited to the securities prosecution fund until balance in the fund once again reaches one million dollars.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 21.20.400 and 1979 ex.s. c 68 s 28 are each amended to read as follows:
  - (1) Any person who willfully violates any provision of this chapter except RCW 21.20.350, or who willfully violates any rule or order under this chapter, or who willfully violates RCW 21.20.350 knowing the statement made to be false or misleading in any material respect, ((shall upon conviction be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; but no)) is guilty of a class B felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021(1)(b). However, a person may not be imprisoned for the violation of any rule or order if that person proves that he or she had no knowledge of the rule or order.
  - (2) Any person who knowingly alters, destroys, shreds, mutilates, or conceals a record, document, or other object, or attempts to do so, with the intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding under this chapter, is guilty of a class B felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021(1)(b) or punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred thousand dollars, or both. The fines paid under this subsection shall be deposited into the securities prosecution fund.
  - (3) No indictment or information may be returned under this chapter more than (a) five years after the ((alleged)) violation, or (b) three

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- 1 years after the actual discovery of the violation, whichever date of
- 2 limitation is later.

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- 3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 21.20.410 and 1998 c 15 s 19 are each amended to read 4 as follows:
  - (1) The director may refer such evidence as may be available concerning violations of this chapter or of any rule or order hereunder to the attorney general or the proper prosecuting attorney, who may in his or her discretion, with or without such a reference, institute the appropriate criminal proceedings under this chapter.
- 10 (2) The director may render such assistance as the prosecuting attorney requests regarding a reference.
- 12 (3) The attorney general or the proper prosecuting attorney may request that an attorney employed by the director prosecute or assist 13 in the prosecution of the violation or violations on behalf of the 14 state. The attorney general or prosecuting attorney may appoint an 15 16 employee approved by the director to serve as a special prosecuting attorney with the powers and duties prescribed by law and delegated by 17 the attorney general or prosecuting attorney. The appointed attorney 18 shall serve without compensation from the attorney general or 19 20 prosecuting attorney.
- 21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 21.20.110 and 2002 c 65 s 4 are each amended to read 22 as follows:
  - (1) The director may by order deny, suspend, revoke, restrict, condition, or limit any application or registration of any broker-dealer, salesperson, investment adviser representative, or investment adviser; or censure or fine the registrant or an officer, director, partner, or person ((occupying)) performing similar functions for a registrant; if the director finds that the order is in the public interest and that the applicant or registrant or, in the case of a broker-dealer or investment adviser, any partner, officer, director, or person ((occupying)) performing similar functions:
- 32 (a) Has filed an application for registration under this section 33 which, as of its effective date, or as of any date after filing in the 34 case of an order denying effectiveness, was incomplete in any material 35 respect or contained any statement which was, in the light of the

circumstances under which it was made, false, or misleading with respect to any material fact;

- (b) Has willfully violated or willfully failed to comply with any provision of this chapter or a predecessor act or any rule or order under this chapter or a predecessor act, or any provision of chapter 21.30 RCW or any rule or order thereunder;
- (c) Has been convicted, within the past ten years, of any misdemeanor involving a security, or a commodity contract or commodity option as defined in RCW 21.30.010, or any aspect of the securities, commodities, business investments, franchises, business opportunities, insurance, banking, or finance business, or any felony involving moral turpitude;
- (d) Is permanently or temporarily enjoined or restrained by any court of competent jurisdiction in an action brought by the director, a state, or a federal government agency from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice involving any aspect of the securities, commodities, business investments, franchises, business opportunities, insurance, banking, or finance business;
- (e) Is the subject of an order entered after notice and opportunity for hearing:
  - (i) By the securities administrator of a state or by the Securities and Exchange Commission denying, revoking, <u>barring</u>, or suspending registration as a broker-dealer, salesperson, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative;
  - (ii) By the securities administrator of a state or by the Securities and Exchange Commission ((sanctioning)) against a broker-dealer ((or an)), salesperson, investment adviser, or an investment adviser representative;
  - (iii) By the Securities and Exchange Commission <u>or self-regulatory</u> <u>organization</u> suspending or expelling the registrant from membership in a self-regulatory organization; or
  - (iv) By a court adjudicating a United States Postal Service fraud; The director may not commence a revocation or suspension proceeding more than one year after the date of the order relied on. The director may not enter an order on the basis of an order under another state securities act unless that order was based on facts that would constitute a ground for an order under this section;

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(f) Is the subject of an order, adjudication, or determination, after notice and opportunity for hearing, by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, or a securities or insurance regulator of any state that the person has ((willfully)) violated the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodities Exchange Act, the securities, insurance, or commodities law of any state, or a federal or state law under which a business involving investments, franchises, business opportunities, insurance, banking, or finance is regulated;

- (g) Has engaged in dishonest or unethical practices in the securities or commodities business;
- (h) Is insolvent, either in the sense that his or her liabilities exceed his or her assets or in the sense that he or she cannot meet his or her obligations as they mature; but the director may not enter an order against an applicant or registrant under this subsection (1)(h) without a finding of insolvency as to the applicant or registrant;
- (i) Has not complied with a condition imposed by the director under RCW 21.20.100, or is not qualified on the basis of such factors as training, experience, or knowledge of the securities business, except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section;
- (j) Has failed to supervise reasonably a salesperson or an investment adviser representative, or employee, if the salesperson, investment adviser representative, or employee was subject to the person's supervision and committed a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter. For the purposes of this subsection, no person fails to supervise reasonably another person, if:
- (i) There are established procedures, and a system for applying those procedures, that would reasonably be expected to prevent and detect, insofar as practicable, any violation by another person of this chapter, or a rule or order under this chapter; and
- (ii) The supervising person has reasonably discharged the duties and obligations required by these procedures and system without reasonable cause to believe that another person was violating this chapter or rules or orders under this chapter;

1 (k) Has failed to pay the proper filing fee within thirty days 2 after being notified by the director of a deficiency, but the director 3 shall vacate an order under this subsection (1)(k) when the deficiency 4 is corrected;

- (1) Within the past ten years has been found, after notice and opportunity for a hearing to have:
- (i) ((Willfully)) Violated the law of a foreign jurisdiction governing or regulating the business of securities, commodities, insurance, or banking;
- (ii) Been the subject of an order of a securities regulator of a foreign jurisdiction denying, revoking, or suspending the right to engage in the business of securities as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative; or
- (iii) Been suspended or expelled from membership by a securities exchange or securities association operating under the authority of the securities regulator of a foreign jurisdiction;
- (m) Is the subject of a cease and desist order issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission or issued under the securities or commodities laws of a state; or
- (n) Refuses to allow or otherwise impedes the director from conducting an audit, examination, or inspection, or refuses access to any branch office or business location to conduct an audit, examination, or inspection.
- (2) The director, by rule or order, may require that an examination, including an examination developed or approved by an organization of securities administrators, be taken by any class of or all applicants. The director, by rule or order, may waive the examination as to a person or class of persons if the administrator determines that the examination is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.
- (3) The director may issue a summary order pending final determination of a proceeding under this section upon a finding that it is in the public interest and necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors.
- (4) The director may not impose a fine under this section except after notice and opportunity for hearing. The fine imposed under this section may not exceed ((five)) ten thousand dollars for each act or omission that constitutes the basis for issuing the order. If a

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petition for judicial review has not been timely filed under RCW 34.05.542(2), a certified copy of the director's order requiring payment of the fine may be filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court in any county of this state. The clerk shall treat the order of the director in the same manner as a judgment of the superior court. The director's order so filed has the same effect as a judgment of the superior court and may be recorded, enforced, or satisfied in like manner.

- (5) Withdrawal from registration as a broker-dealer, salesperson, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative becomes effective thirty days after receipt of an application to withdraw or within such shorter period as the administrator determines, unless a revocation or suspension proceeding is pending when the application is filed. If a proceeding is pending, withdrawal becomes effective upon such conditions as the director, by order, determines. If no proceeding is pending or commenced and withdrawal automatically becomes effective, the administrator may nevertheless commence a revocation or suspension proceeding under subsection (1)(b) of this section within one year after withdrawal became effective and enter a revocation or suspension order as of the last date on which registration was effective.
- (6) A person who, directly or indirectly, controls a person not in compliance with any part of this section may also be sanctioned to the same extent as the noncomplying person, unless the controlling person acted in good faith and did not directly or indirectly induce the conduct constituting the violation or cause of action.
- (7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section, the director may charge the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred by the director in the conduct of any administrative investigation, hearing, or court proceeding against any person found to be in violation of any provision of this section or any rule or order adopted under this section.
- 33 (8) In any action under subsection (1) of this section, the
  34 director may enter an order requiring an accounting, restitution, and
  35 disgorgement, including interest at the legal rate under RCW
  36 4.56.110(3). The director may by rule or order provide for payments to
  37 investors, rates of interest, periods of accrual, and other matters the
  38 director deems appropriate to implement this subsection.

(9) The director shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order.

Sec. 6. RCW 21.20.390 and 1995 c 46 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever it appears to the director that any person has engaged or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, the director may in his or her discretion:

- (1) Issue an order directing the person to cease and desist from continuing the act or practice and to take appropriate affirmative action within a reasonable period of time, as prescribed by the director, to correct conditions resulting from the act or practice including, without limitation, a requirement to provide restitution((÷ PROVIDED, That)). Reasonable notice of and opportunity for a hearing shall be given((÷ PROVIDED, FURTHER, That)). The director may issue a ((temporary)) summary order pending the hearing which shall remain in effect until ten days after the hearing is held and which shall become final if the person to whom notice is addressed does not request a hearing within ((fifteen)) twenty days after the receipt of notice; or (2) The director may without issuing a cease and desist order,
- such acts or practices and to enforce compliance with this chapter or any rule or order ((hereunder)) adopted under this chapter. The court may grant such ancillary relief, including a civil penalty, restitution, and disgorgement, as it deems appropriate. Upon a proper showing a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or writ of mandamus shall be granted and a receiver or conservator may be appointed for the defendant or the defendant's assets. The director may not be required to post a bond. If the director prevails, the

bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any

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director shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court.

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- (3) Whenever it appears to the director that any person who has received a permit to issue, sell, or otherwise dispose of securities under this chapter, whether current or otherwise, has become insolvent, the director may petition a court of competent jurisdiction to appoint a receiver or conservator for the defendant or the defendant's assets. The director may not be required to post a bond.
- (4) The director may bring an action for restitution or damages on behalf of the persons injured by a violation of this chapter, if the court finds that private civil action would be so burdensome or expensive as to be impractical.
- (5) In any action under this section, the director may charge the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred by the director in the conduct of any administrative investigation, hearing, or court proceeding against any person found to be in violation of any provision of this section or any rule or order adopted under this section.
- 18 (6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section, the
  19 director may enter an order requiring an accounting, restitution, and
  20 disgorgement, including interest at the legal rate under RCW
  21 4.56.110(3). The director may by rule or order provide for payments to
  22 investors, interest rates, periods of accrual, and other matters the
  23 director deems appropriate to implement this subsection.
- 24 Sec. 7. RCW 21.20.395 and 1998 c 15 s 18 are each amended to read 25 as follows:
  - (1) A person who, in an administrative action by the director, is found to have knowingly or recklessly violated any provision of this chapter, or any rule or order under this chapter, may be fined, after notice and opportunity for hearing, in an amount not to exceed ((five)) ten thousand dollars for each violation.
- 31 (2) A person who, in an administrative action by the director, is 32 found to have knowingly or recklessly violated an administrative order 33 issued under RCW 21.20.110 or 21.20.390 shall pay an administrative 34 fine in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each 35 violation.
- 36 (3) The fines paid under subsections (1) and (2) of this section 37 shall be deposited into the securities prosecution fund.

(4) If a petition for judicial review has not been timely filed under RCW 34.05.542(2), a certified copy of the director's order requiring payment of the fine may be filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court in any county of this state. The clerk shall treat the order of the director in the same manner as a judgment of the superior court. The director's order so filed has the same effect as a judgment of the superior court and may be recorded, enforced, or satisfied in like manner.

- **Sec. 8.** RCW 9A.20.021 and 1982 c 192 s 10 are each amended to read 10 as follows:
  - (1) Felony. <u>Unless a different maximum sentence for a classified</u> <u>felony is specifically established by statute</u>, no person convicted of a classified felony shall be punished by confinement or fine exceeding the following:
    - (a) For a class A felony, by confinement in a state correctional institution for a term of life imprisonment, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of fifty thousand dollars, or by both such confinement and fine;
    - (b) For a class B felony, by confinement in a state correctional institution for a term of ten years, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of twenty thousand dollars, or by both such confinement and fine:
    - (c) For a class C felony, by confinement in a state correctional institution for five years, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of ten thousand dollars, or by both such confinement and fine.
    - (2) Gross misdemeanor. Every person convicted of a gross misdemeanor defined in Title 9A RCW shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a maximum term fixed by the court of not more than one year, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of not more than five thousand dollars, or by both such imprisonment and fine.
  - (3) Misdemeanor. Every person convicted of a misdemeanor defined in Title 9A RCW shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a maximum term fixed by the court of not more than ninety days, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

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- 1 (4) This section applies to only those crimes committed on or after 2 July 1, 1984.
  - --- END ---