SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4311

A bill to provide insurance to farm produce producers against losses from the failure of grain dealers; to establish a farm produce insurance authority; to prescribe the powers and duties of the authority and its board; to establish a farm produce insurance fund; to provide for assessments on grain dealers; to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state agencies and officers; to authorize the promulgation of rules; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 "farm produce insurance act".
- 3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:
- 4 (a) "Acknowledgment form" means that term as defined in
- 5 section 2 of the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 6 (b) "Administrative expenses" means the costs described in

- **1** section 9(2).
- 2 (c) "Authority" means the farm produce insurance authority
- 3 created in section 5.
- 4 (d) "Board" means the board of directors of the authority
- 5 described in section 7.
- 6 (e) "Claimant" means a producer who makes a claim for
- 7 reimbursement from the fund under section 15.
- 8 (f) "Department" means the department of agriculture.
- **9** (g) "Depositor" means that term as defined in section 2 of
- 10 the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 11 (h) "Director" means the director of the department or his or
- 12 her designee.
- (i) "Failure" of a licensee or grain dealer means that term
- 14 as defined in section 2 of the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 15 (j) "Farm produce" means that term as defined in section 2 of
- 16 the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 17 (k) "Farm produce insurance program" or "program" means the
- 18 program for reimbursement of claims described in this act.
- 19 (l) "Financial institution" means that term as defined in
- 20 section 2 of the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 21 (m) "Financial loss" means the loss to a producer who is not
- 22 paid in full for farm produce that the producer sold to a grain
- 23 dealer and delivered under the terms of the sales contract, after
- 24 deducting any outstanding charges against the farm produce.
- (n) "Fund" means the farm produce insurance fund created in
- 26 section 9.
- 27 (o) "Grain dealer" means that term as defined in section 2 of

- 1 the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 2 (p) "Grain dealers act" means the grain dealers act, 1939
- 3 PA 141, MCL 285.61 to 285.88.
- 4 (q) "Licensee" means that term as defined in section 2 of the
- 5 grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 6 (r) "Net proceeds" means the sale price of farm produce, less
- 7 usual and customary charges and costs of sale of the farm
- 8 produce.
- 9 (s) "Participant" means a producer that has contributed to
- 10 the fund and never requested a refund from the fund or a producer
- 11 who has reentered the program under section 13(5).
- 12 (t) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited
- 13 liability company, partnership, association, cooperative
- 14 organization, or other legal entity.
- (u) "Price later agreement" means that term as defined in
- 16 section 2 of the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 17 (v) "Producer" means a person that owns, rents, leases, or
- 18 operates a farm on land and who has an interest in and receives
- 19 all or any part of the proceeds from the sale in Michigan of farm
- 20 produce produced from the land to a grain dealer licensed under
- 21 the grain dealers act.
- (w) "Producer premium" means the amount of money charged to
- 23 and collected from a producer under section 11.
- 24 (x) "Sale" means transfer of title.
- (y) "Storage loss" means a loss to a depositor resulting from
- 26 the failure of a licensee that has not fully satisfied its
- 27 storage obligation to the depositor, net of any outstanding

- 1 charges against the farm produce.
- 2 (z) "Valid claim" means a claim arising from a failure of a
- 3 licensee that occurs after the effective date of this act, is
- 4 found valid by the department, and is approved by the board, less
- 5 all credits and offsets associated with farm produce sold by a
- 6 producer to the licensee.
- 7 (aa) "Warehouse receipt" means that term as defined in
- 8 section 2 of the grain dealers act, MCL 285.62.
- 9 Sec. 5. The farm produce insurance authority is created as
- 10 a public body corporate and politic. The authority is within,
- 11 but not a part of, the department. The authority shall exercise
- 12 its prescribed statutory powers, duties, and functions
- 13 independently of the director, the department, and the commission
- 14 of agriculture. The budgeting, procurement, and related
- 15 functions of the authority shall be performed under the direction
- 16 and supervision of the board.
- 17 Sec. 7. (1) A board of directors shall govern and
- 18 administer the authority. The board shall consist of the
- 19 following 10 members:
- 20 (a) The director, or his or her designee, is a nonvoting
- 21 member and the chairperson and secretary of the board. This
- 22 member shall not receive per diem or other compensation or
- 23 reimbursement for expenses for serving on the board.
- 24 (b) Two voting members appointed by the governor for
- 25 staggered terms, upon the recommendation of the largest Michigan
- 26 organization representing the interests of licensees in Michigan,
- 27 as determined by the director. For the first board, the governor

- 1 shall appoint 1 voting member appointed under this subdivision
- 2 for a term of 1 year and 1 voting member for 2 years. The member
- 3 appointed to the first board for a 2-year term under this
- 4 subdivision is the first treasurer of the board. When a member
- 5 who is the treasurer leaves the board, the member appointed to
- 6 the board under this subdivision who has been a member of the
- 7 board for the longest period is the treasurer.
- 8 (c) Three voting members appointed by the governor for
- 9 staggered terms, upon the recommendation of the largest Michigan
- 10 organization representing general farm interests in Michigan, as
- 11 determined by the director. Only a producer is eligible for
- 12 appointment under this subdivision. For the first board, the
- 13 governor shall appoint 1 voting member appointed under this
- 14 subdivision for a term of 1 year, 1 voting member for a term of 2
- 15 years, and 1 voting member for a term of 3 years. The member
- 16 appointed to the first board for a 3-year term under this
- 17 subdivision is the first vice-chairperson of the board. When a
- 18 member who is the vice-chairperson leaves the board, the member
- 19 appointed to the board under this subdivision who has been a
- 20 member of the board for the longest period is the
- 21 vice-chairperson.
- 22 (d) One voting member appointed by the governor, upon the
- 23 recommendation of the largest Michigan organization exclusively
- 24 representing the interests of corn producers in Michigan, as
- 25 determined by the director. Only a producer is eligible for
- 26 appointment under this subdivision.
- (e) One voting member appointed by the governor, upon the

- 1 recommendation of the largest Michigan organization exclusively
- 2 representing the interests of soybean producers in Michigan, as
- 3 determined by the director. Only a producer is eligible for
- 4 appointment under this subdivision.
- 5 (f) One voting member appointed by the governor, upon the
- 6 recommendation of the largest Michigan organization exclusively
- 7 representing dry bean producers in Michigan, as determined by the
- 8 director. Only a producer is eligible for appointment under this
- 9 subdivision.
- 10 (g) One voting member appointed by the governor, upon the
- 11 recommendation of the largest Michigan organization representing
- 12 the interests of agricultural lenders in Michigan, as determined
- 13 by the director.
- 14 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) and (c) for the
- 15 first board, each voting member of the board shall serve for a
- 16 3-year term and may be reappointed for 1 or more additional
- 17 terms. The governor may remove a voting member from the board
- 18 for good cause.
- 19 (3) The governor shall fill a vacancy on the board for an
- 20 unexpired term for the remainder of the term and in the same
- 21 manner as an original appointment. A vacancy does not impair the
- 22 right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the
- 23 duties of the board.
- 24 (4) Five voting members constitute a quorum. The affirmative
- 25 vote of 5 or more voting members is necessary for an action of
- 26 the board other than adjournment of a meeting of the board. An
- 27 adjournment of a meeting of the board requires a vote of a

- 1 majority of voting members present at the meeting and voting.
- 2 (5) The board shall hold an annual meeting and at least 1
- 3 additional meeting each calendar year. The secretary of the
- 4 board shall provide written notice of each meeting to the members
- 5 of the board at least 5 days before the meeting.
- **6** (6) A member of the board may waive any notice required by
- 7 this section, before or after the date and time stated in the
- 8 notice, in writing and delivered, mailed, or electronically
- 9 transmitted to the authority for inclusion in the minutes or
- 10 filing with the records of the authority.
- 11 (7) A board member's attendance at a meeting waives any
- 12 objection to any of the following:
- 13 (a) No notice or a defective notice of a meeting, unless the
- 14 member at the beginning of the meeting objects to holding the
- 15 meeting or transacting business at the meeting.
- 16 (b) Consideration of any particular matter at a meeting that
- 17 is not within the purpose or purposes described in the notice,
- 18 unless the member objects to considering the matter when it is
- 19 presented.
- 20 (8) The board shall do all of the following:
- 21 (a) Create forms, and establish policies and procedures to
- 22 implement this act.
- (b) Establish the amount of the producer premium under
- **24** section 11.
- (c) Collect and deposit all producer premiums authorized
- 26 under this act into the fund.
- 27 (d) Take any legal action it considers necessary to compel a

- 1 failed licensee to repay the fund for any payment made from the
- 2 fund to a claimant for a valid claim against that licensee.
- 3 (e) Take any legal action it considers necessary to compel a
- 4 claimant to participate in any legal proceeding in relation to
- 5 the claim or the failure of a licensee.
- 6 (f) Within 5 business days of receiving notice of failure of
- 7 a licensee, publish notice of the failure in a manner described
- 8 in the grain dealers act.
- 9 (g) Request the services of the department or arrange for
- 10 legal services through the department of attorney general if the
- 11 board considered it necessary in the execution of its duties.
- 12 (h) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with its
- 13 operations, in amounts and from insurers as determined by the
- 14 board.
- (i) Borrow money from a bank, an insurance company, an
- 16 investment company, or any other person, and pay or include in
- 17 the loan any financing charges or interest, consultant, advisory,
- 18 or legal fees, and other expenses the board determines are
- 19 appropriate in connection with the loan. Any loan contract must
- 20 provide for a term of not more than 40 years, allow prepayment
- 21 without penalty, and plainly state that the loan is not a debt of
- 22 this state but the sole obligation of the authority, payable
- 23 solely from the fund or from any appropriation from this state
- 24 made to the authority for repayment of the loan.
- (j) Employ personnel as required in the judgment of the board
- 26 and fix and pay compensation from money available to the
- 27 authority from the administrative expenses account described in

- **1** section 9(2).
- 2 (k) Make, execute, and carry out any contract, agreement, or
- 3 other instrument or document with a governmental department or
- 4 other person it determines is necessary or convenient to
- 5 accomplish the purposes of this act.
- (l) If requested by the director and approved by the board,
- 7 make payment from the fund to compensate a claimant for a valid
- 8 claim.
- **9** (9) The board may do any of the following:
- 10 (a) Establish policies and procedures in connection with the
- 11 performance of the functions and duties of the authority.
- 12 (b) Adopt a policy establishing a code of ethics for its
- 13 employees and board members, consistent with 1973 PA 196,
- 14 MCL 15.341 to 15.348.
- 15 (c) Accept gifts, devises, bequests, grants, loans,
- 16 appropriations, revenue sharing, other financing and assistance,
- 17 and any other aid from any source and deposit them in the fund
- 18 and agree to and comply with any conditions attached to them.
- 19 (10) A voting member may receive per diem compensation and
- 20 mileage reimbursement for attending meetings of the board or
- 21 while engaged in the performance of his or her duties on behalf
- 22 of the authority, in amounts established by the board, and may
- 23 receive reimbursement for other expenses approved by the board.
- 24 The amounts established by the board shall not exceed the maximum
- 25 commission of agriculture rates for per diem compensation and
- 26 mileage reimbursement. A voting member shall not receive any
- 27 other compensation for serving on the board or for services

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- 1 performed for the authority.
- 2 (11) A representative of the board or the department may in
- 3 accordance with this act inspect the books and records of a
- 4 licensee during normal business hours to verify whether the
- 5 licensee is complying with the provisions of this act.
- 6 Sec. 9. (1) The farm produce insurance fund is established
- 7 under the direction and control of the board. The fund shall
- 8 consist of producer premiums, money from any other source, and
- 9 interest and earnings from any other source. The board shall
- 10 direct payments from the fund only for the following purposes:
- 11 (a) Payment of valid claims under section 15.
- 12 (b) Payment of producer premium refunds under section 13.
- (c) Payment of administrative expenses under subsection (2).
- 14 (d) Payment of legal fees and legal expenses under subsection
- **15** (3).
- 16 (2) The board shall allocate money from the fund to a
- 17 separate administrative expenses account to pay administrative
- 18 expenses. This allocation shall not exceed \$250,000.00 in any
- 19 fiscal year. Administrative expenses under this subsection
- 20 include the actual cost of processing refunds of producer
- 21 premiums, enforcement, record keeping, ordinary management and
- 22 investment fees connected with the operation of the fund,
- 23 verification cost under section 11(5), and any other expenses
- 24 approved by the board. Administrative expenses do not include
- 25 legal fees and legal expenses described in subsection (3).
- 26 (3) For legal services requested by the board, the board
- 27 shall pay for any legal services and legal expenses required by

- 1 the authority, board, or fund from money in the fund. Legal
- 2 services and expenses described in this subsection are not
- 3 administrative expenses and shall not be paid from the
- 4 administrative expenses account.
- 5 (4) The treasurer of the board shall act as the investment
- **6** officer of the fund and shall invest or direct a financial
- 7 institution to invest the money in the fund that is not currently
- 8 needed to meet the obligations of the fund. The treasurer of the
- 9 board shall invest or direct the investment of the money only in
- 10 the manner permitted in section 1 of 1943 PA 20, MCL 129.91.
- 11 Interest and earnings shall be credited to the fund.
- 12 (5) The fund shall operate on a fiscal year established by
- 13 the board.
- 14 Sec. 11. (1) Except as provided in this section, beginning
- 15 January 1, 2004, each producer shall pay to the authority a
- 16 producer premium of not more than 0.2% of the net proceeds from
- 17 all farm produce sold by the producer to a licensee in this
- 18 state. If the farm produce is sold to a licensee, the licensee
- 19 shall deduct the producer premium from the proceeds of sale and
- 20 pay the premium to the authority on behalf of the producer as
- 21 provided in subsection (3).
- 22 (2) A producer premium imposed under this section is in
- 23 addition to any other fees or assessments required by law.
- 24 (3) Beginning January 1, 2004, when purchasing farm produce
- 25 from a producer, a licensee or its agent or representative shall
- 26 deduct the producer premium described in subsection (1) from the
- 27 proceeds of sale and notify the producer of the amount of the

- 1 deduction in writing. The licensee shall forward the producer
- 2 premium to the authority for deposit into the fund on behalf of
- 3 the producer within 30 days of the close of each quarter of the
- 4 fiscal year. Until the authority has received \$5,000,000.00 in
- 5 producer premiums under this act from licensees, a licensee that
- 6 forwards producer premiums it has collected to the authority
- 7 within the time period described in this subsection may retain
- 8 0.1% of the producer premiums collected.
- 9 (4) Before January 1, 2004, the department by first-class
- 10 mail shall notify each licensee of the requirements of subsection
- **11** (3).
- 12 (5) A licensee shall clearly indicate in its books and
- 13 records the individual producer premiums collected by the
- 14 licensee under subsection (3) and retain those books and records
- 15 for at least 3 years. A licensee shall make the portion of the
- 16 books and records of the licensee reflecting the premiums
- 17 collected available for inspection by the director during regular
- 18 business hours. The department shall take steps reasonably
- 19 necessary to verify the accuracy of the portion of the licensee's
- 20 books and records that reflect the premiums collected. The board
- 21 shall reimburse the department for the costs related to the
- 22 verification from the fund as an administrative expense under
- 23 section 9(2).
- 24 (6) The director shall require that a licensee make its books
- 25 and records available to the department for the inspection or
- 26 verification described in subsection (5). Financial information
- 27 submitted to the department or the authority by a licensee for

- 1 purposes of this subsection and subsection (5) is confidential
- 2 and is not subject to the disclosure requirements of the freedom
- 3 of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, except
- 4 that disclosure of financial information may be made in any of
- 5 the following circumstances:
- 6 (a) With the written consent of the licensee.
- 7 (b) Pursuant to a court proceeding.
- 8 (c) The disclosure is made to the director or an agent or
- 9 employee of the department.
- 10 (d) The disclosure is made to an agent or employee of a state
- 11 or the federal government authorized by law to see or review the
- 12 information.
- (e) The information is disclosed in the form of an
- 14 information summary or profile, or as part of a statistical study
- 15 that includes data on more than 1 grain dealer, that does not
- 16 identify the grain dealer to whom any specific information
- 17 applies.
- 18 (7) At each annual meeting, the board shall certify the
- 19 amount of money in the fund at the end of the preceding fiscal
- 20 year. A producer shall continue to pay and a licensee shall
- 21 continue to collect producer premiums until the board certifies
- 22 that the fund contained more than \$5,000,000.00 at the end of the
- 23 preceding fiscal year. In any fiscal year where the board has
- 24 certified that the fund contained more than \$5,000,000.00 at the
- 25 end of the preceding fiscal year, a producer is not required to
- 26 pay and a licensee is not required to collect producer premiums
- 27 until 1 of the following occurs:

- 1 (a) The board certifies that the fund contained less than
- 2 \$3,000,000.00 at the end of the preceding fiscal year. In any
- 3 year where the board has certified that the fund contained less
- 4 than \$3,000,000.00 at the end of the preceding fiscal year, the
- 5 obligation of each producer to pay and each licensee to collect
- 6 producer premiums is reinstated.
- 7 (b) The obligation of each producer to pay and each licensee
- 8 to collect producer premiums is reinstated in any fiscal year in
- 9 which all of the following are met:
- 10 (i) The board certifies that the fund contained at least
- 11 \$3,000,000.00 at the end of the preceding fiscal year.
- 12 (ii) The board is aware of a failure of a licensee.
- 13 (iii) As determined by the board, the amount required to
- 14 satisfy valid claims equals or exceeds the amount of money in the
- **15** fund.
- 16 Sec. 13. (1) Subject to subsection (7), a producer that has
- 17 paid, either directly or collected by a licensee, a producer
- 18 premium may receive a refund of the producer premium from the
- 19 fund by submitting a written demand for refund to the board,
- 20 delivered personally or by first-class mail within 12 months
- 21 after the producer paid the producer premium, or within a longer
- 22 period granted by the board if it determines that good cause for
- 23 an extension exists.
- 24 (2) A producer shall submit a demand for refund under
- 25 subsection (1) on a demand for refund form developed by the
- 26 board. The board shall make the form available to a licensee,
- 27 producer, or member of the public upon request.

- 1 (3) If a producer is entitled to a refund of a producer
- 2 premium under this section, the board shall pay the refund within
- 3 60 days of its receipt of the demand for refund.
- 4 (4) If producer premiums were assessed in the immediately
- 5 preceding calendar year, the board shall by January 31 send a
- 6 notice to each producer who requested a refund of a producer
- 7 premium in any previous calendar year. The notice must inform
- 8 the producer of the deadline for and method of submitting a
- 9 demand for refund to the board under subsections (1) and (2) and
- 10 the method for reentering the program under subsection (5).
- 11 (5) A producer that receives a refund of a producer premium
- 12 under subsection (1) is not entitled to participation in the
- 13 program or to receive any payment under this act unless it
- 14 reenters the farm produce insurance program by meeting all of the
- 15 following conditions:
- 16 (a) The producer submits a request for reentry into the farm
- 17 produce insurance program to the board. The producer shall
- 18 submit the request in the form required by the board and shall
- 19 deliver the request to the board by hand or by certified mail,
- 20 return receipt requested.
- 21 (b) The board reviews the producer's request for reentry and
- 22 approves the request.
- (c) The producer pays into the fund all previous producer
- 24 premiums refunded to the producer, and interest on the refunds as
- 25 determined by the board.
- 26 (6) Beginning 90 days after the reentry, a producer that
- 27 reenters the farm produce insurance program under subsection (5)

- 1 is eligible for reimbursement of claims under the program.
- 2 (7) A producer is not eligible for a refund of a producer
- 3 premium under this section if the producer has received
- 4 reimbursement from the fund for a valid claim within the
- 5 preceding 36 months.
- 6 Sec. 15. (1) A producer that meets both of the following
- 7 may submit a claim for reimbursement from the fund under this
- 8 section:
- **9** (a) The producer is a participant at the time the producer
- 10 submits the claim.
- 11 (b) The producer satisfies 1 of the following conditions:
- 12 (i) The producer possesses written evidence of ownership of
- 13 farm produce that discloses a storage obligation of a licensee
- 14 that has failed, including, but not limited to, a warehouse
- 15 receipt, acknowledgment form, or settlement sheet.
- 16 (ii) The producer has surrendered warehouse receipts as part
- 17 of a sale of farm produce to a licensee that failed not more than
- 18 21 days after the surrender of the warehouse receipts and the
- 19 producer surrendering the warehouse receipts was not fully paid
- 20 for the farm produce.
- 21 (iii) The producer possesses written evidence of the delivery
- 22 and sale of farm produce or transfer of price later farm produce
- 23 to a failed licensee, including, but not limited to, an
- 24 acknowledgment form, settlement sheet, price later agreement, or
- 25 similar farm produce delivery contract, but the grain dealer did
- 26 not pay the producer in full for the farm produce.
- 27 (2) If the department finds a claim made under subsection (1)

- 1 is valid and the board approves of the valid claim, the board
- 2 shall within 90 days of the board's approval pay the claimant the
- 3 amount described in subsection (3) or (4) from the fund as
- 4 compensation for the claim. The 90-day time period for payment
- 5 may be extended if the board and claimant agree in a writing that
- 6 describes the payment terms and schedule.
- 7 (3) A claimant that incurs a storage loss due to the failure
- 8 of a licensee is entitled to payment under subsection (2) in an
- 9 amount equal to 100% of the storage loss, less any producer
- 10 premium that would have been due on the sale of the farm
- 11 produce. The department shall determine the gross amount of the
- 12 storage loss based upon local market prices on the date of
- 13 failure. The department may consider any evidence submitted by
- 14 the failed licensee or any claimants concerning the actual
- 15 charges associated with stored farm produce.
- 16 (4) A claimant that incurs a financial loss due to the
- 17 failure of a licensee is entitled to payment under subsection (2)
- 18 in an amount equal to 90% of the financial loss. For farm
- 19 produce that is sold in a transaction subject to the grain
- 20 dealers act, the department shall determine the amount of the
- 21 financial loss based on the value of the farm produce less any
- 22 outstanding charges against the farm produce. If the farm
- 23 produce has not been priced, the department shall establish the
- 24 amount of the financial loss using the local market on the date
- 25 of failure less any usual and customary charges associated with
- 26 the sale of farm produce.
- 27 (5) A claim under subsection (2) of this section is valid

- 1 only if it is made within 1 year after notice of the failure of
- 2 the licensee is published in a newspaper of general circulation
- 3 in each county in which a facility of the licensee is located.
- 4 (6) The board may require a claimant paid under this section
- 5 for a valid claim to subrogate to the board or authority all the
- 6 claimant's rights to collect on any bond issued under the grain
- 7 dealers act or the United States warehouse act, 39 Stat. 486, 7
- 8 U.S.C. 241 to 273, and the claimant's rights to any other
- 9 compensation arising from the failure of the licensee. If
- 10 required to subrogate under this subsection, the claimant shall
- 11 assign the claimant's interest in any judgment concerning the
- 12 failure to the board or authority.
- 13 (7) The board shall deny the payment of a valid claim under
- 14 this section if the board determines any of the following are
- **15** met:
- 16 (a) The claimant as payee fails to present for payment a
- 17 negotiable instrument issued as payment for farm produce within
- 18 90 days after the date the negotiable instrument is tendered to
- 19 the claimant as payment for farm produce purchased by the
- 20 licensee.
- 21 (b) The claimant has engaged in marketing practices that have
- 22 substantially contributed to the claimant's loss. The authority
- 23 may consider whether the marketing practices are generally
- 24 accepted marketing practices in this state in making its
- 25 determination.
- (c) The claimant has intentionally committed a fraud or
- 27 violated this act in connection with the claim.

- 1 (8) If the department determines that a failure of a licensee
- 2 has occurred, the board shall do all of the following:
- 3 (a) Determine the valid claims against the licensee and the
- 4 amount of the valid claims.
- 5 (b) Authorize payment of money from the fund when necessary
- 6 to pay claimants for valid claims as provided in this section.
- 7 (c) Deposit into the fund any proceeds of the remaining farm
- 8 produce assets of a failed licensee to repay the fund for money
- 9 paid to claimants, subject to any priority lien right a holder of
- 10 a mortgage, security interest, or other encumbrance may possess
- 11 under any applicable law. The board shall not deposit into the
- 12 fund an amount in excess of the sum of the principal amount of
- 13 valid claims paid to claimants, plus interest for the period from
- 14 the date a claimant was paid for a valid claim to the date that
- 15 the remaining farm produce assets were received by the board
- 16 under this subsection, at a per annum rate equal to the auction
- 17 rate of 91-day discount treasury bills on the date the claimant
- 18 was paid.
- 19 (d) If the amount in the fund and any amount the board
- 20 borrows under subsection (9)(b) are insufficient to pay all valid
- 21 claims, pay the amount available for payment proportionately
- 22 among the valid claims approved by the board and pay the prorated
- 23 amount to those claimants.
- 24 (9) If the department determines that a failure of a licensee
- 25 has occurred, the board may do any of the following:
- (a) Pursue any subrogation rights obtained from claimants
- 27 under subsection (6).

- 1 (b) If the fund has insufficient money to pay the valid
- 2 claims, borrow money as authorized under section 7(8)(i) for the
- 3 payment of valid claims.
- 4 Sec. 17. The board shall use money in the fund only for a
- 5 purpose described in section 9(1). This section is not severable
- 6 from the whole of this act, and if any portion of this section is
- 7 held invalid, it is the manifest intent of the legislature that
- 8 this act as a whole shall be held invalid and the money remaining
- 9 in the fund distributed to producers in proportion to the amount
- 10 of producer premiums each producer has paid to the authority.
- 11 Sec. 19. (1) The department may promulgate rules approved
- 12 by the board and necessary to implement and administer this act
- 13 and to exercise the powers expressly granted in this act in
- 14 accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969
- 15 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.
- 16 (2) This act does not limit the authority of the director or
- 17 department to take action against a licensee under the grain
- 18 dealers act for a violation of the grain dealers act or the rules
- 19 of the department.
- 20 (3) It is not a defense to an action by the director or
- 21 department against a licensee under the grain dealers act for a
- 22 violation of that act that the grain dealer has fulfilled its
- 23 obligations under this act.
- 24 Sec. 21. (1) A person that knowingly or intentionally
- 25 commits any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor
- 26 punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for each
- 27 offense:

- 1 (a) Refusing or failing to collect producer premiums as
- 2 required under this act.
- 3 (b) Refusing or failing to pay to the authority producer
- 4 premiums collected under this act.
- 5 (c) Making a false statement, representation, or
- 6 certification, or knowingly failing to make a required statement,
- 7 representation, or certification, in a record, report, or other
- 8 document the person files with the director, department, board,
- 9 or authority, or that the person is required to file with the
- 10 director, department, board, or authority, under this act.
- 11 (d) Resisting, preventing, impeding, or interfering with the
- 12 director, agents or employees of the department, the board, or
- 13 agents or employees of the authority or board in the performance
- 14 of their duties under this act.
- 15 (2) In addition to the criminal penalty described in
- 16 subsection (1), the court in an enforcement action for a
- 17 violation described in subsection (1)(a) or (b) shall order the
- 18 grain dealer to pay to the fund any producer premiums collected
- 19 by the grain dealer that it owes to the fund and may order the
- 20 grain dealer to pay interest on the amount the grain dealer owes
- 21 to the fund.
- 22 Enacting section 1. The Michigan agricultural commodity
- 23 insurance act, 1988 PA 366, MCL 285.211 to 285.219, is repealed.