CHAPTER 233
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AUTHORITY

233.01 Definitions. In this chapter:
(1) “Authority” means the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority.
(2) “Board of directors” means the governing board of the authority.
(3) “Board of regents” means the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System.
(4) “Bond” means a bond, note or other obligation of the authority issued under this chapter, including any refunding bond, other than the lease agreement or indebtedness described under s. 233.04 (7).
(5) “Bond resolution” means a resolution of the board of directors authorizing the issuance of, or providing terms and conditions related to, bonds and includes, where appropriate, any trust agreement, trust indenture, indenture of mortgage or deed of trust providing terms and conditions for bonds.
(6) “Lease agreement” means the lease agreement that is required to be entered into between the board of directors and the board of regents under s. 233.04 (7) or a lease agreement that is entered into between the board of directors and the board of regents under s. 233.04 (7g).
(7) “On-campus facilities” means facilities that are located on land owned by the state, that are under the control of the board of regents and that are primarily related to the operation of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics and its related services.

History: 1995 a. 27.

233.02 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority: creation; organization of board of directors.
(1) There is created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the “University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority”. The board of directors shall consist of the following members:
(a) Six members nominated by the governor, and with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, for 5-year terms.
(b) Three members of the board of regents appointed by the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin−Madison or his or her designee.
(c) The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin−Madison or his or her designee.
(d) The dean of the University of Wisconsin−Madison Medical School.
(e) A chairperson of a department at the University of Wisconsin−Madison Medical School, appointed by the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin−Madison.
(f) A faculty member of a University of Wisconsin−Madison health professions school, other than the University of Wisconsin−Madison Medical School, appointed by the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin−Madison.
(g) The secretary of administration or his or her designee.

(2) A vacancy on the board of directors shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment to the board of directors for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any.
(3) A member of the board of directors may not be compensated for his or her services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of his or her duties.
(4) No cause of action of any nature may arise against and no civil liability may be imposed upon a member of the board of directors for any act or omission in the performance of his or her powers and duties under this chapter, unless the person asserting liability proves that the act or omission constitutes willful misconduct.
(5) The members of the board of directors shall annually elect a chairperson and may elect other officers as they consider appropriate. Eight members of the board of directors constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business and exercising the powers of the authority, notwithstanding the existence of any vacancy. The members of the board of directors specified under sub. (1) (c) and (g) may not be the chairperson of the board of directors for purposes of 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, section 9159 (2). The board of directors may take action upon a vote of a majority of the members present, unless the bylaws of the authority require a larger number.
(6) The board of directors shall appoint a chief executive officer who shall not be a member of the board of directors and who shall serve at the pleasure of the board of directors. The chief executive officer shall receive such compensation as the board of directors fixes. The chief executive officer or other person designated by resolution of the board of directors shall keep a record of the proceedings of the authority and shall be custodian of all books, documents and papers filed with the authority, the minute book or journal of the authority and its official seal. The chief executive officer or other person may cause copies to be made of all minutes and other records and documents of the authority and may give certificates under the official seal of the authority to the effect that such copies are true copies, and all persons dealing with the authority may rely upon such certificates.


233.03 Powers of authority. The authority shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter. In addition to all other powers granted by this chapter, the authority may:
(1) Adopt bylaws and policies and procedures for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business.
(2) Sue and be sued; have a seal and alter the seal at pleasure; have perpetual existence; maintain an office; negotiate and enter into leases; accept gifts or grants, but not including research grants in which the grant investigator is an employee of the board of regents; accept bequests or loans; accept and comply with any lawful conditions attached to federal financial assistance; and
make and execute other instruments necessary or convenient to
the exercise of the powers of the authority.
(5) Procure insurance on its debt obligations.
(7) Subject to s. 233.10 and ch. 40 and 1995 Wisconsin Act 27,
section 9159 (4), employ any agent, employee or special advisor
that the authority finds necessary and fix his or her compensation
and provide any employee benefits, including an employee
pension plan.
(8) Appoint any technical or professional advisory committee
that the authority finds necessary and define the duties, and pro-
vide reimbursement for the expenses, of the committee.
(9) (a) With any other person, establish, govern and partici-
pate in the operation and financing of any corporation or partner-
ship that provides health-related services, if the articles of incor-
poration of any such corporation conform with par. (b) and if the
corporation or partnership provides the secretary of administra-
tion, the legislative fiscal bureau and the legislative audit bureau
access to examine any books, records or other documents main-
tained by the corporation or partnership and relating to its expen-
ditures, revenues, operations or structure. The authority may pro-
vide administrative and financial services to any such corporation
or partnership.
(b) The articles of incorporation of any corporation under par.
(a) shall provide that the secretary of administration, the legisla-
tive fiscal bureau and the legislative audit bureau have the access
required under par. (a).
(10) Enter into procurement contracts with the board of regents
or joint contracts with the board of regents for procure-
ments from 3rd parties and may enter into other contracts, rental
agreements and cooperative agreements and other necessary
arrangements with the board of regents which may be necessary
and convenient for the missions, purposes, objects and uses of
the authority authorized by law.
(11) Issue bonds in accordance with ss. 233.20 to 233.26.
(12) Seek financing from, and incur indebtedness to, the Wis-
consin Health and Educational Facilities Authority.
(13) Construct or improve facilities that are on state-owned
land, if approval requirements under s. 16.85 (14) are met and if
the state agency having authority to approve construction or
improvement projects on the land approves the project.
(15) Acquire, design, construct or improve any facility that is
not located on state-owned land.
(16) Buy, sell and lease real estate.
The Authority is a private entity without sovereign immunity. Takle v. University
of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority, 402 F.3d 768 (2005).
No extension or renewal of the lease agreement may be for a period of more than 30 years. Modification, extension or renewal of the agreement may be made as proposed by the authority and the board of regents only upon approval of the committee.

(b) If the committee does not approve an extension or renewal of the agreement, the on-campus facilities and any improvements, modifications or other facilities specified in sub. (7) (c) shall transfer to the board of regents.

(c) This subsection does not apply to an automatic extension of the lease agreement under s. 233.05 (1).

(7m) Subject to 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, section 9159 (2) (k), negotiate and enter into an affiliation agreement with the board of regents. The affiliation agreement shall take effect on June 29, 1996. The initial period of the affiliation agreement shall run concurrently with the initial period of the lease agreement under sub. (7), and the affiliation agreement shall include all of the following:

(a) A provision that ensures the authority retains cash reserves at a level not lower than the level recommended by the independent auditor specified under sub. (1).

(b) Provisions that ensure support of the educational, research and clinical activities of the University of Wisconsin–Madison by the authority.

(c) A provision that requires the development of standards relating to the selection and financing by the authority of any corporation or partnership that provides health-related services. The standards shall be consistent with the missions of the authority and the board of regents.

(d) A provision that requires the board of regents to make reasonable charges for any services provided by the board of regents to the authority.

(e) A provision establishing a mechanism for the resolution of disputes.

(7p) (a) Submit any modification, extension or renewal of the affiliation agreement under sub. (7m) to the joint committee on finance. No extension or renewal of the affiliation agreement may be for a period of more than 30 years. Modification, extension or renewal of the agreement may be made as proposed by the authority and the board of regents only upon approval of the committee.

(b) If the committee does not approve an extension or renewal of the agreement, the on-campus facilities and any improvements, modifications or other facilities specified in sub. (7) (c) shall transfer to the board of regents.

(c) This subsection does not apply to an automatic extension of the affiliation agreement under s. 233.05 (2).

(9) Provide, on a monthly basis, the secretary of administration with such financial and statistical information as is required by the secretary of administration.

(10) If Children’s Hospital and Health System ceases to operate a poison control center under s. 255.35, administer a statewide poison control program.


233.05 Lease and affiliation agreements. (1) (a) Beginning on July 1, 1997, and any July 1 thereafter, a lease agreement under s. 233.04 (7) and an affiliation agreement under s. 233.04 (7m) are automatically extended for one year unless all of the following occur in the one-year period immediately preceding such date:

1. The board of directors or the board of regents adopts a resolution opposing the automatic extensions and notifies the other parties specified in par. (a) 1. of such withdrawal.

2. The party opposing the automatic extension under subd. 1. provides written notice of its opposition to the other parties specified in subd. 1.

(b) If a lease agreement and an affiliation agreement are not automatically extended on any July 1 under par. (a), the lease and affiliation agreements are not automatically extended on any subsequent July 1 unless in the one-year period immediately preceding such date each party that opposed the automatic extensions withdraws its opposition and notifies the other parties specified in par. (a) 1. of such withdrawal.

(2) (a) Beginning on July 1, 1997, and any July 1 thereafter, a lease agreement under s. 233.04 (7g) or an affiliation agreement under s. 233.04 (7p) is automatically extended for one year unless all of the following occur in the one-year period immediately preceding such date:

1. The board of directors or the board of regents adopts a resolution opposing the automatic extension or the joint committee on finance takes action opposing the automatic extension.

2. The party opposing the automatic extension under subd. 1. provides written notice of its opposition to the other parties specified in subd. 1.

(b) If a lease or affiliation agreement is not automatically extended on any July 1 under par. (a), the lease or affiliation agreement is not automatically extended on any subsequent July 1 unless in the one-year period immediately preceding such date each party that opposed the automatic extension withdraws its opposition and notifies the other parties specified in par. (a) 1. of such withdrawal.


233.10 Appointment of employees; employee compensation and benefits. (1) The authority shall employ such employees as it may require and shall determine the qualifications and duties of its employees. Appointments to and promotions in the authority shall be made according to merit and fitness.

(2) Subject to subs. (3), (3r) and ch. 40, the authority shall establish any of the following:

(a) The compensation of the employees of the authority.

(b) The kinds of leave to which an employee of the authority is entitled, including paid annual leave of absence, paid sick leave, and unpaid leave of absence, except that unused sick leave accumulated prior to July 1, 1997, shall be carried over and made available for the employee’s use for appropriate sick leave purposes or for conversion as provided under s. 40.05 (4) (b), (be), (bm), or (bp).

(3) Any other employment benefits to which an employee of the authority is entitled.

(4) “Carry-over employee” means an employee of the authority who satisfies all of the following:

1. The employee is offered employment by the authority on or before June 29, 1996.

2. Immediately prior to beginning employment with the authority, the employee was employed by the state other than in an academic staff appointment.

3. The position in which the employee was employed under subd. 2. was at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics.

(c) If an employee of the authority is a carry-over employee, the authority shall, when setting the terms of the carry-over employee’s employment during the period beginning on June 29, 1996, and ending on June 30, 1997, do all of the following:

1. Pay to the carry-over employee the same compensation that the employee would have received if he or she were employed by the state in the position at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics on June 29, 1996.

2. Grant to the carry-over employee, except when he or she is on an unpaid leave of absence, a paid holiday on each of the days specified in s. 230.35 (4) (a) as of the last day of the employee’s employment as a state employee and holiday compensatory time off as specified in s. 230.35 (4) (b) as of the last day of the employee’s employment as a state employee if the employee was entitled to those benefits on that day.

3. Grant to the carry-over employee the same paid annual leave of absence, paid sick leave and unpaid leave of absence that the employee received as of the last day of his or her employment as a state employee.

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4. Grant to the carry-over employee military leave, treatment of military leave, jury service leave and voting leave in accordance with s. 230.35 (3) and (4) (e) and, to the extent applicable, rules of the division of personnel management in the department of administration governing such leaves for employees in the classified service as of the last day of the employee’s employment as a state employee if the employee was entitled to those benefits on that day.
5. Grant to the carry-over employee the same opportunity for employee training provided under s. 230.046 as of the last day of his or her employment as a state employee if the employee was entitled to those benefits on that day.
(d) If an employee of the authority is not a carry-over employee, the authority shall, from June 29, 1996, to June 30, 1997, provide that employee the same rights, benefits and compensation provided to a carry-over employee under par. (c) who holds a position at the authority with similar duties. 
(3r) (a) In this subsection and sub. (3l), “carry-over employee” means an employee of the authority who satisfies all of the following: 
1. The employee is offered employment by the authority on or before June 29, 1996.
2. Immediately prior to beginning employment with the authority, the employee was employed in an academic staff appointment.
3. The position in which the employee was employed under subd. 2. was at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics.
(b) If an employee of the authority is a carry-over employee, the authority shall, when setting the terms of the carry-over employee’s employment for the period beginning on June 29, 1996, and ending on June 30, 1997, do all of the following: 
1. Enter into an employment contract for such period with the carry-over employee. For such period, the contract shall provide the carry-over employee with the same procedural guarantees provided to persons having academic staff appointments under s. 36.15 on June 29, 1996.
2. Pay to the carry-over employee the same compensation that the employee would have received if he or she were employed by the state in his or her academic staff appointment at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics on June 29, 1996.
3. Grant to the carry-over employee, except when he or she is on an unpaid leave of absence, a paid holiday on each of the days specified as a holiday in policies and procedures established by the board of regents under s. 36.15 (2) as of the last day of the employee’s employment as a state employee and any holiday compensatory time off that may be specified in policies and procedures established by the board of regents under s. 36.15 (2) as of the last day of the employee’s employment in the academic staff appointment.
4. Grant to the carry-over employee the same paid annual leave of absence, paid sick leave and unpaid leave of absence that the employee received as of the last day of his or her employment in the academic staff appointment.
5. Grant to the carry-over employee military leave, treatment of military leave, jury service leave and voting leave in accordance with policies and procedures established by the board of regents under s. 36.15 (2) and, as of the last day of the employee’s employment in the academic staff appointment.
6. Grant to the carry-over employee the same opportunity for any employee training that may be provided under policies and procedures established by the board of regents under s. 36.15 (2) as of the last day of his or her employment in the academic staff appointment.
(3l) Unless expressly prohibited under ch. 40 or under federal law, the authority shall, from June 29, 1996, to June 30, 1997, not change to the detriment of a carry-over employee any employee benefit plan provided to the carry-over employee as of the last day of the employee’s employment in the academic staff appointment.
(4) Notwithstanding the requirement that an employee be a state employee, a carry-over employee of the authority who was employed in a position in the classified service immediately prior to beginning employment with the authority shall, from June 29, 1996, to June 30, 1997, have the same transfer rights under s. 230.29 and the rules of the division of personnel management in the department of administration governing transfers as a person who holds a position in the classified service.

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section that is certified by the custodian as provided in s. 889.08 shall have the same force as an actual−size copy.


233.13 Closed records. Except as provided in ss. 19.36 (10) and 103.13, the authority may keep records of the following personnel matters closed to the public:

1. Examination scores and ranks and other evaluations of applicants.
2. Dismissals, demotions and other disciplinary actions.
3. Addresses and home telephone numbers of employees.
4. Pay survey data obtained from identifiable nonpublic employers.
5. Names of nonpublic employers contributing pay survey data.

NOTE: 2003 Wis. Act 47, which affects this section, contains extensive explanatory notes.

233.17 Liability limited. (1) Neither the state, any political subdivision of the state nor any officer, employee or agent of the state or a political subdivision who is acting within the scope of employment or agency is liable for any debt, obligation, act or omission of the authority.

2. (a) No officer, employee or agent of the board of regents, including any student who is enrolled at an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, is an agent of the authority unless the officer, employee or agent acts at the express written direction of the authority.

(b) Notwithstanding par. (a), no member of the faculty or academic staff of the University of Wisconsin System, acting within the scope of his or her employment, may be considered, for liability purposes, as an agent of the authority.

History: 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 237.
A member of the faculty is also a state employee and thus not an agent of UWHC within the meaning of sub. (2) (b). The statute unambiguously encompasses all forms of agency, which necessarily includes actual, apparent, or ostensible agency.

233.20 Issuance of bonds. (1) The authority may issue bonds for any corporate purpose. All bonds are negotiable for all purposes, notwithstanding their payment from a limited source.

1m. The authority may issue bonds only if a majority of the board of directors determines that, to the extent possible without having an adverse impact on the ability of the authority to sell bonds at a given interest rate, the terms on which the bonds are to be offered are structured in such a way as to accommodate the possibility of the early termination of the lease or affiliation agreement, or both. The board shall base a determination under this subsection on the best information available to the board at the time the determination is made.

2. The bonds of each issue shall be payable from sources specified in the bond resolution under which the bonds are issued or in a related trust agreement, trust indenture, indenture of mortgage or deed of trust.

3. The authority may not issue bonds unless the issuance is first authorized by a bond resolution. Bonds shall bear the dates, mature at the times not exceeding 30 years from their dates of issue, bear interest at the rates, be payable at the times, be in the denominations, be in the form, carry the registration and conversion privileges, be executed in the manner, be payable in lawful money of the United States at the places, and be subject to the terms of redemption, that the bond resolution provides. The bonds shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the officers of the authority designated by the board. The bonds may be sold at public or private sale at the price, in the manner and at the time determined by the board. Pending preparation of definitive bonds, the authority may issue interim receipts or certificates that shall be exchanged for the definitive bonds.

3m. The authority may not issue bonds or incur indebtedness described under s. 233.03 (12) unless one of the following applies:

(a) The bonds or indebtedness are a refinancing of existing bonds or indebtedness.

(b) If the authority has an unenhanced bond rating in the category of A or better from Moody’s Investor Service, Inc., or in the category of A or better from Standard & Poor’s Corporation, or equivalent ratings from those or comparable rating agencies when such rating systems or rating agencies no longer exist, the authority has provided notice to the joint committee on finance and the secretary of administration of the bond rating of the authority, the amount of the proposed bonds or indebtedness, and the proposed use of the proceeds, and the joint committee on finance has not notified the authority within 30 working days after receipt of the notice that the joint committee on finance has scheduled a meeting to review the proposed bonds or indebtedness and the secretary of administration has not notified the authority within 30 working days after receipt of the notice that the secretary will conduct further review of the proposed bonds or indebtedness.

(c) The joint committee on finance votes to approve the amount of the bonds or indebtedness and the secretary of administration, or his or her designee, has issued written approval of the bonds or indebtedness.

(d) Limitations on the issuance of additional bonds, the terms upon which additional bonds may be issued and secured and the terms upon which additional bonds may rank on a parity with, or be subordinate or superior to, other bonds.

(e) Funding, refunding, advance refunding or purchasing outstanding bonds.

(f) Procedures, if any, by which the terms of any contract with bondholders may be amended, the amount of bonds the holders of which must consent to the amendment and the manner in which this consent may be given.

(g) Defining the acts or omissions to act that constitute a default in the duties of the authority to the bondholders, and providing the rights and remedies of the bondholders in the event of a default.

(h) Other matters relating to the bonds that the board considers desirable.

5. Neither the members of the board nor any person executing the bonds is liable personally on the bonds or subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance of the bonds, unless the personal liability or accountability is the result of willful misconduct.


233.21 Bond security. The authority may secure bonds by a trust agreement, trust indenture, indenture of mortgage or deed of trust by and between the authority and one or more corporate trustees. A bond resolution providing for the issuance of bonds so secured shall mortgage, pledge, assign or grant security interests in some or all of the revenues to be received by, and property of, the authority and may contain those provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders that are reasonable and proper and not in violation of law. A bond resolution may contain other provisions determined by the board to be reasonable and proper for the security of the bondholders.

History: 1995 a. 27.

233.22 Bonds not public debt. (1) The state is not liable on bonds and the bonds are not a debt of the state. All bonds shall contain a statement to this effect on the face of the bond. A bond...
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issue does not, directly or indirectly or contingently, obligate the state or a political subdivision of the state to levy any tax or make any appropriation for payment of the bonds. Nothing in this section prevents the authority from pledging its full faith and credit to the payment of bonds.

(2) Nothing in this chapter authorizes the authority to create a debt of the state, and all bonds issued by the authority are payable, and shall state that they are payable, solely from the funds pledged for their payment in accordance with the bond resolution authorizing their issuance or in any trust indenture or mortgage or deed of trust executed as security for the bonds. The state is not liable for the payment of the principal of or interest on a bond or for the performance of any pledge, mortgage, obligation or agreement that may be undertaken by the authority. The breach of any pledge, mortgage, obligation or agreement undertaken by the authority does not impose pecuniary liability upon the state or a charge upon its general credit or against its taxing power.

History: 1995 a. 27.

233.23 State pledge. The state pledges to and agrees with the bondholders, and persons that enter into contracts with the authority under this chapter, that the state will not limit or alter the rights vested in the authority by this chapter before the authority has fully met and discharged the bonds, and any interest due on the bonds, and has fully performed its contracts, unless adequate provision is made by law for the protection of the bondholders or those entering into contracts with the authority.

History: 1995 a. 27.

233.26 Refunding bonds. (1) The authority may issue bonds to fund or refund any outstanding bond, including the payment of any redemption premium on the outstanding bond and any interest accrued or to accrue to the earliest or any subsequent date of redemption, purchase or maturity.

(2) The authority may apply the proceeds of any bond issued to fund or refund any outstanding bond to purchase, retire at maturity or redeem any outstanding bond. The authority may, pending application, place the proceeds in escrow to be applied to the purchase, retirement at maturity or redemption of any outstanding bond at any time.

History: 1995 a. 27.

233.40 Hospitals charges. (1) Rates. The University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics shall treat patients so admitted at rates computed in the following manner:

(a) Room rate. The chief executive officer shall establish with the approval of the board of directors a schedule of room rates for patients which may be adjusted by the chief executive officer with the approval of the board of directors to meet changes in the cost of operation. As used in this section “room rates” includes the charges for meals and for ordinary nursing care.

(c) Ancillary services. All services provided except those covered by the room rate shall be charged for in accordance with a schedule established and maintained for public inspection by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority.

(3) Indian children. Indian children whose hospital care is to be paid from funds granted the office of Indian affairs, U.S. department of interior, shall be admitted to the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics at the rates established under sub. (1).

(4) Additional charges forbidden. The University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority may not charge any compensation other than the amount provided by the board of directors for any of the following patients:

(c) Any child referred to the hospitals or their clinics by the children’s consultation service of a mental health institute under s. 46.041.

(d) Any pupil referred to the hospitals or their clinics by the state superintendent of public instruction under s. 115.53 (4).

(e) Any American Indian child admitted to the hospitals whose care is being paid under sub. (3).

History: 1971 c. 100 s. 23; 1973 c. 39 ss. 631m, 732 (1); 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 418 ss. 628, 924 (50); 1977 c. 447 s. 206; 1977 c. 449; 1981 c. 314; 1983 a. 27; 1985 a. 29, 176; 1995 a. 27 ss. 4197 to 4200; Stats. 1995 s. 233.40; 1997 a. 27, 35.

233.41 Soldiers preferred patients. In admitting patients to the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, preference shall be given to honorably discharged veterans of any of the wars of the United States or who is otherwise eligible for benefits from the department of veterans affairs. Preference is hereby defined to mean that whenever the chief executive officer of the authority is notified that the applicant is such a veteran, such veteran shall be the next person so admitted to the hospital, except in case of an emergency.

History: 1995 a. 27 s. 4202; Stats. 1995 s. 233.41.

233.42 Subject to ch. 150. The University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics is subject to ch. 150.

History: 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 418 s. 924 (50); 1977 c. 477 s. 206; 1995 a. 27 s. 4203; Stats. 1995 s. 233.42.