

Investment Guidelines for Minnesota Cities

(MN Statutes Section 118A)

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Deposit and Investment of Local Government Funds

Section 118A.01 Definitions.

Subdivision 1. Application. The definitions in this section apply to sections 118A.01 to 118A.06.

Subd. 2. Government entity. “Government entity” means a county, city, town, school district, hospital district, public authority, public corporation, public commission, special district, any other political subdivision, except an entity whose investment authority is specified under chapter 11A or 356A. For the purposes of sections 118A.02 and 118A.03 only, the term includes an American Indian tribal government entity located within a federally recognized American Indian reservation.

Subd. 3. Financial institution. “Financial institution” means a savings association, commercial bank, trust company, credit union, or industrial loan and thrift company.

Subd. 4. Public funds. “Public funds” means all general, special, permanent, trust, and other funds, regardless of source or purpose, held or administered by a government entity, unless otherwise restricted.

HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 2;

Section 118A.02 Depository named; investment requirements; liability.

Subdivision 1. Designation; delegation. The governing body of each government entity shall designate, as a depository of its funds, one or more financial institutions. The governing body may authorize the treasurer or chief financial officer to:

- (1) designate depositories of the funds;
- (2) make investments of funds under sections 118A.01 to 118A.06 or other applicable law; or
- (3) both designate depositories and make investments as provided in this subdivision.

Subd. 2. Sale; proceeds; no personal liability. The treasurer or chief financial officer of a government entity may at any time sell obligations purchased pursuant to this section and the money received from such sale, and the interest and profits or loss on such investment shall be credited or charged, as the case may be, to the fund from which the investment was made. Neither such official nor government entity, nor any other official responsible for the custody of such funds, shall be personally liable for any loss sustained from the deposit or investment of funds in accordance with the provisions of sections 118A.04 and 118A.05. HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 3

Section 118A.03 When and what collateral required.

Subdivision 1. To the extent that funds deposited are in excess of available federal deposit insurance, the government entity shall require the financial institution to furnish collateral security or a corporate surety bond executed by a company authorized to do business in the state.

Subd. 2. In lieu of surety bond. The following are the allowable forms of collateral in lieu of a corporate surety bond:

- (1) United States government treasury bills, treasury notes, treasury bonds;
- (2) issues of United States government agencies and instrumentalities as quoted by a recognized industry quotation service available to the government entity;
- (3) general obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating service, or revenue obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "AA" or better by a national bond rating service;
- (4) irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks to a municipality accompanied by written evidence that the bank's public debt is rated "AA" or better by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or Standard & Poor's Corporation; and
- (5) time deposits that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Subd. 3. Amount. The total amount of the collateral computed at its market value shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit plus accrued interest at the close of the business day. The financial institution may furnish both a surety bond and collateral aggregating the required amount.

Subd. 4. Assignment. Any collateral pledged shall be accompanied by a written assignment to the government entity from the financial institution. The written assignment shall recite that, upon default, the financial institution shall release to the government entity on demand, free of exchange or any other charges, the collateral pledged. Interest earned on assigned collateral will be remitted to the financial institution so long as it is not in default. The government entity may sell the collateral to recover the amount due. Any surplus from the sale of the collateral shall be payable to the financial institution, its assigns, or both.

Subd. 5. Withdrawal of excess collateral. A financial institution may withdraw excess collateral or substitute other collateral after giving written notice to the governmental entity and receiving confirmation. The authority to return any delivered and assigned collateral rests with the government entity.

Subd. 6. Default. For purposes of this section, default on the part of the financial institution includes, but is not limited to, failure to make interest payments when due, failure to promptly deliver upon demand all money on deposit, less any early withdrawal penalty that may be required in connection with the withdrawal of a time deposit, or

closure of the depository. If a financial institution closes, all deposits shall be immediately due and payable. It shall not be a default under this subdivision to require prior notice of withdrawal if such notice is required as a condition of withdrawal by applicable federal law or regulation.

Subd. 7. Safekeeping. All collateral shall be placed in safekeeping in a restricted account at a Federal Reserve Bank, or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral. The selection shall be approved by the government entity. HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 4

Section 118A.04 Investments.

Subdivision 1. Any public funds, not presently needed for other purposes or restricted for other purposes, may be invested in the manner and subject to the conditions provided for in this section.

Subd. 2. United States securities. Public funds may be invested in governmental bonds, notes, bills, mortgages (excluding high-risk mortgage-backed securities), and other securities, which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress.

Subd. 3. State and local securities. Funds may be invested in the following:

- (1) any security which is a general obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “A” or better by a national bond rating service;
- (2) any security which is a revenue obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “AA” or better by a national bond rating service; and
- (3) a general obligation of the Minnesota housing finance agency which is a moral obligation of the state of Minnesota and is rated “A” or better by a national bond rating agency.

Subd. 4. Commercial papers. Funds may be invested in commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less.

Subd. 5. Time deposits. Funds may be invested in time deposits that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or bankers acceptances of United States banks.

Subd. 6. High-risk mortgage-backed securities. For the purposes of this section and section 118A.05, “high-risk mortgage-backed securities” are:

- (a) interest-only or principal-only mortgage-backed securities; and
- (b) any mortgage derivative security that:
 - (1) has an expected average life greater than ten years;

(2) has an expected average life that:

(i) will extend by more than four years as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus 300 basis points; or

(ii) will shorten by more than six years as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of minus 300 basis points; or

(3) will have an estimated change in price of more than 17 percent as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus or minus 300 basis points.

Subd. 7. Temporary general obligation bonds. Funds may be invested in general obligation temporary bonds of the same governmental entity issued under section 429.091, subdivision 7, 469.178, subdivision 5, or 475.61, subdivision 6.

Subd. 8. Debt service funds. Funds held in a debt service fund may be used to purchase any obligation, whether general or special, of an issue which is payable from the fund, at such price, which may include a premium, as shall be agreed to by the holder, or may be used to redeem any obligation of such an issue prior to maturity in accordance with its terms. The securities representing any such investment may be sold by the governmental entity at any time, but the money so received remains part of the fund until used for the purpose for which the fund was created. Any obligation held in a debt service fund from which it is payable may be canceled at any time unless otherwise provided in a resolution or other instrument securing obligations payable from the fund.

Subd. 9. Broker; statement and receipt.

(a) For the purpose of this section and section 118A.05, the term “broker” means a broker-dealer, broker, or agent of a government entity, who transfers, purchases, sells, or obtains securities for, or on behalf of, a government entity.

(b) Prior to completing an initial transaction with a broker, a government entity shall provide annually to the broker a written statement of investment restrictions which shall include a provision that all future investments are to be made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes governing the investment of public funds.

(c) A broker must acknowledge annually receipt of the statement of investment restrictions in writing and agree to handle the government entity’s account in accordance with these restrictions. A government entity may not enter into a transaction with a broker until the broker has provided this written agreement to the government entity.

(d) The state auditor shall prepare uniform notification forms which shall be used by the government entities and the brokers to meet the requirements of this subdivision.

Section 118A.05 Contracts and agreements.

Subdivision 1. In addition to other authority granted in sections 118A.01 to 118A.06, government entities may enter into contracts and agreements as follows.

Subd. 2. Repurchase agreements. Repurchase agreements consisting of collateral allowable in section 118A.04, and reverse repurchase agreements may be entered into with any of the following entities:

- (1) a financial institution qualified as a “depository” of public funds of the government entity;
- (2) any other financial institution which is a member of the Federal Reserve System and whose combined capital and surplus equals or exceeds \$10,000,000;
- (3) a primary reporting dealer in United States government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; or
- (4) a securities broker-dealer licensed pursuant to chapter 80A, or an affiliate of it, regulated by the securities and exchange commission and maintaining a combined capital and surplus of \$40,000,000 or more, exclusive of subordinated debt. Reverse agreements may only be entered into for a period of 90 days or less and only to meet short-term cash flow needs. In no event may reverse repurchase agreements be entered into for the purpose of generating cash for investments, except as stated in subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. Securities lending agreements. Securities lending agreements, including custody agreements, may be entered into with a financial institution meeting the qualifications of subdivision 2, clause (1) or (2), and having its principal executive office in Minnesota. Securities lending transactions may be entered into with entities meeting the qualifications of subdivision 2 and the collateral for such transactions shall be restricted to the securities described in this section and section 118A.04.

Subd. 4. Minnesota joint powers investment trust. Government entities may enter into agreements or contracts for:

- (1) shares of a Minnesota joint powers investment trust whose investments are restricted to securities described in this subdivision, subdivision 2, and section 118A.04;
- (2) units of a short-term investment fund established and administered pursuant to regulation 9 of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, in which investments are restricted to securities described in this section and section 118A.04;
- (3) shares of an investment company which is registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 and which holds itself out as a money market fund meeting the conditions of rule 2a-7 of the Securities and Exchange Commission and is rated in one of the two highest rating categories for money market funds by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization; or

(4) shares of an investment company which is registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, and whose shares are registered under the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as long as the investment company's fund receives the highest credit rating and is rated in one of the two highest risk rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization and is invested in financial instruments with a final maturity no longer than 13 months.

Subd. 5. Guaranteed investment contracts. Agreements or contracts for guaranteed investment contracts may be entered into if they are issued or guaranteed by United States commercial banks, domestic branches of foreign banks, United States insurance companies, or their Canadian subsidiaries. The credit quality of the issuer's or guarantor's short- and long-term unsecured debt must be rated in one of the two highest categories by a nationally recognized rating agency. Should the issuer's or guarantor's credit quality be downgraded below "A", the government entity must have withdrawal rights.

HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 6; 1997 c 219 s 1

Section 118A.06 Safekeeping; acknowledgements.

Investments, contracts, and agreements may be held in safekeeping with:

- (1) any Federal Reserve Bank;
- (2) any bank authorized under the laws of the United States or any state to exercise corporate trust powers, including, but not limited to, the bank from which the investment is purchased;
- (3) a primary reporting dealer in United States government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; or
- (4) a securities broker-dealer having its principal executive office in Minnesota, licensed under chapter 80A, or an affiliate of it, and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission; provided that the government entity's ownership of all securities is evidenced by written acknowledgments identifying the securities by the names of the issuers, maturity dates, interest rates, CUSIP number, or other distinguishing marks.

HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 7

Section 118A.07 Additional investment authority.

Subdivision 1. Authority provided. As used in this section, "governmental entity" means a city with a population in excess of 200,000 or a county that contains a city of that size. If a governmental entity meets the requirements of subdivisions 2 and 3, it may exercise additional investment authority under subdivisions 4, 5, and 6.

Subd. 2. Written policies and procedures. Prior to exercising any additional authority under subdivisions 4, 5, and 6, the governmental entity must have written investment policies and procedures governing the following:

- (1) the use of or limitation on mutual bond funds or other securities authorized or permitted investments under law;
- (2) specifications for and limitations on the use of derivatives;
- (3) the final maturity of any individual security;
- (4) the maximum average weighted life of the portfolio;
- (5) the use of and limitations on reverse repurchase agreements;
- (6) credit standards for financial institutions with which the government entity deals; and
- (7) credit standards for investments made by the government entity.

Subd. 3. Oversight process. Prior to exercising any authority under subdivisions 4, 5, and 6, the governmental entity must establish an oversight process that provides for review of the government entity's investment strategy and the composition of the financial portfolio. This process shall include one or more of the following:

- (1) audit reviews;
- (2) internal or external investment committee reviews; and
- (3) internal management control. Additionally, the governing body of the governmental entity must, by resolution, authorize its treasurer to utilize the additional authorities under this section within their prescribed limits, and in conformance with the written limitations, policies, and procedures of the governmental entity.

If the governing body of a governmental entity exercises the authority provided in this section, the treasurer of the governmental entity must annually report to the governing body on the findings of the oversight process required under this subdivision. If the governing body intends to continue to exercise the authority provided in this section for the following calendar year, it must adopt a resolution affirming that intention by December 1.

Subd. 4. Repurchase agreements. A government entity may enter into repurchase agreements as authorized under section 118A.05, provided that the exclusion of mortgage-backed securities defined as "high-risk mortgage-backed securities" under section 118A.04, subdivision 6, shall not apply to repurchase agreements under this authority if the margin requirement is 101 percent or more.

Subd. 5. Reverse repurchase agreements. Notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 118A.05, subdivision 2, the county may enter into reverse repurchase agreements to:

- (1) meet cash flow needs; or
- (2) generate cash for investments, provided that the total securities owned shall be limited to an amount not to exceed 130 percent of the annual daily average of general

investable monies for the fiscal year as disclosed in the most recently available audited financial report. Excluded from this limit are:

(i) securities with maturities of one year or less; and

(ii) securities that have been reversed to maturity. There shall be no limit on the term of a reverse repurchase agreement. Reverse repurchase agreements shall not be included in computing the net debt of the governmental entity, and may be made without an election or public sale, and the interest payable thereon shall not be subject to the limitation in section 475.55. The interest shall not be deducted or excluded from gross income of the recipient for the purpose of state income, corporate franchise, or bank excise taxes, or if so provided by federal law, for the purpose of federal income tax.

Subd. 6. Options and futures. A government entity may enter into futures contracts, options on futures contracts, and option agreements to buy or sell securities authorized under law as legal investments for counties, but only with respect to securities owned by the governmental entity, including securities that are the subject of reverse repurchase agreements under this section that expire at or before the due date of the option agreement.

HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 8

Section 118A.08 No superseding effect.

Except as provided in Laws 1996, chapter 399, article 1, section 11, sections 118A.01 to 118A.06 shall not supersede any general or special law relating to the deposit and investment of public funds.

HIST: 1996 c 399 art 1 s 9

Notes



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