

§4387. Qualified financial contracts

1. Qualified financial contracts. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, including any other provision of this chapter permitting the modification of contracts, or other provision of law to the contrary, a person may not be stayed or prohibited from exercising:

A. A contractual right to cause the termination, liquidation, acceleration or closeout of obligations under or in connection with any netting agreement or qualified financial contract with an insurer because of:

(1) The insolvency, financial condition or default of the insurer at any time, if the right is enforceable under applicable law other than this chapter; or

(2) The commencement of a formal delinquency proceeding under this chapter; [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

B. Any right under a pledge, security, collateral, reimbursement or guarantee agreement or arrangement or any other similar security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement relating to one or more netting agreements or qualified financial contracts; [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

C. Subject to section 4381, subsection 2, any right to offset, set off or net out any termination value, payment amount or other transfer obligation arising under or in connection with one or more qualified financial contracts when the counterparty or its guarantor is organized under the laws of the United States or a state or a foreign jurisdiction approved by the Securities Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners as eligible for netting; or [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

D. If a counterparty to a master netting agreement or a qualified financial contract with an insurer subject to a proceeding under this chapter terminates, liquidates, closes out or accelerates the agreement or contract, damages must be measured as of the date or dates of termination, liquidation, closeout or acceleration. The amount of a claim for damages is the actual direct compensatory damages calculated in accordance with subsection 6. [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

2. Termination of contract. Upon termination of a netting agreement or qualified financial contract, the net or settlement amount, if any, owed by a nondefaulting party to an insurer that is the subject of a delinquency proceeding under this chapter must be transferred to or on the order of the receiver for the insurer, even if the insurer is the defaulting party, notwithstanding any walkaway clause in the netting agreement or qualified financial contract. For purposes of this subsection, "walkaway clause" means a provision in a netting agreement or a qualified financial contract that, after calculation of a value of a party's position or an amount due to or from one of the parties in accordance with its terms upon termination, liquidation or acceleration of the netting agreement or qualified financial contract, either does not create a payment obligation of a party or extinguishes a payment obligation of a party in whole or in part solely because of the party's status as a nondefaulting party. Any limited 2-way payment or first method provision in a netting agreement or qualified financial contract with an insurer that has defaulted is considered to be a full 2-way payment or 2nd method provision as against the defaulting insurer. Any such property or amount, except to the extent it is subject to one or more secondary liens or encumbrances or rights of netting, offset or setoff, must be a general asset of the insurer.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

3. Transfer of contract. In making any transfer of a netting agreement or qualified financial contract of an insurer subject to a proceeding under this chapter, the receiver shall either:

A. Transfer to one party, other than an insurer subject to a delinquency proceeding under this chapter, all netting agreements and qualified financial contracts between a counterparty or any affiliate of the counterparty and the insurer that is the subject of the proceeding, including:

- (1) All rights and obligations of each party under each netting agreement and qualified financial contract; and
- (2) All property, including any guarantees or other credit enhancement, securing any claims of each party under each netting agreement and qualified financial contract; or [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

B. Transfer none of the netting agreements, qualified financial contracts, rights, obligations or property referred to in paragraph A with respect to the counterparty and any affiliate of the counterparty. [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

4. Notice. If a receiver for an insurer makes a transfer of one or more netting agreements or qualified financial contracts, then the receiver must use its best efforts to notify any person who is a party to the netting agreements or qualified financial contracts of the transfer by noon, the receiver's local time, on the business day following the transfer. For purposes of this subsection, "business day" means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any day on which the New York Stock Exchange or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is closed.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

5. Transfer prior to delinquency. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and except as provided in this subsection, a receiver may not avoid a transfer of money or other property arising under or in connection with a netting agreement or qualified financial contract or any pledge, security, collateral or guarantee agreement or any other similar security arrangement or credit support document relating to a netting agreement or qualified financial contract that is made before the commencement of a delinquency proceeding under this chapter. A transfer may be avoided under section 4375-A, subsection 1, paragraph A if the transfer was made with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud the insurer, a receiver appointed for the insurer or existing or future creditors.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

6. Rights of disaffirmance or repudiation. Disaffirmance or repudiation is governed by this subsection.

A. In exercising the rights of disaffirmance or repudiation of a receiver with respect to any netting agreement or qualified financial contract to which an insurer is a party, the receiver for the insurer shall either:

- (1) Disaffirm or repudiate all netting agreements and qualified financial contracts between a counterparty or any affiliate of the counterparty and the insurer that is the subject of the proceeding; or
- (2) Disaffirm or repudiate none of the netting agreements and qualified financial contracts referred to in subparagraph (1) with respect to the person or any affiliate of the person. [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any claim of a counterparty against the estate arising from the receiver's disaffirmance or repudiation of a netting agreement or qualified financial contract that has not been previously affirmed in the liquidation or immediately preceding rehabilitation proceeding must be determined and either allowed or disallowed:

- (1) As if the claim had arisen before the date of the filing of the petition for liquidation;
- (2) If a rehabilitation proceeding is converted to a liquidation proceeding, as if the claim had arisen before the date of the filing of the petition for rehabilitation; or

(3) As if the claim had arisen before the issuance of any order or the commencement of any summary proceeding under this chapter.

The amount of the claim is the actual direct compensatory damages determined as of the date of the disaffirmance or repudiation of the netting agreement or qualified financial contract. "Actual direct compensatory damages" does not include punitive or exemplary damages, damages for lost profit or lost opportunity or damages for pain and suffering, but does include normal and reasonable costs of cover or other reasonable measures of damages used in the derivatives, securities or other market for the contract and agreement claims. [PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

7. Contractual right defined. "Contractual right," as used in this section, includes any right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization as defined in the federal Commodity Exchange Act, a multilateral clearing organization as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency or a contract market designated under the federal Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the federal Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade as defined in the federal Commodity Exchange Act or in a resolution of the governing board thereof and any right, whether or not evidenced in writing, arising under statutory or common law, or under law merchant, or by reason of normal business practice.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

8. Affiliates. This section does not apply to any persons who are affiliates of the insurer that is the subject of the proceeding.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

9. Rights of counterparties. All rights of counterparties under this chapter apply to netting agreements and qualified financial contracts entered into on behalf of the general account or separate accounts if the assets of each separate account are available only to counterparties to netting agreements and qualified financial contracts entered into on behalf of that separate account.

[PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 107, §3 (NEW).

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 First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. 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.