



Minnesota

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Statutory Outline

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CHAPTER 16c. STATE PROCUREMENT.

16C.285 RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENT DEFINED.

Subdivision 1. Definitions.

- (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subdivision have the meanings given them.
- (b) "Construction contract" means a contract or subcontract of any tier for work on a project.
- (c) "Contractor" means a prime contractor or subcontractor or motor carrier, and does not include a design professional or a material supplier. A "design professional" is a business or natural person retained to perform services on the project for which licensure is required by section 326.02. A "material supplier" is a business or

natural person that supplies materials, equipment, or supplies to a subcontractor or contractor on a project, including performing delivery or unloading services in connection with the supply of materials, equipment, or supplies; provided, however, that a material supplier does not include a natural person or business that delivers mineral aggregate such as sand, gravel, or stone that is incorporated into the work under the contract by depositing the material substantially in place, directly or through spreaders, from the transporting vehicle.

(d) "Contracting authority" means a state agency, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, or a municipality that enters into a construction contract or authorizes or directs entering into a construction contract.

(e) "Motor carrier" means a business or natural person providing for-hire transportation of materials, equipment, or supplies for a project.

(f) "Municipality" means a county, town, home rule charter or statutory city, school district, housing and redevelopment authority, port authority, economic development authority, sports facilities authority, joint powers board or organization created under section 471.59 or other statute, special district, instrumentality, drainage authority, watershed district, destination medical center corporation, or other municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state authorized by law to enter into contracts.

(g) "Prime contractor" means a vendor that submits a bid or proposal or otherwise responds to a solicitation document of a contracting authority for work on a project or is awarded a construction contract by a contracting authority for work on a project. A prime contractor includes a construction manager for purposes of this section.

(h) "Principal" means an owner holding at least a 25 percent ownership interest in a business.

(i) "Project" means building, erection, construction, alteration, remodeling, demolition, or repair of buildings, real property, highways, roads, bridges, or other construction work performed pursuant to a construction contract.

(j) "Related entity" means:

(1) a firm, partnership, corporation, joint venture, or other legal entity substantially under the control of a contractor or vendor;

(2) a predecessor corporation or other legal entity having one or more of the same principals as the contractor or vendor;

(3) a subsidiary of a contractor or vendor;

(4) one or more principals of a contractor or vendor; and

(5) a person, firm, partnership, corporation, joint venture, or other legal entity that substantially controls a contractor or vendor.

(k) "Solicitation document" means an invitation to bid, bid specifications, request for proposals, request for qualifications, or other solicitation of contractors for purposes of a construction contract.

(l) "Subcontractor" means a vendor that seeks to enter into a subcontract or enters into a subcontract for work on a project.

(m) "Vendor" means a business, including a construction contractor or a natural person, and includes both if the natural person is engaged in a business.

Subdivision 2. Responsible contractor required.

(a) A contractor must meet the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 to be eligible to be awarded a construction contract as the lowest responsible bidder or the vendor or contractor offering the best value as provided in section 16C.28, 103D.811, 103E.505, 116A.13, 123B.52, 160.17, 160.262, 161.32, 161.3206, 161.3209, 161.38, 162.17, 365.37, 374.13, 375.21, 383C.094, 412.311, 429.041, 458D.21, 469.015, 469.068, 469.101, 471.345, 473.4057, 473.523, 473.652, 473.756, 473J.11, or any of their successor provisions.

(b) This section applies to publicly owned or financed projects where the contracting authority's construction contract with the prime contractor is estimated to exceed \$50,000 and is awarded pursuant to a lowest responsible bidder selection method or a best value selection method as provided in paragraph (a). The amount of any tax increment financing must be excluded in determining whether a construction contract exceeds \$50,000. A subcontractor or motor carrier must meet the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 to be eligible to be awarded a subcontract on a project regardless of the value of the subcontract.

(c) If only one prime contractor responds to a solicitation document, a contracting authority may award a construction contract to the responding prime contractor even if the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 are not met.

Subdivision 3. Minimum criteria.

"Responsible contractor" means a contractor that conforms to the responsibility requirements in the solicitation document for its portion of the work on the project and verifies that it meets the following minimum criteria:

(1) the contractor:

(i) is in compliance with workers' compensation and unemployment insurance requirements;

(ii) is in compliance with Department of Revenue and Department of Employment and Economic Development registration requirements if it has employees;

(iii) has a valid federal tax identification number or a valid Social Security number if an individual; and

(iv) has filed a certificate of authority to transact business in Minnesota with the secretary of state if a foreign corporation or cooperative;

(2) the contractor or related entity is in compliance with and, during the three-year period before submitting the verification, has not violated section 177.24, 177.25, 177.41 to 177.44, 181.03, 181.101, 181.13, 181.14, or 181.722, and has not violated United States Code, title 29, sections 201 to 219, or United States Code, title 40, sections 3141 to 3148. For purposes of this clause, a violation occurs when a contractor or related entity:

(i) repeatedly fails to pay statutorily required wages or penalties on one or more separate projects for a total underpayment of \$25,000 or more within the three-year period, provided that a failure to pay is "repeated" only if it involves two or more separate and distinct occurrences of underpayment during the three-year period;

(ii) has been issued an order to comply by the commissioner of labor and industry that has become final;

(iii) has been issued at least two determination letters within the three-year period by the Department of Transportation finding an underpayment by the contractor or related entity to its own employees;

(iv) has been found by the commissioner of labor and industry to have repeatedly or willfully violated any of the sections referenced in this clause pursuant to section 177.27;

(v) has been issued a ruling or findings of underpayment by the administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor that have become final or have been upheld by an administrative law judge or the Administrative Review Board; or

(vi) has been found liable for underpayment of wages or penalties or misrepresenting a construction worker as an independent contractor in an action brought in a court having jurisdiction; or

(vii) has been convicted of a violation of section 609.52, subdivision 2, clause (19).

Provided that, if the contractor or related entity contests a determination of underpayment by the Department of Transportation in a contested case proceeding, a violation does not occur until the contested case proceeding has concluded with a determination that the contractor or related entity underpaid wages or penalties;

(3) the contractor or related entity is in compliance with and, during the three-year period before submitting the verification, has not violated section 181.723 or chapter 326B. For purposes of this clause, a violation occurs when a contractor or related entity has been issued a final administrative or licensing order;

(4) the contractor or related entity has not, more than twice during the three-year period before submitting the verification, had a certificate of compliance under section 363A.36 revoked or suspended based on the provisions of section 363A.36, with the revocation or suspension becoming final because it was upheld by the Office of Administrative Hearings or was not appealed to the office;

(5) the contractor or related entity has not received a final determination assessing a monetary sanction from the Department of Administration or Transportation for failure to meet targeted group business, disadvantaged business enterprise, or veteran-owned business goals, due to a lack of good faith effort, more than once during the three-year period before submitting the verification;

(6) the contractor or related entity is not currently suspended or debarred by the federal government or the state of Minnesota or any of its departments, commissions, agencies, or political subdivisions that have authority to debar a contractor; and

(7) all subcontractors and motor carriers that the contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the contractor through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer that they meet the minimum criteria listed in clauses (1) to (6).

Any violations, suspensions, revocations, or sanctions, as defined in clauses (2) to (5), occurring prior to July 1, 2014, shall not be considered in determining whether a contractor or related entity meets the minimum criteria.

Subdivision 4. Verification of compliance.

A contractor responding to a solicitation document of a contracting authority shall submit to the contracting authority a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in subdivision 3, with the exception of clause (7), at the time that it responds to the solicitation document. A contracting authority may accept a signed statement under oath as sufficient to demonstrate that a contractor is a responsible contractor and shall not be held liable for awarding a contract in reasonable reliance on that statement. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that fails to verify compliance with any one of the required minimum criteria or makes a false statement under oath in a verification of compliance shall be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project for which the verification was submitted. A false statement under oath verifying compliance with any of the minimum criteria may result in termination of a construction contract that has already been awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor or motor carrier that submits a false statement. A contracting authority shall not be liable for declining to award a contract or terminating a contract based on a reasonable determination that the contractor failed to verify compliance with the minimum criteria or falsely stated that it meets the minimum criteria. A verification of compliance need not be notarized. An electronic verification of compliance made and submitted as part of an electronic bid shall be an acceptable verification of compliance under this section, provided that it contains an electronic signature as defined in section 325L.02, paragraph (h).

Subdivision 5. Subcontractor verification.

A prime contractor or subcontractor shall include in its verification of compliance under subdivision 4 a list of all of its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Prior to execution of a construction contract, and as a condition precedent to the execution of a construction contract, the apparent successful prime contractor shall submit to the contracting authority a supplemental verification under oath confirming compliance with subdivision 3, clause (7). Each contractor or subcontractor shall obtain from all subcontractors with which it will have a direct contractual relationship a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying that they meet all of the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 prior to execution of a construction contract with each subcontractor. If a prime contractor or any subcontractor retains additional subcontractors on the project after submitting its verification of compliance, the prime contractor or subcontractor shall obtain verifications of compliance from each additional subcontractor with which it has a direct contractual relationship and shall submit a supplemental verification confirming compliance with subdivision 3, clause (7), within 14 days of retaining the additional subcontractors. A prime contractor shall submit to the contracting authority upon request copies of the signed verifications of compliance from all subcontractors of any tier pursuant to subdivision 3, clause (7). A prime contractor and subcontractors shall not be responsible for the false statements of any subcontractor with which they do not have a direct contractual relationship. A prime contractor and subcontractors shall be responsible for false statements by their first-tier subcontractors with which they have a direct contractual relationship only if they accept the verification of compliance with actual knowledge that it contains a false statement.

Subdivision 5a. Motor carrier verification.

A prime contractor or subcontractor shall obtain annually from all motor carriers with which it will have a direct contractual relationship a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying that they meet all of the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 prior to execution of a construction contract with each motor carrier. A prime contractor or subcontractor shall require each such motor carrier to provide it with immediate

written notification in the event that the motor carrier no longer meets one or more of the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 after submitting its annual verification. A motor carrier shall be ineligible to perform work on a project covered by this section if it does not meet all the minimum criteria in subdivision 3. Upon request, a prime contractor or subcontractor shall submit to the contracting authority the signed verifications of compliance from all motor carriers providing for-hire transportation of materials, equipment, or supplies for a project.

Subdivision 6. Additional criteria.

Nothing in this section shall restrict the discretion of a contracting authority to establish additional factors for defining contractor responsibility. This subdivision is not an independent grant of authority to a contracting authority to establish additional minimum criteria pursuant to subdivision 3.

Subdivision 7. Implementation.

The definition of responsible contractor, as defined in subdivision 3, or a statement that the term responsible contractor as used in the solicitation document means a contractor as defined in subdivision 3, shall be included in the solicitation document for all projects covered by this section. The solicitation document for any project shall state that any prime contractor or subcontractor or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria in subdivision 3 or fails to verify that it meets those criteria is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. The solicitation document shall provide that a false statement under oath verifying compliance with any of the minimum criteria shall render the prime contractor or subcontractor or motor carrier that makes the false statement ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor or motor carrier that submits a false statement. The solicitation document shall state that a prime contractor shall submit to the contracting authority upon request copies of the signed verifications of compliance from all subcontractors of any tier and motor carriers, pursuant to subdivision 3, clause (7).

Subdivision 8. Effective date.

This section is effective January 1, 2015, and shall apply to all construction contracts entered into based on solicitation documents issued on or after that date.

CHAPTER 514. LIENS AGAINST PROPERTY.

IMPROVEMENT OF REAL ESTATE

514.01. MECHANICS, LABORERS AND MATERIAL SUPPLIERS.

Whoever performs engineering or land surveying services with respect to real estate, or contributes to the improvement of real estate by performing labor, or furnishing skill, material or machinery for any of the purposes hereinafter stated, whether under contract with the owner of such real estate or at the instance of any agent, trustee, contractor or subcontractor of such owner, shall have a lien upon the improvement, and upon the land on which it is situated or to which it may be removed, that is to say, for the erection, alteration, repair, or removal of any building, fixture, bridge, wharf, fence, or other structure thereon, or for grading, filling in, or excavating the same, or for clearing, grubbing, or first breaking, or for furnishing and placing soil or sod, or for furnishing and planting of trees, shrubs, or plant materials, or for labor performed in placing soil or sod, or for labor performed in planting trees, shrubs, or plant materials, or for digging or repairing any ditch, drain, well, fountain, cistern, reservoir, or vault thereon, or for laying, altering or repairing any sidewalk, curb, gutter, paving, sewer, pipe, or conduit in or upon the same, or in or upon the adjoining half of any highway, street, or alley upon which the same abuts.

514.011. NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. Contractors.

Every person who enters into a contract with the owner for the improvement of real property and who has contracted or will contract with any subcontractors or material suppliers to provide labor, skill or materials for

the improvement shall include in any written contract with the owner the notice required in this subdivision and shall provide the owner with a copy of the written contract. If no written contract for the improvement is entered into, the notice must be prepared separately and delivered personally or by certified mail to the owner or the owner's authorized agent within ten days after the work of improvement is agreed upon. The notice, whether included in a written contract or separately given, must be in at least 10-point bold type, if printed, or in capital letters, if typewritten and must state as follows:

"(a) Any person or company supplying labor or materials for this improvement to your property may file a lien against your property if that person or company is not paid for the contributions.

(b) Under Minnesota law, you have the right to pay persons who supplied labor or materials for this improvement directly and deduct this amount from our contract price, or withhold the amounts due them from us until 120 days after completion of the improvement unless we give you a lien waiver signed by persons who supplied any labor or material for the improvement and who gave you timely notice."

A person who fails to provide the notice shall not have the lien and remedy provided by this chapter.

The notice required by this subdivision is not required of any person who is an owner of the improved real estate, to any corporate contractor of which the owner of the improved real estate is an officer or controlling shareholder, to any contractor who is an officer or controlling shareholder of a corporation which is the owner of the improved real estate, or to any corporate contractor managed or controlled by substantially the same persons who manage or control a corporation which is the owner of the improved real estate.

Subdivision 2. Subcontractor to give notice.

(a) Every person who contributes to the improvement of real property so as to be entitled to a lien pursuant to section 514.01, except a party under direct contract with the owner must, as a necessary prerequisite to the validity of any claim or lien, cause to be given to the owner or the owner's authorized agent, either by personal delivery or by certified mail, not later than 45 days after the lien claimant has first furnished labor, skill or materials for the improvement, a written notice in at least 10-point bold type, if printed, or in capital letters, if typewritten, which shall state:

"This notice is to advise you of your rights under Minnesota law in connection with the improvement to your property.

Any person or company supplying labor or materials for this improvement may file a lien against your property if that person or company is not paid for the contributions.

We _____ (name and address of subcontractor)
have been hired by your contractor _____ (name of your contractor) to
provide or for _____ (type of service) _____ (material) this
improvement.

To the best of our knowledge, we estimate our charges will be _____ (value of service or material)

If we are not paid by your contractor, we can file a claim against your property for the price of our services.

You have the right to pay us directly and deduct this amount from the contract price, or withhold the amount due us from your contractor until 120 days after completion of the improvement unless your contractor gives you a lien waiver signed by me (us).

We may not file a lien if you paid your contractor in full before receiving this notice."

(b) A person entitled to a lien does not lose the right to the lien for failure to strictly comply with this subdivision if a good faith effort is made to comply, unless the owner or another lien claimant proves damage as a direct result of the failure to comply.

Subdivision 3. Material suppliers, may request information.

A contractor who contracts with any subcontractors or material suppliers to provide labor, skill or materials for the improvement shall upon request provide the subcontractor or material supplier with the name and address of the owner within 10 days of the initial request. Any contractor who fails to supply the information requested

pursuant to this subdivision, is liable for any actual damages sustained or expenses incurred by the subcontractor or material supplier because of the contractor's failure to provide the information, plus reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Subdivision 4.

[Repealed, 1981 c 213 s 4]

Subdivision 4a. Exceptions; same ownership.

The notice required by this section shall not be required to be given where the contractor is managed or controlled by substantially the same persons who manage or control the owner of the improved real estate.

Subdivision 4b. Exceptions; multiple dwelling.

The notice required by this section shall not be required to be given in connection with an improvement to real property consisting of or providing more than four family units when the improvement is wholly residential in character.

Subdivision 4c. Exceptions; nonagricultural and nonresidential real estate.

The notice required by this section shall not be required to be given in connection with an improvement to real property which is not in agricultural use and which is wholly or partially nonresidential in use if the work or improvement:

(a) is to provide or add more than 5,000 total usable square feet of floor space; or

(b) is an improvement to real property where the existing property contains more than 5,000 total usable square feet of floor space; or

(c) is an improvement to real property which contains more than 5,000 square feet and does not involve the construction of a new building or an addition to or the improvement of an existing building.

For the purposes of this subdivision, "agricultural use" shall have the meaning given to it in section 473H.02, subdivision 3.

For the purposes of clause (c), improvements include, but are not limited to, clearing, excavating, grading, filling in, landscaping, well digging, drilling or repairing, paving, surfacing or striping parking lots, digging or repairing a ditch, drain, or reservoir.

Subdivision 5. Owner defined.

For the purposes of this section, "owner" means the owner of any legal or equitable interest in real property whose interest in the property (1) is known to one who contributes to the improvement of the real property, or (2) has been recorded or filed for record if registered land, and who enters into a contract for the improvement of the real property.

Subdivision 6.

[Repealed, 1989 c 160 s 4]

514.02. NONPAYMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT; PENALTIES AND REMEDIES.

Subdivision 1. Proceeds of payments; acts constituting theft.

(a) Proceeds of payments received by a person contributing to an improvement to real estate within the meaning of section 514.01 shall be held in trust by that person for the benefit of those persons who furnished the labor, skill, material, or machinery contributing to the improvement. Proceeds of the payment are not subject to garnishment, execution, levy, or attachment. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall require money to be placed in a separate account and not commingled with other money of the person receiving payment or create a fiduciary liability or tort liability on the part of any person receiving payment or entitle any person to an award of punitive damages among persons contributing to an improvement to real estate under section 514.01 for a violation of this subdivision.

(b) If a person fails to use the proceeds of a payment made to that person for the improvement, for the payment for labor, skill, material, and machinery contributed to the improvement, knowing that the cost of the labor performed, or skill, material, or machinery furnished remains unpaid, and who has not furnished the person making such payment either a valid lien waiver under section 514.07, or a payment bond in the basic amount of the contract price for the improvement, conditioned for the prompt payment to any person entitled thereto for the performance of labor or the furnishing of skill, material, or machinery for the improvement,

shall be guilty of theft of the proceeds of the payment and is punishable under section 609.52. For an improvement to residential real estate made by a person licensed, or who should be licensed, under section 326B.805, a shareholder, officer, director, or agent of a corporation who is responsible for the theft shall be guilty of theft of the proceeds.

(c) The penalties and remedies provided in this section do not apply to a third party who receives a payment in the ordinary course of business.

(d) For purposes of this section, "residential real estate" has the meaning given in section 326B.802.

Subdivision 1a. Civil action.

A person injured by a violation of subdivision 1 may bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and disbursements, including costs of investigation and reasonable attorney fees, and receive other relief as determined by the court, including, without limitation, equitable tracing. A civil action under this subdivision may be brought:

(1) against the person who committed the theft under subdivision 1; and

(2) for an improvement to residential real estate made by a person licensed, or who should be licensed, under section 326B.805, against a shareholder, officer, director, or agent of a corporation who is not responsible for the theft but who knowingly receives proceeds of the payment as salary, dividend, loan repayment, capital distribution, or otherwise.

Subdivision 2. Notice of nonpayment.

Notice of nonpayment of the cost of labor, skill, material, and machinery contributing to the improvement of the real estate to the person paid for such improvement may be given by the person who made payment for such improvement, or by any person furnishing the labor, skill, material, or machinery contributing to the improvement and who has not been paid for the contribution. Notice may be given in any reasonable manner. Notice shall be in writing and in any terms that identify the real estate improved and the nonpayment complained of.

Subdivision 3. Proof of knowledge of nonpayment.

Proof that such person failed to pay for labor performed, or skill, material, or machinery furnished within 15 days after receiving notice that the cost of such labor performed, or skill, material, or machinery furnished remains unpaid will be sufficient to sustain a finding that the proceeds of such payment were used for a purpose other than the payment for labor, skill, material, and machinery for such improvement, knowing that the costs of labor performed, or skill, material, or machinery furnished remains unpaid, unless the person;

(1) Establishes that all proceeds received from the person making such payment have been applied to the cost of labor, skill, material, or machinery furnished for the improvement; or

(2) Within 15 days after receiving notice shall give a bond or make a deposit with the court administrator of district court, in an amount and form approved by a judge of district court, to hold harmless the owner or person having the improvement made from any claim for payment of anyone furnishing labor, skill, material, or machinery for such improvement.

514.03. EXTENT AND AMOUNT OF LIEN.

Subdivision 1. Notice not required.

With respect to any contract or improvement as to which notice is not required by section 514.011, the lien shall be as follows:

(a) If the contribution is made under a contract with the owner and for an agreed price, the lien as against the owner shall be for the sum agreed upon.

(b) In all other cases, it shall be for the reasonable value of the work done, and of the skill, material, and machinery furnished.

Subdivision 2. Notice required.

With respect to any contract or improvement as to which notice is required by section 514.011, the lien shall be as follows:

(a) If the contribution is made under a contract with the owner and for an agreed price, the lien as against the owner shall be for the sum agreed upon;

(b) In all other cases, it shall be for the reasonable value of the work done, and of the skill, material, and machinery furnished. Provided, however:

(c) The total sum of all liens, whether the contribution is made under a contract with the owner or otherwise, shall not exceed the total of said contract price plus the contract price or reasonable value of any additional contract or contracts between the owner and the contractor or additional work ordered by the owner, less the total of the following:

(i) Payments made by the owner or the owner's agent to the contractor prior to receiving any notice prescribed by section 514.011, subdivision 2;

(ii) Payments made by the owner or the owner's agent to discharge any lien claims as authorized by section 514.07; and

(iii) Payments made by the owner or the owner's agent pursuant to presentation of valid lien waivers from persons or companies contributing to the improvement who have previously given the notice required by section 514.011, subdivision 2.

Subdivision 3. All title, interest.

The lien shall extend to all the interest and title of the owner in and to the premises improved, not exceeding 80 acres, except in the case of homesteaded agricultural land as used in section 273.13, subdivision 23, where the lien shall be limited to 40 acres.

514.04. LINES OF RAILWAY, TELEGRAPH, OR SIMILAR PROJECTS.

If such contribution be thus made for the construction, alteration, or repair of any line of railway, or any structure or appurtenance of such railway, or of any telegraph, telephone, or electric light line, or of any line of pipe, conduit, or subway, or any appliance or fixture pertaining to either, the person performing such labor, or furnishing such skill, material, or machinery, shall have a like lien upon the lines so improved, and upon all the rights, franchises, and privileges of the owner appertaining thereto.

514.05. WHEN LIEN ATTACHES; NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. Generally.

All liens, as against the owner of the land, shall attach and take effect from the time the first item of material or labor is furnished upon the premises for the beginning of the improvement, and shall be preferred to any mortgage or other encumbrance not then of record, unless the lienholder had actual notice thereof. As against a bona fide purchaser, mortgagee, or encumbrancer without actual or record notice, no lien shall attach prior to the actual and visible beginning of the improvement on the ground, but a person having a contract for the furnishing of labor, skill, material, or machinery for the improvement, may file for record with the county recorder of the county within which the premises are situated, or, if claimed under section 514.04, with the secretary of state, a brief statement of the nature of the contract, which statement shall be notice of that person's lien only.

Subdivision 2. Exception.

Visible staking, engineering, land surveying, and soil testing services do not constitute the actual and visible beginning of the improvement on the ground referred to in this section. This subdivision does not affect the validity of the liens of a person or the notice provision provided in this chapter and affects only the determination of when the actual and visible beginning of the improvement on the ground, as the term is used in subdivision 1, has commenced.

514.06. TITLE OF VENDOR OR CONSENTING OWNER, SUBJECT TO.

When land is sold under an executory contract requiring the vendee to improve the same, and such contract is forfeited or surrendered after liens have attached by reason of such improvements, the title of the vendor shall be subject thereto; but the vendor shall not be personally liable if the contract was made in good faith. When improvements are made by one person upon the land of another, all persons interested therein otherwise than as bona fide prior encumbrancers or lienors shall be deemed to have authorized such improvements, in so far as to subject their interests to liens therefor. Any person who has not authorized the same may protect that

person's interest from such liens by serving upon the persons doing work or otherwise contributing to such improvement within five days after knowledge thereof, written notice that the improvement is not being made at that person's instance, or by posting like notice, and keeping the same posted, in a conspicuous place on the premises. The service may be made by personal service or by certified mail to the last known address of the person doing work or otherwise contributing to the improvement. Mailed service is effective when mailed. As against a lessor no lien is given for repairs made by or at the instance of the lessee.

514.07. PAYMENTS WITHHELD; LIEN WAIVERS.

The owner may withhold from the owner's contractor as much of the contract price as may be necessary to meet the demands of all persons, other than the contractor, having a lien upon the premises for labor, skill, or material furnished for the improvement, and for which the contractor is liable. The owner may pay and discharge all these liens and deduct the cost of them from the contract price. No owner shall be required to pay the owner's contractor until the expiration of 120 days from the completion of the improvement, except to the extent that the contractor furnishes to the owner waivers of claims for mechanics' liens signed by persons who furnished labor, skill or material for the improvement and who have given the notice required by section 514.011, subdivision 2. The owner, within 15 days after the completion of the contract, may require any person having a lien hereunder, by written request therefor, to furnish to the owner an itemized and verified account of the person's lien claim, the amount of it, and the person's name and address. No action or other proceeding may be commenced for the enforcement of the lien until ten days after the statement is furnished. The word "owner," as used in this section, includes any person interested in the premises other than as a lienor.

514.08. STATEMENT; NOTICE; NECESSITY FOR RECORDING; CONTENTS.

Subdivision 1. Notice required.

The lien ceases at the end of 120 days after doing the last of the work, or furnishing the last item of skill, material, or machinery, unless within this period:

(1) a statement of the claim is filed for record with the county recorder or, if registered land, with the registrar of titles of the county in which the improved premises are situated, or, if the claim is made under section 514.04, with the secretary of state; and

(2) a copy of the statement is served personally or by certified mail on the owner or the owner's authorized agent or the person who entered into the contract with the contractor.

Subdivision 2. Statement by lien claimant; requirements.

Such statement shall be made by or at the instance of the lien claimant, be verified by the oath of some person shown by such verification to have knowledge of the facts stated, and shall set forth:

(1) a notice of intention to claim and hold a lien, and the amount thereof;

(2) that such amount is due and owing to the claimant for labor performed, or for skill, material, or machinery furnished, and for what improvement the same was done or supplied;

(3) the names of the claimant, and of the person for or to whom performed or furnished;

(4) the dates when the first and last items of the claimant's contribution to the improvement were made;

(5) a description of the premises to be charged, identifying the same with reasonable certainty;

(6) the name of the owner thereof at the time of making such statement, according to the best information then had;

(7) the post office address of the claimant. (The failure to insert such post office address shall not invalidate the lien statement);

(8) that claimant acknowledges that a copy of the statement must be served personally or by certified mail within the 120-day period provided in this section on the owner, the owner's authorized agent or the person who entered into the contract with the contractor as provided herein; and

(9) that notice as required by section 514.011, subdivision 2, if any, was given.

When the claimant files the notice, the Social Security number of an individual owner or the Internal Revenue Service taxpayer identification number for an owner other than an individual is not required.

514.09. TWO OR MORE BUILDINGS.

A lienholder who has contributed to the erection, alteration, removal, or repair of two or more buildings or other improvements situated upon or removed to one lot, or upon or to adjoining lots, under or pursuant to the purposes of one general contract with the owner, may file one statement for the entire claim, embracing the whole area so improved; or, if so electing, the lienholder may apportion the demand between the several improvements, and assert a lien for a proportionate part upon each, and upon the ground appurtenant to each, respectively.

514.10. FORECLOSURE OF LIENS.

Such liens may be enforced by action in the district court of the county in which the improved premises or some part thereof are situated, or, if claimed under section 514.04, of any county through or into which the railway or other line extends, which action shall be begun and conducted in the same manner as actions for the foreclosure of mortgages upon real estate, except as herein otherwise provided, but the owner or any person or party having an interest in or lien upon the property against which a lien has been filed under the provisions of this chapter may bring an action to remove the lien in the nature of an action to determine adverse claims and subject to all the provisions of law regarding actions to determine adverse claims.

When an action has been brought, either by the lien claimant to enforce the lien or by the owner, person or party having an interest in or a lien upon the property against which a lien claim has been filed to determine adverse claims, as provided herein, application may be made at any time after such action has been commenced by any of the persons or parties above mentioned to have the property affected by any such lien, released from the lien by giving ten days' notice, or such other and shorter notice as the court may order and direct, to the lien claimant, or the lien claimant's attorney, of intention to apply to the district court for the release of such lien and of the time and place of hearing. Upon a hearing upon an application the court shall fix a sum of money or an amount of a bond from a surety listed on the United States Department of Treasury Circular 570 made payable upon the entry of judgment as provided in this section to be deposited by the applicant with the court administrator of the district court, which sum shall not be less than the aggregate amount of, (1) the amount claimed in the lien statement, (2) \$18 for every \$100 or fraction thereof, to cover interest, (3) the probable disbursements in an action to enforce the claim for which the lien statement was filed, (4) an amount not less than double the amount of attorneys' fees allowed upon the foreclosure under section 582.01, to cover any allowance the court may make upon the trial for costs and attorneys' fees in the action or upon appeal. Upon making a deposit in the amount so fixed in the order of court, an order shall be made by the court releasing the premises described in the statement thereof from the effect of such lien. The lien claimant shall have the same right of lien against such money or bond deposit as against the property released. The order releasing the lien may be filed in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, if registered land, of the county in which the lien statement is recorded or filed, and thereupon the premises affected shall be released therefrom. The court shall by the same order discharge any notice of lis pendens filed in any action in which such lien may be asserted if it appears that all mechanics' liens filed or recorded against the property covered by the lis pendens have been released.

After the release of the property affected, the judgment ordered in any action either to enforce such lien or determine adverse claims and remove such lien, in the event that the lien is established, shall provide that it be paid, and it shall be paid without further proceedings out of the deposit made as provided herein. The judgment of the district court establishing a lien, unless a written notice of intention to appeal therefrom is served on the court administrator of the district court within 30 days from the entry of such judgment, shall be authority to such court administrator to pay the amount specified in such judgment to the persons entitled thereto, or their attorney of record in the action from the amount of money on deposit or to allow the claimant to collect on the bond that has been deposited. The balance of the deposit of money or bond, if any, shall be returned to the depositor. If the lien was not a valid and enforceable one, the judgment shall direct the return of the whole deposit to the depositor unless the claimant obtains judgment against such depositor personally and in such case the judgment shall be paid as hereinbefore specified.

514.11. COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION; PROCEEDINGS.

The action may be commenced by any lienholder who has filed a lien statement for record and served a copy thereof on the owner pursuant to section 514.08, and all other such lienholders shall be made defendants therein. The summons shall state that the complaint has been filed with the court administrator and shall be of no effect unless such complaint be in fact so filed. It shall contain a notice that the action is brought to foreclose a lien, giving the amount thereof, and a brief description of the premises affected, and of the improvement out of which the lien arose, and shall require each defendant to file an answer to the complaint with the court administrator within 20 days after service on the defendant. Such answer, in addition to all other matters proper to be pleaded, shall set up any lien claimed by the defendant, and demand the enforcement thereof. No copies of such complaint or answer need be served on any party, upon demand or otherwise, and all averments of the answer shall be taken as denied without further pleading.

514.12. NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS.**Subdivision 1. Recording.**

At the beginning of the action the plaintiff shall file for record with the county recorder or, if registered land, with the registrar of titles of the county in which it is brought, and of the several counties if the lien be claimed under section 514.04, a notice of the pendency thereof, embracing therein a copy of the summons, omitting the caption.

Subdivision 2. One action for all.

After such filing, no other action shall be commenced for the enforcement of any lien arising from the improvement described, but all such lienholders shall intervene in the original action by answer, as provided in section 514.11. Any such lienholder not named as a defendant may answer the complaint and be admitted as a party. If more than one action shall be commenced in good faith, all shall be consolidated and tried as one, under such order of the court as may best protect the rights of all parties concerned.

Subdivision 3. One-year limitation.

No lien shall be enforced in any case unless the holder thereof shall assert the same, either by filing a complaint or answer with the court administrator, within one year after the date of the last item of the claim as set forth in the recorded lien statement; and, no person shall be bound by any judgment in such action unless made a party thereto within the year; and, as to a bona fide purchaser, mortgagee, or encumbrancer without notice, the absence from the record of a notice of lis pendens of an action after the expiration of the year in which the lien could be so asserted shall be conclusive evidence that the lien may no longer be enforced and, in the case of registered land, the registrar of titles shall refrain from carrying forward to new certificates of title the memorials of lien statements when no such notice of lis pendens has been registered within the period.

514.13. STATUTORY LIENHOLDER RIGHTS; NONEXCLUSIVE.

The rights granted by this chapter are nonexclusive. No failure to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall affect the right of any person to recover, in an ordinary civil action, from the party with whom a contract was made.

514.135. COMPUTATION OF INTEREST ON CLAIMS.

Except as otherwise provided by contract, interest awarded on mechanics' lien claims shall be calculated at the legal rate, as provided in section 334.01, from the time the underlying obligation arises until the expiration of 30 days after the claimant's last item of labor, skill, or materials was furnished to the improvement and shall be calculated thereafter at the rate computed for verdicts and judgments, as provided in section 549.09.

514.14. POSTPONEMENT, JUDGMENT, SUBROGATION.

If upon the trial of such action, or at any time before the execution of final judgment therein, it shall transpire that any proper party who may still be brought in has been omitted, or that any party then entitled to answer has not yet appeared, or that for any other reason the trial or judgment should be delayed, or the judgment as

ordered or entered be modified, the court may postpone the trial, or make such other or further order in the premises as shall be just. If it be found that any indebtedness for which a lien is demanded be not then due, the same shall be allowed for the amount of its present worth. Judgment shall be given in favor of each lienholder for the amount demanded and proved, with costs and disbursements to be fixed by the court at the trial, and such amount shall not be included in the lien of any other party; but if, after judgment, a lienholder who is personally indebted for the amount of any lien so adjudged in favor of another shall pay such indebtedness, the lienholder shall thereby become subrogated to the rights of the person so paid.

514.15. JUDGMENT, SALE, REDEMPTION.

The judgment shall direct a sale of the real estate or other property for the satisfaction of all liens charged thereon, and the manner of such sale, subject to the rights of all persons which are paramount to such liens or any of them. It shall require the officer making such sale to pay over and distribute the proceeds of the sale, after deducting all lawful charges and expenses, to and among the lienors to the amount of their respective claims, if there is sufficient therefor; and if there is not sufficient then to divide and distribute the same among the several lienors in proportion to the amount due to each, and without priority among themselves. If the estate sold be a leasehold having not more than two years to run, or be the interest of a vendee under an executory contract of sale the conditions whereof are to be performed within the same period, no redemption shall be allowed; in all other cases the right of redemption shall be the same as upon execution sales under section 550.24, except that the period of redemption shall be six months from the date the sale is confirmed by the court. No sale shall be deemed complete until reported to and confirmed by the court.

514.16. SEVERANCE OF BUILDING, RESALE, RECEIVER.

If, without material injury to the building or other improvement to which the lienholder has contributed, the same can be severed and removed from the land, the judgment, in the discretion of the court, may direct the sale of such improvement, with the privilege to the purchaser of removing the same at any time within 60 days, unless before such removal the owner or other person interested in the land shall pay to the sheriff, for the purchaser, the amount realized from the sale, with interest and all expenses incurred toward such removal. If in any case the sale be not confirmed, the court may direct a resale, or, if deemed best, may appoint a receiver to lease or otherwise handle the property, under its direction, in the interests of all persons concerned. And in all cases of liens arising under section 514.04, such receivership may be created in the first instance instead of directing a sale of the property.

514.17. MINERS.

Whoever performs labor, or furnishes any skill, material, or machinery, in or about the opening or working of any mine, at the request of the owner thereof, or of the lessee of such owner, or of any contractor with either, shall have a lien for the value thereof upon the interest of such owner or lessee, as the case may be, in the mine and its appurtenances, which lien may be asserted and enforced as in this chapter prescribed in respect to other liens upon real estate.

PERSONALTY IN POSSESSION

514.18. RETAINING.

Subdivision 1. Mechanics' lien on personal property.

Whoever, at the request of the owner or legal possessor of any personal property, shall store or care for or contribute in any of the modes mentioned in section 514.19 to its preservation, care, or to the enhancement of its value, shall have a lien upon such property for the price or value of such storage, care, or contribution, and for any legal charges against the same paid by such person to any other person, and the right to retain possession of the property until such lien is lawfully discharged.

Subdivision 1a.

[Renumbered 168B.045]

Subdivision 2. Nonpossessory lien; notice.

Notwithstanding the voluntary surrender or other loss of possession of the property on which the lien is claimed, the person entitled thereto may preserve the lien upon giving notice of the lien at any time within 60 days after the surrender or loss of possession, by filing in the appropriate filing office under the Uniform Commercial Code, Minnesota Statutes, section 336.9-501 a verified statement and notice of intention to claim a lien. The statement shall contain a description of the property upon which the lien is claimed, the work performed or materials furnished and the amount due.

Subdivision 3. Priority; security; interest; foreclosure.

The lien shall be valid against everyone except a purchaser or encumbrancer in good faith without notice and for value whose rights were acquired prior to the filing of the lien statement and who has filed a statement of interest in the appropriate filing office. The lien shall be considered a security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code and foreclosure thereon shall be in the manner prescribed for security interests under article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Subdivision 4. Motor vehicles excluded.

Subdivisions 2 and 3 shall apply to machinery, implements and tools of all kinds but shall not apply to motor vehicles.

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