

## **CHAPTER 10-04**

### **SUPERVISION OF ISSUE AND SALE OF SECURITIES**

#### **10-04-01. Title.**

This chapter shall be known as the Securities Act of 1951.

#### **10-04-02. Definitions.**

When used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Agent" means an individual, other than a broker-dealer, who represents a broker-dealer or an issuer or is self-employed in effecting or attempting to effect purchases or sales of securities. However, a partner, officer, or director of a broker-dealer, or an individual having a similar status or performing similar functions is an agent only if the individual otherwise comes within the term.
2. "Bank" means:
  - a. A bank institution organized under the laws of the United States;
  - b. A member bank of the federal reserve system;
  - c. Any other banking institution, whether or not incorporated, doing business under the laws of a state or of the United States, a substantial portion of the business of which consists of receiving deposits or exercising fiduciary powers similar to those permitted to be exercised by national banks under the authority of the comptroller of the currency pursuant to section 1 of Public Law 87-722, and which is supervised and examined by a state or federal agency having supervision over banks, and which is not operated for the purpose of evading this chapter; and
  - d. A receiver, conservator, or other liquidating agent of any institution or firm included in subdivision a, b, or c.
3. "Broker-dealer" means a person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities issued by another person or by such person for the account of others or for the person's own account. The term does not include:
  - a. An agent; or
  - b. A bank or savings institution if its activities as a broker-dealer are limited to those specified in subsections 3(a)(4)(B)(i) through (vi), (viii) through (x), and (xi) if limited to unsolicited transactions; 3(a)(5)(B) and 3(a)(5)(C) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or a bank that satisfies the conditions described in subsection 3(a)(4)(E) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
4. "Commissioner" means the securities commissioner of this state.
5. "Department" means the state securities department.
6. "Depository institution" means:
  - a. A bank; or
  - b. A savings institution, trust company, credit union, or similar institution that is organized or chartered under the laws of a state or of the United States, authorized to receive deposits, and supervised and examined by an official or agency of a state or the United States if its deposits or share accounts are insured to the maximum amount authorized by statute by the federal deposit insurance corporation, the national credit union shares insurance fund, or a successor authorized by federal law. The term does not include:
    - (1) An insurance company or other organization primarily engaged in the business of insurance;
    - (2) A Morris plan bank; or
    - (3) An industrial loan company.
7. "Federal covered adviser" means a person who is registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
8. "Federal covered security" means a security that is, or upon completion of a transaction will be, a covered security pursuant to section 18(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 or rules or regulations adopted under that Act.
9. "Institutional investor" means any of the following, whether acting for itself or for others in a fiduciary capacity:

- a. A depository institution or international banking institution;
  - b. An insurance company;
  - c. A separate account of an insurance company;
  - d. An investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940;
  - e. A broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
  - f. An employee pension, profit-sharing, or benefit plan if the plan has total assets in excess of ten million dollars or its investment decisions are made by a named fiduciary, as defined in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, that is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, an investment adviser registered under this Act, a depository institution, or an insurance company;
  - g. A plan established and maintained by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or an agency or instrumentality of a state or a political subdivision of a state for the benefit of its employees, if the plan has total assets in excess of ten million dollars or its investment decisions are made by a duly designated public official or by a named fiduciary, as defined in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, that is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, an investment adviser registered under this chapter, a depository institution, or an insurance company;
  - h. A trust, if it has total assets in excess of ten million dollars, its trustee is a depository institution, and its participants are exclusively plans of the types identified in subdivision f or g, regardless of the size of their assets, except a trust that includes as participants self-directed individual retirement accounts or similar self-directed plans;
  - i. An organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corporation, Massachusetts trust or similar business trust, limited liability company, or partnership, not formed for specific purpose of acquiring the securities offered, with total assets in excess of ten million dollars;
  - j. A small business investment company licensed by the small business administration under section 301(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 with total assets in excess of ten million dollars;
  - k. A private business development company as defined in section 202(a)(22) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 with total assets in excess of ten million dollars;
  - l. A federal covered investment adviser acting for its own account;
  - m. A qualified institutional buyer as defined in rule 144A(a)(1), other than rule 144A(a)(1)(i)(H), adopted under the Securities Act of 1933;
  - n. A major United States institutional investor as defined in rule 15a-6(b)(4)(i) adopted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; or
  - o. Any other person, other than an individual, of institutional character with total assets in excess of ten million dollars not organized for the specific purpose of evading this chapter.
10. "Investment adviser" means any person who, for compensation, engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities, or who, for compensation and as a part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning securities. The term includes financial planners and other persons who, as an integral component of other financially related services, provide the foregoing investment advisory services to others for compensation and as part of a business or who hold themselves out as providing the foregoing investment advisory services to others for compensation. The term does not include:
- a. An investment adviser representative.
  - b. A bank, savings institution, or trust company.

- c. A lawyer, accountant, engineer, or teacher whose performance of these services is solely incidental to the practice of the person's profession.
  - d. A broker-dealer or its agent whose performance of these services is solely incidental to the conduct of business as a broker-dealer and who receives no special compensation for them.
  - e. A publisher of any bona fide newspaper, news column, newsletter, news magazine, or business or financial publication or service, whether communicated in hard copy form, or by electronic means, or otherwise, that does not consist of the rendering of advice on the basis of the specific investment situation of each client.
  - f. A federal covered adviser.
  - g. A person who is excluded by the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 from the definition of investment adviser.
  - h. Such other persons not within the intent of this subsection as the commissioner may by rule or order designate.
11. a. "Investment adviser representative" means an individual employed by or associated with an investment adviser or federal covered adviser and who:
- (1) Makes any recommendations or otherwise renders advice regarding securities directly to advisory clients;
  - (2) Manages the accounts or portfolios of clients;
  - (3) Determines which recommendations or advice regarding securities should be given;
  - (4) Provides investment advice or holds out as providing investment advice, receives compensation to solicit, offer, or negotiate for the sale of or sells investment advisory services; or
  - (5) Immediately supervises employees in the performance of any of the foregoing.
- b. The term does not include an individual who:
- (1) Is employed by or associated with a federal covered investment adviser, unless the individual has a "place of business" in this state, as that term is defined by the securities and exchange commission pursuant to section 203A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
  - (2) Is an agent whose performance of investment advice is solely incidental to the individual acting as an agent and who does not receive special compensation for investment advisory services.
  - (3) Performs only clerical or ministerial acts.
12. "Issuer" means every person who issues or proposes to issue any security, except that:
- a. With respect to certificates of deposit, voting-trust certificates, collateral trust certificates, or shares in an unincorporated investment trust, issuer means the person or persons performing the acts and assuming the duties of depositor or manager pursuant to the provisions of the trust or other agreement or instrument under which such securities are issued.
  - b. With respect to equipment trust certificates or like securities serving the same purpose, issuer means the person by whom the equipment or property is or will be used or to which the property or equipment is or will be leased or conditionally sold or that is otherwise contractually responsible for assuring payment of the certificate.
  - c. With respect to fractional interests in an oil, gas, or other mineral lease or in payments out of production under a lease, right, or royalty, issuer means the owner of any such right or any interest in such lease or in payments out of production under a lease, right, or royalty, whether whole or fractional, that creates fractional interests for the purpose of sale.
  - d. With respect to a fractional or pooled interest in a viatical settlement contract, issuer means the person who creates, for the purpose of sale, the fractional or pooled interest. The issuer of a viatical settlement contract that is not

- fractionalized or pooled means the person effecting the transactions with the investors in such contracts.
13. "Offer for sale" or "offer to sell" means every attempt or offer to dispose of, or solicitation of an order or offer to buy, a security or interest in a security for value.
  14. "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, joint venture, trust, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity.
  15. "Place of business" of a broker-dealer, an investment adviser, or a federal covered investment adviser means:
    - a. An office at which the broker-dealer, investment adviser, or federal covered investment adviser regularly provides brokerage or investment advice or solicits, meets with, or otherwise communicates with customers or clients; or
    - b. Any other location that is held out to the general public as a location at which the broker-dealer, investment adviser, or federal covered investment adviser provides brokerage or investment advice or solicits, meets with, or otherwise communicates with customers or clients.
  16. "Principal place of business" of a broker-dealer or an investment adviser means the executive office of the broker-dealer or investment adviser from which the officers, partners, or managers of the broker-dealer or investment adviser direct, control, and coordinate the activities of the broker-dealer or investment adviser.
  17. "Record" except in phrases "of record", "official record", and "public record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
  18. "Sale" or "sell" means every sale, contract to sell, or disposition of a security or interest in a security for value, and every contract to make any such sale or disposition. The term includes:
    - a. Any security given or delivered with, or as a bonus on account of any purchase of securities or any other thing, must be conclusively presumed to constitute a part of the subject of such purchase and to have been sold for value.
    - b. A sale or offer of a warrant or right to purchase or subscribe to another security of the same or another issuer and a sale or offer of a security that gives the holder a present or future right or privilege to convert the security into another security of the same or another issuer, including an offer of the other security.
  19. "Security" means any note; stock; treasury stock; bond; debenture; evidence of indebtedness; certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement; certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease; collateral trust certificate; preorganization certificate or subscription; transferable share; investment contract; viatical or life settlement contract or a fractionalized or pooled interest therein; program, contract, or other arrangement in which persons invest in a common enterprise the returns of which depend to any extent upon inducing other persons to participate or invest in the enterprise; investment of money or money's worth including goods furnished or services performed in the risk capital of a venture with the expectation of profit or some other form of benefit to the investor when the investor has no direct control over the investment or policy decisions of the venture; voting-trust certificate; certificate of deposit for a security; foreign currency commodity contract, as used in chapter 51-23; or beneficial interest in title to property, profits, or earnings; or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a "security"; or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing.
  20. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
  21. "Viatical or life settlement contract" means an agreement for the purchase, sale, assignment, transfer, devise, or bequest of any portion of the death benefit or ownership of a life insurance policy or certificate, for consideration that is less than the

expected death benefit of the life insurance policy or certificate. "Viatical or life settlement contract" does not include:

- a. The assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of a death benefit, life insurance policy, or certificate of insurance by the owner to the provider pursuant to chapter 26.1-33.4;
- b. The assignment of a life insurance policy to a bank or depository institution; or
- c. The exercise of accelerated benefits pursuant to the terms of a life insurance policy issued in accordance with the insurance laws of this state.

#### **10-04-03. Administration of chapter.**

1. The state securities department is under the supervision of a chief officer designated as the securities commissioner. The securities commissioner must be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate and shall hold office for a term of four years, beginning on the first day of July following a national presidential election and continuing until a successor has been appointed, confirmed by the senate, and has qualified, unless removed as herein provided. If the senate is not in session, the governor may make an interim appointment, and the interim appointee shall hold office until the senate confirms or rejects the appointment. The commissioner must be skilled in securities and may not be an incumbent of any other public office in the state. The commissioner may not own or control any security required to be registered under this chapter, or any security which is exempt based on the approval of the securities department. The commissioner may not be an officer, director, or employee of any broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative required to be registered under this chapter, or of a federal covered adviser required to be notice-filed under this chapter. The governor may remove from office any commissioner who fails to discharge faithfully the duties of office or who becomes disqualified under the provisions of this section.

It is the prime duty of the commissioner to administer the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall receive a salary within the amount appropriated for salaries by the legislative assembly. The commissioner shall use a seal with the words "securities commissioner, North Dakota" and such design as the commissioner may prescribe engraved thereon by which seal the commissioner may authenticate documents used in the administration of this chapter. The commissioner may employ such employees as are necessary for the administration of this chapter. In the absence or disability of the commissioner, the deputy or designee of the commissioner shall administer the provisions of this chapter as acting commissioner.

2. The commissioner shall have authority to administer oaths in, and to prescribe forms for, all matters arising under this chapter. The commissioner may from time to time make, amend, and rescind such rules, forms, and orders as are necessary under this chapter, including rules and forms governing registration statements, applications and reports, and defining any terms, whether or not used in this chapter, if the definitions are consistent with this chapter. The commissioner shall cooperate with the administrators of the securities laws of other states and of the United States with a view toward achieving maximum uniformity in the interpretation of like provisions of the laws administered by them and in the forms which are required to be filed under such law.
3. In addition to their regular compensation, the commissioner and the commissioner's employees shall be paid travel expenses necessary and actually incurred in the performance of their duties.
4. A special fund is established in the state treasury and designated as the investor education and technology fund. The commissioner may deposit the following moneys into the investor education and technology fund:
  - a. Payments for tuition or other costs associated with educational services or materials provided by the department.
  - b. Grants or donations for the purpose of investor education received by the commissioner from any public or private source.

- c. Civil penalties assessed by the commissioner under the Securities Act of 1951, if the commissioner finds that:
  - (1) The violations or alleged violations underlying the assessment of civil penalties involve repeat violations, involve numerous investors, or appear to have been perpetrated on a systematic basis; and
  - (2) The violations or alleged violations underlying the assessment of civil penalties could have been prevented or significantly curtailed had the individual investors involved in the matter been more knowledgeable about financial concepts in general, or about any specific laws, practices, or procedures relating to the securities industry.

The commissioner shall maintain and administer the investor education and technology fund. The moneys in the fund are appropriated to provide education services to the public relating to any of the financial services industries, including the securities industry, and to provide for the technology needs of the department, including the purchase or rental of equipment or software, servicing of the equipment or software, and training the commissioner's staff in the use of the equipment or software.

5. All fees, civil penalties, or other moneys collected under this chapter must be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury, except funds permitted to be deposited into the investor education and technology fund under subsection 4 or civil penalties collected from enforcement actions for the purpose of distribution to aggrieved investors, which may be deposited in the investor restitution fund. Funds in the investor restitution fund are appropriated to the securities commissioner on a continuing basis for distribution to aggrieved investors.
6. The commissioner may honor requests from interested persons for the issuance of a statement or opinion concerning the applicability of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter to any transaction or proposed transaction which may be subject to this chapter. Any such request must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of one hundred fifty dollars.

#### **10-04-04. Registration of securities.**

It is unlawful for any person to sell, or offer for sale, any security in this state unless it is registered under this chapter or the security or transaction is exempt under section 10-04-05 or 10-04-06 or it is a federal covered security.

#### **10-04-05. Exempt securities.**

Sections 10-04-04, 10-04-07.1, 10-04-08, and 10-04-08.4 do not apply to any of the following securities:

1. A security, including a revenue obligation or a separate security as defined in rule 131 adopted under the Securities Act of 1933, issued, insured, or guaranteed by the United States, by a state, by a political subdivision of a state, by a public authority, agency, or instrumentality of one or more states, by a political subdivision of one or more states, or by a person controlled or supervised by and acting as an instrumentality of the United States under authority granted by the Congress, or a certificate of deposit for any of the foregoing, except that this exemption does not include a municipal security with respect to the offer or sale in this state if the security is payable solely from revenues to be received from a nongovernmental industrial or commercial enterprise, unless such payments are made or unconditionally guaranteed by a person whose securities are exempt from registration or the issuer first files a notice in a record specifying the terms of the proposed offer or sale and pays a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred dollars.
2. Securities issued by and representing or that will represent an interest in or a direct obligation of, or be guaranteed by a banking institution organized under the laws of the United States, a member bank of the federal reserve system, or a depository institution a substantial portion of the business of which consists or will consist of receiving deposits or share accounts that are insured to the maximum amount authorized by

statute by the federal deposit insurance corporation, the national credit union share insurance fund, or a successor authorized by federal law or exercising fiduciary powers that are similar to those permitted for national banks under the authority of the comptroller of currency pursuant to section 1 of Public Law 87-722 or issued or guaranteed as to both principal and interest by an international bank of which the United States is a member.

3. Securities issued by a building and loan association subject to supervision by an agency of the state of North Dakota, or policy contracts, including variable annuity contracts, of an insurance company subject to supervision by an agency of the state of North Dakota.
4. Securities issued or guaranteed by a railroad, other common carrier, public utility, or public utility holding company that is regulated in respect to its rates and charges by the United States or a state, regulated in respect to the issuance or guarantee of the security by the United States, a state, Canada, or a Canadian province or territory, or a public utility holding company registered under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or a subsidiary of such a registered holding company within the meaning of that Act.
5. Any security issued by any person organized and operated not for private profit but exclusively for religious, educational, benevolent, fraternal, charitable, social, or reformatory purposes; provided that prior to any offer of such security each person must meet the following conditions:
  - a. Apply for and obtain the written approval of the commissioner.
  - b. File an application, offering disclosure document, and pay a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred fifty dollars, which document and fee must accompany the application.
  - c. File a notice identifying the basis of its qualification under this exemption with such additional information as the commissioner may require.
  - d. Provide a copy of the offering disclosure document to each person to whom an offer to sell or sale is made.

The approval is effective for a period of one year from the date of approval. At least thirty days prior to the expiration date, there must be filed an application, offering disclosure document, and a nonrefundable fee of one hundred dollars for the renewal of the filing for additional periods of one year.

6. Any note, draft, bill of exchange, or bankers' acceptance which arises out of a current transaction or the proceeds of which have been or are to be used for current transactions, is not the subject of a public offering, is prime quality negotiable commercial paper which has at the time of issuance a definite maturity of not exceeding nine months, is payable in cash only, and is not convertible into and does not carry an option or right to receive payment or any bonus in any other security.
7. Securities, other than common stock, providing for a fixed return, which have been outstanding and in the hands of the public for not less than five years and upon which no default has occurred during the five years next preceding the date of sale.
8. Securities, including patronage dividends or refunds, issued by any cooperative organized under the statutes of this state.
9. An equipment trust certificate with respect to equipment leased or conditionally sold to, a person, if any security issued by the person would be exempt under this section or would be a federal covered security under section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933.
10. Any bond, note, or other evidence of debt issued by a holding corporation or limited liability company and secured by collateral consisting of any of the securities described in subsections 4 and 9, if the collateral securities equal in fair value at least one hundred twenty-five percent of the par value of the bonds, notes, or other evidences of debts secured thereby.
11. The execution of orders for purchase of securities by a registered broker-dealer provided such broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser, has made no solicitation of the order to purchase such securities, has no direct material interest in the sale or

distribution of the securities ordered, receives no commission, profit, or other compensation other than the commissions involved in the purchase and sale of the securities and delivery to the purchaser of written confirmation of the order which clearly itemizes the commissions paid to the registered broker-dealer. Clear and complete records of all transactions exempted under this subsection shall be maintained by the registered broker-dealer.

12. Any security issued, insured, or guaranteed by a foreign government with which the United States currently maintains diplomatic relations, or any of its political subdivisions, if the security is recognized as a valid obligation by the issuer, insurer, or guarantor.
13.
  - a. A federal covered security specified in section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933 or by rule adopted under that provision or a security listed or approved for listing on:
    - (1) The New York stock exchange;
    - (2) The American stock exchange;
    - (3) The national association of securities dealers automated quotation national market system;
    - (4) Tier I of the Philadelphia stock exchange, incorporated;
    - (5) Tier I of the Pacific exchange, incorporated;
    - (6) Chicago board options exchange, incorporated; or
    - (7) Any other stock exchange or automated quotation system which the securities and exchange commission approves by rule.
  - b. A put or call option contract; a warrant; a subscription right on or with respect to such securities; or an option or similar derivative security on a security or an index of securities or foreign currencies issued by a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and listed or designated for trading on a national securities exchange, a facility of a national securities exchange, or a facility of a national securities association registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or an offer or sale, of the underlying security in connection with the offer, sale, or exercise of an option or other security that was exempt when the option or other security was written or issued; or an option or a derivative security designated by the securities and exchange commission under section 9(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
14. Securities issued by the North Dakota education association dues credit trust to members of the North Dakota education association.
15. A security of a foreign issuer that is a margin security defined in regulations or rules adopted by the board of governors of the federal reserve system.

#### **10-04-06. Exempt transactions.**

Except as hereinafter in this section expressly provided, sections 10-04-04, 10-04-07.1, 10-04-08, 10-04-08.4, and 10-04-10 do not apply to any of the following transactions:

1. A transaction by an executor, administrator of an estate, sheriff, marshal, receiver, guardian, conservator, or trustee in bankruptcy.
2. The sale, in good faith and not for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of this chapter, by a pledgee of securities pledged for a bona fide debt.
3. An isolated sale of any security made by or on behalf of a bona fide owner for the owner's account, such owner not being an issuer, underwriter, broker-dealer, or agent and such sale not being made in the course of repeated and successive transactions of a like character. This subsection shall not exempt any broker-dealer or agent participating in an isolated sale from registering in accordance with section 10-04-10.
4. A transaction by an issuer for:
  - a. Securities dividends or other distributions by a corporation, cooperative, limited partnership, limited liability limited partnership, or limited liability company out of its earnings or surplus; or



- b. The sale or distribution of additional capital stock of a corporation or cooperative, interest of a partnership, or membership interest of a limited liability company to or among its own stockholders, partners, or members.
- 5. A sale or offer to sell to:
  - a. An institutional investor;
  - b. A federal covered investment adviser; or
  - c. Any other person exempted by rule adopted or order issued by the commissioner.
- 6. Any transaction incident to a vote by stockholders, partners, or members pursuant to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, partnership agreement, articles of organization, member-control agreement, or the applicable corporation, partnership, or limited liability company statute on a merger, consolidation, exchange of securities, or sale of corporate, partnership, or limited liability company assets in consideration of the issuance of securities of another corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, other reorganization to which the issuer, or its parent or subsidiary and the other person or its parent or subsidiary, are parties, or any transaction incident to a judicially approved reorganization in which a security is issued in exchange for one or more outstanding securities, claims, or property interests, or partly in such exchange and partly for cash, or the solicitation of tenders of securities by an offeror in a tender offer in compliance with rule 162 adopted under the Securities Act of 1933.
- 7. A transaction under an offer to existing securityholders of the issuer, including persons that at the date of the transaction are holders of convertible securities, options, or warrants, if a commission or other remuneration, other than a standby commission, is not paid or given, directly or indirectly, for soliciting a securityholder in this state.
- 8. A nonissuer transaction by or through a broker-dealer and agent, both of which are registered or exempt from registration under this chapter, or a resale transaction by a sponsor of a unit investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in a security of a class that has been outstanding in the hands of the public for at least ninety days, if, at the date of the transaction:
  - a. The issuer of the security is engaged in business, the issuer is not in the organizational stage or in bankruptcy or receivership, and the issuer is not a blank check, blind pool, or shell company that has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that its primary business plan is to engage in a merger or combination of the business with, or an acquisition of, an unidentified person;
  - b. Such securities are sold at prices reasonably related to the current market price;
  - c. Such securities do not constitute the whole or part of an unsold allotment to, or subscription or participation by, the broker-dealer as an underwriter of the security or a redistribution;
  - d. Such securities are listed in Standard and Poor's, Mergent's Industrial Manual, Mergent's Bank and Finance Manual, Mergent's Transportation Manual, Mergent's Public Utility Manual, or Fitch investor service, incorporated, or are filed under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [ch. 404, title I, sec. 1; 48 Stat. 881; 15 U.S.C. 78 et seq.];
  - e. Such securities are limited to issuers organized under the laws of any state, territory, or insular possession of the United States; and
  - f. Any one of the following requirements is met:
    - (1) The issuer of the security has a class of equity securities listed on a national securities exchange registered under section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or designated for trading on the national association of securities dealers automated quotation system;
    - (2) The issuer of the security is a unit investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940;
    - (3) The issuer of the security, including its predecessors, has been engaged in continuous business for at least three years; or
    - (4) The issuer of the security has total assets of at least two million dollars based on an audited balance sheet as of a date within eighteen months before the date of the transaction or, in the case of a reorganization or

merger when the parties to the reorganization or merger each had the audited balance sheet, a pro forma balance sheet for the combined organization.

9. a. Any transaction pursuant to an offer directed by the offeror to not more than thirty-five persons, other than those designated in subsection 5, in this state during any period of twelve consecutive months, whether or not the offeror or any of the offerees is then present in this state, if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The seller reasonably believes that all the buyers in this state, other than those designated in subsection 5, are purchasing for investment.
- (2) Except for offers or sales with respect to persons designated in subsection 5, no security may be offered or sold under this subdivision except through or by a broker-dealer and agent registered in accordance with section 10-04-10, unless it is offered and sold through an officer, director, governor, or partner of the issuer and no commission or other remuneration is paid, either directly or indirectly.
- (3) The offeror applies for and obtains the written approval of the commissioner prior to making any offers in this state and pays a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred fifty dollars, which fee must accompany the application for approval.

The commissioner may, as to any security or transaction or any type of security or transaction, withdraw or further condition this exemption, or increase or decrease the number of offerees permitted, or waive the condition in paragraph 1.

- b. Any offer or sale in this state of common stock, preferred stock, limited liability company membership interests, or limited partnership interests of an issuer during any period of twelve consecutive months if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The issuer reasonably believes that all the buyers in this state, other than those designated in subsection 5, are purchasing for investment.
- (2) Except with respect to offers and sales made to persons designated in subsection 5, no security may be sold under this subdivision except through or by a broker-dealer and agent registered in accordance with section 10-04-10, unless it is offered and sold through an officer, director, governor, or partner of the issuer and no commission or other remuneration is paid, either directly or indirectly.
- (3) The issuer is both organized under the laws of this state and has its principal place of business in this state.
- (4) No public advertising matter or general solicitation, except tombstone advertisements approved by the commissioner, is used in connection with any offers or sales.
- (5) An offering disclosure document in the form approved by the commissioner must be delivered to each offeree prior to the sale of the security.
- (6) The gross proceeds of the offering may not exceed five million dollars.
- (7) The issuer must apply for and obtain the written approval of the commissioner prior to making any offer or sale in this state by filing an application prescribed by the commissioner, a copy of the offering disclosure document, and any other information or documents the commissioner may require, together with a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred fifty dollars.
- (8) All funds raised in the offering are placed in an escrow account until the total offering amount has been sold.

The commissioner may withdraw or further condition this exemption or waive the conditions in paragraphs 5 and 6.

- c. The issuer must file a report of all offers and sales made in this state pursuant to subdivision a or b on a form prescribed by the commissioner within thirty days after the completion of the offering or expiration of the twelve-month approval period, whichever occurs first.

- d. The exemptions provided under subdivisions a and b may not be combined.
  - e. An exemption under this subsection is not available for the securities of any issuer if the issuer or any promoter, officer, director, manager, partner, or underwriter of the issuer:
    - (1) Has filed a registration statement that is the subject of a currently effective registration stop order entered pursuant to any federal or state securities law within five years prior to the filing of the application required under this exemption.
    - (2) Has been convicted within five years prior to the filing of the application required under this exemption of any felony or misdemeanor in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security or any felony involving fraud or deceit, including forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, larceny, or conspiracy to defraud.
    - (3) Is currently subject to any state administrative enforcement order or judgment entered by any state securities administrator or the securities and exchange commission within five years prior to the filing of the application required under this exemption or is subject to any federal or state administrative enforcement order or judgment in which fraud or deceit, including making untrue statements of material facts, was found and the order of judgment was entered within five years prior to the filing of the application required under this exemption.
    - (4) Is subject to any federal or state administrative enforcement order or judgment which prohibits, denies, or revokes the use of any exemption from registration in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of securities.
    - (5) Is currently subject to any order, judgment, or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction temporarily or preliminarily restraining or enjoining, or is subject to any order, judgment, or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, permanently restraining or enjoining, such part from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice in connection with the purchase or sale of a security or involving the making of any false filing with any state or with the securities and exchange commission entered within five years prior to the filing of the application required under this exemption.
    - (6) Has been or is the subject of any order issued by the United States postal service that was entered within five years prior to reliance on this exemption and alleged any fraudulent or unlawful conduct.
  - f. Subdivision e does not apply if the commissioner determines, upon a showing of good cause, that it is not necessary under the circumstances that the exemption should not be denied.
10. The sale of capital stock of a corporation or membership interests of a limited liability company if the corporation or limited liability company is organized under the statutes of this state or the sale of memberships, including dues, in a nonprofit corporation incorporated in North Dakota if the corporation or limited liability company is organized and operated for the primary purpose of promoting community development.
  11. Any security issued in connection with an employees' stock purchase, savings, option, profit-sharing, pension, or similar employees' benefit plan, including any securities, plan interests, and guarantees issued under a compensatory benefit plan or compensation contract, contained in a record, established by the issuer, its parents, its majority-owned subsidiaries, or the majority-owned subsidiaries of the issuer's parent for the participation of their employees, including offers or sales of such securities to:
    - a. Directors; general partners; trustees, if the issuer is a business trust; officers; consultants; and advisers;
    - b. Family members who acquire such securities from those persons through gifts or domestic relations orders;
    - c. Former employees, directors, general partners, trustees, officers, consultants, and advisers if those individuals were employed by or providing services to the issuer when the securities were offered; and

- d. Insurance agents who are exclusive insurance agents of the issuer, or the issuer's subsidiaries or parents, or who derive more than fifty percent of their annual income from those organizations.
12. The sale of a security issued by the United States, or the state of North Dakota, or any political subdivision or instrumentality of the state of North Dakota; provided, that the offer for sale and sale are made by an official or employee of the issuer or of the Bank of North Dakota acting in an official capacity and not for personal pecuniary profit, or by a bank or similar financial association or institution or an official or employee thereof solely as an accommodation to customers of such association or institution and without asking or receiving a commission or remuneration other than an accommodation fee not to exceed one hundred dollars in connection with the transaction.
  13. Any offer or sale of shares of capital stock issued by a professional corporation, professional limited liability company, or professional limited liability partnership which is organized and operated pursuant to chapter 10-31.
  14. The offer or sale of a security issued by the North Dakota education association dues credit trust to members of the North Dakota education association.
  15. a. An offer, but not a sale, of a security made by or on behalf of an issuer for the sole purpose of soliciting an indication of interest in receiving a prospectus or similar disclosure document for the security if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
    - (1) The issuer is or will be a business entity organized under the laws of one of the states or possessions of the United States or one of the provinces or territories of Canada; is engaged in or proposes to engage in a business other than petroleum exploration or production, mining, or other extractive industries; and is not a blind pool offering or other offering for which the specific business or properties cannot now be described.
    - (2) The issuer may solicit indications of interest in a project or business only within a period of twelve months after receiving approval from the commissioner and does not pay a commission or fee to any person for soliciting a potential investor or prospective purchaser in this state unless the person who receives the commission or fee is registered as a broker-dealer or agent in this state.
    - (3) The issuer intends to register securities in this state, rely upon subsection 8 of section 10-04-05 for the issuance of a security, or receive approval for an exemption under subsection 5 of section 10-04-05 or subsection 9 of this section.
    - (4) The issuer files a solicitation of interest form and copies of any advertising or marketing materials, including scripts for use in telephone, television, electronic, or computer publications, for approval by the commissioner at least ten business days before the issuer begins soliciting indications of interest from potential purchasers and at least ten business days before publishing or distributing any materials or information to any person.
    - (5) The issuer obtains approval of the commissioner for any amendments or changes in filed forms, marketing materials, or advertisements at least ten business days before distributing the amended marketing materials or amended advertising information to any person.
    - (6) The issuer does not use any solicitation of interest form, script, advertisement, or other material which the issuer has been notified by the commissioner not to distribute, to solicit indications of interest.
    - (7) Except for scripted broadcasts and published notices, the issuer does not communicate with any offeree about the contemplated offering unless the offeree is provided with the most current solicitation of interest form at or before the time of the communication or within five days from the communication.

- (8) The issuer stops all communications with prospective investors made in reliance on this exemption immediately after filing an application to register or qualify the securities with the commissioner or with the securities and exchange commission.
- (9) The issuer does not accept money or sign completed contracts for sales of securities with any person while soliciting indications of interest and does not complete any sales of securities until at least ten business days after completing a securities registration or approval to offer and sell securities in this state.
- (10) The issuer does not make a sale until three days after delivery to the purchaser of a prospectus or similar disclosure document.
- (11) The issuer does not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not know, that the issuer or any officer, director, manager, ten percent shareholder, promoter, partner, or agent of the issuer:
  - (a) Has been the subject of or filed a registration statement that is the subject of a stop order, administrative enforcement order, judgment, injunction, or restraining order issued by any federal or state securities agency, any court of competent jurisdiction, or the United States postal service and which prohibits, denies, or revokes the registration or use of any exemption from registration in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of a security, franchise, commodity, or other financial transaction or which involves fraud, deceit, misstatements of material facts, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, larceny, conspiracy to defraud, or similar deceptive acts within five years prior to the filing of the solicitation of interest form; or
  - (b) Has been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving the offer, purchase, or sale of a security, franchise, commodity, or financial transaction, or any felony or misdemeanor involving fraud, deceit, forgery, embezzlement, conspiracy to defraud, or a similar financial crime.

The prohibitions listed above shall not apply if the person subject to the disqualification is duly licensed or registered to conduct securities-related business in the state in which the administrative order or judgment was entered against such person or if the broker-dealer employing such party is licensed or registered in this state and the form B-D filed with this state discloses the order, conviction, judgment, or decree relating to such person. A person disqualified under this subsection may not act in a capacity other than that for which the person is licensed or registered. Any disqualification caused by this section is automatically waived if the agency, which created the basis for disqualification, determines upon a showing of good cause that it is not necessary under the circumstances that the exemption be denied.

- b. The issuer shall comply with the requirements set forth below. Failure to comply will not result in the loss of the exemption from the requirements of section 10-04-04, but is a violation of this chapter, is actionable by the commissioner under section 10-04-16, and constitutes grounds for denying or revoking the exemption as to a specific security or transaction.
  - (1) Any published notice must contain at least the identity of the chief executive officer of the issuer, a brief and general description of its business and products, and the following legends:
    - (a) NO MONEY OR OTHER CONSIDERATION IS BEING SOLICITED AND NONE WILL BE ACCEPTED;
    - (b) NO SALES OF THE SECURITIES WILL BE MADE OR COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE ACCEPTED UNTIL DELIVERY OF A PROSPECTUS OR SIMILAR DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT THAT INCLUDES COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISSUER AND THE OFFERING;

- (c) AN INDICATION OF INTEREST MADE BY A PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR INVOLVES NO OBLIGATION OR COMMITMENT OF ANY KIND; and
    - (d) THIS OFFER IS BEING MADE PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE FEDERAL AND STATE SECURITIES LAWS. NO SALE MAY BE MADE UNTIL THE OFFERING STATEMENT IS QUALIFIED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION AND IS REGISTERED OR APPROVED IN THIS STATE.
  - (2) Any script for broadcast must contain at least the identity of the chief executive of the issuer, a brief description of its business and products, its address and telephone number, and the following legends:
    - (a) THIS IS FOR AN INDICATION OF INTEREST ONLY AND INVOLVES NO OBLIGATION OR COMMITMENT OF ANY KIND UPON A PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR;
    - (b) NO MONEY OR OTHER CONSIDERATION IS BEING SOLICITED; and
    - (c) THIS OFFER IS MADE PURSUANT TO AN EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE SECURITIES LAWS.
  - c. Offers made on reliance of this exemption will not result in a violation of section 10-04-04 by virtue of being integrated with subsequent offers or sales of securities unless such subsequent offers and sales would be integrated under federal securities laws.
- 16. An offer or sale of common stock, limited liability company membership interests, or limited partnership interests by a person to a person or other subscribers, not exceeding ten in number, for the sole purpose of organization in this state, if the securities are not acquired for the purpose of resale to others for a period of twelve months, advertising has not been published or circulated in connection with the offer or sale, and all sales are consummated within ten days after the date of organization.
- 17. Any offer or sale of a security by an issuer in a transaction provided all of the following conditions are met:
  - a. Sales of securities may be made only to persons who are, or the issuer reasonably believes are, accredited investors as defined in 17 CFR 230.501(a) promulgated by the securities and exchange commission.
  - b. The exemption is not available to an issuer that is in the development stage that either has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that its business plan is to engage in a merger or acquisition with an unidentified company or companies, or other entity or person.
  - c. The issuer reasonably believes that all purchasers are purchasing for investment and not with the view to, or for, sale in connection with a distribution of the security. Any resale of a security sold in reliance of this exemption within twelve months of sale must be presumed to be with a view to distribution and not for investment, except a resale pursuant to a registration statement effective under section 10-04-04 or to an accredited investor pursuant to an exemption available under subsection 5.
  - d. (1) The exemption is not available to an issuer if the issuer, any of the issuer's predecessors, any affiliated issuer, any of the issuer's directors, officers, general partners, beneficial owners of ten percent or more of any class of its equity securities, any of the issuer's promoters presently connected with the issuer in any capacity, any underwriter of the securities to be offered, or any partner, director, or officer of such underwriter:
    - (a) Within the last five years, has filed a registration statement that is the subject of a currently effective registration stop order entered by any state securities administrator or the securities and exchange commission;

- (b) Within the last five years, has been convicted of any criminal offense in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of any security, or involving fraud or deceit;
  - (c) Is currently subject to any state or federal administrative enforcement order or judgment, entered within the last five years, finding fraud or deceit in connection with the purchase or sale of any security; or
  - (d) Is currently subject to any order, judgment, or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, entered within the last five years, temporarily, preliminarily, or permanently restraining or enjoining such party from engaging in or continuing to engage in any conduct or practice involving fraud or deceit in connection with the purchase or sale of any security.
- (2) Paragraph 1 does not apply if:
  - (a) The party subject to the disqualification is licensed or registered to conduct securities-related business in the state in which the order, judgment, or decree creating the disqualification was entered against such party;
  - (b) Before the first offer under this exemption, the state securities administrator, or the court or regulatory authority that entered the order, judgment, or decree, waives the disqualification; or
  - (c) The issuer establishes that it did not know and in the exercise of reasonable care, based on a factual inquiry, could not have known that a disqualification existed under this subdivision.
- e. (1) A general announcement of the proposed offering may be made by any means.
- (2) The general announcement must include only the following information, unless additional information is specifically permitted by the commissioner:
  - (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the issuer of the securities;
  - (b) The name, a brief description, and price, if known, of any security to be issued;
  - (c) A brief description of the business of the issuer in twenty-five words or less;
  - (d) The type, number, and aggregate amount of securities being offered;
  - (e) The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for additional information; and
  - (f) A statement that:
    - [1] Sales will only be made to accredited investors;
    - [2] No money or other consideration is being solicited or will be accepted by way of this general announcement; and
    - [3] The securities have not been registered with or approved by any state securities agency or the securities and exchange commission and are being offered and sold pursuant to an exemption from registration.
- f. The issuer, in connection with an offer, may provide information in addition to the general announcement under subdivision e, if such information:
  - (1) Is delivered through an electronic database that is restricted to persons who have been prequalified as accredited investors; or
  - (2) Is delivered after the issuer reasonably believes that the prospective purchaser is an accredited investor.
- g. Telephone solicitation is not permitted unless prior to placing the call, the issuer reasonably believes that the prospective purchaser to be solicited is an accredited investor.
- h. Dissemination of the general announcement of the proposed offering to persons who are not accredited investors does not disqualify the issuer from claiming the exemption.

- i. The issuer shall file with the department a notice of transaction, a consent to service of process, a copy of the general announcement, and a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred dollars within fifteen days after the first sale in this state.
  - j. The security offered or sold under this subsection is offered or sold by a broker-dealer and agent registered in accordance with section 10-04-10, or offered and sold through an officer, director, governor, or partner of the issuer and no commission or other remuneration is paid.
- 18. The offer or sale of a security issued by an organization organized under and operated in compliance with chapter 10-06.1.
- 19. Any offer or sale of an agricultural-related cooperative security by or on behalf of an agricultural producer, as defined by section 32-44-01, to a person for the purpose of producing and selling agricultural products, as defined by section 32-44-01, to the cooperative. Commissions or other remuneration may not be paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any prospective buyer in this state, except to a broker-dealer or agent registered in this state, to an agent of a bank or a commercial trust department, to a licensed real estate agent, or to a licensed auctioneer if the sale is made at a bona fide public auction.
- 20. A transaction in a note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of indebtedness secured by a mortgage or other security agreement if:
  - a. The note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of indebtedness is offered and sold with the mortgage or other security agreement as a unit;
  - b. A general solicitation or general advertisement of the transaction is not made; and
  - c. A commission or other remuneration is not paid or given, directly or indirectly, to a person not registered under this chapter as a broker-dealer or as an agent.
- 21. A nonissuer transaction by a federal covered investment adviser with investments under management in excess of one hundred million dollars acting in the exercise of discretionary authority in a signed record for the account of others.

#### **10-04-06.1. Suspension and revocation of exemptions.**

The commissioner may by order or regulation suspend or revoke any exemption under section 10-04-05 or 10-04-06 with respect to any specific security or transaction or may require with respect to any specific security or transaction, prior to the making of any offers or sales, such information with respect thereto or the security to be offered or sold thereunder or such reports after the making of such sales, as the commissioner may deem necessary to enable the commissioner to determine whether or not to suspend or revoke the exemption. No such order may be entered without appropriate prior notice to all interested parties, opportunity for hearing, and written findings of fact and conclusions of law, except that the commissioner may by order summarily suspend any of the specified exemptions pending final determination of any proceeding under this section. Upon the entry of a summary order, the commissioner shall promptly notify all interested parties that it has been entered and the reasons therefor and that within fifteen days of the receipt of a written request the matter will be set down for hearing. If no hearing is requested and none is ordered by the commissioner, the order will remain in effect until it is modified or vacated by the commissioner. If a hearing is requested or ordered, the commissioner, after notice of and opportunity for a hearing to all interested parties, may modify or vacate the order or extend it until final determination.

#### **10-04-07. Registration by description.**

Repealed by S.L. 2005, ch. 97, § 22.

#### **10-04-07.1. Registration by announcement - Secondary.**

- 1. Securities that have been outstanding and in the hands of the public for not less than one year as the result of prior original registration in North Dakota or through securities and exchange commission registration, by the issuer, or by the underwriter on behalf of an issuer, are entitled to registration by announcement in the manner and subject to the conditions provided by this section.



In addition to the foregoing, stock, having equal voting rights with other classes, of life insurance companies may also qualify for registration under this section provided the company has been in continuous operation for twenty years immediately preceding the date of filing for registration and provided further that in addition to supplying the information required by subdivisions a through c of subsection 2 the applicant can supply all of the following:

- a. A balance sheet and an earnings statement showing statutory net earnings after all dividends (returned premiums) to policyholders and after all expenses including state and federal income taxes for the fiscal period ended not more than twelve months prior to the filing date upon which either an unqualified or a qualified opinion has been expressed by a certified public accountant; provided, however, that any qualification of opinion relates only to generally accepted principles of accounting which may have been modified to meet the reporting requirements of the various state insurance departments.
  - b. Such balance sheet separates the surplus account into its component parts and shows a positive balance in the accumulated unrestricted retained earnings account, on statutory basis.
  - c. Earnings statements for the four fiscal years immediately preceding the beginning date of the earnings statement required in subdivision a prepared by the same certified public accountant showing statutory net earnings after the deductions enumerated in subdivision a for each fiscal year; provided, however, that these statements need not be accompanied by an unqualified or a qualified opinion of the certified public accountant unless such certified public accountant did actually perform an audit of the company for any year or years covered by the earnings statements in which case the requirements of subdivision a apply for the year or years so audited.
  - d. A statement prepared by a certified public accountant or actuary showing a net gain in insurance in force for each of the last five fiscal years.
2. Securities entitled to registration by announcement may be registered only by a broker-dealer registered with the department as provided for in section 10-04-10 by filing with the department a written announcement of intention to trade in the securities containing the following:
- a. Name of issuer and location of the headquarters or principal office.
  - b. A brief description of the security, including price and current earnings.
  - c. A statement that the securities have been outstanding and in the hands of the public not less than one year as aforesaid.
  - d. A balance sheet not more than twelve months old.
  - e. A statement that the security has been registered in North Dakota or by the securities and exchange commission.
3. The filing of such announcement with the department constitutes the registration of the security, unless advised to the contrary within forty-eight hours or advised to furnish additional information, and such broker-dealer shall pay to the commissioner a filing fee of twenty-five dollars. Upon registration, such securities may be sold in this state for a period of one year from date of registration by registered broker-dealers at a price or prices reasonably related to the current market price of such security at the time of sale, subject, however, to any and all rights and authority granted the commissioner and to any person or purchaser under chapter 10-04, in respect of securities registered by the commissioner by description or qualification. No security registered under this section shall be sold directly or indirectly for the benefit of the issuer, or an underwriter of such securities, or for the promotion of any scheme or enterprise with the intent of violating or evading any provision of this chapter; provided, that no security, the registration of which has been revoked by the commissioner, or application for registration of which has been denied by the commissioner, or withdrawn by the applicant, shall be registered under this section.
4. Securities registered pursuant to section 10-04-07 or 10-04-08 become eligible for trading in the secondary market at current market prices upon completion of the

original offering when said securities are outstanding and in the hands of the public and remain so until the end of the registration year when renewal for secondary is permissible. Notification of completion of initial offering should be sent to the commissioner when the offering is completed requesting change to secondary.

**10-04-08. Registration by qualification.**

Securities required to be registered by qualification under this chapter before they may be sold in this state must be registered as provided in this section. Application for registration of securities by qualification must be made by the issuer of the securities or by a registered broker-dealer by filing with the department:

1. An application for registration, which must be made in writing or on forms prescribed by the commissioner, must contain the following information and be accompanied by the following documents:
  - a. With respect to the applicant or issuer and any significant subsidiary:
    - (1) Its name, address, and form of organization;
    - (2) The state of foreign jurisdiction and date of its organization;
    - (3) The general character and location of its business;
    - (4) A general description of its physical properties and equipment; and
    - (5) A statement of the general competitive conditions in the industry or business in which it is or will be engaged.
  - b. With respect to every director and officer of the issuer, or person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions:
    - (1) The person's name, address, and principal occupation for the past five years;
    - (2) The amount of securities of the issuer held by the person as of a specified date within thirty days of the filing of the application for registration;
    - (3) The amount of the securities covered by the application for registration to which the person has indicated an intention to subscribe; and
    - (4) A description of any material interest in any transaction with the issuer or any subsidiary effected within the past three years or proposed to be effected.
  - c. With respect to persons covered by subdivision b, the remuneration paid during the past twelve months and estimated to be paid during the next twelve months, directly or indirectly, by the issuer to all those persons in the aggregate.
  - d. With respect to any person owning of record, or beneficially if known, ten percent or more of the outstanding shares of any class of equity security of the issuer, the information specified in subdivision b other than the person's occupation.
  - e. With respect to every promoter if the issuer was organized within the past three years, the information specified in subdivision b, any amount paid to the promoter within that period or intended to be paid to the promoter, and the consideration for any such payment.
  - f. With respect to any person on whose behalf any part of the offering is to be made in a nonissuer distribution:
    - (1) The person's name and address;
    - (2) The amount of securities of the issuer held by the person as of the date of the filing of the application for registration;
    - (3) A description of any material interest in any transaction with the issuer or any subsidiary effected within the past three years or proposed to be effected; and
    - (4) A statement of the person's reasons for making the offering.
  - g. The title, kind, classes, and amount of securities to be offered in this state; the proposed offering price to the public or the method by which it is to be computed; any variation therefrom at which any proportion of the offering is to be made to any person or class of persons other than the underwriters, with a specification of any such person or class; the basis upon which the offering is to be made if otherwise than for cash; the maximum amount of commission or other form of

remuneration to be paid in cash or otherwise, directly or indirectly, for or in connection with the sale or offering for sale of such securities; the estimated aggregate underwriting and selling discounts or commissions and finders' fees, including separately cash, securities, contracts, or anything else of value to accrue to the underwriters or finders in connection with the offering, or, if the selling discounts or commissions are variable, the basis of determining them and their maximum and minimum amounts; the estimated amounts of other selling expenses, including legal, engineering, and accounting charges and a statement as to what person, corporation, or limited liability company shall be responsible for payment of the same; the name and address of every underwriter and every recipient of a finder's fee; a copy of any underwriting or selling-group agreement pursuant to which the distribution is to be made, or the proposed form of any such agreement whose terms have not yet been determined; and a description of the plan of distribution of any securities which are to be offered otherwise than through an underwriter.

- h. The estimated cash proceeds to be received by the issuer from the offering; the purposes for which the proceeds are to be used by the issuer; the amount to be used for each purpose; the amounts of any funds to be raised from other sources to achieve the purposes stated; the sources of any such funds; and, if any part of the proceeds is to be used to acquire any property, including goodwill, otherwise than in the ordinary course of business, the names and addresses of the vendors, the purchase price, the names of any persons who have received commissions in connection with the acquisition, and the amounts of any such commissions and any other expense in connection with the acquisition.
- i. A description of each and every stock option or other security option outstanding, or to be created in connection with the offering, including the price at which such options may be exercised together with the amount of any such options held or to be held by every person.
- j. The capitalization and long-term debt of the issuer and any subsidiary, including a description of each security outstanding or being registered or otherwise offered, and a statement of the amount and kind of consideration for which the issuer or any subsidiary has issued any of its securities within the past two years or is obligated to issue any of its securities.
- k. The dates of, parties to, and general effect concisely stated of, every management or other material contract made or to be made otherwise than in the ordinary course of business if it is to be performed in whole or in part at or after the filing of the application for registration or was made within the past two years, together with a copy of every such contract; and a description of any pending litigation or proceeding to which the issuer is a party and which affects its business or assets.
- l. A detailed statement showing the items of cash, property, services, patents, goodwill, and any other consideration for which any securities of the issuer have been within two years or are to be issued in payment.
- m. A copy of any prospectus, pamphlet, circular, form letter, advertisement, or other sales literature intended as of the effective date to be used in connection with the offering.
- n. A specimen or copy of the security being registered; a copy of the issuer's articles of incorporation and bylaws, as currently in effect; and a copy of any indenture or other instrument covering the security to be registered.
- o. A balance sheet of the issuer as of a date within four months prior to the filing of the application for registration; a profit and loss statement and analysis of surplus for each of the three fiscal years preceding the date of the balance sheet and for any period between the close of the last fiscal year and the date of the balance sheet, or for the period of the issuer's and any predecessor's existence if less than three years; and, if any part of the proceeds of the offering is to be applied to

- the purchase of any business, the same financial statements which would be required if the business were the registrant.
- p. Other states in which it is proposed to offer the securities for sale to the public; other states in which the securities are eligible for sale to the public; states which have refused, by order or otherwise, to render the securities eligible for sale to the public or have revoked or suspended the right to sell the securities, or in which an application for registration has been withdrawn; and, if application has been made to register the securities under the federal Securities Act of 1933, the date upon which the application to register the securities was first filed, and a statement as to whether registration under that Act is effective, and if so, the effective date.
  - q. Such additional information as the commissioner requires by rule or order or may subsequently request.
- 2. Payment of a filing fee for each security or class of security to be registered as follows:
    - a. For an initial filing, one-tenth of one percent of the aggregate amount of each security or class of security to be registered but not more than two thousand five hundred dollars.
    - b. In no event may an initial filing fee be less than one hundred fifty dollars for each security or class of security to be registered.
    - c. An applicant may increase the aggregate amount of each security or class of security to be registered by filing a notice of the additional aggregate dollar amount to be registered and payment of a filing fee of one-tenth of one percent of the additional aggregate dollar amount but not more than five hundred dollars.
    - d. No application shall be deemed to be filed or pending and no securities covered by such application shall be deemed to be registered unless a filing fee has been paid. The filing fee shall be retained even if the filing is withdrawn, denied, suspended, revoked, or abandoned.
    - e. For the renewal of the registration of securities for additional periods of one year, there must be paid a renewal fee of one hundred fifty dollars.
  - 3. If the applicant is not domiciled in this state and is not a corporation or limited liability company organized or authorized to transact business under the laws of this state, a consent to service of process conforming to the requirements of section 10-04-14.
  - 4. The commissioner may by rule or order require as a part of the application for registration under this section that a prospectus containing any designated part of the information specified in subsection 1 be submitted to the commissioner and the same prospectus must be sent or given to each person to whom a sale or an offer to sell is made. The commissioner may by rule or otherwise permit the omission of any item of information or document from any application for registration. In all cases in which an application is filed to register securities and a registration statement covering the same securities has been filed with the federal securities and exchange commission, a copy of the registration statement so filed must be accepted by the commissioner in lieu of the information specified in subdivisions a through q of subsection 1, except that it must be accompanied by a statement of the amount of such securities to be offered in this state. All of the statements, exhibits, or documents of every kind required under this section must be certified by the applicant or the issuer or any person having knowledge of the facts. An applicant may, with the consent of the commissioner, amend or withdraw an application and any or all statements, exhibits, or documents filed therewith under this section at any time prior to the registration or prior to any offering and sale of the securities sought to be registered or the entry of an order denying the registration of such securities, but in no event may the fee be returned.

Registration under this section is effective for a period of one year.

#### **10-04-08.1. Authority of commissioner.**

The right to sell securities in this state shall not be granted in any case when it appears to the commissioner that the sale of such securities would work a fraud or deception on purchasers or the public, or that the proposed disposal of the securities is on unfair terms, or if

the proposed plan of business of the applicant appears to be unfair, unjust, or inequitable. When the commissioner deems it necessary the commissioner has power, in connection with pending applications and at the expense of the applicant, to require the applicant to furnish additional information, to order appraisals, audits, or other examinations and reports, and, when the applicant is the issuer of the securities, or the proposed sale is to be on behalf of the issuer, to make an investigation of the books, records, property, business, and affairs of such issuer.

Upon compliance with all the provisions of this chapter relating to applications for approval or registration by qualification and the requirements of the commissioner, the commissioner shall either approve or register such securities or if the commissioner is of the opinion that sale of the securities would be contrary to the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall deny the application. The commissioner has power to place such conditions, limitations, and restrictions on any approval or registration as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Registration or approval must be by entry in the register of securities, which entry must show the securities approved or registered and for whom approved or registered, and the conditions, limitations, and restrictions, if any, or shall make proper reference to a formal order of the commissioner on file showing such conditions, limitations, and restrictions. Included among any other reasonable conditions, limitations, and restrictions which the commissioner may deem necessary are the following:

1. The commissioner may by rule, order, or directive require that any security issued or to be issued to a promoter for a consideration different from the public offering price, or to any person for a consideration other than cash, be deposited in escrow with the commissioner or some other depository satisfactory to the commissioner under an escrow agreement that the owners of such securities shall not be entitled to sell or transfer such securities or to withdraw such securities from escrow until all other stockholders who have paid for their stock in cash shall have been paid a dividend or dividends aggregating not less than six percent of the initial offering price shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner to have been held actually earned on the investment in any common stock as held. In case of dissolution or insolvency during the time such securities are held in escrow, the owners of such securities shall not participate in the assets until after the owners of all other securities have been paid in full.
2. The commissioner may by rule, order, or directive require that all the proceeds from the sale of the approved or registered security be impounded until the issuer receives a specified amount of funds, which amount shall be determined by the commissioner.
3. The commissioner may refuse to allow the granting of any stock options to any person, but if such an option is allowed, the commissioner may prescribe that the price at which the option can be exercised shall be increased each year in which it is not exercised in an amount to be determined by the commissioner and that the option shall lapse altogether after a specified period to be set by the commissioner.
4. If any stock is given for past services or consideration, the commissioner may require that the issuer submit to the commissioner a strict and comprehensive evaluation of such past services or consideration and may limit the amount of stock so given in order that it is commensurate with the value of the past services and in no case shall the commissioner allow stock to be given for future services.
5. The commissioner may limit the price at which the securities, either of par or no par value, may be sold, and if such securities are quoted by a recognized quotation list, such price shall be limited to an amount not unreasonably in excess of the amount quoted.
6. The commissioner may by rule, order, or directive limit compensation, and all other expenses paid or incurred, directly or indirectly, in connection with the organization, approval, registration, or sale of securities, to an amount not in excess of compensation paid or expenses incurred in connection with the organization, approval, registration, or sale of similar securities.
7. If more than one class of stock is issued and one class of stock is issued for the purpose of giving preference as to dividends, the commissioner may require that a greater consideration, commensurate with the value of the dividend preference, be paid per share for such stock.

8. The commissioner may by rule, order, or directive require that any security approved or registered be sold only on a specified form of subscription or sale contract, and that a signed or conformed copy of each contract be filed with the commissioner or preserved by the corporation, partnership, or limited liability company for any period up to three years specified in the rule, order, or directive.
9. So long as the approval or registration is effective, the commissioner may by rule or order require the person who filed for approval or registration to file reports, not more often than quarterly, to provide reasonably current information upon the matters contained in the application or registration statement, and to disclose the progress of the offering.
10. The commissioner has the authority to disapprove an application for approval or registration of any security when it is established that one or more of the promoters are not of good business reputation or character.

The provisions of this section do not apply to a federal covered security.

#### **10-04-08.2. Advertising matter - Regulations.**

1. No circular, prospectus, advertisement, form or market letter, report, document, pamphlet, leaflet, script, or other written or printed matter, or any communication by radio, television, or similar communications media, hereinafter referred to as advertising matter, used in connection with the offer, sale, or rendering investment advice with respect to any security in this state shall be published, circulated, distributed, broadcast, or caused to be published, circulated, distributed, or broadcast in any manner unless and until such advertising matter shall have been filed with the commissioner at least five business days prior to its first publication, circulation, distribution, or broadcast, unless such advertising matter pertains to a security or transaction exempted in section 10-04-05 or 10-04-06, relates to a federal covered security, or is used by a federal covered adviser.
2. The commissioner may by rule or order and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed therein exempt any advertising matter from the filing requirement imposed under subsection 1 if the commissioner finds that the imposition of the filing requirement is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.
3. The commissioner has the power to disapprove any advertising matter filed pursuant to subsection 1 which the commissioner deems in conflict with the purposes of this chapter.
4. Nothing in this section or section 10-04-04 shall be construed to prohibit the publication or distribution to the public of a preliminary prospectus, provided that no solicitation is made or order or conditional order accepted prior to registration in this state, and provided also that, unless the preliminary prospectus relates to a federal covered security, the following legend appears on each such prospectus or preliminary prospectus:

A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed but has not yet become effective. Information contained herein is subject to completion or amendment. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state in which such offer, solicitation, or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or approval under the securities laws of any such state.

#### **10-04-08.3. Unlawful representations concerning registration or exemption.**

1. Neither the fact that an application for approval under section 10-04-05 or 10-04-06 or registration under section 10-04-07.1, 10-04-08, or 10-04-10 or a notice filing under section 10-04-08.4 has been filed nor the fact that a security or person is effectively approved or registered constitutes a finding by the commissioner that any document filed under this chapter is true, complete, and not misleading. Neither any such fact nor

the fact that an exemption or exception is available for a security or a transaction means that the commissioner has passed in any way upon the merits or qualifications of, or recommended or given approval to, any security, transaction, or person.

2. It is unlawful to make, or cause to be made, to any prospective purchaser, customer, or client any representation inconsistent with subsection 1.

#### **10-04-08.4. Federal covered security.**

A federal covered security may be offered and sold in this state without registration, subject to the following:

1. Any federal covered security that is subject to section 18(b)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be offered and sold upon the filing of:
  - a. A copy of the issuer's registration statement or a notice of intent in writing or electronically for an indefinite or definite dollar amount for each security or class of security on a form prescribed by the commissioner.
  - b. A unit investment trust may file an initial notice filing for a definite dollar amount or an indefinite dollar amount. At the time of the initial notice filing for a definite dollar amount, the issuer shall pay a nonrefundable filing fee of one-tenth of one percent of the first seven hundred fifty thousand dollars and one-twentieth of one percent of any amount in excess of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars of the aggregate offering price of each security or class of security. In no event, however, may such filing fee be less than one hundred twenty-five dollars for each security or class of security.
  - c. An investment company or unit investment trust may file an initial notice filing for an indefinite dollar amount and pay a nonrefundable filing fee of four hundred dollars for each security or class of security.
  - d. A notice filing for a definite dollar amount may be increased before the expiration date on the certificate of effectiveness at the same reduced fee, which must be calculated as provided in subdivision b as a separate fee for each additional amount.
  - e. A notice filing for a definite dollar amount may be renewed for additional periods of one year by filing, at least fifteen days prior to its expiration, a renewal and sales report notice with a fee of one hundred dollars to renew the unsold balance.
  - f. A notice filing for an indefinite dollar amount may be renewed by filing, within sixty days following the issuer's fiscal year, a renewal and sales report notice with a fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars.
  - g. A notice filing may be terminated by the issuer upon providing the commissioner a notice of such termination.
  - h. The provision for each security or class of security in this subsection is effective when the federal registration statement becomes effective with the securities and exchange commission or the date the notice of intent is received by the commissioner, whichever is later. A filing notice for a definite dollar amount is effective for a period of eighteen months from the date of effectiveness.
  - i. A copy of any document filed with the securities and exchange commission as the commissioner may require.
2. Any federal covered security that is subject to section 18(b)(4)(D) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be offered and sold under the following conditions:
  - a. A notice of intent is filed in writing or electronically on SEC form D or other prescribed form with a consent to service of process and a nonrefundable filing fee of one hundred dollars within fifteen calendar days after the first sale in this state.
  - b. A copy of any document filed with the securities and exchange commission is provided, as the commissioner may require.
  - c. The notice filing is effective for a period of one year from the date the filing is received by the commissioner.
  - d. The filing fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars in the event the filing is not made within the time period specified in subdivision a.

No security may be offered or sold under this subsection, except through or by a broker-dealer and agent registered in accordance with section 10-04-10, unless it is offered and sold through an officer, director, governor, or partner of the issuer and no commission or other remuneration is paid, either directly or indirectly.

3. The commissioner, by rule or otherwise, may require the filing of a notice or any document filed with the securities and exchange commission under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to a federal covered security under section 18(b)(3) or 18(b)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933, together with a filing fee.
4. The commissioner may issue a stop order suspending the offer and sale of a federal covered security, except a federal covered security under section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, if it is found to be in the public interest or there is a failure to comply with any of the provisions stated in this section.

#### **10-04-09. Suspension or revocation of registration of securities.**

The commissioner may revoke the registration of any securities registered under this chapter if, after a hearing or opportunity for hearing as provided in section 10-04-12, the commissioner finds that any provisions of this chapter or any rule, order, or condition lawfully imposed under this chapter has been violated, or if the commissioner finds any of the following:

1. The sale of such securities would work or tend to work a fraud, or deception upon the purchasers thereof or the public, or that the disposal of the securities is on unfair terms, or if the plan of business of the applicant appears to be unfair, unjust, or inequitable.
2. The issuer of such securities is insolvent, or has violated any of the provisions of this chapter or any order of the commissioner of which such issuer has notice, or does not conduct its business in accord with law.
3. The issuer of such securities has made any fraudulent representations in any prospectus or in any circular or other literature that has been distributed concerning the issuer or its securities.
4. The issuer of such securities has refused to permit an examination into its affairs as provided in this section or has failed to furnish the commissioner any further information required pursuant to this section.
5. No action may be brought under this section by the commissioner after ten years from the date of the alleged violation.

If the commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that the registration of any securities registered under this chapter should be revoked upon any ground specified in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's agent may conduct an examination into the affairs of the issuer of such securities; provided, that the commissioner or the commissioner's agent may conduct such an examination only if the information sought by such examination could not be obtained from other readily available sources. In making any such examination, the commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall have access to and may compel the production of all the books and papers of an issuer and may administer oaths to and examine the officers and any employees of such issuer as to its business and affairs. They may also require a balance sheet exhibiting the assets and liabilities of any such issuer or the issuer's income statement, or both, to be certified to by a certified public accountant. Whenever the commissioner may deem it necessary in connection with any such examination, the commissioner may also require such balance sheet or income statement, or both, to be made more specific in such particulars as the commissioner shall point out or to be brought down to the latest practicable date. Such examination shall be made at the office of the commissioner, unless the issuer or a registered dealer requests that the examination be made at some other place, in which case the person making such request may be required by the commissioner to advance sufficient funds to pay the actual expenses of such investigation.

If the commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that the registration of any securities under this chapter should be revoked on any ground specified in this section, the commissioner may enter an order suspending the registration of such securities pending an examination into the affairs of the issuer of such securities or pending a hearing or opportunity for hearing as provided in section 10-04-12; provided, that no such suspension order shall be effective for



more than thirty days and such an order, if not withdrawn by the commissioner within thirty days, shall automatically terminate thirty days after the date of its issuance. Such suspension order shall state specifically the grounds for its issuance. Upon the entry of an order suspending the registration of any securities or of an order withdrawing a suspension order previously issued, the commissioner shall send a copy of such order to the issuer of such securities.

If the commissioner finds, after a hearing or opportunity for hearing as provided in section 10-04-12, that there are grounds for revoking the registration of certain securities, the commissioner may enter in the register of securities an order revoking the registration of such securities. Such order shall state specifically the grounds for its issuance. Upon the entry of an order revoking the registration of securities, the commissioner shall send a copy of such order to the issuer of such securities. No order revoking the registration of securities shall invalidate any sale of such securities made prior to the entry of such order.

**10-04-10. Registration of broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, and investment adviser representatives - Notice filings by federal covered advisers.**

1. Broker-dealers. It is unlawful for a person to transact business in this state as a broker-dealer unless the person is registered under this chapter as a broker-dealer or is exempt. The following persons are exempt from the registration requirements:
  - a. A broker-dealer without a place of business in this state if its only transactions effected in this state are with:
    - (1) The issuer of the securities involved in the transactions;
    - (2) A broker-dealer registered as a broker-dealer under this chapter or not required to be registered as a broker-dealer under this chapter;
    - (3) An institutional investor;
    - (4) A nonaffiliated federal covered investment adviser with investments under management in excess of one hundred million dollars acting for the account of others pursuant to discretionary authority in a signed record;
    - (5) A bona fide pre-existing customer whose principal place of residence is not in this state and the person is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or not required to be registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is registered under the securities laws of the state in which the customer maintains a principal place of residence; and
    - (6) A bona fide pre-existing customer whose principal place of residence is in this state but was not present in this state when the customer relationship was established, if:
      - (a) The broker-dealer is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or not required to be registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is registered under the securities laws of the state in which the customer relationship was established and where the customer had maintained a principal place of residence; and
      - (b) Within thirty days after the customer's first transaction in this state, the person files an application for registration as a broker-dealer in this state and a further transaction is not effected more than forty-five days after the date on which the application is filed, or, if earlier, the date on which the commissioner notifies the person that the commissioner has denied the application for registration or has stayed the pendency of the application for good cause.
  - b. A person that deals solely in United States government securities and is supervised as a broker-dealer in government securities by the board of governors of the federal reserve system, the comptroller of the currency, the federal deposit insurance corporation, or the office of thrift supervision.

Application for registration as a broker-dealer must be made in writing or electronically in a form prescribed by the commissioner, must be signed by the applicant, duly verified by oath, must be filed with the department, and must contain information the commissioner determines to be necessary concerning the applicant.

The commissioner may also require such additional information relating to the applicant and as to the previous history, record, or association of the applicant, its officers, directors, employees, members, partners, managers, or trustees as the commissioner deems necessary to establish whether or not the applicant should be registered as a broker-dealer under the provisions of this law.

There must be filed with such application a written consent to the service of process upon the commissioner in actions against such broker-dealer, conforming to the requirements of section 10-04-14.

When an applicant has fully complied with the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may register such applicant as a broker-dealer unless the commissioner finds that the applicant is not of good business reputation, or is not solvent, or the applicant's principals and compliance or sales supervisor do not appear qualified by training, examination, or experience to act on behalf of a broker-dealer in securities.

Except as prohibited by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the commissioner may require an indemnity bond running to the state of North Dakota conditioned for the faithful compliance by the broker-dealer and the broker-dealer's agents with all the provisions of this law and for the faithful performance and payment of all obligations of the broker-dealer and the broker-dealer's agents.

The bond must be of such type as may be approved by the commissioner and must be in such amount as the commissioner deems necessary to protect purchasers. Any such bond must have as surety thereon a surety company authorized to do business in this state. When the commissioner has registered an applicant as a broker-dealer, the commissioner shall notify the applicant of such registration.

2. Agent. It is unlawful for an individual to transact business in this state as an agent unless the individual is registered under this chapter as an agent or is exempt from registration. The following individuals are exempt from the registration requirements:
  - a. An individual who represents a broker-dealer in effecting transactions in this state limited to those in section 15(h)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
  - b. An individual who represents a broker-dealer that is exempt under subsection 1;
  - c. An individual who represents an issuer that effects transactions solely in federal covered securities of the issuer, but an individual who effects transactions in a federal covered security under section 18(b)(3) or 18(b)(4)(D) of the Securities Act of 1933 is not exempt if the individual is compensated in connection with the agent's participation by the payment of commissions or other remuneration based, directly or indirectly, on transactions in those securities; or
  - d. An individual who represents a broker-dealer registered in this state or exempt from registration in the offer and sale of securities for an account of a nonaffiliated federal covered investment adviser with investments under management in excess of one hundred million dollars acting for the account of others pursuant to discretionary authority in a signed record.

Application for registration as an agent must be made in writing or electronically in a form prescribed by the commissioner, must be signed by the applicant and by the registered broker-dealer or issuer employing or proposing to employ such applicant, duly verified by oath, must be filed with the department, and must contain information the commissioner determines to be necessary concerning the applicant.

The commissioner shall require as a condition of registration that the applicant pass a written examination as evidence of knowledge of the securities business; provided, that not more than two officers or managers of an issuer may be registered as an agent for a particular original offering of the issuer's securities without being required to pass such written examination; and provided, further, that no such officer or manager may again register within three years as such agent for this or any other issuer without passing the written examination.

The commissioner may also require such additional information as to the applicant's previous business experience as the commissioner deems necessary to determine whether or not the applicant should be registered as an agent under the provisions of this law. If an agent proposes to be self-employed, the agent shall

specifically state the particular security or securities the agent proposes to sell in this state in the application, and if said security or securities are exempt under section 10-04-05 or 10-04-06, or have been registered by announcement under section 10-04-07.1, or have been registered by qualification under section 10-04-08, then the commissioner may require that said self-employed agent file an indemnity bond running to the state of North Dakota conditioned for the faithful compliance by said self-employed agent with all the applicable provisions of this chapter and for the faithful performance and payment of all obligations hereunder. The bond must be in a form approved and in the amount required by the commissioner.

When an applicant has fully complied with the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may register such applicant as an agent unless the commissioner finds that such applicant is not of good business reputation, or that the broker-dealer named on the application is not a registered broker-dealer. When the commissioner has registered an applicant as an agent, the commissioner shall immediately notify the broker-dealer of such registration.

Every registered broker-dealer or issuer shall promptly notify the department of the termination of the employment by the broker-dealer or issuer of a registered agent.

3. Investment advisers.

a. It is unlawful for any person to transact business in this state as an investment adviser unless the person is registered under this chapter as an investment adviser or is exempt from registration as an investment adviser. The following persons are exempt from the registration requirements:

(1) A person without a place of business in this state that is registered under the securities laws of the state in which the person has its principal place of business if its only clients in this state are:

- (a) Federal covered investment advisers, investment advisers registered under this chapter, or broker-dealers registered under this chapter;
- (b) Institutional investors; or
- (c) Bona fide pre-existing clients whose principal places of residence are not in this state if the investment adviser is registered under the securities laws of the state in which the clients maintain principal places of residences.

(2) A person without a place of business in this state if the person has had, during the preceding twelve months not more than five clients resident in this state in addition to those specified in paragraph 1.

b. Application for registration as an investment adviser must be made in writing or electronically in a form prescribed by the commissioner, must be signed by the applicant, duly verified by oath, must be filed with the department, and must contain information the commissioner determines to be necessary concerning the applicant.

The commissioner may also require such additional information relating to the applicant and as to the previous history, record, or association of the applicant, its officers, directors, employees, members, partners, managers, or trustees, as the commissioner deems necessary to establish whether or not the applicant should be registered as an investment adviser under the provisions of this chapter.

Except as prohibited by the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the commissioner may require an indemnity bond running to the state of North Dakota conditioned for the faithful compliance by the investment adviser and the investment adviser's representatives with all the provisions of this law and for the faithful performance and payment of all obligations of the investment adviser and the investment adviser's representatives. The bond must be of such type as may be approved by the commissioner and must be in such amount as the commissioner deems necessary to protect persons in this state. Any such bond must have as surety thereon a surety company authorized to do business in this state.

The commissioner may by rule or order provide for an examination to be taken by any class of or all applicants, as well as persons who represent or will represent an

investment adviser in doing any of the acts which make the person an investment adviser.

When an applicant has fully complied with the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may register such applicant as an investment adviser unless the commissioner finds that the applicant is not of good business reputation or is not solvent.

A registrant as investment adviser shall notify the department of any change of address.

4. Federal covered adviser.

a. Except with respect to a federal covered investment adviser described in subdivision b, it shall be unlawful for a person to transact business in this state as a federal covered adviser unless such person has made a notice filing with the department, in writing or electronically, consisting of a copy of those documents that have been filed with the securities and exchange commission as the commissioner may require by rule or otherwise and the prescribed notice filing fee.

b. The following federal covered investment advisers are not required to comply with the notice filing requirement:

(1) A federal covered investment adviser without a place of business in this state if its only clients are:

- (a) Federal covered investment advisers, investment advisers registered under this chapter, and broker-dealers registered under this chapter;
- (b) Institutional investors; or
- (c) Bona fide pre-existing clients whose principal places of residence are not in this state.

(2) A federal covered investment adviser without a place of business in this state if the person has had, during the preceding twelve months, not more than five clients that are resident in this state in addition to those specified under paragraph 1.

A notice filing is effective from receipt until the following December thirty-first. It may be renewed by filing with the department, prior to expiration, those documents filed with the securities and exchange commission as the commissioner may require by rule or otherwise, with the notice filing renewal fee.

If the information contained in any document filed with the department is or becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any material respect, the federal covered adviser shall file an amendment with the department whenever such amendment is filed with the securities and exchange commission.

A notice filing may be terminated by a federal covered adviser by filing a notice of termination with the department.

5. Investment adviser representatives. It is unlawful for an individual to transact business in this state as an investment adviser representative unless the individual is registered under this chapter as an investment adviser representative or is exempt from registration as an investment adviser representative or that the investment adviser representative is employed by or associated with an investment adviser that is exempt from registration or a federal covered investment adviser that is excluded from the notice filing requirements.

Application for registration as an investment adviser representative must be submitted in writing or electronically in a form prescribed by the commissioner, be signed by the applicant and if applicable, by the investment adviser employing or proposing to employ the applicant, be duly verified by oath, be filed with the department, and contain information the commissioner determines to be necessary concerning the applicant.

When an applicant has fully complied with the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may register the applicant as an investment adviser representative unless the commissioner finds that the applicant is not of good business reputation; that the investment adviser named in the application is not a registered investment

adviser; or the federal covered adviser named in the application has not made a notice filing with the commissioner, as required by subsection 4. When the commissioner has registered an applicant as an investment adviser representative, the commissioner shall immediately notify the investment adviser or the federal covered adviser, as applicable, of such registration.

Every registered investment adviser shall promptly notify the department of the termination of the employment by the adviser of a registered investment adviser representative. Every registered investment adviser representative employed by a federal covered adviser or the federal covered adviser shall promptly notify the department of the termination of such employment. The registration of the investment adviser representative is automatically suspended from the time of termination of employment until such time as the representative is registered by the commissioner as a representative of another investment adviser or federal covered adviser.

The commissioner shall require as a condition of registration that the applicant pass a written examination as evidence of knowledge of the securities business. At the discretion of the commissioner, certain professional designations may be accepted in lieu of an examination.

6. Refusal of registration. If the commissioner has reason to believe there are grounds to refuse the approval of any application under this section, the commissioner may, by order, summarily postpone the approval of any application made under this section. If, after affording an applicant a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing as provided in section 10-04-12, the commissioner finds that there is sufficient ground to refuse to register such applicant as provided in this section, the commissioner shall enter an order refusing to register such applicant. Such order shall state specifically the grounds for its issuance. A copy of such order must be mailed to the applicant at the applicant's business address, and if the application is for registration as an agent, to the registered broker-dealer or issuer or if the application is for registration as an investment adviser representative to the investment adviser or federal covered adviser who proposed to employ such applicant. If the commissioner finds that an applicant has been guilty of any act or omission which would constitute a sufficient ground for revocation of a broker-dealer's, agent's, investment adviser's, or investment adviser representative's registration under section 10-04-11, such act or omission may constitute a sufficient ground for a finding by the commissioner that such applicant is not of good business reputation.
7. Record and renewal of registrations. The names and addresses of all persons who have been registered as broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, or investment adviser representatives, and all orders with respect thereto, and the names and addresses of all federal covered advisers who have made a notice filing must be recorded in a register of broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, federal covered advisers, and investment adviser representatives in the office of the commissioner. Every registration and notice filing under this section expires on December thirty-first of each year, unless renewed. The commissioner may by order provide for expirations and renewals, including dates, forms, and procedures, adjust registration and notice filing fees to correspond with expiration dates, and do any other thing which may be necessary or convenient in order to participate in a central registration depository or any similar arrangement designed to promote uniformity, to ease regulatory burdens, or to encourage cooperation with other states, the securities and exchange commission, or any registered national securities association or exchange.
8. Fees. The fee, which must accompany the application, for registration, transfer, or notice filing, and for each annual renewal thereof is:
  - a. For each broker-dealer \$200.00
  - b. For each agent \$60.00
  - c. For each investment adviser or federal covered adviser \$100.00
  - d. For each investment adviser representative \$50.00

An application to register as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative may, with the consent of the commissioner, be withdrawn upon written application, but in no event may any registration fees be returned.

**10-04-10.1. Advisory activities.**

1. It is unlawful for any person who receives, directly or indirectly, any consideration from another person for advising the other person as to the value of securities or their purchase or sale, whether through the issuance of analyses or reports or otherwise:
  - a. To employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud the other person; or
  - b. To engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the other person.
2. It is unlawful for any person, in the solicitation of a client for investment advisory services, to make any false or misleading statement of material fact, or to fail to disclose a material fact.
3. It is unlawful for any person who provides investment advisory services subject to the provisions of this chapter to knowingly sell any security to or purchase any security from a client while acting for the person's own account or as a broker for another client unless the person first makes a written disclosure to the client of the capacity in which the person is acting and obtains the client's written consent to the transaction.
4. It is unlawful for any person who provides investment advisory services subject to the provisions of this chapter to engage in dishonest or unethical practices as the commissioner may define by rule.
5. It is unlawful for any investment adviser to enter, extend, or renew any investment advisory contract unless the investment advisory contract provides in writing that:
  - a. The investment adviser may not be compensated on the basis of a share of capital gains, earnings, or capital appreciation of the funds or any portion of the funds of the client. This subdivision does not prohibit an investment advisory contract that provides for compensation based on the total value of a fund determined as of a definite date or averaged as of definite dates or over a definite period. This subdivision does not prohibit an investment advisory contract that provides for performance fees permitted and determined in accordance with section 205 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 [Pub. L. 768; 54 Stat. 852; 15 U.S.C. 80b-5] and the rules adopted thereunder.
  - b. An assignment of the investment advisory contract may not be made by the investment adviser unless the investment adviser notifies the client of the intended assignment and obtains the prior written consent of the client.
  - c. The investment adviser shall provide written notice to the client within fifteen days of any change of ownership in excess of five percent.
  - d. The investment adviser shall provide written notice to the client within fifteen days of a change of controlling interest of the investment adviser. The client may terminate the investment advisory contract without penalty by providing a written notice to the investment adviser within thirty days after the client's receipt of the notice of change of controlling interest.
6. It is unlawful for any investment adviser to take or have custody of any securities or funds of any client unless the investment adviser acts as a fiduciary pursuant to duties as an executor, guardian, conservator, receiver, or trustee.

**10-04-10.2. Conviction not bar to registration - Exceptions.**

Repealed by S.L. 2003, ch. 82, § 16.

**10-04-10.3. Postregistration provisions.**

1. Every broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, and investment adviser representative conducting business in this state shall make and keep such accounts, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records as described below:

- a. With the exclusion of a broker-dealer whose activities are limited to the sale of securities that it issues and who is not a member or required to be a member of any self-regulatory organization, every broker-dealer registered in or conducting business in this state, and each branch office located in or conducting business in this state, must keep and maintain all records as required by:
  - (1) Federal statutes or by rules or regulations promulgated by the securities and exchange commission.
  - (2) Rules promulgated by any securities exchange or self-regulatory organization of which the broker-dealer is a member.
  - (3) The laws, rules, or regulations of any state in which the broker-dealer is registered or maintains a place of business from which it conducts securities business in North Dakota.
- b. Every investment adviser which maintains its principal place of business in any state, other than this state, and is registered as an investment adviser in the state in which it maintains its principal place of business, shall keep and maintain such books and records as required by the state in which it maintains its principal place of business.
- c. Every investment adviser which maintains its principal place of business in this state, or is not registered or exempt from registration in the state in which it maintains its principal place of business, shall keep and maintain the following books and records for a period of three years:
  - (1) Financial documents of the investment adviser which shall include:
    - (a) Journals and ledgers tracking income and expenses of the investment adviser. These documents must be continually maintained to within thirty days of current.
    - (b) Trial balances, financial statements, and internal audit papers.
    - (c) Checkbooks and statements on any type of account on which the investment adviser has check-writing privileges.
    - (d) Statements regarding any account of the investment adviser with any insurance company, broker-dealer, investment adviser, federal covered adviser, or financial institution.
  - (2) A file which contains copies of all incoming and outgoing correspondence between the investment adviser or its representative and any of its customers, prospective customers, or former customers.
  - (3) A file containing a copy of each customer complaint against the investment adviser or a representative of the investment adviser.
  - (4) A file containing all advertisements used by the investment adviser or a representative of the investment adviser. To the extent that past performance of the investment adviser is used in advertising materials, the investment adviser shall maintain all accounts, records, and internal working papers that form the basis of the performance of the investment adviser.
  - (5) Copies of all contracts between the investment adviser and its customers.
  - (6) A manual regarding the supervisory procedures of the investment adviser, unless the investment adviser is wholly owned by the only representative of the investment adviser and the investment adviser has no employees.
  - (7) With respect to discretionary accounts:
    - (a) A list of all discretionary accounts.
    - (b) A file containing all discretionary trading agreements.
    - (c) A list of all trades that were conducted on a discretionary basis.
  - (8) All records created by the investment adviser or provided by a client or prospective client of an investment adviser regarding the financial condition of the client or prospective client.
  - (9) Records tracking all securities purchased by or advice provided by the investment adviser and the payment for the services if any. These records shall disclose whether the investment adviser or the investment adviser

representative had any direct or indirect beneficial interest in the investment involved.

- (10) An updated copy of part II of the form ADV and a summary of all material updates to the same.
- (11) A list of all parties to whom referral fees have been paid and the amount of money paid to each such person.
- (12) A list containing the date of receipt and date of transmission of each customer check provided to the investment adviser for the purpose of deposit with the custodian of the investment adviser. Copies of each of the checks must be maintained with the list.

All records required to be maintained pursuant to subdivision a or b must be preserved as set forth in the rules or regulations of the jurisdiction originating the recordkeeping requirement. The commissioner may by rule enhance or waive the requirements of this subsection.

It is a violation of this subsection for any person who is registered, required to be registered, or is affiliated with or employed by any such entity, to create or cause to be created any record discussed in this subsection, if such record contains a material misstatement or misrepresentation regarding a customer or a customer's investments and the person knew or should have known of the falsity of the information or acted in reckless disregard of the truthfulness of the information.

2. Every registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, and investment adviser representative shall file such financial reports as the commissioner prescribes by rule.
3. If the information contained in any document filed with the commissioner is or becomes inaccurate or incomplete in any material respect, the registrant shall promptly file a correcting amendment.
4. All the records of any registered person are subject at any time or from time to time to such reasonable periodic, special, or other examinations by representatives of the commissioner, within or outside this state, as the commissioner deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors. For the purpose of avoiding unnecessary duplication of examinations, the commissioner, if deemed practicable in administering this subsection, may cooperate with the securities administrators of other states, the securities and exchange commission, any national securities exchange or national securities association registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or any other jurisdiction, agency, or organization charged by law or statute with regulating or prosecuting any aspect of the securities business, and in so cooperating may share any information obtained as a result of any investigation or examination.
5. The commissioner and the commissioner's representatives may copy records or require a registrant to copy records and provide the copies to the commissioner and the commissioner's representatives to the extent and in a manner reasonable under the circumstances.

**10-04-11. Suspension or revocation of broker-dealer's, agent's, investment adviser's, and investment adviser representative's registration.**

1. The commissioner may censure, place limitations on the activities of, suspend for a period not exceeding twelve months, or revoke the registration of any broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative or any partner, officer, or director, any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions, or any person directly or indirectly controlling the broker-dealer or investment adviser if, after a hearing or opportunity for hearing as provided in section 10-04-12, the commissioner finds that such registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative:
  - a. Has violated or failed to comply with any provisions of this chapter or any order or rule of the commissioner under this chapter;
  - b. Is, in the case of a broker-dealer or investment adviser, insolvent;



- c. Has engaged in dishonest, fraudulent, or unethical practices in the securities business;
- d. Conducts business in purchasing or selling securities at such variations from current market prices as, in light of all the circumstances, are unconscionable or unfair to the purchasing public, or if such variance, including commissions on sales, unreasonably exceeds the price quoted by a recognized national quotation list as prescribed by the commissioner;
- e. Has failed to file with the department any financial record required pursuant to section 10-04-10.3, or has refused to permit or has otherwise impeded an examination into the person's affairs as provided by section 10-04-10.3 and subsection 3;
- f. Has filed an application for registration which, as of its effective date or as of any date after filing in the case of an order denying effectiveness, was incomplete in any material respect or contained any statement which was, in light of the circumstances under which it was made, false or misleading with respect to any material fact;
- g. Has been convicted of an offense determined by the commissioner to have a direct bearing upon a person's ability to serve the public as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, or the commissioner finds that a person, following conviction of any offense, is not sufficiently rehabilitated under section 12.1-33-02.1;
- h. Is permanently or temporarily enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice involving any aspect of the securities business;
- i. Is the subject of an order of the commissioner denying, suspending, or revoking registration as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative;
- j. Is the subject of an order entered by the securities administrator of any other state or by the securities and exchange commission denying or revoking registration as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, or the substantial equivalent of those terms as defined in this chapter, or is the subject of an order suspending or expelling membership in or association with a member of a self-regulatory organization registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Commodity Exchange Act, or the Investment Advisers Act of 1940; or is the subject of a United States post-office fraud order;
- k. Has, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of any security, directly or indirectly, effected a series of transactions creating actual or apparent active trading in any security, or to raise or depress the price of a security, for the purpose of inducing the purchase or sale of the security;
- l. Is not qualified on the basis of such factors as training, experience, and knowledge of the securities business;
- m. Has failed reasonably to supervise the person's agents if the person is a broker-dealer or the person's employees or investment adviser representatives if the person is an investment adviser; or
- n. Is the subject of an order entered by the insurance administrator of any state denying or revoking registration as an insurance producer, consultant, or the substantial equivalent of those terms as defined in section 26.1-26-02.

It is a violation for any person to engage in any conduct described in subdivisions a, c, d, e, f, and k and any administrative rules promulgated under any of those subdivisions, if the activities occurred in this state, or with respect to a resident of this state, or has caused or could have caused harm to investors in this state.

- 2. It is sufficient cause for revocation of registration of a broker-dealer or investment adviser as provided in this section, in case of a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any unincorporated association, if any member of a partnership or any officer or director of the corporation or association or any manager or governor of a

limited liability company has been guilty of any act or omission which would be sufficient grounds for revoking the registration of an individual broker-dealer or investment adviser.

3. If the commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that the registration of any registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative should be censured, suspended, or revoked upon any grounds specified in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's agent may conduct an examination into the affairs of any such registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative. In making any such examination, the commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall have access to and may compel the production of all the books and papers of a registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, and may administer oaths to and examine the officers and employees of such broker-dealer or investment adviser as to the broker-dealer's or investment adviser's business and affairs.
4. If the commissioner makes written findings of fact to support the conclusion that grounds exist pursuant to subsection 1 for the commissioner to suspend or revoke any registration, the commissioner may by order summarily suspend registration pending final determination of any proceeding under this section. Upon the entry of the summary order, the commissioner shall promptly notify the applicant, as well as the employer or prospective employer if the applicant is an agent or investment adviser representative, that it has been entered and the reasons. The person subject to the order, if desiring a hearing, must make a written request for a hearing to the commissioner within fifteen days after receipt of the notice. Within fifteen days after receipt by the commissioner of a written request, the matter will be set for hearing to determine if the order should be modified, vacated, or extended pending a final determination. If a hearing is not requested and none is ordered by the commissioner, the order will remain in effect until modified or vacated by the commissioner.
5. If the commissioner finds, after affording a registered broker-dealer, a registered agent, a registered investment adviser, or a registered investment adviser representative a hearing or opportunity for hearing as provided in section 10-04-12, that there are grounds to censure, suspend, or revoke the registration of such broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, the commissioner may enter an order in the register of broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, and investment adviser representatives censuring, suspending, or revoking the registration of such broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative. Such order shall state specifically the grounds for its issuance. A copy of such order shall be sent by registered mail to the broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative whose registration is censured, suspended, or revoked thereby at the person's business address and, if the censure, suspension, or revocation is of the registration of an agent or investment adviser representative, to the registered broker-dealer or registered investment adviser who employs such person. Suspension or revocation of the registration of a broker-dealer shall also suspend or revoke the registration of all of the broker-dealer's agents. Suspension or revocation of the registration of an investment adviser also suspends or revokes the registration of all of the investment adviser's investment adviser representatives. Suspension or revocation of the registration of an agent or investment adviser representative solely because of employment by a broker-dealer or investment adviser whose registration was suspended or revoked shall not prejudice subsequent applications for registration by such person.
6. No action may be brought under this section by the commissioner after ten years from the date of the alleged violation.

#### **10-04-12. Hearings.**

Before entering an order revoking the registration of any securities as provided in section 10-04-09, the commissioner shall send to the issuer of the securities, and if the application for registration of the securities was filed by a registered broker-dealer, to the registered

broker-dealer, a notice of opportunity for hearing. Before entering an order refusing to register any person as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, as provided in section 10-04-10, or censuring, placing limitations, suspending, or revoking the registration of any person as a registered broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative as provided in section 10-04-11, the commissioner shall send to that person, and if that person is an agent or investment adviser representative or an applicant for registration as an agent or investment adviser representative, to the registered broker-dealer or investment adviser who employs or proposes to employ that agent or investment adviser representative, a notice of opportunity for hearing.

1. Notices of opportunity for hearing must be sent by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the addressee's business address, and the notice must state:
  - a. The order the commissioner proposes to issue.
  - b. The grounds for issuing the proposed order.
  - c. That the person to whom the notice is sent may be afforded a hearing upon request to the commissioner if the request is made within fifteen days after receipt of the notice.
2. Whenever a person requests a hearing in accordance with this section, the commissioner shall immediately set a date, time, and place for the hearing and shall notify the person requesting the hearing. The date set for the hearing must be within thirty days, but not earlier than fifteen days, after the request for hearing has been made, unless otherwise agreed to by both the commissioner and the person requesting the hearing.
3. Any hearing conducted under this section must be conducted in accordance with chapter 28-32.
4. If the commissioner does not receive a request for a hearing within the prescribed time, the commissioner may enter a final order which must set forth the findings with respect to the matters involved.

#### **10-04-12.1. Board of review.**

Repealed by S.L. 1983, ch. 128, § 7.

#### **10-04-13. Appeals.**

Repealed by S.L. 1995, ch. 313, § 14.

#### **10-04-14. Service of process.**

1. Every applicant for registration under this chapter, every issuer which proposes to offer a security in this state through any person acting on an agency basis in the common-law sense, and every person making a notice filing under subsection 2 of section 10-04-08.4 shall file with the department, in such form as the commissioner prescribes, an irrevocable consent appointing the commissioner or the commissioner's successor in office to be the applicant's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against the applicant or the applicant's successor, executor, or administrator which arises under this chapter or any rule or order hereunder after the consent has been filed, with the same force and validity as if served personally on the person filing the consent. A person who has filed such a consent in connection with a previous registration or notice filing need not file another. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process with the department, but it is not effective unless the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by the commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered or certified mail to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last-known address on file with the department, and the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.

2. When any person, including any nonresident of this state, engages in conduct prohibited or made actionable by this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, and the person has not filed a consent to service of process under subsection 1 and personal jurisdiction over the person cannot otherwise be obtained in this state, that conduct shall be considered equivalent to the person's appointment of the commissioner or the commissioner's successor in office to be the person's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against the person or the person's successor, executor, or administrator which grows out of that conduct and which is brought under this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, with the same force and validity as if served on the person personally. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process with the department, and it is not effective unless the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by the commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered or certified mail to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last-known address or takes other steps which are reasonably calculated to give actual notice, and the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.
3. When process is served under this section, the court, or the commissioner in a proceeding before the commissioner, shall order such continuance as may be necessary to afford the defendant or respondent reasonable opportunity to defend.

#### **10-04-15. Fraudulent practices.**

It shall be a fraudulent practice and it shall be unlawful:

1. For any person knowingly to subscribe to, or make or cause to be made, any material false statement or representation in any application, financial statement, or other document or statement required to be filed under any provision of this chapter, or to omit to state any material statement or fact in any such document or statement which is necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.
2. For any person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of any security, directly or indirectly, to:
  - a. Employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
  - b. Make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading; or
  - c. Engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deception upon purchasers or the public.
3. For any person that advises others for compensation, either directly or indirectly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities or that, for compensation as part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports relating to securities:
  - a. To employ a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud another person; or
  - b. To engage in an act, practice, or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon another person or the public.
4. For any person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of any security, or advising a person to offer, sell, or purchase any security, directly or indirectly, to effect a series of transactions creating actual or apparent active trading in any security, or to raise or depress the price of a security, for the purpose of inducing the purchase of the security.

#### **10-04-16. Orders, injunctions, and prosecutions for violations - Civil penalty.**

If it appears to the commissioner, either upon complaint or otherwise, that any person has engaged in, or is engaging in, or is about to engage in any act or practice or transaction that is prohibited by this chapter or by any order of the commissioner issued under this chapter or which is declared to be illegal in this chapter, the commissioner may:

1. Issue any order, including cease and desist, rescission, stop, and suspension orders, which the commissioner deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors. The commissioner may, in addition to any other remedy authorized by this chapter, impose by order and collect a civil penalty against any person found in an administrative action to have violated any provision of this chapter, or any rule or order adopted or issued under this chapter, in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation. The commissioner may bring actions to recover penalties pursuant to this section in district court. A person aggrieved by an order issued pursuant to this subsection may request a hearing before the commissioner if a written request is made within fifteen days after receipt of the order. If a request for hearing is made under this subsection, the commissioner shall schedule a hearing within a reasonable time. Subsections 3 and 4 of section 10-04-12 apply to any hearing conducted under this subsection. If, after a hearing, the commissioner sustains an order previously issued, the sustaining order is subject to appeal to the district court of Burleigh County according to the procedures set forth in chapter 28-32. Any order issued under this subsection is a final order if it is properly served and no hearing was requested within the required timeline. If an order issued under this subsection is sustained or modified after a hearing held in accordance with section 10-04-12, the order sustaining or modifying that order is a final order. If the final order is not appealed in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 28-32 or if the final order is sustained on appeal, the securities department may file a certified copy of the final order with the clerk of a court of competent jurisdiction. The order so filed has the same effect as a judgment of the court and may be recorded, enforced, or satisfied in the same manner as a judgment of the court.
2. Apply to the district court of any county in this state for an injunction restraining the person and the person's agents, employees, partners, officers, and directors from continuing the act, practice, or transaction or engaging therein or doing any acts in furtherance thereof, and for such other and further relief as the facts warrant. In any proceeding for an injunction, the commissioner may apply for and on due showing be issued the court's subpoena requiring the appearance forthwith of any defendant and the defendant's agents, employees, partners, officers, or directors, and the production of the documents, books, and records necessary for the hearing upon the petition for an injunction. Upon proof of any of the offenses described in this section, the court may grant the injunction as the facts warrant, and a receiver or conservator may be appointed for the defendant or the defendant's assets, and the court may assess civil penalties in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation of this chapter, and any rules promulgated thereunder or orders issued thereunder. The court shall not require the commissioner to post a bond.
3. Refer any evidence available concerning the act, practice, or transaction to the appropriate criminal prosecutor who may, with or without the reference, institute the necessary criminal proceedings. The prosecutor may apply for and on due showing be issued the court's subpoena requiring the appearance forthwith of any defendant and the defendant's agents, employees, partners, officers, and directors, and the production of any documents, books, and records necessary for the prosecution of the criminal proceedings.

#### **10-04-16.1. Investigations and subpoenas.**

1. The department may:
  - a. Make such public or private investigations within or outside of this state as deemed necessary to determine whether any person has violated, is violating, or is about to violate any provision of this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, or to aid in the enforcement of this chapter or in the prescribing of rules and forms hereunder.
    - (1) For the purposes of this section, an investigation may include an examination of the books and records of any person registered under the provisions of this chapter. In the discretion of the commissioner, the expense

reasonably attributed to an investigation under this section must be paid by the broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative whose affairs are investigated.

- (2) No person is liable to a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, federal covered adviser, or investment adviser representative for defamation relating to a statement that is contained in a record required or requested by the securities department pursuant to this subsection or required to be maintained under section 10-04-10.3, unless the person knew, or should have known at the time the statement was made, that it was false in a material respect or the person acted in reckless disregard of the statement's truth or falsity.
    - b. Require or permit any person to file a statement in writing, under oath or otherwise, as to all the facts and circumstances concerning the matter to be investigated.
    - c. Publish information concerning any violation of this chapter or any rule or order hereunder and may keep confidential the information or documents obtained or prepared in the course of any investigation conducted under this section but only during an active and ongoing investigation. If an investigation under this section extends beyond six months, the commissioner shall, upon a request by any party, state in writing that the need for confidentiality still exists, the general reason why the need exists, and the date, as can best be determined at the time, when the need for confidentiality will cease.
2. For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding under this chapter, the commissioner or any officer designated by the commissioner may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the commissioner deems relevant or material to the inquiry.
3. The commissioner may issue subpoenas in this state at the request of a securities agency or administrator of another state if the activities constituting an alleged violation for which information is sought would be a violation of this chapter if the activities had occurred in this state.
4. In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, the district court, upon application by the commissioner, may issue to the person an order requiring the person to appear before the commissioner, or the officer designated by the commissioner, there to produce documentary evidence if so ordered or to give evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. Failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court.
5. No person is excused from attending and testifying or from producing any document or record before the commissioner, or in obedience to the subpoena of the commissioner or any officer designated by the commissioner, or in any proceeding instituted by the commissioner, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of the person may tend to incriminate the person or subject the person to a penalty or forfeiture. No testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, compelled from an individual after a valid claim of the privilege against self-incrimination has been made may be used against the individual in any criminal proceeding, or in any proceeding to subject the individual to a penalty or forfeiture, except that the individual testifying is not exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury or contempt committed in testifying.

#### **10-04-17. Remedies.**

1. Every sale or contract for sale made in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, or of any rule or order issued by the commissioner under any provisions of this chapter, shall be voidable at the election of the purchaser. The person making such sale or contract for sale, and every director, officer, or agent of or for such seller who shall have participated or aided in any way in making such sale shall be jointly and

severally liable to such purchaser who may sue either at law or in equity to recover the full amount paid by such purchaser, together with all taxable court costs, interest as provided in this subsection, and reasonable attorney's fees, less the amount of any income received on the securities, upon tender to the seller, in person or in open court, of the securities sold or of the contracts made, or for damages if the purchaser no longer owns the securities. Damages are the amount that would be recoverable upon a tender less the value of the securities when the purchaser disposed of them and interest as provided in subsection 2 from the date of disposition. No purchaser shall claim or have the benefit of this section if the purchaser shall have refused or failed to accept, within thirty days from the date of such offer, an offer in writing of the seller to take back the securities in question and to refund the full amount paid by such purchaser, together with interest on such amount for the period from the date of payment by such purchaser down to the date of repayment. Any offer made pursuant to this subsection must be registered or exempt from registration under this chapter in order to preclude a subsequent civil action by the purchaser. For the purposes of this subsection, interest shall be computed as follows:

- a. In case such securities consist of interest-bearing obligations, at the same rate as provided in such securities, less the amount of any income received on the securities.
  - b. In case such securities consist of other than interest-bearing obligations, at the legal rate specified in section 47-14-05, less the amount of any income received on the securities.
2. Any person that receives directly or indirectly any consideration for providing investment advice to another person and violates this chapter is liable to the other person as follows:
  - a. For violations of section 10-04-15, the person is liable for the actual damages caused by the violative conduct, interest at the rate as specified in section 47-14-05, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees, less the amount of any income received as a result of the violative conduct.
  - b. For all other violations of this chapter, or any rule promulgated thereunder, the person is liable for all income collected in connection with the violative conduct.
3. The provisions of this section do not apply to a violation of section 10-04-08.4.
4. Nothing in this chapter shall limit any statutory or common-law right of any person in any court for any act involved in the sale of securities.
5. No action may be taken under this section after five years from the date that the aggrieved party knew or reasonably should have known about the facts that are the basis for the alleged violation.
6. Each of the following persons are liable jointly and severally with and to the same effect as persons liable under this section:
  - a. A person who controls, supervises, or serves as an officer, director, or managing partner of a person liable under this section, unless the person did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have known, of the conduct by reason of which the liability is alleged to exist.
  - b. An individual who is an employee of or associated with a person liable under this section and who materially aids the conduct giving rise to the liability, unless the individual did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have known, of the conduct by reason of which the liability is alleged to exist.
  - c. A person who is a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative that materially aids the conduct giving rise to the liability under this section, unless the person did not know, and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have known, of the conduct by reason of which the liability is alleged to exist.

#### **10-04-18. Penalties.**

1. Any person who willfully violates any provision of this chapter, except section 10-04-08.4 or subsection 4 of section 10-04-10, or any rule or order of the

commissioner made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, or who engages in any act, practice, or transaction declared by any provision of this chapter to be unlawful shall be guilty of a class B felony.

2. As used in this section, the term "willfully", except as it applies to subdivisions a and b of subsection 1 of section 10-04-10.1 and subdivisions a and c of subsection 2 of section 10-04-15, means that the person acted intentionally in the sense that the person was aware of what the person was doing. Proof of evil motive or intent to violate the law or knowledge that the law was being violated is not required.
3. Each violative act or omission constitutes a separate offense, and a prosecution or conviction for any one offense shall not bar a prosecution or conviction for any other offense.
4. An information must be filed or an indictment must be found under this chapter within five years after the alleged violation.
5. No action may be brought under this chapter by the commissioner after five years from the date that the commissioner knew or reasonably should have known about the facts that are the basis for the alleged violation. This subsection does not apply to any action under sections 10-04-09 and 10-04-11.

**10-04-19. Evidentiary matters.**

1. In any action, civil or criminal, when a defense is based upon any exemption provided for in this chapter, the burden of proving the existence of such exemption shall be upon the party raising such defense.
2. In any action, civil or criminal, a certificate signed and sealed by the commissioner, stating compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter, shall constitute prima facie evidence of such compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter and shall be admissible in any such action.

**10-04-20. Repeal of certain prior laws, saving of certain rights and liabilities thereunder.**

Repealed by omission from this code.