

CHAPTER 574

BONDS, FINES, FORFEITURES

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574.01 BONDS, REQUISITES AND EXECUTION. Save when otherwise specially provided by statute, every bond, recognizance, or undertaking required or permitted to be made, given, tendered, or filed for the security or protection of the state, or of any person, corporation, municipality, or department thereof, or any other organization whatever and conditioned for the doing or not doing of anything in such instrument of security specified, shall be signed by two or more sureties, who shall be residents and freeholders of the state, and justify as provided in section 574.12. Every bond or recognizance shall also be signed by the principal, and every bond shall be acknowledged by the principal and sureties.

[R L s 4523] (9677)

574.02 STATE MAY TAKE FIDELITY INSURANCE. The public examiner, from time to time, shall make surveys of each department or agency of the state government to determine the employees in the department or agency whose fidelity should be assured by individual bond or fidelity insurance policy, and the amount of such bond or insurance necessary for each such employee, and shall submit a list thereof to the commissioner of administration for his action thereon. The commissioner may approve in whole or in part and shall certify his action thereon to the directing head of each such department or agency, who shall require each of the employees so listed to give bond to the state in the amount indicated in such certificate. The commissioner in such certificate may direct that, in lieu of individual bonds so required, the directing head of any such department or agency shall procure and keep in effect a schedule or position insurance policy, in such aggregate amount as the commissioner shall direct, insuring the fidelity of such department employees in the respective amounts so required, upon a form to be prescribed by the public examiner. Such policy may cover also the subordinate officers of such department required by law to give bond to the state, and in the amount which the commissioner shall require. The surety upon the bonds of all state officers and state employees required under any law of the state shall be a corporation authorized to act as sole surety upon such official bonds, and all such bonds shall be approved by the attorney general as to form and generally by the public examiner, who shall keep an appropriate record of such approval and cause such bond or policy to be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

[1929 c 263 s 1; 1931 c 233 s 1; 1943 c 588 s 1] (9677-1)

574.03 PAYMENT OF PREMIUM. The premiums upon the bonds of all state officers and the premiums on all fidelity insurance placed under the provisions of sections 574.02 and 574.03 shall be paid out of the appropriation for the maintenance of the department for which such bond or insurance is required and such fidelity insurance, when placed in lieu of individual bond, shall be deemed full compliance with any provision of law requiring any such official or employee to give bond to the state for the faithful discharge of duty. If schedule or position insurance is

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provided covering the personnel of any department or agency all individual fidelity bonds covering such officers or employees theretofore bonded shall be canceled and a proportionate part of the premiums paid therefor refunded.

[1929 c 263 s 2; 1931 c 233 s 2] (9677-2)

574.04 SURETY BONDS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. When the laws of the United States, or the regulations or orders of any department of the federal government, require the delivery of a properly executed surety bond, conditioned in a specified manner, as a condition precedent to receiving military property, or equipment, or property of the federal government, from the federal government, or as a prerequisite to doing any specified act, then, and in such case, the chief executive officer of any institution under the financial control of the commissioner of administration may execute and deliver such bond and, if corporate sureties join in the execution of the same, then the cost thereof may be paid by such executive officer out of the funds at his disposal.

[1919 c 98 s 1] (9678)

574.05 LIBERTY LOAN BONDS SECURITY. Any person or corporation who may make a contract with the state, or with any municipal corporation, or any public board or department thereof, for the doing of any public work, including construction of any drainage ditch, may, in lieu of giving the usual bond or undertaking, pledge United States liberty or victory loan bonds, now or hereafter issued, as security for the protection of the state, or such corporation, board or department with which such contract is made, and of all persons doing work or furnishing skills, tools, machinery, or materials under or for the purpose of executing such contract. Such bonds so pledged shall be security for the payment, as they become due, of all just claims for work, tools, machinery, skill, and materials, and for the performance and completion of the contract in accordance with its terms, and as security for all costs and charges that may accrue on account of the doing of the work specified and compliance with the laws relating thereto.

[1919 c 346 s 1] (9679)

574.06 DEPOSIT OF SECURITIES. These bonds so pledged shall be delivered to the officer or department required by law to receive the bonds of public contractors, or who may be designated by the state or other municipal corporation or department with which the contract may be made. The deposit of the securities shall be in lieu of and substitution for the bonds required by law to be given by such contractors.

[1919 c 346 s 2] (9680)

574.07 MARKET VALUE. The market value of the bonds so pledged shall not be less than the contract price.

[1919 c 346 s 3] (9681)

574.08 PROTECTION OF PLEDGE ON COMMENCING ACTION. Any person entitled to the protection of such pledge, wishing to avail himself of its benefits at the time of commencing any action against either the contractor or any subcontractor engaged in such work, shall notify, in writing, the state or corporation or department with which such pledge is made, of the commencement of such suit, giving the names of the parties and the amount and nature of his claim. No judgment shall be entered within 30 days after the giving of such notice and the state or other corporation or department with which such bonds are pledged and any other person entitled to the protection of such pledge may be admitted on its or his motion as a party to the action, and the court shall determine the rights of all parties in the premises. In such suit or other appropriate action in which the corporation or department holding the bonds is a party, the court may order the bonds, or a part of them sufficient to pay the unpaid claims, sold at public auction or private sale or on the New York stock exchange and from the proceeds, after deducting the costs of sale, make payments among the parties to the suit entitled thereto; if the proceeds are insufficient to pay the claims in full, they may be paid pro rata. If the state or other corporation or department does not appear and defend, it may, after entry of judgment in favor of such claimants, enforce the pledge and sell the securities at public or private sale or upon the New York stock exchange, and it shall have in addition any and all rights and remedies given pledgees by law for the enforcement of their securities, but it shall not be required

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to sell such security until 90 days after completion of contract and acceptance of the work done, as provided in section 574.09, or until the work is completed at the instance of the corporation if abandoned by the contractor.

[1919 c 346 s 4] (9682)

574.09 ADDITIONAL SECURITY. When, in its judgment, other or further security is required, the state or such other corporation or department may require the contractor to furnish other or further security of the same nature within ten days, and thereupon if so ordered, the work on such contract shall cease until such other or further security is furnished. If such other or further security is not furnished within such time, the pledgee may at its option terminate the contract and complete the same as the agent and at the expense of such contractor.

[1919 c 346 s 5] (9683)

574.10 NOTICE OF CLAIM. No action shall be maintained by any person seeking to avail himself of the benefit of such pledge, unless within 90 days after the completion of the contract and acceptance by the proper public authorities of the work done, the plaintiff shall serve upon the contractor and upon the state or such corporation or department a written notice specifying the nature and amount of his claim and the date of furnishing the last item thereof, nor unless the action is begun within one year after the service of such notice.

[1919 c 346 s 6] (9684)

574.11 RECEIVERS' BONDS TO RUN TO STATE. Bonds given by receivers and trustees appointed by the district court in any action or proceedings shall run to the state of Minnesota for the benefit of all persons in interest. Any person interested may maintain an action in his own name upon any such bond.

[1921 c 17 s 1] (9685)

574.12 MODES OF JUSTIFICATION. The justification of sureties mentioned in section 574.01 shall be by affidavit, annexed to the bond or other security, wherein each surety shall state, under oath, that he is worth a certain definite amount above his debts and liabilities and exclusive of his property exempt from execution, but the aggregate of the amount sworn to as aforesaid by all the sureties shall be not less than double the amount of the penalty of such bond or other security. Where in the cases provided by law exception is taken to sureties, they shall be examined by the judge or officer before whom they are required to attend for purposes of justification, in such manner as he shall deem proper. The examination shall be reduced to writing and filed in the cause and, if the judge or officer deems the sureties sufficient, he shall endorse his approval upon the instrument, and return the same to the proper custodian thereof.

[R L s 4524; 1907 c 311 s 1] (9686)

574.13 STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS; UNIFORM BOND. When, by law, an official bond is required of any state or county officer, it shall be sufficient for all purposes if the same be substantially in the following form:

"Know All Men by These Presents, that, as principal, and, as surety....., are jointly and severally held and firmly bound to the State of Minnesota in the sum of dollars, lawful money of the United States, to the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we hereby bind ourselves, and each of us, our, and each of our, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this day of, A. D. 19.....

The condition of the above obligation is such that, whereas, the above bounden was heretofore duly elected (or appointed) to the office of

Now, therefore, if the said shall faithfully and impartially, in all things, during his continuance in office, perform the duties thereof without fraud, deceit or oppression, and pay over without delay to the officer entitled by law thereto all moneys which shall come into his hands by virtue thereof, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Signed, sealed and delivered (Seal) in presence of

[1909 c 107 s 1] (9687)

574.14 BONDS EXECUTED UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS. All those rights and obligations which would be created were the bond of any such officer executed under any other law are hereby declared to exist and be of the same force where such bond is executed in the foregoing form.

[1909 c 107 s 2] (9688)

574.15 SURETY COMPANIES. When the bond or other instrument is required to be made with one surety, or with two or more sureties, it shall be sufficient if the same be executed, or the conditions thereof be guaranteed, solely by a corporation authorized by law so to do. No such corporation shall be accepted or approved as a surety or guarantor unless it holds the certificate of the commissioner of insurance, showing that it is authorized to contract as such.

[R L s 4525] (9689)

574.16 SURETY, SUBROGATION. When the surety upon the bond of any state officer shall have fulfilled the conditions of such bond and compensated the state for any loss occasioned by any act or omission of such officer, such surety shall be subrogated to all the rights of the state and, if there shall be any property, evidence of indebtedness, or other obligation, or evidence thereof, in the possession of any official of the state and which shall have been received in connection with the transaction wherein such loss shall have occurred, the governor, upon satisfactory proof that such loss has been so paid and the obligation of such bond fulfilled by such surety, shall thereupon, by sufficient instruments of transfer, assign, transfer, or convey to such surety any such property, evidence of indebtedness, or obligation.

[1917 c 492 s 1] (9690)

574.17 SURETIES FOR PART OF PENALTY. Sureties may be accepted, in the discretion of the approving officer or body, for a part only of the penalty, and may justify in separate and different sums; but the aggregate liability of the sureties shall in all cases be not less than that required by law if each surety had justified in the full amount.

[R L s 4526] (9691)

574.18 UNDERTAKING IN LIEU OF BOND. In all cases of appeal from a county board to the district court upon the allowance or disallowance of claims, in all actions brought before justices of the peace, in all appeals from a justice or probate court to the district court, in all actions begun in the district court, in all cases of appeal or writ of error to remove a cause or proceeding therein to the supreme court, and in all cases of special or equitable proceedings in the district court or the supreme court, the filing or service, or both, as may be required, of an undertaking, signed by a surety or sureties, as the law may require, containing a condition substantially the same as required for bonds, with like sureties, qualifications, and justifications, and without acknowledgment or signature of the principal, shall be deemed a sufficient compliance with the law to sustain any such action, appeal, or proceeding. Every such undertaking shall save and secure all rights and liabilities to the same extent as a bond, and the damages presumed to accrue to the party against whom such proceeding is taken shall be deemed a sufficient consideration for such undertaking, though no consideration be mentioned therein; but no undertaking or bond need be given upon any appeal or other proceeding instituted in favor of the state, or any county, city, town, or school district therein, or of any executor or administrator as such.

[R L s 4527] (9692)

574.19 COST OF SURETY BONDS; PROPER EXPENSE ITEMS. Any receiver, assignee, trustee, committee, guardian, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary, required by law to give bond as such, may include as a part of his lawful expenses such actual sum paid for such suretyship, not exceeding \$10 per annum when the amount of the bond is not more than \$1,000, and not more than one percent per annum on the excess when over \$1,000, as the head of the department, court, judge, or officer by whom, or the court or body by which, he is appointed allows; and in all actions or proceedings the party entitled to recover costs may include therein the reasonable fees of such company for executing or guaranteeing any bond or undertaking therein. The several county and town boards, and the governing body of any city, village, or school district, may allow the treasurer of the municipality such reasonable sum, not exceeding the amount herein specified, as may have been paid by him for such suretyship, to be paid out of the general

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revenue fund of the municipality. The officers required by law to approve such bill may first designate the surety company to be employed, if its charges be as low as those offered by any other responsible company.

[R L s 4528; 1933 c 311] (9693)

574.20 BONDS, BY WHOM APPROVED. Except as otherwise provided by law in particular cases, bonds shall be approved as follows:

(1) The official bonds of all state officers, including those of the treasurers, superintendents, and other officials, and employees of the several public educational, charitable, penal, and reformatory institutions belonging to the state, shall be approved, as to form, by the attorney general, and in all other respects by the governor and the public examiner, or one of them;

(2) The official bonds of county, town, city, village, and school district officers and employees by the governing body of the municipality for whose security they are, respectively, given;

(3) Those required or permitted by law to be given in any court, by the judge or justice of the court in which the proceeding is begun or pending.

(4) In the case of justices of the peace in cities and incorporated villages all bonds shall be surety bonds of a surety company duly authorized to transact business within this state, and copies thereof shall be filed with the secretary of state in addition to all other requirements. The premium for such bond may be paid by the municipality or other political subdivision out of its general revenue fund.

No officer, official, or employee required to give bond shall enter upon his duties until his bond is duly approved and filed.

[R L s 4529; 1945 c 317 s 1] (9694)

574.21 PLACE OF FILING BONDS. Except when otherwise especially provided by law, the bonds of public officials shall be filed as follows:

(1) Those of all state officers, including the officials and employees of the several departments and institutions thereof, with the secretary of state, who shall record and retain the same;

(2) Those of all county officers, and of all other officials or persons, given to the county, with the register of deeds; and after the same have been recorded by the register, he shall file them with the secretary of state for safekeeping;

(3) Those of all city, village, and borough officers, with the clerk of such municipality;

(4) Those of school district officers, with the clerk of the district.

[R L s 4530] (9695)

574.22 COURT PROCEEDINGS. All bonds required or permitted by law to be given in actions or proceedings in any court shall be filed in such court, unless especially required by law to be filed, delivered, or deposited elsewhere, or unless the judge or justice of such court shall, by written order, direct some other disposition thereof.

[R L s 4531] (9696)

574.23 EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS OF PUBLIC OFFICERS. In case of the filing of a new official bond or other security, the expiration of the term of office, or the death, resignation, or removal of the officer, the officer, board, committee, or body required or permitted to accept or approve such bond or other security, having jurisdiction or being authorized or required to examine the accounts of such officer, shall make or cause to be made a thorough examination of his accounts and, if any shortage or irregularity is discovered, shall at once notify such officer and his sureties of the amount claimed to be due, or the nature of the irregularity. Such statement shall be in writing, and be served upon such officer and his sureties, or their agents or attorneys, by mail, addressed to their residences, if known; but failure to make the examination or give such notice shall not discharge the sureties.

[R L s 4532] (9697)

574.24 OFFICIAL BONDS, SECURITY TO WHOM; ACTIONS. The official bond or other security of a public officer, whether with or without sureties, shall be security to all persons severally for the official delinquencies against which it is intended to provide, as well as to the obligee designated therein, and when no

other provision is made by law it shall run to the state. When a public officer, by official misconduct or neglect, forfeits his bond or renders his sureties liable thereon, any person injured thereby, or who is by law entitled to the benefit of the security, may bring an action thereon, in his own name, against the officer and his sureties, to recover the amount to which he is entitled by reason of the delinquency; and a judgment in favor of a party for one delinquency does not preclude the same or another party from an action on the same security for another delinquency.

[R L s 4533] (9698)

574.25 LEAVE TO BRING ACTION; ENDORSEMENT ON EXECUTION. Before an action shall be brought by a plaintiff other than the state or body politic named in the bond, leave shall be obtained of the district court of the county in which the action is triable, or a judge thereof, by the production of a copy of the bond and an affidavit showing the delinquency; and, if the delinquency be such that, if established on the trial, it would entitle the applicant to recover, leave shall be granted. Upon the execution issued on a judgment recovered upon the official security of a public officer, against him and a surety, there shall be endorsed a direction to the officer to whom the same is delivered to collect the same out of the property of the principal, if sufficient can be found, and, if not, out of the property of the surety.

[R L s 4534] (9699)

574.26 CONTRACTORS' BONDS. No contract with the state, or with any municipal corporation or other public board or body thereof, for the doing of any public work, shall be valid for any purpose, unless the contractor shall give bond to the state or other body contracted with, for the use of the obligee and of all persons doing work or furnishing skill, tools, machinery, or materials or insurance premiums or equipment or supplies for any camp maintained for the feeding or keeping of men and animals engaged under, or for the purpose of, such contract, conditioned for the payment, as they become due, of all just claims for such work, tools, machinery, skill, materials, insurance premiums, equipment, and supplies for the completion of the contract in accordance with its terms, for saving the obligee harmless from all costs and charges that may accrue on account of the doing of the work specified, and for the enforcing of the terms of the bond if action is brought on the bond, including reasonable attorney's fees, in any case where such action is successfully maintained and for the compliance with the laws appertaining thereto. The penalty of such bond shall be not less than the contract price, and if after the giving of the bond the contract price should for any reason be increased, the obligee may require an additional bond, the penalty of which shall be not less than the amount of such increase, and if such additional bond be not furnished within ten days after such demand, the work on the contract shall cease until such additional bond shall have been furnished. In contracts made by the commissioner of administration or the department of highways of the state, the penalty of the bond shall be in such amount as the commissioner of administration or the commissioner of highways may fix, but not less than three-quarters of the contract price.

[R L s 4535; 1909 c 429 s 1; 1923 c 373 s 1; 1929 c 369 s 1; 1931 c 229 s 1] (9700)

574.27 BIDDERS TO HAVE RIGHT OF ACTION IN CERTAIN CASES. Any bidder upon any public work or public improvement of any kind in this state where bids therefor are received and where, in connection with such bids, a deposit of money, or a certified check, or bond or other security is required to be given for the performance of the bid if accepted, the political subdivision of the state causing such public work or other public improvement to be made or done shall be liable to such bidder for a return to him of the money, certified check, or other thing of value so deposited by him in the event of the nonacceptance of his bid on such public work or improvement, or, in the event of the acceptance of his bid, during the interval between such acceptance and the entering into of a contract for such work and the giving of security in connection therewith by him, and this liability shall exist even though the failure to return such money, certified check, or other thing of value be occasioned by the defalcation or unlawful conversion thereof by the officer of such political subdivision clothed with the custody thereof.

[1923 c 348 s 1] (9701)

574.28 APPROVAL AND FILING OF BOND. Such bond shall be approved by, and filed with, the treasurer of the obligee named therein unless the contract be for work upon a state trunk highway, or erection, improvement, or repair of buildings for a state institution, in which case it shall be approved and filed with the board or officer having the financial management thereof. If such bond be not taken, the corporation or body for which work is done under the contract shall be liable to all persons furnishing labor, skill, or material to the contractor thereunder for any loss resulting to them from such failure. No assignment, modification, or change of the contract, or change in the work covered thereby, nor any extension of time for completion of the contract, shall release the sureties on the bond.

[*R L s 4536; 1907 c 379; 1931 c 157*] (9702)

574.29 ACTION ON BOND. Any person entitled to the protection of such bond may maintain an action thereon for the amount due him. He shall notify the obligee named in the bond of the beginning of such action, giving the names of the parties, describing the bond sued upon, and stating the amount and nature of his claim. No judgment shall be entered in such action within 30 days after the giving of such notice. The obligee, or any other person having a cause of action on such bond, may be admitted, on his motion, as a party to such action, and the court shall determine the rights of all parties thereto. If the amount realized on the bond be insufficient to discharge all such claims in full, such amount shall be distributed among the parties pro rata.

[*R L s 4537*] (9703)

574.30 INSOLVENT OR INSUFFICIENT SURETIES. When, in its judgment, any of the sureties on such bond have become insolvent, or for any cause are no longer proper or sufficient sureties, the obligee may require the contractor to furnish a new or additional bond within ten days; and thereupon, if so ordered by such obligee, all work on such contract shall cease until such new or additional bond is furnished. If such bond be not furnished within such time, the obligee may, at its option, determine the contract and complete the same as the agent, and at the expense of such contractor and his sureties.

[*R L s 4538*] (9704)

574.31 LIMIT OF TIME TO BRING ACTION. No action shall be maintained on any such bond unless within 90 days after the completion of the contract and acceptance thereof by the proper public authorities, the claimant shall file a written notice specifying the nature and amount of his claim and the date of furnishing the last item thereof, in the office of the commissioner of insurance, in case the contract is for the performance of work for the state or any department thereof, and, in case the contract is let by any county, municipal corporation, or other public board or body, then such notice shall be filed in the office of the auditor of the county letting the contract or the county in which such municipal corporation, public board or body is situate, and if situate in two or more counties, then such notice shall be filed in the office of the auditor of each county; nor unless the action is begun within one year after the filing of such notice. The county auditor shall enter the time of filing every such notice in a book kept for that purpose, which shall be properly indexed.

[*R L s 4539; 1909 c 413 s 1; 1929 c 369 s 2*] (9705)

574.32 NOTICE. The commissioner of insurance or the county auditor in whose office the written notice is filed shall, upon receipt of such written notice, mail one copy of the same, by registered mail, to the principal contractor, at his last known address, and to each of the sureties on his bond, at their last known addresses, and the claimant shall, at the time he files the written notice, furnish the commissioner of insurance or the county auditor in whose office the notice is filed, at least two copies of the notice. The commissioner of insurance or county auditor with whom the notice is filed shall be entitled to charge a fee of \$1 for filing the notice and mailing the copies as herein provided. The failure of the commissioner of insurance or the county auditor with whom the notice is filed to mail these copies as herein provided, shall in no way affect the validity of the claim or the right of the claimant to maintain an action thereon.

[*1929 c 369 s 3*] (9705-1)

574.33 ACTIONS FOR FINES, FORFEITURES, AND PENALTIES; COLLUSION. Actions for fines and forfeitures may be prosecuted by the officers or

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persons to whom they are by law given, or who by special provisions of law are authorized to recover them; and, whether prosecuted by public officers or by private persons, shall be governed by the same rules as other civil actions, except as herein otherwise prescribed. When an action is brought for a penalty, the amount of which is limited by law, it may be brought for the amount so limited, and upon trial the amount recovered shall be in proportion to the offense. Recovery of a judgment for a penalty or forfeiture, by collusion between the parties and with intent to save the defendant from the consequences contemplated by law, where the same is given wholly or partly to the prosecutor, shall not prevent a recovery of the same by another person.

[*R L s 4540*] (9706)

574.34 FINES, HOW DISPOSED OF. Fines and forfeitures not specially granted or appropriated by law shall be paid into the treasury of the county where the same are incurred.

[*R L s 4541*] (9707)

574.35 PROSECUTION FOR FINES; COURT; COMMITMENT. All fines and forfeitures imposed as a punishment for any offense or for the violation of any duty imposed by statute may be prosecuted for and recovered by indictment in the district court, or, when the amount or value thereof does not exceed \$100, before a justice of the peace, who shall have jurisdiction therefor concurrently with the district court; and in all cases of the imposition of a fine pursuant to statute, as punishment for any offense, the offender may be committed until the same is paid or he is otherwise discharged according to law.

[*R L s 4542*] (9708)

574.36 [Renumbered 511.195]