

CHAPTER 303

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS

303.01	Citation.	303.14	Annual report.
303.02	Definitions.	303.16	Withdrawal from state.
303.03	Foreign corporations must have certificate of authority.	303.17	License revocation.
303.04	Engaging in banking; limitation.	303.18	Cancellation of certificate of authority.
303.05	Names of corporations.	303.19	Reinstatement.
303.06	Application for certificate of authority.	303.20	Foreign corporation may not maintain action unless licensed.
303.07	License fees.	303.21	Fees.
303.08	Issuance of certificate of authority.	303.22	Applicable to present corporations.
303.09	Powers same as domestic corporation.	303.23	Certificate issued by secretary of state.
303.10	Office and agent.	303.24	Rights subject to amendment.
303.11	Notice of changes, where filed.	303.25	Foreign trust associations, powers.
303.13	Service of process.		

NOTE: For definitions, see section 300.02.

303.01 CITATION.

Sections 303.01 to 303.24 may be cited as the Minnesota foreign corporation act.

History: (7495-25) 1935 c 200 s 25

303.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this chapter the terms defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Corporation.** In addition to the meaning set forth in section 300.02, subdivision 2, "corporation" means a corporation formed for profit.

Subd. 3. **Foreign trust association.** "Foreign trust association" includes every banking and trust association or corporation organized under the laws of any state other than this state having the power to act as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator, and every national banking association maintaining its principal office in any state other than this state which is granted permission by the comptroller of the currency to act in a fiduciary capacity under the provisions of United States Code, title 12, chapter 92a, as amended.

Subd. 4. **Foreign corporation.** "Foreign corporation" does not include any corporation which, under the constitution and statutes of the United States, may transact business in this state without first obtaining a certificate of authority so to do, insurance companies as defined by section 60A.02, and any banking or trust association or corporation or national banking association acting in this state as an executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian under section 303.25.

Subd. 5. **Address.** "Address" includes the name of the post office, street and number, if any, or name of building and the room or office number therein when customarily used as a part of a mailing address.

Subd. 6. **Process.** "Process" means any statutory notice or demand required or permitted to be served on a natural person or a corporation, and includes the summons in a civil action, and any process which may be issued in any action or proceeding in any court.

Subd. 7. **Articles of incorporation.** "Articles of incorporation" means the original articles of incorporation, all articles or certificates of amendment thereof, articles of consolidation or merger, and certificates filed or issued in connection with reduction of stated capital.

History: (7495-1) 1935 c 200 s 1; 1953 c 368 s 1; 1969 c 6 s 38

303.03 FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MUST HAVE CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.

No foreign corporation shall transact business in this state unless it holds a certificate of authority so to do; and no foreign corporation whose certificate of authority has been revoked or canceled pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be entitled to obtain a certificate of authority except in accordance with the provisions of section 303.19. Without excluding other activities which may not constitute transacting business in this state, and subject to the provisions of sections 303.13 and 543.19, a foreign corporation shall not be considered to be transacting business in this state for the purposes of this chapter solely by reason of carrying on in this state any one or more of the following activities:

(a) Maintaining or defending any action or suit or any administrative or arbitration proceeding, or effecting the settlement thereof or the settlement of claims or disputes;

(b) Holding meetings of its directors or shareholders or carrying on other activities concerning its internal affairs;

(c) Maintaining bank accounts;

(d) Maintaining offices or agencies for the transfer, exchange and registration of its securities, or appointing and maintaining trustees or depositaries with relation to its securities;

(e) Holding title to and managing real or personal property, or any interest therein, situated in this state, as executor of the will or administrator of the estate of any decedent, as trustee of any trust, or as guardian or conservator of the person or estate, or both, of any person;

(f) Making, participating in, or investing in loans or creating, as borrower or lender, or otherwise acquiring indebtedness or mortgages or other security interests in real or personal property;

(g) Securing or collecting its debts or enforcing any rights in property securing them; or

(h) Conducting an isolated transaction completed within a period of 30 days and not in the course of a number of repeated transactions of like nature.

History: (7495-2) 1935 c 200 s 2; 1981 c 162 s 2

303.04 ENGAGING IN BANKING; LIMITATION.

No foreign corporation shall transact in this state the business which only a bank, trust company, or savings, building and loan association may transact in this state except as provided in section 303.25.

History: (7495-3) 1935 c 200 s 3; 1941 c 164 s 1; 1949 c 427 s 1; 1951 c 219 s 1; 1981 c 162 s 3

303.05 NAMES OF CORPORATIONS.

Subdivision 1. Certificate of authority, when not issued. No certificate of authority shall be issued to a foreign corporation if the name of that foreign corporation would be prohibited to a corporation under the provisions of chapter 302A. The name of that corporation may contain the word "cooperative" if it is a cooperative corporation generally similar to the kind which may be organized under the laws of this state. If that corporation is a corporation obtaining a certificate of authority pursuant to the provisions of section 303.04, the name of that corporation may contain the words "bank," "trust," "building and loan," or "savings" and such corporation shall not be required to add the word "incorporated" or the abbreviation "Inc." to its corporate name. If its real name is unavailable, a foreign corporation may use an alternate name to transact business in this state if it delivers to the secretary of state a certified copy of the resolution of its board of directors adopting the alternate name. The alternate name must meet the requirements of section 302A.115, and need not be filed under sections 333.001 to 333.06.

Subd. 2. **Application.** Nothing in this section shall abrogate or limit the law as to unfair competition or unfair practices nor derogate from the common law, the principles of equity, the statutes of this state or of the United States with respect to the right to acquire and protect trade names.

Subd. 3. **Injunction.** If a foreign corporation does business in this state under a name prohibited by this section, the courts of this state having equity jurisdiction may, upon the application of the state or of any person, unincorporated association, or corporation interested or affected, enjoin such foreign corporation from doing business in this state under such name, whether or not a certificate of authority shall have been issued to such foreign corporation.

History: (7495-4) 1935 c 200 s 4; 1951 c 550 s 77; 1965 c 97 s 1; 1981 c 270 s 129; 1982 c 496 s 3

303.06 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. **Contents.** In order to procure a certificate of authority to transact business in this state, a foreign corporation shall make application therefor to the secretary of state, which application shall set forth:

(1) The name of the corporation and the state or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(2) If the name of the corporation does not comply with section 303.05, then the name which it agrees to use in this state;

(3) The date of its incorporation and the period of its duration;

(4) The address of its principal office in the state or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(5) The address of its proposed registered office in this state and the name of its proposed registered agent in this state;

(6) That it irrevocably consents to the service of process upon it as set forth in section 303.13, or any amendment thereto;

(7) The names and respective addresses of its directors and officers;

(8) A statement of the aggregate number of shares which it shall have authority to issue, itemized by classes and series;

(9) A statement of the aggregate number of its issued or allotted shares itemized by classes and series; and

(10) A statement that the officers executing the application have been duly authorized so to do by the board of directors of the corporation.

Subd. 2. **Forms.** Such application shall be made on forms prescribed and furnished by the secretary of state, and shall be executed, acknowledged, and verified by its president or a vice-president, and by its secretary or an assistant secretary, and delivered to the secretary of state with authenticated copies of its articles of incorporation.

History: (7495-5) 1935 c 200 s 5; 1965 c 97 s 2; 1984 c 618 s 20

303.07 LICENSE FEES.

Subdivision 1. **Initial fee.** At the time of making application for a certificate of authority the foreign corporation making the application shall pay to the state treasurer the sum of \$150 as an initial license fee.

Subd. 2. **Annual fee.** The secretary of state shall collect an annual license fee from each foreign corporation holding a certificate of authority to transact business in this state. A foreign corporation shall pay \$15 per \$100,000 or fraction thereof of its Minnesota taxable net income for the last taxable year ending prior to the payment of the fee. If the taxable year ended less than 75 days before the date the fee is received by the secretary of state, the taxable net income from the preceding taxable year shall determine the fee. In no event shall the annual license fee be less than \$30. The corporation shall pay this fee by April 1 of each year.

History: (7495-6) 1935 c 200 s 6; 1955 c 820 s 29; 1969 c 1148 s 46; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 36

303.08 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. **By secretary of state.** If the application be according to law, the secretary of state, when all fees and charges have been paid as required by law, shall file the application and the copy of the articles of incorporation, and shall issue and record a certificate of authority to transact business in this state.

Subd. 2. **Contents.** The certificate of authority shall contain the name of the corporation, the state or country of organization, the period of duration of its corporate existence, the address of its registered office in this state, and a statement that it is authorized to transact business in this state.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]

History: (7495-7) 1935 c 200 s 7; 1969 c 995 s 3; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1986 c 444

303.09 POWERS SAME AS DOMESTIC CORPORATION.

After the issuance of a certificate of authority by the secretary of state and until cancellation or revocation thereof or issuance of a certificate of withdrawal, the corporation shall possess within this state the same rights and privileges that a domestic corporation would possess if organized for the purposes set forth in the articles of incorporation of such foreign corporation pursuant to which its certificate of authority is issued, and shall be subject to the laws of this state.

History: (7495-8) 1935 c 200 s 8

303.10 OFFICE AND AGENT.

Subdivision 1. **Maintenance.** Each foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state shall have and continuously maintain in this state:

(1) A registered office which may, but need not be the same as its place of business in this state;

(2) A registered agent, which agent may be either an individual, resident in this state, whose business office is identical with such registered office, or a corporation having a business office identical with such registered office.

Subd. 2. **Change of location and address; revocation of agent's appointment; new agent.** A foreign corporation may, from time to time, change the location and address of its registered office. It may revoke the appointment of a registered agent, provided it shall at the same time file an appointment of a new registered agent. It shall appoint a new registered agent in case of vacancy in the office, whether by death, resignation, or otherwise, or because of the disqualification or incapacity of its registered agent. Such changes may be made by filing in the office of the secretary of state a statement setting forth:

(1) The name of the corporation;

(2) The address of its registered office;

(3) If the address of its registered office is to be changed, the address to which the registered office is to be changed;

(4) The name of its then registered agent;

(5) If its registered agent is to be changed, the name of its successor registered agent; and

(6) That such change was authorized by resolution duly adopted by its board of directors.

Such statement shall be executed, acknowledged, and verified by its president or a vice-president, and by its secretary or an assistant secretary.

Subd. 3. **Resignation of agent.** A registered agent of a foreign corporation may resign by filing with the secretary of state a signed written notice of resignation, including a statement that a signed copy of the notice has been given or mailed to the corporation at its principal office in the state or country under the laws of which it is organized. The appointment of the agent terminates 30 days after the notice is filed with the secretary of state.

History: (7495-9, 7495-10) 1935 c 200 s 9,10; 1953 c 221 s 1; 1986 c 331 s 1

303.11 NOTICE OF CHANGES, WHERE FILED.

Each foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state, whenever its articles of incorporation are amended, whenever its stated capital shall be reduced, or whenever it shall be a party to a statutory merger or consolidation, shall forthwith file in the office of the secretary of state a copy of such amendment or articles of merger or consolidation, duly authenticated by the proper officer of the state or country under the laws of which such corporation is organized, or a copy of the instrument with reference to such reduction of stated capital required to be filed or recorded in a public office in the state or country under the laws of which such corporation is organized, duly authenticated by the proper public officer, as the case may be.

History: (7495-11) 1935 c 200 s 11

303.12 [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]**303.13 SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

Subdivision 1. **Foreign corporation.** A foreign corporation shall be subject to service of process, as follows:

(1) By service on its registered agent;

(2) When any foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state fails to appoint or maintain in this state a registered agent upon whom service of process may be had, or whenever any registered agent cannot be found at its registered office in this state, as shown by the return of the sheriff of the county in which the registered office is situated, or by an affidavit of attempted service by any person not a party, or whenever any corporation withdraws from the state, or whenever the certificate of authority of any foreign corporation is revoked or canceled, service may be made by delivering to and leaving with the secretary of state, or with any deputy or clerk in the corporation department of the secretary of state's office, three copies thereof and a fee of \$15; provided, that after a foreign corporation withdraws from the state, pursuant to section 303.16, service upon the corporation may be made pursuant to the provisions of this section only when based upon a liability or obligation of the corporation incurred within this state or arising out of any business done in this state by the corporation prior to the issuance of a certificate of withdrawal.

(3) If a foreign corporation makes a contract with a resident of Minnesota to be performed in whole or in part by either party in Minnesota, or if a foreign corporation commits a tort in whole or in part in Minnesota against a resident of Minnesota, such acts shall be deemed to be doing business in Minnesota by the foreign corporation and shall be deemed equivalent to the appointment by the foreign corporation of the secretary of the state of Minnesota and successors to be its true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served all lawful process in any actions or proceedings against the foreign corporation arising from or growing out of the contract or tort. Process shall be served in duplicate upon the secretary of state, together with a fee of \$15 and the secretary of state shall mail one copy thereof to the corporation at its last known address, and the corporation shall have 30 days within which to answer from the date of the mailing, notwithstanding any other provision of the law. The making of the contract or the committing of the tort shall be deemed to be the agreement of the foreign corporation that any process against it which is so served upon the secretary of state shall be of the same legal force and effect as if served personally on it within the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Duties of secretary of state.** In case of service of process, the secretary of state shall immediately cause one copy of such process to be forwarded by certified mail addressed to the corporation so served, at its principal office in the state or country under the laws of which it is organized, and one copy thereof to the agent of such corporation, at its registered office in this state, as such addresses appear in the records of the secretary of state; provided that, if the corporation shall have withdrawn from the state in the manner provided by this chapter, one copy shall be sent to the address designated for such purpose in the application for withdrawal, instead of the registered office in this state.

Subd. 3. **Time to answer.** If any summons is so served upon the secretary of state, the corporation so served shall have 30 days from the date of mailing by the secretary in which to answer the complaint.

Subd. 4. **Application.** Nothing herein contained shall limit or affect the right to serve any process upon a foreign corporation in any other manner now or hereafter permitted by law.

Subd. 5. **Record.** The secretary of state shall keep a record of all processes served under this section and shall record therein the time of such service and the action with reference thereto.

History: (7495-13) 1935 c 200 s 13; 1955 c 820 s 30; 1957 c 538 s 1; 1969 c 1148 s 47; 1978 c 674 s 60; 1980 c 541 s 4; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 37; 1984 c 618 s 21,22; 1986 c 444

303.14 ANNUAL REPORT.

Subdivision 1. **Filed with secretary of state; contents.** Between January first and April first, in each year, every foreign corporation which holds a certificate of authority shall make and file with the secretary of state a report for the previous calendar year, setting forth:

(1) the name of the corporation and the state or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(2) if the name of the corporation does not end with the word "Corporation" or the word "Incorporated," or the abbreviation "Inc.," or does not contain the word "Company" or the abbreviation "Co." not immediately preceded by the word "and" or the character "&," then the name of the corporation with the word or abbreviation which it has agreed to add thereto for use in this state;

(3) the date of its incorporation and the period of its duration;

(4) the address of its principal office in the state or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(5) the address of its registered office in this state and the name of its registered agent at such address;

(6) the names and respective addresses of its directors and officers;

(7) additional information necessary or appropriate to enable the secretary of state to determine the additional license fee, if any, payable by the corporation;

(8) a statement of the corporate taxable net income as stated in its Minnesota corporate income tax return that was due in the previous year; and

(9) the fee required by section 303.07, subdivision 2. This fee shall be submitted with the annual report.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]

Subd. 3. **Forms.** The annual report shall be made on forms prescribed by the secretary of state, one part setting forth the facts required by subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (6), and the other part the facts required by subdivision 1, clauses (7), (8), and (9). The report shall be executed, acknowledged and verified by the president or vice-president and by the treasurer, an assistant treasurer, secretary or an assistant secretary of the corporation. If the corporation is in the hands of a receiver or trustee, the report shall be executed on behalf of the corporation and verified by the receiver or trustee.

Subd. 4. **Conformance.** On finding that such annual report conforms to the requirements of this chapter, the secretary of state shall file the same. On finding that it does not so conform, the secretary of state shall return the same by mail to the corporation, in which event the provisions of section 303.17, relating to failure to file such report within the period herein required, shall not apply if such report is made to conform to the requirements of this chapter and is filed with the secretary of state within 30 days from such return of the report by the secretary of state to the corporation.

Subd. 5. **Divulgence of contents forbidden.** It shall be unlawful for the secretary

of state or any other public official or employee to divulge or otherwise make known in any manner any of the particulars with reference to the taxable net income set forth or disclosed as a part of any annual report. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the inspection of the full reports by officials and employees of this state in the performance of their duties with respect to license fees due from the corporation making the report. Any person violating any of the prohibitions of this subdivision shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

History: (7495-14) 1935 c 200 s 14; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 38-40; 1982 c 496 s 4; 1986 c 444

303.15 [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]

303.16 WITHDRAWAL FROM STATE.

Subdivision 1. **Application for withdrawal, filing.** If a foreign corporation holding a certificate of authority desires to withdraw, it shall file with the secretary of state an application for withdrawal.

Subd. 2. **Contents of application.** The application for withdrawal shall set forth:

- (1) the name of the corporation and the state or country under the laws of which it is organized;
- (2) that it has no property located in this state and has ceased to transact business therein;
- (3) that its board of directors has duly determined to surrender its authority to transact business in this state;
- (4) that it revokes the authority of its registered agent in this state to accept service of process;
- (5) the address to which the secretary of state shall mail a copy of any process against the corporation that may be served upon the secretary of state;
- (6) that it will pay to the state treasurer the amount of any additional license fees properly found by the secretary of state to be then due from such corporation; and
- (7) additional information required or demanded to enable the secretary of state to determine the additional license fees, if any, payable by the corporation, the determination thereof to be made in the manner provided by section 303.07, subdivision 2.

Subd. 3. **Execution of application.** The application for withdrawal shall be executed, acknowledged and verified on behalf of the corporation by its president or vice-president, and by its secretary or an assistant secretary, or, if the corporation is in the hands of a receiver or trustee, by such receiver or trustee.

Subd. 4. **Approval; filing.** The application for withdrawal shall be delivered to the secretary of state. Upon receiving and examining the same, and upon finding that it conforms to the provisions of this chapter, the secretary of state shall, when all license fees, filing fees, and other charges have been paid as required by law, file the same and shall issue and record a certificate of withdrawal. Upon the issuance of the certificate, the authority of the corporation to transact business in this state shall cease.

History: (7495-16) 1935 c 200 s 16; 1976 c 181 s 2; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 41,42; 1986 c 444

303.17 LICENSE REVOCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Grounds.** The certificate of authority of a foreign corporation to transact business in this state shall be revoked by the secretary of state if it fails:

- (1) To pay any fee due under the provisions of this chapter;
- (2) To designate a registered agent when a vacancy occurs in that office, or when the appointed registered agent becomes disqualified or incapacitated;
- (3) To file amendments to its articles of incorporation, articles of reduction of stated capital, or articles of merger or consolidation, as required in section 303.11;

(4) To file an annual report; or

(5) To comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1949, section 303.04, and acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, insofar as it relates to the limits of territory in which a savings and loan, building and loan, or savings, building and loan association organized under the laws of another state may carry on the business of making real estate mortgages.

Subd. 2. Notice to corporation. On finding that any such default has occurred, the secretary of state shall give notice by certified mail to such corporation, at its registered office in this state, that such default exists and that its certificate of authority will be revoked unless such default shall be cured within 30 days after the mailing of such notice.

Subd. 3. Revocation after 30 days. The secretary of state shall revoke the certificate of authority of such corporation to do business in this state if such default shall not be cured with such period of 30 days; provided, that for good cause shown the secretary of state may enlarge the period from time to time, but the aggregate of such enlargements shall not exceed 180 days or the period of any applicable extension granted by the department of revenue of time for filing the income tax return of the corporation, whichever is greater.

Subd. 4. Certificate of revocation. Upon revoking the certificate of authority, the secretary of state shall:

(1) Issue a certificate of revocation, in duplicate; and

(2) Mail to the corporation, at its principal office in the state or country under the laws of which it is organized, a notice of the revocation, accompanied by a certificate of revocation, and mail to the corporation, at its registered office in this state, a notice of the revocation.

Subd. 5. Cessation of authority. Upon the issuance of such certificate of revocation, the authority of the corporation to transact business in this state shall cease.

History: (7495-17) 1935 c 200 s 17; 1951 c 220 s 1; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1978 c 674 s 60; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 43; 1984 c 618 s 23; 1986 c 444

303.18 CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. Action by attorney general; grounds. When the public interest may require, the attorney general shall bring an action against a foreign corporation to cancel its certificate of authority to transact business in this state upon the ground that:

(1) The certificate of authority was procured through fraud practiced upon the state;

(2) The certificate of authority should not have been issued to the corporation under this chapter;

(3) The certificate of authority was procured without a substantial compliance with the conditions prescribed by this chapter as precedent or essential to its issuance;

(4) The corporation has offended against any provisions of the statutes regulating corporations, or has abused or usurped corporate privileges or powers;

(5) The corporation is knowingly and persistently violating any provision of law; or

(6) The corporation has done or omitted any act which amounts to a surrender of its certificate of authority.

Subd. 2. Time granted in which to cure ground for cancellation. If the ground for the action is an act which the corporation has done or omitted to do, and it appears probable that correction can be made, then such action shall not be instituted, unless the attorney general shall give notice to such corporation, by certified mail, at its registered office in this state, that such default or violation exists, and that an action to cancel its certificate of authority will be begun unless such default shall be cured or such violation discontinued within 30 days after the mailing of such notice. Such action shall be begun by the attorney general if the default shall not be cured, or the violation

discontinued, within such period of 30 days; provided, that for good cause shown the attorney general may enlarge this period from time to time, but the aggregate of such enlargements shall not exceed three months.

Subd. 3. Judgment of cancellation. The attorney general shall cause two certified copies of the judgment canceling a certificate of authority to be delivered to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall file one copy, and shall transmit the other copy to the registered office of the corporation in this state.

History: (7495-18) 1935 c 200 s 18; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1978 c 674 s 60; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 44; 1986 c 444

303.19 REINSTATEMENT.

Subdivision 1. Application. Any foreign corporation whose certificate of authority to do business in this state shall have been revoked or canceled may file with the secretary of state an application for reinstatement. Such application shall be on forms prescribed by the secretary of state, shall contain all the matters required to be set forth in an original application for a certificate of authority, and such other pertinent information as may be required by the secretary of state.

Subd. 2. Fee. If the certificate of authority was revoked by the secretary of state pursuant to section 303.17, the corporation shall pay to the state treasurer \$250 before it may be reinstated.

If the certificate of authority was canceled by a judgment pursuant to section 303.18, the corporation shall pay to the state treasurer \$500 before it may be reinstated.

Subd. 3. Certificate of reinstatement. Upon the filing of the application and upon payment of all penalties, fees and charges required by law, not including an initial license fee or additional license fees to the extent that they have previously been paid by the corporation, the secretary of state shall reinstate the license of the corporation.

History: (7495-19) 1935 c 200 s 19; 1955 c 820 s 51; 1976 c 181 s 2; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 45, 46

303.20 FOREIGN CORPORATION MAY NOT MAINTAIN ACTION UNLESS LICENSED.

No foreign corporation transacting business in this state without a certificate of authority shall be permitted to maintain an action in any court in this state until such corporation shall have obtained a certificate of authority; nor shall an action be maintained in any court by any successor or assignee of such corporation on any right, claim, or demand arising out of the transaction of business by such corporation in this state until a certificate of authority to transact business in this state shall have been obtained by such corporation or by a corporation which has acquired all, or substantially all, of its assets. If such assignee shall be a purchaser without actual notice of such violation by the corporation, recovery may be had to an amount not greater than the purchase price. This section shall not be construed to alter the rules applicable to a holder in due course of a negotiable instrument.

The failure of a foreign corporation to obtain a certificate of authority to transact business in this state does not impair the validity of any contract or act of such corporation, and shall not prevent such corporation from defending any action in any court of this state.

Any foreign corporation which transacts business in this state without a certificate of authority shall forfeit and pay to this state a penalty, not exceeding \$1,000, and an additional penalty, not exceeding \$100, for each month or fraction thereof during which it shall continue to transact business in this state without a certificate of authority therefor. Such penalties may be recovered in the district court of any county in which such foreign corporation has done business or has property or has a place of business, by an action, in the name of the state, brought by the attorney general.

History: (7495-20) 1935 c 200 s 20

303.21 FEES.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 75]

Subd. 3. **Other instruments.** A fee of \$20 shall be paid to the secretary of state for filing any instrument required or permitted to be filed under the provisions of this chapter. The fee shall be paid at the time of the filing of the instrument.

History: (7495-21) 1935 c 200 s 21; 1955 c 820 s 31; 1969 c 1148 s 48,49; 1976 c 181 s 2; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 47

303.22 APPLICABLE TO PRESENT CORPORATIONS.

Except as in this section otherwise provided, this chapter shall be applicable to all foreign corporations heretofore or hereafter transacting business in this state.

Any foreign corporation licensed to transact business in this state when this chapter became effective, which thereafter obtains a certificate of authority, pursuant to the provisions of this section, may continue to transact business in this state pursuant to the certificate of authority, using the name under which it was, on the effective date of this chapter, licensed to transact business in this state, whether or not the use of the name is in violation of the provisions of section 303.05.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to exempt the foreign corporation from the obligation of making annual reports and paying license fees in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

History: (7495-22) 1935 c 200 s 22; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 48

303.23 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF STATE.

Subdivision 1. **Prima facie evidence; recording.** Copies of the certificates certified, and any certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, by the secretary of state shall be prima facie evidence of the matters stated therein.

Subd. 2. **Certificate that corporation has no certificate of authority.** A certificate of the secretary of state to the effect that a foreign corporation is not authorized to transact business in this state shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated.

History: (7495-23) 1935 c 200 s 23; 1976 c 181 s 2; 3Sp1981 c 2 art 1 s 49; 1986 c 444

303.24 RIGHTS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

The state hereby fully reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal the several provisions of this chapter, and all rights and privileges granted or extended hereunder shall be subject to such reserved right.

History: (7495-26) 1935 c 200 s 26

303.25 FOREIGN TRUST ASSOCIATIONS, POWERS.

Subdivision 1. **Appointments.** Any foreign trust association may accept appointment and act as executor of the will or administrator of the estate of any decedent who was a resident of this state at the time of death, as trustee of any trust created by a resident of this state by will or otherwise, and as guardian or conservator of the person or estate, or both, of any resident of this state if banking or trust associations or corporations organized under the laws of this state or national banking associations maintaining their principal offices in this state are permitted to act as executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, or conservators in the state in which the foreign trust association maintains its principal office. Any foreign trust association may accept appointment and act as executor of the will or administrator of the estate of a decedent, who was a resident of the state in which the foreign trust association maintains its principal office at the time of death, in ancillary probate proceedings in this state, as trustee of any trust created by the decedent by will or otherwise of property situated in this state, and as guardian or conservator in ancillary proceedings in this

state with respect to the property of a resident of the other state if banking or trust associations or corporations organized under the laws of this state and national banking associations maintaining their principal offices in this state are permitted to act as executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, or conservators in the state in which the foreign trust association maintains its principal office.

Subd. 2. Designation of attorney for service of process. Before accepting appointment or acting as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator, a foreign trust association shall appoint the secretary of state, a successor or successors in office, its true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served all legal process in any action or proceeding against it, or in which it may be a party, in relation to or involving any acts or defaults by it as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator. This appointment is irrevocable. Service upon the attorney is as valid and binding as if due personal service had been made upon the foreign trust association.

Subd. 3. Bond must be filed. Before accepting appointment or acting as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator, every foreign trust association shall file a bond with a court of competent jurisdiction in an amount as the court directs, with sufficient sureties, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of its duties as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator, or, in lieu of the bond, shall deposit securities with the state treasurer in the same manner and in the same amount as would be required under section 48.67, of a trust company organized under the laws of this state. This deposit shall be maintained until the foreign trust association shall cease to act as an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator under this section. However, except as otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, the requirements of this subdivision do not apply to a trustee with respect to a trust created otherwise than by will if the trust instrument requests or directs that a bond need not be required of the trustee.

Subd. 4. Rights and duties. Any foreign trust association acting as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator has the rights, authority, and duties that a natural person resident in this state duly acting as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or conservator has under the laws of this state.

Subd. 5. Solicitation of business. A foreign trust association may not maintain an office within this state, but it may solicit business within this state if banking or trust associations or corporations organized under the laws of this state or national banking associations maintaining their principal offices in this state may solicit business in the state in which the foreign trust association maintains its principal office.

Subd. 6. Service of process. Service of process under this section may be made by delivering a copy to the secretary of state personally or by filing the same in the secretary of state's office, accompanied by one additional copy for each person so served, and by the mailing by the secretary of state of a copy by certified mail, not later than the business day following the day of the service, to each person so served at the address of each person as shown by the records in the office of the secretary of state.

History: 1953 c 368 s 2; 1957 c 21 s 1; 1978 c 674 s 60; 1981 c 162 s 4; 1986 c 444