

## CHAPTER 24

## PUBLIC DOMAIN AND THE TRUST FUNDS

SUBCHAPTER I  
PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTRATION

24.01	Definitions and classification.
24.02	Addition to the public lands.
24.03	Escheats.
24.04	Administrative receipts and disbursements.
24.05	Survey of lands.
24.06	Plat of lands.
24.07	Sale of land with water power.
24.08	Minimum price.
24.09	Procedure before sale or exchange; withdrawal; resale.
24.10	Procedure at sale.
24.11	Terms of sales.
24.12	Forfeit for failure to pay.
24.14	Rights of swampland purchasers.
24.145	State-owned swamplands; proceeds; disposition.
24.15	Private sale.
24.16	Applications for private sale.
24.17	Receipt and certificate.
24.18	Entry of sale and patent.
24.19	Certificate of sale.
24.20	Payments and accounts.
24.21	Accounts with purchasers.
24.22	Excessive payments to be refunded.
24.23	Title; patents.
24.24	Effect of certificate.
24.25	Issuance and record of patent.
24.251	Patents, issuance; county may record.
24.26	Patentee's rights.
24.27	Purchase money a loan.
24.28	Forfeiture.
24.29	Redemption.
24.30	Liability of former purchaser.
24.31	Advertisement and resale of forfeited lands.
24.32	Resale and redemption.
24.33	Resale may be canceled.
24.34	Void sales.
24.341	Offset to refund on void sales.
24.35	Annulment of certificates and patents.
24.355	Limitation of actions.
24.36	Lost certificates and patents.
24.37	Ejectment.
24.38	Boundaries.

24.39	Leases of public lands.
24.40	Easements; annexation.
24.51	Constitutional board.
24.52	Jurisdiction.
24.53	Investigate land claims; deduct expenses.
24.54	Records; copies as evidence.
24.55	Executive secretary; deputy; staff; appointments; duties; oath.
24.56	Not to buy lands.
24.57	Report of board.
24.58	Appraisers.
24.59	Sale of public lands to state under Warren Knowles–Gaylord Nelson stewardship 2000 program.

SUBCHAPTER II  
TRUST FUNDS

24.60	Definitions.
24.605	Accounts in trust funds for deposit of proceeds from sale of certain lands.
24.61	Authorized investments and loans.
24.62	Expenses.
24.63	Term, amount, interest rate.
24.64	Reimbursements for certain administrative services.
24.65	Date when interest and principal become due.
24.66	The application.
24.67	Certificates of indebtedness.
24.68	Payment of state trust fund loans.
24.69	Sale of state trust fund loans.
24.70	Collection from borrowers other than school districts.
24.71	Collections from school districts.
24.715	Collections from federated public library systems.
24.716	Collections from drainage districts.
24.717	Collections from local professional baseball park districts.
24.718	Collections from local exposition districts.
24.72	Use of funds.
24.73	Extension of loan.
24.74	Duty of attorney general and revenue department.
24.75	Interest, how accounted for.
24.76	Common school fund.
24.77	Common school fund income.
24.78	Distribution of the common school fund income.
24.79	Swampland grants.
24.80	Normal school fund.
24.81	University fund.
24.82	Agricultural college fund.

## SUBCHAPTER I

## PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTRATION

**24.01 Definitions and classification.** In chs. 23 to 29, unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise defined:

(1) “Agricultural college lands” embraces all lands granted to the state by an act of congress entitled “An act donating public lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts,” approved July 2, 1862, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(2) “Board” means the board of commissioners of public lands, except that this definition does not apply to ch. 25.

(3) “Department” means department of natural resources.

(4) “Marathon County lands” embraces all lands acquired by the state pursuant to chapter 22 of the general laws of 1867, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(5) “Normal school lands” embraces all parcels of said “swamp lands” which the legislature has declared or otherwise decided, or may hereafter declare or otherwise decide, were not or are not needed for the drainage or reclamation of the same or other lands, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(6) “Public lands” embraces all lands and all interests in lands owned by the state either as proprietor or as trustee which constitute any part of the lands defined or specified in this section.

(7) “School lands” embraces all lands made a part of “the school fund” by article X, section 2, of the constitution, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(8) “Secretary” means secretary of natural resources.

(9) “Swamp lands” embraces all lands which have been or may be transferred to the state pursuant to an act of congress entitled “An act to enable the state of Arkansas and other states to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits,” approved September 28, 1850, or pursuant to an act of congress entitled “An act for the relief of purchasers and locators of swamp and overflowed lands,” approved March 2, 1855, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(10) “University lands” embraces all lands the proceeds of which are denominated “the university fund” by article X, section 6, of the constitution, as well as any land received under s. 24.09 (1) (bm) in exchange for such land.

(11) “Warden” means conservation warden, and includes county, special and deputy conservation wardens.

**History:** 1977 c. 9; 1981 c. 390; 1983 a. 189, 192; 1987 a. 119; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 83.

**24.02 PUBLIC DOMAIN AND TRUST FUNDS**

Updated 21–22 Wis. Stats. 2

**24.02 Addition to the public lands.** Addition to any class of lands specified in s. 24.01, except lands purchased for forest reserve and Marathon County lands, may be effected by grant, conveyance or devise made as a donation to the state for the purpose of the fund to which such class belongs. But no such proffered donation shall be accepted until the title of the donor has been examined and approved by the attorney general.

**24.03 Escheats.** The board of commissioners of public lands shall, whenever it shall have reason to believe that any lands have escheated to the state for defect of heirs, cause due inquiry to be made to ascertain the rights of the state, and the attorney general shall bring any suit or action or take any requisite proceeding necessary to protect and secure the rights of the state. The board may either take possession of, or cause to be sued for and recovered as aforesaid when necessary, any real estate believed to have escheated to the state, or may proceed directly to sell all the right, title and interest of the state therein, without first obtaining possession thereof and without establishing title thereto by action.

**24.04 Administrative receipts and disbursements.**

**(1) RECEIPTS.** The board shall collect from purchasers of land a fee of \$5 for every certificate and \$5 for every patent issued by it. The board shall pay the moneys collected, together with all moneys for expenses of advertising, damages and costs received either by redemption or resale of any public lands forfeited after being sold by the state, into the state treasury to the credit of the common school fund. The executive secretary of the board may take the acknowledgments of the board to all certificates and patents, and no fees may be charged therefor.

**(2) DISBURSEMENTS.** All expenses necessarily incurred in caring for and selling public lands shall be deducted from the gross receipts of the fund to which the proceeds of the sale of the land will be added. Expenses necessarily incurred in caring for public lands may include expenses for reforestation, erosion and insect control, submerged log monitoring, surveys, appraisals, soil surveys and soil mapping activities and other land management practices that serve to protect or enhance the interests of the beneficiaries of the trust funds.

**History:** 1975 c. 39 s. 734; 1977 c. 418; 1979 c. 34; 1983 a. 423; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9.

**24.05 Survey of lands.** Whenever it appears necessary to the board that surveys should be made in order to ascertain the true boundaries of any tract or portion of the public lands, or to enable the board to describe and dispose of any tract or portion of the public lands in suitable and convenient lots, the board may cause all necessary surveys to be made.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.06 Plat of lands.** The board may subdivide any parcel of public lands into smaller parcels or village lots, with streets and alleys if necessary, whenever it believes a larger net price can be obtained by selling the land in smaller parcels or lots. A survey and plat of the subdivision, verified by its maker as true and correct, shall be returned and recorded in the office of the board, and the parcels or lots designated on the survey and plat shall be appraised before the parcels or lots are offered for sale. The subdivision shall be ordered, the proceedings for the subdivision governed, and the appraisal made in substantial compliance with s. 24.08.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.07 Sale of land with water power.** Whenever a water power exists upon any public lands offered for sale the board may sell together all the tracts or lots upon which such water power is situated and such other tracts or lots as are necessary for the use and enjoyment of the same, not exceeding 160 acres, or it may sell each tract or lot separately, as in its opinion the larger proceeds may be derived from such sale.

**24.08 Minimum price.** **(1) LANDS APPRAISED.** Every parcel of public land that was never appraised, every parcel of public land forfeited to the state under s. 24.28 and every parcel of land mortgaged to secure any loan of trust funds and bid in by the state at a sale of that land under the mortgage shall be appraised under this section before it is offered or reoffered for sale at public auction, at private sale or exchanged for other lands. These lands may be reappraised whenever necessary.

**(2) APPRAISER.** The board may make and enter in its minutes an order that any parcel or parcels of the public lands be appraised, describing the lands, appointing an appraiser and stating the reasons why the appraisal is deemed necessary. So far as practical the appraiser shall be a person in the employ of the board, of good character, approved integrity, sound judgment and well acquainted with the public lands; but the board may employ under contract any competent appraiser if it deems it necessary.

**(3) APPRAISAL.** The appraisal shall be made from actual view and at cash value. It shall be in writing and be verified by the affidavit of the appraiser who shall testify that the appraisal is just and was made as required by law. The appraisal shall be filed with the executive secretary of the board and recorded.

**(4) APPRAISED VALUE, MINIMUM PRICE, GOVERNMENT MINIMUM.** Such appraised value shall be the minimum price of the land until sold or reappraised. Until an appraisal under this section, the appraisal last heretofore made of any parcel of public land, if any has been made, shall fix the minimum price thereof. Notwithstanding this section no parcel of public land having a minimum price for the sale thereof fixed by the act of congress granting the same to the state, shall be sold for a lesser price than that so fixed.

**History:** 1973 c. 90; 1983 a. 423; 1993 a. 16.

**24.09 Procedure before sale or exchange; withdrawal; resale.** **(1)** (a) Except as provided under par. (c), the board may not sell or exchange any public lands which were not appraised or appraised under s. 24.08. Except as provided under pars. (b), (bg), (bm) and (c), the board may not sell or exchange any public lands except at public auction or by sealed bid.

(b) Lands required for federal, state, county, city, village, town, or school district use may be sold at the appraised value to, or exchanged for land of approximately equivalent value with, the federal government, other state departments, boards or commissions, counties, cities, villages, towns, or school districts.

(bg) The board may sell public lands belonging to a trust fund, as defined under s. 24.60 (5), to another trust fund, as defined under s. 24.60 (5), at the appraised value of the land. The board shall remit the proceeds of a sale under this paragraph to the secretary of administration for deposit in the appropriate trust fund.

(bm) The board may exchange part or all of any parcel of public lands for any other land of approximately equal value if the board determines that the exchange will contribute to the consolidation or completion of a block of land, enhance conservation of lands or otherwise be in the public interest. Under this paragraph, an exchange is of “approximately equal value” if the difference in value between the more highly valued land and the less highly valued land does not exceed 10 percent of the value of the more highly valued land. All expenses necessarily incurred in making an exchange under this paragraph shall be deducted from the gross receipts of the fund to which the proceeds of the sale of the exchanged land will be added.

(c) Lands located within the federally recognized exterior boundaries of Indian reservations or located adjacent to the federally recognized boundaries of Indian reservations may be sold to or exchanged with the Indian tribe or tribes located on those reservations or sold to or exchanged with the federal government for the benefit and use of such tribe or tribes upon prices, terms and conditions agreeable to the board and without being subject to the restrictions and procedure otherwise provided by law for the sale of public lands.

(d) All sales other than sales under par. (b) or (c) shall be made at the times and public places by sealed bid or public sale as the board designates. Prior to any sale, the board shall publish a class 3 notice, under ch. 985, specifying the time and place and describing the lands to be sold in a newspaper published in the county where the lands are situated.

(2) The board may, whenever it believes the public interest will be served thereby, withdraw and withhold from sale all or such portions of the public lands as in its opinion it may not be advantageous to sell, for so long a time as in its opinion will be most beneficial to the state; but when reoffered the lands so withdrawn shall first be offered at public sale in the manner prescribed by law.

**History:** 1983 a. 423; 1987 a. 76; 1997 a. 27; 2005 a. 149, 352; 2017 a. 314.

**24.10 Procedure at sale.** (1) If the sale is to be by public auction, at the time and place specified in the notice under s. 24.09 (1) (d), the board shall commence the sale of the lands described in the notice and thereafter continue the same from day to day, Sundays excepted, between 9 a.m. and the setting of the sun, until all lands described in the notice have been offered. The order of the sale shall be to begin at the lowest number of the sections, townships, and ranges in each county and proceed regularly to the highest, until all then to be sold are offered for sale. Except for lands withheld from sale under s. 24.09 (2), each lot, tract of lands, or collection of tracts of lands to be sold shall be offered at the minimum price fixed by law and shall be cried at public auction long enough to enable every one present to bid. If the minimum price or more is bid, the lot or tract shall be struck off to the highest bidder, but if the minimum price is not bid the tract shall be set down unsold.

(2) If the sale is to be by sealed bid, the highest bid for any lot, tract of lands, or collection of tracts of lands shall be accepted, unless the highest bid is below the minimum price fixed by law. If the highest bid is below the minimum price fixed by law, then all bids may be rejected. If all bids are rejected or if no bid is received, the board may readvertise the sale, adjourn the sale to a definite date, or withhold the lands from sale pursuant to s. 24.09 (2).

**History:** 1999 a. 83; 2005 a. 352.

**24.11 Terms of sales.** (1) **FOR CASH OR INSTALLMENTS.** (a) Except as provided under sub. (4), public lands may be sold for cash to be paid at the time of the sale or according to the terms specified under par. (b).

(b) The first payment shall be not less than 15 percent of the purchase price, and shall be made at the time of the sale together with interest on the deferred payments in advance to February 1 of the following year. However, the first payment may not be less than the value of the timber, if any, on the lands sold. Annual payments of principal and interest shall be made for a maximum of 20 years after the date of the sale, with interest on the principal at the rate of 7 percent per year, payable annually in advance on February 1 of each year.

(c) Except as provided under s. 24.09 (1) (bg) and unless otherwise required by law to be deposited into a fund other than any of the trust funds, as defined in s. 24.60 (5), all moneys received from the sale of public lands on or after May 3, 2006, shall be credited to the appropriate trust fund in an account specified in s. 24.605.

(2) **PURCHASER TO PAY TAXES.** The board shall insert in every contract or certificate of sale of public land a clause providing that the vendee, and the vendee's heirs, personal representatives, or assigns shall pay or cause to be paid all taxes that are or that may be assessed against the land from the date of the contract or certificate of sale.

(3) **RESERVATION.** Every contract, certificate of sale, or grant hereunder of public lands shall reserve to the people the right of access to such lands and to any meandered or nonmeandered stream, river, pond or lake navigable in fact for any purpose whatsoever, bordered by such lands and all rights necessary to the full

enjoyment of such waters, and of all minerals in said lands, and all mining rights therein, and shall also be subject to continued ownership by the state of all waterpower rights on such lands or in any manner appurtenant thereto. Such conveyance shall also be subject to a continuing easement in the state and its assigns to enter and occupy such lands in any manner necessary and convenient to the removal of such mineral from such lands and to the proper exercise of such mineral rights, and shall be further subject to the continuing easement in the state and its assigns to enter and occupy such lands in any manner necessary and convenient to the development, maintenance and use of any such water rights. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to provide for the continued ownership in the state of any stone used for building purposes nor of any sand or gravel.

(4) **SPECIAL TERMS FOR ESCHEATED LANDS.** Upon the sale of any escheated lands the entire purchase price shall be paid at the time of the sale. The board shall then execute and deliver to the purchaser a quitclaim deed of conveyance that vests in the grantee all the right, title, and interest of the state in or to the land, and every right of action that the state has respecting the land. No covenant or warranty of title, of continued enjoyment, or against encumbrances, shall be expressed in or implied from the quitclaim deed or any words in the quitclaim deed. If by virtue of a better title, any other person or party recovers the land within 20 years after a purchase under this subsection, the state shall refund to the purchaser, or to the purchaser's assigns or legal representatives, the amount paid by the purchaser for the land, together with interest on the amount paid by the purchaser at the rate of 6 percent per year from the date of the purchase until the date of recovery, and also the amount of all taxes on the land actually paid by the purchaser with like interest on each payment from the time of payment to the date of the recovery.

**History:** 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1983 a. 423; 1991 a. 316; 1995 a. 225; 2005 a. 149, 352; 2017 a. 314.

State reservation of land and interests in lands under ch. 452, laws of 1911, s. 24.11 (3) and Art. X, s. 8 are discussed. 65 Atty. Gen. 207.

**24.12 Forfeit for failure to pay.** Every purchaser of any lot or tract at any sale under s. 24.11 shall pay the amount of the purchase money required by the terms of sale to be paid as provided in s. 24.11 (1). If the purchaser refuses or neglects to so pay, the lot or tract bid off by the purchaser shall again be offered for sale. The purchaser shall, for refusing or neglecting to pay, forfeit \$25 for each lot or tract bid off by the purchaser, which the board shall, in the name of the state, cause to be immediately sued for and collected, and, when collected, paid into the school fund.

**History:** 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.14 Rights of swampland purchasers.** (1) In this section, "subject lands" means lands patented to this state as swamp and overflowed lands, or lands patented in lieu of swamp and overflowed lands.

(2) Any person who has purchased from the United States or entered any subject lands prior to the execution of United States patents to this state for the subject lands, may whenever those entries have been canceled by the United States on account of a conflict with the right and title of this state to the subject lands, purchase the subject lands from this state, prior to the date fixed for the public sale of the subject lands, upon making satisfactory proof to the board that the person is the identical person, or the heir, legal representative, or assign of the person, who purchased or entered the subject lands as provided in this subsection, and upon paying to this state for the subject lands the same price at which the purchase or entries were made from the United States. Nothing contained in this chapter impairs the rights acquired by any person who has preempted any subject lands under the laws of this state.

**History:** 1999 a. 83; 2005 a. 149; 2009 a. 276.

**24.145 State-owned swamplands; proceeds; disposition.** (1) It is declared that none of the swamp and overflowed lands granted to this state pursuant to an act of congress entitled



“An Act to enable the state of Arkansas and other states to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits”, approved September 28, 1850, and the proceeds derived from the sale of those lands that have not been actually applied for reclamation of those lands, are necessary for the purpose of reclaiming any such swamp and overflowed lands by construction of levees and drains or otherwise.

(2) All swamp and overflowed lands described in sub. (1) and the proceeds derived from the sale of those lands including those placed and being in the drainage fund pursuant to [chapter 537, laws of 1865](#), that have not been actually applied for the purpose of reclaiming those lands, shall be a part of the normal school fund. This section controls over any inconsistent act or statute.

History: 2005 a. 149.

**24.15 Private sale.** All public lands, including forfeited lands and mortgaged lands bid in by the state, which have once been offered or reoffered at public sale and remain unsold, shall be subject to private sale at the minimum price fixed for the sale of the land by law to the person first making application for the purchase of the lands, if the person immediately complies with the term of sale. If 2 or more persons apply at the same time to purchase the same lands under this section, the lands shall be offered to the highest bidder, and the applicant who will pay the highest price shall be the purchaser.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.16 Applications for private sale.** Every person making application under s. 24.15 for the purchase at private sale of any public lands shall file in the office of the board an application in writing, describing the lot or tract that the person proposes to purchase by the proper number of the section, township and range, and the subdivision of the section, with the person's name subscribed to the application. The board shall, if the land applied for may then be sold, do all of the following:

(1) Enter on books kept for that purpose a note of the application, specifying the day when made, the name of the applicant, and the description of the land applied for.

(2) Give to the applicant a memorandum signed by the executive secretary of the board, stating the application, describing the lot or tract applied for, and stating the price at which the lot or tract may be sold and the amount to be paid at the time of the sale.

History: 1991 a. 316; 1993 a. 16; 2005 a. 149.

**24.17 Receipt and certificate.** (1) When the purchaser of any public lands makes payment to the secretary of administration of the amount required to be paid on the sale and, in case of a private sale, produces the memorandum described in s. 24.16, the secretary of administration shall give a receipt to the purchaser for the amount paid, and, unless the sale is wholly for cash, the board shall execute and deliver to the purchaser a duplicate certificate of sale, in which the board shall certify all of the following:

(a) The description of the land sold.

(b) The sum paid and the amount remaining due.

(c) The times, place, and terms of payments.

(d) That if the payments are made in accordance with the terms stated in the certificate of sale, the purchaser, or the purchaser's assigns or other legal representatives, shall be entitled to a patent for the land.

(e) That in case of the nonpayment into the state treasury of any of the following, the certificate of sale from the time of the nonpayment shall be void and the board may take possession of and resell the land described in the certificate:

1. The purchase money as it becomes due.

2. The interest on the purchase money by the first day of February in each year or on or before the next following June 30th.

3. Any taxes lawfully assessed on the lands described in the certificate and then remaining unpaid by the purchaser or purchasers or by any person claiming under the purchaser or purchasers.

(2) When the sale of public lands under sub. (1) is wholly for cash, upon payment of the full purchase price to the secretary of

administration, the secretary of administration shall immediately give to the purchaser a receipt stating the amount paid, giving a description of the lot or tract of land sold, and stating that the purchaser is entitled to receive a patent according to law.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 149.

**24.18 Entry of sale and patent.** When any sale of public lands is made, the board shall make a note of the sale in the book of entries, entering the day of sale, the name of the purchaser, the number of the certificate or patent, the sum paid, the amount of purchase money unpaid, if any, and a description of the lot or tract sold. If the sale is wholly for cash, the board shall immediately execute and deliver to the purchaser a patent for the lot or tract of land so sold. If the land is sold at public auction, the board shall note that fact.

History: 2005 a. 149.

**24.19 Certificate of sale.** All original and duplicate certificates of sale issued under s. 24.17 shall be properly numbered, and the original shall be filed in the office of the board. As many distinct lots or tracts of land purchased by one person in one section at the same time as that person requests shall be included in one certificate or one patent, as the case may be. Certificates of sale may be acknowledged and recorded in the same manner as deeds. Certificates of sale may be assigned in writing. The assignment may be acknowledged and recorded in the same manner as deeds, and the assignee shall have the same rights and remedies under the certificate as the original purchaser would have had.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.20 Payments and accounts.** All money paid on account of sales of public lands shall be paid to the secretary of administration who shall credit the proper fund with the amount paid, crediting the general fund with the proceeds of sales of Marathon County lands. The secretary of administration or the secretary's designee, upon countersigning the receipt given for the amount paid, shall enter the name of the person making the payment, the number of the certificate, if any, upon which the amount shall be paid, and the time of the payment.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 149.

**24.21 Accounts with purchasers.** The board shall open and keep an account with each purchaser for every lot or tract of land that is sold, either at public or private sale, in books kept for that purpose, in which the board shall charge the purchaser with the whole purchase money and give the purchaser credit for all the purchaser's payments, making proper charges for interest as it becomes due, and for all taxes returned to it as unpaid by the proper officer. Upon all payments being completed and the patent issued the account shall be balanced.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.22 Excessive payments to be refunded.** (1) Whenever full payment of the principal due upon any certificate of sale by the state is made subsequent to the payment of the annual interest on the principal, the excess of the interest so paid shall be refunded to the person entitled to the excess payment, from the proper fund, on the warrant of the department of administration.

(2) In the event of the double or erroneous payment of interest, charges, or taxes on any certificate of sale or loan by the state, the amount erroneously paid shall be refunded in the same manner as excess interest payments under sub. (1).

History: 2005 a. 149.

**24.23 Title; patents.** The title and fee of all public lands shall remain in the state until patents for the land are issued. No patent shall be issued except upon full payment of the purchase money and interest and all taxes returned and lawful charges on the lands being purchased.

History: 2005 a. 149.

**24.24 Effect of certificate.** (1) Except when voided by forfeiture under s. 24.28, a certificate of sale issued under s. 24.17 entitles the purchaser, or the purchaser's heirs or assigns, to all the

rents, benefits, and provisions of any lease existing on the lands described in the certificate at the time of the land purchase and accruing after the purchase. The certificate of sale is sufficient evidence of title and vests in the purchaser, or the purchaser's heirs and assigns, the same rights of possession, enjoyment, descent, transmission, and alienation of the lands described in the certificate and the same remedies for the protection of those rights against all persons, except the state, that the purchaser would possess if the purchaser were the owner in fee of the described lands.

(2) Notwithstanding sub. (1), a certificate of sale does not confer the right to cut down, destroy, dig up, or carry off any standing wood or timber or any mineral located on the lands described in the certificate without the written consent of the board, except as follows:

(a) Wood or timber may be cut when it is to be exclusively used in the erection of fences or buildings on the described lands.

(b) Wood or timber may be cut for necessary firewood for the household use of the persons actually occupying the described lands.

(c) Wood or timber may be cut when done in good faith for the actual and fair improvement of the described lands for cultivation.

(3) Notwithstanding sub. (2) (c), no cutting of wood or timber shall be deemed to have been done for the purposes of cultivation unless the entire surface from which the wood and timber is cut was at the time further prepared for cultivation by thoroughly clearing all brush and growing wood of every kind, except that shade or ornamental trees on not more than 10 adjoining acres selected for building purposes, and trees valuable for saw or rail timber, not to exceed 20 upon each acre, may be left standing.

(4) Except as provided in subs. (2) and (3), any wood, timber, or mineral cut, dug out, or removed from any land described in a certificate of sale shall remain the property of the state.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.25 Issuance and record of patent.** (1) Whenever full payment is made for any lands described in a certificate of sale issued under s. 24.17, as required by law, and the purchaser, or the purchaser's legal representatives, produces to the board the duplicate certificate of sale, with the receipt of the secretary of administration endorsed on the duplicate certificate, showing that the whole amount of the principal and interest due on the purchase of the land described in the certificate has been paid and that the holder of the duplicate certificate is entitled to a patent for the lands described in the certificate, the original and duplicate certificates shall be canceled, and the board shall immediately execute and deliver a patent to the person entitled to the patent for the land described in the certificate.

(2) All patents issued by the board shall be recorded in the board's office. The board's record of patents issued by it constitutes a legal record.

(3) Purchasers may, at any time before payment is due, pay any part or the whole of the purchase money for the land and the interest owing on the purchase money.

(4) If a patent is issued to a person who dies before the date of the patent, the title to the land described inures to and vests in the decedent's heirs, devisees, or assignees to the same extent as if the patent had issued to the decedent during the decedent's lifetime.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 149.

**24.251 Patents, issuance; county may record.** Whenever it appears to the board that all the conditions relating to the issuance of patents have been complied with, the board may issue patents, and the county board of any county may cause the patents to be recorded in the county and pay the cost of the recording.

History: 2005 a. 149.

**24.26 Patentee's rights.** Except as provided under s. 24.11, any person, or the person's heirs or assigns, who receives a patent pursuant to law for any public lands acquires the right to all timber, lumber, trees, wood, bark, stone, earth, and other materials cut,

dug, taken, or removed from the lands subject to the patent before the issue of the patent, unless the materials were cut, dug, taken, or removed by the assent of the board or were sold by the state. The person receiving the patent may maintain an action for the recovery of the materials that were cut, dug, taken, or removed, or for any injury done to or trespass committed upon the lands before the patent was issued, in the same manner, with the same effect, and with the same entitlement to damages as if the injury or trespass had been committed after the patent was issued.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.27 Purchase money a loan.** The purchaser of public lands, when the balance of the purchase money becomes due, may retain the same as a loan from year to year on payment annually in advance, or on or before May 31, of the interest on the sum due, at the rate of interest specified in the certificate of sale, and the taxes annually assessed on the land described in the certificate, until required to pay the whole or part by the board or until the legislature shall otherwise direct.

History: 1981 c. 169; 1983 a. 423.

**24.28 Forfeiture.** (1) A certificate of sale issued under s. 24.17 becomes void upon the occurrence of any of the following, and the purchaser of the lands described in the certificate, or the purchaser's heirs and assigns, shall forfeit all right and interest in the lands:

(a) Nonpayment of interest when it is due according to the terms of the certificate of sale.

(b) Nonpayment of any taxes that before the annual interest required by the certificate of sale is paid are returned to the board by the county treasurer as due and unpaid upon the lands described in the certificate.

(c) Nonpayment of the principal owing on the purchase of the lands described in the certificate of sale when required by the board.

(2) In the event of a forfeiture of lands under sub. (1), the board may take immediate possession of and resell the forfeited lands as provided under ss. 24.29 to 24.33.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.29 Redemption.** At any time before the 5 days next preceding the reoffering at public sale of any land forfeited under s. 24.28, the former purchaser, or the former purchaser's assigns or legal representatives, may prevent the resale of the forfeited lands and revive the original contract by paying the principal sum due, with interest, and all taxes returned on the forfeited lands to the secretary of administration that are still unpaid, and all costs occasioned by the delay, together with 3 percent damages on the whole sum owing for the forfeited lands.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 149.

**24.30 Liability of former purchaser.** In case of a forfeiture of lands under s. 24.28, the former purchaser of the forfeited lands shall be liable for any waste or unnecessary injury that the former purchaser may have done to the forfeited lands or to the timber or minerals located upon the forfeited lands. An action for waste or unnecessary injury under this section may be prosecuted by the board in the name of the state.

History: 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.31 Advertisement and resale of forfeited lands.** Whenever any public lands have been forfeited under s. 24.28 for the nonpayment of principal, interest, or taxes, and the lands have remained forfeited for 3 months, the board shall first cause the forfeited lands to be appraised as provided under s. 24.08. Upon completion of the appraisal, the board shall advertise the forfeited land for sale as provided under s. 24.09 and shall state in the notice that the lands have been forfeited and give the names of the former purchasers. The sale of the forfeited lands shall be made either in the county where the lands lie or at the capitol on a day not less than 3 months nor more than 6 months after the first insertion of the notice. The board shall publish a class 3 notice, under ch. 985,

**24.31 PUBLIC DOMAIN AND TRUST FUNDS**

Updated 21–22 Wis. Stats. 6

of the sale giving the time and place where the sale will be held and the county in which the lands being sold are situated, but omitting any description of the lands. The last insertion of the notice shall be at least one week prior to the time the sale is to commence.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.32 Resale and redemption.** (1) Unless the resale of lands forfeited under s. 24.28 is prevented by payment under s. 24.29, the forfeited lands shall be offered for sale at public auction to the highest bidder in the manner and upon the terms provided for original sales and, if the lands are not then sold, the lands shall be subject to private entry.

(2) (a) Every tract of forfeited lands may be redeemed by the former purchaser, or the former purchaser's assigns or legal representatives, at any time before the June 30th next following the date of the resale of the forfeited tract, by doing all of the following:

1. Presenting to the board satisfactory proof, which shall be filed and preserved by the board, that the tract was, at the time of the resale, in whole or in part under cultivation or adjoining a tract partly cultivated, belonging to the former purchaser, or the former purchaser's assigns or legal representatives, and used in connection with the adjoining tract.

2. Depositing with the secretary of administration, for the use of the purchaser at the resale of the forfeited tract the amount paid by the resale purchaser for the tract, together with 25 percent of the amount of the taxes, interest, and costs, in addition to the purchase price.

(b) Every certificate of sale issued upon any resale of forfeited lands shall be subject to the right of redemption under par. (a) whether or not the right of redemption is expressed in the certificate. No patent shall be issued on any resale of a forfeited tract until the expiration of the redemption period under par. (a).

(3) Upon a redemption under sub. (2), the board shall do all of the following:

(a) Cancel the certificate of sale issued to the resale purchaser.

(b) Make and deliver to the party redeeming the forfeited lands a certificate of the redemption.

(c) Record the certificate of the redemption in a book kept in the board's office for that purpose.

**History:** 1991 a. 316; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 149; 2009 a. 177.

**24.33 Resale may be canceled.** (1) The board, within 3 months after a resale under s. 24.32, may by a written recorded order, a copy of which shall be immediately served on the purchaser of the resold land, avoid and cancel the resale and restore and revive the certificate issued to the original purchaser of the land under s. 24.17, after all of the following occur:

(a) Proof is made that there are valuable improvements on the resold land.

(b) Proof is made that the forfeiture was occasioned by the death of the holder of the first certificate, or the neglect of the first certificate holder's personal representative.

(c) Payment is made to the secretary of administration in the amount actually due on the first certificate at the time of the resale, with interest, costs, and charges, and with interest on the amount for which the land was sold at the rate of 10 percent per year.

(2) Upon the surrender of the certificate, receipt, or patent given upon the resale, the purchaser of the resold land shall be paid out of the state treasury the amount paid by the purchaser at resale, together with the interest collected from the person redeeming the land.

**History:** 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1991 a. 316; 2001 a. 102; 2003 a. 33.

**24.34 Void sales.** In the event that the sale of any public lands are made by mistake or not in accordance with law, or are obtained by fraud, or in the event that the state had no title to the lands sold, or the state's title has failed, the sale of the lands shall be void and no contract, certificate of purchase, or patent issued on the lands sold shall be of any effect, but the person named as vendee, or that person's successor in interest, may furnish to the board any proof

that will satisfy the board of the facts. Except as provided in s. 24.341, upon receipt of satisfactory proof of the facts asserted by the vendee, the board shall order all amounts, either of principal or interest, paid for the lands described in the contract, certificate, or patent, together with the interest on the amounts so paid from the time of each such payment, at the rate of 6 percent per year, simple interest, to be refunded and paid out of the state treasury, from the fund to which it has been credited, to the person entitled to the refund. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, no money shall be paid to any person participating in any fraud in obtaining the land, as provided in this section.

**History:** 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.341 Offset to refund on void sales.** Whenever any claim is made for a refund on a void land sale under s. 24.34, the board shall make an investigation and determination, and offset the value of the use of the land, property removed from the land, and damage or injury to the land by the claimant, together with interest thereon, against the amounts actually paid to the state and to any other persons on account of the purchase, possession, use, damage, or injury to the lands by the claimants. The refund or payment to be made under s. 24.34 shall in no case be more than the excess, if any, of the amounts paid out by the claimant, with interest, over the offset determined under this section.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.35 Annulment of certificates and patents.** Whenever the board has erroneously or improperly issued any certificate or patent for any public lands whereby wrong or injustice has been or may be done, including cases in which the state had no title to the lands, or its title has failed, the board may, upon the written application of the purchaser, or the purchaser's successor in interest, revoke and annul the certificate or patent by its order, which, with the application, shall be filed and recorded in the board's office. A certified copy of the board's order may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds for the county where the lands lie, and upon the recording of the order, the certificate or patent shall be void. When the board's order is so recorded there shall be paid out of the state treasury, from the fund to which it has been credited, to the purchaser, or the purchaser's successor in interest, the amounts in the manner and as provided in s. 24.34.

**History:** 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149.

**24.355 Limitation of actions.** All claims under s. 24.34 or 24.35 shall be barred, unless application for a payment refund is made within 5 years from the time of the payment, or, in cases in which the state never had title, from the time when the invalidity of the title of the state was established.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.36 Lost certificates and patents.** Whenever any duplicate certificate of sale has been lost or destroyed before the patent has been issued, or whenever any patent has been lost or destroyed, the board, upon satisfactory proof of the fact, established by affidavit filed with the board, may issue a certified copy of the original certificate of sale or of the record in the board's office of the patent, or a quitclaim deed in place of the missing patent, to the person entitled to the copy of the certificate or record of the patent, or quitclaim deed, which shall have the same force and effect as the original duplicate certificate or patent. The board's certificate to the copy and quitclaim deed shall recite the loss or destruction of the original.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.37 Ejectment.** If any person holds or continues in possession of any public lands without written permission from the board, or contrary to the conditions or covenants of any lease or written agreement, or after the lands have been forfeited to the state, that person shall be liable to an action by the state or any purchaser from the state for an unlawful detainer or other proper action to recover possession of the lands and for damages for the detention of the lands.

**History:** 1991 a. 316; 2005 a. 149; 2009 a. 177.



**24.38 Boundaries.** The lines, boundaries, and descriptions of the swamp lands as exhibited by the plats and field notes of the United States survey are adopted and deemed conclusively to be the true lines, boundaries, and descriptions of those swamp lands.

**History:** 2005 a. 149.

**24.39 Leases of public lands. (1)** The board of commissioners of public lands may grant leases of parts or parcels of any public lands except state park lands and state forest lands; grant easements, leases to enter upon any of said lands to flow the same or to prospect for and to dig and remove therefrom ore, minerals and other deposits, and sell therefrom such timber as the board shall find necessary to prevent future loss or damage. All sales of standing live timber shall be on a selective cutting basis in line with federal forest practices. Such easements, leases, licenses and sales shall be made only for a full and fair consideration paid or to be paid to the state, the amount and terms whereof shall be fixed by said board, and such easements, leases, licenses and sales shall conform to the requirements, so far as applicable, prescribed by ch. 26 for the exercise by the department of natural resources of similar powers affecting state park lands and state forest lands.

**(2)** In negotiating for such leases, licenses or sales, and in exercising the other powers conferred by this section the board of commissioners of public lands shall, so far as it finds it desirable and practicable, request and make proper use of such services and information as the department of natural resources may be able to furnish.

**(3)** All moneys received by the board from the leasing of land under the U.S. flood control act of 1954 and subsequent amendments thereto, shall be paid into the general fund of the state within one week and are appropriated therefrom to the board to be paid to the county clerk of the county in which the leased land is located for the benefit of the general fund of such county within 30 days of its receipt by the board.

**(4)** (a) Subject to pars. (c) and (d) the board of commissioners of public lands may:

1. Lease to riparian owners rights to the beds of lakes and rights to fill in beds of lakes or navigable streams, held by the state in trust for the public, when the purpose of the lease is for the improvement of navigation or for the improvement or construction of harbor facilities as defined in s. 30.01; and

2. Lease such rights to municipalities as defined in s. 30.01 and in locations where the municipality is the riparian owner, when the purpose of the lease is for the improvement or provision of recreational facilities related to navigation for public use.

(b) All revenues from such leases shall be paid into the general fund.

(c) No leases under par. (a) may be executed without a prior finding of the department of natural resources under s. 30.11 (5) that any proposed physical change in the area contemplated as the result of the execution of any term lease is consistent with the public interest in the navigable waters involved.

(d) This subsection applies only to Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, the Fox River from Green Bay upstream to the point where it meets the Wolf River, and to the segments of all other bodies of water in which the U.S. army corps of engineers provides and maintains commercial navigation channels.

(e) Such lease shall be for a term not to exceed 50 years, and shall include therein any and all conditions and terms the board of commissioners of public lands believes to be necessary in the public interest. A lessee or the lessee's heirs, successors or assigns of a lease which has reached the end of its term shall have first opportunity to contract with the board of commissioners of public lands for a new lease.

(f) A municipality may sublease rights leased to it under par. (a) 1. or 2. to corporations or private persons. A municipality may also make physical improvements on and above the bottoms to which rights were leased from the board of commissioners of pub-

lic lands and may sublease these improvements to corporations or private persons. Any subleases under this paragraph shall be consistent with this subsection and with whatever standards or restrictions the department of natural resources, acting under s. 30.11 (5), may have found at the time of execution of the original lease by the board of commissioners of public lands to the municipality.

(g) The lease may be terminated for nonuse or for a nonconforming use any time after 5 years from date of issue, or such shorter period of time as may be specified in the lease. It may also be terminated for any other ground recognized at law for termination of a lease.

(h) All rights to submerged lands and rights above submerged lands ceded, granted, or leased to municipalities, or other persons by acts of the state that were effective prior to October 10, 1961, shall not be affected by this subsection or by s. 30.11 (5).

(i) All leases entered into by the board of commissioners of public lands under this subsection and s. 30.11 shall be deemed to be subject to this section and any other applicable laws of this state or of the United States.

**History:** 1981 c. 390; 1991 a. 316; 2001 a. 103; 2005 a. 149; 2015 a. 196.

**24.40 Easements; annexation. (1g)** In this section, “telecommunications service” has the meaning given in s. 182.017 (1g) (cq).

**(1r)** Every board, commission, department and agency of the state having real estate belonging to the state under its control may grant easements in said property for public utility or telecommunications service through, over, under, along or to said property, including without limitation by enumeration the necessary poles, wires, structures, lines, fiber, conduits, pipes or pipe lines for heat, light, water, gas, sewer, power, telecommunications service, telegraph and transmission of messages.

**(2)** Every such board, commission, department and agency may petition or join in a petition for and on behalf of the state as the owner of such property to annex or detach the same or any part or parts thereof to or from an adjoining municipality.

**(3)** Notwithstanding s. 28.02 (5) or any contrary rule promulgated by the department, if the department grants an easement under sub. (1r) for the construction of broadband infrastructure in unserved areas, as designated under s. 196.504 (2) (e), the department may not require any appraisal or the payment of any fee to grant the easement.

**History:** 1985 a. 297 s. 76; 2017 a. 59; 2017 a. 364 s. 49; 2023 a. 77.

The state is specifically authorized to petition for annexation by sub. (2), which would be rendered meaningless if the petition had to be rejected or an annexation ordinance declared invalid on the grounds that the city could establish no commercial, residential, or mercantile need for the land. Some demonstrable need must be shown or the annexation is of necessity arbitrary and capricious. In cases of direct annexation a showing of benefits to the annexed land can be considered in the overall question of need under the rule of reason. The benefits to the state were abundant in this case where city recreational facilities and better quality fire, emergency police, and rescue service would be provided to the annexed land. *Town of Lafayette v. City of Chippewa Falls*, 70 Wis. 2d 610, 235 N.W.2d 435 (1975).

**24.51 Constitutional board.** The board created by article X, section 7, of the constitution may be styled in any law or any action or proceeding in court as “The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands”.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.51; 1983 a. 192.

**24.52 Jurisdiction.** Together with the power and duty of selling the school and university lands and investing the funds arising therefrom, prescribed for the board by article X, section 7, of the constitution, it is invested with power to dispose of all other public lands and all interests in lands held by the state for sale, and with such further powers as may be necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise the functions and perform the duties imposed upon it by law.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.52; 1983 a. 192.

**24.53 Investigate land claims; deduct expenses.** The board of commissioners of public lands shall investigate the rights of the state to school lands, normal school lands, university lands and agricultural college lands. The expenses incurred in making

**24.53 PUBLIC DOMAIN AND TRUST FUNDS**

Updated 21–22 Wis. Stats. 8

these investigations and taking necessary steps to protect common school lands, normal school lands, university lands and agricultural college lands and timber on those lands, as well as the expense of necessary surveys, records, appraisals and sales, upon the approval of the board, shall be deducted from the gross receipts of the fund to which the proceeds from the sale of the land or timber will be added.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.53.

**24.54 Records; copies as evidence.** (1) The department of administration shall provide an office for the board. The board shall conveniently arrange and preserve in that office all records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats and other papers pertaining to the public lands owned by the state, including all public lands that have been or shall be received from the United States or any officer of the United States. The board may perfect the records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats and other papers when incomplete, and cause copies of those documents to be made when from injury, loss, use or accident it shall become necessary. Any copy, when certified to be a correct copy by the executive secretary of the board under the executive secretary's signature and the official seal of the office to have been made for any of the causes specified in this subsection, shall have the same force and effect in all courts and places as the original. Any copy from the original records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field notes, plats or other papers, or from any record or paper required by law to be kept in the office, or any copy from a certified copy of one of those documents, when certified by the executive secretary of the board or any member of the board of commissioners of public lands under the official seal of the board, shall be received in evidence with the same effect as the original.

(2) All records, books and files kept by the board shall at all business hours be open, under proper regulations made by it, to the inspection of any person, free of charge. The board also may in like manner make, perfect, and complete proper records, books, reports and other papers pertaining to the lands of which the state has been or is trustee for the United States.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; 1979 c. 176; Stats. 1979 s. 24.54; 1989 a. 31; 1993 a. 16.

**24.55 Executive secretary; deputy; staff; appointments; duties; oath.** The board shall appoint an executive secretary outside the classified service. The executive secretary shall appoint a deputy who shall, during the absence of the executive secretary, have all of the authority given by law to the executive secretary. The executive secretary and deputy shall take and file the official oath.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.55; 1993 a. 16.

**24.56 Not to buy lands.** The board, and all persons employed by it or about any of its respective offices, are prohibited from purchasing any of the public lands, directly or indirectly, either in their own name or in the name of any other person in trust for them or either of them; and for every tract or parcel of land purchased in violation hereof each such person offending shall forfeit not more than \$250.

**History:** 1975 c. 365; 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.56; 1993 a. 16.

**24.57 Report of board.** The board shall include in any report submitted under s. 15.07 (6) a report of its official proceedings for the period since the proceedings reported in the most recent report, showing the quantity of land sold or leased and the amount received therefor, the amount of interest moneys accrued or received and a specific account of the several investments made by them, stating in all cases of loans, the name of each borrower, the sum borrowed and a description of the property mortgaged. The report also shall include such other matters as it thinks proper to communicate or as the legislature requires.

**History:** 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.57; 1983 a. 27.

**24.58 Appraisers.** The board may select employees of the department to appraise lands or perform other services in field and

forest. The board shall reimburse the department under a contract with the department for the performance of public land management services.

**History:** 1975 c. 94; 1979 c. 34 s. 699g; Stats. 1979 s. 24.58; 1993 a. 16.

**24.59 Sale of public lands to state under Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship 2000 program.**

(1) Notwithstanding ss. 24.09, 24.10, 24.15, 24.16, and 24.32, but subject to subs. (2) and (3), the board may sell to the state public lands that the board identifies as available for sale to the state. Notwithstanding s. 24.08 (4), the public lands shall be sold at the appraised value determined under sub. (2).

(2) The board shall have all of the public lands specified under sub. (1) independently appraised under s. 24.08 (2) and (3) after May 3, 2006, but before sale under sub. (1).

(3) Notwithstanding s. 24.11, public lands sold under sub. (1) may not be paid for in installments.

**History:** 2005 a. 352; 2015 a. 55.

**SUBCHAPTER II****TRUST FUNDS**

**24.60 Definitions.** In this subchapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Consortium" means an association of 2 or more of any of the following entities for the purpose of implementing, expanding or participating in a distance education or educational technology project:

(a) A school district.

(b) A technical college district.

(c) A county, if the county acts on behalf of a county library board that has adopted a resolution under s. 24.66 (3m).

(d) A city, village or town, if the city, village or town acts on behalf of a municipal library board that has adopted a resolution under s. 24.66 (3m).

(1g) "Distance education" means instruction that takes place, regardless of the location of a teacher or student, by means of telecommunications or other means of communication, including cable, instructional television fixed service, microwave, radio, satellite, computer, telephone or television.

(1r) "Educational technology" means technology used in the education or training of any person or in the administration of an elementary or secondary school or a public library.

(1v) "Federated public library system" means a federated public library system whose territory lies within 2 or more counties.

(1w) "General obligation trust fund loan" means a state trust fund loan that is the general obligation of the borrower.

(2) "Municipality" means a town, village, city, county, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, town sanitary district created under s. 60.71, metropolitan sewerage district created under s. 200.05 or 200.23, joint sewerage system created under s. 281.43 (4), school district or technical college district.

(2m) "Revenue obligation trust fund loan" means a state trust fund loan to which any of the following applies:

(a) It is made to a municipality for the purpose of financing or refinancing a project, as defined in s. 67.04 (1) (ar), and is secured by a pledge and assignment of the revenue that the municipality will receive from moneys generated by that project.

(b) It is made to a city or village for the purpose of financing or refinancing project costs, as defined in s. 66.1105 (2) (f), and is secured by a pledge and assignment of the tax increments that will be allocated to the city or village for those project costs by the department of revenue under s. 66.1105 (6).

(c) It is made to a county for the purpose of financing or refinancing project costs, as defined in s. 66.1105 (2) (f), and is secured by a pledge and assignment of the tax increments that will



be allocated to the county for those project costs by the department of revenue under s. 59.57 (3).

(d) It is made to a town for the purpose of financing or refinancing project costs, as defined in s. 60.85 (1) (h) 1., and is secured by a pledge and assignment of the tax increments that will be allocated to the town for those project costs by the department of revenue under s. 60.85 (6).

(e) It is made to a local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229 for the purpose of financing acquisition, construction, and equipment costs for sports and entertainment arena facilities, as defined in s. 229.41 (11g), and is secured by district revenues.

(3) “School district” has the meaning designated under s. 115.01 (3).

(4) “State trust fund loan” means a loan authorized under s. 24.61 (3).

(5) “Trust funds” means the common school fund, the normal school fund, the university fund and the agricultural college fund.

**History:** 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.60; 1983 a. 27 s. 2202 (42); 1983 a. 196; 1985 a. 49, 225; 1993 a. 399; 1995 a. 27, 227; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 150 s. 672; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 253; 2011 a. 71; 2015 a. 60.

**24.605 Accounts in trust funds for deposit of proceeds from sale of certain lands.** The board shall establish in each of the trust funds an account to which are credited the proceeds from the sale of any public lands, except sales under s. 24.09 (1) (bg), on or after May 3, 2006, that are required by law to be deposited in the funds. Moneys credited to the accounts in the funds may only be used to invest in land under s. 24.61 (2) (a) and for the payment of expenses necessarily related to investing in land under s. 24.61 (2) (a).

**History:** 2005 a. 352; 2015 a. 60; 2017 a. 314.

**24.61 Authorized investments and loans. (1) INVESTMENTS AND LOANS; SEPARATE ACCOUNTS.** The board shall loan or invest moneys belonging to the trust funds as those moneys accumulate in the treasury. The board shall keep a separate account of all investments and loans from each fund.

(2) **INVESTMENTS.** (a) *Authorized investments by board.* The board shall manage and invest moneys belonging to the trust funds in good faith and with the care an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, in accordance with s. 112.11 (3).

(b) *Manner for holding securities.* All bonds, notes, and other instruments of indebtedness and securities purchased under par. (a) shall be held in a manner determined by the board.

(c) *Contracting with investment board.* The board of commissioners of public lands may contract with the investment board to invest part or all of the moneys belonging to the trust funds. If the board of commissioners of public lands contracts with the investment board, the investment board may invest the moneys belonging to the trust funds in accordance with the investment board’s standard of responsibility specified in s. 25.15 (2). All moneys received by the investment board under this paragraph shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.536 (1) (k).

(cm) *Investments in land in this state.* Except as provided under s. 24.09 (1) (bg), the board may not invest moneys in the purchase of any land under par. (a) unless all of the following occur:

1. The land is within any applicable consolidation area approved by the board.

2. The total acreage of public lands managed by the board does not exceed the total acreage of public lands managed by the board on May 3, 2006.

3. The board determines that the purchase of the land will improve timberland management, address forest fragmentation, or increase public access to the land.

4. The moneys are in an account specified in s. 24.605.

(3) **LOANS.** (a) *Authorized loans.* The board may loan moneys under its control or belonging to the trust funds to:

1. A school district by whatever name designated, to be used for any of the following:

a. The operation and maintenance of schools.

b. Erecting and remodeling school buildings and teacherages.

c. Purchasing teacherages, teacherage sites, schoolhouse sites, bus garage sites, transportation vehicles, bus garages, school equipment and school playgrounds.

d. Refunding any indebtedness incurred for a lawful purpose within constitutional limitations.

e. The purpose authorized by s. 67.04.

f. Any purpose otherwise authorized by law.

2. A town, village, city or county as provided under s. 67.04 or otherwise authorized by law.

3. A technical college district as provided under s. 67.04 or otherwise authorized by law.

4. A public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district for the purposes of the exercise of its powers under s. 33.22.

5. A town sanitary district created under s. 60.71 for the purposes for which the district may issue its bonds under s. 60.78.

6. A metropolitan sewerage district created under s. 200.05, as provided under s. 67.04 or otherwise authorized by law.

7. A metropolitan sewerage system created under s. 200.23, as provided under s. 67.04 or otherwise authorized by law.

8. A joint sewerage system created under s. 281.43 (4) for the purpose of exercising its powers under s. 281.43 (4).

9. A consortium.

10. A cooperative educational service agency representing 2 or more school districts in the area served by the agency for the purpose of conducting a distance education project by the school districts.

11. A federated public library system, as provided under s. 43.17 (9) (b) or otherwise authorized by law.

12. A drainage district created under ch. 88.

13. A local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229 for the purpose under s. 229.68 (16) (a).

14. A local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229 for the purpose of financing acquisition, construction, and equipment costs for sports and entertainment arena facilities, as defined in s. 229.41 (11g).

(b) *Terms; conditions.* A municipality, cooperative educational service agency, drainage district created under ch. 88, local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, or federated public library system may obtain a state trust fund loan for the sum of money, for the time and upon the conditions as may be agreed upon between the board and the borrower, subject to the limitations, restrictions, and conditions set forth in this subchapter.

(4) **LOAN LIMITATIONS TO COUNTIES.** Notwithstanding sub. (3), the board may not loan moneys to a county unless the governing body of the county demonstrates to the board’s satisfaction that s. 67.045 (1) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h) applies.

(4m) **LOANS TO PAY OFF EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS.** If the board makes a loan to a municipality to pay off existing indebtedness, the making of the loan and the payment of the existing indebtedness shall be treated as if they occur simultaneously.

(5) **LOANS TO CONSORTIA OR CITIES, VILLAGES OR TOWNS SERVED BY JOINT LIBRARY BOARDS.** Whenever a consortium applies for a loan under sub. (3), or whenever a group of cities, villages or towns served by a joint county or municipal library board applies for a loan for an educational technology or distance education project, the board shall treat the application as a loan to each of the members of the consortium or each city, village or town served by a county or municipal library board in an amount equal to the total amount of the loan divided equally by the number of members of the consortium or the number of cities, villages and towns served by the library board, unless all members of the consortium or all cities, villages and towns served by a joint library

board agree to a different arrangement specified by the members or cities, villages and towns on their applications. The procedure for application, approval and repayment of the loan by each member of a consortium or group under this subsection shall be the same as provided in this subchapter for application, approval and repayment of a loan to that member individually, except that the loan shall not be made unless all members qualify.

(7) LOANS TO COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES. Whenever a cooperative educational service agency applies for a loan under sub. (3), the board shall treat the application as a loan to each of the school districts on behalf of which the loan is sought in an amount equal to the total amount of the loan divided equally by the number of school districts, unless the cooperative educational service agency specifies on its application a different arrangement that has been agreed to by all school districts for which the loan is sought. The board shall not make the loan unless each school district for which the loan is sought qualifies for a loan in the amount specified in this subsection, or a different amount if that amount is specified on the application. If the cooperative educational service agency fails to make a timely repayment of the principal or payment of the interest on the loan, each school district for which the loan is made is liable to repay the principal and pay the interest in the amount determined under this subsection.

**History:** 1971 c. 154; 1973 c. 114; 1975 c. 224; 1979 c. 34 s. 2102 (22) (a); 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.61; 1983 a. 196; 1983 a. 207 ss. 2, 95; 1983 a. 423; 1985 a. 49; 1985 a. 332 s. 251 (3); 1987 a. 76, 197; 1989 a. 31; 1991 a. 269; 1993 a. 16, 263, 399; 1995 a. 27, 56, 227; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 65, 83; 1999 a. 150 s. 672; 1999 a. 167; 2001 a. 16; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 25, 335, 352; 2007 a. 20, 97; 2009 a. 2, 28; 2011 a. 71; 2015 a. 60; 2017 a. 314; 2019 a. 110.

**24.62 Expenses.** (1) Except as authorized in sub. (2), the board shall deduct its expenses incurred in administering investments and loans under s. 24.61 from the gross receipts of the fund to which the interest and income of the investment or loan will be added.

(2) The board may charge its expenses incurred in the sale of a state trust fund loan or participation therein under s. 24.69 to the purchaser of the loan or participation, or may deduct the expenses from the gross receipts of the fund to which the interest and income of the loan or participation will be added, or both. If the board sells any state trust fund loan or participation therein under s. 24.69 in any fiscal year, the board shall, no later than October 1 following that fiscal year, prepare and file in its office a report which identifies in detail the board's expenses incurred during that fiscal year that are directly attributable to the sale of state trust fund loans and participations under s. 24.69.

(3) If any land purchased under s. 24.61 (2) (a) on or after July 14, 2015, or acquired in an exchange under s. 24.09 on or after July 14, 2015, was at the time of the purchase or acquisition subject to assessment or levy of a real property tax or subject to an obligation to make state or federal payments in lieu of taxes, the board shall make annual payments in lieu of property taxes from the appropriation under s. 20.507 (1) (c) to the appropriate local governmental unit in an amount equal to the property taxes levied on the land, or equal to the state or federal payments in lieu of taxes made with respect to the land, in the year prior to the year in which the board purchased or acquired the land.

**History:** 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.62; 1989 a. 31; 2005 a. 352; 2015 a. 55, 60; 2017 a. 366; 2021 a. 58.

**24.63 Term, amount, interest rate.** (1) GENERAL OBLIGATION LOANS OTHER THAN TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. A general obligation trust fund loan, other than a loan to a school district, may be made for any term not exceeding 20 years and may be made payable in installments. A general obligation trust fund loan to a municipality other than a school district shall be in an amount which does not, together with all other indebtedness of the municipality applying for the loan, exceed 5 percent of the valuation of the taxable property within the municipality as equalized for state purposes.

(2) GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL DISTRICT LOANS. A general obligation trust fund loan to a school district may be made for any

time, not exceeding 20 years, as is agreed upon between the school district and the board, and for an amount which, together with all other general obligation indebtedness of that district, does not exceed its allowable indebtedness as determined under s. 67.03 (1).

(2m) GENERAL OBLIGATION COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY LOANS. A general obligation trust fund loan to a cooperative educational service agency may be made for any term, not exceeding 20 years, as is agreed upon between the agency and the board, and for a total amount which, for each school district for which the loan is sought, in the proportion determined under s. 24.61 (7), together with all other general obligation indebtedness of the school district, does not exceed the school district's allowable indebtedness under s. 67.03 (1).

(2r) GENERAL OBLIGATION FEDERATED PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM LOANS. A general obligation trust fund loan to a federated public library system may be made for any term, not exceeding 20 years, that is agreed upon between the federated public library system and the board and may be made for a total amount that, together with all other general obligation indebtedness of the federated public library system, does not exceed the federated public library system's allowable indebtedness under s. 43.17 (9) (b).

(2s) REVENUE OBLIGATION LOANS. (a) A revenue obligation trust fund loan to a city, village, town, or county may be made for any term not exceeding 30 years and may be made payable in installments.

(b) 1. If the board makes a revenue obligation trust fund loan to a city, village, town, or county as described in s. 24.60 (2m) (b) to (d), the loan may not exceed an amount that would require the city, village, town, or county to make annual payments, including principal and interest, of more than 80 percent of the shared revenue payments received by the city, village, town, or county under subch. I of ch. 79 in the year immediately preceding the year in which the loan application is made.

2. The board may allow a city, village, town, or county that pledges and assigns tax increments as security for a revenue obligation trust fund loan to provide that the pledge and assignment is subject to future annual appropriations made by the governing body of the respective city, village, town, or county to repay the loan.

3. The board may prescribe loan conditions in addition to the conditions specified in this paragraph.

(3) INTEREST RATES. All state trust fund loans shall bear and draw interest at a rate not less than 2 percent payable annually.

(4) REPAYMENT BEFORE DUE DATE PERMITTED. Any borrower after January 1 and prior to September 1 of any year may repay one or more installments of a state trust fund loan in advance of the due date, and all interest upon such advance payment shall thereupon terminate. The board may charge a borrower who repays one or more installments of a loan a fee to cover any administrative costs incurred by the board in originating and servicing the loan.

(5) BROWNFIELD PROJECT LOANS. A state trust fund loan to a city, village, or town made for the purpose of funding a project related to brownfields, as defined in s. 238.13 (1) (a), may not be included in arriving at the debt limitation under sub. (1) or the constitutional debt limitation under article XI, section 3, of the constitution if all of the following apply:

(a) The term of the loan is not more than 15 years.

(b) The loan is not in default.

(c) The department of natural resources verifies to the board that the site on which the project will occur is a brownfield, or, if the project encompasses more than one site, verifies that not less than 50 percent of the project area is brownfield.

**History:** 1975 c. 224, 422; 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.63; 1983 a. 423; 1985 a. 225; 1987 a. 76; 1995 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16, 104; 2009 a. 2; 2011 a. 71; 2017 a. 70.

**24.64 Reimbursements for certain administrative services.** The board shall reimburse the department of administration, from the appropriation account under s. 20.507 (1) (a), for the

costs of administrative services provided by the department of administration and other state agencies to the board.

**History:** 1999 a. 9; 2019 a. 9.

#### 24.65 Date when interest and principal become due.

The annual interest and installments of principal of all state trust fund loans are payable into the state treasury on or before the date specified in s. 24.70 (4) or 24.71 (4).

**History:** 1975 c. 224; 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.65; 1987 a. 76, 378.

#### 24.66 The application. (1) FOR ALL MUNICIPALITIES. (ag)

No trust fund loan may be made unless an application is made to the board under this section. The application shall state the amount of money required, the purpose to which it is to be applied, the times and terms of repayment, and, in the case of a cooperative educational service agency, the names of the school districts participating in the distance education project for which the loan is sought.

(bg) An application for a general obligation trust fund loan shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof of all of the following:

1. The valuation of all the taxable property within the municipality as equalized for state purposes.
2. All the existing indebtedness of the municipality.
3. The approval of the application as required by subs. (2) to (4).

(cg) An application for a revenue obligation trust fund loan shall be accompanied by all of the following:

1. If the loan is for a project that will be secured in the manner specified in s. 24.60 (2m) (a), a statement of the revenue that the municipality anticipates receiving from moneys generated by that project, and the municipality's pledge and first priority assignment of those revenues to pay off the loan.
2. If the loan is for project costs that will be secured in the manner specified in s. 24.60 (2m) (b) to (d), a statement of the tax increments that the municipality anticipates will be allocated to the municipality for those project costs by the department of revenue and the municipality's pledge and first priority assignment of that allocation to pay off the loan.
3. Satisfactory proof of the amount of annual shared revenue payments made to the municipality under subch. I of ch. 79 in the year immediately preceding the year in which the application for the loan is made.
4. Satisfactory proof of the approval of the application as required by sub. (2).

(2) FOR MUNICIPALITIES OTHER THAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PUBLIC INLAND LAKE DISTRICTS, TOWN SANITARY DISTRICTS OR SEWERAGE DISTRICTS. Every application shall be approved and authorized for a town, by the signatures of a majority of its supervisors acknowledged as conveyances of land are acknowledged; for a village, by a majority vote of its trustees; for a city, by a majority vote of the members of its common council; and for a county, by a majority vote of the members of its board of supervisors at some regular or special session thereof. Every vote so required shall be by ayes and noes duly recorded.

(2m) FOR PUBLIC INLAND LAKE DISTRICTS. Every application shall be approved and authorized for a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district by a majority of the commissioners of the district.

(2p) FOR SEWERAGE DISTRICTS. Every application for a loan under this section to a sewerage district created under s. 200.05 shall be approved and authorized by a majority of the commissioners of the district; to a sewerage district created under s. 200.23, as provided under s. 200.27 (2) (a); and to a joint sewerage system created under s. 281.43 (4), as provided under s. 281.43 (4) (d).

(2r) FOR TOWN SANITARY DISTRICTS. Every application for a loan under this section to a town sanitary district created under s. 60.71 shall be approved and authorized by a majority of the commissioners of the district.

(3) FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS. (a) *For long-term loans by common, union high and 1st class city school districts.* Every application for a loan, the required repayment of which exceeds 10 years, shall be approved and authorized for a common, union high or 1st class city school district by a vote of a majority of its legal voters voting on this question. If the vote is taken at a special meeting the objects thereof shall be clearly stated in the notice of the meeting. The application shall state the facts in detail respecting the holding of the meeting, and the taking and the result of the vote required. The application shall be signed by a majority of the members of the district board and verified by the clerk. The statement accompanying the application shall contain a correct map or plat of the district. If the district is a joint district, the statement accompanying the application shall show the assessed valuation in its several parts separately, so that the valuation of each part of the district which lies in each town or municipality may be readily shown.

(am) *For short-term loans by common, union high and 1st class city school districts.* Every application for a loan, the required repayment of which is 10 years or less, shall be approved and authorized for a common, union high or 1st class city school district under par. (a) or (c), to the extent applicable.

(b) *For long-term loans by unified school districts.* Every application for a loan, the required repayment of which exceeds 10 years, shall be approved and authorized for a unified school district by a majority vote of the members of the school board at a regular or special meeting of the school board. Every vote so required shall be by ayes and noes duly recorded. In addition, the application shall be approved for a unified school district by a majority vote of the electors of the school district at a special election as provided under sub. (4).

(bm) *For short-term loans by unified school districts.* Every application for a loan, the required repayment of which is 10 years or less, shall be approved and authorized for a unified school district under par. (b) or (c), to the extent applicable.

(c) *Alternative short-term loan process for all school districts.* 1. If the procedure in par. (a) or (b) is not used for the approval of a school district loan, the required repayment of which is 10 years or less, the governing body of the school district, before any certificate of indebtedness is issued, shall adopt and record a resolution specifying the purposes and the maximum amount of the certificate of indebtedness issued.

2. Unless the purpose and amount of the borrowing have been approved by the electors under s. 67.05 (6a) or considered approved by the electors under s. 67.05 (7) (d) 3., the purpose is to refund any outstanding obligation, the purpose is to pay unfunded prior service liability contributions under the Wisconsin Retirement System if all of the proceeds of the note will be used for that purpose, or the borrowing would not be subject to a referendum as a bond issue under s. 67.05 (7) (cc), (er), (h), or (i), or s. 67.12 (12) (e) 2g., (f), or (h) applies, the school district clerk shall, within 10 days after a governing body of a school district adopts a resolution as described above to issue a certificate of indebtedness, publish notice of such adoption as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985. Alternatively, the notice may be posted as provided under s. 10.05. The notice need not set forth the full contents of the resolution, but shall state the maximum amount proposed to be borrowed, the purpose thereof, that the resolution was adopted under this subsection, and the place where, and the hours during which, the resolution may be inspected. If, within 30 days after publication or posting, a petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 is filed with the school district clerk for a referendum on the resolution signed by at least 7,500 electors of the district or at least 20 percent of the number of district electors voting for governor at the last general election, as determined under s. 115.01 (13), whichever is the lesser, then the resolution shall not be effective unless adopted by a majority of the district electors voting at the referendum. The referendum shall be called in the manner provided under s. 67.05 (6a), except that the question which appears on the ballot shall be "Shall .... (name of district) borrow the sum



of \$.... for (state purpose) by issuing its general obligation promissory note (or notes) under section 24.66 (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.”. If a governing body of a school district adopts a resolution to borrow a sum of money under this subsection and a sufficient petition for referendum is not filed within the time permitted, then the power of the governing body of a school district to borrow the sum and expend the sum for the purpose stated shall be deemed approved by the school district electors upon the expiration of the time for filing the petition.

3. If the governing body of a school district adopts a resolution to borrow a sum of money under this subsection, and if subd. 2. does not apply, the governing body of a school district has the power to borrow and spend the sum for the purpose stated without the approval of the electors of the school district.

**(3m) FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OR DISTANCE EDUCATION LOANS.** An application by a county, city, village or town to undertake an educational technology or distance education project shall be accompanied by a resolution of the county or municipal library board for that county, city, village or town requesting the county, city, village or town to apply for the loan for the purpose of conducting an educational technology or distance education project.

**(3r) FOR A DRAINAGE DISTRICT.** An application for a loan by a drainage district created under ch. 88 shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the board of the drainage district approving the loan.

**(3s) FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES.** An application for a loan by a cooperative educational service agency shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the board of control of the agency approving the loan and shall contain satisfactory proof of the valuation of all taxable property within each school district for which the loan is sought as equalized for state purposes, of the existing indebtedness of each such school district and of approval of the application by each school district in the same manner as provided for a loan to that school district for the same amount and terms under sub. (3).

**(3v) FOR FEDERATED PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS.** An application for a loan by a federated public library system shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the board of the federated public library system approving the loan.

**(3w) LOCAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PARK DISTRICT.** An application for a loan by a local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229 shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the district board of the local professional baseball park district approving the loan.

**(3y) LOCAL EXPOSITION DISTRICT.** An application for a loan by a local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229 shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the district board of the local exposition district approving the loan.

**(4) POPULAR VOTE, WHEN REQUIRED.** If any municipality is not empowered by law to incur indebtedness for a particular purpose without first submitting the question to its electors, the application for a state trust fund loan for that purpose must be approved and authorized by a majority vote of the electors at a special election called, noticed and held in the manner provided for other special elections. The question to be voted on shall be filed as provided in s. 8.37. The notice of the election shall state the amount of the proposed loan and the purpose for which it will be used.

**(5) IRREPEALABLE TAX LEVY.** (a) Every application for a general obligation trust fund loan under this section by a municipality shall be accompanied by a certified copy under the hand of the proper clerk of a recorded resolution adopted by the municipality applying for or approving the loan, levying, except as provided in par. (b), upon all the taxable property of the municipality a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying and sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the proposed loan as they become due. In a 1st class city school district, the application shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution, adopted by the board of school directors, stating that it is the intention of the board of school directors to include in its budget transmitted to the common coun-

cil under s. 119.16 (8) (b) a written notice specifying the amount of money necessary to pay the principal and interest on the loan as they become due. Every application for a general obligation trust fund loan under this subsection by a cooperative educational service agency shall be accompanied by a copy of a recorded resolution adopted by the school board of each school district for which the loan is sought, certified by the school district clerk of that school district, levying upon all taxable property of the school district a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying and sufficient to pay the school district's share of the principal and interest on the proposed loan as they become due. The levy imposed by the municipality shall be void if the board declines to make the loan; otherwise it shall remain valid and irrevocable until the loan and all interest on the loan are fully paid.

(b) To the extent that the proceeds of a loan to a municipality will be used in a utility district established under s. 66.0827, the direct annual tax under par. (a) may be levied in whole or in part upon all taxable property within the utility district.

**(6) PROCEEDINGS TO BE RECORDED AND BECOME CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.** The application, statement and all accompanying exhibits and documents shall be recorded in the office of the board and, together with the record, is conclusive evidence of the facts stated.

**History:** 1979 c. 221, 355; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.66; 1983 a. 196, 423; 1985 a. 49, 218, 225; 1987 a. 76, 79; 1995 a. 27, 227, 417; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 150 s. 672; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 16; 2001 a. 30 s. 108; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 2, 28; 2011 a. 71; 2015 a. 55, 60; 2021 a. 239 s. 74.

**24.67 Certificates of indebtedness.** (1) If the board approves the application, it shall cause certificates of indebtedness to be prepared in proper form and transmitted to the municipality, cooperative educational service agency, local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229, local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, or federated public library system submitting the application. The certificate of indebtedness shall be executed and signed:

- (a) For a school district, by its president.
  - (b) For a town, by its chairperson.
  - (c) For a village, by its president.
  - (d) For a city, by its mayor or city manager.
  - (e) For a technical college district, by its district board chairperson.
  - (f) For a county, by the chairperson of its board.
  - (g) For a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, by the chairperson of the board of commissioners.
  - (h) For a town sanitary district, by the president of the commission.
  - (i) For a metropolitan sewerage district created under s. 200.05, by the president of the commission.
  - (j) For a metropolitan sewerage system created under s. 200.23, by the chairperson of the commission.
  - (k) For a joint sewerage system, by the head of the commission.
  - (L) For a cooperative educational service agency, by the president of each school district for which the loan is made.
  - (m) For a federated public library system, by its president.
  - (n) For a drainage district created under ch. 88, by the president of the drainage district board.
  - (p) For a local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, by the chairperson of the district board.
  - (q) For a local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229, by the chairperson of the district board.
- (2) The certificate of indebtedness shall be countersigned:**
- (a) For the county, town, village, or city, by the clerk of that county, town, village, or city.
  - (b) For a technical college district, by the district board secretary who shall return the certificate and deposit it with the board.

(c) For a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, by the secretary of the board of commissioners.

(d) For a town sanitary district, by the secretary of the commission.

(e) For a metropolitan sewerage district created under s. 200.05, by the secretary of the commission.

(f) For a metropolitan sewerage system created under s. 200.23, by the secretary of the commission.

(g) For a joint sewerage system, by a member of the commission designated by the commission who is not the person acting as head of the commission.

(h) For a federated public library system, by a member of the federated public library system board designated by that board who is not the president of that board.

(i) For a drainage district created under ch. 88, by the secretary of the drainage district board.

(j) For a local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, by the secretary of the district board.

(3) If a municipality has acted under subs. (1) and (2), it shall certify that fact to the board. Upon receiving a certification from a municipality, or upon direction of the board if a loan is made to a cooperative educational service agency, drainage district created under ch. 88, local exposition district created under subch. II of ch. 229, local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229, or federated public library system, the board shall disburse the loan amount, payable to the treasurer of the municipality, cooperative educational service agency, drainage district, or federated public library system making the loan or as the treasurer of the municipality, cooperative educational service agency, drainage district, local exposition district, local professional baseball park district, or federated public library system directs. The certificate of indebtedness shall then be conclusive evidence of the validity of the indebtedness and that all the requirements of law concerning the application for the making and acceptance of the loan have been complied with.

**History:** 1971 c. 154; 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.67; 1987 a. 76; 1993 a. 184, 399, 491; 1995 a. 27; 1999 a. 150 s. 672; 2001 a. 16; 2001 a. 30 s. 108; 2003 a. 33; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28; 2011 a. 71; 2015 a. 60.

**24.68 Payment of state trust fund loans.** All the taxable property in any municipality which obtains a general obligation trust fund loan shall stand charged for the payment of the principal and interest on that loan.

**History:** 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.68; 1987 a. 378; 2011 a. 71.

**24.69 Sale of state trust fund loans.** (1) The board may sell state trust fund loans or participations therein, and may contract to do so at a future date, for such price, upon such other terms and in such manner as the board may determine. The sale may be to any person, including, without limitation, a trust or other investment vehicle created for the purpose of attracting private investment capital. The board shall remit the proceeds of the sale to the secretary of administration for deposit in the appropriate trust fund and shall invest the proceeds in accordance with s. 24.61.

(2) Before entering into the sale of any state trust fund loan, the board shall refer the terms of the proposed sale to the investment board for its recommendations.

(3) The board may agree to administer any state trust fund loan so sold or participated, and, in connection therewith, may exercise the collection powers and procedures set forth in ss. 24.70 and 24.71 and may agree to repurchase any such state trust fund loan or participation upon the occurrence of a default thereon or upon the occurrence of other events specified in the sale agreement.

(4) The board shall invest the proceeds of the sale of trust fund loans or participations therein in a manner that, to the greatest extent practicable, will ensure the safety of the principal.

**History:** 1989 a. 31; 2003 a. 33.

**24.70 Collection from borrowers other than school districts.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all out-

standing state trust fund loans to borrowers other than school districts, drainage districts created under ch. 88, local professional baseball park districts created under subch. III of ch. 229, and federated public library systems.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a borrower other than a school district has a state trust fund loan, the board shall transmit to the clerk of the jurisdiction, or the person signing the application on behalf of the borrower in the case of a cooperative educational service agency, a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is repaid. The board shall submit a copy of each certified statement to the secretary of administration. A cooperative educational service agency shall transmit a copy of the statement to the clerk of each school district on behalf of which the agency has obtained a loan.

(3) **AMOUNT ADDED TO MUNICIPAL LEVY.** Upon receipt of a certified statement by a municipal clerk, the municipal clerk shall then cause the amount to be added to the municipal levy and collected in the same manner as the municipal tax except the amount for the state trust fund loan shall be separately designated. Upon receipt of a certified statement by a school district clerk from a cooperative educational service agency, the clerk shall cause the amount for which the district is responsible under s. 24.61 (7) to be added to the school district levy and collected in the same manner as the school district tax, except that the amount for the loan shall be separately stated. This subsection does not apply to revenue obligation trust fund loans.

(4) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The treasurer of each municipality shall remit to the board on its order the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Each cooperative educational service agency shall similarly remit the annual amount owed on any state trust fund loan made to the agency by that date. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of one percent per month to be paid to the board with the delinquent payment.

(6) **FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENTS.** If any municipality fails to remit the amount due by the date specified under sub. (4), the board shall file a certified statement of the delinquent amount with the department of administration. The secretary of administration shall collect the amount due, including any penalty, by deducting that amount from any state payments due the municipality, shall notify the treasurer and the board of that action, and shall immediately remit to the board any amounts deducted from any state payments due to the municipality.

**History:** 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.70; 1987 a. 185, 378; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 16; 2003 a. 33; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 2, 28; 2011 a. 71.

**24.71 Collections from school districts.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all outstanding trust fund loans to school districts.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a school district has a state trust fund loan, the board shall transmit to the school district clerk a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is paid. The board shall furnish a copy of each certified statement to the secretary of administration and the department of public instruction.

(3) **ADDED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVY.** The school district clerk shall then cause the amount due to be added to the school district levy and collected in the same manner as the school district tax except the amount for state trust fund loans shall be separately designated. This subsection does not apply to revenue obligation trust fund loans.

(4) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The school district treasurer shall remit to the board the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of one percent per month or fraction thereof, to be paid to the board with the delinquent payment.

(5) **FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENT.** If the school district treasurer fails to remit the amounts due under sub. (4), the state superintendent, upon certification of delinquency by the board, shall deduct

the amount due including any penalty from any school aid payments due the school district, shall remit such amount to the board and, no later than June 15, shall notify the school district treasurer to that effect.

**History:** 1971 c. 262; 1973 c. 90; 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.71; 1987 a. 185; 1995 a. 27 s. 9145 (1); 1997 a. 27; 2003 a. 33; 2009 a. 2; 2011 a. 71.

**24.715 Collections from federated public library systems.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all outstanding trust fund loans to federated public library systems.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a federated public library system has a state trust fund loan, the board shall transmit to the system board a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is paid. The board shall furnish a copy of each certified statement to the state treasurer and the department of public instruction.

(3) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The system board shall remit to the board on its own order the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of one percent per month or fraction thereof, to be paid to the board with the delinquent payment.

(4) **FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENT.** If the system board fails to remit the amounts due under sub. (3), the state superintendent, upon certification of delinquency by the board, shall deduct the amount due, including any penalty, from any aid payments due the system, shall remit such amount to the board and, no later than June 15, shall notify the system board to that effect.

**History:** 2001 a. 16, 104; 2009 a. 2; 2011 a. 71.

**24.716 Collections from drainage districts.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all outstanding trust fund loans to drainage districts created under ch. 88.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a drainage district has a state trust fund loan, the board shall transmit to the district board a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is paid. The board shall furnish a copy of each certified statement to the department of administration.

(3) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The district board shall remit to the board on its own order the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of 1 percent per month or fraction thereof, to be paid to the board with the delinquent payment.

(4) **FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENT.** If the district board fails to remit the amounts due under sub. (3), the secretary of administration, upon certification of delinquency by the board of commissioners of public lands, shall deduct the amount due, including any penalty, from any state aid payments due the district, shall remit such amount to the board, and, no later than June 15, shall notify the district board to that effect.

**History:** 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 2; 2011 a. 71.

**24.717 Collections from local professional baseball park districts.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all outstanding trust fund loans to local professional baseball park districts created under subch. III of ch. 229.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a local professional baseball park district has a state trust fund loan, the board of commissioners of public lands shall transmit to the local professional baseball park district board a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is paid. The board of commissioners of public lands shall furnish a copy of each certified statement to the department of administration.

(3) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The local professional baseball park district board shall remit to the board of commissioners of public lands on its own order the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of 1 percent per month

or fraction thereof, to be paid to the board of commissioners of public lands with the delinquent payment.

(4) **FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENT.** If the local professional baseball park district board fails to remit the amounts due under sub. (3), the secretary of administration, upon certification of delinquency by the board of commissioners of public lands, shall deduct the amount due, including any penalty, from any state payments due the district, shall remit such amount to the board, and, no later than June 15, shall notify the district board and the board of commissioners of public lands to that effect.

**History:** 2009 a. 28; 2011 a. 71.

**24.718 Collections from local exposition districts.**

(1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to all outstanding trust fund loans to local exposition districts created under subch. II of ch. 229.

(2) **CERTIFIED STATEMENT.** If a local exposition district has a state trust fund loan, the board shall transmit to the local exposition district board a certified statement of the amount due on or before October 1 of each year until the loan is paid. The board shall furnish a copy of each certified statement to the department of administration.

(3) **PAYMENT TO BOARD.** The local exposition district board shall remit to the board on its own order the full amount due for state trust fund loans within 15 days after March 15. Any payment not made by March 30 is delinquent and is subject to a penalty of 1 percent per month or fraction thereof, to be paid to the board with the delinquent payment.

**History:** 2015 a. 60.

**24.72 Use of funds.** No money obtained by a borrower from a state trust fund loan may be applied to or paid out for any purpose except that specified in the application for the loan without the consent of the board.

**History:** 1971 c. 154; 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.72; 1995 a. 27.

**24.73 Extension of loan.** All loans made or which may be made from any state trust funds to any borrower may be extended for such time and upon such terms as may be agreed upon by and between the board and such borrower; provided, however, that no loan shall be extended upon which there is any default in the payment of interest at the time of making application therefor, nor to any period beyond 20 years from its inception, nor at any rate of interest less than the minimum established by law.

**History:** 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.73; 1995 a. 27.

**24.74 Duty of attorney general and revenue department.** If any officer neglects or refuses to perform any duty required of the officer by law in relation to the levy or collection of any tax required to be raised to make any payment of principal or interest on any loan from the state, the attorney general shall apply to the supreme court for a mandamus to compel the performance of such duty; and the department of revenue may do or cause to be done the duty required of such officer with the same effect as if done by the officer.

**History:** 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.74; 1991 a. 316.

**24.75 Interest, how accounted for.** All money collected as interest upon any state trust fund loan shall be paid into the state treasury. All moneys collected as interest upon any trust fund loan are considered gross receipts and shall be credited to the income of the fund from which the loan was made except that expenses may be deducted as provided under s. 24.62 (1).

**History:** 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.75; 1989 a. 31.

**24.76 Common school fund.** All moneys accruing to the state by virtue of article X, section 2, of the constitution, and all other moneys paid into the state treasury on account of the capital of the school fund, constitute the school fund. All of said fund, except that portion set apart for state universities by s. 24.80, having been found necessary for the support and maintenance of common schools in each school district, and the purchase of suitable



libraries and apparatus therefor, is set apart for those objects and denominated the “Common School Fund” which is a separate and perpetual fund.

**History:** 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.76; 1983 a. 192.

**24.77 Common school fund income.** The common school fund income is constituted of the interest derived from the common school fund and from unpaid balances of purchase money on sales of common school lands; and all other revenues derived from the common school lands; but the common school fund income and interest and revenues derived from the common school fund and from common school lands do not include expenses deducted from gross receipts permitted under ss. 24.04 (2), 24.53 and 24.62 (1).

**History:** 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.77; 1989 a. 31.

**24.78 Distribution of the common school fund income.** Under article X, section 5, of the constitution the common school fund income shall be distributed to the school districts among the several towns, villages and cities of the state for the support of common schools therein, as provided in s. 43.70.

**History:** 1971 c. 152 s. 38; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.78; 1983 a. 192; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9.

**24.79 Swampland grants.** All swamp and overflowed lands and moneys in lieu thereof received from the United States by virtue of the act of congress approved September 28, 1850, entitled “an act to enable the state of Arkansas and other states to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits;” and all moneys received as purchase money for such lands, including loans and investments and moneys due upon certificates of sale thereof; and all swamp lands and moneys in lieu thereof received subsequent to the enactment of chapter 537, laws of 1865, or which are hereafter received, from the United States; and the proceeds of the sale of all lands conveyed to this state pursuant to the act of congress approved March 2, 1865, entitled “an act for the relief of purchasers and locators of swamp and overflowed lands,” are trust lands and moneys, to be applied, exclusively, as provided in s. 24.80.

**History:** 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.79; 1999 a. 83.

**24.80 Normal school fund.** The lands and moneys described in s. 24.79, not being granted for any other specified purpose, accrue to the school fund under article X, section 2, of the constitution; and having been found unnecessary for the support and maintenance of common schools, are appropriated to the support and maintenance of state universities and suitable libraries and apparatus therefor, and to that end are set apart and denominated the “Normal School Fund”. All lands, moneys, loans, investments and securities set apart to the normal school fund and all swamp lands and income and interest received on account of the capital of that fund constitute a separate and perpetual fund. Normal school fund income, interest and revenues do not include expenses deducted from gross receipts permitted under ss. 24.04 (2), 24.53 and 24.62 (1).

**History:** 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 169; 1981 c. 391 s. 210; Stats. 1981 s. 24.80; 1983 a. 192; 1989 a. 31; 2009 a. 28; 2011 a. 32.

**24.81 University fund.** All moneys accruing to the state under article X, section 6, of the constitution, and all other moneys paid into the state treasury on account of the capital of the university fund, constitute the university fund, which is a separate and perpetual fund. University fund income, interest and revenues do not include expenses deducted from gross receipts permitted under ss. 24.04 (2), 24.53 and 24.62 (1).

**History:** 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.81; 1983 a. 192; 1989 a. 31.

**24.82 Agricultural college fund.** All moneys derived from the sale of the lands and land scrip accruing to the state by virtue of the act of congress approved July 2, 1862, entitled “an act donating public lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agricultural and the mechanic arts,” and income and interest received on account of the capital of the agricultural college fund, constitute the agricultural college fund, which is a separate and perpetual fund and shall remain forever undiminished. Agricultural college fund income, interest and revenues do not include expenses deducted from gross receipts permitted under ss. 24.04 (2), 24.53 and 24.62 (1). If this fund is by any action or contingency impaired, a state tax is hereby levied sufficient to replace the same, to be collected with the state taxes for the next ensuing year and paid into this fund.

**History:** 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 169; Stats. 1981 s. 24.82; 1989 a. 31.