reviewing potentially fraudulent or abusive billing practices.

(e) The commissioner may not assess a financial administrative penalty against a health plan company for violation of this subdivision.

Sec. 2. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 62D.108, is repealed.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 1 is effective January 1, 2001, and applies to claims submitted on or after that date. Section 2 is effective January 1, 2001.

Presented to the governor April 6, 2000

Signed by the governor April 10, 2000, 2:49 p.m.

CHAPTER 350—S.F.No. 3203

An act relating to commerce; conforming state statutes to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners model legislation providing uniform accounting principles; regulating the registration of certain securities; amending Minnesota Statutes 1998, sections 60A.11, subdivision 22; 60A.12, subdivision 5; 60A.121, subdivision 9, and by adding subdivisions; 60A.123; 60A.129, subdivision 3; 66A.16, subdivisions 1 and 2; 68A.01, subdivision 4, and by adding a subdivision; and 68A.02; Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 80A.15, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 60A; and 68A; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1998, sections 60A.12, subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9; 60A.125, subdivision 3; and 60A.128.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.11, subdivision 22, is amended to read:

Subd. 22. **PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER LEASE.** Personal property for intended lease or rental in the United States or Canada. A company may not invest more than five percent of its total admitted assets under this subdivision. In cases where the asset leased would otherwise be nonadmitted, the asset or associated lease is nonadmitted.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.12, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **LOSS RESERVES.** ~~(1) FOR OTHER THAN LIABILITY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION.~~ ~~The reserve for outstanding losses under policies other than workers' compensation and liability policies shall be at least equal to the aggregate estimated amounts due or to become due on account of all the losses and claims of which the corporation has received notice. The loss reserve shall also include the estimated liability on any notices received by the corporation of the occurrence of~~

~~any event which may result in a loss, and the estimated liability for all losses which have occurred but on which no notice has been received. For the purpose of these reserves, the corporation shall keep a complete and itemized record showing all losses and claims on which it has received notice, including all notices received by it of the occurrence of any event which may result in a loss.~~

When, in the judgment of the commissioner, the loss reserves, calculated in accordance with ~~the foregoing provisions,~~ statutory accounting practices as set forth in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' accounting practices and procedures manual are inadequate, the commissioner may require the corporation to maintain additional reserves.

~~(2) FOR LIABILITY LOSSES. The reserve for outstanding losses and loss expenses incurred under liability policies during each of the three years immediately preceding the date of the statement shall be not less than 60 percent of the earned liability premium for each of the three corresponding years immediately preceding the date of the statement, less all loss and loss expense payments made under claims incurred during each of those years.~~

~~(3) FOR COMPENSATION CLAIMS. The reserve for outstanding losses and loss expenses incurred under workers' compensation policies shall be at least equal to the following amounts:~~

~~(a) For all compensation claims under policies written more than three years prior to the date of the statement, the present values, at four percent interest, of the determined and the estimated future payments;~~

~~(b) For all compensation claims under policies written in the three years immediately preceding the date of the statement, the reserve shall be not less than 65 percent of the earned compensation premiums for each of the three years, less all loss and loss expense payments made in connection with the claims under policies written in each of the corresponding years. For the first year of the three-year period, the reserve shall be not less than the present value, at four percent interest, of the determined and the estimated unpaid compensation claims under policies written during that year.~~

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.121, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **CONTRACTUAL TERMS.** "Contractual terms" means the principal and interest payments of the commercial mortgage loan as scheduled in the mortgage agreement.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.121, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **MORTGAGE LOAN IN FORECLOSURE.** "Mortgage loan in foreclosure" means (1) a loan in the process of foreclosure including the time required for expiration of any equitable or statutory redemption rights; (2) a loan to a mortgagor who is the subject of a bankruptcy petition and who is not making ~~regular monthly~~

payments according to the contractual terms; or (3) a loan secured by a mortgage on real estate that is subject to a senior mortgage or other lien that is being foreclosed.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.121, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 10a. **PERMANENTLY IMPAIRED.** A commercial mortgage loan will be "permanently impaired" when, based on current information and events, it is probable that an insurer will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.123, is amended to read:

60A.123 **VALUATION PROCEDURE.**

Subdivision 1. **REQUIREMENT.** An insurer shall value its commercial mortgage loans and real estate acquired through foreclosure of commercial mortgage loans as provided in this section for the purpose of establishing ~~reserves or carrying~~ a valuation allowance or fair values of the investments and for statutory accounting purposes.

Subd. 2. **PERFORMING MORTGAGE LOAN.** A performing mortgage loan must be carried at its amortized acquisition cost.

Subd. 3. **DISTRESSED MORTGAGE LOAN.** (a) The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate ~~carrying~~ fair value of its commercial mortgage loans which it classifies as distressed mortgage loans. The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon one or more of the following procedures:

(1) an internal appraisal;

(2) an appraisal made by an independent appraiser;

(3) the value of guarantees or other credit enhancements related to the loan.

(b) The insurer ~~may~~ will determine the ~~carrying~~ fair value of its distressed mortgage loans through ~~either~~ an evaluation of each specific distressed mortgage loan ~~or by a sampling methodology. Insurers using a sampling methodology shall identify a sampling of its distressed mortgage loans that represents a cross section of all of its distressed mortgage loans. The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate carrying value for each sample loan. The carrying value of all of the insurer's distressed mortgage loans must be the same percentage of their amortized acquisition cost as the sample loans.~~ The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon an internal appraisal or an appraisal conducted by an independent appraiser.

(c) For distressed mortgage loans, the insurer shall ~~either take a charge against its surplus or establish a reserve for~~ measure impairment based on the fair value of the collateral less estimated costs to obtain and sell. A valuation allowance should be established for the difference between the ~~carrying~~ adjusted fair value of the collateral and the amortized acquisition cost of its distressed mortgage loans.

Subd. 4. **DELINQUENT MORTGAGE LOAN.** (a) The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate ~~carrying~~ fair value of each delinquent mortgage loan. The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon one or more of the following procedures:

(1) an internal appraisal;

(2) an appraisal by an independent appraiser;

(3) the value of guarantees or other credit enhancements related to the loan.

(b) The insurer shall either take a charge against its surplus or establish a reserve for the difference between the ~~carrying~~ fair value and the amortized acquisition cost of its delinquent mortgage loans.

Subd. 5. **RESTRUCTURED MORTGAGE LOAN.** (a) The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate ~~carrying~~ fair value of each restructured mortgage loan. The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon one or more of the following procedures:

(1) an internal appraisal;

(2) an appraisal by an independent appraiser;

(3) the value of guarantees or other credit enhancements related to the loan.

(b) The insurer shall ~~either take a charge against its surplus or establish a reserve for~~ measure impairment based on the fair value of the collateral less estimated costs to obtain and sell. The difference between the ~~carrying~~ adjusted fair value of the collateral and other assets received and the amortized acquisition cost of its restructured mortgage loans must be recorded as a direct write-down and a new cost basis established.

Subd. 6. **MORTGAGE LOAN IN FORECLOSURE.** (a) The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate ~~carrying~~ fair value of each mortgage loan in foreclosure. The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon an appraisal made by an independent appraiser and must be adjusted for additional expenses, such as insurance, taxes, and legal fees that have been imposed to protect the investment or to obtain clear title to the property to the extent these amounts are expected to be recoverable from the disposition of the property.

(b) The insurer shall ~~take a charge against its surplus for~~ record as a direct write-down the difference between the ~~carrying~~ fair value and the amortized acquisition cost of its mortgage loans in the process of foreclosure.

Subd. 7. **REAL ESTATE OWNED.** (a) The insurer shall make an evaluation of the appropriate ~~carrying~~ fair value of real estate owned. The ~~carrying~~ fair value must be based upon an appraisal made by an independent appraiser and must be adjusted for additional expenses, such as insurance, taxes, and legal fees that have been imposed to protect the investment or to obtain clear title to the property to the extent these amounts are expected to be recoverable from the disposition of the property.

(b) The insurer shall ~~take a charge against its surplus for~~ record as a direct write-down the difference between the ~~carrying~~ fair value and the amortized acquisition cost of real estate owned.

Sec. 7. **[60A.1285] OTHER IMPAIRMENTS.**

If distressed or delinquent mortgage loans being valued according to section 60A.123, subdivisions 3 and 4, are determined to be permanently impaired, a direct write-down must be recognized as a realized loss, and a new cost basis established.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 60A.129, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **ANNUAL AUDIT.** (a) Every insurance company doing business in this state, including fraternal benefit societies, reciprocal exchanges, service plan corporations licensed pursuant to chapter 62C, and legal service plans licensed pursuant to chapter 62G, unless exempted by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision 5, paragraph (a), or by subdivision 7, shall have an annual audit of the financial activities of the most recently completed calendar year performed by an independent certified public accountant, and shall file the report of this audit with the commissioner on or before June 1 for the immediately preceding year ending December 31. The commissioner may require an insurer to file an audited financial report earlier than June 1 with 90 days' advance notice to the insurer.

Extensions of the June 1 filing date may be granted by the commissioner for 30-day periods upon a showing by the insurer and its independent certified public accountant of the reasons for requesting the extension and a determination by the commissioner of good cause for the extension.

The request for extension must be submitted in writing not less than ten days before the due date in sufficient detail to permit the commissioner to make an informed decision with respect to the requested extension.

(b) Foreign and alien insurers filing audited financial reports in another state under the other state's requirements of audited financial reports which have been found by the commissioner to be substantially similar to these requirements are exempt from this subdivision if a copy of the audited financial report, accountant's letter of qualifications, and report on significant deficiencies in internal controls, which are filed with the other state, are filed with the commissioner in accordance with the filing dates specified in paragraphs (a) and (l), (Canadian insurers may submit accountants' reports as filed with the Canadian Dominion Department of Insurance); and a copy of any notification of adverse financial condition report filed with the other state is filed with the commissioner within the time specified in paragraph (k). This paragraph does not prohibit or in any way limit the commissioner from ordering, conducting, and performing examinations of insurers under the authority of this chapter.

(c)(i) The annual audited financial report shall report, in conformity with statutory accounting practices required or permitted by the commissioner of insurance of the state of domicile, the financial position of the insurer as of the end of the most recent calendar year and the results of its operations, cash flows, and changes in capital and

surplus for the year ended. The annual audited financial report shall include a report of an independent certified public accountant; a balance sheet reporting admitted assets, liabilities, capital, and surplus; a statement of operations; a statement of cash flows; a statement of changes in capital and surplus; and notes to the financial statements.

(ii) The notes required under item (i) shall be those required by the appropriate National Association of Insurance Commissioners annual statement instructions and ~~any other notes required by generally accepted accounting principles~~ National Association of Insurance Commissioners Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual and shall include reconciliation of differences, if any, between the audited statutory financial statements and the annual statement filed under section 60A.13, subdivision 1, with a written description of the nature of these differences~~; and shall also include a summary of ownership and relationships of the insurer and all affiliated companies~~.

(iii) The financial statements included in the audited financial report shall be prepared in a form and using language and groupings substantially the same as the relevant sections of the annual statement of the insurer filed with the commissioner. The financial statement shall be comparative, presenting the amounts as of December 31 of the current year and the amounts as of the immediately preceding December 31. In the first year in which an insurer is required to file an audited financial report, the comparative data may be omitted. The amounts may be rounded to the nearest $1,000, and all insignificant amounts may be combined.

(d) Each insurer required by this section to file an annual audited financial report must notify the commissioner in writing of the name and address of the independent certified public accountant or accounting firm retained to conduct the annual audit within 60 days after becoming subject to the annual audit requirement. The insurer shall obtain from the accountant a letter which states that the accountant is aware of the provisions that relate to accounting and financial matters in the insurance laws and the rules of the insurance regulatory authority of the state of domicile. The letter shall affirm that the accountant will express an opinion on the financial statements in terms of their conformity to the statutory accounting practices prescribed or otherwise permitted by that insurance regulatory authority, specifying the exceptions believed to be appropriate. A copy of the accountant's letter shall be filed with the commissioner.

(e) If an accountant who was the accountant for the immediately preceding filed audited financial report is dismissed or resigns, the insurer shall notify the commissioner of this event within five business days. Within ten business days of this notification, the insurer shall also furnish the commissioner with a separate letter stating whether in the 24 months preceding this event there were any disagreements with the former accountant on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the former accountant, would have caused that person to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in connection with the opinion. The disagreements required to be reported in response to this paragraph include both those resolved to the former accountant's satisfaction and those not resolved to the former accountant's satisfaction. Disagreements contemplated by this section are those

disagreements between personnel of the insurer responsible for presentation of its financial statements and personnel of the accounting firm responsible for rendering its report. The insurer shall also in writing request the former accountant to furnish a letter addressed to the insurer stating whether the accountant agrees with the statements contained in the insurer's letter and, if not, stating the reasons for any disagreement. The insurer shall furnish this responsive letter from the former accountant to the commissioner together with its own.

(f) The commissioner shall not recognize any person or firm as a qualified independent certified public accountant that is not in good standing with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and in all states in which the accountant is licensed to practice, or for a Canadian or British company, that is not a chartered accountant. Except as otherwise provided, an independent certified public accountant shall be recognized as qualified as long as the person conforms to the standards of the person's profession, as contained in the Code of Professional Ethics of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the rules of professional conduct of the Minnesota board of public accountancy or similar code.

(g) No partner or other person responsible for rendering a report for calendar year 1997 and thereafter may act in that capacity for more than seven consecutive years. Following any period of service, the person shall be disqualified from acting in that or a similar capacity for the same company or its insurance subsidiaries or affiliates for a period of two years. An insurer may make application to the commissioner for relief from the above rotation requirement on the basis of unusual circumstances. The commissioner may consider the number of partners, the expertise of the partners or the number of insurance clients in the currently registered firm, the premium volume of the insurer, or the number of jurisdictions in which the insurer transacts business in determining if the relief should be granted.

(h) The commissioner shall not recognize as a qualified independent certified public accountant, nor accept any audited financial report, prepared in whole or in part by any natural person who has been convicted of fraud, bribery, a violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, United States Code, title 18, sections 1961 to 1968, or any dishonest conduct or practices under federal or state law, has been found to have violated the insurance laws of this state with respect to any previous reports submitted under this section, or has demonstrated a pattern or practice of failing to detect or disclose material information in previous reports filed under the provisions of this section.

(i) The commissioner, after notice and hearing under chapter 14, may find that the accountant is not qualified for purposes of expressing an opinion on the financial statements in the annual audited financial report. The commissioner may require the insurer to replace the accountant with another whose relationship with the insurer is qualified within the meaning of this section.

(j) Financial statements furnished under paragraph (a), shall be examined by an independent certified public accountant. The examination of the insurer's financial statements shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing

standards and consideration should be given to other procedures illustrated in the Financial Condition Examiners Handbook, issued by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, as the independent certified public accountant considers necessary.

(k) The insurer required to furnish the annual audited financial report shall require the independent certified public accountant to provide written notice within five business days to the board of directors of the insurer or its audit committee of any determination by that independent certified public accountant that the insurer has materially misstated its financial condition as reported to the commissioner as of the balance sheet date currently under examination or that the insurer does not meet the minimum capital and surplus requirement of section 60A.07 as of that date. An insurer required to file an annual audited financial report who received a notification of adverse financial condition from the accountant shall file a copy of the notification with the commissioner within five business days of the receipt of the notification. The insurer shall provide the independent certified public accountant making the notification with evidence of the report being furnished to the commissioner. If the independent certified public accountant fails to receive the evidence within the required five-day period, the independent certified public accountant shall furnish to the commissioner a copy of the notification to the board of directors or its audit committee within the next five business days. No independent certified public accountant shall be liable in any manner to any person for any statement made in connection with this paragraph if the statement is made in good faith in compliance with this paragraph. If the accountant becomes aware of facts which might have affected the audited financial report after the date it was filed under this section, the accountant shall take the action prescribed by Professional Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

(l) In addition to the annual audited financial statements, each insurer shall furnish the commissioner with a written report prepared by the accountant describing significant deficiencies in the insurer's internal control structure noted by the accountant during the audit. The accountant shall follow the professional standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, which require an accountant to communicate significant deficiencies, known as reportable conditions, noted during a financial statement audit, to the appropriate parties within an entity. No report shall be issued if the accountant does not identify significant deficiencies. Any such report by the accountant describing significant deficiencies in the insurer's internal control structure, shall be filed annually by the insurer with the commissioner within 60 days after the filing of the annual audited financial statements. This report on internal control shall be in the form prescribed by generally accepted auditing standards. The insurer shall provide the commissioner with a description of remedial actions taken or proposed to correct significant deficiencies, if those actions are not described in the accountant's report.

(m) The accountant shall furnish the insurer in connection with, and for inclusion in, the filing of the annual audited financial report, a letter stating that the accountant is independent with respect to the insurer and conforms to the standards of the accountant's profession as contained in the Code of Professional Ethics of the

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the rules of professional conduct of the Minnesota board of accountancy or similar code; the background and experience in general, and the experience in audits of insurers of the staff assigned to the engagement and whether each is an independent certified public accountant; that the accountant understands that the annual audited financial report and the opinion thereon will be filed in compliance with this statute and that the commissioner will be relying on this information in the monitoring and regulation of the financial position of insurers; that the accountant consents to the requirements of paragraph (n) and that the accountant consents and agrees to make available for review by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee or appointed agent, the workpapers, as defined in paragraph (n); a representation that the accountant is properly licensed by the appropriate state licensing authority and is a member in good standing in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; and, a representation that the accountant complies with paragraph (f). Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the accountant from utilizing staff the accountant deems appropriate where use is consistent with the standards prescribed by generally accepted auditing standards.

(n) Workpapers are the records kept by the independent certified public accountant of the procedures followed, tests performed, information obtained, and conclusions reached pertinent to the independent certified public accountant's examination of the financial statements of an insurer. Workpapers may include audit planning documents, work programs, analyses, memoranda, letters of confirmation and representation, management letters, abstracts of company documents, and schedules or commentaries prepared or obtained by the independent certified public accountant in the course of the examination of the financial statements of an insurer and that support the accountant's opinion. Every insurer required to file an audited financial report shall require the accountant, through the insurer, to make available for review by the examiners the workpapers prepared in the conduct of the examination and any communications related to the audit between the accountant and the insurer. The workpapers shall be made available at the offices of the insurer, at the offices of the commissioner, or at any other reasonable place designated by the commissioner. The insurer shall require that the accountant retain the audit workpapers and communications until the commissioner has filed a report on examination covering the period of the audit but no longer than seven years after the period reported upon. In the conduct of the periodic review by the examiners, it shall be agreed that photocopies of pertinent audit workpapers may be made and retained by the commissioner. These copies shall be part of the commissioner's workpapers and shall be given the same confidentiality as other examination workpapers generated by the commissioner.

(o)(i) In the case of Canadian and British insurers, the annual audited financial report means the annual statement of total business on the form filed by these companies with their domiciliary supervision authority and duly audited by an independent chartered accountant.

(ii) For these insurers, the letter required in paragraph (d), shall state that the accountant is aware of the requirements relating to the annual audited statement filed

with the commissioner under paragraph (a), and shall affirm that the opinion expressed is in conformity with those requirements.

(p) The audit report of the independent certified public accountant that performs the audit of an insurer's annual statement as required under paragraph (a), shall contain a statement as to whether anything, in connection with the audit, came to the accountant's attention that caused the accountant to believe that the insurer failed to adopt and consistently apply the valuation procedures as required by sections 60A.122 and 60A.123.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 66A.16, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.** A mutual fire insurance company may be formed with, or an existing fire insurance company may establish, a guaranty fund divided into certificates of $10 each, or multiples thereof, and this guaranty fund shall be invested in the same manner as is provided for the investment of capital stock of insurance companies. The certificate holders of the guaranty fund shall be entitled to an annual dividend of not more than ten percent on their respective certificates, if the net profits or unused premiums left after all losses, expenses, or liabilities then incurred, with reserves for reinsurance, are provided for shall be sufficient to pay the same; and, if the dividends in any one year are less than ten percent, the difference may be made up in any subsequent year or years from the net profits. Approval of the commissioner must be obtained before accrual for or payment of the dividend, or any repayment of principal.

The guaranty fund shall be applied to the payment of losses and expenses when necessary and, if the guaranty fund be impaired, the directors may make good the whole or any part of the impairment from future profits of the company, but no dividend shall be paid on guaranty fund certificates while the guaranty fund is impaired.

The holder of the guaranty fund certificate shall not be liable for any more than the amount of the certificate which has not been paid in and this amount shall be plainly and legibly stated on the face of the certificate.

Each certificate holder of record shall be entitled to one vote in person or by proxy in any meeting of the members of the company for each $10 investment in guaranty fund certificates. The guaranty fund may be reduced or retired by vote of the policyholders of the company and the assent of the commissioner, if the net assets of the company above its reinsurance reserve and all other claims and obligations and the amount of its guaranty fund certificates and interest thereon for two years last preceding and including the date of its last annual statement shall not be less than 50 percent of the premiums in force.

Due notice of this proposed action on the part of the company shall be mailed to each policyholder of the company not less than 30 days before the meeting when the action may be taken.

In mutual fire insurance companies with a guaranty fund, the certificate holders shall be entitled to choose and elect from among their own number or from among the policyholders at least one-half of the total number of directors.

If any mutual fire insurance company with a guaranty fund ceases to do business, it shall not divide among its certificate holders any part of its assets or guaranty fund until all its debts and obligations have been paid or canceled.

Foreign mutual fire insurance companies having a guaranty fund shall not be required to make their certificate of guaranty fund conform to the provisions of this section, but when the certificates do not conform therewith the amount thereof shall be charged as a liability.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 66A.16, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **MUTUAL CASUALTY COMPANIES.** Any mutual insurance company which establishes and maintains, over and above its liabilities and the reserves required by law of a like stock insurance company, a guaranty fund available for the payment of losses and expenses at least equal to the capital stock required of a like stock insurance company may issue policies of insurance without contingent liability, and when the articles of incorporation of any mutual insurance company having this guaranty fund provide, the company may transact any and all of the kinds of business as set forth in section 60A.06, subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (15) subject to the restrictions and limitations imposed by law on a like stock insurance company, and any domestic mutual company having a guaranty fund equal to the amount of capital stock required of a like stock insurance company may insure the same kinds of property and conduct and carry on its business, subject only to the restrictions and limitations applicable to like domestic stock insurance companies.

Subdivision 1 shall not apply to this guaranty fund except that the guaranty fund of the company shall be invested in the same manner as is provided by law for the investment of its other funds. Every such company shall in its annual statement show as separate items the amount of the guaranty fund and the remaining divisible surplus, and the aggregate of these items shall be shown as surplus to policyholders.

A guaranty fund may be created, in whole or in part, in either or both of the following ways:

(1) Where an existing mutual company has a surplus, the members of the company may at any regular or special meeting set aside from and out of its surplus such sum as shall be fixed by resolution to be transferred to and thereafter constitute, in whole or in part, the guaranty fund of the company; or

(2) By the issuance of guaranty fund certificates, as specified in this subdivision, the same to be issued upon the conditions and subject to the rights and obligations specified in this subdivision.

Any such company establishing a guaranty fund, as provided in this subdivision, may, subject to the restrictions and limitations imposed by law as to a like stock

insurance company, amend its articles to provide for the doing by it of one or more of the kinds of insurance business specified in section 60A.06, subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (15).

The policy liability of any such mutual company issuing policies without a contingent liability shall, as to these policies, be computed upon the same basis as is applicable to like policies issued by stock insurance companies. Where any such company shall issue five-year term policies, wherein the premiums shall be payable in annual or biennial installments and no premium note is taken by the company as payment of the full term premium, the company then shall be required to maintain a reserve fund on only the portion of premiums actually collected from time to time under these term policies and no company so creating a guaranty fund shall issue policies without a contingent liability after the guaranty fund shall be impaired or reduced below the capital required of a like stock insurance company doing the same kind or kinds of insurance. Any company having a guaranty fund may insure, without a contingent liability, any kind or class of property which a like stock company may insure.

Any director, officer, or member of any mutual insurance company, or any other person, may advance to the company any sum of money necessary for the purposes of its business or to enable it to comply with any of the requirements of the law, including the creation, in whole or in part, of a guaranty fund to enable it to do one or more of the kinds of business specified in this subdivision, and for the creation by a company issuing policies with a contingent liability of a guaranty fund, in such amount as the board of directors shall determine, for the protection of policyholders of the company, and the moneys, together with the interest thereon as may have been agreed upon, not exceeding ten percent per annum, shall be repaid only out of the surplus remaining after providing for all reserves, if any, and other liability, and which shall not otherwise be a liability or claim against the company or any of its assets. No commission or promotion expenses shall be paid in connection with the advance of any money to the company, and the amount of the advance remaining unpaid shall be reported in each annual statement.

The company shall issue to each person advancing money for the creation of a guaranty fund a certificate or certificates specifying the amount advanced. These certificates may be assigned by the holder and the transfer recorded upon the books of the company. The holders of the guaranty fund certificates shall be entitled to annual interest thereon at the rate agreed upon, if the net profits of the company, after all losses, expenses, liabilities, and legal reserves, if any, have been paid or provided for, are sufficient to pay the same. If the net profits of the company in any year are insufficient to pay the full amount of interest agreed upon, the difference may be paid in any subsequent year from the net profits of the subsequent years, if approval of the commissioner is obtained before accrual for or payment of the interest.

The guaranty fund shall be applied to the payment of losses and expenses when necessary and, if the guaranty fund be impaired, the directors may make good the whole or any part of the impairment from future net profits of the company or by the

issue and sale of additional guaranty fund certificates, but no interest shall be paid on the guaranty fund certificates while the guaranty fund is impaired. No certificate shall be issued except for money actually paid to the company, which amount shall be plainly and legibly stated therein. The company shall issue certificates only in sums of $10, or multiples thereof; it shall keep a record of the name and address of the person to whom issued and of all assignments thereof. Upon surrender of a certificate duly assigned in writing, the company shall cancel the same and issue a new certificate to the assignee.

Each certificate holder of record shall be entitled to one vote in person or by proxy at any meeting of the members of the company, for each $10 investment in the guaranty fund certificates.

The guaranty fund may be reduced or retired by vote of the board of directors of the company and the assent of the commissioner, if the net assets of the company, above its legal reserves, if any, and all other claims and obligations are sufficient therefor. The certificate holders shall be entitled to choose and elect from among their own members or from among the policyholders at least one-half of the total number of directors.

In case the members of any company by resolution adopted at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose shall determine to wind up and liquidate the business of any such company, the assets thereof shall be applied (1) to the payment of the expense of the liquidation; (2) to the payment of any accrued liability, including losses, if any; (3) to the payment of any unearned premiums on policies in force at the time of the liquidation; (4) to the payment of guaranty fund certificates, if any, together with accrued interest thereon, if any; and (5) the residue shall be distributed according to the provisions of chapter 60B.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 68A.01, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **INVESTMENT OF OTHER FUNDS.** After the investment of such portion of its capital stock as hereinbefore provided and the deposit of the securities in its guaranty fund as aforesaid the remainder of its capital stock and funds may be invested in such securities, records, ~~abstract plants,~~ and equipment as the board of directors or the board of trustees of the company shall determine to be suitable for the transaction of its business, unless otherwise limited by this chapter.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 68A.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. **ADMITTED ASSET STANDARDS.** An investment in a title plant or plants in an amount equal to the actual cost must be allowed as an admitted asset for title insurers. The aggregate amount of the investment must not exceed the lesser of 20 percent of admitted assets or 40 percent of surplus to policyholders, both as required to be shown on the statutory balance sheet of the insurer for its most recently filed statement with the commissioner. If the amount of the investment exceeds the limits in this subdivision, the excess amount must be recorded as a nonadmitted asset.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 68A.02, is amended to read:

68A.02 **UNEARNED PREMIUM RESERVE.**

Upon issuance of each contract of title insurance issued on or after January 1, 1964, through January 1, 2001, by a domestic real estate title insurance company, there shall be reserved initially a sum equal to ten percent of the original premium charged therefor. At the end of each calendar year following the year in which the contract of title insurance is issued, there shall be a reduction in the sum so reserved in the amount of one-twentieth of such sum. On any contract of title insurance issued prior to January 1, 1964, by a domestic real estate title insurance company, a reserve shall be set up on January 1, 1964, and thereafter maintained in such sum as would have been required if the foregoing requirements with respect to title insurance reserves had existed at and after the date of the contract of title insurance. Such sums herein required to be reserved shall at all times and for all purposes be considered and constitute unearned portions of the original premiums on such contracts of title insurance, shall be charged as a reserve liability of the real estate title insurance company in determining its financial condition, and, for the purpose of applying the provisions of section 60A.23, subdivision 4, shall be deemed to constitute the whole amount of the premiums on the unexpired risks of such real estate title insurance company.

Sec. 14. **[68A.03] RESERVES.**

Subdivision 1. **REQUIREMENTS.** After January 1, 2001, the financial condition of an insurer doing business under chapter 68A must be determined by applying the general provisions of the insurance code requiring the establishment of reserves sufficient to cover all known and unknown liabilities including allocated and unallocated loss adjustment expense, except that a title insurer shall also establish and maintain the reserves required by this section.

Subd. 2. **CLAIM RESERVES.** A title insurer shall establish and maintain a known claim reserve in an amount estimated to be sufficient to cover all unpaid losses, claims, and allocated loss adjustment expenses arising under title insurance policies, guaranteed certificates of title, guaranteed searches, and guaranteed abstracts of title and all unpaid losses, claims, and allocated loss adjustment expenses for which the title insurer may be liable, and for which the insurer has received notice by or on behalf of the insured, holder of a guarantee, or escrow or security depositor.

Subd. 3. **PREMIUM RESERVE.** (a) A title insurer shall establish and maintain a statutory premium reserve consisting of:

(1) the amount of statutory premium reserve required by the laws of the domiciliary state of the insurer if the insurer is a foreign or non-U.S. title insurer; or

(2) if the insurer is a domestic title insurer of this state, a statutory or unearned premium reserve consisting of:

(i) the amount of the statutory or unearned premium or reinsurance reserve legally held on January 1, 2001, which balance must be released according to the law in effect at the time the sums were added to the reserve; and

(ii) additions to the reserve after January 1, 2001, must be made out of total charges for title insurance policies and guarantees written, equal to the sum of the following items, as set forth in the title insurer's most recent annual statement filed with the commissioner:

(A) for each title insurance policy on a single risk written or assumed after January 1, 2001, a minimum rate of $0.36 per $1,000 of net retained liability for policies under $500,000 and $0.16 per $1,000 of net retained liability for policies of $500,000 or greater; and

(B) a minimum of eight percent of escrow, settlement, and closing fees collected in contemplation of the issuance of title insurance policies or guarantees.

(b) The aggregate of the amounts set aside in this reserve in any calendar year pursuant to paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), must be released from the reserve and restored to net profits over a period of 20 years at an amortization rate not to exceed the following formula: 35 percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of the year next succeeding the year of addition; 15 percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of each of the succeeding two years; ten percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of the next succeeding year; three percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of each of the next three succeeding years; two percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of each of the next three succeeding years; and one percent of the aggregate sum on July 1 of each of the next succeeding ten years.

(c) The insurer shall calculate an adjusted statutory or unearned premium reserve as of the year of first application of paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii). The adjusted reserve must be calculated as if paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), had been in effect for all years beginning 20 years before the year of first application of paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii). For purposes of this calculation, the balance of the reserve as of that date is considered to be zero. If the adjusted reserve so calculated exceeds the aggregate amount set aside for statutory or unearned premiums in the insurer's most recent annual statement filed with the commissioner, the insurer shall, out of total charges for policies of title insurance, increase its statutory or unearned premium reserve by an amount equal to one-sixth of that excess in each of the succeeding six years, beginning with the calendar year that includes the year of first application of paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), until the entire excess has been added.

(d) The aggregate of the amounts set aside in this reserve in any calendar year as adjustments to the insurer's statutory or unearned premium reserve pursuant to paragraph (c) must be released from the reserve and restored to net profits, or equity if the additions required by paragraph (c) reduced equity directly, over a period not exceeding ten years pursuant to the following table:

Year of addition	Release
Year 1*	Equally over ten years
Year 2	Equally over nine years
Year 3	Equally over eight years

New language is indicated by underline, **deletions by** ~~strikeout.~~

Year 4	Equally over seven years
Year 5	Equally over six years
Year 6	Equally over five years

* The calendar year following the year of first application of paragraphs (a), clause (2), item (ii), (b), and (c).

(e) A supplemental reserve must be established consisting of any other reserves necessary, when taken in combination with the reserves required by sections 68A.02 and 68A.03, to cover the company's liabilities with respect to all losses, claims, and loss adjusted expenses.

(f) Each title insurer subject to the provisions of this chapter shall file with its annual statement, required under section 60A.13, subdivision 1, a certification by a member in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries. The actuarial certification required of a title insurer must conform to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' annual statement instructions for title insurers.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 80A.15, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. The following transactions are exempted from sections 80A.08 and 80A.16:

(a) Any sales, whether or not effected through a broker-dealer, provided that:

(1) no person shall make more than ten sales of securities of the same issuer pursuant to this exemption, exclusive of sales according to clause (2), during any period of 12 consecutive months; provided further, that in the case of sales by an issuer, except sales of securities registered under the Securities Act of 1933 or exempted by section 3(b) of that act, (i) the seller reasonably believes that all buyers are purchasing for investment, and (ii) the securities are not advertised for sale to the general public in newspapers or other publications of general circulation or otherwise, or by radio, television, electronic means or similar communications media, or through a program of general solicitation by means of mail or telephone; and

(2) no issuer shall make more than 25 sales of its securities according to this exemption, exclusive of sales pursuant to clause (1), during any period of 12 consecutive months; provided further, that the issuer meets the conditions in clause (1) and, in addition meets the following additional conditions: (i) files with the commissioner, ten days before a sale according to this clause, a statement of issuer on a form prescribed by the commissioner; and (ii) no commission or other remuneration is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any prospective buyers in this state in connection with a sale according to this clause except reasonable and customary commissions paid by the issuer to a broker-dealer licensed under this chapter.

(b) Any nonissuer distribution of an outstanding security if (1) either Moody's, Fitch's, or Standard & Poor's Securities Manuals, or other recognized manuals approved by the commissioner contains the names of the issuer's officers and directors,

a balance sheet of the issuer as of a date not more than 18 months prior to the date of the sale, and a profit and loss statement for the fiscal year preceding the date of the balance sheet, and (2) the issuer or its predecessor has been in active, continuous business operation for the five-year period next preceding the date of sale, and (3) if the security has a fixed maturity or fixed interest or dividend provision, the issuer has not, within the three preceding fiscal years, defaulted in payment of principal, interest, or dividends on the securities.

(c) The execution of any orders by a licensed broker-dealer for the purchase or sale of any security, pursuant to an unsolicited offer to purchase or sell; provided that the broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser or seller, and has no direct material interest in the sale or distribution of the security, receives no commission, profit, or other compensation from any source other than the purchaser and seller and delivers to the purchaser and seller written confirmation of the transaction which clearly itemizes the commission, or other compensation.

(d) Any nonissuer sale of notes or bonds secured by a mortgage lien if the entire mortgage, together with all notes or bonds secured thereby, is sold to a single purchaser at a single sale.

(e) Any judicial sale, exchange, or issuance of securities made pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) The sale, by a pledge holder, of a security pledged in good faith as collateral for a bona fide debt.

(g) Any offer or sale to a bank, savings institution, trust company, insurance company, investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, or other financial institution or institutional buyer, or to a broker-dealer, whether the purchaser is acting for itself or in some fiduciary capacity.

(h) An offer or sale of securities by an issuer made in reliance on the exemptions provided by Rule 505 or 506 of Regulation D promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, sections 230.501 to 230.508, subject to the conditions and definitions provided by Rules 501 to 503 of Regulation D, if the offer and sale also satisfies the conditions and limitations in clauses (1) to (10).

(1) The exemption under this paragraph is not available for the securities of an issuer if any of the persons described in Rule 252(c) to (f) of Regulation A promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, sections 230.251 to 230.263:

(i) has filed a registration statement that is the subject of a currently effective order entered against the issuer, its officers, directors, general partners, controlling persons, or affiliates, according to any state's law within five years before the filing of the notice required under clause (5), denying effectiveness to, or suspending or revoking the effectiveness of, the registration statement;

(ii) has been convicted, within five years before the filing of the notice required under clause (5), of a felony or misdemeanor in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of a security or franchise, or a felony involving fraud or deceit, including but not limited to forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, larceny, or conspiracy to defraud;

(iii) is subject to an effective administrative order or judgment entered by a state securities administrator within five years before the filing of the notice required under clause (5), that prohibits, denies, or revokes the use of an exemption from securities registration, that prohibits the transaction of business by the person as a broker-dealer or agent, or that is based on fraud, deceit, an untrue statement of a material fact, or an omission to state a material fact; or

(iv) is subject to an order, judgment, or decree of a court entered within five years before the filing of the notice required under clause (5), temporarily, preliminarily, or permanently restraining or enjoining the person from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of a security, or the making of a false filing with a state.

A disqualification under paragraph (h) involving a broker-dealer or agent is waived if the broker-dealer or agent is or continues to be licensed in the state in which the administrative order or judgment was entered against the person or if the broker-dealer or agent is or continues to be licensed in this state as a broker-dealer or agent after notifying the commissioner of the act or event causing disqualification.

The commissioner may waive a disqualification under paragraph (h) upon a showing of good cause that it is not necessary under the circumstances that use of the exemption be denied.

A disqualification under paragraph (h) may be waived if the state securities administrator or agency of the state that created the basis for disqualification has determined, upon a showing of good cause, that it is not necessary under the circumstances that an exemption from registration of securities under the state's laws be denied.

It is a defense to a violation of paragraph (h) based upon a disqualification if the issuer sustains the burden of proof to establish that the issuer did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have known, that a disqualification under paragraph (h) existed.

(2) This exemption must not be available to an issuer with respect to a transaction that, although in technical compliance with this exemption, is part of a plan or scheme to evade registration or the conditions or limitations explicitly stated in paragraph (h).

(3) No commission, finder's fee, or other remuneration shall be paid or given, directly or indirectly, for soliciting a prospective purchaser, unless the recipient is appropriately licensed, or exempt from licensure, in this state as a broker-dealer.

(4) Nothing in this exemption is intended to or should be in any way construed as relieving issuers or persons acting on behalf of issuers from providing disclosure to

prospective investors adequate to satisfy the antifraud provisions of the securities law of Minnesota.

(5) The issuer shall file with the commissioner a notice on form D as adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission according to Regulation D, Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, section 230.502. The notice must be filed not later than 15 days after the first sale in this state of securities in an offering under this exemption. Every notice on form D must be manually signed by a person duly authorized by the issuer and must be accompanied by a consent to service of process on a form prescribed by the commissioner.

(6) A failure to comply with a term, condition, or requirement of paragraph (h) will not result in loss of the exemption for an offer or sale to a particular individual or entity if the person relying on the exemption shows that: (i) the failure to comply did not pertain to a term, condition, or requirement directly intended to protect that particular individual or entity, and the failure to comply was insignificant with respect to the offering as a whole; and (ii) a good faith and reasonable attempt was made to comply with all applicable terms, conditions, and requirements of paragraph (h), except that, where an exemption is established only through reliance upon this provision, the failure to comply shall nonetheless constitute a violation of section 80A.08 and be actionable by the commissioner.

(7) The issuer, upon request by the commissioner, shall, within ten days of the request, furnish to the commissioner a copy of any and all information, documents, or materials furnished to investors or offerees in connection with the offer and sale according to paragraph (h).

(8) Neither compliance nor attempted compliance with the exemption provided by paragraph (h), nor the absence of an objection or order by the commissioner with respect to an offer or sale of securities undertaken according to this exemption, shall be considered to be a waiver of a condition of the exemption or considered to be a confirmation by the commissioner of the availability of this exemption.

(9) The commissioner may, by rule or order, increase the number of purchasers or waive any other condition of this exemption.

(10) The determination whether offers and sales made in reliance on the exemption set forth in paragraph (h) shall be integrated with offers and sales according to other paragraphs of this subdivision shall be made according to the integration standard set forth in Rule 502 of Regulation D promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, section 230.502. If not subject to integration according to that rule, offers and sales according to paragraph (h) shall not otherwise be integrated with offers and sales according to other exemptions set forth in this subdivision.

(i) Any offer (but not a sale) of a security for which a registration statement has been filed under sections 80A.01 to 80A.31, if no stop order or refusal order is in effect and no public proceeding or examination looking toward an order is pending; and any offer of a security if the sale of the security is or would be exempt under this section.

The commissioner may by rule exempt offers (but not sales) of securities for which a registration statement has been filed as the commissioner deems appropriate, consistent with the purposes of sections 80A.01 to 80A.31.

(j) The offer and sale by a cooperative organized under chapter 308A or under the laws of another state, of its securities when the securities are offered and sold only to its members, or when the purchase of the securities is necessary or incidental to establishing membership in the cooperative, or when such securities are issued as patronage dividends. This paragraph applies to a cooperative organized under the laws of another state only if the cooperative has filed with the commissioner a consent to service of process under section 80A.27, subdivision 7, and has, not less than ten days prior to the issuance or delivery, furnished the commissioner with a written general description of the transaction and any other information that the commissioner requires by rule or otherwise. ~~This exemption only applies when the issuing cooperative is seeking to raise up to $1,000,000.~~

(l) The issuance and delivery of any securities of one corporation to another corporation or its security holders in connection with a merger, exchange of shares, or transfer of assets whereby the approval of stockholders of the other corporation is required to be obtained, provided, that the commissioner has been furnished with a general description of the transaction and with other information as the commissioner by rule prescribes not less than ten days prior to the issuance and delivery.

(m) Any transaction between the issuer or other person on whose behalf the offering is made and an underwriter or among underwriters.

(n) The distribution by a corporation of its or other securities to its own security holders as a stock dividend or as a dividend from earnings or surplus or as a liquidating distribution; or upon conversion of an outstanding convertible security; or pursuant to a stock split or reverse stock split.

(o) Any offer or sale of securities by an affiliate of the issuer thereof if: (1) a registration statement is in effect with respect to securities of the same class of the issuer and (2) the offer or sale has been exempted from registration by rule or order of the commissioner.

(p) Any transaction pursuant to an offer to existing security holders of the issuer, including persons who at the time of the transaction are holders of convertible securities, nontransferable warrants, or transferable warrants exercisable within not more than 90 days of their issuance, if: (1) no commission or other remuneration (other than a standby commission) is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any security holder in this state; and (2) the commissioner has been furnished with a general description of the transaction and with other information as the commissioner may by rule prescribe no less than ten days prior to the transaction.

(q) Any nonissuer sales of any security, including a revenue obligation, issued by the state of Minnesota or any of its political or governmental subdivisions, municipalities, governmental agencies, or instrumentalities.

(r) Any transaction as to which the commissioner by rule or order finds that registration is not necessary in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

(s) An offer or sale of a security issued in connection with an employee's stock purchase, savings, option, profit sharing, pension, or similar employee benefit plan, if the following conditions are met:

(1) the issuer, its parent corporation or any of its majority-owned subsidiaries offers or sells the security according to a written benefit plan or written contract relating to the compensation of the purchaser; and

(2) the class of securities offered according to the plan or contract, or if an option or right to purchase a security, the class of securities to be issued upon the exercise of the option or right, is registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or is a class of securities with respect to which the issuer files reports according to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; or

(3) the issuer fully complies with the provisions of Rule 701 as adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, Code of Federal Regulations, title 12, section 230.701.

The issuer shall file not less than ten days before the transaction, a general description of the transaction and any other information that the commissioner requires by rule or otherwise or, if applicable, a Securities and Exchange Form S-8. Annually, within 90 days after the end of the issuer's fiscal year, the issuer shall file a notice as provided with the commissioner.

(t) Any sale of a security of an issuer that is a pooled income fund, a charitable remainder trust, or a charitable lead trust that has a qualified charity as the only charitable beneficiary.

(u) Any sale by a qualified charity of a security that is a charitable gift annuity if the issuer has a net worth, otherwise defined as unrestricted fund balance, of not less than $300,000 and either: (1) has been in continuous operation for not less than three years; or (2) is a successor or affiliate of a qualified charity that has been in continuous operation for not less than three years.

Sec. 16. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 1998, sections 60A.12, subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9; 60A.125, subdivision 3; and 60A.128, are repealed.

Sec. 17. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 15 is effective retroactively from July 1, 1999.

Presented to the governor April 6, 2000

Signed by the governor April 10, 2000, 2:47 p.m.

New language is indicated by underline, **deletions by** ~~strikeout.~~