BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 284 of 1972
CHAPTER 2
FORMATION; PURPOSES AND POWERS

450.1201 Incorporators.
Sec. 201. (1) One or more persons may be the incorporators of a corporation by signing and filing articles of incorporation for the corporation.
(2) A corporation incorporated to provide 1 or more services in a learned profession must be incorporated as a professional corporation under chapter 2A.
(3) A corporation incorporated to provide professional services other than services in a learned profession may comply with chapter 2A and incorporate as a professional corporation, or may incorporate as a corporation under chapter 2 without complying with chapter 2A.

450.1202 Articles of incorporation; contents.
Sec. 202. The articles of incorporation shall contain all of the following:
(a) The name of the corporation.
(b) The purposes for which the corporation is formed. All of the following apply for purposes of this subdivision:
(i) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (ii) or (iii), it is a sufficient compliance with this subdivision to state substantially, alone or with specifically enumerated purposes, that the corporation may engage in any activity within the purposes for which corporations may be formed under the business corporation act, and all activities shall by the statement be considered within the purposes of the corporation, subject to expressed limitations.
(ii) Any corporation that proposes to conduct educational purposes shall state the purposes and shall comply with all requirements of sections 170 to 177 of 1931 PA 327, MCL 450.170 to 450.177.
(iii) A professional corporation shall comply with section 283(2) and (3).
(c) The aggregate number of shares that the corporation has authority to issue.
(d) If the shares are, or are to be, divided into classes, or into classes and series, the designation of each class and series, the number of shares in each class and series, and a statement of the relative rights, preferences and limitations of the shares of each class and series, to the extent that the designations, numbers, relative rights, preferences, and limitations have been determined.
(e) If the shares are to be designated and issued in 1 or more classes or series, a statement of any authority vested in the board to designate and issue shares in 1 or more classes or series, and to determine or change for any class or series its designation, number of shares, relative rights, preferences and limitations.
(f) Except as otherwise provided in section 611(2)(c), the street address, and the mailing address if different from the street address, of the corporation's initial registered office and the name of the corporation's initial resident agent at that address.
(g) The names and addresses of the incorporators.
(h) The duration of the corporation if other than perpetual.

450.1204 Articles of incorporation; provision as to compromise, arrangement, or plan of reorganization.
Sec. 204. The articles of incorporation may contain the following provision or the substance thereof: When a compromise or arrangement or a plan of reorganization of this corporation is proposed between this corporation and its creditors or any class of them or between this corporation and its shareholders or any class of them, a court of equity jurisdiction within the state, on application of this corporation or of a creditor or shareholder thereof, or on application of a receiver appointed for the corporation, may order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors or of the shareholders or class of shareholders to be affected by the proposed compromise or arrangement or reorganization, to be summoned in such manner as the court directs. If a majority in number representing 3/4 in value of the creditors or class of creditors, or of the shareholders or class of shareholders to be affected by the proposed compromise or arrangement or a reorganization, agree to a compromise or arrangement or a reorganization of this corporation as a consequence of the compromise or arrangement, the compromise or arrangement and the reorganization, if sanctioned by the court to which the
450.1205 Articles of incorporation; effect of provision as to compromise, arrangement, or plan of reorganization.

Sec. 205. (1) When the provision of section 204 is included in the original articles of incorporation of a corporation, all persons who become creditors or shareholders thereof are deemed to have become creditors or shareholders subject in all respects to that provision, and it shall be binding upon them.

(2) When that provision is inserted in the articles of a corporation, by an amendment of the articles, all persons who become creditors or shareholders of the corporation after the amendment becomes effective are deemed to have become creditors or shareholders subject in all respects to that provision, and it shall be binding upon them.

(3) The circuit court may administer and enforce the provision and restrain, pendente lite, actions and proceedings against the corporation with respect to which the court so restraining has begun the administration or enforcement of the provision, and appoint a temporary receiver for the corporation and grant the receiver such powers as are deemed proper.

450.1209 Articles of incorporation; permissible provisions.

Sec. 209. (1) The articles of incorporation may contain any provision not inconsistent with this act or another statute of this state, including any of the following:

(a) A provision for management of the business and conduct of the affairs of the corporation, or creating, defining, limiting, or regulating the powers of the corporation, its directors and shareholders, or a class of shareholders.

(b) A provision that under this act is required or permitted to be set forth in the bylaws.

(c) A provision eliminating or limiting a director's liability to the corporation or its shareholders for money damages for any action taken or any failure to take any action as a director, except liability for any of the following:

(i) The amount of a financial benefit received by a director to which he or she is not entitled.

(ii) Intentional infliction of harm on the corporation or the shareholders.

(iii) A violation of section 551.

(iv) An intentional criminal act.

(2) If the articles of incorporation contain a provision eliminating the liability of a director prior to the amendatory act that amended subsection (1) and added this subsection, that provision shall be considered to eliminate the liability of a director as provided in subsection (1)(c).

450.1211 Corporate name; required words and abbreviations.

Sec. 211. Except as provided in chapter 2A for a professional corporation, the corporate name of a domestic corporation shall contain the word "corporation", "company", "incorporated", or "limited" or shall contain 1 of the following abbreviations: corp., co., inc., or ltd., with or without periods.

450.1212 Corporate name; conformity; noncompliance of corporate name of foreign corporation as bar to certificate of authority; rights to use of corporate name not created.

Sec. 212. (1) The corporate name of a domestic or foreign corporation formed or existing under or subject to this act shall conform to all of the following:

(a) Shall not contain a word or phrase, or abbreviation or derivative of a word or phrase, which indicates or implies that the corporation is formed for a purpose other than 1 or more of the purposes permitted by its articles of incorporation.

(b) Shall distinguish the corporate name upon the records in the office of the administrator from all of the following:

(i) The corporate name of any other domestic corporation or foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state.

(ii) The corporate name of any corporation subject to the nonprofit corporation act, 1982 PA 162, MCL...

transacted. A certificate of assumed name is effective, unless sooner terminated by filing a certificate that states the true name of the corporation and the assumed name under which the business is to be transacted business under any assumed name or names other than its corporate name by filing a certificate.

**450.1217 Assumption of name implying banking, insurance, surety, or trust company; prohibited letters or words; corporation licensed as nursing home; use of terms.**

Sec. 213. (1) A corporation formed or existing under or subject to this act other than a bank holding company registered or to be registered as a bank holding company under the bank holding company act of 1956, chapter 240, 70 Stat. 133, shall not assume a name that implies that it is a banking corporation, an insurance or surety company, or a trust company, and the corporation shall not use the word "bank", "industrial bank", "deposit", "surety", "security", "trust", or "trust company" in its corporate name or use a combination of the letters or words with other letters or words in its corporate name to indicate or convey the idea of a bank or banking or industrial banking activity or security unless from the other words constituting the name it is clear that the business conducted does not include the business of banking.

(2) A corporation formed or existing under or subject to this act that is licensed or is to be licensed as a nursing home under article 17 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20101 to 333.22260, may use the term "health center" or "health care center" or a term conveying a meaning substantially similar to those terms, or the term "rehabilitation center", as long as those terms do not conflict with the terms prohibited by section 21712 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.21712.

**450.1215 Corporate name; reservation of right to use; transfer of right.**

Sec. 215. (1) A person may reserve the right to use of a corporate name by executing and filing an application to reserve the name. If the administrator finds that the name is available for corporate use, he or she shall reserve it for exclusive use of the applicant for a period expiring at the end of the sixth full calendar month following the month in which the application was filed.

(2) The right to exclusive use of a reserved corporate name may be transferred to another person by filing a notice of the transfer, executed by the applicant for whom the name was reserved, and stating the name and address of the transferee.

**450.1217 Transacting business under assumed name; certificate.**

Sec. 217. (1) Except as provided in section 212 or otherwise prohibited by law, a domestic or foreign corporation may transact business under any assumed name or names other than its corporate name by filing a certificate that states the true name of the corporation and the assumed name under which the business is to be transacted. A certificate of assumed name is effective, unless sooner terminated by filing a certificate of
termination or by the dissolution or withdrawal of the corporation, for a period that expires on December 31 of the fifth full calendar year following the year in which it was filed. A certificate of assumed name may be extended for additional consecutive periods of 5 full calendar years each by filing similar certificates not earlier than 90 days before the expiration of the initial or a subsequent 5-year period. The administrator shall notify the corporation of the impending expiration of the certificate of assumed name not later than 90 days before the expiration of the initial or a subsequent 5-year period. If authorized by the corporation, the administrator may electronically transmit the notice to the resident agent of the corporation. A certificate of assumed name filed under this section does not create substantive rights to the use of a particular assumed name.

(2) The same name may be assumed by 2 or more corporations, or by 1 or more corporations and 1 or more limited partnerships or other enterprises participating together in a partnership or joint venture. Each participant corporation shall file a certificate under this section.

(3) A corporation that participates in a merger, or any other entity that participates in a merger under section 736, may transfer to the surviving entity the use of an assumed name for which a certificate of assumed name is on file with the administrator before the merger, if the transfer is noted in the certificate of merger as provided in section 707(1)(g), 712(1)(c), or 736(7)(f) or other applicable statute. The use of an assumed name transferred under this subsection may continue for the remaining effective period of the certificate of assumed name on file before the merger, and the surviving entity may terminate or extend the certificate of assumed name under subsection (1).

(4) A corporation that survives a merger may use as an assumed name the corporate name of a merging corporation, or the name of any other entity that participates in the merger under section 736, by filing a certificate of assumed name under subsection (1) or by providing for the use of the name as an assumed name in the certificate of merger. The surviving corporation also may file a certificate of assumed name under subsection (1) or provide in the certificate of merger for the use as an assumed name of an assumed name of a merging entity that is not transferred under this subsection. A provision in a certificate of merger under this subsection shall be treated as a new certificate of assumed name.

(5) A business organization into which a corporation has converted under section 745 may use an assumed name of the converting corporation, if the corporation has a certificate of assumed name for that assumed name on file with the administrator before the conversion, by providing for the use of the name as an assumed name in the certificate of conversion. The use of an assumed name under this subsection may continue for the remaining effective period of the certificate of assumed name on file before the conversion, and the surviving business organization may terminate or extend the certificate of assumed name in the manner described in subsection (1).

(6) A corporation into which 1 or more business organizations have converted under section 746 may use as an assumed name the name of any business organization that converted into that corporation, or use as an assumed name an assumed name of that business organization, by filing a certificate of assumed name under subsection (1) or by providing for the use of that name or assumed name as an assumed name of the corporation in the certificate of conversion. A provision in the certificate of conversion under this subsection shall be treated as a new certificate of assumed name.


450.1221 Beginning of corporate existence; filing of articles as evidence.

Sec. 221. The corporate existence shall begin on the effective date of the articles of incorporation as provided in section 131. Filing is conclusive evidence that all conditions precedent required to be performed under this act have been fulfilled and that the corporation has been formed under this act, except in an action or special proceeding by the attorney general.


450.1223 Selection of board; adoption of bylaws; first meeting; quorum; election of officers; transaction of business.

Sec. 223. Before or after filing of the articles of incorporation a majority of the incorporators, at a meeting or by written instrument, shall select a board and may adopt bylaws. On or after the filing date of the articles any member of the board may call the first meeting of the board upon not less than 3 days notice by mail to each director. A majority of the directors constitutes a quorum for the first meeting of the board. At the first meeting, the board may adopt bylaws, elect officers and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

450.1231 Adoption, amendment, or repeal of bylaws; contents of bylaws.

Sec. 231. The initial bylaws of a corporation shall be adopted by its incorporators, its shareholders, or its board. The shareholders or the board may amend or repeal the bylaws or adopt new bylaws unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide that the power to adopt new bylaws is reserved exclusively to the shareholders or that the bylaws or any particular bylaw shall not be altered or repealed by the board. The bylaws may contain any provision for the regulation and management of the affairs of the corporation not inconsistent with law or the articles of incorporation.


450.1241 Registered office and resident agent required; address.

Sec. 241. (1) Each domestic corporation and each foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state shall have and continuously maintain in this state both of the following:
   (a) A registered office, which may be the same as its place of business.
   (b) A resident agent. A resident agent may be an individual resident of this state; a domestic corporation or limited liability company; or a foreign corporation or limited liability company authorized to transact business in this state.
   (2) The address of the business office or residence of a resident agent must be the same as the address of the registered office.


450.1242 Changing registered office or resident agent; statement; changing address of registered office.

Sec. 242. (1) A domestic corporation or a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state may change its registered office or change its resident agent, or both, upon filing a statement. The statement may be executed by any of the individuals set forth in section 132 or by the secretary or assistant secretary of the corporation. The statement shall provide all of the following information:
   (a) The corporate name.
   (b) The street address of the corporation's then registered office, and its mailing address if different from its street address.
   (c) If the address of the corporation's registered office is changed, the street address and the mailing address, if different from the street address, to which the registered office is to be changed.
   (d) The name of the corporation's then resident agent.
   (e) If the corporation's resident agent is changed, the name of its successor resident agent.
   (f) That the address of the corporation's registered office and the address of its resident agent, as changed, will be identical.
   (g) That the change was authorized by resolution duly adopted by the corporation's board.
   (2) If a resident agent changes its business or residence address to another place within this state, the resident agent may change the address of the registered office of any domestic or foreign corporation of which the person is a resident agent by filing a statement as required in subsection (1), except, the statement need only be signed by the resident agent, need not be responsive to subsection (1)(e) or (g), and shall recite that a copy of the statement has been mailed to the corporation.


450.1243 Resignation of resident agent.

Sec. 243. A resident agent of a domestic or foreign corporation may resign by filing a written notice of resignation with the president or a vice president of the corporation and with the administrator. The corporation shall promptly appoint a successor resident agent. The appointment of the resigning agent terminates upon appointment of a successor or upon expiration of 30 days after receipt of the notice by the administrator, whichever first occurs. Upon the resignation becoming effective, the business or residence address of the resigned agent shall no longer be the registered office of the corporation.


450.1246 Service of process.

Sec. 246. (1) The resident agent appointed by a corporation is an agent of the corporation on which any process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon the corporation may be served.
   (2) If an individual, whether a resident or nonresident of this state, accepts election, appointment, or
employment as a director or officer of a corporation formed under this act or in existence on the effective date
of this act, the acceptance is considered an appointment of the resident agent of the corporation as his or her
agent on which process may be served while he or she is a director or officer, in any action commenced in a
court of general jurisdiction in this state, arising out of or founded on any action of the domestic corporation
or of the individual as a director or officer of the domestic corporation. After accepting service of process, the
resident agent shall promptly forward it to the director or officer at his or her last known address.

(3) The administrator may serve a notice described in subsection (1) by electronically transmitting the
notice to the resident agent of the corporation in the manner authorized by the corporation.


450.1251 Formation of corporation for lawful purpose; exception; aiding national emergency.

Sec. 251. (1) A corporation may be formed under this act for any lawful purpose, except to engage in a
business for which a corporation may be formed under any other statute of this state unless that statute
permits formation under this act.

(2) In time of war or other national emergency, a corporation may take any lawful action to provide aid,
notwithstanding the purposes set forth in its articles of incorporation, at the request or direction of a
competent governmental authority.


450.1261 Corporate powers.

Sec. 261. A corporation, subject to any limitation provided in this act, in any other statute of this state, or
in its articles of incorporation, shall have power in furtherance of its corporate purposes to do all of the
following:

(a) Have perpetual duration.

(b) Sue and be sued in all courts and participate in actions and proceedings, judicial, administrative,
arbitrative, or otherwise, in the same manner as natural persons.

(c) Have a corporate seal, and alter the seal, and use it by causing it or a facsimile to be affixed, impressed,
or reproduced in any other manner.

(d) Adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws, including emergency bylaws, relating to the business of the
corporation, the conduct of its affairs, its rights and powers and the rights and powers of its shareholders,
directors, or officers.

(e) Elect or appoint officers, employees, and other agents of the corporation, prescribe their duties, fix their
compensation and the compensation of directors, and indemnify corporate directors, officers, employees, and
agents.

(f) Purchase, receive, take by grant, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, lease, or otherwise acquire, own,
hold, improve, employ, use and otherwise deal in and with, real or personal property, or an interest in real or
personal property, wherever situated.

(g) Sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, or mortgage or pledge, or create a
security interest in any of its property or an interest in its property, wherever situated.

(h) Purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, employ, sell, lend, lease,
exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, use and otherwise deal in and with, bonds and
other obligations, shares or other securities or interests issued by others, whether engaged in similar or
different business, governmental, or other activities, including banking corporations or trust companies. A
corporation organized or transacting business in this state under this act shall not guarantee or become surety
upon a bond or other undertaking securing the deposit of public money.

(i) Make contracts, give guarantees and incur liabilities, borrow money at rates of interest as the
corporation may determine, issue its notes, bonds, and other obligations, and secure any of its obligations by
mortgage or pledge of any of its property or an interest in its property, wherever situated. This power shall
include the power to give guarantees that are necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion, or attainment
of the business of any of the following corporations, whether or not subject to this act, and domestic or
foreign limited liability companies, and those guarantees shall be considered to be in furtherance of the
corporate purposes of the contracting corporation:

(i) All of the outstanding shares or interests of which are owned, directly or indirectly, by the contracting
corporation.

(ii) A corporation or limited liability company that owns, directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding
shares of the contracting corporation.

(iii) All of the outstanding shares or interests of which are owned, directly or indirectly, by a corporation,
whether or not subject to this act, or a limited liability company that owns, directly or indirectly, all of the
outstanding shares of the contracting corporation.

(j) Lend money, invest and reinvest its funds, and take and hold real and personal property as security for
the payment of funds so loaned or invested.

(k) Make donations for any of the following: The public welfare; community fund or hospital; or a
charitable, educational, scientific, civic, or similar purpose. A corporation also has the power to provide aid in
time of war or other national emergency.

(l) Pay pensions, establish and carry out pension, profit sharing, share bonus, share purchase, share option,
savings, thrift and other retirement, incentive and benefit plans, trusts, and provisions for any of its directors,
officers, and employees.

(m) Purchase, receive, take, otherwise acquire, own, hold, sell, lend, exchange, transfer, otherwise dispose
of, pledge, use and otherwise deal in and with its own shares, bonds, and other securities.

(n) Participate with others in any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, or other
association of any kind, or in any transaction, undertaking, or agreement which the participating corporation
would have power to conduct by itself, whether or not the participation involves sharing or delegation of
control with or to others.

(o) Cease its corporate activities and dissolve.

(p) Transact business, carry on its operations, and have offices and exercise the powers granted by this act
in any jurisdiction in or outside the United States.

(q) Have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect any purpose for which the corporation
is formed.

(r) Participate as a member of any mutual insurance company for purposes of insuring property or
activities relative to nuclear facilities owned, operated, constructed, or being constructed by the corporation.


450.1271 Asserting lack of corporate capacity or power.

Sec. 271. An act of a corporation and a transfer of real or personal property to or by a corporation,
otherwise lawful, is not invalid because the corporation was without capacity or power to do the act or make
or receive the transfer. However the lack of capacity or power may be asserted:

(a) In an action by a shareholder against the corporation to enjoin the doing of an act or the transfer of real
or personal property by or to the corporation.

(b) In an action by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor against an incumbent
or former officer or director of the corporation for loss or damage due to his unauthorized act.

(c) In an action or special proceeding by the attorney general to dissolve the corporation or to enjoin it
from the transacting of unauthorized business.


450.1275 Agreement to pay interest in excess of legal rate; defense of usury prohibited.

Sec. 275. A domestic or foreign corporation, whether or not formed at the request of a lender or in
furtherance of a business enterprise, may by agreement in writing, and not otherwise, agree to pay a rate of
interest in excess of the legal rate and the defense of usury shall be prohibited.