

CHAPTER 710

MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY PROVISIONS

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710.01 Aliens may acquire lands. Subject to the limitations of s. 710.02 an alien may acquire and hold lands or any right thereto or interest therein by purchase, devise or descent, and he may convey, mortgage and devise the same; and if he shall die intestate the same shall descend to his heirs; and in all cases such lands shall be held, conveyed, mortgaged or devised or shall descend in like manner and with like effect as if such alien were a native citizen of the state or of the United States.

710.02 Limitation on nonresident aliens and corporations. It shall be unlawful for any alien not a resident of this state, of some state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, or for any corporation not created by or under the laws of the United States or of some state or territory thereof, to hereafter acquire, hold or own more than 640 acres of land in this state or any interest therein except such as may be acquired by devise, inheritance or in good faith in the collection of debts by due process of law. No corporation or association more than 20% of the stock of which is or may be owned by any person who is such nonresident alien shall hereafter acquire, hold or own more than said quantity of land in this state or an interest in a greater quantity of land herein except such as may be acquired in good faith in the collection of debts by judicial proceedings. All lands acquired, held or owned in violation of the provisions hereof shall be forfeited to the state, and it shall be the duty of the attorney general to enforce every such forfeiture. The prohibitions contained in this section shall not apply to railroad or pipeline corporations.

This section does not violate equal protection clause. *Lehndorff Geneva, Inc. v. Warren*, 74 W (2d) 369, 246 NW (2d) 815.

710.03 Provision not retroactive. The title to any lands conveyed before May 3, 1887, or any lands which nonresident aliens may hold under s. 710.02 conveyed since that date, shall not be questioned nor in any manner affected by reason of the alienage of any person from or through whom such title may have been derived.

710.05 Adverse claim to account. (1) In this section:

(a) "Account" means credit of a depositor with a financial institution, and includes a demand deposit or savings account, certificate of deposit, share account, time deposit, open account and other similar arrangements.

(b) "Depositor" means a person who, by agreement with a financial institution or by written power of attorney, has the right to issue orders or instructions concerning an account.

(c) "Financial institution" means a state or national bank, trust company, savings bank, building and loan association, savings and loan association or credit union doing business in this state.

(2) Except as provided in ch. 112 or 705, notice to a financial institution of a claim to all or part of an account by any person other than a depositor of the account or the financial institution has no effect upon the rights and duties of the depositor or financial institution with respect to the account, and notwithstanding such notice or claim the financial institution may honor the orders and instructions of its depositor regarding the account without liability to the claimant until otherwise ordered by a court or administrative agency of appropriate jurisdiction.

History: 1977 c. 430.

710.07 Conveyances by life tenant. A conveyance made by a tenant for life or years purporting to grant a greater estate than he possessed or could lawfully convey shall not work a forfeiture of his estate, but shall pass to the grantee all the estate which such tenant could lawfully convey.

710.10 Removal of possessor of property. In the following cases any person who holds possession of property, or the representatives or assigns of such person may be removed under ch. 299 or 843.

(1) A person holding in violation of s. 704.17 (4), or of s. 704.19 (8).

(2) A tenant at sufferance holding without permission.

(3) A possessor of property which has been sold upon foreclosure of a mortgage if his rights were extinguished by the foreclosure.

(4) A person who occupies or holds property under an agreement with the owner to occupy and cultivate it upon shares and the time fixed in the agreement for such occupancy has expired.

History: 1971 c. 211; 1975 c. 198.