487.1507 Holding control of business firm; order approving or denying application; “hold control” defined; plan for acquiring and holding control of business firm; demonstrating necessity to hold control of business firm.

Sec. 507. (1) Either by itself or in concert with a director, officer, principal owner, manager, or affiliate, another licensee, or a director, officer, principal owner, manager, or affiliate of another licensee, a licensee shall not hold control of a business firm, except as follows:

(a) A licensee that had provided financing assistance to a business firm may acquire and hold control of that business firm to the extent necessary to protect the licensee's interest as creditor of, or investor in, the business firm. Unless the commissioner approves a longer period, a licensee holding control of a business firm under this subdivision shall divest itself of the interest that constitutes holding control as soon as practicable or within 3 years after acquiring that interest, whichever is sooner.

(b) With the approval of the commissioner, a licensee may acquire and hold control of a company that has offices located only in this state and which is licensed as a small business investment company under the small business investment act of 1958, Public Law 85-699, 72 Stat. 689.

(c) With the approval of the commissioner, a licensee may acquire and hold control of a company located in this state that is a local development company in accordance with the small business investment act of 1958, Public Law 85-699, 72 Stat. 689, whether the development company is or may become a qualified state or local development company by the small business administration under section 503 of title V of the small business investment act of 1958, Public Law 85-699, 15 U.S.C. 697.

(d) With the approval of the commissioner, a licensee may acquire and hold control of another business firm with offices only in this state that is engaged only in the business of providing financing assistance and management assistance to business firms.

(e) With the approval of the commissioner, a licensee may acquire and hold control of a business firm not referred to in subdivisions (a) to (d). The commissioner shall not approve an application under this subdivision unless the commissioner determines that the approval will not cause the amount of the licensee's investments in business firms covered by this subdivision to exceed 15% of the amount of the assets of the licensee and that in the commissioner's judgment the approval will promote the purposes of this act. An approval by the commissioner under this subdivision shall be for a period of not more than 3 years, except that in a particular case the commissioner may subsequently extend the period beyond 3 years if the commissioner determines that a longer period is needed and is consistent with the purposes of this act.

(2) If the commissioner fails to issue an order approving or denying an application under subsection (1)(b) or (c), within 45 days from receipt by the commissioner of an application which complies with section 203, the application shall be considered approved by the commissioner.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), “hold control” means the power to vote or direct the voting, directly or indirectly, of either of the following:

(a) For a business firm with outstanding voting stock or voting membership interests held by fewer than 50 owners, more than 40% of the total ownership vote.

(b) For a business firm with outstanding voting stock or voting membership interests held by 50 or more owners, more than 25% of the total ownership vote.

(4) If a licensee anticipates acquiring and holding control of a business firm under subsection (1)(a), the licensee shall file with the commissioner a plan for acquiring and holding control of the business firm that shall include at least all of the following:

(a) The reasons it is necessary for the licensee to acquire and hold control of the business firm.

(b) The percentage of outstanding voting stock or voting membership interests of the business firm that the licensee plans to own.

(c) The licensee's proposed course of action upon obtaining control of the business firm.

(d) The length of time the licensee anticipates it will be necessary to hold control of the business firm.

(5) The commissioner may require the licensee to demonstrate the necessity for the licensee to hold control of a business firm under subsection (1)(a).