

BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 284 of 1972

450.1564a Indemnification under MCL 450.1561, MCL 450.1562, or MCL 450.1563; determination and evaluation; designation of committee or selection of independent legal counsel; partial indemnification; payment authorization; indemnification for expenses and liabilities.

Sec. 564a.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), an indemnification under section 561 or 562, unless ordered by the court or required under section 563, 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 or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in sections 561 and 562 and upon an evaluation of the reasonableness of expenses and amounts paid in settlement. This determination and evaluation shall be made in any of the following ways:

(a) By a majority vote of a quorum of the board consisting of directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding.

(b) If a quorum cannot be obtained under subdivision (a), by majority vote of a committee duly designated by the board and consisting solely of 2 or more directors not at the time parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding.

(c) In a written opinion by independent legal counsel selected in 1 of the following ways:

(i) By the board or its committee in the manner prescribed in subdivision (a) or (b).

(ii) If a quorum of the board cannot be obtained under subdivision (a) and a committee cannot be designated under subdivision (b), by the board.

(d) By all independent directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding.

(e) By the shareholders, but shares held by directors, officers, employees, or agents who are parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding may not be voted.

(2) In the designation of a committee under subsection (1)(b) or in the selection of independent legal counsel under subsection (1)(c)(ii), all directors may participate.

(3) If a person is entitled to indemnification under section 561 or 562 for a portion of expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement, but not for the total amount, the corporation may indemnify the person for the portion of the expenses, judgments, penalties, fines, or amounts paid in settlement for which the person is entitled to be indemnified.

(4) An authorization of payment of indemnification under this section shall be made in any of the following ways:

(a) By the board in 1 of the following ways:

(i) If there are 2 or more directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding, by a majority vote of all directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for this purpose.

(ii) By a majority of the members of a committee of 2 or more directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding.

(iii) If the corporation has 1 or more independent directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding, by a majority vote of all independent directors who are not parties or are threatened to be made parties, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for this purpose.

(iv) If there are no independent directors and less than 2 directors who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding, by the vote necessary for action by the board in accordance with section 523, in which authorization all directors may participate.

(b) By the shareholders, but shares held by directors, officers, employees, or agents who are parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding may not be voted on the authorization.

(5) To the extent that the articles of incorporation include a provision eliminating or limiting the liability of a director pursuant to section 209(1)(c), a corporation may indemnify a director for the expenses and liabilities described in this subsection without a determination that the director has met the standard of conduct set forth in sections 561 and 562, but no indemnification may be made except to the extent authorized in section 564c if the director received a financial benefit to which he or she was not entitled, intentionally inflicted harm on the corporation or its shareholders, violated section 551, or intentionally committed a criminal act. In connection with an action or suit by or in the right of the corporation described in section 562, indemnification under this subsection may be for expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred. In connection with an action, suit, or proceeding other than an action, suit, or proceeding by or in the right of the corporation, as described in section 561, indemnification under this subsection may be for expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred, and for judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred.

History: Add. 1989, Act 121, Eff. Oct. 1, 1989 ;-- Am. 1997, Act 118, Imd. Eff. Oct. 24, 1997 ;-- Am. 2008, Act 402, Imd. Eff. Jan. 6, 2009