

CHAPTER 100.

MARKETING; WAREHOUSES; TRADE PRACTICES.

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Cross Reference: See definitions in 93.01.

100.01 Produce wholesaler license. (1) When used in this section:

(a) "Person" includes a partnership, corporation, association, trust, and every other form under which natural persons can do business.

(b) "Produce" means any kind of fresh fruit or fresh vegetable, including potatoes and onions intended for planting.

(c) "Commission merchant" means a person engaged in receiving produce for sale for or on behalf of another.

(d) "Dealer" means a person who buys, sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in possession with intent to sell, any produce except that raised by him and that purchased by him exclusively for his own sale at retail.

(e) "Broker" means a person engaged in negotiating sales or purchases of produce for or on behalf of the seller or the buyer.

(f) "Produce wholesaler" means a commission merchant, dealer or broker.

(2) (a) No person shall carry on business or advertise or hold himself out as a produce wholesaler or as a commission merchant, dealer or broker without an annual license issued in the name under which the business operates.

(b) Application for license shall give such pertinent information, in such form, as the department requires, and be accompanied by the fee.

(c) The annual fee is \$5. No part of a fee shall be returned after the license is issued nor after any investigation has been made on the application.

(d) Every produce wholesaler shall execute and file with the department a bond in such form and with such surety or sureties as it directs, conditioned that he will faithfully perform his obligations and comply with all laws and regulations governing his business. The filing of such bond is a condition of granting license. Whenever the department determines that a bond is insufficient it may require additional bond, which shall be filed within such reasonable time as the department fixes in a written demand. Failure to make timely application or to file bond does not relieve a produce wholesaler of liability for any part of the license fee.

(e) Upon receiving the proper application, fee and bond, the department shall issue to the applicant a license, which shall expire one year after the beginning of the license term unless sooner suspended or revoked; but the license shall be suspended automatically whenever and so long as the required bond is not in effect, provided the department has sent the licensee notice of cancellation of the bond at least 30 days in advance.

(f) The license certificate or a duplicate issued by the department shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each fixed place of business of the licensee. The department shall issue duplicates for \$1 each.

(g) The licensee and each person representing him in buying or selling produce or negotiating therefor elsewhere than at the licensee's fixed place of business shall carry on his person an identification card issued by the department showing his name and that he is such licensee or the representative of the licensee named thereon. The department shall issue such card without charge for the individual licensee or for one member of the partnership or one officer of the corporation licensee, and on request of the licensee, shall issue additional cards for \$1 each.

(h) No action on a bond may be maintained by a person claiming damage because of a breach thereof unless the written approval of the department is attached to and made a part of the complaint. Before commencing action the claimant shall state the facts to the department in writing. Prior to granting approval the department may hold a hear-

ing, giving the party complained of reasonable notice of the charges and of the time and place of hearing. If a hearing is held, the department shall report its findings and conclusions to both parties. The record of a hearing shall be competent evidence in court.

(i) If a licensee is liable for breach of the bond to more than one person in a total greater than the amount of the bond, the department may commence an action on the bond. The amount collected shall be deposited with the department, and, subject to the approval of the court, if action has been commenced, it shall apportion such amount pro rata among all valid claims presented to the department. The department may employ counsel to carry out this paragraph, but shall pay therefor only out of the amount recovered on the bond.

(3) It shall be unlawful:

(a) For a commission merchant or broker to make a fraudulent charge in respect to produce.

(b) For a dealer to reject or fail to deliver in accordance with the contract, without reasonable cause, produce bought or sold or contracted to be bought or sold by such dealer.

(c) For a commission merchant or broker to discard, dump or destroy without reasonable cause produce received by him.

(d) For a produce wholesaler to make for a fraudulent purpose or for the purpose of depressing the market a false or misleading statement concerning the grade, condition, markings, quality, quantity, market quotations or disposition of any produce or of the condition of the market therefor.

(e) For a commission merchant to fail to render a true itemized statement of the sale or other disposition of a consignment of produce with full payment promptly in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the parties, or, if no agreement, within 15 days after receipt of the produce. Such statement of sale shall clearly express the gross amount for which the produce was sold and the proper, usual or agreed selling charge, and other expenses necessarily and actually incurred or agreed to in the handling thereof.

(f) For a dealer to fail to accept or reject produce promptly. If the dealer fails to notify the seller of rejection by wire or telephone within 24 hours after he receives notice of arrival of the produce, he will be deemed to have accepted it as being in accordance with the contract.

(g) For a produce wholesaler to receive produce from another state or country for sale or resale within this state and give the buyer the impression that the commodity is of Wisconsin origin.

(h) For a produce wholesaler, for a fraudulent purpose, to remove, alter or tamper with any card, stencil, stamp, tag, certificate or other notice placed upon any container or railroad car containing produce by the original packer or by or under authority of any federal or state inspector and bearing a certificate as to the grower, grade or quality of such produce.

(i) For a produce wholesaler to fail to comply with a state law relating to marketing produce, including grading and marking requirements.

(4) The state department of agriculture shall enforce this section, and may make regulations necessary for that purpose. [1933 c. 351 s. 2; 1935 c. 44, 550 s. 333; 1939 c. 127, 476; 1943 c. 229; 1943 c. 375 s. 28; 1943 c. 401 s. 26; 1943 c. 515 s. 8; 1945 c. 226]

100.02 Commission merchants, duties, must account. (1) No person, firm, association, or corporation receiving any fruits, vegetables, melons, dairy, or poultry products or any perishable farm products of any kind or character, other than cattle, sheep, hogs or horses, hereinafter referred to as produce, for or on behalf of another, shall without good and sufficient cause therefor, destroy, or abandon, discard as refuse or dump any produce directly or indirectly, or through collusion with any person, nor shall any person, firm, association or corporation knowingly and with intent to defraud make any false report or statement to the person, firm, association, or corporation from whom any produce was received, concerning the handling, condition, quality, quantity, sale or disposition thereof, nor shall any person, firm, association or corporation knowingly and with intent to defraud fail truly and correctly to account and pay over to the consignor therefor. The state department of agriculture shall by regulation provide for the making of prompt investigations and the issuing of certificates as to the quality and condition of produce received, upon application of any person, firm, association, or corporation shipping, receiving, or financially interested in, such produce. Such regulations shall designate the classes of persons qualified and authorized to make such investigations and issue such certificates, except that any such investigation shall be made and any such certificate shall be issued by at least two disinterested persons in any case where such investigation is not made by an officer or employe of the department. A certificate made in compliance with such regulations shall be prima facie evidence in all courts of the truth of the statements therein contained as to the quality and condition of the produce; but if any such certificate

is put in evidence by any party, in any civil or criminal proceeding, the opposite party shall be permitted to cross-examine any person signing such certificate, called as a witness at the instance of either party, as to his qualifications and authority and as to the truth of the statements contained in such certificate.

(2) If any provision of this act [1933 c. 112] is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the act and the applicability of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1933 c. 112; 1935 c. 550 s. 334, 335; 1943 c. 229]

100.03 [Repealed by 1943 c. 179; 1943 c. 515 s. 9]

100.03 Food processors' payments; bond or security. (1) No operator of any food processing plant, for which a license is required by section 97.06, shall buy or otherwise take title to or possession of any farm product from the producer thereof without paying to the producer the full agreed price at the time of obtaining such possession or control, unless the applicant shall first satisfy the department that his financial condition is such as to reasonably assure prompt payment to growers of the produce contracted for or received by him as and when the same becomes due and payable. Such application shall be accompanied by a financial statement of the applicant's most recently completed fiscal year and such supplemental and additional information as the department may require.

(2) In any case where the department is not satisfied that the financial condition of the applicant does reasonably assure such prompt payment, it may require as a condition to the issuing of such license that the applicant either:

(a) Make and file a surety bond in such sum as it may deem sufficient, executed by the applicant as principal and by a surety company qualified and authorized to do business in this state as surety; such bond shall be in such form as the department may prescribe, be made payable to the state of Wisconsin for the benefit of producers who might suffer by reason of default of the principal, and be conditioned that the principal shall pay or cause to be paid to producers all sums owing producers for products contracted for or received by the principal as the same become due.

(b) Make and file with the department an agreement providing for the "set aside" of not less than 30 per cent of the processed produce in trust for the producers. No part of such "set aside" shall be released by the trustee unless an amount equivalent to the value of such released portion shall have been paid to apply pro rata on the claims of producers or is paid over to the trustee for such payment. The applicant shall agree to pay all expenses of such trust.

(3) Upon receipt of evidence of default by any licensee in making payment to producers the department may commence an action for the recovery of claims of all producers or otherwise assist the producers to establish an organization for the purpose of making collection. [1947 c. 510]

100.04 [Repealed by 1937 c. 369]

100.04 Grading of Swiss cheese. (1) Emmenthaler cheese shall be purchased, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange in this state only upon the basis of the grade established by law or by general order of the department under section 93.09 as determined by a qualified cheese grader employed by the department, except as to any individual sale of 100 pounds or less or of more than 100 pounds when limited to one loaf. All such cheese shall be graded at the factory whenever practical.

(2) The cost of such grading shall be charged to and collected from the owners of the cheese so graded in the sum of one-fortieth cent per pound, except that the department may charge an average fee of 5 cents for each drum and an average fee of 2 cents for each block. [1939 c. 217; 1943 c. 375 s. 30; 1943 c. 401 s. 27; 1943 c. 515 s. 10; 1947 c. 471]

Note: Chapter 217, Laws 1939, creating not later than Jan. 1, 1940. See section 3 of section 100.04, takes effect on date to be set said chapter 217. therefor by general department order, but

100.05 Dairy product dealer's license. (1) No person, as principal, or as agent of either party, shall purchase, assemble or receive any dairy product for manufacturing, processing or sale, in this state or elsewhere, or negotiate therefor, without an annual license therefor from the department; but this section shall not apply to a licensee under section 97.04, 97.05 or 100.13 or an employe of such licensee, as to business covered by such license; to transporting milk or cream from a producer to a plant or station licensed under section 97.04 or 97.05, or from such station to such plant, or transporting by-products thereof back to a producer; nor to the purchase of dairy products by a person operating only an established restaurant, hotel, or retail shop or store, exclusively for consumption therein or sale directly to the consumer. The license certificate or a certified copy thereof shall be displayed conspicuously in each warehouse, plant and assembling point. The department shall issue such certified copy for one dollar.

(2) The application for license shall give in writing such pertinent information in such form as the department shall require, and be accompanied by a fee of fifteen dollars, which shall be retained whether or not a license is issued. The department shall issue a license to each person making proper application and who is fit and equipped for the business.

(3) The licensee shall make and file with the department such reports and information as it shall require.

(4) Subsections (7), (9), (10) and (11) of section 97.04 shall apply to this section. [1933 c. 405; 1935 c. 550 s. 338; 1939 c. 471; 1943 c. 179; 1943 c. 401 s. 23]

100.06 to 100.11 [Repealed by 1937 c. 279]

100.06 Bond or security required. (1) No person shall operate a dairy plant or receiving station as defined in section 97.04, nor as a dairy products dealer, as set forth in section 100.05, and no license shall be issued therefor until there has been filed a bond or other security with the department as required by this section. This section shall not supersede any other statute requiring like or greater security.

(2) The amount of the bond or other security shall be based upon the amount or value reasonably likely to be due and accrued at any one time, for dairy products except to a dairy products dealer or operator of a dairy plant. No person shall receive dairy products that will increase the amount due and accrued beyond the basis of the security without first notifying the department, nor beyond 20 per cent above the basis of the security without first having on file corresponding additional security.

(3) (a) Each bond given under this section shall be in such form as the department may prescribe and be made payable to the state of Wisconsin for the benefit of the persons who would otherwise suffer by reason of any default of the principal named in said bond. Such bond shall be conditioned that the principal shall pay or cause to be paid to the persons lawfully entitled thereto, as herein provided, all sums of money owing for dairy products sold to or received by the said principal, as the same become due. When personal sureties are furnished on such bond or bonds, said sureties shall give or make due proof of their financial status by supplying to the department a verified financial statement showing in detail their net worth.

(b) Any person injured by the breach of any obligation under this section may file with the department a verified proof of claim. Upon receipt of such claim or any other evidence of default, the department, by order, may require all interested creditors to file their verified claims before a certain date. Notice of the entry of such order shall be given by posting a copy thereof on the dairy plant or receiving station operated by the principal at least 30 days prior to the last date for filing such claims. Such notice shall also be printed once a week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper having a general circulation in the community. The date of the last publication shall be not less than 30 days prior to the last date for filing such claims. The department shall make the necessary audit and, by order, allow or disallow all claims presented. The department may demand, collect by action or otherwise and receive from the principal and surety or sureties the amount determined to be necessary to satisfy such claims. Upon receipt of money to be applied to the satisfaction of such claims in accordance with this section, the department shall make distribution to the claimants in accordance with the proofs filed, in full or pro rata as the case may be.

(4) The department may accept as such security, when practicable, and to the extent they are adequate, contracts by which payment for dairy products is secured directly to the producers of the milk and cream, or to some person in trust for their use in such manner as to assure its delivery to such producers, from anyone who has qualified under this section.

(4a) Contracts by which payment for dairy products is secured to some person in trust for the use of the producers shall be accepted by the department only if the person named to so act shall have been selected by the majority of such producers at least once annually, and only if the person so selected shall first make and file with the department a fidelity bond, in such form as the department may require, and in a sum to be fixed at not less than the amount of money reasonably likely to be in his possession or under his control at any one time.

(5) The department may accept, in lieu of the security, a statement prepared by a certified public accountant or a registered public accountant, or a sworn statement on a form prescribed by the department, adequately showing financial condition reasonably assuring prompt payment of the price of dairy products, or upon agreement to pay the actual cost of necessary examination from time to time and upon advancement of cost estimates, shown financial condition reasonably assuring prompt payment of the price of dairy products. The department may for cause disapprove any certified public accountant or registered public accountant for certificate hereunder, and the penalties of section

135.11 shall apply as well to anyone filing a statement false or fraudulent in any material particular and to negligence in preparing, certifying or filing a misleading statement.

(5a) When any dairy plant or receiving station shall employ or retain a sales agent or commission dealer to market and distribute its dairy products, and such sales agent or commission dealer shall sell such dairy products to a duly licensed dairy products dealer, such dairy products dealer shall directly remit or transmit all moneys due thereunder to such dairy plant or receiving station. The dairy plant or receiving station shall be responsible for the payment of any commission or salary that may be due to such sales agent or commission dealer. Such payment by the dairy product dealer shall be considered as in full release, payment and discharge of any obligation thereunder.

(6) As used in this section, "price" includes, without limitation, the amount to be paid, delivered, or vested indefeasibly in the person entitled thereto, as shall be lawfully agreed, and "pay" and its variants includes, without limitation, delivery of the price, as herein defined, to the person entitled thereto.

(7) Compliance with this section shall be an additional requirement for the license and noncompliance shall be ground for denial, suspension or revocation of license, under sections 97.04 and 100.05. Subsections (9), (10) and (11) of section 97.04 shall apply to this section.

(8) The whole claim of any person against the owner or operator of any dairy plant or receiving station, as defined by section 97.04, or any dealer in any dairy product, as defined in section 100.05, on account of milk, cream or any other dairy product, as defined in section 97.04, sold or delivered to such owner, operator or dealer, or any judgment therefor, shall be entitled to the same preference in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings as is given by any law of this state or by the federal bankruptcy act to claims for labor, but this section shall not affect or impair any other lien or security for the said claim or judgment. [1939 c. 471; 1941 c. 217; 1943 c. 298; 1947 c. 202]

Note: Subsection (4), Stats. 1941, is explained at great length and applied in *Woodke v. Froeknow*, 238 W 422, 300 NW 173.

Under the provisions in 100.06 (8), the whole of a claim of a producer of dairy products is given the same preference, without any 3-month limitation as to time or limitation as to amount, as is given to labor claims by 128.17 (1) (c) in creditors' actions. In re Merrick Dairy Co. 249 W 295, 24 NW (2d) 679.

100.07 Milk payments; audits. (1) Whenever petitions signed by more than 60 per cent of the producers of milk delivered to any dairy plant or petitions signed by more than 60 per cent of the producers comprising any municipal milk shed shall be presented to the department asking for the audit of payments to producers, the department by investigation and public hearing shall determine the facts in support of and against such petition and render its decision thereon. The department by order shall define the plants and areas affected. All persons receiving from producers in any such plant or area milk any part of which is used for fluid distribution shall keep adequate records of all purchases and all usage or disposition of milk and shall make reports thereof as prescribed by the department. The department shall have free access to such records and shall after entry of such order audit the receipts and usage or disposition of milk and cream at intervals sufficiently frequent to keep the producers informed for bargaining purposes.

(2) Each such person shall deduct from the price to producers an amount sufficient to administer this section, to be the same for all, and not to exceed one-half cent per 100 pounds of milk received or its equivalent. Amounts so deducted are trust funds and shall be paid to the department.

(3) Whenever petitions signed by more than 51 per cent of the producers of milk delivered to any such plant or in any such municipal milk shed shall be presented to the department asking for discontinuance of such auditing service, it shall promptly hold a public hearing to determine the sufficiency of such petitions, and if it shall appear that the required number of persons have so petitioned, the auditing service shall be ordered discontinued. Plants and areas now being audited by the department shall continue to receive such service until an order of discontinuance is made as herein provided.

(4) Authorized officials of any organization whose members are producers delivering milk to any such plant or in any such municipal milk shed may sign petitions for such auditing service or for the discontinuance thereof for and on behalf of the producer members of such organization.

(5) Any person who violates this section by failing to pay to the department the deductions required by this section, or by failing to make or to keep the required records or reports, or by wilfully making any false entry in such records or reports, or by wilfully failing to make full and true entries in such records or reports, or by obstructing, refusing or resisting other than through judicial process any department audit of such records, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail not more than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(6) Action to enjoin violation of this section may be commenced and prosecuted by the department in the name of the state in any court having equity jurisdiction. [1941 c. 325; 1945 c. 273]

100.12 [Repealed by 1943 c. 229]

100.13 Warehousemen. (1) DEFINITIONS, LICENSES. (a) "Warehouseman" as used in this section excludes: municipal and railroad corporations; those licensed under sections 99.02 and 126.07; co-operative associations storing farm products and merchandise for members; those who own and use warehouses for storage of manufactured dairy products, or canned produce and dairy products, manufactured by them; and field warehouses. It includes every other person who stores property for hire.

(b) The state department of agriculture may exempt from the operation of this section a warehouse or portion thereof if the operator has a license under the federal bonded warehouse act.

(c) A person desiring a warehouseman's license shall make application on a form furnished by the department and shall set forth the location, size, character and equipment of the building or premises to be used by him, the kinds of goods intended to be stored, the name of each partner, if a partnership, and the names of the officers, if a corporation, and such other facts as the department requires to show that the property proposed to be used is suitable for a warehouse and that the applicant is qualified as a warehouseman. If the property proposed to be used is suitable for a warehouse and the applicant is entitled to a license, he shall be notified of the fact and upon payment of the license fee and giving the bond required a license shall issue.

(2) WAREHOUSEMEN CLASSIFIED. Warehousemen are classified as follows: Warehousemen who have less than 10,000 square feet of floor space constitute class 1; warehousemen who have 10,000 square feet or over but less than 50,000 constitute class 2; warehousemen who have 50,000 square feet or over but less than 100,000 constitute class 3; warehousemen who have 100,000 square feet or over but less than 150,000 constitute class 4; and warehousemen who have 150,000 square feet or over constitute class 5.

(3) LICENSE FEES, TERM. (a) Every warehouseman before he is licensed shall pay into the state treasury an annual fee, as follows: For class 1, \$10; for class 2, \$20; for class 3, \$30; for class 4, \$40; and for class 5, \$50.

(b) No license shall be issued for part of a year for less than the annual fee, and the license is not transferable. The license period expires June 30.

(4) BOND. (a) Every warehouseman, before he is licensed, shall file with the department a bond to the state of Wisconsin, with one or more sureties, who shall justify in double the amount of such bond, or with a surety company licensed by this state as surety. Such bond must be acceptable to the department and shall be conditioned that the warehouseman will faithfully perform his obligations as a warehouseman. When the department determines that a bond is insufficient, it may require an additional bond, and unless it is given within the time fixed by a written demand therefor the license may be suspended or revoked. Any warehouseman may, in lieu of such bond, file with the department a certified copy of a legal liability insurance policy of like amount which is acceptable to the department and payable to the state for the benefit of the owners of stored property, and which provides that the policy shall not be canceled during the license period except upon 15 days' notice in writing to the department. Failure to keep such bond or policy of insurance in force shall be cause for revoking the license.

(b) The bond or insurance policy shall be in amount as follows: For class 1, \$5,000; for class 2, \$10,000; for class 3, \$15,000; for class 4, \$20,000; and for class 5, \$25,000.

(c) In the case of warehousemen engaged exclusively in storing wearing apparel the department may accept, in lieu of bond, a certified copy of insurance policies protecting the owners of all stored goods against loss or damage by fire, wind, water or theft.

(5) SIGN POSTED. Every warehouseman shall keep a conspicuous sign posted on the outside of each warehouse, at its main entrance, and another conspicuous sign posted at its main exit which sign shall state clearly the name of the warehouseman, his license number, and that the warehouse is a public warehouse.

(7) TRANSACTING BUSINESS WITHOUT A LICENSE. No person shall act or hold himself out as a warehouseman or advertise for or solicit business as a warehouseman without a warehouseman's license, or when his bond has become void or has been found insufficient. [1933 c. 456; 1935 c. 550 s. 347, 348; 1937 c. 395; 1939 c. 353; 1939 c. 513 s. 27; 1943 c. 229; 1943 c. 401 s. 30; 1943 c. 515 s. 11]

Note: Owner or operator of garage or of automobiles is not "warehouseman" as used automobile parking space for storage of in (1) (a). 23 Atty. Gen. 47.

100.14 Uniform labels and trade-marks. (1) The department may adopt uniform labels and trade-marks for brands of Wisconsin products and shall, upon request, permit the use of such labels and trade-marks by any person engaged in the production or distri-

bution of products who complies with regulations issued by the department for the use of such labels or trade-marks.

(2) The secretary of state shall, upon application of the department, record any such label or trade-mark under sections 132.01 to 132.12. The department shall be entitled to protect such label or trade-mark under said sections and in any other manner authorized by law. [1935 c. 550 s. 349; 1943 c. 229]

100.15 Regulation of trading stamps. (1) No person, firm, corporation, or association within this state shall use, give, offer, issue, transfer, furnish, deliver, or cause or authorize to be furnished or delivered to any other person, firm, corporation, or association within this state, in connection with the sale of any goods, wares or merchandise, any trading stamp, token, ticket, bond, or other similar device, which shall entitle the purchaser receiving the same to procure any goods, wares, merchandise privilege, or thing of value in exchange for any such trading stamp, token, ticket, bond, or other similar device, except that any manufacturer, packer, or dealer may issue any slip, ticket, or check with the sale of any goods, wares or merchandise, which slip, ticket or check shall bear upon its face a stated cash value and shall be redeemable only in cash for the amount stated thereon, upon presentation in amounts aggregating twenty-five cents or over of redemption value, and only by the person, firm or corporation issuing the same; provided, that the publication by or distribution through newspapers, or other publications, of coupons in advertisements other than their own, shall not be considered a violation of this section; and provided further, that this section shall not apply to any coupon, certificate or similar device, which is within, attached to, or a part of any package or container as packed by the original manufacturer and is directly redeemed by such manufacturer.

(2) The giving, offering, issuance or delivery of any trading stamp, token, ticket, bond, slip, check or other similar device having a redemption value, by any person, firm, corporation or association, in connection with the resale of any goods, wares or merchandise which were bought by such person, firm, corporation or association with knowledge or notice that the resale price thereof had been fixed or established by the producer or distributor thereof, when the price obtained on the resale less the total redemption value of the device herein mentioned given in connection therewith is below the fixed or established minimum price, is declared to be an unfair method of competition in business, and notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, or any other provision in the statutes, is prohibited. In addition to the penalty provided in section 100.26 for violation of this section, an injunction may be issued by any court of competent jurisdiction restraining further violation hereof at the suit of any person, firm or corporation damaged or affected thereby.

(3) If any provision, sentence, clause or word of this section or the application thereof to any person, firm, corporation or association, thing or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this section and the application of such provision, sentence, clause or word to other persons, firms, corporations or associations, things or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1931 c. 238; 1935 c. 550 s. 350; 1939 c. 52]

Note: The state has the power to regulate and even prohibit the issuance of trading stamps as a business device, including trading stamps redeemable in cash as well as those redeemable in merchandise, the whole subject of trading stamps being a matter for legislative regulation within the police power, which may be used to fortify the policy of the validly enacted fair trade act, sec. 133.25, and hence 100.15 (2), in prohibiting the issuance of trading stamps in the circumstances described, although redeemable only in cash, is valid. *Ed. Schuster & Co. v. Steffes*, 237 N.W. 41, 295 N.W. 737.

Giving of ticket with case of soda water which entitles person receiving ticket to rebate is violation of trading stamp law. 19 Atty. Gen. 358.

Giving of insurance policy on life of purchaser or any member of his family in exchange for five hundred trading stamps issued in connection with sale of merchandise to purchaser is in violation of trading stamp law. 19 Atty. Gen. 547.

Giving of coupon with sale of goods entitling holder to certain number of votes on Austin car or cash prize is violation of trading stamp law, and also violation of 348.15, Stats. 1933. 19 Atty. Gen. 558.

Coupons given with sale of thrift books, which books are sold by theater corporation and which coupons entitle owner to oil painting, are violation of trading stamp law. 19 Atty. Gen. 602.

Cards delivered with sale of merchandise by merchant in numbers as high as fifty,

which may be exchanged for camera and ordering (as trial only) of one carton of six rolls of films at regular price of twenty-five cents per roll, is violation of trading stamp law. 19 Atty. Gen. 607.

Scheme by which any person is given prize who receives votes based upon number of wrappers, labels or sales slips which he collects, attached to merchandise when sold, and receives in addition certain per cent in cash for said labels is in violation of (1) unless person or company conducting campaign is manufacturer or acting as agent of manufacturer. 20 Atty. Gen. 670.

Merchant who gives with each one dollar purchase ticket upon which vote may be cast for "queen" who is to receive one hundred dollar prize, violates trading stamp law; but if vote is orally given to merchant and recorded by him, it is questionable if law is violated. 20 Atty. Gen. 886.

Ticket to theater contained in every tenth loaf of bread sold by bakery is advertising in violation of trading stamp act; it is also violation of antilottery law. 20 Atty. Gen. 950.

Giving away without charge, and regardless of purchase of anything, of cards bearing numbers and entitling holders to prizes in accordance as number on particular card coincides with figures of bank balances published each week is not lottery, gambling device nor violation of trading stamp law. 21 Atty. Gen. 917.

Where coupons attached to original package are redeemable by manufacturer

and retail merchant acts merely as his agent in receiving coupons for forwarding to manufacturer there is no violation of this section. 22 Atty. Gen. 389.

Giving of trade receipts in connection with sale of merchandise which are collected by children, child depositing largest sum of money represented by trade receipts being entitled to prize, is violation of trading stamp act. 23 Atty. Gen. 781.

When slips are issued in connection with sale of merchandise which, in addition to having cash redemption value, entitle purchaser to chance at prize if enough are accumulated, this section is violated. 24 Atty. Gen. 192.

Giving of parking stamps to customer at rate of ten cents for one dollar or more of

merchandise, which stamps can be used to pay for parking at certain garages and parking lots, violates (1). 26 Atty. Gen. 558.

Advertising scheme by which every cash purchaser of merchandise receives cash slip bearing date and amount of purchase, holders of which are entitled on particular day selected by merchant to receive free from merchant merchandise equal to amount of cash slip bearing particular date merchant selects, is in violation of 100.15. It is also in violation of 348.01 and 100.16. 27 Atty. Gen. 325.

"Multiple-dividend" plan condemned as lottery but not deemed in violation of trading stamp act. 27 Atty. Gen. 764.

See note to 78.11, citing 31 Atty. Gen. 53.

100.16 Selling with pretense of prize. No person shall sell or offer to sell anything whatever, by the representation or pretense that a sum of money or something of value, which is uncertain or concealed, is inclosed within or may be found with or named upon the thing sold, or that will be given to the purchaser in addition to the thing sold, or by any representation, pretense or device, by which the purchaser is informed or induced to believe that money or something else of value may be won or drawn by chance by reason of such sale. [1935 c. 550 s. 351]

Note: Giving of coupon with sale of goods entitling holder of certain number of votes on Austin car or cash prize is violation of trading stamp law and also of this section. 19 Atty. Gen. 558.

See note to 348.085, citing 27 Atty. Gen. 104.

Bakery packing in each loaf of bread letter of alphabet which entitles purchaser, after accumulating enough letters to spell words "golden cream bread," to premium does not violate 100.15 but does violate 348.01 and 100.16. 27 Atty. Gen. 357.

See note to 348.01, citing 28 Atty. Gen. 312.

100.17 Guessing contests. No person or persons or corporations in their own name or under any assumed trade name, with intent to defraud, shall advertise or represent in printing or writing of any nature, any enigma, guessing or puzzle contest, offering to the participants therein any premium, prize or certificate entitling the recipient to a credit upon the purchase of merchandise in any form whatsoever; nor shall any person or corporation in the printing or writing, advertising or setting forth any such contests, fail to state definitely the nature of the prizes so offered; nor shall any person or corporation fail to state clearly upon all evidences of value issued as a result of such contest in the form of credit certificates, credit bonds, coupons, or other evidences of credit in any form whatsoever, whether the same are redeemable in money or are of value only as a credit upon the purchase of merchandise; nor shall any person or corporation issue to any person as a result of any such contest, any instrument in the form of a bank check or bank draft or promissory note or any colorable imitation of any of the foregoing; nor shall any person or corporation refuse or fail to award and grant the specific prizes offered to the persons determined to be entitled thereto under the terms of such contest, or fail to redeem any credit certificate, credit bonds, coupons or other evidences of credit issued as a result of any such contest, according to the terms thereof. [1935 c. 550 s. 352]

100.18 Fraudulent advertising. (1) No person, firm, corporation or association, or agent or employe thereof, with intent to sell, distribute, increase the consumption of or in any wise dispose of any real estate, merchandise, securities, employment, service, or anything offered by such person, firm, corporation or association, or agent or employe thereof, directly or indirectly, to the public for sale, hire, use or other distribution, or with intent to induce the public in any manner to enter into any contract or obligation relating to the purchase, sale, hire, use or lease of any real estate, merchandise, securities, employment or service, shall make, publish, disseminate, circulate, or place before the public, or cause, directly or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in this state, in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in the form of a book, notice, handbill, poster, bill, circular, pamphlet, letter, sign, placard, card, label, or over any radio or television station, or in any other way similar or dissimilar to the foregoing, an advertisement, announcement, statement or representation of any kind to the public relating to such purchase, sale, hire, use or lease of such real estate, merchandise, securities, service or employment or to the terms or conditions thereof, which advertisement, announcement, statement or representation contains any assertion, representation or statement of fact which is untrue, deceptive or misleading.

(2) It shall be deemed deceptive advertising, within the meaning of this section, for any person, firm or corporation, engaged in the business of buying or selling new or secondhand furs, wearing apparel, jewelry, furniture, pianos, phonographs, or other musical instruments, motor vehicles, stocks, or generally any form of property, real, personal or mixed, or in the business of furnishing any kind of service or investment, to

advertise such articles, property or service for sale or purchase, in any manner indicating that the sale or purchase is being made by a private party or householder not engaged in such business. And every such firm, corporation or association, engaged in any such business, in advertising goods, property or service for sale or purchase, shall affirmatively and unmistakably indicate and state that the seller or purchaser is a business concern and not a private party.

(3) It shall be deemed deceptive advertising, within the meaning of this section, for any person, firm or corporation to take donations or sell merchandise or tickets of admission or solicit programs or any other advertising when any part of the proceeds will be donated to any organization or fund, unless said advertising shall contain a correct statement of the amount to be donated to any such organization or fund, set out substantially in the following manner: (a) the minimum amount stated in dollars; or (b) the minimum percentage of the gross income; or (c) the minimum percentage of the net income. If the amount to be donated is to be based on the net income such donor shall file with the secretary or treasurer of the fund or organization receiving the donation before commencing such advertising, an itemized statement, under oath, setting forth the maximum amounts to be deducted from gross income in determining the net income. Such statement shall be open to examination by the public. If merchandise is to be received and donated to such organization or fund, without change of form, the advertising shall state what percentage of the total amount of merchandise collected will be donated to such organization or fund.

(4) Any person, firm, corporation or association engaged in any business mentioned in subsection (2), or in any other kind of business, whether conducting such business in a store, business block, residence or other building, shall at all times keep a conspicuous sign posted on the outside of his establishment and another conspicuous sign in the sales-room, which sign shall clearly state the name of the association, corporation or individual who actually owns said merchandise, property or service which are being offered to the public and not the name of any other person; provided, however, that the exterior sign shall not be required where the seller has no control over the exterior of the premises where such business is conducted.

(5) The state department of agriculture shall enforce the provisions of this section. Actions to enjoin violation of this section or any regulations thereunder may be commenced and prosecuted by the department in the name of the state in any court having equity jurisdiction. This remedy is not exclusive. [1935 c. 550 s. 353; 1939 c. 513 s. 28; 1941 c. 251; 1943 c. 229; 1945 c. 399]

Note: Where plaintiff, a professional musician and band director, agreed to print on all advertising matter for the band that defendant manufacturer's instruments were used exclusively by the band, and agreed that defendant should have exclusive use of names of plaintiff and band in connection with the sale and advertisement of musical instruments, but at time of signing the writing plaintiff used only seven of defendant's instruments out of twenty-four used in the

band, and on subsequent tours never used more than ten of defendant's instruments, agreement was invalid and plaintiff could not recover compensation thereunder. *Kryl v. Frank Holton & Co.*, 259 NW 328, 217 W 628.

Advertising by partnership or corporation of real estate, giving only business and home telephone numbers of member is deceptive advertising in violation of this section. 24 Atty. Gen. 56.

100.19 Distribution methods and practices. (1) The methods of distribution and practices in the distribution of food products and fuel shall be free from needless waste and needless duplication which tend to increase the cost of such products to the consuming public. Methods of distribution and practices in the distribution of food products and fuel, wherever such waste or duplication tends to increase the costs of such products to the consuming public, are hereby prohibited.

(2) The department, after public hearing, may issue general orders forbidding methods of distribution or practices in distribution which are found by the department to cause waste or duplication as defined herein. The department, after public hearing, may issue general orders prescribing methods of distribution or practices in distribution which are found by the department to avoid waste or duplication as defined herein.

(3) The department, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, enjoining such person from employing any method of distribution or practice in distribution which is found by the department to cause waste or duplication as defined herein. The department, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, requiring such person to employ the method of distribution or practice in distribution which is found by the department to avoid waste or duplication as defined herein. [1935 c. 550 s. 354]

100.20 Methods of competition and trade practices. (1) Methods of competition in business and trade practices in business shall be fair. Unfair methods of competition in business and unfair trade practices in business are hereby prohibited.

(2) The department, after public hearing, may issue general orders forbidding methods of competition in business or trade practices in business which are determined by the department to be unfair. The department, after public hearing, may issue general orders prescribing methods of competition in business or trade practices in business which are determined by the department to be fair.

(3) The department, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, enjoining such person from employing any method of competition in business or trade practice in business which is determined by the department to be unfair. The department, after public hearing, may issue a special order against any person, requiring such person to employ the method of competition in business or trade practice in business which is determined by the department to be fair. [1935 c. 550 s. 355]

Note: Determination of department of agriculture and markets is reviewable solely under statute, and not by certiorari, since, where new right is created by statute and remedy is prescribed, prescribed remedy is exclusive. [Stats. 1933] State ex rel. Waldorf v. Hill, 217 W 59, 258 NW 361.

In an action to enjoin the state department of agriculture from proceeding administratively against the plaintiff under 100.20, relating to unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices an ex parte restraining order should not have been granted. Section 100.20 is not unconstitutional as delegating legislative power. Ritholz v. Ammon, 240 W 578, 4 NW (2d) 173.

An Illinois optical concern's business of fitting and furnishing eye glasses to the individual needs of a patient or purchaser, carried out through local retail stores in this state with the assistance of local physicians, and requiring the services of a local manager cannot be made into an "interstate" transaction and put beyond the police power of this state by arbitrarily designating the transaction a sale and ingeniously managing that the sale shall take place outside the state; and the concern's business activities are subject to regulation by the state as to unfair methods of competition and un-

fair trade practices, so far as the concern's methods of soliciting and conducting business within the state are concerned. Ritholz v. Ammon, 240 W 578, 4 NW (2d) 173.

Representations of Farmers' Call Board of Plymouth that it conducts market where seller has same opportunity to bargain as has buyer, being untrue, and fact being that seller has no practical choice but to sell at whatever price the buyer chooses to pay, and the board prices being base prices for bulk cheese of state, is unfair trade practice. 21 Atty. Gen. 30.

Since price war, with stabilized purchase and labor costs, threatens speedy elimination of much of distributor competition, and hence virtual monopoly of milk distribution, department is authorized to determine such price cutting, in present economic emergency, to be unfair, and may issue orders against it. These orders may fix minimum schedule of prices to go below which would have mischievous results. 21 Atty. Gen. 1075.

Department of agriculture and markets has no jurisdiction to conduct hearing and make determination regarding alleged violations by regents of university of Wisconsin of provisions of this section. 22 Atty. Gen. 1036.

100.205 [Repealed by 1943 c. 179; 1943 c. 515 s. 12]

100.21 Damage for violation. Any person, corporation, partnership or business suffering pecuniary loss because of a violation by any other person of any order issued under section 100.20 may sue such person, corporation, partnership or business for damages therefor in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall recover twice the amount of such pecuniary loss, together with costs, including a reasonable attorney's fee. [1935 c. 550 s. 356; 1947 c. 323]

100.22 Unfair discrimination in purchase of dairy products. (1) Any person, firm or corporation, foreign or domestic, engaged in the business of buying milk, cream or butter fat for the purpose of manufacture, that shall discriminate between different sections, communities, towns, villages or cities of this state, or between persons, firms or corporations in any locality of this state, by paying for such commodity at a higher price or rate in one section, community, town, village or city, or to any person, firm or corporation in any locality of this state, than is paid for the same commodity by said person, firm or corporation, foreign or domestic, in another section, community, town, village or city, or to another person, firm or corporation in any locality of this state, shall be guilty of unfair discrimination, which is hereby prohibited and declared unlawful; provided, that it shall be a justification for such a discrimination in price if the difference is merely commensurate with an actual difference in the quality or quantity of the commodity purchased or in transportation charges or other expense of marketing involved in said purchase.

(2) Proof of any justification, as described in subsection (1) of this section, may be made by the defendant but no such justification need be negatived in the information or complaint, and, if so negatived, no proof in relation to the matter so negatived shall be required on the part of the informant or complainant.

(3) Whenever the department is credibly informed that this section has been violated, it shall make investigation and shall report the results of the investigation to the attorney-general and the secretary of state. The department shall co-operate with the attorney-general in the securing of evidence of violations of this section. [1935 c. 550 s. 358]

100.23 Contracts; void. All contracts or agreements made in violation of any of the provisions of section 100.22 shall be void. [1935 c. 550 s. 359]

100.24 Revocation of corporate authority; ouster. (1) Any corporation organized under the laws of this state which shall violate any order issued under section 100.20, or

which is found guilty of unfair discrimination under section 100.22, shall forfeit all the rights and privileges conferred by the laws of this state upon corporations and shall forfeit its charter.

(2) Upon complaint being made to the attorney-general and evidence presented to him which shall satisfy him that any domestic corporation has violated any order issued under section 100.20, or has violated any of the provisions of section 100.22, he shall forthwith bring an action in the name of the state to have the charter of such corporation annulled.

(3) Any foreign corporation which shall violate any order issued under section 100.20, or which is found guilty of unfair discrimination under section 100.22, shall, upon proof thereof, in any court of competent jurisdiction, have its license or authority to do business in this state canceled.

(4) Upon complaint being made to the attorney-general and evidence presented to him which shall satisfy him that any foreign corporation has violated any order issued under section 100.20, or has violated any of the provisions of section 100.22, he shall forthwith bring an action in the name of the state to have the license or authority of such corporation to do business in this state canceled, and to oust such corporation from all business of every kind and character in this state. [1935 c. 550 s. 362]

100.25 Cumulative remedies. Nothing in sections 100.22 to 100.24, inclusive, shall be construed as repealing any other law of this state, but the remedies herein provided shall be cumulative to all other remedies provided by law in and for such cases. [1935 c. 550 s. 363]

100.26 Penalties. (1) Any person who violates sections 100.17 or 100.18 or section 100.01 (2) (a) or (3) shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, or imprisoned in the county jail not less than 30 nor more than 60 days, or both.

(2) Any person violating any of the provisions of section 100.02 shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than three thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than three years, or both.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of section 100.04, 100.15, 100.19, 100.20 or 100.22, or who intentionally refuses, neglects or fails to obey any regulation made under section 100.04, 100.19 or 100.20, shall, for each offense, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) Any person who violates section 100.16 shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100, or by imprisonment in the county jail not more than 30 days.

(5) Any person violating section 100.03, 100.05 or 100.06 or any order or regulation of the department thereunder, or section 100.13 (7), shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisoned in the county jail or state prison not more than one year, or both. Each day shall constitute a separate offense. [1933 c. 112; 1935 c. 550 s. 364 to 368; 1937 c. 39, 369; 1939 c. 217, 471; 1943 c. 179, 229; 1945 c. 226; 1947 c. 510]

100.30 Unfair sales act. (1) **POLICY.** The practice of selling certain items of merchandise below cost in order to attract patronage is generally a form of deceptive advertising and an unfair method of competition in commerce. Such practice causes commercial dislocations, misleads the consumer, works back against the farmer, directly burdens and obstructs commerce, and diverts business from dealers who maintain a fair price policy. Bankruptcies among merchants who fail because of the competition of those who use such methods result in unemployment, disruption of leases, and nonpayment of taxes and loans, and contribute to an inevitable train of undesirable consequences, including economic depression.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.** When used in this section unless context otherwise requires:

(a) "Cost to retailer" means the invoice cost of the merchandise to the retailer within 30 days prior to the date of sale, or replacement cost of the merchandise to the retailer, whichever is lower; less all trade discounts except customary discounts for cash; to which shall be added freight charges not otherwise included in the invoice cost or the replacement cost of the merchandise as herein set forth, and cartage to the retail outlet if done or paid for by the retailer, which cartage cost, in the absence of proof of a lesser cost, shall be deemed to be three-fourths of one per cent of the cost to the retailer as herein defined after adding thereto freight charges but before adding thereto cartage and markup and a markup to cover a proportionate part of the cost of doing business, which markup, in the absence of proof of a lesser cost, shall be 6 per cent of the cost to the retailer as herein set forth after adding thereto freight charges and cartage but before adding thereto a markup.

(b) "Cost to the wholesaler" means the invoice cost of the merchandise to the wholesaler within 30 days prior to the date of sale, or the replacement cost of the merchandise to the wholesaler, whichever is lower; less all trade discounts except customary discounts for cash; to which shall be added, freight charges, not otherwise included in the invoice cost or the replacement cost of the merchandise as herein set forth, and cartage to the retail outlet if done or paid for by the wholesaler, which cartage cost, in the absence of proof of a lesser cost, shall be deemed to be three-fourths of one per cent of the cost to the wholesaler as herein set forth after adding thereto freight charges but before adding thereto cartage and markup, and a markup to cover a proportionate part of the cost of doing business, which markup, in the absence of proof of a lesser cost, shall be 2 per cent of the cost to the wholesaler as herein set forth after adding thereto freight charges and cartage but before adding thereto a markup.

(c) "Replacement cost" means the cost per unit at which the merchandise sold or offered for sale could have been bought by the seller at any time within 30 days prior to the date of sale or the date upon which it is offered for sale by the seller if bought in the same quantity or quantities as the seller's last purchase of the said merchandise.

(d) "Cost to retailer" and "cost to wholesaler" as defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section mean bona fide costs; and purchases made by retailers and wholesalers at prices which cannot be justified by prevailing market conditions within this state shall not be used in determining cost to the retailer and cost to the wholesaler.

(e) "Sell at retail", "sales at retail", and "retail sale" mean and include any transfer for a valuable consideration, made in the ordinary course of trade or in the usual prosecution of the seller's business, of title to tangible personal property to the purchaser for consumption or use other than resale or further processing or manufacturing. The above terms shall include any transfer of such property where title is retained by the seller as security for the payment of the purchase price.

(f) "Sell at wholesale", "sales at wholesale" and "wholesale sales" mean and include any transfer for a valuable consideration made in ordinary course of trade or the usual conduct of the seller's business, of title to tangible personal property to the purchaser for purposes of resale or further processing or manufacturing. The above terms shall include any transfer of such property where title is retained by the seller as security for the payment of the purchase price.

(g) "Retailer" means and includes every person, partnership, corporation or association engaged in the business of making sales at retail within this state; provided that, in the case of a person, partnership, corporation or association engaged in the business of making both sales at retail and sales at wholesale, such term shall be applied only to the retail portion of such business.

(h) "Wholesaler" means and includes every person, partnership, corporation, or association engaged in the business of making sales at wholesale within this state; provided that, in the case of a person, partnership, corporation or association engaged in the business of making both sales at wholesale and sales at retail, such term shall be applied only to the wholesale portion of such business.

(i) The term "retailer" and the term "wholesaler" shall both be applied to all merchants buying at wholesale and receiving the wholesalers' profit and discounts on merchandise to be sold at retail by such merchants, and both the wholesale markup of two per cent to cover in part the cost of doing business, and the retail markup of six per cent to cover in part the cost of doing business, shall be added to the invoice cost on all merchandise where the wholesale function is performed by such merchants.

(j) When one or more items are advertised, offered for sale, sold or offered as a gift, or given tied in or combined with the sale of one or more other items, the price of each item shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (2) (a) or (b) hereof.

(3) ILLEGALITY OF LOSS LEADERS. Any advertising, offer to sell, or sale of any item of merchandise either by retailers or wholesalers, at less than cost as defined in this section and any advertising, offer to give, or gift of any item of merchandise contingent upon the sale of any other item of merchandise, with the intent, or effect of inducing the purchase of other merchandise or of unfairly diverting trade from a competitor, impairs and prevents fair competition, injures public welfare, and is unfair competition and contrary to public policy and the policy of this section.

(4) PENALTIES. Any retailer who, with the intent of inducing the purchase of other merchandise or of unfairly diverting trade from a competitor or otherwise injuring a competitor, shall advertise, offer to sell, or sell at retail any item of merchandise at less than cost to the retailer as defined in this section; or any wholesaler who, with intent of inducing the purchase of other merchandise or of unfairly diverting trade from a competitor or otherwise injuring a competitor, shall advertise, offer to sell, or sell at wholesale any item of merchandise at less than cost to the wholesaler as defined in this section,

shall be fined not less than \$50, nor more than \$500 for the first offense and not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000 for the second and each subsequent offense, or, for each offense, imprisoned not less than one month nor more than 6 months, or both. Evidence of any advertisement, offer to sell, or sale of any item of merchandise by any retailer or wholesaler at less than cost as defined in this section shall be prima facie evidence of intent to induce the purchase of other merchandise, or to unfairly divert trade from a competitor, or to otherwise injure a competitor.

(5) SPECIAL REMEDY. In addition to the penalties provided, the courts of this state are invested with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of this section, and it shall be the duty of the several district attorneys to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain violations. Any person damaged, or who is threatened with loss or injury, by reason of a violation of this section, shall be entitled to sue for and have injunctive relief in any court of competent jurisdiction against any damage or threatened loss or injury by reason of a violation hereof.

(6) EXCEPTIONS. The provisions of this section shall not apply to sales at retail or sales at wholesale where:

(a) Merchandise is sold in bona fide clearance sales, if advertised, marked, and sold as such;

(b) Perishable merchandise must be sold promptly in order to forestall loss;

(c) Merchandise is imperfect or damaged or is being discontinued and is advertised, marked and sold as such;

(d) Merchandise is sold upon the final liquidation of any business and is advertised, marked, and sold as such;

(e) Merchandise is sold for charitable purposes or to relief agencies;

(f) Merchandise is sold on contract to departments of the government or governmental institutions;

(g) The price of merchandise is made in good faith to meet competition;

(h) Merchandise is sold by any officer acting under the order or direction of any court.

(7) UNCONSTITUTIONALITY. If any subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this section shall for any reason be held invalid or unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining parts hereof shall not be affected thereby. [1939 c. 56; 43.08 (2); 1941 c. 75; 1947 c. 323]

Note: Where a defendant pleads not guilty and comes forward with evidence indicating an honest effort to anticipate and meet competition and to conserve his capital investment, which even if disbelieved would do no more than create an absence of testimony, or where a defendant merely pleads not guilty, the defendant cannot be found guilty of a violation of this section, if the only fact proved by the state is that the defendant advertised or sold merchandise below cost, since no case warranting a conviction thereunder is made out until there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the act of the defendant was in contravention of the stated policy of the statute. *State v. Twentieth Century Market*, 236 W. 215, 294 NW 873.

100.30, Stats. 1945, does not prohibit offering goods as gifts in connection with a sale, but each item involved must be deemed offered for sale, each item must be considered separately in relation to the cost and price provisions of the section, and the total sale at a combined price or the sale

with a gift added must measure up to the aggregate cost of the goods, and if on this basis the transaction falls below the standards bearing on the relation between cost and price, there is a violation, but if not, there is none. *State ex rel. Heath v. Tankar Gas, Inc.* 250 W 218, 26 NW (2d) 647.

Under 100.30, Stats. 1939, merchant may offer commodities for sale or sell at price not lower than invoice or "replacement cost" as defined, whichever is lower, 28 Atty. Gen. 700.

Under (2) (j), Stats. 1945, an offer to give 2 gallons of gasoline free upon payment of only the tax, with every 7 gallons purchased, constitutes an offer of 2 separate items and each item must be sold at not less than cost plus a 6 per cent mark-up, as provided in (2) (a). District attorney may apply for injunctive remedy under (5) even though the violation of the unfair sales act has been discontinued at the time the proceeding in equity is instituted. 34 Atty. Gen. 424.

100.31 Marketing authority law, Milwaukee. (1) SHORT TITLE. This section may be referred to as the "Marketing Authority Law."

(2) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to provide a permissive method for establishment of markets in cities of the first class to facilitate efficient and economic handling of farm commodities, primarily fresh fruits and vegetables, at wholesale in the interest of the grower, the food trade and the consuming public.

(3) DECLARATION OF NECESSITY. It is found and declared that large quantities of fruits and vegetables, grown in Wisconsin for domestic and foreign markets or brought from foreign states or countries into this state for consumption, must pass through wholesale marketing systems which are obsolete and inadequate to meet present and future requirements; that the inadequacy of these systems contributes to high handling costs and deterioration with concomitant losses to growers, handlers and the consuming public; that improvement of these systems would annually result in large savings to the consuming public, handlers and agricultural producers alike, all for the general welfare; that the efforts of the public officers, the produce trade and other interested industries to achieve these improvements by purely private means have not succeeded; that

the establishment and operation of terminal markets become and are public uses and purposes for which public money may be spent and private property acquired and are governmental functions of state concern; that it is in the public interest to permit creation of marketing facilities which are to be organized and operated on a nonprofit, self-liquidating basis.

(4) DEFINITIONS. In this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Farm products" include all agricultural, floricultural, vegetable and fruit products of the soil, live stock and meats, poultry, eggs, dairy products, and any and all products which have their situs of production on the farm.

(b) "Food products" include any and all products either in a natural or processed state used by man or animal as food.

(c) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association or any other business entity.

(d) "Farmer" means any person principally engaged in the commercial production of farm products.

(e) "Wholesaler" means any person other than a farmer who engages primarily in the trading in farm and food products for resale to persons other than consumers.

(f) "Retailer" means any person other than a farmer who engages primarily in the selling of farm or food products directly to consumers.

(g) "Authority" means a public corporation, created under the provisions of this section.

(h) "Terminal market" or "market" means the physical areas, structures and appurtenances, located in a predominantly consuming area, and owned, leased or operated by the authority in connection with the performance of its functions under this section, primarily for the purpose of facilitating the sale or other disposal of farm and food products at wholesale.

(i) "City" means any city of the first class. "The city" means the particular city for which a particular marketing authority is created.

(5) ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY; PETITION PROCEDURE. Any organization or group of farmers, wholesalers, retailers, or any political subdivision of the state may, individually or jointly, petition the director of the state department of agriculture, in the manner hereinafter provided, for the establishment of a marketing authority in and for any city of the first class. The petition shall set forth:

(a) The territory in which the authority shall be designated to operate, the city of the first class in which the market is to be located;

(b) The name and post-office address of each petitioner, and the fact that each such petitioner operates within the territory of operation described in the petition; the qualifications of each such petitioner under the provisions of this section; the name and post-office address of the individual representative of each such petitioner empowered to execute the petition in its behalf; and a statement of the action by each such petitioner authorizing the submission of the petition under the provisions of this section and granting authority to its individual representative to execute the same;

(c) The proposed legal name of the authority which shall include the term "Marketing Authority";

(d) The purposes of the authority, and the need therefor, its proposed methods of financing, management and operation and its plans for construction and future development;

(e) The names and post-office addresses of the nominees from among whom the governor is to appoint the board of directors, as provided for in this section, together with the names and post-office addresses of those who participated in the nomination of each category of directors, as hereinafter provided.

(6) HEARINGS ON PETITION. Upon the receipt of a petition, meeting the requirements of subsection (5), the director of the state department of agriculture shall cause an investigation to be made; shall, within 3 months, cause a public hearing relative thereto to be held; and shall promptly report his findings with recommendations to the governor, taking into consideration in the holding of such hearings and the making of such recommendation, the type, plans and financial soundness of the authority, the trading area to be served, the proximity of existing or proposed markets, and the natural flow of produce in the territory of operation, and any other circumstances which in his opinion may be relevant.

(7) CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY. The governor, if he is satisfied that the purposes of this section will be effectuated, shall approve said petition and shall cause to be prepared and issued a certificate of authority creating such authority and granting to it the right of operation as a public corporation in accordance with the provisions of this section;

provided, however, that the governor, prior to such approval, may direct the director of the state department of agriculture to hold further hearings and to submit new or additional recommendations.

(8) **FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AUTHORITY.** The first board of directors of a marketing authority shall consist of 9 members, as follows:

(a) The governor shall appoint 2 directors from a list of 4 wholesalers nominated by a majority vote at a general meeting of the wholesalers licensed under the United States Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and operating within the territory of operation as defined in the certificate of authority; 2 directors from a list of 4 farmers nominated by a general farm organization or general farm organizations qualified in the opinion of the governor to represent agricultural producers residing and marketing their products within said territory; one director from a list of 3 consumers to be nominated by the chief executive officer of the city served by the authority; one director from a list of 3 businessmen, not wholesalers or retailers, nominated by the chief executive officer of the city served by the authority; and one director from a list of 3 retailers nominated by an association of retailers in said territory, through the formal action of the association's governing body or by a majority vote at a meeting of retailers, existing within said territory, called for that purpose by the petitioner or petitioners upon due notice given in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation in said territory;

(b) The chief executive officer of the city served by the authority shall serve as director or shall appoint a representative who shall be an official of the city;

(c) The director of the state department of agriculture, or his representative from the department of agriculture appointed by him, shall be a member of the board of directors, who shall be entitled to a vote at all meetings of the board.

(9) **TENURE OF OFFICE OF FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** Of the first board of directors of a marketing authority, one farmer director and one wholesaler director shall be appointed for a term of 3 years; one director representing farmers, one director representing wholesalers, and the director representing the city shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and the director representing consumers, the director representing retailers, and the director representing businessmen, shall be appointed for one year. Each director shall be appointed and qualify.

(10) **SUBSEQUENT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS.** At the expiration of the term of the first appointed directors, their successors shall:

(a) Be nominated and appointed, as provided in subsection (8) hereof, for terms of 3 years or until their respective successors shall have been appointed and qualify, except that the governor shall appoint the 2 wholesaler directors from a list of 4 wholesalers nominated by a majority of the wholesalers operating within the market. In the event of any of the above groups failing to nominate candidates for the board of directors under this section, the governor shall appoint a director or directors with similar qualifications.

(11) **REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS, VACANCIES.** The governor after notice and opportunity for hearing, may remove any director of any authority created hereunder, because of inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office. In the event that any director is unable or fails for any reason to complete his term, the governor shall appoint in his place for the unexpired term, nominated in the same manner as the director he is to succeed.

(12) **OATH OF OFFICE, CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.** Each member of the board of directors of any authority created hereunder, shall before entering upon the duties of his office, take the constitutional oath of office and file the same in the office of the secretary of state. Five members of the board of directors of a marketing authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; in each case the concurrence of a majority present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution, order or determination. The board of directors of either type of facility may appoint an executive committee and such other special committee as it deems proper. Each board shall meet at least once each quarter during the fiscal year, and during its first meeting of each fiscal year, shall choose a chairman and a treasurer by a majority of all directors. The directors of a marketing authority shall receive \$10 for each meeting and shall be paid actual travel expenses not to exceed 5 cents per mile.

(13) **POWERS.** Any authority created under the terms of this section, shall, through the action of its board of directors, taken as provided in this section, have power:

(a) To acquire by purchase, lease, condemnation or otherwise, such land or any interest in land, or other property, real or personal, as may be necessary in its opinion to the operation of the market, and may mortgage, sell, lease, rent, exchange or otherwise dispose of, any such property as it may deem advisable; provided, however, that no real estate shall be sold unless the sale is approved by the governor and trustee of the bond-

holders, and provided further that no such real estate shall be used as a market, unless such property is acquired by a governmental agency;

(b) To plan, build, construct or operate, or cause to be built, constructed or operated such buildings, structures, equipment and appurtenances thereto as it may deem necessary for the operation of the market, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, restaurants, filling stations, garages and warehouses, provisions for sanitation and similar accessories for market operation;

(c) To borrow money, make and issue negotiable notes, bonds, refunding bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness or obligations herein called "bonds" of the authority, said bonds to have a maturity date not longer than 30 years from the date of issue, and to secure the payment of such bonds or any part thereof by pledge or mortgage of all or any of its revenues, receipts or other assets, real or personal, and to make such agreements with the purchasers or holders of such bonds, or with others in connection with any such bonds whether issued or to be issued, as the authority shall deem advisable, and in general to provide for the security for said bonds and the rights of the holders thereof; provided, however, that no obligations incurred by the authority shall be a debt of the state or any of its political subdivisions, or a pledge of the credit or taxing power of the state or any political subdivision thereof. The authority is authorized to receive appropriations, gifts, and contributions of money, supplies, goods and services, or loans thereof, if approved by the governor or appropriate state agency, and the political subdivisions of this state are hereby authorized to make, upon such terms and in such manner as may be required by the laws of this state, such appropriations and loans to such authorities;

(d) To employ a market manager qualified to operate a market of the type contemplated by the authority and such additional employes as may be necessary for the management and operation of the market;

(e) To fix the salaries of the market manager and any other authorized employes of the market;

(f) To fix, alter, charge and collect rentals and charges for stores, stalls, space, buildings, equipment and other appurtenances, privileges, and services furnished or performed, in or in connection with the market, for the purpose of providing for the payment of the expenses of the authority, the construction, improvement, repair, maintenance and operation of its properties, the payment of the principal of and interest on its obligations, and to fulfill the terms and provisions of any agreements made with the purchasers or holders of any such obligations; provided, however, that such rentals and charges shall not be designed to render a profit to the authority;

(g) To promulgate reasonable rules or regulations relating to the use of the market, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, rules and regulations relating to hours of business, sanitation, traffic, and such other matters as are normally incidental to the proper management of a market; provided, that no such rule or regulation shall fix or regulate prices, profits or types of farm and food products dealt in;

(h) In its discretion, reasonably exercised, and after due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to suspend or revoke any or all rights or privileges of any person violating the rules and regulations provided for in paragraph (g), enjoyed in connection with his activities in the market;

(i) To make contracts of any name and nature and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business;

(j) To enter into and maintain contracts for all such types of insurance as it may deem necessary to protect the authority against loss;

(k) To enter into contracts of group insurance for the benefit of its employes, and to set up a retirement or benefit fund for such employes;

(l) To adopt and use a corporate seal;

(m) To make by-laws for the management and regulation of its affairs;

(n) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;

(o) To delegate to the market manager or other officers of the authority such duties and responsibilities in relation to the operation of the market as it may deem reasonably necessary;

(p) In general, to do such other acts and things as may be reasonably necessary or convenient to carry out the powers hereinabove enumerated, and to carry on the operations of a wholesale market for farm and food products in accordance with the general purposes of this section.

(14) LIMITATION OF POWERS. The exercise of the powers, granted in subsection (13), shall be deemed to be expressly limited as follows:

(a) The authority shall be subject to all of the zoning, building, fire, sanitary, health and other police ordinances and regulations of the state and political subdivisions in which it is established;

(b) The authority shall have no power to discriminate in its operations against the sale of any farm or food products, or against any producer of such products, on account of the county, state or political subdivision in which any such products are produced, or on account of the legal nature of the producer or other person engaged in the marketing of any such products, or on account of the conditions of employment or the nature of the labor employed in the production or marketing of such products or on account of the method of transportation; but every authority shall take every reasonable precaution to prevent any such discrimination;

(c) The authority shall have no power to acquire, construct, maintain or operate more than one market, nor shall it acquire, construct, maintain or operate a market which is not operated primarily for the purpose of handling farm and food products at wholesale;

(d) No member of the board of directors of any authority shall be interested directly or indirectly in any transaction with the authority except in connection with his normal business operations in the market;

(e) No authority shall itself engage directly or indirectly in the purchase or sale of farm or food products, or engage in any business other than that of managing the market authority;

(f) Since it is the purpose of this section to provide a market place where private enterprise can operate effectively and the management of which will remain in the hands of those using it, management shall not interfere with such incidents of private enterprise as profits, prices and types of farm or food products dealt in.

(15) BONDS. (a) 1. The bonds of the authority hereinabove referred to as authorized to be issued, shall be authorized by resolution or resolutions of the board thereof and shall be of such series, bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, not exceeding 30 years from their respective dates, bear interest at such rates, not exceeding 6 per cent per annum, payable annually or semiannually, be in such denominations, be in such form, either coupon or fully registered without coupons, carry such registration, exchangeability and interexchangeability privileges; be payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places; be subject to such terms of redemption not exceeding 105 per cent of the principal amount thereof; and be entitled to such priorities with respect to the revenue or receipts of the authority, as all such resolution or resolutions may provide. The bonds shall be signed by such officers as the authority shall determine, and coupon bonds shall have attached thereto interest coupons bearing the facsimile signature of the treasurer of the authority, all as may be prescribed in such resolution or resolutions. Any such bonds may be issued and delivered notwithstanding that one or more of the officers signing such bonds or the treasurer whose facsimile signature shall be upon the coupons, if any, shall have ceased to be such officer or officers at the time such bonds shall actually be delivered. Pending the preparation and delivery of definite bonds, interim receipts or temporary bonds may be issued and delivered to the purchaser or purchasers of such definite bonds, and may contain such terms and conditions as the authority may determine.

2. Said bonds may be sold at public or private sale for such price or prices as the authority shall determine, provided that the interest cost to maturity of the bonds shall not exceed 6 per cent per annum.

(b) Any resolution or resolutions authorizing the issuance of any bonds may contain provisions which shall be part of the contract with the holders thereof, as to:

1. Pledging the full faith and credit of the authority (with the express understanding that no obligations incurred by the authority shall be an obligation of the state or any of its political subdivisions, or a pledge of the credit and taxing power of the state or any political subdivisions thereof) as security for such obligations, or restricting such security to all or any part of the revenues of the authority from all or any of its properties;

2. The construction, improvement, operation, extension, enlargement, maintenance and repair of the properties of the authority, and the duties of the authority with reference thereto;

3. The terms and provisions of the bonds;

4. Limitations on the purposes to which the proceeds of the bonds then or thereafter to be issued may be applied;

5. The rate of rentals and charges for stores, stalls, space, buildings, equipment and other appurtenances, privileges, and the services furnished or performed, on or in connection with the market;

6. The setting aside of reserves and sinking funds and the regulation and the disposition thereof;

7. Limitations on the issuance of additional bonds;

8. The terms and provisions of any deed of trust or indenture securing the bonds or under which the same may be issued, and

9. Any other or additional agreements with the holders of the bonds;

10. In order to secure any such bonds, any authority may enter into any mortgages, deeds of trust, indentures or other agreements with any bank or trust company, or other person or persons in the United States having power to enter into the same, including any federal agency, and may assign and pledge any or all of the revenues, receipts or other assets, real or personal, of the authority thereunder. Such mortgage, deed of trust, indenture or other agreement may contain such provisions as may be customary in such instruments, or as the authority may authorize, including but without limitation provisions as to (1) the construction, improvement, alteration, expansion, operation, maintenance and repair of any properties of the authority, and the duties of the authority with reference thereto, (2) the application of funds and the safeguarding of funds on hand or on deposit, (3) the rights and remedies of the trustee and the holders of the bonds (which may include restrictions upon the individual right of action of such bondholders) and (4) the terms and provisions of the bonds or the resolutions authorizing the issuance of the same.

(c) Said bonds shall have all the qualities of negotiable instruments under the law merchant and the negotiable instrument law of this state. In the event that the authority shall default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any of the bonds, whether at maturity or upon call for redemption, and such default shall continue for a period of 30 days; or in the event that the authority or any officers, agents or employes thereof shall fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this section or shall default in any agreement made with the holders of the bonds, any holder of bonds or trustee therefor shall have the right to apply in an appropriate judicial proceeding to any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a receiver to represent the bondholders for the purposes herein provided, whether or not all bonds have been declared due and payable and whether or not such holders or trustee therefor are seeking or have sought to enforce any other right or exercise any remedy in connection with such bonds. Upon application the court may appoint, and if the application is made up the holders of or a trustee on behalf of the holders of 25 per cent in aggregate principal amount of such bonds then outstanding shall appoint, a receiver to represent the bondholders for the purposes herein provided.

(d) The receiver so appointed shall forthwith directly or by his agents and attorneys enter into and upon and take possession of the properties of the authority, and may exclude the authority, its officers, agents and employes and all persons claiming under them wholly therefrom and shall have, hold, use, operate, manage and control the properties of the authority in the name of the authority, or otherwise, as the receiver may deem best and shall exercise all of the rights and powers of the authority with respect to such properties as the authority itself might do. Such receiver shall maintain, restore, insure and keep insured the properties of the authority and from time to time shall make all such necessary or proper repairs as may seem expedient to such receiver, and shall establish, levy, maintain and collect such rents and charges in connection with the properties of the authority as such receiver may deem necessary, proper or reasonable and shall collect and receive all revenues of the authority and deposit the same in a separate account and apply such revenues so collected and received in such a manner as the court shall direct.

(e) Whenever all that is due upon the bonds and interest thereon, and upon any other obligations and interest thereon, having a charge, lien or other incumbrance on the revenues of the authority under any of the terms of any covenants or agreements with the holders of bonds shall have been paid or deposited as provided therein, and all the faults shall have been cured and made good, the court may, in its discretion and after such notices and hearings as it deems reasonable and proper, direct the receiver to surrender possession of the properties of the authority to the authority, the same right of the holders of the bonds to secure the appointment of a receiver to exist upon any subsequent default as herein provided.

(f) Such receiver shall in the performance of the powers hereinabove conferred upon him act under the direction and supervision of the court making such appointment and shall at all times be subject to the orders and decrees of such court and may be removed thereby. Nothing herein contained shall limit or restrict the jurisdiction of such court to enter such other further orders and decrees as such court may deem necessary or appropriate for the exercise by the receiver of any functions specifically set forth therein.

(g) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, said receiver shall have no power to sell, assign, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any assets of whatever kind or character belonging to the authority and useful therefor, but the authority of any such receiver shall be limited to the operation and maintenance of the authority and no court shall have any jurisdiction to enter any orders or decrees requiring or permitting said receiver to sell, assign, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any such assets.

(h) Subject to any contractual limitations binding upon the holders of any issue of bonds or trustee therefor included but not limited to the restrictions of the exercise of any remedy to a specified proportion or percentage of such holders, any holders of bonds, or trustee therefor, shall have the right and power for the equal benefit and protection of the holders of bonds similarly situated:

1. By mandamus or other suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity to enforce his rights against the authority and any of its officers, agents or employes, and to require and compel such authority or any such officers, agents or employes to perform and carry out its and their duties and obligations under this section and its and their covenants and agreements with bondholders;

2. By action or suit in equity to require the authority to account as if it were the trustee of an express trust for the bondholders;

3. By action or suit in equity to enjoin any acts or things which may be unlawful or in violation of the rights of the bondholders;

4. Bring suit on the bonds;

5. By notice in writing to the authority, declare all bonds due and payable, and if all defaults shall be made good then with the consent of the holders of 25 per cent or such other percentage as may be specified in any resolution, indenture or other instrument authorizing the issuance of such bonds of the principal amount of the bonds outstanding, to annul such declaration and its consequences.

(i) No remedy conferred by this section upon any holder of bonds, or any trustee therefor, is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, but each such remedy is cumulative and in addition to any other remedy and may be exercised without exhausting and without regard to any other remedy conferred by this section or any other law. No waiver of any default or breach of duty or contract, whether by any holder of bonds, or any trustee therefor, shall extend to or shall affect any subsequent default or breach of duty or contract or shall impair any rights or remedies thereon. No delay or omission of any bondholder or any trustee therefor to exercise any right or power or shall be construed to be a waiver of any such default or acquiescence therein. Every substantive right and every remedy conferred upon the holders of bonds may be enforced and exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient. In case any suit, action or proceeding to enforce any right or exercise any remedy shall be brought or taken and then discontinued or abandoned, or shall be determined adversely to the holder of the bonds, or any trustee therefor, then and in every such case the authority and such holder, or such trustee, shall be restored to their former positions and rights and remedies as if no such suit, action or proceeding had been brought or taken.

(16) EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION. The effectuation of the authorized purposes of the authorities created under this section, being public corporations, shall and will be in all respects for the benefit of all the people of this state, for the increase of their commerce and prosperity, and for the improvement of their health and living conditions. Since such authority will be performing essential public functions in effectuating such purposes, the bonds issued by any such authority, their transfer and the income therefrom, shall at all times be free from taxation within this state. The authority shall be subject, however, to all state and local taxes except those from which it is exempted by this subsection.

(17) AUDIT AND PUBLICATIONS. (a) Immediately after the close of each fiscal year, every authority established pursuant to this section shall cause an audit to be made of its operations for such fiscal year. Such audit shall be made by a certified public accountant, or firm of accountants not regularly employed by the authority for its accounting purposes, or, with the approval of the proper state official, by a regular state accounting agency. Within 90 days after the close of its fiscal year each such authority shall file with the state department of agriculture a copy of such audit together with the names of the officers and directors thereof. Any person violating or failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Every authority established hereunder shall keep such records and make such reports to the state department of agriculture as may be required by the director thereof.

(c) In case any such authority shall fail or refuse to keep such records and to make such reports as are required by subsection (b), the director of the state department of agriculture through the attorneys for the state of the several counties and cities, may institute the necessary proceedings or otherwise, in his discretion, to have the directors,

or such of them as are responsible for such failure or refusal, removed from office as provided herein.

(18) SEPARABILITY OF PROVISIONS. If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1947 c. 580, 614]