

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 9, 2020

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Iowa  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

001-31911  
(Commission File Number)

42-1447959  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

6000 Westown Parkway  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(515) 221-0002  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$1	AEL	New York Stock Exchange
Depository Shares, each representing a 1/1,000th interest in a share of 5.95% Fixed-Rate Reset Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series A	AELPRA	New York Stock Exchange
Depository Shares, each representing a 1/1,000th interest in a share of 6.625% Fixed-Rate Reset Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B	AELPRB	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure**

On December 9, 2020, American Equity Investment Life Holding Company (the “Company”) made available on its website a presentation setting forth information on the Company’s AEL 2.0 Strategy (the “Investor Presentation”). A copy of the Investor Presentation is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The foregoing information, including the Exhibit referenced in this Item 7.01, are being furnished pursuant to this Item 7.01 and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits are being furnished with this Form 8-K.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	<a href="#"><u>Investor Presentation dated December 9, 2020 (furnished and not filed)</u></a> .
104	The cover page from this Current Report on Form 8-K, formatted in Inline XBRL.

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**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**AMERICAN EQUITY  
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING COMPANY**

Date: December 9, 2020

By: /s/ Renee D. Montz  
Renee D. Montz  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary

# AEL 2.0

Transforming our Business and Unlocking Value

December 9, 2020



**AMERICAN EQUITY**  
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING COMPANY

## Forward-Looking Statements

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This presentation and any oral related statements made by our representatives may contain forward-looking statements with the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements may relate to strategic alternatives, future operations, strategies, plans, partnerships, investments, share buybacks, financial results or other developments, and are subject to assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Statements such as “guidance”, “expect”, “strong”, “anticipate”, “believe”, “intend”, “goal”, “objective”, “target”, “potential”, “will”, “may”, “would”, “should”, “can”, “deliver”, “accelerate”, “enable”, “estimate”, “projects”, “outlook”, “opportunity”, “position” or similar words, as well as specific projections of future events or results qualify as forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, by their nature, are subject to a variety of inherent risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results projected. Many of these risks and uncertainties cannot be controlled by American Equity Investment Life Holding Company (“AEL”) and include the possibility that the proposed transaction may not be completed. Factors that may cause our actual decisions or results to differ materially from those contemplated by these forward-looking statements can be found in AEL’s Form 10-K and Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement was made and AEL undertakes no obligation to update such forward-looking statements. There can be no assurance that other factors not currently disclosed or anticipated by AEL will not materially adversely affect our results of operations or plans. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf.

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## What is AEL and where is it going?

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American Equity is a leader in general account annuities, especially fixed index annuities (FIAs)

- Simple client promise underlies product offerings, specifically providing policyholders the dignity of a paycheck for life by providing secure retirement income and principal protected accumulation. Stayed away from complex insurance tail risk exposures.
  - At scale player with over \$50 billion in policyholder funds under management and proven ability to originate and change with the times demonstrated by consistently being top #3-5 player in the independent agent channel.
  - Tail-wind of retail market investing thru ETFs and indices is a positive for the fixed index annuity market
  - Highly rated and liquid asset portfolio with significant unrealized gains that are not reflected in insurance book value accounting, allow: repositioning assets to monetize illiquidity benefits of liabilities without re-risking into high beta credit sectors or increasing asset leverage
  - Track record of consistent growth and robust ROEs, repositioning to continue to deliver strong double digits ROEs even with low UST
  - Scarcity value: At scale origination franchise for general account annuity liabilities, provides significant asset investing opportunity
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## AEL 2.0 Transformation

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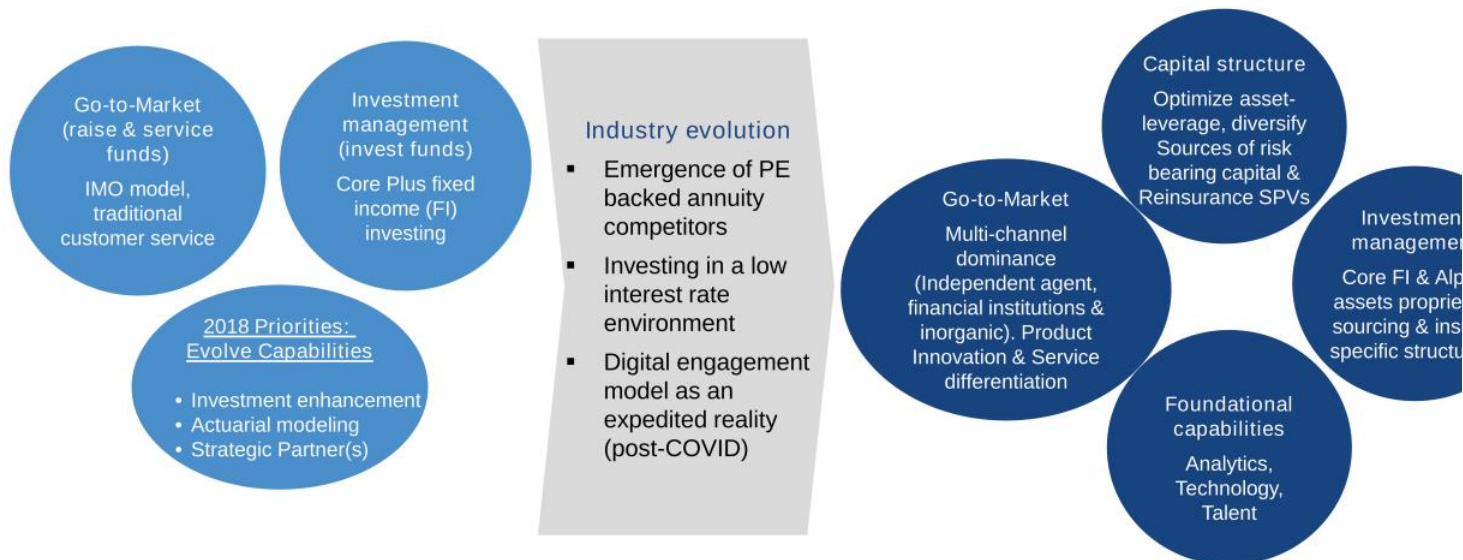
Capitalizing on AEL heritage and building a differentiated asset origination & management platform to significantly grow shareholder value with tangible return metrics along the way

- Re-establish leading position in independent agent channel and grow additional sources of origination (Eagle Life, inorganic partnerships)
  - Diversify investment portfolio to monetize illiquidity value in funding with stable cash flow, long term assets, i.e. alpha-producing assets
  - Optimize capital structure efficiency with reinsurance vehicles to raise third party capital and build multiple, stable earning streams compared to primarily investment grade, core fixed income assets based spread income (under AEL 1.0)
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## Maximizing Shareholder Value Creation with AEL 2.0 Business Plan


From ....“AEL 1.0 differentiators (Pre-2020)”

To .... “AEL 2.0 differentiators (2H, 2020 onwards)”





## Go-to-Market Strategy

Pillar	Focus Areas	Execution Efforts
 Go-to-market Strategy	Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-imaging sales playbook for Independent Marketing Organizations (IMOs)</li> <li>Differentiated relationship with loyal products (\$1M+ producers): Retain and Grow</li> <li>Over 20k appointed independent agent producers with AEL over past 25 years</li> <li>80 existing broker-dealer and bank channel relationships, focus on growing share wallet in those existing relationships</li> <li>Re-booted strategy for Eagle Life, attracted proven third party wholesaling leader</li> <li>Data-driven marketing approach</li> </ul>
	Product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolved talent to next level under new leadership, metrics driven strategy to reduce in cost of funds ("COF") and focus on cash risk-adjusted profitability</li> <li>Investment opportunity driven liability design and liability attributes driven asset allocation for near-medium term, i.e. tactical asset allocation &amp; strategic ALM align</li> <li>New products including non-indexed single-premium deferred annuities and multi-indices like Destinations to expand market opportunity and improve competitiveness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing technical capital markets and actuarial capabilities for product innovation to drive value by reducing cost of funds to sub an absolute 3% over time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Projected Sales for 4Q20 of \$1.0-1.5 billion vs. prior 4 quarter average of \$0.7 billion		

## Investment Management

Pillar	Focus Areas	Execution Efforts
 Investment Management	Insurance Asset Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-tooling investment management platform (BlackRock Aladdin Solutions)</li> <li>Expanding underwriting and risk capital allocation lens for additional asset sets</li> <li>Building internal securitization or structuring skills for risk capital efficiency while entering new sectors. Strategic &amp; Tactical Asset Allocation (SAA &amp; TAA) process</li> <li>Started de-risking portfolio in 2020, accelerate migration to alpha assets in 2021</li> </ul>
	Sourcing Partnerships with aligned economics to benefit AEL owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proprietary sourcing pipeline with specialty asset managers or proven operators in industry sub-sectors. AEL becomes funding provider of choice for platforms</li> <li>Identifying potential revenue sharing or minority stakes to earn share of overall asset manager FCF, participate in valuation growth and drive alignment in int</li> </ul>

**VÄRDE / agam**

For third party reinsurance platform and ceded liabilities only: Corporate credit, real estate, mortgages, private equity, and direct lending

**Brookfield**


For both ceded liabilities and AEL retained portfolio: Real estate and infrastructure

 **Pretium**

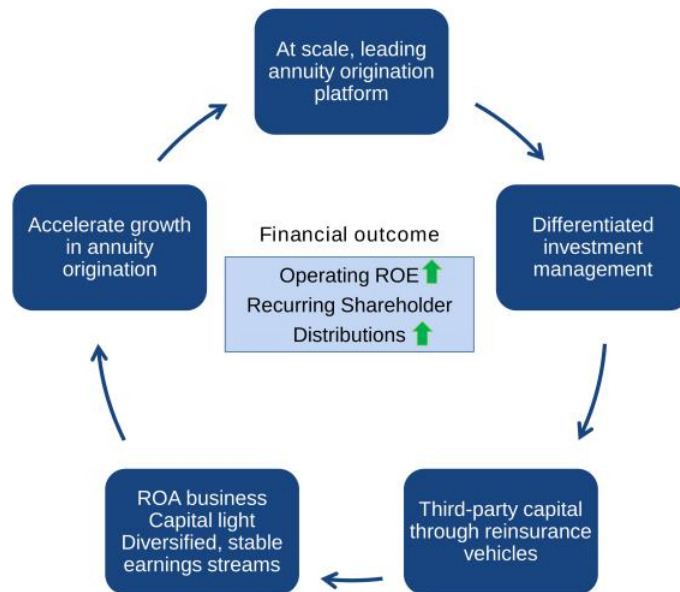
For AEL portfolio: Residential Real estate (whole loans) and landl (single family rental – SFR)

Drive 4%+ absolute investment yield by YE '21 and reduce correlation with publicly traded core fixed income

## Capital Structure

Pillar	Focus Areas	Execution Efforts
 Capital Structure	Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanding in-house expertise around balance sheet and reinsurance structuring</li> <li>▪ Phasing execution (internal reinsurer in 2021) and proof of concept with targeted timeline of 1Q21</li> <li>▪ Scaling internally and with capital partners in 2021 &amp; 2022</li> </ul>
	Partnerships	<p><u>Announced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Värde / Agam partnership reinsuring \$5bn of in-force reserves through newly formed Bermuda reinsurance company, generating ~\$350mm of deployable capital</li> <li>▪ Brookfield transaction providing initial reinsurance on \$5bn of reserves, resulting in over \$300mm of deployable capital generated, and future reinsurance on \$5bn of business. Ongoing payment of fee revenues (insurance and ALM) to AEL for 7 years</li> </ul> <p><u>Planned</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of "Project Ray Re" targeted for 1H 2021 to transfer some business jurisdiction with principles or market based regime for both sides of balance sheet</li> <li>▪ Establish in house insurance asset manager for structuring of assets for insurer balance sheet with capital and ALM efficiency</li> </ul>
Optimize cap structure to drive <u>sustained</u> free cash flow starting in 2021		




## AEL 2.0 Virtuous “Flywheel” of Success



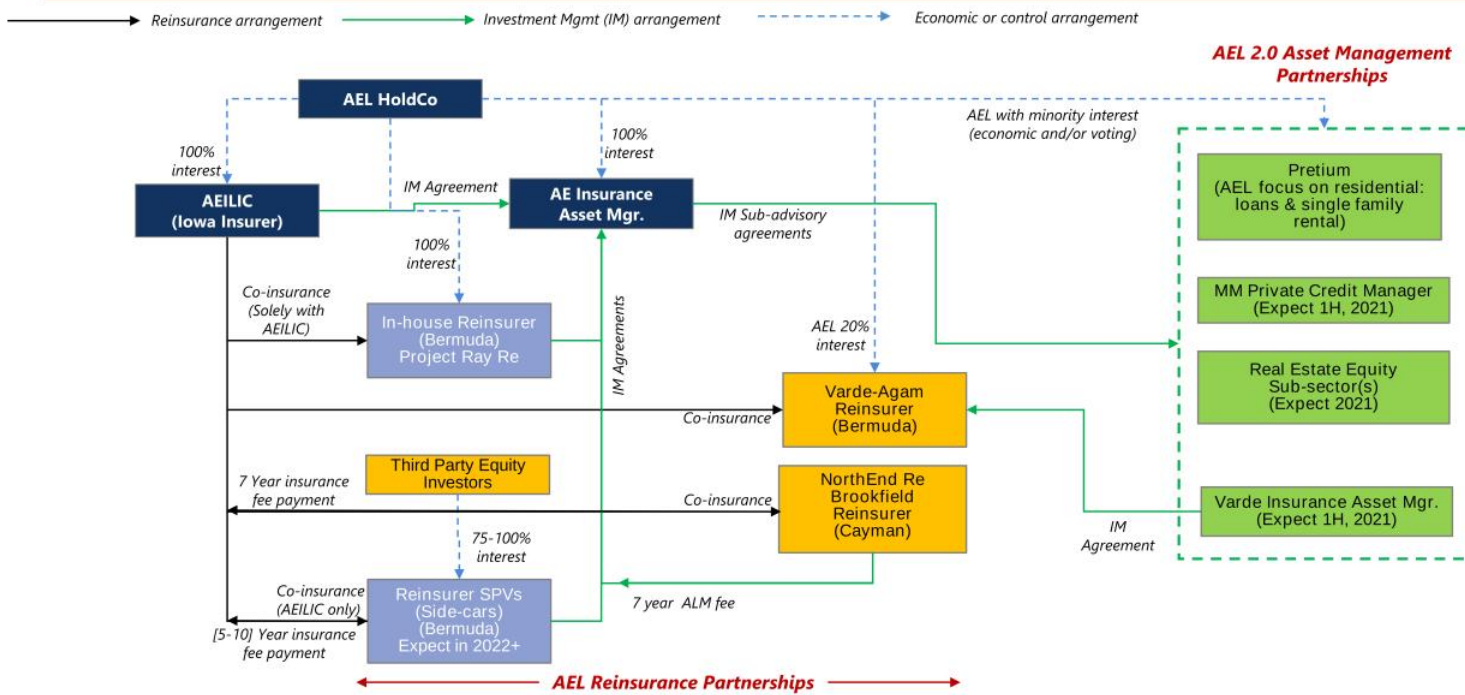
## Executing on AEL 2.0 Investment Management & Capital Structure Pillars

Since early 2020, AEL has been engaged in third-party dialogues to build the pillars of investment management and capital structure

- Active dialogue with several asset managers involving potential investment management agreements with differential economic arrangements to benefit AEL shareholders through either varied means including performance fees linked to AEL capital appreciation, revenue participation or general partner equity stake

Overview of Dialogues		Investment management	Capital structure
Announced Execution Efforts	September 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement in principle for a strategic partnership with Värde Partners and Agam Capital Management, LLC</li> </ul> 	✓
	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic partnership with Brookfield-up to \$10bn reinsurance arrangement and up to 19.9% equity investment - closed initial 9.9% stake on November 30<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> 	✓ ✓
	October 29 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12-14% economic interest for AEL and potential to originate \$1.0bn to \$2.25bn of assets</li> </ul> 	✓ ✓
	November 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed \$50mm open market share repurchase and commenced \$115mm ASR as initial components of returning \$500mm capital to shareholders in the near term</li> </ul>	N.A.
H1, 2021 Expected	Establishment of AEL's Offshore Reinsurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert \$0.5-1B of unrealized capital gains to support increasing alpha producing assets</li> <li>Transfer ~20% of business in 2021 to optimize returns for shareholders thru AEL 2.0 pillars</li> <li>Likely jurisdiction in Bermuda (internally christened as "Project Ray Re")</li> </ul>	
	Start Investment portfolio re-positioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entry into middle market private credit and scaling real estate specialty subsector investments ("lender plus landlord") model. Internal securitization for capital efficiency</li> </ul>	

## AEL 2.0 Partnerships Network: Illustrative Map





## Project Ray Re

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Greater use of reinsurance enables AEL to free up capital and transition away from a capital-intensive compa

- Transfer liabilities to a jurisdiction with a principles-based reserve and capital regime
  - Similar to key attributes of our recently announced partnership with Varde and Brookfield, this time with 100% o economic retained for AEL shareholders
- Enable AEL to level the playing field with several key competitors with reinsurance SPVs domiciled in favorable reg
- Set up our wholly owned reinsurer to maximize asset liability management or ALM efficiency
  - Over time, bring in third-party equity via reinsurance SPVs to replicate Brookfield reinsurance transaction and tu annuity spread business into a more predictable, fee-like business backed with external risk bearing capital
  - External capital to accelerate shift from ROE business to ROA model
- Execution risk of scaling with third party capital is small given robust pipeline of already interested parties wanting replicate some form of the already announced AEL 2.0 partnerships, given the scale & scarcity value of AEL's platf

Migration of AEL business mix to part ROA (capital light) and part sustainable ROE will result in an aggrega industry leading ROE franchise going forward (15+% over time, even in a low interest rate environment)

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## Expect to Return Significant Amount of Capital to Shareholders ~10% of current market cap. each year starting in 2021

### 5 quarter plan: 4Q 2020 through 4Q 2021

- Intention to fully offset dilution from Brookfield equity investments (tranche I: 9.1mm shares, tranche II in 2021 after Form A insurance regulatory approval, up to 20% stake)
- In past 50 days, repurchased 5.4mm shares (5+% of shares)
  - Completed \$50mm open market repurchase of 1.9mm shares
  - Authorized \$115mm ASR with 3.5mm shares already delivered, rest expected in 1Q 2021.
- Return at least \$250mm in additional capital to shareholders in 2021, after repurchases to offset Brookfield dilution

Share holder return of capital to be sustained by operational performance

~\$250-300mm

Annual ongoing free cash flow from operations

Turning a historically capital constrained organization in high topline and bottom line growth business



## AEL 2.0 – Transformed Earnings

	AEL 1.0	AEL 2.0
Revenue Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional spread-based business model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased fee-based revenue and enhance sustainable profitability on spread-based earnings</li> </ul>
Capital Intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retained earnings required to support earnings generating insurance liabilities, minimal free cash flow</li> <li>Historically, serially raised capital to support policyholder funds under management growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift to “return on assets” model</li> <li>Ability to return \$250-300mm of capital to shareholders through operating cash flow</li> <li>Partnerships with highly supportive third-party capital providers</li> </ul>
Interest Rate Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business performance highly correlated with interest rates and publicly traded fixed income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fee-based and contractual income streams lessen correlation to rate environment</li> </ul>

## AEL 2.0 Strategic Goals and Measures of Success

Focus Areas	Goals	Expected Outcomes
Insurance Liability Origination Franchise	High growth with attractive cost of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve first quartile cost of funds relative to peer insurers in channels (sub 3% over time) on new products</li> <li>No longer capital constraint to grow policyholder funds under management or repositioning of asset portfolio</li> </ul>
Financial Profile	Sustainably EPS growth and industry leading ROE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve 11-14% ROE over the next few years and long-term of 15%+ even in a low rate environment</li> <li>Robust ongoing operating EPS growth from 2022, 2021 as a year with portfolio migration &amp; execution of reinsurance transactions</li> <li>Increase share of fee-based revenue (ROA model) and expand profitability on spread-driven earnings (ROE model)</li> </ul>
Unlocking Shareholder Value	Return of capital and ongoing free cash flow generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlock economic value trapped in assets and reserves, redeploy freed up capital for sustained EPS and ROE growth</li> <li>Continue rapid progress on path to annualized free cash flow \$250-300mm starting in 2021, look for ways to grow in future</li> </ul>

# AEL 2.0

## APPENDIX – Additional Details on AEL 2.0 Announced Partnerships (2H, 2020)

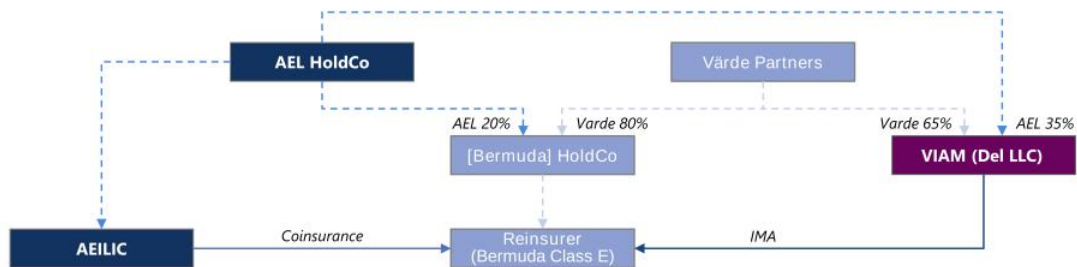
December 9, 2020



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## Creation of Third-Party Reinsurer with Värde / Agam

- Subject to Form D approval, AEL to reinsure approximately \$5bn of in-force fixed index annuity liabilities to an Agam/Värde owned Bermuda reinsurer
- AEL will receive a cash ceding commission, plus an in-kind payment representing a ~20% equity interest in the Agam / Värde reinsurer
- AEL will own 35% of a new US based insurance asset manager ("VIAM") that is being established to manage the assets of the reinsurer with Värde owning the remaining 65%
- Entity will seek additional third party liabilities for growth



## Overview of Brookfield Transaction

- ✓ Release over \$300mm of capital from \$5bn in-force reinsurance transaction
- ✓ Generate stable, recurring “fee-like” income
- ✓ Establishes Brookfield as a long-term shareholder with strong alignment at a floor price of \$37 per share
- ✓ Positions AEL for conversion into an “ROA” business model and accelerating growth of annuity origination
- ✓ Unique investment opportunities in assets with long-term, contractual cash flows

<sup>1</sup> Excluding AOCI and the net impact of fair value accounting for derivatives and embedded derivatives

<sup>2</sup> Certain reinsurance terms referenced remain subject to finalization

### Equity Investment

- ✓ Completed initial investment of 9.9% at \$37 per share on November 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Subsequent, up to 10% investment at greater of adjusted book value<sup>1</sup> or \$37 per share

### Reinsurance Agreement

- Initial \$5bn of reserves
- Follow-on \$5bn of future flow business<sup>2</sup>

### Asset Management Relationship

- Access to Brookfield’s attractive alternative asset strategies providing sustained returns in a low interest rate environment

# Overview of Brookfield Transaction Economics

## In-force \$5 Billion Only

### Return on Equity ("ROE") Model

	%	\$mm
\$320-350mm		
Spread Earnings <sup>1</sup>	0.7-0.8%	\$35-40
Required Capital	6.0-7.0%	\$320-350
Return on Equity (%) <sup>2</sup>	10-12%	

\$5.0bn of FA Statutory Liabilities

### Return on Assets ("ROA") Model

	%	\$
Insurance Cede <sup>1</sup>	0.51%	
Asset Mgmt. Fee <sup>1</sup>	0.20%	
Total <sup>1</sup>	0.71%	
Required Capital	0%	
Manufacture \$33mm of earnings for years plus significant capital release front		

\$4.7bn of Fee Earning Assets<sup>2</sup>

Flow arrangement provides capital for additional earnings growth

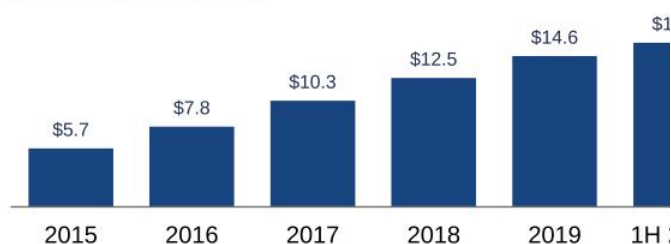
<sup>1</sup> Spread, cede and fee parameters shown on after-tax basis (21% tax rate)

<sup>2</sup> Fee-earning assets equal to initial statutory cash surrender value

## Overview of Pretium

- Pretium focuses on identifying potential cyclical and secular catalysts that produce opportunities with asymmetrical return profiles
- AEL has previously sourced non-qualified mortgages from Pretium, enabling the company to offer attractive single premium deferred annuities
  - AEL expects to originate between \$1bn to \$2.25bn of assets through Pretium over the next year or two
- AEL ownership of 12% expected to increase to 13.9%<sup>1</sup>
  - Investment will allow for AEL to participate in valuation growth as Pretium scales its platform over time

Pretium AUM (\$bn)



Targeted Sectors



<sup>1</sup> Ownership will increase to 13.9% once assets originated reaches \$2.25bn



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