

STATE OF NEW YORK

7532

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 3, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the banking law, in relation to removal and prohibition of directors, trustees, officers, members or partners of certain entities; and to repeal certain provisions of such law related thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 41 of the banking law is REPEALED and a new section
2 41 is added to read as follows:

3 § 41. Removal and prohibition. 1. Grounds for enforcement action.
4 Whenever the superintendent has reason to believe that any director,
5 trustee, officer, member or partner, or, in the case of a foreign bank-
6 ing corporation, the person in charge, or an officer, of a branch or
7 agency (for purposes of this section, each a "covered individual"), of
8 any bank, trust company, limited purpose trust company, private bank,
9 savings bank, safe deposit company, savings and loan association, credit
10 union, investment company, bank holding company (as such term is defined
11 in article three-A of this chapter), foreign banking corporation,
12 licensed lender, licensed casher of checks, budget planner, mortgage
13 banker, mortgage loan servicer, mortgage broker, licensed transmitter of
14 money or student loan servicer (for purposes of this section, each a
15 "covered entity") has, directly or indirectly: (a) caused, facilitated,
16 permitted or participated in any violation by a covered entity of a law
17 or regulation, order issued by the superintendent or any written agree-
18 ment between such covered entity or covered individual and the super-
19 intendent; (b) engaged or participated in any unsafe or unsound practice
20 in connection with any covered entity; or (c) engaged or participated in
21 any willful material act or omitted to take any material act that
22 directly contributed to the failure of a covered entity; the superinten-
23 dent may bring an action to remove such covered individual from office.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. Notice and hearing. (a) Whenever the superintendent has reason to
2 believe that any grounds exist to remove a covered individual, the
3 superintendent may serve a statement of the charges against such covered
4 individual, either personally or, upon a finding that such individual
5 cannot be served personally within this state, by registered mail at the
6 last address of such individual shown on the department's records, and a
7 notice of an opportunity to appear before the superintendent to show
8 cause why such covered individual should not be removed from office. A
9 copy of such notice shall also be sent to any affected covered entity.

10 (b) If after notice and a hearing, the superintendent finds that the
11 covered individual has engaged in conduct described in subdivision one
12 of this section, or if such covered individual waives a hearing, or
13 fails to appear in person or by a duly authorized representative without
14 good cause shown at the time and place set for the hearing, the super-
15 intendent may issue an order removing the covered individual from office
16 and prohibiting the covered individual's employment or the performance
17 of any contractual agreements with any covered entity.

18 (c) Such order and the findings of fact upon which it is based shall
19 be effective upon service on such covered individual personally or, upon
20 a finding that such individual cannot be served personally within this
21 state, by registered mail, and may not be made public or disclosed to
22 anyone, except as provided in subdivision ten of section thirty-six of
23 this article or in connection with proceedings relating to a violation
24 of this section. Such order shall also be served upon any affected
25 covered entity served with the statement of charges in the proceeding
26 resulting in the order. Any such order shall remain in effect, unless it
27 is amended or rescinded by the superintendent or a court of competent
28 jurisdiction, or replaced by an order issued pursuant to subdivision
29 three of this section.

30 (d) To the extent consistent with the requirements in this section, a
31 proceeding to remove a covered individual pursuant to this section shall
32 be conducted in accordance with the requirements of article three of the
33 financial services law and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

34 3. Suspension pending determination of charges. Upon, or at any time
35 after service of written notice pursuant to subdivision two of this
36 section, the superintendent may suspend, pending the determination of
37 the charges, a covered individual from office or prohibit such individ-
38 ual from participating in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of
39 any covered entity for a period of up to one hundred eighty days if the
40 superintendent has reason to believe that by reason of the conduct
41 described in subdivision one of this section: (a) a covered entity has
42 suffered or will probably suffer financial loss that impacts its ability
43 to operate in a safe and sound manner; (b) the interests of the depos-
44 itors at a covered entity have been or could be prejudiced; or (c) the
45 covered individual demonstrates willful disregard for the safety and
46 soundness of a covered entity. The superintendent may extend the suspen-
47 sion for additional periods of up to one hundred eighty days if the
48 hearing is not completed within the prior suspension period due to the
49 request of the covered individual.

50 4. Effect of order for removal or suspension. Any covered individual
51 subject to an order issued pursuant to this section shall be prohibited
52 from participating, in any manner, in the conduct of the affairs of any
53 covered entity unless permitted to, in writing, by the superintendent.
54 Any covered individual who thereafter, without permission of the super-
55 intendent, participates in any manner in the management of a covered
56 entity shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

1 5. Manner of review. Any order issued pursuant to this section may be
2 reviewed in the manner provided by article seventy-eight of the civil
3 practice law and rules.

4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.