

CHAPTER 80A

REGULATION OF SECURITIES

<p>80A.04 Licensing requirement.</p> <p>80A.06 Postlicensing provisions.</p> <p>80A.07 Denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses.</p>	<p>80A.14 Definitions.</p> <p>80A.15 Exemptions.</p>
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80A.04 LICENSING REQUIREMENT.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 3. It is unlawful for any person to transact business in this state as an investment adviser unless that person is so licensed or licensed as a broker-dealer under this chapter or unless that person's only clients in this state are investment companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, other investment advisers, broker-dealers, banks, trust companies, savings associations, insurance companies, employee benefit plans, corporations with a class of equity securities registered under section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, small business investment companies, and government agencies or instrumentalities, whether acting for themselves or as trustees with investment control, or other institutional investors as are designated by rule or order of the commissioner.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 202 art 1 s 25

80A.06 POSTLICENSING PROVISIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 5. (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), no investment adviser who shall recommend the purchase or sale of a security to a client, and no licensed broker-dealer acting as a broker-dealer for a customer in the purchase or sale of a security shall take or accept any remuneration or other thing of value from any person other than the client or customer in connection with the purchase or sale unless, prior to or contemporaneously with the recommendation in the case of an investment adviser and prior to or contemporaneously with the confirmation of the transaction in the case of a licensed broker-dealer so acting, written disclosure to the client or customer is made of the acceptance or intended acceptance of the remuneration or other thing of value and of the amount of it. All charges made by an investment adviser for services and all charges by a licensed broker-dealer for services rendered as a broker-dealer or for advice with respect to securities shall be reasonable, and except in compliance with rules adopted by the commissioner, no charges shall be based upon or measured by profits accrued or to accrue from transactions recommended or carried out by an investment adviser, or licensed broker-dealer. This subdivision shall not be construed to prohibit charges by an investment adviser based upon the total value of the assets under management averaged over a definite period, or as of definite dates, or taken as of a definite date, nor charges based upon the performance of the managed assets as compared to an established index in compliance with rules adopted by the commissioner.

(b) Disclosure of payment received by a licensed investment advisor or licensed broker-dealer for directing order flow need not comply with paragraph (a) if the disclosure is made in compliance with rules governing disclosure of payments for directing order flow adopted by the securities and exchange commission.

History: 1995 c 148 s 1

80A.07 DENIAL, SUSPENSION, AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES.

[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 5. Withdrawal from the status of a licensed broker-dealer, agent or investment adviser becomes effective 30 days after receipt of an application to withdraw or within such

shorter period as the commissioner determines unless a revocation or suspension proceeding is pending when the application is filed or a proceeding to revoke or suspend or to impose conditions upon the withdrawal is instituted within 30 days after the application is filed. If a proceeding is pending or instituted, withdrawal becomes effective at such time and upon such conditions as the commissioner by order determines. If no proceeding is pending or instituted and withdrawal automatically becomes effective, the commissioner may institute a revocation or suspension proceeding under subdivision 1, clause (b) within two years after withdrawal became effective and enter a revocation or suspension order as of the last date on which the license was in effect.

History: 1995 c 11 s 1

80A.14 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 4. Broker-dealer. "Broker-dealer" means any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others or for that person's own account. "Broker-dealer" does not include:

- (1) an agent;
- (2) an issuer;
- (3) a trust company; or
- (4) a bank, savings institution, savings association, credit union:
 - (i) acting for the account of others, provided that such activities are conducted in compliance with such rules as may be adopted by the commissioner;
 - (ii) acting for its own account; or
 - (iii) acting in a fiduciary capacity pursuant to the powers and privileges described by sections 48.36 to 48.49 or United States Code, title 12, section 92(a);
- (5) a person who has no place of business in this state if that person effects transactions in this state exclusively with or through (i) the issuers of the securities involved in the transactions, (ii) other broker-dealers, or (iii) banks, savings institutions, trust companies, insurance companies, investment companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, pension or profit sharing trusts, or other financial institutions or institutional buyers, or to broker-dealers, whether the purchaser is acting for itself or in some fiduciary capacity; or
- (6) other persons not within the intent of this subsection whom the commissioner by rule or order designates.

[For text of subs 5 to 9a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 10. Investment metal. "Investment metal" means any object which contains gold, silver, platinum, indium, chromium, or germanium, or any other metal which the commissioner may specify by rule upon a showing that such other metal is being purchased and sold by the public as an investment.

[For text of subs 11 to 19, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 11 s 2; 1995 c 202 art 1 s 25

80A.15 EXEMPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. The following securities are exempted from sections 80A.08 and 80A.16:

- (a) Any security, including a revenue obligation, guaranteed by the United States, any state, any political subdivision of a state or any corporate or other instrumentality of one or more of the foregoing; but this exemption shall not include any industrial revenue bond. Pursuant to section 106(c) of the Secondary Mortgage Market Enhancement Act of 1984, Public Law Number 98-440, this exemption does not apply to a security that is offered or sold pursuant to section 106(a)(1) or (2) of that act.
- (b) Any security issued or guaranteed by Canada, any Canadian province, any political subdivision of any province, any agency or corporate or other instrumentality of one or more

of the foregoing, if the security is recognized as a valid obligation by the issuer or guarantor; but this exemption shall not include any revenue obligation payable solely from payments to be made in respect of property or money used under a lease, sale or loan arrangement by or for a nongovernmental industrial or commercial enterprise.

(c) Any security issued by and representing an interest in or a debt of, or guaranteed by, any bank organized under the laws of the United States, or any bank, savings institution or trust company organized under the laws of any state and subject to regulation in respect of the issuance or guarantee of its securities by a governmental authority of that state.

(d) Any security issued by and representing an interest in or a debt of, or guaranteed by, any federal savings association, or any savings association or similar association organized under the laws of any state and authorized to do business in this state.

(e) Any security issued or guaranteed by any federal credit union or any credit union, or similar association organized and supervised under the laws of this state.

(f) Any security listed or approved for listing upon notice of issuance on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the Midwest Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange, or the Chicago Board Options Exchange; any other security of the same issuer which is of senior or substantially equal rank; any security called for by subscription rights or warrants so listed or approved; or any warrant or right to purchase or subscribe to any of the foregoing.

(g) Any commercial paper which arises out of a current transaction or the proceeds of which have been or are to be used for current transactions, and which evidences an obligation to pay cash within nine months of the date of issuance, exclusive of days of grace, or any renewal of the paper which is likewise limited, or any guarantee of the paper or of any renewal which are not advertised for sale to the general public in newspapers or other publications of general circulation or otherwise, or by radio, television or direct mailing.

(h) Any interest in any employee's savings, stock purchase, pension, profit sharing or similar benefit plan, or a self-employed person's retirement plan.

(i) Any security issued or guaranteed by any railroad, other common carrier or public utility which is subject to regulation in respect to the issuance or guarantee of its securities by a governmental authority of the United States.

(j) Any interest in a common trust fund or similar fund maintained by a state bank or trust company organized and operating under the laws of Minnesota, or a national bank wherever located, for the collective investment and reinvestment of funds contributed thereto by the bank or trust company in its capacity as trustee, executor, administrator, or guardian; and any interest in a collective investment fund or similar fund maintained by the bank or trust company, or in a separate account maintained by an insurance company, for the collective investment and reinvestment of funds contributed thereto by the bank, trust company or insurance company in its capacity as trustee or agent, which interest is issued in connection with an employee's savings, pension, profit sharing or similar benefit plan, or a self-employed person's retirement plan.

(k) Any security which meets all of the following conditions:

(1) If the issuer is not organized under the laws of the United States or a state, it has appointed a duly authorized agent in the United States for service of process and has set forth the name and address of the agent in its prospectus;

(2) A class of the issuer's securities is required to be and is registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and has been so registered for the three years immediately preceding the offering date;

(3) Neither the issuer nor a significant subsidiary has had a material default during the last seven years, or for the period of the issuer's existence if less than seven years, in the payment of (i) principal, interest, dividend, or sinking fund installment on preferred stock or indebtedness for borrowed money, or (ii) rentals under leases with terms of three years or more;

(4) The issuer has had consolidated net income, before extraordinary items and the cumulative effect of accounting changes, of at least \$1,000,000 in four of its last five fiscal years including its last fiscal year; and if the offering is of interest bearing securities, has had for its last fiscal year, net income, before deduction for income taxes and depreciation, of at least 1-1/2 times the issuer's annual interest expense, giving effect to the proposed offering

and the intended use of the proceeds. For the purposes of this clause "last fiscal year" means the most recent year for which audited financial statements are available, provided that such statements cover a fiscal period ended not more than 15 months from the commencement of the offering;

(5) If the offering is of stock or shares other than preferred stock or shares, the securities have voting rights and the rights include (i) the right to have at least as many votes per share, and (ii) the right to vote on at least as many general corporate decisions, as each of the issuer's outstanding classes of stock or shares, except as otherwise required by law; and

(6) If the offering is of stock or shares, other than preferred stock or shares, the securities are owned beneficially or of record, on any date within six months prior to the commencement of the offering, by at least 1,200 persons, and on that date there are at least 750,000 such shares outstanding with an aggregate market value, based on the average bid price for that day, of at least \$3,750,000. In connection with the determination of the number of persons who are beneficial owners of the stock or shares of an issuer, the issuer or broker-dealer may rely in good faith for the purposes of this clause upon written information furnished by the record owners.

(l) Any certificate of indebtedness sold or issued for investment, other than a certificate of indebtedness pledged as a security for a loan made contemporaneously therewith, and any savings account or savings deposit issued, by an industrial loan and thrift company.

(m) Any security designated or approved for designation upon notice of issuance on the NASDAQ/National Market System; any other security of the same issuer that is of senior or substantially equal rank; any security called for by subscription rights or warrants so designated or approved; or any warrant or right to purchase or subscribe to any of the securities referred to in this paragraph; provided that the National Market System provides the commissioner with notice of any material change in its designation requirements. The commissioner may revoke this exemption if the commissioner determines that the designation requirements are not enforced or are amended in a manner that lessens protection to investors.

[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S. 1994]

History: 1995 c 202 art 1 s 25