AN ACT concerning utilities; relating to cooperatives; member refunds; amending K.S.A. 17-4623 and repealing the existing section.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 17-4623 is hereby amended to read as follows: 17-4623. (a) Revenues of a cooperative for any fiscal year in excess of the amount thereof necessary to:
(a)(1) Defray the expenses of the operation and maintenance of
(b)(2) pay interest and principal obligations of the cooperative
(c)(3) finance, or to provide a reserve for the financing of, the
(d)(4) provide a reasonable reserve for working capital; and
(e)(5) provide a reserve for the payment of indebtedness of the
cooperative in an amount not less than the total of the interest and
principal payments in respect thereof required to be made during the next following fiscal year shall, unless otherwise determined by a vote of the
members, be distributed by the cooperative to its members and to other persons to whom the cooperative supplies electric energy or other services,
as patronage refunds prorated in accordance with the patronage of the
respective members of the cooperative and such other persons, paid for during such fiscal year: Provided, however, That such distribution shall not be made to any such other person until he has become a member of the cooperative.

If such other person does not become a member of the cooperative within one year after the amount of his distributive share or accumulated distributive shares equal the membership fee required by the bylaws of the cooperative, or if no membership fee is required, within two years after the declaration of any such patronage refund, he shall cease to be entitled to such share or shares.
(b) Nothing herein contained herein shall be construed to:
(1) Prohibit the payment by a cooperative of all or any part of its indebtedness prior to the date when the same shall become due; or
(2) authorize a cooperative or nonprofit membership corporation to
retain a deceased member's paid in member patronage funds or contributed capital. If the member's legal executor or administrator requests the patronage funds or contributed capital be distributed, such cooperative or nonprofit membership corporation, upon the provision of a certificate of death, shall promptly refund such patronage funds or contributed capital in full without interest to the estate of the deceased member.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 17-4623 is hereby repealed.

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