

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE
SECURITIES DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF

**JOHN W. WRIGHT
REMOTE MOWERS, LLC**

**Administrative Order
Number LS-20-3955**

Respondent

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi (“Administrator”) has the authority to administer and provide for the enforcement of all provisions of the Mississippi Securities Act (“Act”), codified at Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 75-71-101 to -701 (2020); and

WHEREAS, John Wright (“Wright” or “Respondent”) has violated provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Securities Division of the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office (“Division”) is authorized to issue an order to direct any person to cease and desist from engaging in an act, practice, or course of business when the Administrator determines a person has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in an act, practice, or course of business constituting a violation of the Act or a rule adopted or order issued under the Act; and

WHEREAS, action by the Division in this instance is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors and is consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Division hereby enters its Order to Cease and Desist.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Parties

1. The Secretary of State has the authority, pursuant to the Act, to administer and enforce the Act and to regulate the offer and sale of securities in Mississippi as well as the firms and persons who offer or sell securities or who provide investment advice regarding securities.
2. John W. Wright is an individual with an email address of john@RemoteMowers.com and a last known address of 423 Tate Avenue, New Albany, MS 38652. Wright is not and has not at any time been registered with the Division in any capacity.
3. Remote Mowers, LLC ("Remote Mowers") was a Mississippi company with the address of 216 Substation Road New Albany, MS 38652 and has a web address of <http://remotemowers.com>. Remote Mowers is not and has not at any time been registered with the Division in any capacity.
4. Prior to the formation of Remote Mowers, Wright operated the business as Summit Mowers, LLC. Summit Mowers, LLC was not and has not at any time been registered with the Division in any capacity.

Events

5. Wright formed Summit Mowers, LLC in Mississippi on April 21, 2015, and was listed as the sole member of the LLC. The business was administratively dissolved on December 10, 2018.
6. Remote Mowers was formed and incorporated in Mississippi on March 8, 2017. Wright was listed as the sole member of the LLC, which was administratively dissolved on November 22, 2019.

7. In February 2020, the Division was notified about certain activities by Wright after an investor filed a complaint with another jurisdiction. The complaint alleged Wright was soliciting investors for his business. The complaint stated Wright's business was located in and operated from New Albany, Mississippi.

8. Upon investigation, the Division discovered Wright lived in and operated Remote Mowers in New Albany, Mississippi. The Remote Mowers website has a tab for Investors and it states:

Sponsor a Mower(s)

Sponsoring a mower is an entry level investment opportunity where you put up the money to build the mower(s) and get an immediate return once the sale is made. You can expect a return on your investment in 90 days. With government municipalities from all over wanting to issue purchase orders, this is about as risk-free as it gets.

9. Above this box is a video of Wright demonstrating a mower and stating that he is looking for investors to increase production due to the high demand for the mowers. Wright goes on to explain the "investment opportunity." Three investors "put up the money to build the units; we build [the mowers], sell [the mowers], give [the investors] the return. Rinse. Repeat.... We need private investors to put up the money to sponsor a unit or units..."

10. The page also states, "Attention Investors: Back us on 100 units and put half a million dollars in your pocket within 6-8 months."

11. The Division obtained investment invoices claiming the investors would receive their initial investment amounts plus 35% (thirty-five percent) within 90 (ninety) days. In one invoice for a "Sponsor-A-Mower Investment," the terms are laid out as "The mower will be built and sold to our customer. Once payment is collected, you will be given a 35% ROI."

12. After a review of Remote Mowers' financial records, the Division discovered investor funds were often not used to build mowers as claimed by Remote Mowers' solicitations, but instead were used to pay back other investors, were used for personal expenses, and were used for gaming activity at casinos.
13. In emails to investors, Wright admitted he had "to bring in new investors to pay you guys" and "Yes. There is investor money being used to catch up on returns owed..."
14. Bank records show Remote Mowers operated from investment to investment and the operating accounts were frequently overdrawn.
15. At no point in any of Wright's investment solicitations did he disclose the poor financial condition of the Remote Mowers operation.
16. At all times relevant to this action, Wright was not registered with the Division in any capacity.
17. At all times relevant to this action, the "Sponsor-a-Mower" investment offerings were not registered with the Division.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

18. Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-102 sets forth:

Definitions.

- (1) "Administrator" means the Secretary of State.

....

- (28) "Security" means a note; stock; treasury stock; security future; bond; debenture; evidence of indebtedness; certificate of interest or participation in a profit-sharing agreement; collateral trust certificate; preorganization certificate or subscription; transferable share; investment contract; voting trust certificate; certificate of deposit for a security; fractional undivided interest in oil, gas, or other mineral rights; put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on a security, certificate of deposit, or group or index of securities,

including an interest therein or based on the value thereof; put, call, straddle, option, or privilege entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currency; or, in general, an interest or instrument commonly known as a "security"; or a certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing. The term includes both a certificated and an uncertificated security. The term does not include an insurance or endowment policy or annuity contract under which an insurance company promises to pay a sum of money either in a lump sum or periodically for life or other specified period; or an interest in a contributory or noncontributory pension or welfare plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. An "investment contract" includes, among other contracts, an investment in a limited partnership, an interest in a limited liability company, an investment in a viatical settlement or similar agreement, and an investment in a common enterprise with the expectation of profits to be derived primarily from the efforts of a person other than the investor and a "common enterprise" means an enterprise in which the fortunes of the investor are interwoven with those of either the person offering the investment, a third party, or other investors.

19. Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-301 sets forth:

Securities registration requirement.

It is unlawful for a person to offer or sell a security in this state unless:

- (1) The security is a federal covered security;
- (2) The security, transaction, or offer is exempted from registration under Sections 75-71-201 through 75-71-203; or
- (3) The security is registered under this chapter.

20. Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-501 sets forth:

General fraud. It is unlawful for a person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of a security, directly or indirectly:

- (1) To employ a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

- (2) To make an untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
 - (3) To engage in an act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon another person.
21. The Division may employ remedies set out in Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-604 of the Act:

Administrative enforcement.

- (a) Issuance of an order or notice. If the Administrator determines that a person has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in an act, practice, or course of business constituting a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter or that a person has materially aided, or is about to materially aid an act, practice, or course of business constituting a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter, the Administrator may:
 - (1) Issue an order directing the person to cease and desist from engaging in the act, practice, or course of business or to take other action necessary or appropriate to comply with this chapter
22. Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-611(b) sets forth:
- (b) Conduct constituting appointment of agent for service. If a person, including a nonresident of this state, engages in an act, practice, or course of business prohibited or made actionable by this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter and the person has not filed a consent to service of process under subsection (a), the act, practice, or course of business constitutes the appointment of the administrator as the person's agent for service of process in a noncriminal action or proceeding against the person or the person's successor or personal representative.
23. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Division makes the following:

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

24. The Administrator, after consideration of the facts set forth above, finds and concludes that the Secretary has jurisdiction over the Respondent in this matter and that the following is in

the public interest, necessary for the protection of public investors, and consistent with the purposes intended by the Act.

25. Because the investments were investments in the common enterprise of Remote Mowers with the expectation of profits in the range of thirty-five percent (35%) and those profits were derived from the efforts of Wright, the Remote Mowers “Sponsor-a-Mower” investment opportunities are investment contracts and therefore securities as defined in Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-102(28).

26. The Remote Mowers “Sponsor-a-Mower” investment offerings have never been registered or notice filed with the Division in violation of Section 75-71-301 of the Act.

27. Wright made misrepresentations to investors by claiming he was using investor funds to build mowers when in fact he knew he was paying back other investors or spending the investment funds for personal use. In making these misrepresentations, Wright violated Miss. Code Ann. Section 75-71-501.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That Respondent immediately CEASE AND DESIST from offering investments in Remote Mowers, LLC, the “Sponsor-a-Mower” investment program of Remote Mowers, LLC, and any similar investment program of Remote Mowers, LLC by any means, including, but not limited to, mail, website, internet social media, or any electronic communications to or from the State of Mississippi;
2. That Respondent immediately CEASE AND DESIST from making fraudulent statements and other misrepresentations that operate or would operate as a fraud upon investors;

V. RIGHT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

If the Respondent wishes to contest the allegations set forth above or offer evidence and arguments to mitigate the allegations, then the Respondent must file a request for hearing. Such request shall be made in writing to Jessica Leigh Long, Assistant Secretary of State, Securities Division, Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205, within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of this Order to Cease and Desist. In the event such a hearing is requested, the Respondent may appear, with or without the assistance of an attorney, on a date and at a time and place to be specified and cross-examine witnesses, as well as present testimony, evidence, and argument relating to the matters contained herein. Upon request, subpoenas may be issued for the attendance of witnesses and for the production of books and papers on the Respondent's behalf at the hearing relating to the matters contained herein. If an administrative hearing is requested, written notice of the date, time, and place will be given to all parties by certified mail, return receipt requested. Said notice will also designate a Hearing Officer. If a request for hearing is not timely filed, this Order becomes final, without any further action, by operation of law.

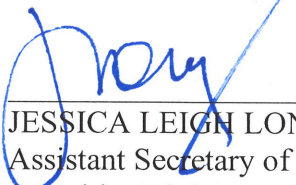
VI. RIGHT TO AMEND

The Secretary of State hereby reserves the right to amend this Order to Cease and Desist.

ISSUED, this the 25th day of June, 2021.

Michael Watson
Secretary of State

BY:



JESSICA LEIGH LONG
Assistant Secretary of State
Securities Division

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jessica Leigh Long, do hereby certify that I have this day, mailed a true and correct copy, via certified mail, return receipt requested, of the Order to Cease and Desist to the following:

John Wright
423 Tate Avenue
New Albany, MS 38652

John Wright
c/o Secretary of State of Mississippi
Securities Division
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205

This the 25th day of June, 2021.



JESSICA LEIGH LONG
Assistant Secretary of State
Securities Division

Jessica Leigh Long, MSB #103316
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