AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2012

california legislature—2011–12 regular session

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 2081

Introduced by Assembly Member Allen
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez)

February 23, 2012

An act to amend Section 25102 of the Corporations Code, relating to securities transactions.

legislative counsel's digest

AB 2081, as amended, Allen. Securities transactions: qualification requirements: exemptions.

Existing law, the Corporate Securities Law of 1968, requires certain securities offered or sold in this state to be qualified through application filed with the Commissioner of Corporations, or to be exempt from the qualification requirements. Existing law exempts offers and sales of securities in specified transactions including, but not limited to, offers made to no more than 35 persons, excluding accredited investors, as defined by reference to Regulation D promulgated under the federal Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to include specified minimum net worth and income requirements for prospective investors.

This bill would exempt from qualification offerings or sales of securities using a general solicitation or general advertising, provided the transaction meets specified requirements, including a requirement that the sales are made to accredited investors.

~~Under existing law, a violation of the Corporate Securities Act of 1968 is a felony.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: ~~yes~~ *no*.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25102 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

25102. The following transactions are exempted from the provisions of Section 25110:

(a) Any offer (but not a sale) not involving any public offering and the execution and delivery of any agreement for the sale of securities pursuant to the offer if (1) the agreement contains substantially the following provision: "The sale of the securities that are the subject of this agreement has not been qualified with the Commissioner of Corporations of the State of California and the issuance of the securities or the payment or receipt of any part of the consideration therefor prior to the qualification is unlawful, unless the sale of securities is exempt from the qualification by Section 25100, 25102, or 25105 of the California Corporations Code. The rights of all parties to this agreement are expressly conditioned upon the qualification being obtained, unless the sale is so exempt"; and (2) no part of the purchase price is paid or received and none of the securities are issued until the sale of the securities is qualified under this law unless the sale of securities is exempt from the qualification by this section, Section 25100, or 25105.

(b) Any offer (but not a sale) of a security for which a registration statement has been filed under the Securities Act of 1933 but has not yet become effective, or for which an offering statement under Regulation A has been filed but has not yet been qualified, if no stop order or refusal order is in effect and no public proceeding or examination looking ~~towards~~ *toward* an order is pending under Section 8 of the act and no order under Section 25140 or subdivision (a) of Section 25143 is in effect under this law.

(c) Any offer (but not a sale) and the execution and delivery of any agreement for the sale of securities pursuant to the offer as may be permitted by the commissioner upon application. Any negotiating permit under this subdivision shall be conditioned to the effect that none of the securities may be issued and none of the consideration therefor may be received or accepted until the sale of the securities is qualified under this law.

(d) Any transaction or agreement between the issuer and an underwriter or among underwriters if the sale of the securities is qualified, or exempt from qualification, at the time of distribution thereof in this state, if any.

(e) Any offer or sale of any evidence of indebtedness, whether secured or unsecured, and any guarantee thereof, in a transaction not involving any public offering.

(f) Any offer or sale of any security in a transaction (other than an offer or sale to a pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer) that meets each of the following criteria:

(1) Sales of the security are not made to more than 35 persons, including persons not in this state.

(2) All purchasers either have a preexisting personal or business relationship with the offeror or any of its partners, officers, directors, or controlling persons, or managers (as appointed or elected by the members) if the offeror is a limited liability company, or by reason of their business or financial experience or the business or financial experience of their professional advisers who are unaffiliated with and who are not compensated by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, directly or indirectly, could be reasonably assumed to have the capacity to protect their own interests in connection with the transaction.

(3) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account (or a trust account if the purchaser is a trustee) and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.

(4) The offer and sale of the security is not accomplished by the publication of any advertisement. The number of purchasers referred to above is exclusive of any described in subdivision (i), any officer, director, or affiliate of the issuer, or manager (as appointed or elected by the members) if the issuer is a limited liability company, and any other purchaser who the commissioner designates by rule. For purposes of this section, a husband and

wife (together with any custodian or trustee acting for the account of their minor children) are counted as one person and a partnership, corporation, or other organization that was not specifically formed for the purpose of purchasing the security offered in reliance upon this exemption, is counted as one person. The commissioner may by rule require the issuer to file a notice of transactions under this subdivision.

The failure to file the notice or the failure to file the notice within the time specified by the rule of the commissioner shall not affect the availability of this exemption. An issuer who fails to file the notice as provided by rule of the commissioner shall, within 15 business days after discovery of the failure to file the notice or after demand by the commissioner, whichever occurs first, file the notice and pay to the commissioner a fee equal to the fee payable had the transaction been qualified under Section 25110.

(g) Any offer or sale of conditional sale agreements, equipment trust certificates, or certificates of interest or participation therein or partial assignments thereof, covering the purchase of railroad rolling stock or equipment or the purchase of motor vehicles, aircraft, or parts thereof, in a transaction not involving any public offering.

(h) Any offer or sale of voting common stock by a corporation incorporated in any state if, immediately after the proposed sale and issuance, there will be only one class of stock of the corporation outstanding that is owned beneficially by no more than 35 persons, provided all of the following requirements have been met:

(1) The offer and sale of the stock is not accompanied by the publication of any advertisement, and no selling expenses have been given, paid, or incurred in connection therewith.

(2) The consideration to be received by the issuer for the stock to be issued consists of any of the following:

(A) Only assets (which may include cash) of an existing business enterprise transferred to the issuer upon its initial organization, of which all of the persons who are to receive the stock to be issued pursuant to this exemption were owners during, and the enterprise was operated for, a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the proposed issuance, and the ownership of the enterprise immediately prior to the proposed issuance was in the same proportions as the shares of stock are to be issued.

(B) Only cash or cancellation of indebtedness for money borrowed, or both, upon the initial organization of the issuer, provided all of the stock is issued for the same price per share.

(C) Only cash, provided the sale is approved in writing by each of the existing shareholders and the purchaser or purchasers are existing shareholders.

(D) In a case where after the proposed issuance there will be only one owner of the stock of the issuer, only any legal consideration.

(3) No promotional consideration has been given, paid, or incurred in connection with the issuance. Promotional consideration means any consideration paid directly or indirectly to a person who, acting alone or in conjunction with one or more other persons, takes the initiative in founding and organizing the business or enterprise of an issuer for services rendered in connection with the founding or organizing.

(4) A notice in a form prescribed by rule of the commissioner, signed by an active member of the State Bar of California, is filed with or mailed for filing to the commissioner not later than 10 business days after receipt of consideration for the securities by the issuer. That notice shall contain an opinion of the member of the State Bar of California that the exemption provided by this subdivision is available for the offer and sale of the securities. The failure to file the notice as required by this subdivision and the rules of the commissioner shall not affect the availability of this exemption. An issuer who fails to file the notice within the time specified by this subdivision shall, within 15 business days after discovery of the failure to file the notice or after demand by the commissioner, whichever occurs first, file the notice and pay to the commissioner a fee equal to the fee payable had the transaction been qualified under Section 25110. The notice, except when filed on behalf of a California corporation, shall be accompanied by an irrevocable consent, in the form that the commissioner by rule prescribes, appointing the commissioner or his or her successor in office to be the issuer's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against it or its successor that arises under this law or any rule or order hereunder after the consent has been filed, with the same force and validity as if served personally on the issuer. An issuer on whose behalf a consent has been filed in connection with a previous

qualification or exemption from qualification under this law (or application for a permit under any prior law if the application or notice under this law states that the consent is still effective) need not file another. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, but it is not effective unless (A) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by him or her, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered or certified mail to the defendant or respondent at its last address on file with the commissioner, and (B) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this section is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within the further time as the court allows.

(5) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account, or a trust account if the purchaser is a trustee, and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the stock.

For the purposes of this subdivision, all securities held by a husband and wife, whether or not jointly, shall be considered to be owned by one person, and all securities held by a corporation that has issued stock pursuant to this exemption shall be considered to be held by the shareholders to whom it has issued the stock.

All stock issued by a corporation pursuant to this subdivision as it existed prior to the effective date of the amendments to this section made during the 1996 portion of the 1995–96 Regular Session that required the issuer to have stamped or printed prominently on the face of the stock certificate a legend in a form prescribed by rule of the commissioner restricting transfer of the stock in a manner provided for by that rule shall not be subject to the transfer restriction legend requirement and, by operation of law, the corporation is authorized to remove that transfer restriction legend from the certificates of those shares of stock issued by the corporation pursuant to this subdivision as it existed prior to the effective date of the amendments to this section made during the 1996 portion of the 1995–96 Regular Session.

(i) Any offer or sale (1) to a bank, savings and loan association, trust company, insurance company, investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, pension or profit-sharing trust (other than a pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer, a self-employed individual retirement plan, or individual retirement account), or other institutional investor or governmental agency or instrumentality that the commissioner may designate by rule, whether the purchaser is acting for itself or as trustee, or (2) to any corporation with outstanding securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any wholly owned subsidiary of the corporation that after the offer and sale will own directly or indirectly 100 percent of the outstanding capital stock of the issuer, provided the purchaser represents that it is purchasing for its own account (or for the trust account) for investment and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.

(j) Any offer or sale of any certificate of interest or participation in an oil or gas title or lease (including subsurface gas storage and payments out of production) if either of the following apply:

(1) All of the purchasers meet one of the following requirements:

(A) Are and have been during the preceding two years engaged primarily in the business of drilling for, producing, or refining oil or gas (or whose corporate predecessor, in the case of a corporation, has been so engaged).

(B) Are persons described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (i).

(C) Have been found by the commissioner upon written application to be substantially engaged in the business of drilling for, producing, or refining oil or gas so as not to require the protection provided by this law (which finding shall be effective until rescinded).

(2) The security is concurrently hypothecated to a bank in the ordinary course of business to secure a loan made by the bank, provided that each purchaser represents that it is purchasing for its own account for investment and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.

(k) Any offer or sale of any security under, or pursuant to, a plan of reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy law that has been confirmed or is subject to confirmation by the decree or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(*l*) Any offer or sale of an option, warrant, put, call, or straddle, and any guarantee of any of these securities, by a person who is not the issuer of the security subject to the right, if the transaction, had it involved an offer or sale of the security subject to the right by the person, would not have violated Section 25110 or 25130.

(m) Any offer or sale of a stock to a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or employee stock ownership plan, provided that (1) the plan meets the requirements for qualification under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, and (2) the employees are not required or permitted individually to make any contributions to the plan. The exemption provided by this subdivision shall not be affected by whether the stock is contributed to the plan, purchased from the issuer with contributions by the issuer or an affiliate of the issuer, or purchased from the issuer with funds borrowed from the issuer, an affiliate of the issuer, or any other lender.

(n) Any offer or sale of any security in a transaction, other than an offer or sale of a security in a rollup transaction, that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) The issuer is (A) a California corporation or foreign corporation that, at the time of the filing of the notice required under this subdivision, is subject to Section 2115, or (B) any other form of business entity, including without limitation a partnership or trust organized under the laws of this state. The exemption provided by this subdivision is not available to a "blind pool" issuer, as that term is defined by the commissioner, or to an investment company subject to the Investment Company Act of 1940.

(2) Sales of securities are made only to qualified purchasers or other persons the issuer reasonably believes, after reasonable inquiry, to be qualified purchasers. A corporation, partnership, or other organization specifically formed for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the issuer in reliance upon this exemption may be a qualified purchaser if each of the equity owners of the corporation, partnership, or other organization is a qualified purchaser. Qualified purchasers include the following:

(A) A person designated in Section 260.102.13 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations.

(B) A person designated in subdivision (i) or any rule of the commissioner adopted thereunder.

(C) A pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer, a self-employed individual retirement plan, or an individual retirement account, if the investment decisions made on behalf of the trust, plan, or account are made solely by persons who are qualified purchasers.

(D) An organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corporation, Massachusetts or similar business trust, or partnership, each with total assets in excess of five million dollars ($5,000,000) according to its most recent audited financial statements.

(E) With respect to the offer and sale of one class of voting common stock of an issuer or of preferred stock of an issuer entitling the holder thereof to at least the same voting rights as the issuer's one class of voting common stock, provided that the issuer has only one-class voting common stock outstanding upon consummation of the offer and sale, a natural person who, either individually or jointly with the person's spouse, (i) has a minimum net worth of two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000), and had, during the immediately preceding tax year, gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) and reasonably expects gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) during the current tax year or (ii) has a minimum net worth of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000). "Net worth" shall be determined exclusive of home, home furnishings, and automobiles. Other assets included in the computation of net worth may be valued at fair market value.

Each natural person specified above, by reason of his or her business or financial experience, or the business or financial experience of his or her professional adviser, who is unaffiliated with and who is not compensated, directly or indirectly, by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, can be reasonably assumed to have the capacity to protect his or her interests in connection with the transaction. The amount of the investment of each natural person shall not exceed 10 percent of the net worth, as determined by this subparagraph, of that natural person.

(F) Any other purchaser designated as qualified by rule of the commissioner.

(3) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account (or trust account, if the purchaser is a trustee) and not with a view to or for sale in connection with a distribution of the security.

(4) Each natural person purchaser, including a corporation, partnership, or other organization specifically formed by natural persons for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the

issuer, receives, at least five business days before securities are sold to, or a commitment to purchase is accepted from, the purchaser, a written offering disclosure statement that shall meet the disclosure requirements of Regulation D (17 C.F.R. 230.501 et seq.), and any other information as may be prescribed by rule of the commissioner, provided that the issuer shall not be obligated pursuant to this paragraph to provide this disclosure statement to a natural person qualified under Section 260.102.13 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations. The offer or sale of securities pursuant to a disclosure statement required by this paragraph that is in violation of Section 25401, or that fails to meet the disclosure requirements of Regulation D (17 C.F.R. 230.501 et seq.), shall not render unavailable to the issuer the claim of an exemption from Section 25110 afforded by this subdivision. This paragraph does not impose, directly or indirectly, any additional disclosure obligation with respect to any other exemption from qualification available under any other provision of this section.

(5) (A) A general announcement of proposed offering may be published by written document only, provided that the general announcement of proposed offering sets forth the following required information:

(i) The name of the issuer of the securities.

(ii) The full title of the security to be issued.

(iii) The anticipated suitability standards for prospective purchasers.

(iv) A statement that (I) no money or other consideration is being solicited or will be accepted, (II) an indication of interest made by a prospective purchaser involves no obligation or commitment of any kind, and, if the issuer is required by paragraph (4) to deliver a disclosure statement to prospective purchasers, (III) no sales will be made or commitment to purchase accepted until five business days after delivery of a disclosure statement and subscription information to the prospective purchaser in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision.

(v) Any other information required by rule of the commissioner.

(vi) The following legend: “For more complete information about (Name of Issuer) and (Full Title of Security), send for additional information from (Name and Address) by sending this coupon or calling (Telephone Number).”

(B) The general announcement of proposed offering referred to in subparagraph (A) may also set forth the following information:

(i) A brief description of the business of the issuer.

(ii) The geographic location of the issuer and its business.

(iii) The price of the security to be issued, or, if the price is not known, the method of its determination or the probable price range as specified by the issuer, and the aggregate offering price.

(C) The general announcement of proposed offering shall contain only the information that is set forth in this paragraph.

(D) Dissemination of the general announcement of proposed offering to persons who are not qualified purchasers, without more, shall not disqualify the issuer from claiming the exemption under this subdivision.

(6) No telephone solicitation shall be permitted until the issuer has determined that the prospective purchaser to be solicited is a qualified purchaser.

(7) The issuer files a notice of transaction under this subdivision both (A) concurrent with the publication of a general announcement of proposed offering or at the time of the initial offer of the securities, whichever occurs first, accompanied by a filing fee, and (B) within 10 business days following the close or abandonment of the offering, but in no case more than 210 days from the date of filing the first notice. The first notice of transaction under subparagraph (A) shall contain an undertaking, in a form acceptable to the commissioner, to deliver any disclosure statement required by paragraph (4) to be delivered to prospective purchasers, and any supplement thereto, to the commissioner within 10 days of the commissioner's request for the information. The exemption from qualification afforded by this subdivision is unavailable if an issuer fails to file the first notice required under subparagraph (A) or to pay the filing fee. The commissioner has the authority to assess an administrative penalty of up to one thousand dollars ($1,000) against an issuer that fails to deliver the disclosure statement required to be delivered to the commissioner upon the commissioner's request within the time period set forth above. Neither the filing of the disclosure statement nor the failure by the commissioner to comment thereon precludes the commissioner from taking any action deemed necessary or appropriate under this division with respect to the offer and sale of the securities.

(o) An offer or sale of any security issued by a corporation or limited liability company pursuant to a purchase plan or agreement, or issued pursuant to an option plan or agreement, where the security at the time of issuance or grant is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, pursuant to Rule 701 adopted pursuant to that act (17 C.F.R. 230.701), the provisions of which are hereby incorporated by reference into this section, provided that (1) the terms of any purchase plan or agreement shall comply with Sections 260.140.42, 260.140.45, and 260.140.46 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, (2) the terms of any option plan or agreement shall comply with Sections 260.140.41, 260.140.45, and 260.140.46 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, and (3) the issuer files a notice of transaction in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner no later than 30 days after the initial issuance of any security under that plan, accompanied by a filing fee as prescribed by subdivision (y) of Section 25608. The failure to file the notice of transaction within the time specified in this subdivision shall not affect the availability of this exemption. An issuer that fails to file the notice shall, within 15 business days after discovery of the failure to file the notice or after demand by the commissioner, whichever occurs first, file the notice and pay the commissioner a fee equal to the maximum aggregate fee payable had the transaction been qualified under Section 25110.

Offers and sales exempt pursuant to this subdivision shall be deemed to be part of a single, discrete offering and are not subject to integration with any other offering or sale, whether qualified under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 25110), or otherwise exempt, or not subject to qualification.

(p) An offer or sale of nonredeemable securities to accredited investors (Section 28031) by a person licensed under the Capital Access Company Law (Division 3 (commencing with Section 28000) of Title 4), provided that all purchasers either (1) have a preexisting personal or business relationship with the offeror or any of its partners, officers, directors, controlling persons, or managers (as appointed or elected by the members), or (2) by reason of their business or financial experience or the business or financial experience of their professional advisers who are unaffiliated with and who are not compensated by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, directly or indirectly, could be reasonably assumed to have the capacity to protect their own interests in connection with the transaction. All nonredeemable securities shall be evidenced by certificates that shall have stamped or printed prominently on their face a legend in a form to be prescribed by rule or order of the commissioner restricting transfer of the securities in the manner as the rule or order provides. The exemption under this subdivision shall not be available for any offering that is exempt or asserted to be exempt pursuant to Section 3(a)(11) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 77c(a)(11)) or Rule 147 (17 C.F.R. ~~Sec.~~ 230.147) thereunder or otherwise is conducted by means of any form of general solicitation or general advertising.

(q) Any offer or sale of any viatical or life settlement contract or fractionalized or pooled interest therein in a transaction that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Sales of securities described in this subdivision are made only to qualified purchasers or other persons the issuer reasonably believes, after reasonable inquiry, to be qualified purchasers. A corporation, partnership, or other organization specifically formed for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the issuer in reliance upon this exemption may be a qualified purchaser only if each of the equity owners of the corporation, partnership, or other organization is a qualified purchaser. Qualified purchasers include the following:

(A) A person designated in Section 260.102.13 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations.

(B) A person designated in subdivision (i) or any rule of the commissioner adopted thereunder.

(C) A pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer, a self-employed individual retirement plan, or an individual retirement account, if the investment decisions made on behalf of the trust, plan, or account are made solely by persons who are qualified purchasers.

(D) An organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corporation, Massachusetts or similar business trust, or partnership, each with total assets in excess of five million dollars ($5,000,000) according to its most recent audited financial statements.

(E) A natural person who, either individually or jointly with the person's spouse, (i) has a minimum net worth of one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) and had, during the immediately preceding tax year, gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) and reasonably expects gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) during the current tax year or (ii) has a minimum net worth of two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000). “Net worth” shall be determined exclusive of home, home furnishings, and automobiles. Other assets included in the computation of net worth may be valued at fair market value.

Each natural person specified above, by reason of his or her business or financial experience, or the business or financial experience of his or her professional adviser, who is unaffiliated with and who is not compensated, directly or indirectly, by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, can be reasonably assumed to have the capacity to protect his or her interests in connection with the transaction.

The amount of the investment of each natural person shall not exceed 10 percent of the net worth, as determined by this subdivision, of that natural person.

(F) Any other purchaser designated as qualified by rule of the commissioner.

(2) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser’s own account (or trust account, if the purchaser is a trustee) and not with a view to or for sale in connection with a distribution of the security.

(3) Each natural person purchaser, including a corporation, partnership, or other organization specifically formed by natural persons for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the issuer, receives, at least five business days before securities described in this subdivision are sold to, or a commitment to purchase is accepted from, the purchaser, the following information in writing:

(A) The name, principal business and mailing address, and telephone number of the issuer.

(B) The suitability standards for prospective purchasers as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subdivision.

(C) A description of the issuer’s type of business organization and the state in which the issuer is organized or incorporated.

(D) A brief description of the business of the issuer.

(E) If the issuer retains ownership or becomes the beneficiary of the insurance policy, an audit report of an independent certified public accountant together with a balance sheet and related statements of income, retained earnings, and cashflows that reflect the issuer's financial position, the results of the issuer's operations, and the issuer's cashflows as of a date within 15 months before the date of the initial issuance of the securities described in this subdivision. The financial statements listed in this subparagraph shall be prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. If the date of the audit report is more than 120 days before the date of the initial issuance of the securities described in this subdivision, the issuer shall provide unaudited interim financial statements.

(F) The names of all directors, officers, partners, members, or trustees of the issuer.

(G) A description of any order, judgment, or decree that is final as to the issuing entity of any state, federal, or foreign country governmental agency or administrator, or of any state, federal, or foreign country court of competent jurisdiction (i) revoking, suspending, denying, or censuring for cause any license, permit, or other authority of the issuer or of any director, officer, partner, member, trustee, or person owning or controlling, directly or indirectly, 10 percent or more of the outstanding interest or equity securities of the issuer, to engage in the securities, commodities, franchise, insurance, real estate, or lending business or in the offer or sale of securities, commodities, franchises, insurance, real estate, or loans~~,~~*;* (ii) permanently restraining, enjoining, barring, suspending, or censuring any such person from engaging in or continuing any conduct, practice, or employment in connection with the offer or sale of securities, commodities, franchises, insurance, real estate, or loans~~,~~*;* (iii) convicting any such person of, or pleading nolo contendere by any such person to, any felony or misdemeanor involving a security, commodity, franchise, insurance, real estate, or loan, or any aspect of the securities, commodities, franchise, insurance, real estate, or lending business, or involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property~~,~~*;* or (iv) holding any such person liable in a civil action involving breach of a fiduciary duty, fraud, deceit, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property. This subparagraph does not apply to any order, judgment, or decree that has been vacated, overturned, or is more than 10 years old.

(H) Notice of the purchaser's right to rescind or cancel the investment and receive a refund pursuant to Section 25508.5.

(I) The name, address, and telephone number of the issuing insurance company, and the name, address, and telephone number of the state or foreign country regulator of the insurance company.

(J) The total face value of the insurance policy and the percentage of the insurance policy the purchaser will own.

(K) The insurance policy number, issue date, and type.

(L) If a group insurance policy, the name, address, and telephone number of the group, and, if applicable, the material terms and conditions of converting the policy to an individual policy, including the amount of increased premiums.

(M) If a term insurance policy, the term and the name, address, and telephone number of the person who will be responsible for renewing the policy if necessary.

(N) That the insurance policy is beyond the state statute for contestability and the reason therefor.

(O) The insurance policy premiums and terms of premium payments.

(P) The amount of the purchaser's moneys that will be set aside to pay premiums.

(Q) The name, address, and telephone number of the person who will be the insurance policy owner and the person who will be responsible for paying premiums.

(R) The date on which the purchaser will be required to pay premiums and the amount of the premium, if known.

(S) A statement to the effect that any projected rate of return to the purchaser from the purchase of a viatical or life settlement contract or a fractionalized or pooled interest therein is based on an estimated life expectancy for the person insured under the life insurance policy; that the return on the purchase may vary substantially from the expected rate of return based upon the actual life expectancy of the insured that may be less than, equal to, or may greatly exceed the estimated life expectancy; and that the rate of return would be higher if the actual life expectancy were less than, and lower if the actual life expectancy were greater than, the estimated life expectancy of the insured at the time the viatical or life settlement contract was closed.

(T) A statement that the purchaser should consult with his or her tax adviser regarding the tax consequences of the purchase of the viatical or life settlement contract or fractionalized or pooled interest therein and, if the purchaser is using retirement funds or accounts for that purchase, whether or not any adverse tax consequences might result from the use of those funds for the purchase of that investment.

(U) Any other information as may be prescribed by rule of the commissioner.

(r) (1) Any offer or sale of a security by an issuer using any form of general solicitation or general advertising as specified in Rule 502(c) of Regulation D under the Securities Act of 1933 (17 C.F.R. 230.502(c)), except unsolicited telephone calls to a person's residence or cellular telephone, unless the issuer and the caller reasonably believe, after reasonable inquiry, *prior to the unsolicited telephone call,* that the person is an accredited investor, as defined in Rule 501 of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (17 C.F.R. 230.501), and the transaction meets all the requirements of this subdivision.

(2) Sales of securities shall be made only to a person who is, or whom the issuer reasonably believes, after reasonable inquiry, to be an accredited investor immediately prior to the sale.

(3) The issuer reasonably believes, after reasonable inquiry, that immediately prior to the sale the offering is suitable for the person, based on the person's financial status, objectives, investment experience, time horizon, risk tolerance, and any other information the issuer deems relevant to determine whether the offering is suitable to the person. The issuer shall maintain, for a period of four years, documentation sufficient to establish the basis for its determination of suitability.

(4) If the person is a natural person, the amount of consideration paid by the purchaser does not exceed 10 percent of his or her net worth, or joint net worth with the purchaser's spouse, immediately prior to the investment, and each investor's investment in the offering, together with all previous offerings under this subdivision made during the previous 12 months, does not exceed 10 percent of his or her net worth. "Net worth" shall be determined as specified in Rule 501(a) of Regulation D promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (17 C.F.R. ~~Sec.~~ 230.501(a)).

(5) The issuer can reasonably assume that the person has the capacity to protect his or her interests in connection with the

offering due to his or her business or financial experience, or the business or financial experience of his or her professional adviser, who is unaffiliated with and not compensated, directly or indirectly, by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer.

(6) The issuer believes in good faith that the offer and sale are exempt from registration under Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 77e) pursuant to Section 3(a)(11) of the act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 77c(a)(11)), or the rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 3(b) or Section 4(2) of the act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 77d(2)).

(7) The issuer specifies in all advertisements, communications, sales literature, or other information that is publicly disseminated in connection with the offering, including by means of electronic transmission or broadcast media, that the securities will be sold to accredited investors only. For purposes of this subdivision, "publicly disseminated" means communicated to 100 or more persons or otherwise communicated, used, or circulated in a public manner.

(8) The issuer places a legend on the cover page of each disclosure document proposed to be used in connection with the offering or on the cover page of the subscription agreement advising that the securities described in the disclosure document or subscription agreement will be sold to accredited investors only.

(9) Dissemination of information regarding the proposed offering to a person who is not an accredited investor shall not disqualify the offering from the exemption under this subdivision.

(10) The issuer shall file with the commissioner a notice pursuant to Section 25102.1 and pay the fee specified in subdivision (c) of Section 25608.1 within 15 days after the first sale of the securities in this state.

(11) A person who purchases securities in an offering that fails to meet all of the terms and conditions of this subdivision may bring an action under Sections 25503, 25504, and 25504.1 for recession of the purchase. In addition to the other remedies provided in those sections, the court shall award attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing purchaser in any such action.

~~(11)~~

(12) The exemption is not available for an offering by an issuer who is (A) an investment company as defined in Section 3(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a et

seq.), or (B) a development stage company as referred to in Rule 504(a)(3) under the Securities Act of 1933.

~~(12)~~

(13) The exemption under this subdivision is not available to an issuer if any of the following apply to the issuer or its predecessors, affiliates, directors, officers, general partners, beneficial owners of 10 percent or more of any classification of its equity securities, promoters presently connected with the issuer in any capacity, or any underwriter of the securities to be offered, or any of the underwriter's partners, directors, or officers:

(A) Within the five years immediately prior to the first offer of the security, the person has filed a registration statement that is the subject of a currently effective stop order entered by any state securities administrator or the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(B) Within the five years immediately prior to the first offer of the security, the person has been convicted of any criminal offense involving fraud, deceit, or any offense concerning the offer, purchase, or sale of any security.

(C) The person is currently subject to a state or federal administrative enforcement order or judgment entered within the five years immediately prior to the first offer of the security finding fraud or deceit in connection with the purchase or sale of any security.

(D) The person is currently subject to any order, judgment, or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, entered within the five years immediately prior to the first offer of the security, temporarily, preliminarily, or permanently restraining or enjoining the person from engaging in or continuing to engage in any conduct or practice involving fraud or deceit in connection with the purchase or sale of any security, except if any of the following apply:

(i) The person is licensed or registered to conduct securities-related business in the state in which the order, judgment, or decree described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) was entered against the person.

(ii) Before the first offer of securities is made in reliance upon the exemption under this subdivision, the state securities administrator, the court, or the regulatory authority that entered the order, judgment, or decree removes, reverses, or vacates the order, judgment, or decree.

(iii) The issuer, exercising reasonable care and based on a factual inquiry, establishes that it could not have known of the existence of circumstances described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

~~SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.~~

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