

trust of the character described in section 80a-16(c) of this title) shall be a voting stock and have equal voting rights with every other outstanding voting stock: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not apply to shares issued pursuant to the terms of any warrant or subscription right outstanding on March 15, 1940, or any firm contract entered into before March 15, 1940, to purchase such securities from such company nor to shares issued in accordance with any rules, regulations, or orders which the Commission may make permitting such issue.

**(j) Securities issued by registered face-amount certificate company**

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter, it shall be unlawful, after August 22, 1940, for any registered face-amount certificate company—

(1) to issue, except in accordance with such rules, regulations, or orders as the Commission may prescribe in the public interest or as necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors, any security other than (A) a face-amount certificate; (B) a common stock having a par value and being without preference as to dividends or distributions and having at least equal voting rights with any outstanding security of such company; or (C) short-term payment or promissory notes or other indebtedness issued in consideration of any loan, extension, or renewal thereof, made by a bank or other person and privately arranged and not intended to be publicly offered;

(2) if such company has outstanding any security, other than such face-amount certificates, common stock, promissory notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, to make any distribution or declare or pay any dividend on any capital security in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission may prescribe in the public interest or as necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors or to insure the financial integrity of such company, to prevent the impairment of the company's ability to meet its obligations upon its face-amount certificates; or

(3) to issue any of its securities except for cash or securities including securities of which such company is the issuer.

**(k) Application of section to companies operating under Small Business Investment Act provisions**

The provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to investment companies operating under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 [15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.], and the provisions of paragraph (2) of said subsection shall not apply to such companies so long as such class of senior security shall be held or guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

(Aug. 22, 1940, ch. 686, title I, §18, 54 Stat. 817; Pub. L. 85-699, title III, §307(c), Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 694; Pub. L. 91-547, §10, Dec. 14, 1970, 84 Stat. 1421; Pub. L. 85-699, title III, §317, formerly §319, Aug. 21, 1958, as added Pub. L. 92-595, §2(g), Oct. 27, 1972, 86 Stat. 1316, renumbered §317, Pub. L. 104-208, div. D, title II, §208(h)(1)(E), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-747; Pub. L. 94-29, §28(4), June

4, 1975, 89 Stat. 165; Pub. L. 100-181, title VI, §613, Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1261; Pub. L. 105-353, title III, §301(c)(4), Nov. 3, 1998, 112 Stat. 3236.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Small Business Investment Act of 1958, referred to in subsec. (k), is Pub. L. 85-699, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 689, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 14B (§661 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 661 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 105-353 substituted “paragraph (1) of this subsection” for “subsection (e)(2) of this section” in introductory provisions.

1987—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 100-181 redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (1) and (2), respectively, and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “pursuant to any firm contract to purchase or sell entered into prior to March 15, 1940;”.

1975—Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 94-29 substituted “section 80a-16(c) of this title” for “section 80a-16(b) of this title”.

1972—Subsec. (k). Section 319 of Pub. L. 85-699, as added by Pub. L. 92-595, inserted provision that subsec. (a)(2) shall not apply to companies operating under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, so long as such class of senior security shall be held or guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

1970—Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 91-547 substituted “That (A)” and “or (B) the” for “(A) That” and “or (B) that the” and inserted provision for purpose of insuring fair and equitable treatment of the holders of the outstanding voting securities of each class or series of stock of such company, that the Commission may by rule, regulation, or order direct that any matter required to be submitted to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of such company shall not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of such percentage (not exceeding a majority) of the outstanding voting securities of each class or series of stock affected by such matter as shall be prescribed in such rule, regulation, or order.

1958—Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 85-699 added subsec. (k).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1975 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-29 effective June 4, 1975, see section 31(a) of Pub. L. 94-29, set out as a note under section 78b of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-547 effective Dec. 14, 1970, see section 30 of Pub. L. 91-547, set out as a note under section 80a-52 of this title.

**Executive Documents**

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of Securities and Exchange Commission, with certain exceptions, to Chairman of such Commission, see Reorg. Plan No. 10 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3175, 64 Stat. 1265, set out under section 78d of this title.

**§ 80a-19. Payments or distributions**

**(a) Dividends; restriction; exception**

It shall be unlawful for any registered investment company to pay any dividend, or to make any distribution in the nature of a dividend payment, wholly or partly from any source other than—

(1) such company's accumulated undistributed net income, determined in accordance with good accounting practice and not including profits or losses realized upon the sale of securities or other properties; or

(2) such company's net income so determined for the current or preceding fiscal year; unless such payment is accompanied by a written statement which adequately discloses the source or sources of such payment. The Commission may prescribe the form of such statement by rules and regulations in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

**(b) Long-term capital gains; limitation**

It shall be unlawful in contravention of such rules, regulations, or orders as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors for any registered investment company to distribute long-term capital gains, as defined in title 26, more often than once every twelve months.

(Aug. 22, 1940, ch. 686, title I, §19, 54 Stat. 821; Pub. L. 91-547, §11, Dec. 14, 1970, 84 Stat. 1422; Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-514 substituted "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" for "Internal Revenue Code of 1954", which for purposes of codification was translated as "title 26" thus requiring no change in text.

1970—Pub. L. 91-547 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-547 effective on expiration of one year after Dec. 14, 1970, see section 30(1) of Pub. L. 91-547, set out as a note under section 80a-52 of this title.

**Executive Documents**

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of Securities and Exchange Commission, with certain exceptions, to Chairman of such Commission, see Reorg. Plan No. 10 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3175, 64 Stat. 1265, set out under section 78d of this title.

**§ 80a-20. Proxies; voting trusts; circular ownership**

**(a) Prohibition on use of means of interstate commerce for solicitation of proxies**

It shall be unlawful for any person, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce or otherwise, to solicit or to permit the use of his name to solicit any proxy or consent or authorization in respect of any security of which a registered investment company is the issuer in contravention of such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

**(b) Prohibition on the use of means of interstate commerce for sale of voting-trust certificates**

It shall be unlawful for any registered investment company or affiliated person thereof, any

issuer of a voting-trust certificate relating to any security of a registered investment company, or any underwriter of such a certificate, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to offer for sale, sell, or deliver after sale, in connection with a public offering, any such voting-trust certificate.

**(c) Prohibition on purchase of securities knowingly resulting in cross-ownership or circular ownership**

No registered investment company shall purchase any voting security if, to the knowledge of such registered company, cross-ownership or circular ownership exists, or after such acquisition will exist, between such registered company and the issuer of such security. Cross-ownership shall be deemed to exist between two companies when each of such companies beneficially owns more than 3 per centum of the outstanding voting securities of the other company. Circular ownership shall be deemed to exist between two companies if such companies are included within a group of three or more companies, each of which—

(1) beneficially owns more than 3 per centum of the outstanding voting securities of one or more other companies of the group; and

(2) has more than 3 per centum of its own outstanding voting securities beneficially owned by another company, or by each of two or more other companies, of the group.

**(d) Duty to eliminate existing cross-ownership or circular ownership**

If cross-ownership or circular ownership between a registered investment company and any other company or companies comes into existence upon the purchase by a registered investment company of the securities of another company, it shall be the duty of such registered company, within one year after it first knows of the existence of such cross-ownership or circular ownership, to eliminate the same.

(Aug. 22, 1940, ch. 686, title I, §20, 54 Stat. 822; Pub. L. 100-181, title VI, §614, Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1262.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1987—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-181, §614(1), struck out at end "The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply to a class of voting-trust certificates, if any certificate of such class was made the subject of a public offering by the issuer or by or through an underwriter prior to March 15, 1940."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-181, §614(2), (3), struck out first sentence "If on the effective date of this subchapter cross-ownership or circular ownership exists between a registered investment company and any other company or companies, it shall be the duty of such registered company, within five years after such effective date, to eliminate such cross-ownership or circular ownership." and "at any time after the effective date of this subchapter" after "If" in second sentence.

**Executive Documents**

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of Securities and Exchange Commission, with certain exceptions, to Chairman of