

515.35 Investments.

1. *General considerations.* The following considerations apply in the interpretation of this section:

a. This section applies to the investments of insurance companies other than life insurance companies.

b. The purpose of this section is to protect and further the interests of policyholders, claimants, creditors, and the public by providing standards for the development and administration of programs for the investment of the assets of companies organized under this chapter. These standards, and the investment programs developed by companies, shall take into account the safety of the company's principal, investment yield and growth, stability in the value of the investment, and liquidity necessary to meet the company's expected business needs, and investment diversification.

c. Financial terms relating to insurance companies have the meanings assigned to them under statutory accounting methods. Financial terms relating to companies other than insurance companies have the meanings assigned to them under generally accepted accounting principles.

d. Investments shall be valued in accordance with the valuation procedures established by the national association of insurance commissioners, unless the commissioner requires or finds another method of valuation reasonable under the circumstances.

e. If an investment qualifies under more than one subsection, a company may elect to hold the investment under the subsection of its choice. This section does not prevent a company from electing to hold an investment under a subsection different from the one under which it previously held the investment.

2. *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

a. "*Admitted assets*", for purposes of computing percentage limitations on particular types of investments, means the assets which are authorized to be shown on the national association of insurance commissioner's annual statement blank as admitted assets as of the December 31 immediately preceding the date the company acquires the investment.

b. "*Capital and surplus*", for purposes of computing percentage limitations on particular types of investments, means the capital and surplus that is authorized to be shown as capital and surplus on the national association of insurance commissioners' annual statement blank as of the December 31 immediately preceding the date the company acquires the investment.

c. "*Clearing corporation*" means as defined in section 554.8102.

d. "*Custodian bank*" means a bank or trust company that is supervised and examined by state or federal authority having supervision over banks and is acting as custodian for a clearing corporation.

e. "*Issuer*" means as defined in section 554.8201.

f. "*Member bank*" means a national bank, state bank, or trust company which is a member of the United States federal reserve system.

g. "*National securities exchange*" means an exchange registered under section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or an exchange regulated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

h. "*Obligations*" includes bonds, notes, debentures, transportation equipment certificates, domestic repurchase agreements, and obligations for the payment of money not in default as to payments of principal and interest on the date of investment, which constitute general obligations of the issuer or payable only out of certain revenues or certain funds pledged or otherwise dedicated for payment of principal and interest on the obligations. A lease is an obligation if the lease is assigned to the insurer and is nonterminable by the lessee upon foreclosure of any lien upon the leased property, and if rental payments are sufficient to amortize the investment over the primary lease term.

3. *Investments in name of company or nominee and prohibitions.*

a. A company's investments shall be held in its own name or the name of its nominee, except as follows:

(1) Investments may be held in the name of a clearing corporation or of a custodian bank or in the name of the nominee of either on the following conditions:

(a) The clearing corporation, custodian bank, or nominee must be legally authorized to hold the particular investment for the account of others.

(b) When the investment is evidenced by a certificate and held in the name of a custodian bank or the nominee of a custodian bank, a written agreement shall provide that certificates so deposited shall at all times be kept separate and apart from other deposits with the depository, so that at all times they may be identified as belonging solely to the company making the deposit.

(c) If a clearing corporation is to act as depository, the investment may be merged or held in bulk in the name of the clearing corporation or its nominee with other investments deposited with the clearing corporation by any other person, if a written agreement between the clearing corporation and the company provides that adequate evidence of the deposit is to be obtained and retained by the company or a custodian bank.

(2) A company may loan securities held by it to a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, a national bank, or a state bank, foreign bank, or trust company that is a member of the United States federal reserve system, and the loaned securities shall continue to be allowable investments of the company.

(a) The loan shall be fully collateralized by cash, cash equivalents, or obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States. The company shall take delivery of the collateral either directly or through an authorized custodian.

(b) If the loan is collateralized by cash or cash equivalents, the cash or cash equivalent collateral may be reinvested by the company in either individual securities which are allowable investments of the company or in repurchase agreements fully collateralized by such securities if the company takes delivery of the collateral either directly or through an authorized custodian or a pooled fund comprised of individual securities which are allowable investments of the company. If such reinvestment is made in individual securities or in repurchase agreements, the individual securities or the securities which collateralize the repurchase agreements shall mature in less than two hundred seventy days. If such reinvestment is made in a pooled fund, the average maturity of the securities comprising such pooled fund must be less than two hundred seventy days. Individual securities and securities comprising the pooled fund shall be investment grade.

(c) The loan shall be evidenced by a written agreement which provides all of the following:

(i) That the loan will be fully collateralized at all times during the term of the loan, and that the collateral will be adjusted as necessary each business day during the term of the loan to maintain the required collateralization in the event of market value changes in the loaned securities or collateral.

(ii) If the loan is fully collateralized by cash or cash equivalents, the cash or cash equivalent collateral may be reinvested by the company as provided in subparagraph division (b).

(iii) That the loan may be terminated by the company at any time, and that the borrower shall return the loaned stocks and obligations or equivalent stocks or obligations within five business days after termination.

(iv) That the company has the right to retain the collateral or use the collateral to purchase investments equivalent to the loaned securities if the borrower defaults under the terms of the agreement, and that the borrower remains liable for any losses and expenses incurred by the company due to default that are not covered by the collateral.

(d) Securities loaned pursuant to this subparagraph (2) are not eligible for investment of the company in excess of twenty percent of admitted assets.

(3) A company may participate through a member bank in the United States federal reserve book-entry system, and the records of the member bank shall at all times show that the investments are held for the company or for specific accounts of the company.

(4) An investment may consist of an individual interest in a pool of obligations or a fractional interest in a single obligation if the certificate of participation or interest or the confirmation of participation or interest in the investment is issued in the name of the company or the name of the custodian bank or the nominee of either and if the interest as evidenced by the certificate or confirmation is, if held by a custodian bank, kept separate and

apart from the investments of others so that at all times the participation may be identified as belonging solely to the company making the investment.

(5) Transfers of ownership of investments held as described in paragraph “a”, subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (c), and subparagraphs (3) and (4) may be evidenced by bookkeeping entry on the books of the issuer of the investment, its transfer or recording agent, or the clearing corporation without physical delivery of certificate, if any, evidencing the company’s investment.

b. Except as provided in paragraph “a”, subparagraph (5), if an investment is not evidenced by a certificate, adequate evidence of the company’s investment shall be obtained from the issuer or its transfer or recording agent and retained by the company, a custodian bank, or clearing corporation. Adequate evidence, for purposes of this paragraph, means a written receipt or other verification issued by the depository or issuer or a custodian bank which shows that the investment is held for the company.

4. *Investments.* Except as otherwise permitted by this section, a company organized under this chapter may invest in the following and no other:

a. *United States government obligations.* Obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or an agency or instrumentality of the United States. Bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued, assumed, or guaranteed by the United States of America, or by any agency or instrumentality of the United States of America include investments in an open-end management investment company registered with the federal securities and exchange commission under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. § 80a, and operated in accordance with 17 C.F.R. § 270.2a-7, the portfolio of which is limited to the United States government obligations described in this paragraph “a”, and which are included in the national association of insurance commissioners’ securities valuation office’s United States direct obligation – full faith and credit list.

b. *Certain development bank obligations.* Obligations issued or guaranteed by the international bank for reconstruction and development, the Asian development bank, the inter-American development bank, the export-import bank, the world bank, or any United States government-sponsored organization of which the United States is a member, if the principal and interest is payable in United States dollars. A company shall not invest more than five percent of its total admitted assets in the obligations of any one of these banks or organizations, and shall not invest more than a total of ten percent of its total admitted assets in the obligations authorized by this paragraph.

c. *State obligations.* Obligations issued or guaranteed by a state of the United States, or a political subdivision of a state, or an instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state.

d. *Canadian government obligations.* Obligations issued or guaranteed by the Dominion of Canada, or by an agency or province of Canada, or by a political subdivision of a province, or by an instrumentality of any of those provinces or political subdivisions.

e. *Corporate and business trust obligations.* Obligations issued, assumed, or guaranteed by a corporation or business trust organized under the laws of the United States or a state of the United States, or the laws of Canada or a province of Canada, provided that a company shall not invest more than five percent of its admitted assets in the obligations of any one corporation or business trust. Aggregate investments in below investment grade bonds shall not exceed five percent of assets.

f. *Stocks, limited partnership interests, and limited liability company interests.*

(1) A company may invest in common stocks, common stock equivalents, mutual fund shares, securities convertible into common stocks or common stock equivalents, or preferred stocks issued or guaranteed by a corporation incorporated under the laws of the United States or a state of the United States, or the laws of Canada or a province of Canada.

(a) Stocks purchased under this section shall not exceed one hundred percent of capital and surplus. With the approval of the commissioner, a company may invest any amount in common stocks, preferred stocks, or other securities of one or more subsidiaries provided that after such 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.

(b) A company shall not invest more than ten percent of its capital and surplus in the stocks of any one corporation.

(2) In addition to those investments permitted under subparagraph (1), a company may invest in or otherwise acquire and hold a limited partnership interest in any limited partnership formed under the laws of any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States, or under the laws of the United States. A company may invest in or otherwise acquire and hold a member interest in any limited liability company formed under the laws of any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States or under the laws of the United States. A limited partnership or limited liability company interest shall not be acquired if the investment, valued at cost, exceeds two percent of the capital and surplus of the company or if the investment, plus the book value on the date of the investment of all limited partnership or limited liability company interests then held by the company and held under the authority of this subparagraph, exceeds ten percent of the capital and surplus of the company. A limited partnership or limited liability company interest shall not be acquired under this subparagraph unless the limited partnership or limited liability company is audited annually by an independent auditor.

g. Real estate mortgages. Mortgages and other interest-bearing securities that are first liens upon real estate located within this state or any other state of the United States. However, a mortgage or other security does not qualify as an investment under this paragraph if at the date of acquisition the total indebtedness secured by the lien exceeds seventy-five percent of the value of the property that is subject to the lien. Improvements shall not be considered in estimating value unless the owner contracts to keep them insured during the life of the loan in one or more reliable fire insurance companies authorized to transact business in this state and for a sum at least equal to the excess of the loan above seventy-five percent of the value of the ground, exclusive of improvements, and unless this insurance is payable in case of loss to the company investing its funds as its interest may appear at the time of loss. For the purpose of this section, a lien upon real estate shall not be held or construed to be other than a first lien by reason of the fact that drainage or other improvement assessments have been levied against the real estate covered by the lien, whether or not the installment of the assessments have matured, but in determining the value of the real estate for loan purposes the amount of drainage or other assessment tax that is unpaid shall be first deducted.

h. Real estate.

(1) (a) Except as provided in subparagraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this paragraph, a company may acquire, hold, and convey real estate only as follows:

(i) Real estate mortgaged to it in good faith as security for loans previously contracted, or for moneys due.

(ii) Real estate conveyed to it in satisfaction of debts previously contracted in the course of its dealings.

(iii) Real estate purchased at sales on judgments, decrees, or mortgages obtained or made for debts previously contracted in the course of its dealings.

(iv) Real estate subject to a contract for deed under which the company holds the vendor's interest to secure the payments the vendee is required to make under the contract.

(b) All real estate specified in subparagraph division (a), subparagraph subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) shall be sold and disposed of within three years after the company acquires title to it, or within three years after the real estate ceases to be necessary for the accommodation of the company's business, and the company shall not hold any of those properties for a longer period unless the company elects to hold the property under another paragraph of this section, or unless the company procures a certificate from the commissioner of insurance that its interest will suffer materially by the forced sale of those properties and that the time for the sale is extended to the time the commissioner directs in the certificate.

(2) A company may acquire, hold, and convey real estate as required for the convenient accommodation and transaction of its business.

(3) A company may acquire real estate or an interest in real estate as an investment for the production of income, and may hold, improve, or otherwise develop, subdivide, lease,

sell, and convey real estate so acquired directly or as a joint venture or through a limited or general partnership in which the company is a partner.

(4) A company may also acquire and hold real estate if the purpose of the acquisition is to enhance the sale value of real estate previously acquired and held by the company under this paragraph, and if the company expects the real estate so acquired to qualify under subparagraph (2) or (3) of this paragraph within three years after acquisition.

(5) A company may, after securing the written approval of the commissioner, acquire and hold real estate for the purpose of providing necessary living quarters for its employees. However, the company shall dispose of the real estate within three years after it has ceased to be necessary for that purpose unless the commissioner agrees to extend the holding period upon application by the company.

(6) A company shall not invest more than twenty-five percent of its total admitted assets in real estate. The cost of a parcel of real estate held for both the accommodation of business and for the production of income shall be allocated between the two uses annually. A company shall not invest more than ten percent of its total admitted assets in real estate held under subparagraph (3) of this paragraph.

(7) A company is not required to divest itself of real estate assets owned or contracted for prior to July 1, 1982, in order to comply with the limitations established under this paragraph.

i. Foreign investments. Obligations of and investments in foreign countries, as follows:

(1) A company may acquire and hold other investments in foreign countries that are required to be held as a condition of doing business in those countries, so long as such investments are of substantially the same types as those eligible for investment under this section.

(2) A company shall not invest more than two percent of its admitted assets in the stocks or stock equivalents of foreign corporations or business trusts, other than the stocks or stock equivalents of foreign corporations or business trusts incorporated or formed under the laws of Canada, and then only if the stocks or stock equivalents of such foreign corporations or business trusts are regularly traded on the New York, London, Paris, Zurich, Hong Kong, Toronto, or Tokyo stock exchange, or a similar exchange approved by the commissioner by rule or order.

(3) A company may invest in the obligations of a foreign government other than Canada or of a corporation incorporated under the laws of a foreign government other than Canada. Any such governmental obligation must be valid, legally authorized and issued, and on the date of acquisition have predominantly investment qualities and characteristics as provided by rule. Any such corporate obligation must on the date of acquisition have investment qualities and characteristics, and must not have speculative elements which are predominant, as provided by rule. A company shall not invest more than two percent of its admitted assets in the obligations of a foreign government other than Canada and the United Kingdom. Investments in obligations of the United Kingdom are not eligible in excess of four percent of admitted assets. A company shall not invest more than two percent of its admitted assets in the obligations of a corporation incorporated under the laws of a foreign government other than a corporation incorporated under the laws of Canada.

(4) A company shall not invest more than twenty percent of its admitted assets in foreign investments pursuant to this paragraph.

j. Personal property under lease. Personal property for intended lease or rental by the company in the United States or Canada. A company shall not invest more than five percent of its admitted assets under this paragraph.

k. Collateral loans. Obligations secured by the pledge of an investment authorized by paragraphs "a" through "j", subject to the following conditions:

(1) The pledged investment shall be legally assigned or delivered to the company.

(2) The pledged investment shall at the time of purchase have a market value of at least one hundred ten percent of the amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations.

(3) The company shall reserve the right to declare the obligation immediately due and payable if at any time after purchase the security depreciates to the point where the investment would not qualify under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph. However, additional qualifying security may be pledged to allow the investment to remain qualified.

l. Options transactions.

(1) A domestic fire and casualty company may only engage in the following transactions in options on an exchange and only when in accordance with the rules of the exchange on which the transactions take place:

(a) The sale of exchange-traded covered options.

(b) The purchase of exchange-traded covered options solely in closing purchase transactions.

(2) The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A regulating option sales under this subparagraph.

m. Venture capital funds. Shares or equity interests in venture capital funds which agree to invest an amount equal to at least fifty percent of the investments by a company in small businesses having their principal offices within this state and having either more than one-half of their assets within this state or more than one-half of their employees employed within this state. A company shall not invest more than five percent of its capital and surplus under this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, “*venture capital fund*” means a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or other entity formed under the laws of the United States, or a state, district, or territory of the United States, whose principal business is or will be the making of investments in, and the provision of significant managerial assistance to, small businesses which meet the small business administration definition of small business. “*Equity interests*” means limited partnership interests and other equity interests in which liability is limited to the amount of the investment, but does not mean general partnership interests or other interests involving general liability. “*Venture capital fund*” includes an equity interest in the Iowa fund of funds as defined in section 15E.62.

n. Other investments.

(1) A company organized under this chapter may invest up to five percent of its admitted assets in securities or property of any kind, without restrictions or limitations except those imposed on business corporations in general.

(2) A company organized under this chapter may invest its assets in any additional forms not specifically included in paragraphs “a” through “o” when authorized by rules adopted by the commissioner.

o. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to carry out the purposes and provisions of this section.

[C73, §1130, 1137; C97, §1699, 1703; S13, §1699; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §8926, 8927; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §515.34, 515.35; 81 Acts, ch 169, §1; 82 Acts, ch 1051, §1] 85 Acts, ch 136, §2; 88 Acts, ch 1112, §402; 91 Acts, ch 26, §40; 96 Acts, ch 1138, §2, 84; 97 Acts, ch 186, §10; 98 Acts, ch 1014, §2; 99 Acts, ch 165, §13; 2001 Acts, ch 69, §29; 2003 Acts, ch 91, §34; 2004 Acts, ch 1110, §52 – 54; 2007 Acts, ch 137, §12; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §159 – 161; 2012 Acts, ch 1023, §120 – 122; 2013 Acts, ch 124, §17

Referred to in §515.20, 518.14, 518A.12, 521G.6

[P] Similar provisions, §511.8

[T] Subsection 4, paragraph f amended