

LEGISLATIVE BILL 191

Approved by the Governor March 7, 2007

Introduced by Mines, 18; Johnson, 37; Pahls, 31; White, 8

FOR AN ACT relating to corporations; to amend sections 21-2095 and 44-211, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to directors; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 21-2095, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

21-2095 (1) A director shall discharge his or her duties as a director, including his or her duties as a member of a committee:

(a) In good faith;

(b) With the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances; and

(c) In a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation.

A director may, but need not, in considering the best interests of the corporation, consider, among other things, the effects of any action on employees, suppliers, creditors, and customers of the corporation and communities in which offices or other facilities of the corporation are located.

(2) In discharging his or her duties, a director shall be entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by:

(a) One or more officers or employees of the corporation whom the director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;

(b) Legal counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters the director reasonably believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; or

(c) A committee of the board of directors of which he or she is not a member if the director reasonably believes the committee merits confidence.

(3) A director shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he or she has knowledge concerning the matter in question that makes reliance otherwise permitted by subsection (2) of this section unwarranted.

(4) A director shall not be liable for any action taken as a director, or any failure to take any action, if he or she performed the duties of his or her office in compliance with this section.

Sec. 2. Section 44-211, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

44-211 The business and affairs of an insurance corporation shall be managed by the incorporators until the first meeting of shareholders or members and then and thereafter by a board of directors elected by the shareholders or members and as otherwise provided by law. The board of directors shall consist of not less than five persons, and one of them shall be a resident of the State of Nebraska. ~~Commencing January 1, 1993, not less than~~ At least one-fifth of the directors of an insurance company, which is not subject to section 44-2135, shall be persons who are not officers or employees of such company. A person convicted of a felony may not be a director, and all directors shall be of good moral character and known professional, administrative, or business ability, such business ability to include a practical knowledge of insurance, finance, or investment. No person shall hold the office of director unless he or she is a policyholder, if the company is a mutual company or assessment association. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, the board of directors shall make all bylaws. A director shall discharge his or her duties as a director in accordance with section 21-2095.

Sec. 3. Original sections 21-2095 and 44-211, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.