

§714. Indemnification of officers, directors, employees and agents; insurance

1. Power to indemnify. A corporation shall have power to indemnify, or if so provided in the bylaws shall in all cases indemnify, any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any person with respect to any matter as to which he shall have been finally adjudicated in any action, suit or proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the corporation or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order or conviction adverse to such person, or by settlement or plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that such person did not act in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

[PL 1977, c. 525, §13 (NEW).]

2. Indemnity against expenses. Any provision of subsections 1 or 3 to the contrary notwithstanding, to the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsection 1, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith. The right to indemnification granted by this subsection may be enforced by a separate action against the corporation, if an order for indemnification is not entered by a court in the action, suit or proceeding wherein he was successful on the merits or otherwise.

[PL 1977, c. 525, §13 (NEW).]

3. Indemnity made by corporation. Any indemnification under subsection 1, unless ordered by a court or required by the bylaws, shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in subsection 1. Such determination shall be made by the board of directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or if such a quorum is not obtainable, or even if obtainable, if a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion. Such a determination, once made by the board of directors may not be revoked by the board of directors, and upon the making of such determination by the board of directors, the director, officer, employee or agent may enforce the indemnification against the corporation by a separate action notwithstanding any attempted or actual subsequent action by the board of directors.

[PL 1981, c. 470, Pt. A, §31 (AMD).]

4. Expenses incurred in civil or criminal action. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the board of directors in the manner provided in subsection 3 upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount, unless it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized in this section.

[PL 1977, c. 525, §13 (NEW).]

5. Provisions of indemnification. The indemnification provided by this section shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person. A right to indemnification required by the bylaws may be enforced by a separate action against the corporation, if an order for indemnification has not been entered by a court in any action, suit or proceeding in respect to which indemnification is sought.
[PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §134 (AMD).]

6. Power to purchase and maintain insurance. A corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under this section.

[PL 1977, c. 525, §13 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 525, §13 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 541, §A134 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 470, §A31 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.