

501A.1008 Reversion of disbursements.

1. Once a person's membership interest or other member's equity in a cooperative is deemed abandoned under section 556.5, the cooperative may retain any disbursement held by the cooperative for or owing to the person. The cooperative may also deliver the disbursement to the treasurer of state for disposition as abandoned property pursuant to sections 556.5 and 556.11.

2. If the cooperative elects to retain the disbursement under this section, the disbursement shall be deposited into a reversion fund established by the cooperative.

3. A disbursement having an aggregate value of fifty dollars or more that is retained by the cooperative shall be forfeited to the cooperative only if the cooperative publishes at least one notice of the abandoned property in a publication regularly distributed to its membership or in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county where the cooperative is located. The notice shall include all of the following:

- a. The name and address of the cooperative.
- b. The name of the person who has an interest in the disbursement according to the records of the cooperative.
- c. A brief description of the type of disbursement retained by the cooperative.
- d. A statement that the disbursement will be forfeited to the cooperative unless the person files a claim for the disbursement within the period provided for in this section.

4. a. Subject to this subsection, a person asserting an interest in the disbursement may file a claim for it with the cooperative in a manner and according to procedures required by the cooperative. If a person is entitled to an abandoned membership interest, or other interest as provided in section 556.20 or 556.21, the cooperative shall also pay the person the disbursement deposited in the reversion fund that is realized or accrued from the membership interest or other interest.

b. If a person has not filed a claim for the disbursement within six months after the first date that the notice of abandoned property is first published as provided in this section, the disbursement shall be forfeited to the cooperative.

5. The disbursements deposited into the reversion fund that are forfeited to the cooperative shall be used as provided in this subsection. The cooperative may authorize the payment of forfeited disbursements to persons claiming interests in forfeited disbursements as provided in the cooperative's articles of organization or bylaws. Otherwise, forfeited disbursements shall be used as the directors deem suitable for any of the following purposes:

- a. Teaching and promoting cooperation. The directors may deposit the amounts of disbursements into the education fund as established by the cooperative.
- b. Economic development including private or joint public and private investments involving the creation of economic opportunities for the cooperative's members or the retention of existing sources of income that would otherwise be lost.

2005 Acts, ch 135, §80; 2006 Acts, ch 1010, §131

Referred to in §556.5