

CHAPTER 112

FIDUCIARIES

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112.01 Uniform fiduciaries act. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

(a) "Bank" includes any person or association of persons, whether incorporated or not, carrying on the business of banking.

(b) "Fiduciary" includes a trustee under any trust, expressed, implied, resulting or constructive, executor, administrator, guardian, conservator, curator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, assignee for the benefit of creditors, partner, agent, officer of a corporation, public or private, public officer, or any other person acting in a fiduciary capacity for any person, trust or estate.

(c) "Person" includes a corporation, partnership, or other association, or two or more persons having a joint or common interest.

(d) "Principal" includes any person to whom a fiduciary as such owes an obligation.

(2) **DEFINITION.** A thing is done "in good faith" within the meaning of this section, when it is in fact done honestly, whether it be done negligently or not.

(3) **APPLICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE TO FIDUCIARIES.** A person who in good faith pays or transfers to a fiduciary any money or other property which the fiduciary as such is authorized to receive, is not responsible for the proper application thereof by the fiduciary; and any right or title acquired from the fiduciary in consideration of such payment or transfer is not invalid in consequence of a misapplication by the fiduciary.

(5) **TRANSFER OF NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT BY FIDUCIARY.** If any negotiable instrument payable or indorsed to a fiduciary as such is indorsed by the fiduciary, or if any negotiable instrument payable or indorsed to his principal is indorsed by a fiduciary empowered to indorse such instrument on behalf of his principal, the indorsee is not bound to inquire whether the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in indorsing or delivering the instrument, and is not chargeable with notice that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary, unless he takes the

instrument with actual knowledge of such breach or with knowledge of such facts that his action in taking the instrument amounts to bad faith. If, however, such instrument is transferred by the fiduciary in payment of or as security for a personal debt of the fiduciary to the actual knowledge of the creditor, or is transferred in any transaction known by the transferee to be for the personal benefit of the fiduciary, the creditor or other transferee is liable to the principal if the fiduciary in fact commits a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in transferring the instrument.

(6) **CHECK DRAWN BY FIDUCIARY PAYABLE TO THIRD PERSON.** If a check or other bill of exchange is drawn by a fiduciary as such, or in the name of his principal by a fiduciary empowered to draw such instrument in the name of his principal, the payee is not bound to inquire whether the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing or delivering the instrument, and is not chargeable with notice that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary unless he takes the instrument with actual knowledge of such breach, or with knowledge of such facts that his action in taking the instrument amounts to bad faith. If, however, such instrument is payable to a personal creditor of the fiduciary and delivered to the creditor in payment of or as security for a personal debt of the fiduciary to the actual knowledge of the creditor, or is drawn and delivered in any transaction known by the payee to be for the personal benefit of the fiduciary, the creditor or other payee is liable to the principal if the fiduciary in fact commits a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing or delivering the instrument.

(7) **CHECK DRAWN BY AND PAYABLE TO FIDUCIARY.** If a check or other bill of exchange is drawn by a fiduciary as such, or in the name of his principal by a fiduciary empowered to draw such instrument in the name of his principal, payable to the fiduciary personally, or payable to a third person, and by him transferred to the fiduciary, and is thereafter transferred by the

fiduciary, whether in payment of a personal debt of the fiduciary or otherwise, the transferee is not bound to inquire whether the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in transferring the instrument, and is not chargeable with notice that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary, unless he takes the instrument with actual knowledge of such breach, or with knowledge of such facts that his action in taking the instrument amounts to bad faith.

(8) DEPOSIT IN NAME OF FIDUCIARY AS SUCH.

If a deposit is made in a bank to the credit of a fiduciary as such, the bank is authorized to pay the amount of the deposit or any part thereof upon the check of the fiduciary, signed with the name in which such deposit is entered, without being liable to the principal, unless the bank pays the check with actual knowledge that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing the check, or with knowledge of such facts that its action in paying the check amounts to bad faith. If, however, such a check is payable to the drawee bank, and is delivered to it in payment of or as security for a personal debt of the fiduciary to it, the bank is liable to the principal if the fiduciary in fact commits a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing or delivering the check.

(9) DEPOSIT IN NAME OF PRINCIPAL. If a check is drawn upon the account of his principal in a bank by a fiduciary, who is empowered to draw checks upon his principal's account, the bank is authorized to pay such check without being liable to the principal, unless the bank pays the check with actual knowledge that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing such check, or with knowledge of such facts that its action in paying the check amounts to bad faith. If, however, such a check is payable to the drawee bank and is delivered to it in payment of or as security for a personal debt of the fiduciary to it, the bank is liable to the principal if the fiduciary in fact commits a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in drawing or delivering the check.

(10) DEPOSIT IN FIDUCIARY'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT. If a fiduciary makes a deposit in a bank to his personal credit of checks drawn by him upon an account in his own name as fiduciary, or of checks payable to him as fiduciary, or of checks drawn by him upon an account in the name of his principal if he is empowered to draw checks thereon, or of checks payable to his principal and indorsed by him, if he is empowered to indorse such checks, or if he otherwise makes a deposit of funds held by him as fiduciary, the bank receiving such deposit is not bound to inquire whether the fiduciary is committing thereby a breach of his obligation as

fiduciary; and the bank is authorized to pay the amount of the deposit or any part thereof upon the personal check of the fiduciary without being liable to the principal, unless the bank receives the deposit or pays the check with actual knowledge that the fiduciary is committing a breach of his obligation as fiduciary in making such deposit or in drawing such check, or with knowledge of such facts that its action in receiving the deposit or paying the check amounts to bad faith.

(11) DEPOSIT OR SAFE DEPOSIT BOX RENTAL IN NAME OF ESTATE OR TWO OR MORE FIDUCIARIES. When a deposit is made in a bank or a safe deposit box or storage space rented, in the name of 2 or more persons as trustees, executors or administrators, or in the name of an estate having 2 or more executors or administrators, and a check is drawn upon such account, or access to said box or storage space is sought by any one or more of such fiduciaries authorized by the other fiduciary or fiduciaries to draw checks upon such account, or to enter said box or said storage space, neither the payee nor other holder nor the bank is bound to inquire whether it is a breach of trust to authorize such fiduciary or fiduciaries to draw checks upon such account, or to enter said box or storage space, and is not liable unless the circumstances be such that the action of the payee or other holder or the bank amounts to bad faith.

(12) NOT RETROACTIVE. The provisions of this section shall not apply to transactions taking place prior to June 4, 1925.

(13) CASES NOT PROVIDED FOR IN ACT. In any case not provided for in this section the rules of law and equity, including the law merchant and those rules of law and equity relating to trusts, agency, negotiable instruments and banking, shall continue to apply.

(14) UNIFORMITY OF INTERPRETATION. This section shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

(15) SHORT TITLE. This section may be cited as the "Uniform Fiduciaries Act".

(16) INCONSISTENT LAWS REPEALED. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this section are repealed.

112.02 Suspension of powers of fiduciaries engaged in war service. (1)

Whenever an executor, administrator, guardian or testamentary trustee is engaged in war service as defined in this section, such fiduciary or any other person interested in the estate or fund may present a petition to the court having jurisdiction praying for a decree suspending the powers of such fiduciary while he is engaged in war service and until the further order of the court, and if the

suspension of such fiduciary will leave no person acting as executor, administrator, guardian or testamentary trustee, or leave the sole beneficiary of a trust as the only acting trustee thereof, the petition must pray for the appointment of a successor unless a successor has been named in the will and such successor is not engaged in war service or is not for other reasons unable or unwilling to act as a fiduciary.

(2) For the purposes of this section a fiduciary shall be deemed to be engaged in war service in any of the following cases:

(a) If he is a member of the military or naval forces of the United States or of any of its allies or if he has been accepted for such service and is awaiting induction into such service.

(b) If he is engaged in any work abroad in connection with a governmental agency of the United States or in connection with the American Red Cross society or any other body with similar objects.

(c) If he is interned in an enemy country or is in a foreign country or a possession or dependency of the United States and is unable to return to this state.

(3) Where the application is made by a fiduciary engaged in war service notice shall be given to such persons and in such manner as the presiding judge may direct. Where the application is made by any other person interested in the estate or fund and the fiduciary is in the military or naval service of the United States notice shall be given to such fiduciary in such manner as the judge may direct. In every other case where the application is made by a person other than the fiduciary notice thereof shall be given to such persons and in such manner as the judge may direct.

(4) Upon the filing of the petition and the proof of service of the notice prescribed, the court may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, suspend the fiduciary engaged in war service from the exercise of all his powers and duties while such fiduciary remains engaged in war service and until the further order of the court. The decree may further provide that the remaining executor, administrator, guardian or testamentary trustee or if there be none, the successor named in the will or appointed by the court is possessed of and may exercise all of the powers and duties incidental to his office as fiduciary.

(5) When the suspended fiduciary ceases to be engaged in war service he may be reinstated as executor, administrator, guardian or testamentary trustee if any of the duties of such office remain unexecuted, upon application to the court and upon such notice as the presiding judge thereof may direct. If the suspended fiduciary is reinstated the court shall thereupon remove his

successor and revoke his letters and make such other order or decree as justice requires, but such removal and revocation of letters shall not bar the successor from subsequently qualifying as a fiduciary in accordance with the provisions of the will or if for any reason it thereafter becomes necessary that a fiduciary be appointed.

112.03 Proxy voting of corporate stock by fiduciaries. Shares of stock in any corporation organized under the laws of the United States, any of the states thereof, any foreign country or any province or other political subdivision thereof held by a fiduciary may be voted by such fiduciary by general or limited proxy, with or without power of substitution, unless such manner of voting is expressly prohibited by the document creating the fiduciary relationship or unless the manner of voting such shares is specifically directed in such document. For the purpose of this section the word "corporation" shall be construed to include investment companies which are common law trusts.

112.05 Trust funds; person holding prohibited from dealing in margins. Any person engaged in the business of receiving deposits of money for safekeeping, any officer or employe of any bank, banking company, or trust company, any executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or receiver, or any other person holding property or money in any manner in a trust capacity, who shall buy, sell, deal, or traffic in any goods, stocks, grains, or other property or article of commercial barter by making or requiring any deposit, payment, or pledge of any margin or of any money or property to cover future fluctuation in the price of such goods, stocks, grains, or other property so bought, sold, dealt, or trafficked in, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison not more than 10 years, nor less than one year.

112.06 Uniform act for simplification of fiduciary transfers. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Assignment" includes any written stock power, bond power, bill of sale, deed, declaration of trust or other instrument of transfer.

(b) "Claim of beneficial interest" includes a claim of any interest by a decedent's legatee, distributee, heir or creditor, a beneficiary under a trust, a ward, a beneficial owner of a security registered in the name of a nominee, or a minor owner of a security registered in the name of a custodian, or a claim of any similar interest, whether the claim is asserted by the claimant or by a fiduciary or by any other authorized person on his behalf, and includes a claim that the transfer would be in breach of fiduciary duties.

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(c) "Corporation" means a private or public corporation, association or trust issuing a security.

(d) "Fiduciary" means an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, committee, conservator, curator, tutor, custodian or nominee.

(e) "Person" includes an individual, a corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, 2 or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(f) "Security" includes any share of stock, bond, debenture, note or other security issued by a corporation which is registered as to ownership on the books of the corporation.

(g) "Transfer" means a change on the books of a corporation in the registered ownership of a security.

(h) "Transfer agent" means a person employed or authorized by a corporation to transfer securities issued by the corporation.

(2) REGISTRATION IN THE NAME OF A FIDUCIARY. A corporation or transfer agent registering a security in the name of a person who is a fiduciary or who is described as a fiduciary is not bound to inquire into the existence, extent, or correct description of the fiduciary relationship, and thereafter the corporation and its transfer agent may assume without inquiry that the newly registered owner continues to be the fiduciary until the corporation or transfer agent receives written notice that the fiduciary is no longer acting as such with respect to the particular security.

(3) ASSIGNMENT BY A FIDUCIARY. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a corporation or transfer agent making a transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary:

(a) May assume without inquiry that the assignment, even though to the fiduciary himself or to his nominee, is within his authority and capacity and is not in breach of his fiduciary duties;

(b) May assume without inquiry that the fiduciary has complied with any controlling instrument and with the law of the jurisdiction governing the fiduciary relationship, including any law requiring the fiduciary to obtain court approval of the transfer; and

(c) Is not charged with notice of and is not bound to obtain or examine any court record or any recorded or unrecorded document relating to the fiduciary relationship or the assignment, even though the record or document is in its possession.

(4) EVIDENCE OF APPOINTMENT OR INCUMBENCY. A corporation or transfer agent making a transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary who is not the registered owner shall

obtain the following evidence of appointment or incumbency:

(a) In the case of a fiduciary appointed or qualified by a court, a certificate issued by or under the direction or supervision of that court or an officer thereof and dated within 60 days before the transfer; or

(b) In any other case, a copy of a document showing the appointment or a certificate issued by or on behalf of a person reasonably believed by the corporation or transfer agent to be responsible or, in the absence of such a document or certificate, other evidence reasonably deemed by the corporation or transfer agent to be appropriate. Corporations and transfer agents may adopt standards with respect to evidence of appointment or incumbency under this subsection provided such standards are not manifestly unreasonable. Neither the corporation nor transfer agent is charged with notice of the contents of any document obtained pursuant to this paragraph except to the extent that the contents relate directly to the appointment or incumbency.

(5) ADVERSE CLAIMS. (a) A person asserting a claim of beneficial interest adverse to the transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary may give the corporation or transfer agent written notice of the claim. The corporation or transfer agent is not put on notice unless the written notice identifies the claimant, the registered owner and the issue of which the security is a part, provides an address for communications directed to the claimant and is received before the transfer. Nothing in this section relieves the corporation or transfer agent of any liability for making or refusing to make the transfer after it is so put on notice, unless it proceeds in the manner authorized in par. (b).

(b) As soon as practicable after the presentation of a security for transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary, a corporation or transfer agent which has received notice of a claim of beneficial interest adverse to the transfer may send notice of the presentation by registered or certified mail to the claimant at the address given by him. If the corporation or transfer agent so mails such a notice it shall withhold the transfer for 30 days after the mailing and shall then make the transfer unless restrained by a court order.

(6) NONLIABILITY OF CORPORATION AND TRANSFER AGENT. A corporation or transfer agent incurs no liability to any person by making a transfer or otherwise acting in a manner authorized by this section.

(7) NONLIABILITY OF THIRD PERSONS. (a) No person who participates in the acquisition, disposition, assignment or transfer of a security by or to a fiduciary including a person who

guarantees the signature of the fiduciary is liable for participation in any breach of fiduciary duty by reason of failure to inquire whether the transaction involves such a breach unless it is shown that he acted with actual knowledge that the proceeds of the transaction were being or were to be used wrongfully for the individual benefit of the fiduciary or that the transaction was otherwise in breach of duty.

(b) If a corporation or transfer agent makes a transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary, a person who guaranteed the signature of the fiduciary is not liable on the guarantee to any person to whom the corporation or transfer agent by reason of this section incurs no liability.

(c) This subsection does not impose any liability upon the corporation or its transfer agent.

(8) TERRITORIAL APPLICATION. (a) The rights and duties of a corporation and its transfer agents in registering a security in the name of a fiduciary or in making a transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary are

governed by the law of the jurisdiction under whose laws the corporation is organized.

(b) This section applies to the rights and duties of a person other than the corporation and its transfer agents with regard to acts and omissions in this state in connection with the acquisition, disposition, assignment or transfer of a security by or to a fiduciary and of a person who guarantees in this state the signature of a fiduciary in connection with such a transaction.

(9) TAX OBLIGATIONS. This section does not affect any obligation of a corporation or transfer agent with respect to estate, inheritance, succession or other taxes imposed by the laws of this state.

(10) UNIFORMITY OF INTERPRETATION. This section shall be so construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

(11) SHORT TITLE. This section may be cited as the "Uniform Act for Simplification of Fiduciary Security Transfers".