

CHAPTER 521A

INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY SYSTEMS

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521A.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Affiliate of*”, or a person affiliated with, a specific person, shall mean a person who directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person specified.

2. The term “*commissioner*” shall mean the insurance commissioner, the commissioner’s deputies, or the insurance division, as appropriate.

3. “*Control*”, including controlling, controlled by, and under common control with, shall mean the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, or otherwise, unless the power is solely the result of an official position with or a corporate office held by the person. Control shall be presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing, ten percent or more of the voting securities of any other person. This presumption may be rebutted by showing that control does not exist in fact.

4. “*Domestic insurer*” means an insurer organized or created under the laws of this state except an insurer excluded under subsection 6.

5. “*Insurance holding company system*” shall consist of two or more affiliated persons, one or more of which is an insurer.

6. “*Insurer*” means a company qualified and licensed by the insurance division to transact the business of insurance in this state by certificate issued pursuant to chapters 508, 512B, 514, 514B, 515, 515E, and 520, except that it shall not include agencies, authorities, or instrumentalities of the United States, its possessions and territories, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or a state or political subdivision of a state.

7. A “*person*” is an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a joint stock company, a trust, an unincorporated organization, any similar entity or any combination of the foregoing acting in concert, but does not include a joint venture partnership exclusively engaged in owning, managing, leasing, or developing real or tangible personal property.

8. A “*securityholder*” of a specified person is one who owns any security of such person, including common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations, and any other security convertible into or evidencing the right to acquire any of the foregoing.

9. A “*subsidiary*” of a specified person is an affiliate controlled by such person directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries.

10. The term “*voting security*” shall include any security convertible into or evidencing a right to acquire a voting security.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.1]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §1, 2; 90 Acts, ch 1234, §72; 97 Acts, ch 186, §25; 2006 Acts, ch 1117, §112

521A.2 Subsidiaries of insurers.

1. *Authorization.* Any domestic insurer, either by itself or in cooperation with one or more persons, subject to the limitations set forth herein or elsewhere in this chapter, may organize or acquire one or more subsidiaries engaged or registered to engage in one or more of the following businesses or activities:

a. Any kind of insurance business authorized by the jurisdiction in which it is incorporated.

b. Acting as an insurance producer for its parent or for any of its parent's insurer subsidiaries or intermediate insurer subsidiaries.

c. Investing, reinvesting, or trading in securities and financial instruments as defined in section 511.8, subsection 22, for its own account, that of its parent, any subsidiary of its parent, or any affiliate or subsidiary.

d. Management of any investment company subject to or registered pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, including related sales and services.

e. Acting as a broker dealer subject to or registered pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended.

f. Rendering financial services or advice to individuals, governments, government agencies, corporations, or other organizations or groups.

g. Rendering other services related to the operations of an insurance business including, but not limited to, actuarial, loss prevention, safety engineering, data processing, accounting, claims, appraisal, and collection services.

h. Ownership and management of assets which the parent corporation could itself own and manage. However, the aggregate investment by the insurer and its subsidiaries acquired or organized pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed the limitations applicable to the investments by the insurer.

i. Acting as administrative agent for a government instrumentality which is performing an insurance function.

j. Financing of insurance premiums, agents and other forms of consumer financing.

k. Any other business or service activity reasonably ancillary to an insurance business.

l. Owning a corporation or corporations engaged or organized to engage exclusively in one or more of the businesses specified in paragraphs "a" to "k" inclusive.

2. *Exception.* Nothing contained in subsection 1 of this section shall prohibit a domestic insurer, either by itself or in cooperation with one or more persons, from investing amounts up to a total of ten percent of surplus in one or more subsidiaries or affiliates organized to do any lawful business.

3. *Additional investment authority.* In addition to investments in common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations and other securities permitted under all other sections of this subtitle, a domestic insurer may also:

a. Invest, in common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations, and other securities of one or more subsidiaries, amounts which do not exceed the lesser of ten percent of the insurer's assets or fifty percent of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders, if after the investments the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders will be reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs. In calculating the amount of the investments, investments in domestic or foreign insurance subsidiaries shall be excluded and both of the following shall be included:

(1) Total net moneys or other consideration expended and obligations assumed in the acquisition or formation of a subsidiary, including all organizational expenses and contributions to capital and surplus of such subsidiary whether or not represented by the purchase of capital stock or issuance of other securities.

(2) All amounts expended in acquiring additional common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations, and other securities and all contributions to the capital or surplus, of a subsidiary subsequent to its acquisition or formation.

b. Invest any amount in common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations and other securities of one or more subsidiaries provided that each such subsidiary agrees to limit its investments in any asset so that such investments will not cause the amount of the total investment of the insurer to exceed any of the investment limitations specified in paragraph

“a” of this subsection or in chapters 511, 515, 518A, and 520 applicable to the insurer. For the purpose of this paragraph, “total investment of the insurer” shall include both:

- (1) Any direct investment by the insurer in an asset.
- (2) The insurer’s proportionate share of any investment in an asset by any subsidiary of the insurer, which shall be calculated by multiplying the amount of the subsidiary’s investment by the percentage of the insurer’s ownership of such subsidiary.
- c. With the approval of the commissioner, invest any greater amount in common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations, or other securities of one or more subsidiaries, if after the investment the insurer’s surplus as regards policyholders is reasonable in relation to the insurer’s outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs.
- d. Invest, reinvest, and trade in financial instruments as defined in section 511.8, subsection 22, for its own account, that of its parent, any subsidiary of its parent, or any affiliate or subsidiary.
4. *Exemption from investment restrictions.* Investments in common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations or other securities of subsidiaries made pursuant to subsection 3 of this section hereof shall not be subject to any of the otherwise applicable restrictions or prohibitions contained in the Code applicable to such investments of insurers.
5. *Qualification of investment — when determined.* Whether any investment pursuant to subsection 3 meets the applicable requirements of the subsection is to be determined before the investment is made by calculating the applicable investment limitations as though the investment had already been made, taking into account the then outstanding principal balance on all previous investments in debt obligations, and the value of all previous investments in equity securities as of the day they were made, net of any return of capital invested, excluding dividends.
6. *Cessation of control.* If an insurer ceases to control a subsidiary, it shall dispose of any investment therein made pursuant to this section within three years from the time of the cessation of control or within such further time as the commissioner may prescribe, unless at any time after such investment shall have been made, such investment shall have met the requirements for investment under any other section of the Code, and the insurer has notified the commissioner thereof.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.2; 82 Acts, ch 1051, §3]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §3 – 8; 87 Acts, ch 115, §65; 91 Acts, ch 26, §48; 2001 Acts, ch 16, §11, 37; 2006 Acts, ch 1117, §113, 114

521A.3 Acquisition of control of or merger with domestic insurer.

1. *Filing requirements.* No person other than the issuer shall make a tender offer for or a request or invitation for tenders of, or enter into any agreement to exchange securities for, seek to acquire, or acquire, in the open market or otherwise, any voting security of a domestic insurer if, after the consummation thereof, such person would, directly or indirectly, or by conversion or by exercise of any right to acquire, be in control of such insurer, and no person shall enter into an agreement to merge with or otherwise to acquire control of a domestic insurer unless, at the time any such offer, request, or invitation is made or any such agreement is entered into, or prior to the acquisition of such securities if no offer or agreement is involved, such person has filed with the commissioner and has sent to such insurer, and such insurer has sent to its shareholders, a statement containing the information required by this section and such offer, request, invitation, agreement or acquisition has been approved by the commissioner in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

For purposes of this section a domestic insurer shall include any other person controlling a domestic insurer unless the other person is either directly or through its affiliates primarily engaged in business other than the business of insurance. However, for purposes of this section “person” does not include a securities broker holding, in the usual and customary broker’s function, less than twenty percent of the voting securities of an insurance company or of a person which controls an insurance company.

2. *Content of statement.* The statement to be filed with the commissioner hereunder shall be made under oath or affirmation and shall contain the following information:

- a. The name and address of each person by whom or on whose behalf the merger or other

acquisition of control referred to in subsection 1 of this section is to be effected, hereinafter called "*acquiring party*".

(1) If such person is an individual, the individual's principal occupation and all offices and positions held during the past five years, and any conviction of crimes other than minor traffic violations during the past ten years.

(2) If such person is not an individual, a report of the nature of its business operations during the past five years or for such lesser period as such person and any predecessors thereof shall have been in existence; an informative description of the business intended to be done by such person and such person's subsidiaries; and a list of all individuals who are or who have been selected to become directors or executive officers of such person, or who perform or will perform functions appropriate to such positions. Such list shall include for each such individual the information required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph.

b. The source, nature and amount of the consideration used or to be used in effecting the merger or other acquisition of control, a description of any transaction in which funds were or are to be obtained for any such purpose including a pledge of the insurer's stock, or the stock of any of its subsidiaries or controlling affiliates, and the identity of persons furnishing the consideration. However, if a source of the consideration is a loan made in the lender's ordinary course of business, the identity of the lender shall remain confidential, if the person filing the statement so requests.

c. Fully audited financial information as to the earnings and financial condition of each acquiring party for the preceding five fiscal years of each such acquiring party, or for such lesser period as such acquiring party and any predecessors thereof shall have been in existence, and similar unaudited information as of a date not earlier than ninety days prior to the filing of the statement.

d. Any plans or proposals which each acquiring party may have to liquidate such insurer, to sell its assets or merge or consolidate it with any person, or to make any other material change in its business or corporate structure or management.

e. The number of shares of any security referred to in subsection 1 of this section which each acquiring party proposes to acquire, and the terms of the offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition referred to in subsection 1 of this section, and a statement as to the method by which the fairness of the proposal was arrived at.

f. The amount of each class of any security referred to in subsection 1 of this section which is beneficially owned or concerning which there is a right to acquire beneficial ownership by each acquiring party.

g. A full description of any contracts, arrangements or understandings with respect to any security referred to in subsection 1 of this section in which any acquiring party is involved, including but not limited to transfer of any of the securities, joint ventures, loan or option arrangements, puts or calls, guarantees of loans, guarantees against loss or guarantees of profits, division of losses or profits, or the giving or withholding of proxies. Such description shall identify the persons with whom such contracts, arrangements or understandings have been entered into.

h. A description of the purchase of any security referred to in subsection 1 of this section during the twelve calendar months preceding the filing of the statement, by any acquiring party, including the dates of purchase, names of the purchasers, and consideration paid or agreed to be paid therefor.

i. A description of any recommendations to purchase any security referred to in subsection 1 of this section made during the twelve calendar months preceding the filing of the statement, by any acquiring party, or by anyone based upon interview or at the suggestion of such acquiring party.

j. Copies of all tender offers for, requests or invitations for tenders of, exchange offers for, and agreements to acquire or exchange any securities referred to in subsection 1 of this section, and, if distributed, of additional soliciting material relating thereto.

k. The terms of any agreement, contract or understanding made with any broker-dealer as to solicitation of securities referred to in subsection 1 of this section for tender, and the amount of any fees, commissions or other compensation to be paid to broker-dealers with regard thereto.

l. Additional information as the commissioner may by rule prescribe as necessary or appropriate for the protection of policyholders of the insurer or in the public interest.

If the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection 1 of this section is a partnership, limited partnership, syndicate or other group, the commissioner may require that the information called for by paragraphs “a” through “l” of this subsection shall be given with respect to each partner of such partnership or limited partnership, each member of such syndicate or group, and each person who controls such partner or member. If any such partner, member or person is a corporation or the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection 1 of this section is a corporation, the commissioner may require that the information called for by paragraphs “a” through “l” of this subsection shall be given with respect to such corporation, each officer and director of such corporation, and each person who is directly or indirectly the beneficial owner of more than ten percent of the outstanding voting securities of such corporation. If any material change occurs in the facts set forth in the statement filed with the commissioner and sent to such insurer pursuant to this section, an amendment setting forth such change, together with copies of all documents and other material relevant to such change, shall be filed with the commissioner and sent to such insurer within two business days after the person learns of such change. Such insurer shall send such amendment to its shareholders.

3. *Alternative filing materials.* If any offer, request, invitation, agreement or acquisition referred to in subsection 1 of this section is proposed to be made by means of a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 or in circumstances requiring the disclosure of similar information under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or under a state law requiring similar registration, or disclosure, the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection 1 of this section may utilize such documents in furnishing the information called for by that statement.

4. *Approval by the commissioner — hearings.*

a. The commissioner shall approve any merger or other acquisition of control referred to in subsection 1 if, after a public hearing on such merger or acquisition, the applicant has demonstrated to the commissioner all of the following:

(1) After the change of control the domestic insurer referred to in subsection 1 will be able to satisfy the requirements for the issuance of a license to write the line or lines of insurance for which it is presently licensed.

(2) The effect of the merger or other acquisition of control will not substantially lessen competition in insurance in this state.

(3) The financial condition of any acquiring party will not jeopardize the financial stability of the insurer, or prejudice the interest of its policyholders.

(4) The plans or proposals which the acquiring party has to liquidate the insurer, sell its assets or consolidate or merge it with any person, or to make any other material change in its business or corporate structure or management, are not unfair or unreasonable to policyholders of the insurer and are not contrary to the public interest.

(5) The competence, experience, and integrity of those persons who would control the operation of the insurer are sufficient to indicate that the interests of policyholders of the insurer and of the public will not be jeopardized by the merger or other acquisition of control.

b. The public hearing referred to in paragraph “a” shall be held within thirty days after the statement required by subsection 1 is filed, and at least twenty days’ notice of the public hearing shall be given by the commissioner to the person filing the statement. Not less than seven days’ notice of the public hearing shall be given by the person filing the statement to the insurer and to such other persons as may be designated by the commissioner. The commissioner shall make a determination within thirty days after the conclusion of the hearing. At the hearing, the person filing the statement, the insurer, any person to whom notice of hearing was sent, and any other person whose interests may be affected shall have the right to present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and offer oral and written arguments and in connection therewith shall be entitled to conduct discovery proceedings in the same manner as is presently allowed in the district court of this state. All discovery proceedings shall be concluded not later than three days prior to the commencement of the public hearing.

c. The commissioner may retain any attorneys, actuaries, accountants, and other experts not otherwise a part of the commissioner's staff as may be reasonably necessary to assist the commissioner in reviewing the proposed merger or acquisition of control, the reasonable cost of which shall be paid by the acquiring party.

5. *Exemptions.* The provisions of this section shall not apply to any offer, request, invitation, agreement or acquisition which the commissioner by order shall exempt therefrom for one of the following reasons:

a. It has not been made or entered into for the purpose and does not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of a domestic insurer.

b. It is otherwise not comprehended within the purposes of this section.

6. *Violations.* The following shall be violations of this section:

a. The failure to file any statement, amendment, or other material required to be filed pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 of this section.

b. The effectuation or any attempt to effectuate an acquisition of control of, or merger with, a domestic insurer unless the commissioner has given approval thereto.

7. *Jurisdiction — consent to service of process.* The district court is hereby vested with jurisdiction over every person not resident, domiciled, or authorized to do business in this state who files a statement with the commissioner under this section, and over all actions involving such person arising out of violations of this section, and each such person shall be deemed to have performed acts equivalent to and constituting an appointment by such a person of the commissioner to be the person's true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served all lawful process, notice or demand in any action, suit or proceeding arising out of violations of this section. Copies of all such lawful process, notice or demand shall be served on the commissioner and transmitted by registered or certified mail by the commissioner to such person at the person's last known address.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.3; 82 Acts, ch 1051, §4 – 6]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §9 – 11; 91 Acts, ch 26, §49, 50; 93 Acts, ch 88, §26; 97 Acts, ch 186, §26

521A.4 Registration of insurers.

1. *Registration.* An insurer which is authorized to do business in this state and which is a member of an insurance holding company system shall register with the commissioner, except a foreign insurer subject to registration requirements and standards which are substantially similar to those contained in this section and section 521A.5, subsection 1, paragraph "a", and are adopted by statute or regulation in the jurisdiction of its domicile. The insurer shall also file a copy of the summary of its registration statement as required by subsection 4 in each state in which that insurer is authorized to do business if requested to do so by the commissioner of that state. An insurer which is subject to registration under this section shall register within fifteen days after it becomes subject to registration and annually thereafter by March 31 of each year for the previous calendar year unless the commissioner for good cause shown extends the time for registration, and then within the extended time. The commissioner may require any authorized insurer which is a member of a holding company system which is not subject to registration under this section to furnish a copy of the registration statement or other information filed by the insurance company with the insurance regulatory authority of the company's domiciliary jurisdiction.

2. *Information and form required.* Every insurer subject to registration shall file a registration statement on a form prescribed by the commissioner, which may be a form provided by the national association of insurance commissioners, which shall contain current information about:

a. The capital structure, general financial condition, ownership and management of the insurer and any person controlling the insurer.

b. The identity and relationship of every member of the insurance holding company system.

c. The following agreements in force, relationships subsisting, and transactions currently outstanding or which have occurred during the last calendar year between the insurer and its affiliates:

(1) Loans, other investments, or purchases, sales, or exchanges of securities of the affiliates by the insurer or of the insurer by its affiliates.

(2) Purchases, sales, or exchanges of assets.

(3) Transactions not in the ordinary course of business.

(4) Guarantees or undertakings for the benefit of an affiliate which result in an actual contingent exposure of the insurer's assets to liability, other than insurance contracts entered into in the ordinary course of the insurer's business.

(5) All management and service contracts and all cost-sharing arrangements, other than cost allocation arrangements based upon generally accepted accounting principles.

(6) Reinsurance agreements.

(7) Dividends and other distributions to shareholders.

(8) Consolidated tax allocation agreements.

d. A pledge of the insurer's stock, including stock of a subsidiary or controlling affiliate, for a loan made to a member of the insurance holding company system.

e. Other matters concerning transactions between registered insurers and any affiliates as may be included from time to time in any registration forms adopted or approved by the commissioner.

3. *Materiality.* Information need not be disclosed on the registration statement filed pursuant to subsection 2 if the information is not material for the purposes of this section. Unless the commissioner by rule or order provides otherwise, sales, purchases, exchanges, loans or extensions of credit, or investments or guarantees involving one-half of one percent or less of an insurer's admitted assets as of the next preceding December 31 are not material for purposes of this section.

4. *Reporting of dividends to shareholders.* Subject to section 521A.5, subsection 3, a registered insurer shall report to the commissioner all dividends and other distributions to shareholders within fifteen days following the declaration of the dividends or distributions.

5. *Summary of registration statement.* All registration statements shall contain a summary outlining all items in the current registration statement representing changes from the next preceding registration statement.

6. *Information of insurers.* Any person within an insurance holding company system subject to registration is required to provide complete and accurate information to an insurer if the information is reasonably necessary to enable the insurer to comply with this chapter.

7. *Termination of registration.* The commissioner shall terminate the registration of any insurer which demonstrates that it no longer is a member of an insurance holding company system.

8. *Consolidated filing.* The commissioner may require or allow two or more affiliated insurers subject to registration hereunder to file a consolidated registration statement or consolidated reports amending their consolidated registration statement or their individual registration statements.

9. *Alternative registration.* The commissioner may allow an insurer which is authorized to do business in this state and which is part of an insurance holding company system to register on behalf of any affiliated insurer which is required to register under subsection 1 of this section and to file all information and material required to be filed under this section.

10. *Exemptions.* The provisions of this section shall not apply to any insurer, information or transaction if and to the extent that the commissioner by rule, regulation, or order shall exempt the same from the provisions of this section.

11. *Disclaimer.* Any person may file with the commissioner a disclaimer of affiliation with any authorized insurer or such a disclaimer may be filed by such insurer or any member of an insurance holding company system. The disclaimer shall fully disclose all material relationships and basis for affiliation between such person and such insurer as well as the basis for disclaiming such affiliation. After a disclaimer has been filed, the insurer shall be relieved of any duty to register or report under this section which may arise out of the insurer's relationship with such person unless and until the commissioner disallows such a disclaimer. The commissioner shall disallow such a disclaimer only after furnishing all parties in interest with notice and opportunity to be heard and after making specific findings of fact to support such disallowance.

12. *Violations.* The failure to file a registration statement or a summary of the registration statement required by this section within the time specified for the filing is a violation of this section.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.4]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §12 – 18; 87 Acts, ch 115, §66; 91 Acts, ch 26, §51 – 53

521A.5 Standards.

1. *Transactions within a holding company system affecting domestic insurers.*

a. Material transactions by registered insurers with their affiliates are subject to the following standards:

- (1) The terms shall be fair and reasonable.
- (2) Charges or fees for services performed shall be reasonable.
- (3) Expenses incurred and payment received shall be allocated to the insurer in conformity with customary and consistently applied insurance accounting practices.
- (4) The books, accounts, and records of each party shall be so maintained as to clearly and accurately disclose the precise nature and details of the transactions.

(5) After any material transaction with an affiliate and after any dividends or distributions to shareholder affiliates, the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders shall be reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs.

b. A domestic insurer and a person in its holding company system shall not enter into any of the following transactions between each other involving amounts equal to or exceeding the lesser of three percent of a nonlife insurer's admitted assets or twenty-five percent of the surplus as regards policyholders with respect to nonlife insurers, and equal to or exceeding three percent of the insurer's admitted assets with respect to life insurers, each as of the next preceding December 31, unless the domestic insurer notifies the commissioner in writing of its intention to enter into the transaction at least thirty days prior to entering into the transaction or within a shorter time permitted by the commissioner and the commissioner has not disapproved of the transaction within the time period:

- (1) Sales.
- (2) Purchases.
- (3) Exchanges.
- (4) Loans or extensions of credit.
- (5) Guarantees.
- (6) Investments.
- (7) Loans or extensions of credit to a person who is not an affiliate, if the domestic insurer makes the loans or extensions of credit with the agreement or understanding that the proceeds of the transactions, in whole or in substantial part, are to be used to make loans or extensions of credit to, to purchase assets of, or to make investments in, an affiliate of the domestic insurer making the loans or extensions of credit.

c. A domestic insurer and a person in its holding company system shall not enter into any of the following transactions, unless the domestic insurer notifies the commissioner in writing of its intention to enter into the transaction at least thirty days prior to entering into the transaction or within a shorter time permitted by the commissioner and the commissioner has not disapproved of the transaction within the time period:

(1) All reinsurance agreements or modifications to such agreements in which the reinsurance premium or a change in the insurer's liabilities equals or exceeds five percent of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders, as of the next preceding December 31, including those agreements which may require as consideration the transfer of assets from an insurer to a nonaffiliate, if an agreement or understanding exists between the insurer and nonaffiliate that any portion of such assets will be transferred to one or more affiliates of the insurer.

(2) All management agreements, service contracts, and all other cost-sharing arrangements involving at least one-half of one percent of the insurer's surplus as of the next preceding December 31.

(3) Any material transactions specified by rule which the commissioner determines may adversely affect the interests of the domestic insurer's policyholders.

d. This subsection does not authorize or permit any transactions which in the case of an insurer would be otherwise contrary to law.

e. A domestic insurer shall not enter into transactions which are part of a plan or series of like transactions with a person or persons within the holding company system if the purpose of those separate transactions is to avoid the statutory threshold amount and thus avoid the review that would occur otherwise. If the commissioner determines that such separate transactions were entered into over a twelve-month period for that purpose, the commissioner may exercise the authority under section 521A.10.

f. The commissioner, in reviewing transactions pursuant to paragraphs “b” and “c”, shall consider whether the transactions comply with the standards set forth in paragraph “a”.

g. A domestic insurer shall notify the commissioner within thirty days of an investment of the insurer in a corporation if the total investment in the corporation by the insurance holding company system exceeds ten percent of the corporation’s voting securities.

2. *Adequacy of surplus.* For purposes of this chapter in determining whether an insurer’s surplus as regards policyholders is reasonable in relation to the insurer’s outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs, the following factors, among others, shall be considered:

a. The size of the insurer as measured by its assets, capital and surplus, reserves, premium writings, insurance in force and other appropriate criteria.

b. The extent to which the insurer’s business is diversified among the several lines of insurance.

c. The number and size of risks insured in each line of business.

d. The extent of the geographical dispersion of the insurer’s insured risks.

e. The nature and extent of the insurer’s reinsurance program.

f. The quality, diversification, and liquidity of the insurer’s investment portfolio.

g. The recent past and projected future trend in the size of the insurer’s surplus as regards policyholders.

h. The surplus as regards policyholders maintained by other comparable insurers.

i. The adequacy of the insurer’s reserves.

j. The quality and liquidity of investments in subsidiaries made pursuant to section 521A.2. The commissioner may treat any such investment as a disallowed asset for purposes of determining the adequacy of surplus as regards policyholders whenever in the commissioner’s judgment such investment so warrants.

k. The quality of the company’s earnings and the extent to which the reported earnings include extraordinary items.

3. *Dividends and other distributions.*

a. A domestic insurer may declare and pay dividends to its shareholders only from earned surplus.

For the purposes of this paragraph, “*earned surplus*” means surplus as regards policyholders less paid-in and contributed surplus, and may include a fair revaluation of assets by the board of directors that is reasonable under the circumstances. Assets revalued by the board of directors cannot be included in earned surplus until thirty days after the commissioner has received notice of the revaluation and has approved the revaluation. The commissioner shall approve or disapprove the revaluation within thirty days after receiving notice of the revaluation unless for good cause the commissioner extends the approval period for an additional thirty days.

b. A domestic insurer shall not pay any extraordinary dividend or make any other extraordinary distribution to its shareholders until thirty days after the commissioner has received notice of the declaration of the dividend or distribution and has not disapproved such payment within the period, or until the time the commissioner has approved the payment within the thirty-day period.

For purposes of this paragraph, an “*extraordinary dividend or distribution*” includes any dividend or distribution of cash or other property, whose fair market value together with that of other dividends or distributions made within the preceding twelve months exceeds the greater of the following:

(1) Ten percent of insurer's surplus as regards policyholders as of the thirty-first day of December next preceding.

(2) The net gain from operations of the insurer, if the insurer is a life insurer, or the net income, if the insurer is not a life insurer, for the twelve-month period ending the thirty-first day of December next preceding.

An extraordinary dividend or distribution does not include pro rata distributions of any class of the insurer's own securities.

c. A domestic insurer subject to registration under section 521A.4 shall report to the commissioner all dividends to shareholders within five business days following the declaration of the dividends and not less than fourteen days prior to the payment of the dividends. This report shall also include a schedule setting forth all dividends or other distributions made within the previous twelve months.

d. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a domestic insurer may declare an extraordinary dividend or distribution which is conditional upon the commissioner's approval of the dividend or distribution. Such declaration does not confer any rights upon shareholders until the commissioner has approved the payment of the dividend or distribution or the commissioner has not disapproved the payment within the thirty-day period as provided in paragraph "b".

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.5]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §19, 20; 91 Acts, ch 26, §54; 92 Acts, ch 1117, §40, 43; 93 Acts, ch 88, §27 – 30; 94 Acts, ch 1006, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1023, §125

521A.6 Examination.

1. *Power of commissioner.* Subject to the limitation contained in this section and in addition to the powers which the commissioner has under chapter 507 relating to the examination of insurers, the commissioner may also order an insurer registered under section 521A.4 to produce records, books, or other information papers in the possession of the insurer or its affiliates as reasonably necessary to ascertain the financial condition of the insurer or to determine compliance with this chapter. If the insurer fails to comply with the order, the commissioner may examine the affiliates to obtain the information.

2. *Use of consultants.* The commissioner may retain at the registered insurer's expense such attorneys, actuaries, accountants and other experts not otherwise a part of the commissioner's staff as shall be reasonably necessary to assist in the conduct of the examination under subsection 1 of this section. Any persons so retained shall be under the direction and control of the commissioner and shall act in a purely advisory capacity.

3. *Expenses.* Each registered insurer producing for examination records, books and papers pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall be liable for and shall pay the expense of such examination in accordance with section 507.7.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.6]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §21, 22

521A.7 Confidential treatment.

All information, documents and copies thereof obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner or any other person in the course of an examination or investigation made pursuant to section 521A.6 and all information reported pursuant to sections 521A.4 and 521A.5, shall be given confidential treatment and shall not be subject to subpoena and shall not be made public by the commissioner or any other person, except to insurance departments of other states, without the prior written consent of the insurer to which it pertains unless the commissioner, after giving the insurer and its affiliates who would be affected thereby, notice and opportunity to be heard, determines that the interests of policyholders, shareholders or the public will be served by the publication thereof, in which event the commissioner may publish all or any part thereof in such manner as the commissioner may deem appropriate.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.7]

93 Acts, ch 88, §31

521A.8 Rules.

The commissioner may, upon notice and opportunity for all interested persons to be heard, issue such rules and orders as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.8]

521A.9 Injunctions — prohibitions against voting securities — sequestration of voting securities.

1. *Injunctions.* Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any insurer or any director, officer, employee or agent thereof has committed or is about to commit a violation of this chapter or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner hereunder, the commissioner may apply to the district court of the county in which the principal office of the insurer is located or if such insurer has no such office in this state then to the district court of Polk county for an order enjoining such insurer or such director, officer, employee or agent thereof from violating or continuing to violate this chapter or any such rule, regulation or order, and for such other equitable relief as the nature of the case and the interests of the insurer's policyholders, creditors and shareholders or the public may require.

2. *Voting of securities — when prohibited.* No security which is the subject of any agreement or arrangement regarding acquisition, or which is acquired or to be acquired, in contravention of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder may be voted at any shareholders' meeting, or may be counted for quorum purposes, and any action of shareholders requiring the affirmative vote of a percentage of shares may be taken as though such securities were not issued and outstanding; but no action taken at any such meeting shall be invalidated by the voting of such securities, unless the action would materially affect control of the insurer or unless the district court has so ordered. If any insurer or the commissioner has reason to believe that any security of the insurer has been or is about to be acquired in contravention of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder the insurer or the commissioner may apply to the district court of Polk county or to the district court for the county in which the insurer has its principal place of business to enjoin any offer, request, invitation, agreement or acquisition made in contravention of section 521A.3 or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner thereunder to enjoin the voting of any security so acquired, to void any vote of such security already cast at any meeting of shareholders, and for such other equitable relief as the nature of the case and the interests of the insurer's policyholders, creditors and shareholders or the public may require.

3. *Sequestration of voting securities.* In any case where a person has acquired or is proposing to acquire any voting securities in violation of this chapter or any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder, the district court of Polk county or the district court for the county in which the insurer has its principal place of business may, on such notice as the court deems appropriate, upon the application of the insurer or the commissioner seize or sequester any voting securities of the insurer owned directly or indirectly by such person, and issue such orders with respect thereto as may be appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, for the purposes of this chapter the situs of the ownership of the securities of domestic insurers shall be deemed to be in this state.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.9]

521A.10 Sanctions and penalties.

1. If the commissioner finds after notice and hearing that a person subject to registration under section 521A.4 failed without just cause to file a registration statement as required in this chapter, the person shall be required to pay a penalty of one thousand dollars for each day's delay. The penalty shall be recovered by the commissioner and deposited as provided in section 505.7. The maximum penalty under this section is ten thousand dollars. The commissioner may reduce the penalty if the person demonstrates that the imposition of the penalty would constitute a financial hardship to the person.

2. a. A director or officer of an insurance holding company system who does any of the following is subject to the civil penalty imposed under paragraph “b”:

(1) Knowingly participates in or assents to transactions or investments which have not been properly reported or submitted pursuant to section 521A.4 or section 521A.5, subsection 1, paragraph “b”.

(2) Knowingly permits any of the officers or agents of an insurer to engage in transactions or make investments which have not been properly reported or submitted pursuant to section 521A.4 or section 521A.5, subsection 1, paragraph “b”.

(3) Knowingly violates any other provision of this chapter.

b. An officer or director of an insurance holding company system who commits any of the acts or omissions listed in paragraph “a” shall pay, in the person’s individual capacity, a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars per violation, after notice and hearing before the commissioner. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the commissioner shall take into account the appropriateness of the penalty with respect to the gravity of the violation, the history of previous violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

3. If it appears to the commissioner that an insurer subject to this chapter has engaged in a transaction or entered into a contract which is subject to section 521A.5 and which would not have been approved had approval been requested, the commissioner may order the insurer to immediately cease and desist any further activity under that transaction or contract. After notice and hearing, the commissioner may also order the insurer to void any contracts and restore the status quo if the commissioner finds that action is in the best interest of the policyholders, creditors, or the public.

4. If it appears to the commissioner that an insurer or a director, officer, agent, or employee of an insurer has committed a willful violation of this chapter, the commissioner may institute criminal proceedings against the insurer or the responsible director, officer, agent, or employee in the district court for the county in which the principal office of the insurer is located, or if the insurer has no office in this state, then in the district court for Polk county. An insurer or individual who willfully violates this chapter is guilty of a class “D” felony.

5. A director or officer, or employee of an insurance holding company system who willfully and knowingly subscribes to or makes or causes to be made any false statements, false reports, or false filings with the intent to deceive the commissioner in the performance of the commissioner’s duties under this chapter is guilty of a class “D” felony. Any fines imposed shall be paid by the director, officer, or employee in the person’s individual capacity.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.10]

86 Acts, ch 1102, §23; 91 Acts, ch 26, §55, 56; 2009 Acts, ch 181, §88

[T] 2011 repeal of 2009 Acts, ch 181, §88, amendment to subsection 1 stricken pursuant to 2011 Acts, ch 127, §57, 89

[T] Section not amended; footnote revised

521A.11 Receivership.

Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any person has committed a violation of this chapter which so impairs the financial condition of a domestic insurer as to threaten insolvency or make the further transaction of business by it hazardous to its policyholders, creditors, shareholders or the public, then the commissioner may proceed as provided in section 505.9 to take possession of the property of such domestic insurer and to conduct the business thereof.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.11]

521A.11A Recovery.

1. Subject to subsections 2 through 4, if an order for liquidation, conservation, or rehabilitation of a domestic insurer has been entered, the receiver appointed under the order may recover on behalf of the insurer either of the following if made within one year preceding the filing of the petition for liquidation, conservation, or rehabilitation:

a. From a parent corporation, holding company, affiliate, or other person who otherwise controlled the insurer, the amount of distributions, other than distributions of shares of the same class of stock, paid by the insurer on its capital stock.

b. Any payment in the form of a bonus, termination settlement, or extraordinary lump sum salary adjustment made by the insurer or a subsidiary of the insurer to a director, officer, agent, or employee.

2. A distribution is not recoverable if the parent holding company, affiliate, or other person shows that when the distribution was paid it was lawful and reasonable, and that the insurer did not know and could not reasonably have known that the distribution might adversely affect the ability of the insurer to fulfill its contractual obligations.

3. A parent corporation, holding company, affiliate, or other person who otherwise controlled the insurer or affiliate at the time the distributions were paid is liable only up to the amount of distributions or payments under subsection 1 that the person received. A person who otherwise controlled the insurer at the time the distributions were declared is liable only up to the amount of distributions the person would have received if the person had been paid immediately. If two or more persons are liable with respect to the same distributions, each shall be separately liable for their distributive share.

4. The maximum amount recoverable under this section shall be the amount needed in excess of all other available assets of the impaired or insolvent insurer to pay the contractual obligations of the impaired or insolvent insurer and to reimburse any guaranty funds.

5. To the extent that a person liable under subsection 3 is insolvent or otherwise fails to pay claims due from the person pursuant to this section, the person's parent corporation, holding company, affiliate, or other person who otherwise controlled it at the time the distribution was paid, is separately liable for its share of any resulting deficiency in the amount recovered from the parent corporation, holding company, affiliate, or other person who otherwise controlled it.

86 Acts, ch 1102, §24; 87 Acts, ch 115, §67

521A.12 Revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of insurer's license.

Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any person has committed a violation of this chapter which makes the continued operation of an insurer contrary to the interest of policyholders or the public, the commissioner may, after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard, determine to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew such insurer's license or authority to do business in this state for such period as the commissioner finds is required for the protection of policyholders or the public. Any such determination shall be accompanied by specific findings of fact and conclusions of law.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.12]

521A.13 Judicial review.

Judicial review of the actions of the commissioner may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa administrative procedure Act, chapter 17A.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §521A.13]

2003 Acts, ch 44, §114

MUTUAL INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANIES

521A.14 Mutual insurance holding companies.

1. a. A domestic mutual insurance company, upon approval of the commissioner, may reorganize by forming an insurance holding company based upon a mutual plan and continuing the corporate existence of the reorganizing insurance company as a stock insurance company. The commissioner, after a public hearing as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "b", if satisfied that the interests of the policyholders are properly protected and that the plan of reorganization is fair and equitable to the policyholders, may approve the proposed plan of reorganization and may require as a condition of approval such modifications of the proposed plan of reorganization as the commissioner finds necessary for the protection of the policyholders' interests. The commissioner may retain consultants as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "c". A reorganization pursuant to this

section is subject to section 521A.3, subsections 1, 2, and 3. The commissioner shall retain jurisdiction over a mutual insurance holding company organized pursuant to this section to assure that policyholder interests are protected.

b. All of the initial shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company. The membership interests of the policyholders of the reorganized insurance company shall become membership interests in the mutual insurance holding company. Policyholders of the reorganized insurance company shall be members of the mutual insurance holding company in accordance with the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the mutual insurance holding company. The mutual insurance holding company shall at all times own a majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company.

2. a. A domestic mutual insurance company, upon the approval of the commissioner, may reorganize by merging its policyholders' membership interests into a mutual insurance holding company formed pursuant to subsection 1 and continuing the corporate existence of the reorganizing insurance company as a stock insurance company subsidiary of the mutual insurance holding company. The commissioner, after a public hearing as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "b", if satisfied that the interests of the policyholders are properly protected and that the merger is fair and equitable to the policyholders, may approve the proposed merger and may require as a condition of approval such modifications of the proposed merger as the commissioner finds necessary for the protection of the policyholders' interests. The commissioner may retain consultants as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "c". A merger pursuant to this section is subject to section 521A.3, subsections 1, 2, and 3. The commissioner shall retain jurisdiction over the mutual insurance holding company organized pursuant to this section to assure that policyholder interests are protected.

b. All of the initial shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company. The membership interests of the policyholders of the reorganized insurance company shall become membership interests in the mutual insurance holding company. Policyholders of the reorganized insurance company shall be members of the mutual insurance holding company in accordance with the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the mutual insurance holding company. The mutual insurance holding company shall at all times own a majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company. A merger of policyholders' membership interests in a mutual insurance company into a mutual insurance holding company shall be deemed to be a merger of insurance companies pursuant to chapter 521 and chapter 521 is also applicable.

c. A foreign mutual insurance company, or a foreign health service corporation, which if a domestic corporation would be organized under chapter 514, may reorganize upon the approval of the commissioner and in compliance with the requirements of any law or regulation which is applicable to the foreign mutual insurance company or foreign health service corporation by merging its policyholders' or subscribers' membership interests into a mutual insurance holding company formed pursuant to subsection 1 and continuing the corporate existence of the reorganizing foreign mutual insurance company or reorganizing foreign health service corporation as a foreign stock insurance company subsidiary of the mutual insurance holding company. The commissioner, after a public hearing as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "b", may approve the proposed merger. The commissioner may retain consultants as provided in section 521A.3, subsection 4, paragraph "c". A merger pursuant to this paragraph is subject to section 521A.3, subsections 1, 2, and 3. The reorganizing foreign mutual insurance company or reorganizing foreign health service corporation may remain a foreign company or foreign corporation after the merger, and may be admitted to do business in this state. A foreign mutual insurance company or foreign mutual health service corporation which is a party to the merger may at the same time redomesticate in this state by complying with the applicable requirements of this state and its state of domicile. The provisions of paragraph "b" shall apply to a merger authorized under this paragraph, except that a reference to policyholders in that paragraph is also deemed to include subscribers in the case of a health service corporation.

3. A mutual insurance holding company resulting from the reorganization of a domestic mutual insurance company organized under chapter 491 shall be incorporated pursuant to chapter 491. This requirement shall supersede any conflicting provisions of section 491.1. The articles of incorporation and any amendments to such articles of the mutual insurance holding company shall be subject to approval of the commissioner in the same manner as those of an insurance company.

4. A mutual insurance holding company is deemed to be an insurer subject to chapter 507C and shall automatically be a party to any proceeding under chapter 507C involving an insurance company which as a result of a reorganization pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 is a subsidiary of the mutual insurance holding company. In any proceeding under chapter 507C involving the reorganized insurance company, the assets of the mutual insurance holding company are deemed to be assets of the estate of the reorganized insurance company for purposes of satisfying the claims of the reorganized insurance company's policyholders. A mutual insurance holding company shall not dissolve or liquidate without the approval of the commissioner or as ordered by the district court pursuant to chapter 507C.

5. a. Chapters 508B and 515G are not applicable to a reorganization or merger pursuant to this section.

b. Chapter 508B is applicable to demutualization of a mutual insurance holding company which resulted from the reorganization of a domestic mutual life insurance company organized under chapter 508 as if it were a mutual life insurance company.

c. Chapter 515G is applicable to demutualization of a mutual insurance holding company which resulted from the reorganization of a domestic mutual property and casualty insurance company organized under chapter 515 as if it were a mutual property and casualty insurance company.

6. A membership interest in a domestic mutual insurance holding company shall not constitute a security as defined in section 502.102.

7. The majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company, which is required by this section to be at all times owned by a mutual insurance holding company, shall not be conveyed, transferred, assigned, pledged, subjected to a security interest or lien, encumbered, or otherwise hypothecated or alienated by the mutual insurance holding company or intermediate holding company. Any conveyance, transfer, assignment, pledge, security interest, lien, encumbrance, or hypothecation or alienation of, in or on the majority of the voting shares of the reorganized insurance company which is required by this section to be at all times owned by a mutual insurance holding company, is in violation of this section and shall be void in inverse chronological order of the date of such conveyance, transfer, assignment, pledge, security interest, lien, encumbrance, or hypothecation or alienation, as to the shares necessary to constitute a majority of such voting shares. The majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company which is required by this section to be at all times owned by a mutual insurance holding company shall not be subject to execution and levy as provided in chapter 626. The shares of the capital stock of the surviving or new company resulting from a merger or consolidation of two or more reorganized insurance companies or two or more intermediate holding companies which were subsidiaries of the same mutual insurance holding company are subject to the same requirements, restrictions, and limitations as provided in this section to which the shares of the merging or consolidating reorganized insurance companies or intermediate holding companies were subject by this section prior to the merger or consolidation.

As used in this section, "*majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company*" means shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company which carry the right to cast a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by all of the outstanding shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company for the election of directors and on all other matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders of the reorganized insurance company. The ownership of a majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company which are required by this section to be at all times owned by a parent mutual insurance holding company includes indirect ownership through one or more intermediate holding companies in a corporate structure approved by the

commissioner. However, indirect ownership through one or more intermediate holding companies shall not result in the mutual insurance holding company owning less than the equivalent of a majority of the voting shares of the capital stock of the reorganized insurance company. The commissioner shall have jurisdiction over an intermediate holding company as if it were a mutual insurance holding company. As used in this section, “*intermediate holding company*” means a holding company which is a subsidiary of a mutual insurance holding company, and which either directly or through a subsidiary intermediate holding company has one or more subsidiary reorganized insurance companies of which a majority of the voting shares of the capital stock would otherwise have been required by this section to be at all times owned by the mutual insurance holding company.

95 Acts, ch 185, §44, 48; 96 Acts, ch 1014, §1, 2; 2009 Acts, ch 145, §52