

524.901 Investments.

1. For purposes of [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

a. “*Investment securities*” means marketable obligations in the form of bonds, notes, or debentures which have been publicly offered, are of sound value, or are secured so as to be readily marketable at a fair value, and are within the four highest grades according to a reputable rating service or represent unrated issues of equivalent value. “*Investment securities*” does not include investments which are predominately speculative in nature.

b. “*Shares*” means proprietary units of ownership of a corporation.

2. A state bank shall not invest for its own account more than fifteen percent of its aggregate capital in investment securities of any one obligor. The par value of the investment securities shall be used to determine the amount that may be invested under [this subsection](#), and any premium paid by a state bank for any investment securities shall not be included in determining the amount that may be invested under [this subsection](#).

3. Subject only to the exercise of prudent banking judgment, a state bank may invest for its own account without regard to the limitation provided in [subsection 2](#) in any of the following:

a. Investment securities of the United States of which the payment of principal and interest is fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the United States.

b. Investment securities issued, insured, or guaranteed by a department or an agency of the United States government, provided that the securities, insurance, or guarantee commits the full faith and credit of the United States for the repayment of the securities.

c. Investment securities of the federal national mortgage association or the association’s successor.

d. Investment securities of the federal home loan mortgage corporation or the corporation’s successor.

e. Investment securities of the student loan marketing association or the association’s successor.

f. Investment securities of a federal home loan bank.

g. Investment securities of a farm credit bank.

h. Investment securities representing general obligations of the state of Iowa or of political subdivisions of the state.

4. A state bank may invest without limit in the shares or units of investment companies or investment trusts registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. §80a-1 et seq., the portfolio of which is limited to United States investment securities described in [subsection 3](#) or repurchase agreements fully collateralized by United States investment securities described in [subsection 3](#), if delivery of the collateral is taken either directly or through an authorized custodian and the dollar-weighted average maturity of the portfolio is not more than five years. All other investments by a state bank in the shares or units of investment companies or investment trusts registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. §80a-1 et seq., whose portfolios exclusively contain investment securities permissible pursuant to [subsections 2 and 3](#), shall not exceed fifteen percent of the state bank’s aggregate capital.

5. To the extent necessary to meet minimum membership or participation criteria, a state bank may invest for its own account in the shares of the appropriate federal reserve bank, the appropriate federal home loan bank, the federal national agricultural mortgage corporation or corporations engaged solely in the pooling of agricultural loans for federal agricultural mortgage corporation guarantees, and other similar investments acceptable to the superintendent and approved in writing by the superintendent. The bank’s investment in the shares of each of the organizations is limited to fifteen percent of its aggregate capital or a higher amount as approved by the superintendent. Notwithstanding the specific requirements of [this section](#), any shares of government-sponsored entities held by a state bank on or before July 1, 1995, shall be authorized.

6. A state bank, upon the approval of the superintendent, may acquire and hold the shares of any corporation which a state bank is authorized to acquire and hold pursuant to [this chapter](#).

7. a. A state bank, upon the approval of the superintendent, may invest up to five percent of its aggregate capital in the shares or equity interests of any of the following:

(1) Economic development corporations organized under [chapter 496B](#) to the extent authorized by and subject to the limitations of that chapter.

(2) Community development corporations or community development projects to the same extent a national bank may invest in such corporations or projects pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §24.

(3) Small business investment companies as defined by the laws of the United States.

(4) Venture capital funds which invest an amount equal to at least fifty percent of a state bank's investment 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.

(5) Small businesses having a principal office 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. An investment by a state bank in a small business under this subparagraph shall be included with the obligations of the small business to the state bank that are incurred as a result of the exercise by the state bank of the powers conferred in [section 524.902](#) for the purpose of determining the total obligations of the small business pursuant to [section 524.904](#). A state bank's equity interest investment in a small business, pursuant to this subparagraph, shall not exceed a twenty percent ownership interest in the small business.

(6) Other entities, acceptable to the superintendent, whose sole purpose is to promote economic or civic developments within a community or this state.

b. A state bank's total investment in any combination of the shares or equity interests of the entities identified in paragraph "a", subparagraphs (1) through (6) shall be limited to fifteen percent of its aggregate capital.

c. For purposes of [this subsection](#):

(1) The term "*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.

(2) The term "*small business*" means a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or other entity which meets the appropriate United States small business administration definition of small business and which is principally engaged in the development or exploitation of inventions, technological improvements, new processes, or other products not previously generally available in this state, or other investments which provide an economic benefit to the state.

(3) The term "*venture capital fund*" means a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or other entity whose principal business is or will be the making of investments in, and the providing of significant managerial assistance to, small businesses.

8. A state bank, in the exercise of the powers granted in [this chapter](#), may purchase cash value life insurance contracts which may include provisions for the lump sum payment of premiums and which may include insurance against the loss of the lump sum payment. The cash value life insurance contracts purchased from any one company shall not exceed fifteen percent of aggregate capital of the state bank, and in the aggregate from all companies, shall not exceed twenty-five percent of aggregate capital of the state bank unless the state bank has obtained the approval of the superintendent prior to the purchase of any cash value life insurance contract in excess of this limitation.

9. A state bank may invest without limitation for its own account in futures, forward, and standby contracts to purchase and sell any of the instruments a state bank is authorized to purchase and sell, subject to the prior approval of the superintendent and pursuant to applicable federal laws and regulations governing such contracts. Purchase and sale of such contracts shall be conducted in accordance with safe and sound banking practices and with the level of the activity being reasonably related to the state bank's business needs and capacity to fulfill its obligations under the contracts.

[C97, §1844, 1850; S13, §1850; SS15, §1889-o; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §9162, 9183, 9269, 9271; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §526.7, 526.25, 528.15, 528.67, 528.70; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §524.901; 81 Acts, ch 173, §10; 82 Acts, ch 1017, §1, 2]

83 Acts, ch 124, §14, 15; 83 Acts, ch 152, §1; 85 Acts, ch 136, §3; 85 Acts, ch 252, §35; 87 Acts, ch 171, §15 – 19; 88 Acts, ch 1075, §1; 89 Acts, ch 49, §1; 89 Acts, ch 257, §10 – 15; 91

Acts, ch 220, §5, 6; 94 Acts, ch 1140, §1, 2; 95 Acts, ch 148, §88; 2010 Acts, ch 1028, §11; 2012 Acts, ch 1023, §135; 2014 Acts, ch 1092, §188

Referred to in §12C.22, §524.904, §524.907, §524.1002, §524.1602, §536A.25