

## CHAPTER 80A

### REGULATION OF SECURITIES

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#### 80A.02 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Advisory activities and principal transactions.** (a) It is unlawful for any person who receives, directly or indirectly, any consideration from another primarily for advising the other as to the value of securities or their purchase or sale:

- (1) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud the other; or
- (2) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the other.

(b) It is unlawful for an investment adviser to knowingly sell any security to or purchase any security from a client while acting as principal for the person's own account or knowingly effect any sale or purchase of any security for the account of a client while acting as broker for one other than the client, unless the person discloses to the client in writing before the execution of the transaction the capacity in which the person is acting and obtains the consent of the client to the transaction.

*[For text of subs 1a to 3, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 9

#### 80A.04 LICENSING REQUIREMENT.

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]*

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: (1) 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, federal covered advisers insurance companies, corporations with a class of equity securities registered under section 12(b) or 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 buyers; or (2) that person has no place of business in this state and during the preceding 12-month period has had fewer than six clients who are residents of this state.

Subd. 4. Every license or notice filing expires on December 31 of each year unless an application for renewal has been received by the commissioner by November 15.

Subd. 5. Except with respect to advisers whose only clients are those described in subdivision 3, clause (2), it is unlawful for a federal covered adviser to conduct advisory business in this state unless the person complies with section 80A.05, subdivision 1a.

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 10-12

#### 80A.05 LICENSING PROCEDURE.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 1a. **Federal covered advisers.** Except with respect to federal covered advisers whose only clients are those described in section 80A.04, subdivision 3, clause (2), a federal covered adviser shall file with the commissioner, before acting as a federal covered adviser in

this state, all documents required by the commissioner that have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, until October 10, 1999, the commissioner may require the registration of any federal covered investment adviser who has failed to promptly pay the fees required by section 80A.28 after being notified in writing by the commissioner of the nonpayment or underpayment of such fees. A person shall be considered to have promptly paid such fees if the fees are remitted to the commissioner within 15 days following the receipt of written notification from the commissioner.

*[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 4. The commissioner may by rule require a minimum capital for broker-dealers, subject to the limitations of section 15 of the Securities Act of 1934, and establish minimum financial requirements for investment advisers, subject to the limitations of section 222 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 which may include different requirements for those investment advisers who maintain custody of clients' funds or securities or who have discretionary authority over the funds or securities and those investment advisers who do not.

Subd. 5. The commissioner may by rule require licensed broker-dealers, agents and investment advisers who have custody of or discretionary authority over client funds or securities, to post surety bonds in amounts as the commissioner may prescribe subject to the limitations of section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for broker-dealers and section 222 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 for investment advisers and may by rule or order determine their conditions. Any appropriate deposit of cash or securities shall be accepted in lieu of any bond so required. No bond may be required of any broker-dealer whose net capital, which may be defined by rule, exceeds the amounts required by the commissioner. Every bond shall provide for suit thereon by any person who has a cause of action under section 80A.23 and, if the commissioner by rule or order requires, by any person who has a cause of action not arising under sections 80A.01 to 80A.31. Every bond shall provide that no suit may be maintained to enforce any liability on the bond unless brought within three years after the sale or other act upon which it is based.

*[For text of subd 6, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 13-15

#### **80A.06 POSTLICENSING PROVISIONS.**

Subdivision 1. Every licensed broker-dealer and investment adviser shall make and keep all accounts, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books and other records which the commissioner by rule prescribes by rule or order, except as provided by section 15 of the Securities Act of 1934 in the case of a broker-dealer and section 222 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 in the case of an investment adviser. All records required shall be preserved for three years unless the commissioner by rule prescribes otherwise for particular types of records. All required records shall be kept within the state or shall, at the request of the commissioner, be made available at any time for examination by the commissioner either in the principal office of the licensee or by production of exact copies thereof in this state.

Subd. 2. Every licensed broker-dealer and investment adviser shall file such reports as the commissioner by rule or order prescribes except as provided in section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in the case of a broker-dealer and section 222 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 in the case of an investment adviser.

Subd. 3. If the information contained in any document filed with the commissioner is or becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any material respect, the licensee or federal covered adviser shall within 30 days file a correcting amendment unless notification of the correction has been given under section 80A.04, subdivision 2.

*[For text of subs 4 and 5, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 16-18

**80A.08 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT.**

It is unlawful for any person to offer or sell any security in this state unless (a) it is registered under sections 80A.01 to 80A.31 or (b) the security or transaction is exempted under section 80A.15 or (c) it is a federal covered security.

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 19

**80A.115 SMALL CORPORATE OFFERING REGISTRATION.**

**Subdivision 1. Filing requirements.** A security meeting the conditions set forth in this section may be registered by filing a small corporate offering registration form otherwise known as a form U-7 adopted by the North American Securities Administrators Association as a uniform state securities registration form.

**Subd. 2. Availability.** Registration under this section is available only to the issuer of the securities and not to an affiliate of that issuer or to any other person for resale of the issuer's securities. The issuer must be a corporation organized under the laws of one of the states or possessions of the United States. Registration under this section is not available to any of the following issuers:

(1) an issuer that engages in or proposes to engage in the business of petroleum exploration or production or mining or other extractive industries;

(2) an investment company, including a mutual fund;

(3) an issuer subject to the reporting requirements of section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

(4) a direct participation program;

(5) a development stage company that either has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that its business plan is to engage in a merger or acquisition with an unidentified company or companies or other entity or person; and

(6) an issuer seeking to register a debt offering unless the commissioner finds that the issuer has demonstrated a reasonable ability to service the debt.

**Subd. 3. Disqualification.** (a) An issuer is disqualified from registration under this section if the issuer or any of its officers, directors, ten-percent stockholders, promoters, or any selling agents of the securities to be offered, or any officer, director, or partner of the selling agent:

(1) has filed a registration statement that is the subject of a currently effective registration stop order entered under a federal or state securities law within five years before the filing of the small corporate offering registration application;

(2) has been convicted within five years before the filing of the small corporate offering registration application of a felony or misdemeanor in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of a security or a felony involving fraud or deceit, including, but not limited to, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, larceny, or conspiracy to defraud;

(3) is currently subject to a state administrative enforcement order or judgment entered by a state securities administrator or the securities and exchange commission within five years before the filing of the small corporate offering registration application, or is subject to a federal or state administrative enforcement order or judgment in which fraud or deceit, including, but not limited to, making untrue statements of material facts or omitting to state material facts, was found and the order or judgment was entered within five years before the filing of the small corporate offering registration application;

(4) is currently subject to an order, judgment, or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction temporarily restraining or enjoining, or is subject to an order, judgment, or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, permanently restraining or enjoining the party from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice in connection with the purchase or sale of any security or involving the making of a false filing with a state or with the securities and exchange commission entered within five years before the filing of the small corporate offering registration application; or

(5) is subject to a state's administrative enforcement order, or judgment that prohibits, denies, or revokes the use of an exemption for registration in connection with this offer, purchase, or sale of securities.

Clauses (1) to (4) do not apply if the person subject to the disqualification is duly licensed or registered to conduct securities-related business in the state in which the administrative order or judgment was entered against the person or if the dealer employing the party is licensed or registered in this state and the form BD filed in this state discloses the order, conviction, judgment, or decree relating to the person.

(b) No person disqualified under this subdivision may act in any capacity other than that for which the person is licensed or registered. A disqualification under this subdivision is automatically waived if the state securities administrator or federal agency that created the basis for disqualification determines upon a showing of good cause that it is not necessary under the circumstances to deny the registration.

**Subd. 4. Conditions.** In order to register under this section, all of the following conditions must be satisfied:

(1) the offering price for common stock and the exercise price, if the securities offered are options, warrants, or rights for common stock, and the conversion price if the securities are convertible into common stock must be equal to or greater than \$5 per share; and

(2) the aggregate offering price of the securities offered, within or outside this state, may not exceed \$1,000,000 less the aggregate offering price of all securities sold within the 12 months before the start of and during the offering of the securities under securities and exchange commission Rule 504 in reliance on an exemption under section 3(b) of the Securities Act of 1933. The issuer may not split its common stock, or declare a stock dividend for two years after effectiveness of the registration, except that in connection with a subsequent public offering, the issuer may upon application and consent of the commissioner take this action.

**Subd. 5. Contents of registration form.** The small corporate offering registration form (form U-7) must comply with and contain all exhibits required by the Instructions for Use of Form U-7 as adopted by the North American Securities Administrators Association. The registration must include financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An issuer that has not conducted significant operations shall provide statements of receipts and disbursements in lieu of statements of income. Interim financial statements may be unaudited. All other financial statements shall be audited by independent certified public accountants. Financial statements may be unaudited if reviewed by independent certified public accountants in accordance with the accounting and review service standards promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and:

(1) the issuer has not previously sold securities through an offering involving the general solicitation of prospective investors by means of advertising, mass mailings, public meetings, cold call telephone solicitation, or any other method directed toward the public;

(2) the issuer has not been previously required under federal or state securities laws to provide audited financial statements in connection with any sale of its securities; and

(3) the aggregate amount of all previous sales of securities by the issuer, exclusive of debt financing with banks and similar commercial lenders does not exceed \$1,000,000.

**Subd. 6. Stop orders.** The commissioner may in the commissioner's discretion issue a stop order for any of the following additional reasons:

(1) the issuer's principal place of business is not in this state or in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Wisconsin;

(2) at least 50 percent of the issuer's full-time employees are not located in this state or in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Wisconsin; or

(3) at least 80 percent of the net proceeds of the offering are not going to be used in connection with the operations of the issuer in this state or in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Wisconsin.

**Subd. 7. Suitability.** The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, require investors in a particular offering to meet suitability standards relating to annual gross income, net worth, or other factors to determine the suitability of the investment for the investor.

**Subd. 8. Financial reporting requirements.** The issuer shall deliver to investors on an annual basis financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Subd. 9. Effective date.** A registration statement under this section becomes effective when the commissioner so orders.

**History:** 1997 c 197 s 1

## 80A.12 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO REGISTRATION GENERALLY.

*[For text of subs 1 to 11, see M.S.1996]*

**Subd. 12. Coordinated registration.** The commissioner may enter into cooperative and reciprocal agreements with members of a national securities regulatory organization composed of securities administrators of this and other states to participate in a coordinated review of securities offerings in lieu of conducting the commissioner's own review.

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 20

### 80A.122 FEDERAL COVERED SECURITIES.

**Subdivision 1. 18(b)(2) filings.** The commissioner may, by rule or otherwise, require the filing of any or all of the following documents with respect to a federal covered security under section 18(b)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933:

(1) prior to the initial offer of a federal covered security in this state, all documents that are part of a current federal registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, together with a fee and a consent to service of process;

(2) after the initial offer of a federal covered security in this state, all documents that are part of an amendment to a current federal registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, which must be filed concurrently with the commissioner;

(3) notices that increase the aggregate amount of securities offered or sold in this state, together with the fee.

**Subd. 2. 18(b)(4)(D) filings.** With respect to a security that is a federal covered security under section 18(b)(4)(D) of the Securities Act of 1933, the commissioner, by rule or otherwise, may require the issuer to file a notice on form D of the Securities and Exchange Commission, together with a fee and a consent to service of process no later than 15 days after the first sale of the covered security in this state.

**Subd. 3. 18(b)(3) or (4) filings.** The commissioner, by rule or otherwise, may require the filing of any document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to a federal covered security under section 18(b)(3) or (4) of the Securities Act of 1933 together with the fee.

**Subd. 4. Registration.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, until October 10, 1999, the commissioner may require registration of a federal covered security for which the fees required by section 80A.28 have not been promptly paid after the issuer of such securities has been notified in writing by the commissioner of the nonpayment or underpayment of such fees. An issuer shall be considered to have promptly paid such fees if the fees are remitted to the commissioner within 15 days following the receipt of written notification from the commissioner.

**Subd. 5. Stop orders.** The commissioner may issue a stop order suspending the offer and sale of a federal covered security, except a federal covered security under section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, if the commissioner finds that: (1) the order is in the public interest; and (2) there is a failure to comply with any condition established under this section.

**Subd. 6. Commissioner's waiver.** The commissioner may, by rule or otherwise, waive any or all of the provisions of this section.

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 21

**80A.14 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 3. **Agent.** "Agent" means any individual other than a broker-dealer who represents a broker-dealer or issuer in effecting or attempting to effect purchases or sales of securities. "Agent" does not include:

- (a) an individual who represents an issuer in:
  - (1) effecting transactions in a security exempted by section 80A.15, subdivision 1;
  - (2) effecting transactions exempted by section 80A.15, subdivision 2;
  - (3) effecting transactions with existing employees, partners or directors of the issuer if no commission or other remuneration is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any person in this state;
  - (4) effecting other transactions, if the individual is an officer or director of the issuer, no commission or other remuneration is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any person in this state, and, upon application, the individual is specifically authorized by name in an order issued by the commissioner;
  - (5) effecting transactions in securities registered by notification under section 80A.09 if no commission or other remuneration is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any person in this state; or
  - (6) effecting transactions in a federal covered security as described in sections 18(b)(3) and 18(b)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933; or
- (b) an individual who represents a broker-dealer in effecting transactions in the state limited to those transactions described in section 15(h)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

A partner, officer or director of a broker-dealer or issuer, or a person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions, is an agent only if that person otherwise comes within this definition.

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, 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 subd 5, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 5a. **Federal covered adviser.** "Federal covered adviser" means a person who is: (1) registered under section 203 of the Investment Act of 1940; or (2) is excluded from the definition of "investment adviser" under section 202(a)(11).

Subd. 5b. **Federal covered security.** "Federal covered security" means a security that is a covered security under section 18(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 or regulations adopted under that act.

*[For text of subs 6 and 7, see M.S.1996]*

**Subd. 8a. Institutional buyer.** For the purposes of sections 80A.04, subdivision 3; 80A.14, subdivision 4, clause (5); and 80A.15, subdivision 2, paragraph (g), "institutional buyer" includes, but is not limited to, a corporation with a class of equity securities registered under section 12(b) or 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, a "qualified institutional buyer" within the meaning of rule 144A, and an "accredited investor" within the meaning of rule 501(a) of regulation D.

*[For text of subs 9 to 25, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 22–26

### **80A.15 EXEMPTIONS.**

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

(a) Any security, including a revenue obligation, issued or guaranteed by the United States, any state, any political subdivision of a state, or any agency or corporate or other instrumentality of one or more of the foregoing; but this exemption does not apply to a security issued by any of the foregoing that is payable solely from payments to be received in respect of property or money used under a lease, sale, or loan arrangement by or for a nongovernmental industrial or commercial enterprise. 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. This exemption does not apply to second tier listings on any of the exchanges in this paragraph.

(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.

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.

(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.

*[For text of subs 3 and 4, see M.S. 1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 27,28

#### **80A.16 FILING OF SALES AND ADVERTISING LITERATURE.**

The commissioner may by rule or order require the filing of any prospectus, pamphlet, circular, form letter, advertisement, or other sales literature or advertising communication addressed or intended for distribution to prospective investors, including clients or prospective clients of an investment adviser or broker-dealer unless: (1) the security or transaction is exempted by section 80A.15; or (2) the security is a federal covered security.

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 29

#### **80A.28 FEES AND EXPENSES.**

Subdivision 1. (a) There shall be a filing fee of \$100 for every application for registration or notice filing. There shall be an additional fee of one-tenth of one percent of the maximum aggregate offering price at which the securities are to be offered in this state, and the maximum combined fees shall not exceed \$300.

(b) When an application for registration is withdrawn before the effective date or a pre-effective stop order is entered under section 80A.13, subdivision 1, all but the \$100 filing fee shall be returned. If an application to register securities is denied, the total of all fees received shall be retained.

(c) Where a filing is made in connection with a federal covered security under section 18(b)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, there is a fee of \$100 for every initial filing. There is an additional fee of 1/20 of one percent of the maximum aggregate offering price at which the securities are to be offered in this state. There is no maximum fee for securities filings made according to this section.

Subd. 2. Every applicant for an initial or renewal license shall pay a filing fee of \$200 in the case of a broker-dealer, \$50 in the case of an agent, and \$100 in the case of an investment adviser. When an application is denied or withdrawn, the filing fee shall be retained. A licensed agent who has terminated employment with one broker-dealer shall, before beginning employment with another broker-dealer, pay a transfer fee of \$25. The fee for a filing made according to section 80A.05, subdivision 1a, is \$100.

*[For text of subs 3 to 9, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 222 s 30,31