

CHAPTER 226.

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.

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Note: Ch. 180 contains the general law applicable to foreign corporations. See especially secs. 180.801 to 180.849.

226.01 Definition. For the purposes of this chapter the term "foreign corporation" includes all corporations, associations and joint stock companies organized otherwise than under the laws of this state, except railroad corporations, or associations created solely for religious or charitable purposes, insurance companies and fraternal or beneficiary corporations, societies, orders and associations furnishing life or casualty insurance or indemnity upon the mutual or assessment plan, building and loan associations and corporations not organized or conducted for profit.

226.025 Qualification of foreign utility holding companies; exceptions. (1) Within the meaning of this chapter, every foreign corporation shall be deemed to be doing business within the state if, directly or indirectly, through agents, trustees or any other means, it furnishes to any affiliated public utility for use in intrastate operations in this state, any or all of the following: (a) Any managerial, supervisory, engineering, legal, accounting or financial service; (b) any equipment, facilities or commodities, by sale, lease, exchange, conveyance, license or similar arrangement.

(2) Within the meaning of this section the term "affiliated" shall have the same meaning as the term "affiliated interests" as defined in chapter 196. Provided, however, that the mere ownership of stock and receipt of dividends thereon shall not constitute doing business. This section shall not have the effect of imposing upon the corporation described in said section a duty to pay fees. The provisions of this section shall apply to interstate commerce only so far as the constitution and laws of the United States permit.

(3) The appointment of the secretary of state or the designation of a resident agent as attorney for the service of summons, notice, pleadings or process under s. 180.821 shall be applicable only to actions or proceedings against the foreign corporations described in this section (unless such corporations have been admitted to this state for purposes other than those mentioned in this section) where the cause of action or proceeding arises out of transactions between such foreign corporations and public utilities operating in this state with which such foreign corporations are affiliated; and to actions or proceedings by or before the public service commission involving the transactions described in sub. (1) herein, or involving the relation between such foreign corporations and public utilities operating in this state with which they are affiliated.

226.05 Bank deposits by nonresidents, taxation evidence. The making and maintaining of deposits and checking or other accounts by a nonresident of this state or by a foreign corporation in any bank, either state or national, or in any trust company in this state, shall not be considered as doing business or acquiring, holding or disposing of property in this state, nor considered a factor in determining whether such person or corporation is doing business in this state, or in determining the situs of the property or income of such corporation or person for taxation purposes.

226.07 Combinations and trusts. Any foreign corporation which shall enter into any combination, conspiracy, trust, pool, agreement or contract intended to restrain or prevent competition in the supply or price of any article or commodity in general use in this state, or constituting a subject of trade or commerce therein, or which shall in any manner control the price of any such article or commodity, fix the price thereof, limit or fix the amount or quantity thereof to be manufactured, mined, produced or sold in this state, or fix any standard or figure by which its price to the public shall be in any manner controlled or established, shall, upon proof thereof, in any court of competent jurisdiction, have its license or authority to do business in this state canceled and annulled.

Cross Reference: See 183.08 for construction of 226.07 in regard to collective bargaining.

226.09 Ouster. Upon complaint and evidence which shall satisfy the attorney general that any foreign corporation has violated s. 226.07, he shall forthwith bring an action in the name of the state in any circuit court to have the license of such corporation to do business in this state annulled and to oust it from this state. The provisions of ss. 133.22, 133.23 and 133.24 shall extend to all proceedings under this section.

226.12 Liability of inactive foreign corporation. An action for the recovery of money may be commenced and prosecuted against a foreign corporation although such corporation may have ceased to act as a corporation in the same manner as though it had not so ceased to act; and the judgment may be enforced against property in this state which such corporation has any interest in or would have an interest in had the same not ceased to act as aforesaid, whether held or controlled by it or by a trustee, assignee, agent or other person for the use and benefit in whole or in part of such corporation or the creditors thereof or both.

226.13 Plaintiff's lien. The plaintiff in such action shall, to the extent of the final judgment therein, have a lien upon all such property and interests aforesaid from the time of the filing of the complaint in such action, unless such corporation shall file with the clerk an undertaking, in double the amount claimed to be due to the plaintiff, executed by two or more sureties in its behalf, resident freeholders of this state, to the effect that the corporation will satisfy the final judgment that may be recovered in favor of such plaintiff in such action within sixty days from the rendition thereof. Such undertaking shall be of no effect unless accompanied by the affidavit of the sureties as provided in section 274.29, and such sureties, upon being excepted to, must justify in like manner as there directed.

226.14 Common law trusts, domestic and alien. (1) No common law trust organized in this state, and no such trust formed or organized under or by authority of the laws of any state or foreign jurisdiction, for the purpose of doing business under a declaration of trust which shall have issued to five or more persons, or which shall sell or propose to sell beneficial interests, certificates or memberships therein, shall transact business, or acquire, hold or dispose of property in this state until the trustees named in said declaration of trust shall have caused to be filed in the office of the secretary of state the original declaration of trust, or a true copy thereof, and all amendments which may be made, verified as such by the affidavits of two of the signers thereof. A like verified copy of the declaration and such amendments, and a certificate of the secretary of state, showing the date when such declaration was filed and accepted by him, within thirty days of such filing and acceptance, shall be recorded with the register of deeds of the county in which such trust has its principal office or place of business in this state. No such trust shall transact business in this state until such declaration or such copy thereof be left for record. The register of deeds shall forthwith transmit to the secretary of state a certificate stating the time when such copy was recorded and shall be entitled to a fee of twenty-five cents therefor, to be paid by the person presenting such papers for record. Upon receipt of such certificate the secretary of state shall issue to said trustees a certificate of filing.

(2) The principal office or principal place of business of every such trust formed or organized in this state shall be kept and maintained in this state.

(3) Every such trust shall pay to the secretary of state a filing fee of twenty-five dollars, and ten dollars for each subsequent amendment, together with a further fee of one dollar for each one thousand dollars of beneficial certificates sold or offered for sale in this state.

(4) Every such trust shall file in the office of the secretary of state a verified statement on or before the first day of March in each and every calendar year, showing the names and addresses of each of the trustees; the amount and nature of the assets and liabilities of such trust, and the income and disbursements of such trust; the amount actually paid for such assets in money, property and services; the nature of the business transacted during the preceding year; in what states such trust is operating; the amount and number of beneficial certificates sold in this state, or elsewhere; a statement as to the total amount of beneficial certificates outstanding; and a statement as to the amount of profits or losses for the preceding calendar year ending as of December thirty-first.

(5) Every such trust shall file in the office of the secretary of state the name of the trustee or trustees resident in this state upon whom service may be made, for and on behalf of said trust; or in the event that none of such trustees reside in this state, then a statement shall be duly filed by the trustees appointing the secretary of state as the agent to accept service of process in this state, which appointment shall continue so long as such trust shall have any liabilities outstanding in this state.

(6) No such trust shall issue any beneficial or participating certificates in excess of the

fair net value of the property and assets owned by such trust, nor except in consideration of money or labor, or property, estimated at its true money value, actually received by the trustees, equal to the par value thereof, nor any bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, except for money or for labor, or property, estimated at its true money value, actually received by it, and all beneficial certificates or bonds issued contrary to the provisions of law shall be voidable at the election of the holder or holders thereof.

(7) No such trust shall issue, sell or dispose of any beneficial certificates in this state unless there shall have been printed thereon, in plain legible type, of a size not less than pica, the words "THIS IS NOT A CORPORATION" and "COMMON LAW TRUST. BENEFICIAL CERTIFICATE." or "TRUST ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF (naming said state), BENEFICIAL CERTIFICATE." as the case may be.

(8) Every such trust issuing or selling, or offering for sale, beneficial certificates in this state, shall be subject to the restrictions and limitations provided in chapter 189 of the statutes.

(9) Every contract made by or on behalf of such trust affecting the personal liability thereof, or relating to property within this state, before it shall have complied with the provisions of this section, shall be wholly void on its behalf, or on behalf of its assigns; but shall be enforceable against such trust, and the trustees named in said declaration of trust shall be individually liable therefor.

(10) Every such trust shall be subject to all provisions of law relating to the payment of taxes by general corporations, foreign or domestic, as the case may be.

(11) Every such trust shall file and record with the declaration of trust, or a verified copy thereof, a statement in writing of the name or title of such trust and its post-office address, which statement shall be signed by all of the trustees. Such name or title shall be "The . . . Common Law Trust," the blank space to be used for insertion of proper words of description or identification of such trust. The name of such trust shall be such as to distinguish it from any other trust, company, or corporation organized under the laws of this state or licensed or permitted to transact business in this state. Such trust may sue and be sued in and under such name or title, and its property may be subjected to payment and discharge of the obligations and liabilities of such trust the same as though it were a corporation. Service of notice or process upon one or more of such trustees, or upon the duly authorized agent in that behalf of said trust, shall be sufficient to bind such trust and of the same effect as though each and all of such trustees had been notified or served.