



## CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

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56.005 [1963 c.580 §10; repealed by 1987 c.414 §172]

**56.006 "Office" defined.** "Office," when used in this chapter to refer to the administrative unit directed by the Secretary of State, means the Office of Secretary of State. [1987 c.414 §53]

56.010 [Repealed by 1963 c.580 §103]

56.012 [1963 c.580 §§11,12; repealed by 1987 c.414 §172]

**56.014 Secretary of State as filing officer; duties.** (1) The Secretary of State is the filing officer under ORS chapters 58, 60, 62, 65, 70, 128, 554, 647 and 648.

(2) The duties, powers and authority of the Secretary of State under this chapter apply to the Secretary of State's functions under ORS chapters 58, 60, 62, 65, 70, 128, 554, 647 and 648. [1987 c.414 §55; 1993 c.66 §1]

56.015 [1955 c.349 §1; 1957 c.80 §1; repealed by 1963 c.580 §103]

**56.016 Filing facsimile transmissions and other reproductions of documents; when permissible.** (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of ORS chapters 58, 60, 62, 63, 65, 70, 128, 554, 647 and 648 relating to the Secretary of State as the filing officer:

(a) A document may be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing by electronic facsimile transmission if the original document is otherwise acceptable for filing.

(b) Any other reproduction of a document may be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing if the original document is otherwise acceptable for filing.

(c) A document delivered under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection need not be accompanied by a true copy of the document. After filing a document delivered under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, the Secretary of State shall return a facsimile copy of the filed document, if requested, or a photocopy of the filed document, to the domestic or foreign business entity or its representative.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section applies only to documents delivered to the Secretary of State for filing under ORS chapters 58, 60, 62, 63, 65, 70, 128, 554, 647 and 648.

(3) The Secretary of State by rule may establish fees for receiving and returning copies of documents delivered for filing under this section. [1993 c.66 §§4,14]

**56.018 Power of Secretary of State in performing business registry functions.** For purposes of performing business registry functions, the Secretary of State shall have the power:

(1) To organize and reorganize, as necessary, the Office of Secretary of State as the

Secretary of State deems necessary to conduct and administer the business registry functions.

(2) To appoint all subordinate officers and employees of the Secretary of State's office and prescribe their duties and fix their compensation, subject to the applicable provisions of the State Personnel Relations Law. Subject to any other applicable law regulating travel expenses, the officers and employees of the office engaging in business registry functions shall be allowed such reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses as may be incurred in the performance of their duties. [1963 c.580 §13; 1987 c.414 §56; 1993 c.66 §2]

56.020 [Amended by 1961 c.280 §4; repealed by 1963 c.580 §103]

**56.022 Authority of Secretary of State to carry out business registry functions.** The Secretary of State shall have the power and authority reasonably necessary to enable the Secretary of State to carry out business registry functions and other duties imposed on the Secretary of State under ORS chapters 58, 60, 62, 65, 70, 128, 554, 647 and 648, including the authority to promulgate rules governing the procedure and form for submitting documents to be filed by the Secretary of State and the procedure and form for filing and retaining the documents and any other records required to be kept. [1985 c.728 §5; 1987 c.414 §57]

**56.025 Designation of persons to sign papers.** The Secretary of State may designate one or more of the clerks, deputies or assistants of the Secretary of State, in the name of the Secretary of State, to sign or countersign papers, documents, orders and certificates requiring the signature of the Secretary of State. Any paper, document, order or certificate signed in the name of the Secretary of State by the designated clerk, deputy or assistant shall have the same force and effect as if signed by the Secretary of State. [1959 c.173 §1]

56.030 [Amended by 1961 c.280 §5; repealed by 1963 c.580 §103]

**56.035 Documents filed with Secretary of State; verification.** Where a document is required by law to be verified before it may be filed with the Secretary of State, the document shall include or be accompanied by a written declaration, prepared under penalties of perjury by the person executing the document, to the effect that the person has examined the document and to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person it is true, correct and complete. An acknowledgment before a notary public or other officer is not required. [1971 c.200 §2]

56.040 [Repealed by 1961 c.280 §2]

**56.041 Operating Account.** (1) The Operating Account is established in the General Fund of the State Treasury.

(2) The net amount accruing to the Secretary of State from all fees, charges, interest, fines, penalties and miscellaneous revenues from all sources relating to business registry functions, and moneys received by the Secretary of State under ORS chapter 79, ORS 87.246, 87.767, 87.806 to 87.831 and ORS chapter 194 shall, after deduction of refunds, be paid over to the State Treasurer and deposited at least monthly in the Operating Account.

(3) Moneys deposited to the credit of the Operating Account are continuously appropriated for the expenses of carrying out the functions and duties of the Secretary of State relating to business registry, and the functions and duties of the Secretary of State under ORS chapter 79, ORS 87.246, 87.767, 87.806 to 87.831 and ORS chapter 194.

(4) Any amount deposited in the Operating Account as provided in subsection (2) of this section that at the end of each month is determined by the Secretary of State to be in excess of the amount needed to administer business registry functions, and the functions and duties of the Secretary of State under ORS chapter 79, ORS 87.246, 87.767, 87.806 to 87.831 and ORS chapter 194 shall be transferred to the General Fund and shall become available for general governmental expenses.

(5) Any unexpended and unobligated balance in the Operating Account in excess of \$500,000 as of July 1 each year, as certified by the Secretary of State, shall be transferred from the account to the General Fund to be available for general governmental expenditures. [1961 c.280 §10; 1963 c.551 §16; 1981 c.633 §1; 1987 c.58 §12; 1987 c.414 §140; 1991 c.132 §1; 1991 c.425 §9; 1993 c.66 §7]

**56.045** [1985 c.383 §8; repealed by 1987 c.58 §15 and 1987 c.414 §172]

**56.050 Copies of records as evidence; fees for copies.** (1) Copies of all records and papers of the Office of the Secretary of State, certified by the Secretary of State, shall be received in evidence in all cases equally and with like effect as the original.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall collect a fee as set by rule for making copies of any document filed in its office. [Amended by 1953 c.549 §138; 1957 c.227 §1; 1963 c.580 §14; 1985 c.351 §1; 1985 c.728 §1; 1993 c.66 §5]

**56.060 Records of Secretary of State.** The Secretary of State shall keep, as records of office, books showing all acts, matters and things done by the Secretary of State in performing the business registry functions and duties of the Office of Secretary of State.

[Amended by 1983 c.740 §6; 1985 c.728 §§2,2a; 1987 c.158 §9; 1987 c.414 §58]

**56.070 Waiving collection of fees, charges or interest amounting to \$3 or less.** The Secretary of State may waive collection of any fee, charge or interest, or portion of a fee, charge or interest, which is collectible by the Secretary of State and is no more than \$3. [1955 c.185 §1; 1971 c.184 §1]

**56.080 Withdrawal of certificates issued and filings accepted; withdrawal from filing.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the Secretary of State, within one year after a filing, at any time after a hearing held not less than 20 days after written notice to the company or individual who submitted the document to the office, may withdraw any certificate issued or document filed by the Secretary of State, except filings pursuant to ORS chapter 647, on any ground existing at the time of the filing for which the Secretary of State could have originally refused to issue the certificate or file the document. The written notice of such hearing shall state the reason for the proposed withdrawal.

(2) The Secretary of State, within one year after a filing, may withdraw from filing any document filed by the Secretary of State when the person who submitted the document advises the office that the document was submitted prematurely or by inadvertence or mistake. The person requesting the withdrawal shall accompany the request with a written statement reflecting the basis of the person's authority to initiate the withdrawal.

(3) The Secretary of State may withdraw without notice or hearing a certificate that the Secretary of State has issued or a document the Secretary of State has filed when the fee was paid with a check that was returned to the office for lack of sufficient funds. Such withdrawal shall be retroactive to the date of filing.

(4) Any decision under this section may be reviewed in accordance with the provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550.

(5) A withdrawal from filing of a document under this section is retroactive to the date of the filing but shall not relieve a person of any liability the person may have incurred while the document was filed with the office. The Secretary of State is not required to refund any fees paid in conjunction with the document withdrawn.

(6) At any time prior to a delayed effective date specified in a document, upon written request of the person or persons who originally filed the document with the Secretary of State, the document shall be withdrawn. Upon such withdrawal of a document,

the document shall have no further effect and shall be treated as if it had not been filed. The person requesting the withdrawal shall accompany the request with a written statement reflecting the basis of the person's authority to initiate the withdrawal. [1967 c.576 §2; 1981 c.633 §2; 1983 c.717 §4; 1985 c.728 §§3,3a; 1987 c.414 §59; 1989 c.1040 §1]

**56.090** [1983 c.717 §2; 1987 c.414 §60; repealed by 1993 c.66 §15]

**56.100 Electronic materials not subject to public records law.** Except as the Secretary of State provides by rule, the following are not public records for the purposes of ORS 192.410 to 192.505:

(1) Electronic data processing programs of the office; and

(2) Electronic media used to record, process or store documents filed with the office under the business registry functions of the office. [1983 c.717 §2a; 1987 c.414 §61]

**56.105 Waiver or delay of action by Secretary of State; rules.** (1) Notwithstanding any statutory requirement that the failure to make a complete annual report to the Secretary of State shall be cause for the involuntary dissolution, revocation of certificate of authority or notation of inactive status of the entity, the Secretary of State may waive or delay such action if the non-compliance is due solely to the entity's failure to provide a federal taxation identification number.

(2) The Secretary of State shall by rule prescribe the conditions under which dissolution, revocation or notation of inactive status will be waived or delayed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. [1987 c.843 §13]

**56.110 Evidentiary effect of certificates and other documents issued by Secretary of State.** This section applies to certificates of the Secretary of State and documents filed by the Secretary of State under the business registry functions of the Secretary of State. All certificates issued by the Secretary of State and all copies of documents filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, when certified by the Secretary of State, shall be taken and received in all courts, public offices and official bodies of this state as prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificates or documents. A certificate by the Secretary of State as to the compliance or noncompliance of the document with the filing requirements or other provisions of law administered by the Office of the Secretary of State, or as to the existence or nonexistence of the facts relating to the matters contained in the documents which would appear from the presence or absence of documents filed in the office of the Secretary of State, shall be taken and

received in all courts, public offices and official bodies of this state as prima facie evidence of the existence or nonexistence of the facts stated in the certificates or documents. [1983 c.717 §3; 1987 c.94 §122; 1987 c.414 §62]

**56.120** [1983 c.87 §4; repealed by 1987 c.58 §15]

**56.140 Fees.** The Secretary of State by rule shall establish and collect reasonable fees for the following services relating to the business registry functions of the office:

(1) Computer generated lists on paper and electronic data processing media.

(2) Terminal access to the files of the office.

(3) Microfilm records of the files of the office.

(4) Microfilm processing and development services.

(5) Copies of the programs and files on paper or electronic data processing media. [1987 c.58 §7; 1987 c.414 §135]

**56.150** [1987 c.58 §8; 1987 c.414 §136; repealed by 1991 c.132 §37]

**56.160 Petty cash fund.** The Secretary of State is authorized to establish a petty cash fund, not to exceed \$300, for the purpose of performing business registry functions. [1987 c.414 §65a]

**56.170 Exemption of governmental units and instrumentalities from certain fees.** The Secretary of State shall not be required to charge or collect any of the fees provided for under ORS 56.050 (2) from the State of Oregon, any political subdivision thereof, or any agency or other instrumentality of any of the foregoing. [Formerly 57.772; 1993 c.66 §6]

**56.180 Business Registration Information Center created; functions.** (1) A Business Registration Information Center is established within the Corporation Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

(2) The primary function of the center is:

(a) As soon as practicable after September 10, 1993, to develop a system within the center by which accurate and easily understandable information with respect to the business registration requirements of participating state agencies may be made available to persons undertaking a new business or operating an existing business; and

(b) No later than July 1, 1994, to advertise and make the information available to all persons who request the information. [1993 c.805 §5]

**Note:** Section 6, chapter 805, Oregon Laws 1993, provides:

**Sec. 6.** Nothing in this 1993 Act shall affect the authority of any state agency to issue, renew, revoke, suspend, deny or otherwise govern the registration of businesses as otherwise provided by law. [1993 c.805 §6]

**Note:** Sections 2 to 4a, chapter 805, Oregon Laws 1993, which are repealed June 30, 1997, (see section 8, chapter 805, Oregon Laws 1993) provide:

**Sec. 2.** (1) It is the policy of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly by the enactment of sections 2 to 6 of this 1993 Act to make Oregon more attractive and more accessible to business by adopting goals directed toward simplifying the state registration processes.

(2) The goals are as follows:

(a) On or before January 1, 1994, the Central Business Registration Coordinating Council shall agree upon a system of business identification.

(b) After review and if so directed by the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly and subject to the availability of funds, the coordinating council shall implement a combined registration process and a computer database that provides for a single identification number for each business.

(c) The coordinating council shall determine if it is cost-effective to eliminate separate agency registration files and rely upon the central system as the sole record of state required registration for business, and present the findings to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly. [1993 c.805 §2]

**Sec. 3.** As used in sections 2 to 6 of this 1993 Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Coordinating council" means the Central Business Registration Coordinating Council created under section 4 of this 1993 Act.

(2) "Division" means the Corporation Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

(3) "Director" means the Director of the Corporation Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

(4) "Person" means any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, association, cooperative, corporation, nonprofit organization, state or local governmental agency or unit or any other group or organization acting as a unit that proposes to undertake or has undertaken a business activity within this state for which registration is required.

(5) "Registration" means any license, permit, certificate, certification, registration, approval, evidence of compliance or other document pertaining to the regulation of business activity.

(6) "System" means the mechanism by which information is disseminated to persons and account data is exchanged between the participating state agencies. [1993 c.805 §3]

**Sec. 4.** (1) The Central Business Registration Coordinating Council is established. The authority and responsibilities of the coordinating council are as follows:

(a) To coordinate efforts directed at achieving the goals set forth in section 2 of this 1993 Act.

(b) To advise the director with regard to the information center established under section 5 of this 1993 Act [56.180].

(c) To approve interagency agreements entered into by the division with other state agencies with respect to participation in the information center and other matters within the scope of the goals set forth in section 2 of this 1993 Act.

(2) The coordinating council shall consist of:

(a) The administrator or designee of the Construction Contractors Board.

(b) The director or designee of the Department of Revenue.

(c) The administrator or designee of the Employment Department.

(d) The administrator or designee of the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(e) The Director of the Economic Development Department.

(f) The director or designee of the Corporation Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

(g) Three representatives from the private business community appointed by the Governor.

(3) The members of the coordinating council shall elect a chairperson from their number who shall serve as chairperson for a term of two years beginning on the date of the election and until a successor is elected.

(4) Members of the coordinating council shall not receive compensation or expenses for service as members. [1993 c.805 §4]

**Sec. 4a.** (1) The Central Business Registration Coordinating Council shall report and make recommendations to the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly with respect to:

(a) The achievement of goals set forth in section 2 of this 1993 Act to date and with respect to the enactment of legislation needed to further achieve those goals; and

(b) The progress of the development of the Business Registration Information Center and whether the center's activities will result in the modification or elimination of positions in any state agencies.

(2) The report described in subsection (1) of this section shall be made pursuant to ORS 192.245. [1993 c.805 §4a]