

CHAPTER 53

INDUSTRIAL LOAN AND THRIFT COMPANIES

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53.01 ORGANIZATION. It is lawful for three or more persons, who desire to form a corporation for the purpose of carrying on primarily the business of loaning money in small amounts to persons within the conditions hereinafter set forth, to organize, under this law, an industrial loan and thrift company, by filing with the secretary of state and the register of deeds in the county in which the place of business of the corporation is located, a certificate of incorporation, and upon paying the fees and upon compliance with the procedure provided for the organization and government of ordinary corporations under the laws of this state, and complying with the additional requirements prior to authorization to doing business, as set forth in this chapter.

[1933 c. 246 s. 1; 1943 c. 67 s. 1] (7774-25)

53.02 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS. No corporation shall be organized under this chapter or qualified to do business thereunder with a capital represented by shares of common stock of less than \$25,000 in cities with less than 50,000 people; \$50,000 in cities with more than 50,000 people and less than 100,000 people; and \$75,000 in cities with 100,000 people, or more, according to the last official census; each share of that common stock to have a par value of not less than \$25 per share. No corporation shall begin doing business under this chapter unless the required capital is fully paid, and unless a surplus of no less than ten per cent of that required capital shall have also been fully paid and set up. After the required capital of a corporation organized or doing business under this chapter shall have been fully paid and a surplus of not less than ten per cent thereof also fully paid and set up, additional capital stock in that corporation may be sold at not less than par, provided, however, that there is always maintained a surplus of at least ten per cent of the capital of the corporation represented by shares of common stock.

[1933 c. 246 s. 1; 1943 c. 67 s. 2; 1947 c. 20 s. 1] (7774-26)

53.03 CERTIFICATE. Subdivision 1. **Application; fee; notice; publication.** Any such corporation hereafter organized as an industrial loan and thrift company, shall, after compliance with the requirements set forth in sections 53.01 and 53.02, cause an application, in writing, to be made to the department of commerce for a certificate of authorization. The application, in duplicate, shall be in the form prescribed by the department of commerce and filed in its office. The application shall be made in the name of the corporation, executed and acknowledged by two of its officers designated by the board of directors of the corporation for that purpose, requesting a certificate authorizing the corporation to transact business as an industrial loan and thrift company, at the place and in the name stated in the application. At the time of filing the application the applicant shall pay a filing fee of \$25, to be paid into the state treasury and credited to the state security commission fund, and submit a copy of the by-laws of the corporation, its articles of incorporation and all amendments thereto. Thereupon the department of commerce shall fix a time, within 30 days after the filing of the application, for a hearing at its office, at which hearing it shall either grant or refuse to grant such application. A notice of the hearing shall be published once in the form prescribed by the department of commerce, at the expense of the applicant, not less than ten, nor more than 20, days prior to the date of such hearing, in a newspaper published in the municipality in which the proposed industrial loan and thrift company is to be located, or, if there be no such newspaper, in a newspaper published at the county seat of the county in which the company is proposed to be located.

Subd. 2. Department of commerce; duties. The department of commerce shall thereupon make, or cause to be made, an examination to ascertain whether the assets of such corporation, over and above all its liabilities, have an actual value of not less than the par value of all of its capital represented by shares of common stock, which shall not be less than the amount prescribed by section 53.02, and if upon the hearing provided for in subdivision 1 those facts appear and it further appears that the by-laws and articles of incorporation and amendments thereto are in accordance with law; that the shareholders of the corporation are of good moral character and financial integrity; that there is a reasonable public demand for that company in the location specified in the application, and that the probable volume of business in that location is sufficient to insure and maintain the solvency of such company and the solvency of any then existing industrial loan and thrift companies or banks in that locality, without endangering the safety of any such company or bank in the locality as a place for investing or depositing public and private money, and if the department of commerce is satisfied that the proposed company will be properly and safely managed, the application shall be granted; otherwise it shall be denied.

Subd. 3. Grant or denial; certificate. If the application be granted the department of commerce shall, not later than 30 days after such hearing, issue a certificate authorizing the corporation to transact business as an industrial loan and thrift company as provided in this chapter. If the application be denied the department of commerce shall, not later than 30 days after such hearing, notify the corporation of the denial.

Subd. 4. Filing certificate. The certificate of authorization granted shall be filed in the places specified for filing the certificate of incorporation in section 53.01. The corporation shall thereupon become an industrial loan and thrift company.

Subd. 5. Place of business. Not more than one place of business shall be maintained under any certificate of authorization issued subsequent to the enactment of Laws 1943, Chapter 67, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, but the department of commerce may issue more than one certificate of authorization to the same corporation upon compliance with all the provisions of this chapter governing an original issuance of a certificate of authorization. Each additional certificate of authorization issued pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision shall be filed with the secretary of state and the register of deeds of the county in which the corporation is authorized to do business thereunder.

[1933 c 246 s 3; 1943 c 67 s 3; 1947 c 20 s 2] (7774-27)

53.04 SPECIAL POWERS. Industrial loan and thrift companies, in addition to the general and usual powers incidental to ordinary corporations in this state, which are not specifically restricted in this chapter, shall have the following special powers, which powers must be set forth in their articles of incorporation or amendments thereto:

(1) The right to discount or purchase notes, bills of exchange, acceptances or other choses in action;

(2) The right to loan money upon the security of co-makers, personal chattels or other property, exclusive of real estate, for a period not to exceed 18 months; to deduct in advance interest on such loans for the period of such loans at the rate of not in excess of eight per cent discount per annum; to require as a condition to the making of such a loan that the borrower purchase and pledge with the company, as security for the loan, a certificate of indebtedness of the company in the same amount as the loan secured thereby, providing for payments in equal weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly instalments, with or without interest, extending over substantially the period of the loan, payments thereon not to be construed as payments on the loan secured thereby; to charge for a loan exceeding \$50 made pursuant to this subdivision, \$1.00 for each \$50 or fraction thereof loaned, for expenses, including any examination or investigation of the character and circumstances of the borrower, co-maker or security, and drawing and taking the acknowledgment of necessary papers, or other expenses incurred in making the loan; provided, that no fee collected hereunder shall exceed \$10; and, provided, that for a loan exceeding \$500, one per cent additional of the amount loaned in excess of \$500 may be charged for these expenses, not exceeding a total fee of \$15; if any such loan made pursuant to this clause is \$50 or less, the charge shall not be more than \$1.00; and no such charge shall be collected unless a loan shall have been made. The borrower may repay the entire balance of such loan at any time

before maturity and upon such prepayment the industrial loan and thrift company shall forthwith refund to the borrower a portion of the interest or discount. The amount of such refund shall represent at least as great a proportion of the total interest or discount as the sum of the periodical time balances after the date of prepayment bears to the sum of all the periodical time balances under the schedule of payments in the original loan contract.

For the purposes of calculating such refunds, the commissioner of banks shall furnish a chart giving effect hereto for the use of such companies, which chart shall be followed in calculating refunds;

(3) To impose a handling charge of five cents for each default in the payment of \$1.00, or fraction thereof, at the time any periodical instalment on a certificate of indebtedness assigned as collateral security for the payment of a loan made pursuant to the foregoing provisions becomes due; provided, that this handling charge shall not be cumulative; that the aggregate of the handling charges collected in connection with any such loan of \$50 or less, shall not exceed 50 cents, and that the aggregate of handling charges collected in connection with any such loan of more than \$50 shall not exceed one per cent of the loan and shall in no event exceed \$5.00;

(4) The right, with the consent of the department of commerce, to sell and issue for investment or to be pledged as security for a loan made contemporaneously therewith or otherwise, certificates of indebtedness, under any descriptive name, which may bear such interest, if any, as their terms may provide, and which may require the payment to the company of such amounts, from time to time, as their terms may provide, and permit the withdrawal of amounts paid upon the same, in whole or in part, from time to time, and the credit of amounts thereon upon such conditions as may be set forth therein; and no such certificate of indebtedness shall have a surrender value which is less than the total amount paid to the company therefor; and

(5) Upon the maturity of a note, the borrower may, at his option, surrender the certificate of indebtedness pledged to secure the same, in which event the amounts, if any, paid on the certificate of indebtedness, less such handling charges as are authorized by this chapter, shall be applied to reduce the balance owing on the note.

[1933 c. 246 s. 4; 1945 c. 439 s. 1] (7774-28)

53.05 LIMITATION OF POWERS. No industrial loan and thrift company shall have power to do any of the following:

(1) To carry commercial or demand banking account; to use the word "bank" or "banking" in its corporate name; to receive savings accounts or deposits or operate as a savings bank;

(2) To have outstanding at any one time certificates of indebtedness, exclusive of those held by the company, as security for loans made by it of more than seven times the sum of the paid-in capital and surplus of the company;

(3) To lend money in excess of five per cent of its paid-in capital and surplus to any person primarily liable; provided, that if marketable collateral be taken as security for a loan, then an industrial loan and thrift company may loan not to exceed ten per cent of its paid-in capital and surplus to any one person primarily liable; provided, however, if a loan has been made to any one person primarily liable and payments have been made on the certificate of indebtedness securing it, the amount of such payments may be added to the limitation stated in this clause for the purpose of determining whether additional loans may be made to that person;

(4) To accept trusts or act as guardian, administrator, or judicial trustee in any form; or

(5) To deposit any of its funds in any banking corporation, unless the corporation has been designated by vote of a majority of directors or of the executive committee present at a meeting duly called, at which a quorum was in attendance.

[1933 c. 246 s. 5; 1947 c. 20 s. 3] (7774-29)

53.06 DIRECTORS, RESIDENCE. At least three-fourths of the directors of any industrial loan and thrift company shall be residents of the county in which the industrial loan and thrift company maintains its principal place of business and each director shall own and hold not less than 20 shares of common stock of the industrial loan and thrift company, unencumbered.

[1933 c. 246 s. 6; 1943 c. 67 s. 3; 1947 c. 20 s. 4] (7774-30)

53.07 RESERVE. All industrial loan and thrift companies shall establish as a reserve against the certificates of indebtedness described in section 53.04, clause (4), of not less than ten per cent of the amount of indebtedness thus created. Three per cent of this indebtedness shall be in cash in the actual possession of the industrial loan company or on demand deposit in approved banks of this state, and seven per cent of the total indebtedness may be in bonds admissible for investment by mutual savings banks under the laws of this state; provided, that such certificates of indebtedness as are issued under authority of section 53.04, clause (2), and are held by the industrial loan and thrift company as security for its own loans, shall not be considered as an indebtedness for which a reserve must be maintained under this section.

[1933 c. 246 s. 7] (7774-31)

53.08 DIVIDENDS. When an industrial loan and thrift company is organized under this chapter or operating thereunder, the board of directors may declare a dividend of so much of the net profits of the corporation, after providing for all expenses, reserves, interest, and taxes accrued or due from the corporation, as they shall judge expedient, but before any dividend is declared, not less than one-tenth of the net profits of the industrial loan and thrift company of the preceding half year, or for such period as is covered by the dividend, shall be carried to a surplus fund until the surplus shall amount to 20 per cent of its capital represented by shares of common stock.

[1933 c. 246 s. 8; 1947 c. 20 s. 5] (7774-32)

53.09 EXAMINATIONS. Subdivision 1. **Frequency and expense of examination.** The commissioner shall make examinations, at least once each year, of each authorized place of business of every industrial loan and thrift company organized or operating under this chapter, at which time he shall satisfy himself that the corporation is in a solvent condition and is complying with the requirements of this chapter and operating according to sound business principles. In order to enforce his actions in this connection, the commissioner is hereby vested with the same authority as in his examination and regulation of state banks. The actual cost of every examination shall be paid to the commissioner by the corporation so examined, but the minimum fee for each examination shall be \$100 for each authorized place of business under examination. The commissioner may maintain an action for the recovery of such costs or minimum fee in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Subd. 2. **Report to commissioner.** Each industrial loan and thrift company shall annually on or before the first day of February file a report with the commissioner stating in detail, under appropriate heads, its assets and liabilities at the close of business on the last day of the preceding calendar year. Such report shall be made under oath in the form prescribed by the commissioner and published once, at the expense of such industrial loan and thrift company, in a newspaper of the county of its location, and proof thereof filed immediately with the commissioner of banks.

Subd. 3. **Penalties.** The penalties for violation of this chapter, or for any wrongdoing in connection therewith, shall be the same as those applied to state banks under the laws of this state.

[1933 c. 246 s. 9; 1943 c. 67 s. 4; 1947 c. 20 s. 6] (7774-33)