HOUSE BILL 1068

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Pedersen and Rodne; by request of Washington State Bar Association

Prefiled 01/06/09. Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington business corporation act; 2. amending RCW 23B.01.410, 23B.02.020, 23B.02.050, 23B.02.060, 23B.06.020, 23B.06.040, 23B.06.210, 23B.06.220, 23B.06.260, 23B.06.310, 3 23B.06.400, 23B.07.030, 23B.07.040, 23B.07.060, 23B.07.070, 23B.07.200, 4 5 23B.07.250, 23B.07.260, 23B.07.270, 23B.07.280, 23B.07.320, 23B.08.030, 6 23B.08.210, 23B.08.230, 23B.08.240, 23B.08.250, 23B.08.500, 23B.08.550, 7 23B.08.700, 23B.10.020, 23B.10.060, 23B.10.070, 23B.10.080, 23B.10.200, 23B.10.205, 23B.10.210, 23B.11.030, 23B.11.040, 23B.12.020, 23B.13.020, 8 9 23B.13.200, 23B.13.210, 23B.13.220, 23B.13.240, 23B.13.260, 23B.13.270, 23B.13.280, 23B.14.010, 23B.14.020, 23B.14.030, 23B.14.040, 23B.14.050, 10 11 23B.16.010, 23B.16.020, and 23B.19.040; and reenacting and amending RCW 23B.01.400. 12
- 13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 14 Sec. 1. RCW 23B.01.400 and 2002 c 297 s 9 and 2002 c 296 s 1 are 15 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 16 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in 17 this section apply throughout this title.
- 18 (1) "Articles of incorporation" include amended and restated 19 articles of incorporation and articles of merger.

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1 (2) "Authorized shares" means the shares of all classes a domestic 2 or foreign corporation is authorized to issue.

- (3) "Conspicuous" means so prepared that a reasonable person against whom the record is to operate should have noticed it. For example, printing in italics or boldface or contrasting color, or typing in capitals or underlined, is conspicuous.
- (4) "Corporate action" means any resolution, act, policy, contract, transaction, plan, adoption or amendment of articles of incorporation or bylaws, or other matter approved by or submitted for approval to a corporation's incorporators, board of directors or a committee thereof, or shareholders.
- (5) "Corporation" or "domestic corporation" means a corporation for profit, which is not a foreign corporation, incorporated under or subject to the provisions of this title.
- (((5))) <u>(6)</u> "Deliver" includes (a) mailing, (b) for purposes of delivering a demand, consent, notice, or waiver to the corporation or one of its officers, directors, or shareholders, transmission by facsimile equipment, and (c) for purposes of delivering a demand, consent, notice, or waiver to the corporation or one of its officers, directors, or shareholders under RCW 23B.01.410 or chapter 23B.07, 23B.08, 23B.11, 23B.13, 23B.14, or 23B.16 RCW delivery by electronic transmission.
- (((+6))) (7) "Distribution" means a direct or indirect transfer of money or other property, except its own shares, or incurrence of indebtedness by a corporation to or for the benefit of its shareholders in respect to any of its shares. A distribution may be in the form of a declaration or payment of a dividend; a distribution in partial or complete liquidation, or upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution; a purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of shares; a distribution of indebtedness; or otherwise.
- $((\frac{7}{}))$ (8) "Effective date of notice" has the meaning provided in RCW 23B.01.410.
- $((\frac{(8)}{(9)}))$ "Electronic transmission" means an electronic communication (a) not directly involving the physical transfer of a record in a tangible medium and (b) that may be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by the sender and the recipient thereof, and that may be directly reproduced in a tangible medium by such a sender and recipient.

- $((\frac{9}{}))$ (10) "Electronically transmitted" means the initiation of 2 an electronic transmission.
- 3 (((10))) <u>(11)</u> "Employee" includes an officer but not a director. 4 A director may accept duties that make the director also an employee.

- (((11))) <u>(12)</u> "Entity" includes a corporation and foreign corporation, not-for-profit corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, two or more persons having a joint or common economic interest, the state, United States, and a foreign governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- $((\frac{(12)}{)})$ (13) "Execute," "executes," or "executed" means (a) signed with respect to a written record or (b) electronically transmitted along with sufficient information to determine the sender's identity with respect to an electronic transmission, or (c) with respect to a record to be filed with the secretary of state, in compliance with the standards for filing with the office of the secretary of state as prescribed by the secretary of state.
- $((\frac{(13)}{(14)}))$ "Foreign corporation" means a corporation for profit incorporated under a law other than the law of this state.
 - $((\frac{14}{1}))$ (15) "Foreign limited partnership" means a partnership formed under laws other than of this state and having as partners one or more general partners and one or more limited partners.
- $((\frac{(15)}{)})$ <u>(16)</u> "Governmental subdivision" includes authority, 24 county, district, and municipality.
 - $((\frac{16}{16}))$ (17) "Includes" denotes a partial definition.
- $((\frac{17}{17}))$ (18) "Individual" includes the estate of an incompetent or deceased individual.
 - $((\frac{18}{18}))$ <u>(19)</u> "Limited partnership" or "domestic limited partnership" means a partnership formed by two or more persons under the laws of this state and having one or more general partners and one or more limited partners.
 - $((\frac{(19)}{(19)}))$ <u>(20)</u> "Means" denotes an exhaustive definition.
- $((\frac{20}{20}))$ (21) "Notice" has the meaning provided in RCW 23B.01.410.
- (((21))) <u>(22)</u> "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

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 $((\frac{(22)}{)})$ <u>(23)</u> "Principal office" means the office, in or out of this state, so designated in the annual report where the principal executive offices of a domestic or foreign corporation are located.

- $((\frac{(23)}{)})$ <u>(24)</u> "Proceeding" includes civil suit and criminal, administrative, and investigatory action.
- $((\frac{24}{1}))$ (25) "Public company" means a corporation that has a class of shares registered with the federal securities and exchange commission pursuant to section 12 or 15 of the securities exchange act of 1934, or section 8 of the investment company act of 1940, or any successor statute.
- $((\frac{25}{1}))$ <u>(26)</u> "Record" means information inscribed on a tangible medium or contained in an electronic transmission.
- $((\frac{26}{1}))$ <u>(27)</u> "Record date" means the date established under chapter 23B.07 RCW on which a corporation determines the identity of its shareholders and their shareholdings for purposes of this title. The determinations shall be made as of the close of business on the record date unless another time for doing so is specified when the record date is fixed.
- $((\frac{27}{1}))$ (28) "Secretary" means the corporate officer to whom the board of directors has delegated responsibility under RCW 23B.08.400(3) for custody of the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors and of the shareholders and for authenticating records of the corporation.
- $((\frac{(28)}{)})$ "Shares" means the units into which the proprietary 25 interests in a corporation are divided.
 - $((\frac{29}{29}))$ (30) "Shareholder" means the person in whose name shares are registered in the records of a corporation or the beneficial owner of shares to the extent of the rights granted by a nominee certificate on file with a corporation.
 - (((30))) <u>(31)</u> "State," when referring to a part of the United States, includes a state and commonwealth, and their agencies and governmental subdivisions, and a territory and insular possession, and their agencies and governmental subdivisions, of the United States.
 - $((\frac{31}{1}))$ <u>(32)</u> "Subscriber" means a person who subscribes for shares in a corporation, whether before or after incorporation.
- $((\frac{(32)}{)})$ "Tangible medium" means a writing, copy of a writing, or facsimile, or a physical reproduction, each on paper or on other tangible material.

- $((\frac{(33)}{)})$ $\underline{(34)}$ "United States" includes a district, authority, 2 bureau, commission, department, and any other agency of the United 3 States.
 - (((34))) <u>(35)</u> "Voting group" means all shares of one or more classes or series that under the articles of incorporation or this title are entitled to vote and be counted together collectively on a matter at a meeting of shareholders. All shares entitled by the articles of incorporation or this title to vote generally on the matter are for that purpose a single voting group.
- $((\frac{35}{)})$ $\underline{(36)}$ "Writing" does not include an electronic 11 transmission.
- $((\frac{36}{36}))$ "Written" means embodied in a tangible medium.
- **Sec. 2.** RCW 23B.01.410 and 2008 c 59 s 1 are each amended to read 14 as follows:
 - (1) Notice under this title must be provided in the form of a record, except that oral notice of any meeting of the board of directors may be given if expressly authorized by the articles of incorporation or bylaws.
 - (2) Permissible means of transmission.

- (a) Oral notice. Oral notice may be communicated in person, by telephone, wire, or wireless equipment which does not transmit a facsimile of the notice, or by any electronic means which does not create a record. If these forms of oral notice are impracticable, oral notice may be communicated by radio, television, or other form of public broadcast communication.
- (b) Notice provided in a tangible medium. Notice may be provided in a tangible medium and be transmitted by mail, private carrier, or personal delivery; telegraph or teletype; or telephone, wire, or wireless equipment which transmits a facsimile of the notice. If these forms of notice in a tangible medium are impracticable, notice in a tangible medium may be transmitted by an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where published.
 - (c) Notice provided in an electronic transmission.
- 34 (i) Notice may be provided in an electronic transmission and be electronically transmitted.
- 36 (ii) Notice to shareholders or directors in an electronic 37 transmission is effective only with respect to shareholders and

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directors that have consented, in the form of a record, to receive electronically transmitted notices under this title and designated in the consent the address, location, or system to which these notices may be electronically transmitted and with respect to a notice that otherwise complies with any other requirements of this title and applicable federal law.

- (A) Notice to shareholders or directors for this purpose includes material that this title requires to accompany the notice.
- (B) A shareholder or director who has consented to receipt of electronically transmitted notices may revoke this consent by delivering a revocation to the corporation in the form of a record.
- (C) The consent of any shareholder or director is revoked if (I) the corporation is unable to electronically transmit two consecutive notices given by the corporation in accordance with the consent, and (II) this inability becomes known to the secretary of the corporation, the transfer agent, or any other person responsible for giving the notice. The inadvertent failure by the corporation to treat this inability as a revocation does not invalidate any meeting or other corporate action.
- (iii) Notice to shareholders or directors who have consented to receipt of electronically transmitted notices may be provided by (A) posting the notice on an electronic network and (B) delivering to the shareholder or director a separate record of the posting, together with comprehensible instructions regarding how to obtain access to the posting on the electronic network.
- (iv) Notice to a domestic or foreign corporation, authorized to transact business in this state, in an electronic transmission is effective only with respect to a corporation that has designated in a record an address, location, or system to which the notices may be electronically transmitted.
- (d) Materials accompanying notice to shareholders of public companies. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section or any other section of this title, if this title requires that a notice to shareholders be accompanied by certain material, a public company may satisfy such a requirement, whether or not a shareholder has consented to receive electronically transmitted notice, by (i) posting the material on an electronic network (either separate from, or in combination or as part of, any other materials the public company has

posted on the electronic network in compliance with applicable federal 1 2 law) at or prior to the time that the notice is delivered to the public company's shareholders entitled to receive the notice, and (ii) 3 4 delivering to the public company's shareholders entitled to receive the notice a separate record of the posting (which record may accompany, or 5 6 be contained in, the notice), together with comprehensible instructions 7 regarding how to obtain access to the posting on the electronic 8 network. In such a case, the material is deemed to have been delivered 9 to the public company's shareholders at the time the notice to the shareholders is effective under this section. A public company that 10 11 elects pursuant to this section to post on an electronic network any 12 material required by this title to accompany a notice to shareholders 13 is required, at its expense, to provide a copy of the material in a 14 tangible medium (alone or in combination or as part of any other materials the public company has posted on the electronic network in 15 compliance with federal law) to any shareholder entitled to such a 16 17 notice who so requests.

- (3) Effective time and date of notice.
- (a) Oral notice. Oral notice is effective when received.
- (b) Notice provided in a tangible medium.
- 21 (i) Notice in a tangible medium, if in a comprehensible form, is 22 effective at the earliest of the following:
 - (A) If expressly authorized by the articles of incorporation or bylaws, and if notice is sent to the person's address, telephone number, or other number appearing on the records of the corporation, when dispatched by telegraph, teletype, or facsimile equipment;
 - (B) When received;

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- (C) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection, five days after its deposit in the United States mail, as evidenced by the postmark, if mailed with first-class postage, prepaid and correctly addressed; or
- (D) On the date shown on the return receipt, if sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and the receipt is signed by or on behalf of the addressee.
- (ii) Notice in a tangible medium by a domestic or foreign corporation to its shareholder, if in a comprehensible form and correctly addressed to the shareholder's address shown in the corporation's current record of shareholders, is effective:

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- 1 (A) When mailed, if mailed with first-class postage prepaid; and
 - (B) When dispatched, if prepaid, by air courier.

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- (iii) Notice in a tangible medium to a domestic or foreign corporation, authorized to transact business in this state, may be addressed to the corporation's registered agent at its registered office or to the corporation or its secretary at its principal office shown in its most recent annual report, or in the case of a foreign corporation that has not yet delivered its annual report in its application for a certificate of authority.
- (c) Notice provided in an electronic transmission. Notice provided in an electronic transmission, if in comprehensible form, is effective when it: (i) Is electronically transmitted to an address, location, or system designated by the recipient for that purpose; or (ii) has been posted on an electronic network and a separate record of the posting has been delivered to the recipient together with comprehensible instructions regarding how to obtain access to the posting on the electronic network.
- 18 (4) If this title prescribes notice requirements for particular 19 circumstances, those requirements govern. If articles of incorporation 20 or bylaws prescribe notice requirements, not inconsistent with this 21 section or other provisions of this title, those requirements govern.
- 22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 23B.02.020 and 2002 c 297 s 11 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
 - (1) The articles of incorporation must set forth:
- 25 (a) A corporate name for the corporation that satisfies the 26 requirements of RCW 23B.04.010;
 - (b) The number of shares the corporation is authorized to issue in accordance with RCW 23B.06.010 and 23B.06.020;
 - (c) The street address of the corporation's initial registered office and the name of its initial registered agent at that office in accordance with RCW 23B.05.010; and
- 32 (d) The name and address of each incorporator in accordance with 33 RCW 23B.02.010.
- 34 (2) The articles of incorporation or bylaws must either specify the 35 number of directors or specify the process by which the number of 36 directors will be fixed, unless the articles of incorporation dispense 37 with a board of directors pursuant to RCW 23B.08.010.

1 (3) Unless its articles of incorporation provide otherwise, a corporation is governed by the following provisions:

- (a) The board of directors may adopt bylaws to be effective only in an emergency as provided by RCW 23B.02.070;
- (b) A corporation has the purpose of engaging in any lawful business under RCW 23B.03.010;
- (c) A corporation has perpetual existence and succession in its corporate name under RCW 23B.03.020;
- (d) A corporation has the same powers as an individual to do all things necessary or convenient to carry out its business and affairs, including itemized powers under RCW 23B.03.020;
- (e) All shares are of one class and one series, have unlimited voting rights, and are entitled to receive the net assets of the corporation upon dissolution under RCW 23B.06.010 and 23B.06.020;
- (f) If more than one class of shares is authorized, all shares of a class must have preferences, limitations, and relative rights identical to those of other shares of the same class under RCW 23B.06.010;
- (g) If the board of directors is authorized to designate the number of shares in a series, the board may, after the issuance of shares in that series, reduce the number of authorized shares of that series under RCW 23B.06.020;
- (h) The board of directors must ((authorize)) approve any issuance of shares under RCW 23B.06.210;
 - (i) Shares may be issued pro rata and without consideration to shareholders under RCW 23B.06.230;
 - (j) Shares of one class or series may not be issued as a share dividend with respect to another class or series, unless there are no outstanding shares of the class or series to be issued, or a majority of votes entitled to be cast by such class or series approve as provided in RCW 23B.06.230;
 - (k) A corporation may issue rights, options, or warrants for the purchase of shares of the corporation under RCW 23B.06.240;
- 34 (1) A shareholder has, and may waive, a preemptive right to acquire 35 the corporation's unissued shares as provided in RCW 23B.06.300;
- 36 (m) Shares of a corporation acquired by it may be reissued under 37 RCW 23B.06.310;

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1 (n) The board may authorize and the corporation may make distributions not prohibited by statute under RCW 23B.06.400;

- (o) The preferential rights upon dissolution of certain shareholders will be considered a liability for purposes of determining the validity of a distribution under RCW 23B.06.400;
- (p) <u>Corporate action</u> may be ((taken)) <u>approved</u> by shareholders by unanimous consent of all shareholders entitled to vote on the <u>corporate</u> action, unless the approval of a lesser number of shareholders is permitted as provided in RCW 23B.07.040, which <u>shareholder</u> consent shall be in the form of a record;
- (q) Unless this title requires otherwise, the corporation is required to give notice only to shareholders entitled to vote at a meeting and the notice for an annual meeting need not include the purpose for which the meeting is called under RCW 23B.07.050;
- (r) A corporation that is a public company shall hold a special meeting of shareholders if the holders of at least ten percent of the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at the meeting demand a meeting under RCW 23B.07.020;
- (s) Subject to statutory exceptions, each outstanding share, regardless of class, is entitled to one vote on each matter voted on at a shareholders' meeting under RCW 23B.07.210;
- (t) A majority of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter by a voting group constitutes a quorum, unless the title provides otherwise under RCW 23B.07.250 and 23B.07.270;
- (u) <u>Corporate action</u> on a matter, other than election of directors, by a voting group is approved if the votes cast within the voting group favoring the <u>corporate</u> action exceed the votes cast opposing the <u>corporate</u> action, unless this title requires a greater number of affirmative votes under RCW 23B.07.250;
- (v) All shares of one or more classes or series that are entitled to vote will be counted together collectively on any matter at a meeting of shareholders under RCW 23B.07.260;
- 33 (w) Directors are elected by cumulative voting under RCW 34 23B.07.280;
- 35 (x) Directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast by shares 36 entitled to vote under RCW 23B.07.280, except as otherwise provided in 37 the articles of incorporation or a bylaw adopted pursuant to RCW 38 23B.10.205;

1 (y) A corporation must have a board of directors under RCW 2 23B.08.010;

- (z) All corporate powers must be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of the corporation managed under the direction of, its board of directors under RCW 23B.08.010;
- (aa) The shareholders may remove one or more directors with or without cause under RCW 23B.08.080;
 - (bb) A vacancy on the board of directors may be filled by the shareholders or the board of directors under RCW 23B.08.100;
 - (cc) A corporation shall indemnify a director who was wholly successful in the defense of any proceeding to which the director was a party because the director is or was a director of the corporation against reasonable expenses incurred by the director in connection with the proceeding under RCW 23B.08.520;
- (dd) A director of a corporation who is a party to a proceeding may apply for indemnification of reasonable expenses incurred by the director in connection with the proceeding to the court conducting the proceeding or to another court of competent jurisdiction under RCW 23B.08.540;
- (ee) An officer of the corporation who is not a director is entitled to mandatory indemnification under RCW 23B.08.520, and is entitled to apply for court-ordered indemnification under RCW 23B.08.540, in each case to the same extent as a director under RCW 23B.08.570;
- (ff) The corporation may indemnify and advance expenses to an officer, employee, or agent of the corporation who is not a director to the same extent as to a director under RCW 23B.08.570;
 - (gg) A corporation may indemnify and advance expenses to an officer, employee, or agent who is not a director to the extent, consistent with law, that may be provided by its articles of incorporation, bylaws, general or specific ((action)) approval of its board of directors, or contract under RCW 23B.08.570;
 - (hh) A corporation's board of directors may adopt certain amendments to the corporation's articles of incorporation without shareholder ((action)) approval under RCW 23B.10.020;
 - (ii) Unless this title or the board of directors requires a greater vote or a vote by voting groups, an amendment to the corporation's articles of incorporation must be approved by each voting group

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entitled to vote on the proposed amendment by two-thirds, or, in the case of a public company, a majority, of all the votes entitled to be cast by that voting group under RCW 23B.10.030;

- (jj) A corporation's board of directors may amend or repeal the corporation's bylaws unless this title reserves this power exclusively to the shareholders in whole or in part, or unless the shareholders in amending or repealing a bylaw provide expressly that the board of directors may not amend or repeal that bylaw under RCW 23B.10.200;
- (kk) Unless this title or the board of directors require a greater vote or a vote by voting groups, a plan of merger or share exchange must be approved by each voting group entitled to vote on the merger or share exchange by two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast by that voting group under RCW 23B.11.030;
- (11) Approval by the shareholders of the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of all, or substantially all, the corporation's property in the usual and regular course of business is not required under RCW 23B.12.010;
- (mm) Approval by the shareholders of the mortgage, pledge, dedication to the repayment of indebtedness, or other encumbrance of any or all of the corporation's property, whether or not in the usual and regular course of business, is not required under RCW 23B.12.010;
- (nn) Unless the board of directors requires a greater vote or a vote by voting groups, a sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the corporation's property, other than in the usual and regular course of business, must be approved by each voting group entitled to vote on such transaction by two-thirds of all votes entitled to be cast by that voting group under RCW 23B.12.020; and
- (oo) Unless the board of directors requires a greater vote or a vote by voting groups, a proposal to dissolve must be approved by each voting group entitled to vote on the dissolution by two-thirds of all votes entitled to be cast by that voting group under RCW 23B.14.020.
- (4) Unless its articles of incorporation or its bylaws provide otherwise, a corporation is governed by the following provisions:
- (a) The board of directors may ((authorize)) approve the issuance of some or all of the shares of any or all of the corporation's classes or series without certificates under RCW 23B.06.260;

(b) A corporation that is not a public company shall hold a special meeting of shareholders if the holders of at least ten percent of the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at the meeting demand a meeting under RCW 23B.07.020;

- (c) A director need not be a resident of this state or a shareholder of the corporation under RCW 23B.08.020;
- (d) The board of directors may fix the compensation of directors under RCW 23B.08.110;
- (e) Members of the board of directors may participate in a meeting of the board by any means of similar communication by which all directors participating can hear each other during the meeting under RCW 23B.08.200;
 - (f) <u>Corporate action</u> permitted or required by this title to be taken at a board of directors' meeting may be ((taken)) <u>approved</u> without a meeting if ((action is taken)) <u>approved</u> by all members of the board under RCW 23B.08.210;
 - (g) Regular meetings of the board of directors may be held without notice of the date, time, place, or purpose of the meeting under RCW 23B.08.220;
 - (h) Special meetings of the board of directors must be preceded by at least two days' notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting, and the notice need not describe the purpose of the special meeting under RCW 23B.08.220;
 - (i) A quorum of a board of directors consists of a majority of the number of directors under RCW 23B.08.240;
 - (j) If a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of directors present is the act of the board of directors under RCW 23B.08.240;
 - (k) A board of directors may create one or more committees and appoint members of the board of directors to serve on them under RCW 23B.08.250; and
 - (1) Unless approved by the shareholders, a corporation may indemnify, or make advances to, a director for reasonable expenses incurred in the defense of any proceeding to which the director was a party because of being a director only to the extent such action is consistent with RCW 23B.08.500 through 23B.08.580.
- 37 (5) The articles of incorporation may contain the following 38 provisions:

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1 (a) The names and addresses of the individuals who are to serve as initial directors;

- (b) The par value of any authorized shares or classes of shares;
- (c) Provisions not inconsistent with law related to the management of the business and the regulation of the affairs of the corporation;
- (d) Any provision that under this title is required or permitted to be set forth in the bylaws;
- (e) Provisions not inconsistent with law defining, limiting, and regulating the powers of the corporation, its board of directors, and shareholders;
- (f) Provisions authorizing ((shareholder)) corporate action to be ((taken)) approved by consent of less than all of the shareholders entitled to vote on the corporate action, in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040;
- (g) If the articles of incorporation authorize dividing shares into classes, the election of all or a specified number of directors may be effected by the holders of one or more authorized classes of shares under RCW 23B.08.040;
 - (h) The terms of directors may be staggered under RCW 23B.08.060;
- (i) Shares may be redeemable or convertible (i) at the option of the corporation, the shareholder, or another person, or upon the occurrence of a designated event; (ii) for cash, indebtedness, securities, or other property; or (iii) in a designated amount or in an amount determined in accordance with a designated formula or by reference to extrinsic data or events under RCW 23B.06.010; and
- (j) A director's personal liability to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for conduct as a director may be eliminated or limited under RCW 23B.08.320.
- (6) The articles of incorporation or the bylaws may contain the following provisions:
- (a) A restriction on the transfer or registration of transfer of the corporation's shares under RCW 23B.06.270;
- (b) Shareholders may participate in a meeting of shareholders by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other under RCW 23B.07.080;
- 36 (c) A quorum of the board of directors may consist of as few as 37 one-third of the number of directors under RCW 23B.08.240;

- (d) If the corporation is registered as an investment company under 1 2 the investment company act of 1940, a provision limiting the 3 requirement to hold an annual meeting of shareholders as provided in 4 RCW 23B.07.010(2); and
 - (e) If the corporation is registered as an investment company under the investment company act of 1940, a provision establishing terms of directors which terms may be longer than one year as provided in RCW 23B.05.050.
- 9 (7) The articles of incorporation need not set forth any of the 10 corporate powers enumerated in this title.
- 11 RCW 23B.02.050 and 2002 c 297 s 13 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
 - (1) After incorporation:

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- Ιf initial directors are named in the articles incorporation, the initial directors shall hold an organizational meeting, at the call of a majority of the directors, to complete the organization of the corporation by appointing officers, adopting bylaws, and carrying on any other business brought before the meeting;
- (b) If initial directors are not named in the articles, the 19 20 incorporator or incorporators shall hold an organizational meeting at 21 the call of a majority of the incorporators:
- 22 (i) To elect directors and complete the organization of the 23 corporation; or
- (ii) To elect a board of directors who shall complete the 24 25 organization of the corporation.
 - (2) Corporate action required or permitted by this title to be ((taken)) approved by incorporators at an organizational meeting may be ((taken)) approved without a meeting if the ((action taken)) approval is evidenced by the consent of each of the incorporators in the form of a record describing the corporate action ((taken)) so approved and executed by each incorporator.
 - (3) An organizational meeting may be held in or out of this state.
- (4) A corporation's initial report containing the information 34 described in RCW 23B.16.220(1) must be delivered to the secretary of 35 state within one hundred twenty days of the date on which the 36 corporation's articles of incorporation were filed.

p. 15 HB 1068 **Sec. 5.** RCW 23B.02.060 and 1989 c 165 s 31 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) The incorporators or board of directors of a corporation shall adopt initial bylaws for the corporation.
- (2) The articles of incorporation or bylaws must either specify the number of directors or specify the process by which the number of directors will be fixed, unless the articles of incorporation dispense with a board of directors pursuant to RCW 23B.08.010;
- (3) Unless its articles of incorporation or its bylaws provide otherwise, a corporation is governed by the following provisions:
- (a) The board of directors may ((authorize)) approve the issuance of some or all of the shares of any or all of the corporation's classes or series without certificates under RCW 23B.06.260;
- (b) A corporation that is not a public company shall hold a special meeting of shareholders if the holders of at least ten percent of the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at the meeting demand a meeting under RCW 23B.07.020;
- (c) A director need not be a resident of this state or a shareholder of the corporation under RCW 23B.08.020;
- (d) The board of directors may fix the compensation of directors under RCW 23B.08.110;
- (e) Members of the board of directors may participate in a meeting of the board by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment under RCW 23B.08.200;
- (f) <u>Corporate action</u> permitted or required by this title to be ((taken)) <u>approved</u> at a board of directors' meeting may be ((taken)) <u>approved</u> without a meeting if <u>the corporate</u> action is ((taken)) <u>approved</u> by all members of the board under RCW 23B.08.210;
- 29 (g) Regular meetings of the board of directors may be held without 30 notice of the date, time, place, or purpose of the meeting under RCW 31 23B.08.220;
- (h) Special meetings of the board of directors must be preceded by at least two days' notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting, and the notice need not describe the purpose of the special meeting under RCW 23B.08.220;
- 36 (i) A quorum of a board of directors consists of a majority of the number of directors under RCW 23B.08.240;

(j) If a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of directors present is the act of the board of directors under RCW 23B.08.240;

- (k) A board of directors may create one or more committees and appoint members of the board of directors to serve on them under RCW 23B.08.250; and
- (1) Unless approved by shareholders, a corporation may indemnify, or make advances to, a director only for reasonable expenses incurred in the defense of any proceeding to which the director was a party because of being a director to the extent such action is consistent with RCW 23B.08.500 through 23B.08.580 under RCW 23B.08.590.
- (4) The bylaws of a corporation may contain any provision, not in conflict with law or the articles of incorporation, for managing the business and regulating the affairs of the corporation, including but not limited to the following:
- 16 (a) A restriction on the transfer or registration of transfer of 17 the corporation's shares under RCW 23B.06.270;
 - (b) Shareholders may participate in a meeting of shareholders by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other under RCW 23B.07.080; and
- 21 (c) A quorum of the board of directors may consist of as few as 22 one-third of the number of directors under RCW 23B.08.240.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 23B.06.020 and 1998 c 104 s 2 are each amended to read 24 as follows:
 - (1) If the articles of incorporation so provide, the board of directors may determine, in whole or part, the preferences, limitations, voting powers, and relative rights, within the limits set forth in RCW 23B.06.010(1)(b) and this section of (a) any class of shares before the issuance of any shares of that class, or (b) one or more series within a class, and designate the number of shares within that series, before the issuance of any shares of that series.
- 32 (2) Each series of a class must be given a distinguishing 33 designation.
 - (3) All shares of a series must have preferences, limitations, voting powers, and relative rights identical with those of other shares of the same series, except to the extent otherwise permitted by RCW 23B.06.010(1)(b). All shares of a series must have preferences,

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- limitations, voting powers, and relative rights identical with those of shares of other series of the same class, except to the extent otherwise provided in the description of the series.
 - (4) Before issuing any shares of a class or series created under this section, the corporation must deliver to the secretary of state for filing articles of amendment, which are effective without shareholder ((action)) approval, that set forth:
 - (a) The name of the corporation;

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- 9 (b) The text of the amendment determining the terms of the class or series of shares;
 - (c) The date it was adopted; and
- 12 (d) The statement that the amendment was duly adopted by the board of directors.
- (5) Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, the 14 board of directors may, after the issuance of shares of a series whose 15 number it is authorized to designate, amend the resolution establishing 16 17 the series to decrease, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding, the number of authorized shares of that 18 series, by filing articles of amendment, which are effective without 19 shareholder ((action)) approval, in the manner provided in subsection 20 21 (4) of this section.
- 22 **Sec. 7.** RCW 23B.06.040 and 1989 c 165 s 47 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation may:
- 25 (a) Issue fractions of a share or pay in money the value of 26 fractions of a share;
- 27 (b) Arrange for disposition of fractional shares by the 28 shareholders;
- (c) Issue scrip in registered or bearer form entitling the holder to receive a full share upon surrendering enough scrip to equal a full share.
- 32 (2) Each certificate representing scrip must be conspicuously 33 labeled "scrip" and must contain the information required by RCW 34 23B.06.250(2).
- 35 (3) The holder of a fractional share is entitled to exercise the 36 rights of a shareholder, including the right to vote, to receive

dividends, and to participate in the assets of the corporation upon liquidation. The holder of scrip is not entitled to any of these rights unless the scrip provides for them.

- (4) The board of directors may ((authorize)) approve the issuance of scrip subject to any condition considered desirable, including:
- (a) That the scrip will become void if not exchanged for full shares before a specified date; and
- 8 (b) That the shares for which the scrip is exchangeable may be sold 9 and the proceeds paid to the scripholders.
 - Sec. 8. RCW 23B.06.210 and 1989 c 165 s 49 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The powers granted in this section to the board of directors may be reserved to the shareholders by the articles of incorporation.
 - (2) Any issuance of shares must be ((authorized)) approved by the board of directors. Shares may be issued for consideration consisting of any tangible or intangible property or benefit to the corporation, including cash, promissory notes, services performed, contracts for services to be performed, or other securities of the corporation.
 - (3) A good faith determination by the board of directors that the consideration received or to be received for the shares to be issued is adequate is conclusive insofar as the adequacy of consideration relates to whether the shares are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. When the board of directors has made such a determination and the corporation has received the consideration, the shares issued therefor are fully paid and nonassessable.
 - (4) The corporation may place in escrow shares issued for a contract for future services or benefits or a promissory note, or make other arrangements to restrict the transfer of the shares, and may credit distributions in respect to the shares against their purchase price, until the services are performed, the benefits are received, or the note is paid. If the services are not performed, the benefits are not received, or the note is not paid, the shares escrowed or restricted and the distributions credited may be canceled in whole or part.
 - (5) Where it cannot be determined that outstanding shares are fully paid and nonassessable, there shall be a conclusive presumption that

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- 1 such shares are fully paid and nonassessable if the board of directors
- 2 makes a good faith determination that there is no substantial evidence
- 3 that the full consideration for such shares has not been paid.
- 4 **Sec. 9.** RCW 23B.06.220 and 1989 c 165 s 50 are each amended to read as follows:

A purchaser from a corporation of its own shares is not liable to the corporation or its creditors with respect to the shares except to pay the consideration for which the shares were ((authorized)) approved to be issued under RCW 23B.06.210 or specified in the subscription agreement under RCW 23B.06.200.

- 11 **Sec. 10.** RCW 23B.06.260 and 2002 c 297 s 18 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide otherwise, the board of directors of a corporation may ((authorize)) approve the issue of some or all of the shares of any or all of its classes or series without certificates. The ((authorization)) approval does not affect shares already represented by certificates until they are surrendered to the corporation.
- (2) Within a reasonable time after the issue or transfer of shares without certificates, the corporation shall send the shareholder a record containing the information required on certificates by RCW 23B.06.250 (2) and (3), and, if applicable, RCW 23B.06.270.
- 23 **Sec. 11.** RCW 23B.06.310 and 1989 c 165 s 58 are each amended to 24 read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation may acquire its own shares and shares so acquired constitute authorized but unissued shares.
 - (2) If the articles of incorporation prohibit the reissue of acquired shares, the number of authorized shares is reduced by the number of shares acquired, effective upon amendment of the articles of incorporation.
- 31 (3) The board of directors may adopt articles of amendment under 32 this section without shareholder ((action)) approval and deliver them 33 to the secretary of state for filing. The articles must set forth:
 - (a) The name of the corporation;

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- 1 (b) The reduction in the number of authorized shares, itemized by class and series; and
- 3 (c) The total number of authorized shares, itemized by class and 4 series, remaining after reduction of the shares.
- 5 **Sec. 12.** RCW 23B.06.400 and 2006 c 52 s 2 are each amended to read 6 as follows:

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- (1) A board of directors may ((authorize)) approve and the corporation may make distributions to its shareholders subject to restriction by the articles of incorporation and the limitation in subsection (2) of this section.
 - (2) No distribution may be made if, after giving it effect:
- 12 (a) The corporation would not be able to pay its liabilities as 13 they become due in the usual course of business; or
 - (b) The corporation's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus, unless the articles of incorporation permit otherwise, the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution.
- 20 (3) For purposes of determinations under subsection (2) of this 21 section:
 - (a) The board of directors may base a determination that a distribution is not prohibited under subsection (2) of this section either on financial statements prepared on the basis of accounting practices and principles that are reasonable in the circumstances or on a fair valuation or other method that is reasonable in the circumstances; and
 - (b) Indebtedness of a corporation, including indebtedness issued as a distribution, is not considered a liability if its terms provide that payment of principal and interest are made only if and to the extent that payment of a distribution to shareholders could then be made under this section.
 - (4) The effect of a distribution under subsection (2) of this section is measured:
- 35 (a) In the case of a distribution of indebtedness, the terms of 36 which provide that payment of principal and interest are made only if 37 and to the extent that payment of a distribution to shareholders could

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then be made under this section, each payment of principal or interest is treated as a distribution, the effect of which is measured on the date the payment is actually made; or

(b) In the case of any other distribution:

- (i) If the distribution is by purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of the corporation's shares, the effect of the distribution is measured as of the earlier of the date any money or other property is transferred or debt incurred by the corporation, or the date the shareholder ceases to be a shareholder with respect to the acquired shares;
- (ii) If the distribution is of indebtedness other than that described in subsection (4) (a) and (b)(i) of this section, the effect of the distribution is measured as of the date the indebtedness is distributed; and
 - (iii) In all other cases, the effect of the distribution is measured as of the date the distribution is ((authorized)) approved if payment occurs within one hundred twenty days after the date of ((authorization)) approval, or the date the payment is made if it occurs more than one hundred twenty days after the date of ((authorization)) approval.
 - (5) A corporation's indebtedness to a shareholder incurred by reason of a distribution made in accordance with this section is at parity with the corporation's indebtedness to its general, unsecured creditors except to the extent provided otherwise by agreement.
 - (6) In circumstances to which this section and related sections of this title are applicable, such provisions supersede the applicability of any other statutes of this state with respect to the legality of distributions.
 - (7) A transfer of the assets of a dissolved corporation to a trust or other successor entity of the type described in RCW 23B.14.030(4) constitutes a distribution subject to subsection (2) of this section only when and to the extent that the trust or successor entity distributes assets to shareholders.
- **Sec. 13.** RCW 23B.07.030 and 2002 c 297 s 22 are each amended to read as follows:
- 36 (1) The superior court of the county in which the corporation's

registered office is located may, after notice to the corporation, summarily order a meeting to be held:

- (a) On application of any shareholder of the corporation entitled to vote in the election of directors at an annual meeting, if an annual meeting was not held within the earlier of six months after the end of the corporation's fiscal year or fifteen months after its last annual meeting or approval of corporate action by shareholder consent in lieu of such a meeting; or
- (b) On application of a shareholder who executed a demand for a special meeting valid under RCW 23B.07.020, if:
- (i) Notice of the special meeting was not given within thirty days after the date the demand was delivered to the corporation's secretary; or
- 14 (ii) The special meeting was not held in accordance with the 15 notice.
 - (2) The court may, after notice to the corporation, fix the time and place of the meeting, determine the shares and shareholders entitled to participate in the meeting, specify a record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting, prescribe the manner, form, and content of the meeting notice, fix the quorum required for specific matters to be considered at the meeting, or direct that the votes represented at the meeting constitute a quorum for ((action on)) approval of those matters, and enter other orders necessary to accomplish the purpose or purposes of the meeting.
 - Sec. 14. RCW 23B.07.040 and 2002 c 297 s 23 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1)(a) <u>Corporate action</u> required or permitted by this title to be ((taken)) <u>approved by a shareholder vote</u> at a ((shareholders')) meeting may be ((taken)) approved without a meeting or a vote if either:
 - (i) The <u>corporate</u> action is ((taken)) <u>approved</u> by all shareholders entitled to vote on the <u>corporate</u> action; or
 - (ii) The <u>corporate</u> action is ((taken)) <u>approved</u> by shareholders holding of record or otherwise entitled to vote in the aggregate not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to ((authorize or take)) <u>approve</u> such <u>corporate</u> action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote on the <u>corporate</u> action were present and voted, and at the time the <u>corporate</u> action is ((taken)) <u>approved</u>

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the corporation is not a public company and is authorized to ((take)) approve such corporate action under this subsection (1)(a)(ii) by a general or limited authorization contained in its articles of incorporation.

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(b) ((The taking of)) Corporate action may be approved by shareholders without a meeting or <u>a</u> vote ((must be evidenced by one or more consents, each in the form of a record describing the action taken, executed)) by means of execution of a single consent or multiple counterpart consents by shareholders holding of record or otherwise entitled to vote in the aggregate not less than the minimum number of votes necessary ((in order to take such action by consent)) under (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection((, and)). Any such shareholder consent must: (i) Be in the form of an executed record; (ii) indicate the date of execution of the consent by each shareholder who executes it, which date must be on or after the applicable record date determined in accordance with subsection (2) of this section; (iii) describe the corporate action being approved; (iv) when delivered to each shareholder for execution, include or be accompanied by the same material that would have been required by this title to be delivered to shareholders in or accompanying a notice of meeting at which the proposed corporate action would have been submitted for shareholder approval; and (v) be delivered to the corporation for inclusion in the minutes or filing with the corporate records((, which consent shall be set forth either (i) in an executed record or (ii) if the corporation has designated an address, location, or system to which the consent may be electronically transmitted and the consent is electronically transmitted to the designated address, location, or system, in an executed electronically transmitted record.

(2) If not otherwise fixed under RCW 23B.07.030 or 23B.07.070, the record date for determining shareholders entitled to take action without a meeting is the date on which the first shareholder consent is executed under subsection (1) of this section. Every consent shall bear the date of execution of each shareholder who executes the consent. A consent is not effective to take the action referred to in the consent unless, within sixty days of the earliest dated consent delivered to the corporation, consents executed by a sufficient number of shareholders to take action are delivered to the corporation.

(3)) in accordance with subsection (4) of this section. A shareholder may withdraw an executed shareholder consent ((only)) by delivering a notice of withdrawal in the form of ((a)) an executed record to the corporation prior to the time when ((consents sufficient to authorize taking the action have been delivered to the corporation.

- (4) Unless the shareholder consent specifies a later effective date, action taken under this section is effective when: (a) Consents sufficient to authorize taking the action have been delivered to the corporation; and (b) the period of advance notice required by the corporation's articles of incorporation to be given to any nonconsenting shareholders has been satisfied.
- (5) A consent executed)) shareholder consents sufficient to approve the corporate action have been delivered to the corporation.
- (2) The record date for determining shareholders entitled to approve a corporate action without a meeting may be fixed under RCW 23B.07.030 or 23B.07.070, but if not so fixed shall be the date of execution indicated on the earliest dated shareholder consent executed under subsection (1) of this section, even though such shareholder consent may not have been delivered to the corporation on that date.
- (3)(a) Notice that shareholder consents are being sought under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall be given, by the corporation or by another person soliciting such consents, on or promptly after the record date, to all shareholders entitled to vote on the record date who have not yet executed the shareholder consent and, if this title would otherwise require that notice of a meeting of shareholders to consider the proposed corporate action be given to nonvoting shareholders, to all nonvoting shareholders as of the record date. Notice given under this subsection (3)(a) shall include or be accompanied by the same information required to be included in or to accompany the shareholder consent under subsection (1)(b)(iii) and (iv) of this section.
- (b) Notice that sufficient shareholder consents have been executed to approve the proposed corporate action under either of subsection (1)(a)(i) or (ii) of this section shall be given by the corporation, promptly after delivery to the corporation of shareholder consents sufficient to approve the corporate action in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, to all shareholders entitled to vote on the record date and, if this title would otherwise require that notice

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of a meeting of shareholders to consider the proposed corporate action be given to nonvoting shareholders, to all nonvoting shareholders as of the record date.

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(4) Unless the consent executed by shareholders specifies a later effective date, shareholder approval obtained under this section is effective when: (a) Executed shareholder consents sufficient to approve the proposed corporate action have been delivered to the corporation, either at an address designated by the corporation for delivery of such shareholder consents or at the corporation's registered office, or to such electronic address, location, or system as the corporation may have designated for delivery of such shareholder consents; and (b) any period of advance notice required by the corporation's articles of incorporation to be given to any nonconsenting shareholders has been satisfied. Executed shareholder consents are not effective to approve a proposed corporate action unless, within sixty days after the date of the earliest dated shareholder consent delivered to the corporation, consents executed by a sufficient number of shareholders to approve the corporate action are delivered to the corporation.

(5) Approval of corporate action by execution of shareholder consents under this section has the effect of a meeting vote and may be described as such in any record, except that, if the corporate action requires the filing of a certificate under any other section of this title, the certificate so filed shall state, in lieu of any statement required by that section concerning any vote of shareholders, that ((consent)) shareholder approval has been obtained in accordance with this section and that notice to any nonconsenting shareholders has been given ((as provided in this section.

(6) Notice of the taking of action by shareholders without a meeting by less than unanimous consent of all shareholders entitled to vote on the action shall be given, before the date on which the action becomes effective, to those shareholders entitled to vote on the action who have not consented and, if this title would otherwise require that notice of a meeting of shareholders to consider the action be given to nonvoting shareholders, to all nonvoting shareholders of the corporation. The general or limited authorization in the corporation's articles of incorporation authorizing shareholder action by less than unanimous consent shall specify the amount and form of notice required

to be given to nonconsenting shareholders before the effective date of the action. In the case of action of a type that would constitute a significant business transaction under RCW 23B.19.020(15), the notice shall be given no fewer than twenty days before the effective date of the action. The notice shall be in the form of a record and shall contain or be accompanied by the same material that, under this title, would have been required to be delivered to nonconsenting or nonvoting shareholders in a notice of meeting at which the proposed action would have been submitted for shareholder action. If the action taken is of a type that would entitle shareholders to exercise dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020(1), then the notice must comply with RCW 23B.13.220(2), RCW 23B.13.210 shall not apply, and all shareholders who have not executed the consent taking the action are entitled to receive the notice, demand payment under RCW 23B.13.230, and assert other dissenters' rights as prescribed in chapter 23B.13 RCW)) to the extent required by this section.

Sec. 15. RCW 23B.07.060 and 2002 c 297 s 24 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) A shareholder may waive any notice required by this title, the articles of incorporation, or bylaws before or after the date and time of the meeting that is the subject of such notice, or in the case of notice required by RCW 23B.07.040((+6+))(3), before or after the corporate action to be ((+6+)) approved by executed consent (+6+) becomes effective. Except as provided by subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the waiver must be delivered by the shareholder entitled to notice to the corporation for inclusion in the minutes or filing with the corporate records, which waiver shall be set forth either (a) in an executed and dated record or (b) if the corporation has designated an address, location, or system to which the waiver may be electronically transmitted and the waiver is electronically transmitted to the designated address, location, or system, in an executed and dated electronically transmitted record.
- (2) A shareholder's attendance at a meeting waives objection to lack of notice or defective notice of the meeting, unless the shareholder at the beginning of the meeting objects to holding the meeting or transacting business at the meeting.

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- 1 (3) A shareholder waives objection to consideration of a particular 2 matter at a meeting that is not within the purpose or purposes 3 described in the meeting notice, unless the shareholder objects to 4 considering the matter when it is presented.
 - Sec. 16. RCW 23B.07.070 and 1989 c 165 s 66 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) The bylaws may fix or provide the manner of fixing the record date for one or more voting groups in order to determine the shareholders entitled to notice of a shareholders' meeting, to demand a special meeting, to vote, or to ((take)) approve any other corporate action. If the bylaws do not fix or provide for fixing a record date, the board of directors of the corporation may fix a future date as the record date.
- (2) If not otherwise fixed under subsection (1) of this section or RCW 23B.07.030, the record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at an annual or special shareholders' meeting is the day before the first notice is delivered to shareholders.
- (3) If the board of directors does not fix the record date for determining shareholders entitled to a share dividend, it is the date the board of directors authorizes the share dividend.
- (4) If the board of directors does not fix the record date for determining shareholders entitled to a distribution, other than one involving a purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of the corporation's shares, it is the date the board of directors authorizes the distribution.
- (5) A record date fixed under this section may not be more than seventy days before the meeting ((or action requiring a determination)) of shareholders or more than ten days prior to the date on which the first shareholder consent is executed under RCW 23B.07.040(1)(b).
- (6) A determination of shareholders entitled to notice of or to vote at a shareholders' meeting is effective for any adjournment of the meeting unless the board of directors fixes a new record date, which it must do if the meeting is adjourned to a date more than one hundred twenty days after the date fixed for the original meeting.
- 36 (7) If a court orders a meeting adjourned to a date more than one

- 1 hundred twenty days after the date fixed for the original meeting, it
- 2 may provide that the original record date continues in effect or it may
- 3 fix a new record date.

- Sec. 17. RCW 23B.07.200 and 1989 c 165 s 68 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) After fixing a record date for a meeting, a corporation shall prepare an alphabetical list of the names of all its shareholders on the record date who are entitled to notice of a shareholders' meeting. The list must be arranged by voting group, and within each voting group by class or series of shares, and show the address of and number of shares held by each shareholder.
 - (2) The shareholders' list must be available for inspection by any shareholder, beginning ten days prior to the meeting and continuing through the meeting, at the corporation's principal office or at a place identified in the meeting notice in the city where the meeting will be held. A shareholder, the shareholder's agent, or the shareholder's attorney is entitled to inspect the list, during regular business hours and at the shareholder's expense, during the period it is available for inspection.
 - (3) The corporation shall make the shareholders' list available at the meeting, and any shareholder, the shareholder's agent, or the shareholder's attorney is entitled to inspect the list at any time during the meeting or any adjournment.
 - (4) If the corporation refuses to allow a shareholder, the shareholder's agent, or the shareholder's attorney to inspect the shareholders' list before or at the meeting, the superior court of the county where a corporation's principal office, or, if none in this state, its registered office, is located, on application of the shareholder, may summarily order the inspection at the corporation's expense and may postpone the meeting for which the list was prepared until the inspection is complete.
 - (5) A shareholder's right to copy the shareholders' list, and a shareholder's right to otherwise inspect and copy the record of shareholders, is governed by RCW 23B.16.020(3).
- 35 (6) Refusal or failure to prepare or make available the 36 shareholders' list does not affect the validity of <u>corporate</u> action 37 ((taken)) <u>approved</u> at the meeting.

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Sec. 18. RCW 23B.07.250 and 1989 c 165 s 73 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) Shares entitled to vote as a separate voting group may ((take)) approve a corporate action ((on a matter)) at a meeting only if a quorum of those shares exists with respect to that ((matter)) corporate action. Unless the articles of incorporation or this title provide otherwise, a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the ((matter)) corporate action by the voting group constitutes a quorum of that voting group for ((action on that matter)) approval of that corporate action.
- (2) Once a share is represented for any purpose at a meeting other than solely to object to holding the meeting or transacting business at the meeting, it is deemed present for quorum purposes for the remainder of the meeting and for any adjournment of that meeting unless a new record date is or must be set for that adjourned meeting.
- (3) If a quorum exists, <u>a corporate</u> action ((on a matter)), other than the election of directors, is approved by a voting group if the votes cast within the voting group favoring the <u>corporate</u> action exceed the votes cast within the voting group opposing the <u>corporate</u> action, unless the articles of incorporation or this title require a greater number of affirmative votes.
- (4) An amendment of articles of incorporation adding, changing, or deleting either (i) a quorum for a voting group greater or lesser than specified in subsection (1) of this section, or (ii) a voting requirement for a voting group greater than specified in subsection (3) of this section, is governed by RCW 23B.07.270.
- (5) The election of directors is governed by RCW 23B.07.280.
- **Sec. 19.** RCW 23B.07.260 and 2003 c 35 s 2 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
 - (1) If the articles of incorporation or this title provide for voting on a ((matter)) corporate action by all shares entitled to vote thereon, voting together as a single voting group and do not provide for separate voting by any other voting group or groups with respect to that ((matter)) corporate action, ((action on that matter is taken)) that corporate action is approved when voted upon by that single voting group as provided in RCW 23B.07.250.

- 1 (2) If the articles of incorporation or this title provide for 2 voting by two or more voting groups on a ((matter)) corporate action, 3 ((action on that matter is taken)) that corporate action is approved 4 only when voted upon by each of those voting groups as provided in RCW 5 23B.07.250.
- **Sec. 20.** RCW 23B.07.270 and 1990 c 178 s 11 are each amended to 7 read as follows:

- (1) The articles of incorporation may provide for a greater or lesser quorum, but not less than one-third of the votes entitled to be cast, for shareholders, or voting groups of shareholders, than is provided for by this title.
- (2) The articles of incorporation may provide for a greater voting requirement for shareholders, or voting groups of shareholders, than is provided for by this title.
- (3) Under RCW 23B.10.030, 23B.11.030, 23B.12.020, and 23B.14.020, the articles of incorporation may provide for a lesser vote than is otherwise prescribed in those sections or for a lesser vote by separate voting groups, so long as the vote provided for each voting group entitled to vote separately on the plan or transaction is not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan or transaction by that voting group.
- (4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, an amendment to the articles of incorporation that adds, changes, or deletes a greater or lesser quorum or voting requirement for a particular corporate action must meet the same quorum requirement and be adopted by the same vote and voting groups <u>as are</u> required ((to take action)) under the quorum and voting requirements then in effect for <u>approval of</u> the corporate action.
- (5) An amendment to the articles of incorporation that adds, changes, or deletes a greater or lesser quorum or voting requirement for a merger, share exchange, sale of substantially all assets, or dissolution must be adopted by the same vote and voting groups as are required ((to take action)) under the quorum and voting requirements then in effect for approval of the particular corporate action, or the quorum and voting requirements then in effect for amendments to articles of incorporation, whichever is greater.

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1 **Sec. 21.** RCW 23B.07.280 and 1989 c 165 s 76 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

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- (1) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, shareholders entitled to vote at any election of directors are entitled to cumulate votes by multiplying the number of votes they are entitled to cast by the number of directors for whom they are entitled to vote and to cast the product for a single candidate or distribute the product among two or more candidates.
- 9 (2) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or 10 in a bylaw adopted under RCW 23B.10.205, in any election of directors 11 the candidates elected are those receiving the largest numbers of votes 12 cast by the shares entitled to vote in the election, up to the number 13 of directors to be elected by such shares.
- 14 **Sec. 22.** RCW 23B.07.320 and 1995 c 47 s 6 are each amended to read 15 as follows:
 - (1) An agreement among the shareholders of a corporation that is not contrary to public policy and that complies with this section is effective among the shareholders and the corporation even though it is inconsistent with one or more other provisions of this title in that it:
- 21 (a) Eliminates the board of directors or restricts the discretion 22 or powers of the board of directors;
 - (b) Governs the ((authorization)) approval or making of distributions whether or not in proportion to ownership of shares, subject to the limitations in RCW 23B.06.400;
 - (c) Establishes who shall be directors or officers of the corporation, or their terms of office or manner of selection or removal;
 - (d) Governs, in general or in regard to specific matters, the exercise or division of voting power by or between the shareholders and directors or by or among any of them, including use of weighted voting rights or director proxies;
- (e) Establishes the terms and conditions of any agreement for the transfer or use of property or the provision of services between the corporation and any shareholder, director, officer, or employee of the corporation or among any of them;

(f) Transfers to one or more shareholders or other persons all or part of the authority to exercise the corporate powers or to manage the business and affairs of the corporation;

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- (g) Provides a process by which a deadlock among directors or shareholders may be resolved;
- (h) Requires dissolution of the corporation at the request of one or more shareholders or upon the occurrence of a specified event or contingency; or
- (i) Otherwise governs the exercise of the corporate powers or the management of the business and affairs of the corporation or the relationship among the shareholders, the directors, and the corporation, or among any of them.
 - (2) An agreement authorized by this section shall be:
- (a) Set forth in a written agreement that is signed by all persons who are shareholders at the time of the agreement and is made known to the corporation;
- (b) Subject to amendment only by all persons who are shareholders at the time of the amendment, unless the agreement provides otherwise; and
 - (c) Valid for ten years, unless the agreement provides otherwise.
- (3) The existence of an agreement authorized by this section shall be noted conspicuously on the front or back of each certificate for outstanding shares or on the information statement required by RCW 23B.06.260(2). If at the time of the agreement the corporation has shares outstanding represented by certificates, the corporation shall recall the outstanding certificates and issue substitute certificates that comply with this subsection. The failure to note the existence of the agreement on the certificate or information statement shall not affect the validity of the agreement or any action taken pursuant to Unless the agreement provides otherwise, any person who acquires outstanding or newly issued shares in the corporation after agreement authorized by this section has been effected, whether by purchase, gift, operation of law, or otherwise, is deemed to have assented to the agreement and to be a party to the agreement. purchaser of shares who is aggrieved because he or she at the time of purchase did not have actual or constructive knowledge of the existence of the agreement may either: (a) Bring an action to rescind the purchase within the earlier of ninety days after discovery of the

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existence of the agreement or two years after the purchase of the shares; or (b) continue to hold the shares subject to the agreement but with a right of action for any damages resulting from nondisclosure of the existence of the agreement. A purchaser shall be deemed to have constructive knowledge of the existence of the agreement if its existence is noted on the certificate or information statement for the shares in compliance with this subsection and, if the shares are not represented by a certificate, the information statement is delivered to the purchaser at or prior to the time of purchase of the shares.

- (4) An agreement authorized by this section shall cease to be effective when shares of the corporation are listed on a national securities exchange or regularly traded in a market maintained by one or more members of a national or affiliated securities association.
- (5) An agreement authorized by this section that limits the discretion or powers of the board of directors shall relieve the directors of, and impose upon the person or persons in whom such discretion or powers are vested, liability for acts or omissions imposed by law on directors to the extent that the discretion or powers of the directors are limited by the agreement.
- (6) The existence or performance of an agreement authorized by this section shall not be a ground for imposing personal liability on any shareholder for the acts or debts of the corporation even if the agreement or its performance treats the corporation as if it were a partnership or results in failure to observe the corporate formalities otherwise applicable to the matters governed by the agreement.
- (7) Incorporators or subscribers for shares may act as shareholders with respect to an agreement authorized by this section if no shares have been issued when the agreement is made.
- **Sec. 23.** RCW 23B.08.030 and 2007 c 467 s 1 are each amended to 30 read as follows:
 - (1) A board of directors must consist of one or more individuals, with the number specified in or fixed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws.
 - (2) Directors are elected at the first annual shareholders' meeting and at each annual meeting thereafter unless (a) their terms are staggered under RCW 23B.08.060, or (b) their terms are otherwise

- governed by RCW 23B.05.050. Directors also may be elected by <u>execution</u>
 of a shareholder consent ((action)) under RCW 23B.07.040.
 - Sec. 24. RCW 23B.08.210 and 2002 c 297 s 29 are each amended to read as follows:

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- 5 (1) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide 6 otherwise, corporate action required or permitted by this title to be 7 ((taken)) approved at a board of directors' meeting may be ((taken)) approved without a meeting if the <u>corporate</u> action is ((taken)) 8 approved by all members of the board. The approval of the corporate 9 10 action must be evidenced by one or more consents describing the 11 ((action taken)) corporate action being approved, executed by each 12 director either before or after the ((action taken)) corporate action becomes effective, and delivered to the corporation for inclusion in 13 14 the minutes or filing with the corporate records, each of which consents shall be set forth either (a) in an executed record or (b) if 15 16 the corporation has designated an address, location, or system to which 17 the consents may be electronically transmitted and the consent is 18 electronically transmitted to the designated address, location, or system, in an executed electronically transmitted record. 19
- (2) <u>Corporate action ((taken)) is approved</u> under this section ((is effective)) when the last director executes the consent((, unless the consent specifies a later effective date)).
- 23 (3) A consent under this section has the effect of a meeting vote 24 and may be described as such in any record.
- 25 **Sec. 25.** RCW 23B.08.230 and 2002 c 297 s 30 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
 - (1) A director may waive any notice required by this title, the articles of incorporation, or bylaws before or after the date and time stated in the notice, and such waiver shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice. Except as provided by subsection (2) of this section, the waiver must be delivered by the director entitled to the notice to the corporation for inclusion in the minutes or filing with the corporate records, which waiver shall be set forth either (a) in an executed record or (b) if the corporation has designated an address, location, or system to which the waiver may be electronically

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transmitted and the waiver has been electronically transmitted to the designated address, location, or system, in an executed electronically transmitted record.

- (2) A director's attendance at or participation in a meeting waives any required notice to the director of the meeting unless the director at the beginning of the meeting, or promptly upon the director's arrival, objects to holding the meeting or transacting business at the meeting and does not thereafter vote for or assent to <u>any corporate</u> action ((taken)) <u>approved</u> at the meeting.
- **Sec. 26.** RCW 23B.08.240 and 2002 c 297 s 31 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
 - (1) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws require a greater or lesser number, a quorum of a board of directors consists of a majority of the number of directors specified in or fixed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws.
 - (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a quorum of a board of directors may in no event be less than one-third of the number of directors specified in or fixed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws.
 - (3) If a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of directors present is the act of the board of directors unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws require the vote of a greater number of directors.
 - (4) A director who is present at a meeting of the board of directors when <u>corporate</u> action is ((taken)) <u>approved</u> is deemed to have assented to the <u>corporate</u> action ((taken)) unless: (a) The director objects at the beginning of the meeting, or promptly upon the director's arrival, to holding it or transacting business at the meeting; (b) the director's dissent or abstention ((from)) <u>as to</u> the <u>corporate</u> action ((taken)) is entered in the minutes of the meeting; or (c) the director delivers notice of the director's dissent or abstention <u>as to the corporate action</u> to the presiding officer of the meeting before ((its)) adjournment or to the corporation within a reasonable time after adjournment of the meeting. The right of dissent or abstention is not available to a director who votes in favor of the corporate action ((taken)).

- **Sec. 27.** RCW 23B.08.250 and 1989 c 165 s 96 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide otherwise, a board of directors may create one or more committees of directors. Each committee must have two or more members, who serve at the pleasure of the board of directors.
 - (2) The creation of a committee and appointment of members to it must be approved by the greater of (a) a majority of all the directors in office when the ((action)) creation of the committee is ((taken)) approved or (b) the number of directors required by the articles of incorporation or bylaws to ((take action)) approve the creation of the committee under RCW 23B.08.240.
 - (3) RCW 23B.08.200 through 23B.08.240, which govern meetings, approval of corporate action without meetings, notice and waiver of notice, and quorum and voting requirements of the board of directors, apply to committees and their members as well.
 - (4) To the extent specified by the board of directors or in the articles of incorporation or bylaws, each committee may exercise the authority of the board of directors under RCW 23B.08.010.
 - (5) A committee may not, however:

- (a) ((Authorize or)) Approve a distribution except according to a general formula or method prescribed by the board of directors;
- (b) Approve or propose to shareholders <u>corporate</u> action that this title requires be approved by shareholders;
- (c) Fill vacancies on the board of directors or on any of its committees;
 - (d) Amend articles of incorporation pursuant to RCW 23B.10.020;
 - (e) Adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws;
 - (f) Approve a plan of merger not requiring shareholder approval; or
- (g) ((Authorize or)) Approve the issuance or sale or contract for sale of shares, or determine the designation and relative rights, preferences, and limitations of a class or series of shares, except that the board of directors may authorize a committee, or a senior executive officer of the corporation to do so within limits specifically prescribed by the board of directors.
- (6) The creation of, delegation of authority to, or <u>approval of corporate</u> action by a committee does not alone constitute compliance by a director with the standards of conduct described in RCW 23B.08.300.

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Sec. 28. RCW 23B.08.500 and 1989 c 165 s 105 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

For purposes of RCW 23B.08.510 through 23B.08.600:

- (1) "Corporation" includes any domestic or foreign predecessor entity of a corporation in a merger or other transaction in which the predecessor's existence ceased upon ((consummation)) the effective date of the transaction.
- (2) "Director" means an individual who is or was a director of a corporation or an individual who, while a director of a corporation, is or was serving at the corporation's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise. A director is considered to be serving an employee benefit plan at the corporation's request if the director's duties to the corporation also impose duties on, or otherwise involve services by, the director to the plan or to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan. "Director" includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the estate or personal representative of a director.
- 20 (3) "Expenses" include counsel fees.

- (4) "Liability" means the obligation to pay a judgment, settlement, penalty, fine, including an excise tax assessed with respect to an employee benefit plan, or reasonable expenses incurred with respect to a proceeding.
- (5) "Official capacity" means: (a) When used with respect to a director, the office of director in a corporation; and (b) when used with respect to an individual other than a director, as contemplated in RCW 23B.08.570, the office in a corporation held by the officer or the employment or agency relationship undertaken by the employee or agent on behalf of the corporation. "Official capacity" does not include service for any other foreign or domestic corporation or any partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise.
- (6) "Party" includes an individual who was, is, or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding.
- 36 (7) "Proceeding" means any threatened, pending, or completed 37 action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, 38 or investigative and whether formal or informal.

- **Sec. 29.** RCW 23B.08.550 and 1989 c 165 s 110 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation may not indemnify a director under RCW 23B.08.510 unless ((authorized)) approved in the specific case after a determination has been made that indemnification of the director is permissible in the circumstances because the director has met the standard of conduct set forth in RCW 23B.08.510.
 - (2) The determination shall be made:

- (a) By the board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors not at the time parties to the proceeding;
 - (b) If a quorum cannot be obtained under (a) of this subsection, by majority vote of a committee duly designated by the board of directors, in which designation directors who are parties may participate, consisting solely of two or more directors not at the time parties to the proceeding;
 - (c) By special legal counsel:
- (i) Selected by the board of directors or its committee in the manner prescribed in (a) or (b) of this subsection; or
- (ii) If a quorum of the board of directors cannot be obtained under (a) of this subsection and a committee cannot be designated under (b) of this subsection, selected by majority vote of the full board of directors, in which selection directors who are parties may participate; or
- (d) By the shareholders, but shares owned by or voted under the control of directors who are at the time parties to the proceeding may not be voted on the determination.
- (3) ((Authorization)) Approval of indemnification and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses shall be made in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible, except that if the determination is made by special legal counsel, ((authorization)) approval of indemnification and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses shall be made by those entitled under subsection (2)(c) of this section to select counsel.
- **Sec. 30.** RCW 23B.08.700 and 1989 c 165 s 116 are each amended to read as follows:
- 36 For purposes of RCW 23B.08.710 through 23B.08.730:

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(1) "Conflicting interest" with respect to a corporation means the interest a director of the corporation has respecting a transaction effected or proposed to be effected by the corporation, or by a subsidiary of the corporation or any other entity in which the corporation has a controlling interest, if:

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- (a) Whether or not the transaction is brought before the board of directors of the corporation for action, the director knows at the time of commitment that the director or a related person is a party to the transaction or has a beneficial financial interest in or so closely linked to the transaction and of such financial significance to the director or a related person that the interest would reasonably be expected to exert an influence on the director's judgment if the director were called upon to vote on the transaction; or
- (b) The transaction is brought, or is of such character and significance to the corporation that it would in the normal course be brought, before the board of directors of the corporation for action, and the director knows at the time of commitment that any of the following persons is either a party to the transaction or has a beneficial financial interest in or so closely linked to the transaction and of such financial significance to the person that the interest would reasonably be expected to exert an influence on the director's judgment if the director were called upon to vote on the transaction: (i) An entity, other than the corporation, of which the director is a director, general partner, agent, or employee; (ii) a person that controls one or more of the entities specified in (b)(i) of this subsection or an entity that is controlled by, or is under common control with, one or more of the entities specified in (b)(i) of this subsection; or (iii) an individual who is a general partner, principal, or employer of the director.
- (2) "Director's conflicting interest transaction" with respect to a corporation means a transaction effected or proposed to be effected by the corporation, or by a subsidiary of the corporation or any other entity in which the corporation has a controlling interest, respecting which a director of the corporation has a conflicting interest.
- (3) "Related person" of a director means (a) the spouse, or a parent or sibling thereof, of the director, or a child, grandchild, sibling, parent, or spouse of any thereof, of the director, or an individual having the same home as the director, or a trust or estate

of which an individual specified herein is a substantial beneficiary; or (b) a trust, estate, incompetent, conservatee, or minor of which the director is a fiduciary.

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- (4) "Required disclosure" means disclosure by the director who has a conflicting interest of (a) the existence and nature of the director's conflicting interest, and (b) all facts known to the director respecting the subject matter of the transaction that an ordinarily prudent person would reasonably believe to be material to a judgment about whether or not to proceed with the transaction.
- 10 (5) "Time of commitment" respecting a transaction means the time 11 when the transaction ((is consummated)) becomes effective or, if made 12 pursuant to contract, the time when the corporation, or its subsidiary 13 or the entity in which it has a controlling interest, becomes 14 contractually obligated so that its unilateral withdrawal from the 15 transaction would entail significant loss, liability, or other damage.
- 16 **Sec. 31.** RCW 23B.10.020 and 2003 c 35 s 3 are each amended to read 17 as follows:
- Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, a corporation's board of directors may adopt one or more amendments to the corporation's articles of incorporation without shareholder ((action)) approval:
- (1) If the corporation has only one class of shares outstanding, to provide, change, or eliminate any provision with respect to the par value of any class of shares;
 - (2) To delete the names and addresses of the initial directors;
 - (3) To delete the name and address of the initial registered agent or registered office, if a statement of change is on file with the secretary of state;
- 29 (4) If the corporation has only one class of shares outstanding, 30 solely to:
 - (a) Effect a forward split of, or change the number of authorized shares of that class in proportion to a forward split of, or stock dividend in, the corporation's outstanding shares; or
- 34 (b) Effect a reverse split of the corporation's outstanding shares 35 and the number of authorized shares of that class in the same 36 proportions;
 - (5) To change the corporate name; or

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- 1 (6) To make any other change expressly permitted by this title to 2 be made without shareholder ((action)) approval.
- 3 **Sec. 32.** RCW 23B.10.060 and 1989 c 165 s 125 are each amended to 4 read as follows:

A corporation amending its articles of incorporation shall deliver to the secretary of state for filing articles of amendment setting forth:

(1) The name of the corporation;

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- (2) The text of each amendment adopted;
- (3) If an amendment provides for an exchange, reclassification, or cancellation of issued shares, provisions for implementing the amendment if not contained in the amendment itself;
 - (4) The date of each amendment's adoption;
- (5) If an amendment was adopted by the incorporators or board of directors without shareholder ((action)) approval, a statement to that effect and that shareholder ((action)) approval was not required; and
- 17 (6) If shareholder ((action)) approval was required, a statement 18 that the amendment was duly approved by the shareholders in accordance 19 with the provisions of RCW 23B.10.030 and 23B.10.040.
- 20 **Sec. 33.** RCW 23B.10.070 and 1991 c 72 s 36 are each amended to 21 read as follows:
- 22 (1) Any officer of the corporation may restate its articles of incorporation at any time.
 - (2) A restatement may include one or more amendments to the articles of incorporation. If the restatement includes an amendment not requiring shareholder approval, it must be adopted by the board of directors. If the restatement includes an amendment requiring shareholder approval, it must be adopted in accordance with RCW 23B.10.030.
- (3) If the board of directors submits a restatement for shareholder ((action)) approval, the corporation shall notify each shareholder, whether or not entitled to vote, of the proposed shareholders' meeting in accordance with RCW 23B.07.050. The notice must also state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the proposed restatement and contain or be accompanied by a copy of the

restatement that identifies any amendment or other change it would make in the articles of incorporation.

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- (4) A corporation restating its articles of incorporation shall deliver to the secretary of state for filing articles of restatement setting forth the name of the corporation and the text of the restated articles of incorporation together with a certificate setting forth:
- (a) If the restatement does not include an amendment to the articles of incorporation, a statement to that effect;
- (b) If the restatement contains an amendment to the articles of incorporation not requiring shareholder approval, a statement that the board of directors adopted the restatement and the date of such adoption;
- 13 (c) If the restatement contains an amendment to the articles of 14 incorporation requiring shareholder approval, the information required 15 by RCW 23B.10.060; and
- 16 (d) Both the articles of restatement and the certificate must be executed.
- 18 (5) Duly adopted restated articles of incorporation supersede the 19 original articles of incorporation and all amendments to them.
- 20 (6) The secretary of state may certify restated articles of incorporation, as the articles of incorporation currently in effect, without including the certificate information required by subsection (4) of this section.
- 24 **Sec. 34.** RCW 23B.10.080 and 1989 c 165 s 127 are each amended to 25 read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation's articles of incorporation may be amended without ((action)) approval by the board of directors or shareholders to carry out a plan of reorganization ordered or decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction under federal statute if the articles of incorporation after amendment contain only provisions required or permitted by RCW 23B.02.020.
- 32 (2) The individual or individuals designated by the court shall 33 deliver to the secretary of state for filing articles of amendment 34 setting forth:
 - (a) The name of the corporation;
 - (b) The text of each amendment approved by the court;

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- 1 (c) The date of the court's order or decree approving the articles of amendment;
- 3 (d) The title of the reorganization proceeding in which the order 4 or decree was entered; and
- 5 (e) A statement that the court had jurisdiction of the proceeding 6 under federal statute.

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- (3) Shareholders of a corporation undergoing reorganization do not have dissenters' rights except as and to the extent provided in the reorganization plan.
- 10 (4) This section does not apply after entry of a final decree in 11 the reorganization proceeding even though the court retains 12 jurisdiction of the proceeding for limited purposes unrelated to 13 consummation of the reorganization plan.
- 14 **Sec. 35.** RCW 23B.10.200 and 2007 c 467 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:
- 16 (1) A corporation's board of directors may amend or repeal the 17 corporation's bylaws, or adopt new bylaws, unless:
- 18 (a) The articles of incorporation, RCW 23B.10.205, or, if 19 applicable, RCW ((23B.07.035)) 23B.10.210, or any other provision of 20 this title reserve this power exclusively to the shareholders in whole 21 or part; or
- (b) The shareholders, in amending or repealing a particular bylaw, provide expressly that the board of directors may not amend or repeal that bylaw.
- 25 (2) A corporation's shareholders may amend or repeal the 26 corporation's bylaws, or adopt new bylaws, even though the bylaws may 27 also be amended or repealed, or new bylaws may also be adopted, by its 28 board of directors.
- 29 **Sec. 36.** RCW 23B.10.205 and 2007 c 467 s 5 are each amended to 30 read as follows:
- 31 (1) Unless the articles of incorporation $((\frac{1}{4}))$ specifically 32 prohibit the adoption of a bylaw pursuant to this section, $((\frac{1}{4}))$ 33 alter the vote specified in RCW 23B.07.280(2), or $((\frac{1}{4}))$ allow for or 34 do not exclude cumulative voting, a public company may elect in its 35 bylaws to be governed in the election of directors as follows:

 $((\frac{1}{2}))$ (a) Each vote entitled to be cast may be voted for, voted against, or withheld for one or more candidates up to that number of candidates that is equal to the number of directors to be elected but without cumulating the votes, or a shareholder may indicate an abstention for one or more candidates;

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 $((\frac{(ii)}{(ii)}))$ To be elected, a candidate must have received the number, percentage, or level of votes specified in the bylaws; provided that holders of shares entitled to vote in the election and constituting a quorum are present at the meeting. Except in a contested election as provided in (((c)(v))) (e) of this subsection, a candidate who does not receive the number, percentage, or level of votes specified in the bylaws but who was a director at the time of the election shall continue to serve as a director for a term that shall terminate on the date that is the earlier of $((\frac{A}{A}))$ (i) the date specified in the bylaw, but not longer than ninety days from the date which the voting results are determined pursuant 23B.07.035(2), or $((\frac{B}{B}))$ (ii) the date on which an individual is selected by the board of directors to fill the office held by such director, which selection shall be deemed to constitute the filling of a vacancy by the board to which RCW 23B.08.100 applies;

((\(\frac{(iii)}{)}\)) (c) A bylaw adopted pursuant to this section may provide that votes cast against and/or withheld as to a candidate are to be taken into account in determining whether the number, percentage, or level of votes required for election has been received. Unless the bylaw specifies otherwise, only votes cast are to be taken into account and a ballot marked "withheld" in respect to a share is deemed to be a vote cast. Unless the bylaws specify otherwise, shares otherwise present at the meeting but for which there is an abstention or as to which no authority or direction to vote in the election;

 $((\frac{iv}{iv}))$ <u>(d)</u> The board of directors may select any qualified individual to fill the office held by a director who did not receive the specified vote for election referenced in $((\frac{c}{ii}))$ <u>(b)</u> of this subsection; and

 $((\frac{\langle v \rangle}{}))$ (e) Unless the bylaw specifies otherwise, a bylaw adopted pursuant to this subsection (1) shall not apply to an election of directors by a voting group if $((\frac{\langle A \rangle}{}))$ (i) at the expiration of the time fixed under a provision requiring advance notification of director

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- candidates, or $((\frac{B}{B}))$ (ii) absent such a provision, at a time fixed by 1 2 the board of directors which is not more than fourteen days before notice is given of the meeting at which the election is to occur, there 3 are more candidates for election by the voting group than the number of 4 5 directors to be elected, one or more of whom are properly proposed by shareholders. An individual shall not be considered a candidate for 6 7 purposes of this subsection $(1)((\frac{(c)(v)}{(v)}))$ (e) if the board of directors 8 determines before the notice of meeting is given that such individual's candidacy does not create a bona fide election contest. 9
- 10 (2) A bylaw containing an election to be governed by this section 11 may be repealed or amended:
- 12 (a) If originally adopted by the shareholders, only by the 13 shareholders, unless the bylaw otherwise provides; or
- 14 (b) If adopted by the board of directors, by the board of directors or the shareholders.
- 16 **Sec. 37.** RCW 23B.10.210 and 1989 c 165 s 130 are each amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) A bylaw that fixes a greater quorum or voting requirement for 19 the board of directors may be amended or repealed:
- 20 (a) If originally adopted by the shareholders, only by the 21 shareholders; or
 - (b) If originally adopted by the board of directors, either by the shareholders or by the board of directors.
 - (2) A bylaw adopted or amended by the shareholders that fixes a greater quorum or voting requirement for the board of directors may provide that it may be amended or repealed only by a specified vote of either the shareholders or the board of directors.
 - (3) If the corporation is a public company, ((action)) approval by the board of directors under subsection (1)(b) of this section to adopt or amend a bylaw that changes the quorum or voting requirement for the board of directors must meet the quorum requirement and be ((adopted)) approved by the vote required ((to take action)) for approval under the quorum and voting requirement then in effect.
 - (4) If the corporation is not a public company, ((action)) approval by the board of directors under subsection (1)(b) of this section to adopt or amend a bylaw that changes the quorum or voting requirement for the board of directors must meet the same quorum requirement and be

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- ((adopted)) approved by the same vote required ((to take action)) for
- 2 <u>approval</u> under the quorum and voting requirement then in effect or
- 3 proposed to be adopted, whichever is greater.

- Sec. 38. RCW 23B.11.030 and 2003 c 35 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) After adopting a plan of merger or share exchange, the board of directors of each corporation party to the merger, and the board of directors of the corporation whose shares will be acquired in the share exchange, shall submit the plan of merger, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, or share exchange for approval by its shareholders.
 - (2) For a plan of merger or share exchange to be approved:
- (a) The board of directors must recommend the plan of merger or share exchange to the shareholders, unless the board of directors determines that because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances it should make no recommendation and communicates the basis for its determination to the shareholders with the plan; and
- (b) The shareholders entitled to vote must approve the plan, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section.
- (3) The board of directors may condition its submission of the proposed plan of merger or share exchange on any basis, including the affirmative vote of holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of shareholders not otherwise entitled under this title or the articles of incorporation to vote as a separate voting group on the proposed plan of merger or share exchange.
- (4) The corporation shall notify each shareholder, whether or not entitled to vote, of the proposed shareholders' meeting in accordance with RCW 23B.07.050. The notice must also state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the plan of merger or share exchange and must contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the plan.
- (5) In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the board of directors under subsection (3) of this section, the plan of merger ((to be authorized)) must be approved by two-thirds of the voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan, and of each other voting group entitled under RCW 23B.11.035 or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the plan, unless shareholder

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((action)) approval is not required under subsection (7) of this section. The articles of incorporation may require a greater or lesser vote than that provided in this subsection, or a greater or lesser vote by separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan of merger and of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the plan. Separate voting by additional voting groups is required on a plan of merger under the circumstances described in RCW 23B.11.035.

- (6) In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the board of directors under subsection (3) of this section, the plan of share exchange ((to be authorized)) must be approved by two-thirds of the voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan, and of each other voting group entitled under RCW 23B.11.035 or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the plan. The articles of incorporation may require a greater or lesser vote than that provided in this subsection, or a greater or lesser vote by separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan of share exchange and of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the plan. Separate voting by additional voting groups is required on a plan of share exchange under the circumstances described in RCW 23B.11.035.
- (7) ((Action)) Approval by the shareholders of the surviving corporation on a plan of merger is not required if:
- (a) The articles of incorporation of the surviving corporation will not differ, except for amendments enumerated in RCW 23B.10.020, from its articles of incorporation before the merger;
- (b) Each shareholder of the surviving corporation whose shares were outstanding immediately before the effective date of the merger will hold the same number of shares, with identical designations, preferences, limitations, and relative rights, immediately after the merger;
- (c) The number of voting shares outstanding immediately after the merger, plus the number of voting shares issuable as a result of the merger, either by the conversion of securities issued pursuant to the merger or the exercise of rights and warrants issued pursuant to the merger, will not exceed the total number of voting shares of the surviving corporation authorized by its articles of incorporation immediately before the merger; and

- (d) The number of participating shares outstanding immediately after the merger, plus the number of participating shares issuable as a result of the merger, either by the conversion of securities issued pursuant to the merger or the exercise of rights and warrants issued pursuant to the merger, will not exceed the total number of participating shares authorized by its articles of incorporation immediately before the merger.
 - (8) As used in subsection (7) of this section:

- 9 (a) "Participating shares" means shares that entitle their holders 10 to participate without limitation in distributions.
 - (b) "Voting shares" means shares that entitle their holders to vote unconditionally in elections of directors.
 - (9) After a merger or share exchange is ((authorized)) approved, and at any time before articles of merger or share exchange are filed, the planned merger or share exchange may be abandoned, subject to any contractual rights, without further shareholder ((action)) approval, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the plan of merger or share exchange or, if none is set forth, in the manner determined by the board of directors.
- **Sec. 39.** RCW 23B.11.040 and 2002 c 297 s 34 are each amended to 21 read as follows:
 - (1) A parent corporation owning at least ninety percent of the outstanding shares of each class of a subsidiary corporation may merge the subsidiary into itself without approval of the shareholders of the parent or subsidiary.
 - (2) The board of directors of the parent shall ((adopt)) approve a plan of merger that sets forth:
 - (a) The names of the parent and subsidiary; and
 - (b) The manner and basis of converting the shares of the subsidiary into shares, obligations, or other securities of the parent or any other corporation or into cash or other property in whole or part.
 - (3) Within ten days after the corporate action ((is taken)) becomes effective, the parent shall deliver a notice to each shareholder of the subsidiary, which notice shall include a copy of the plan of merger.
- 35 (4) Articles of merger under this section may not contain 36 amendments to the articles of incorporation of the parent corporation, 37 except for amendments enumerated in RCW 23B.10.020.

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- Sec. 40. RCW 23B.12.020 and 2003 c 35 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation may sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all, or substantially all, of its property, otherwise than in the usual and regular course of business, on the terms and conditions and for the consideration determined by the corporation's board of directors, if the board of directors proposes and its shareholders approve the proposed transaction.
 - (2) For a transaction to be ((authorized)) approved:

- (a) The board of directors must recommend the proposed transaction to the shareholders unless the board of directors determines that because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances it should make no recommendation and communicates the basis for its determination to the shareholders with the submission of the proposed transaction; and
 - (b) The shareholders entitled to vote must approve the transaction.
- (3) The board of directors may condition its submission of the proposed transaction on any basis, including the affirmative vote of holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of shareholders not otherwise entitled under this title or the articles of incorporation to vote as a separate voting group on the proposed transaction.
- (4) The corporation shall notify each shareholder, whether or not entitled to vote, of the proposed shareholders' meeting in accordance with RCW 23B.07.050. The notice must also state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of all, or substantially all, the property of the corporation and contain or be accompanied by a description of the transaction.
- (5) In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the board of directors under subsection (3) of this section, the transaction ((to be authorized)) must be approved by two-thirds of the voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the transaction, and of each other voting group entitled under the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the transaction. The articles of incorporation may require a greater or lesser vote than provided in this subsection, or a greater or lesser vote by any separate voting groups provided for in the articles of incorporation, so long as the required vote is not less

- than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the transaction and of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the transaction.
- (6) After a sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of property is ((authorized)) approved, the transaction may be abandoned, subject to any contractual rights, without further shareholder ((action)) approval, in a manner determined by the board of directors.
- 8 (7) A transaction that constitutes a distribution is governed by 9 RCW 23B.06.400 and not by this section.
- **Sec. 41.** RCW 23B.13.020 and 2003 c 35 s 9 are each amended to read 11 as follows:

- (1) A shareholder is entitled to dissent from, and obtain payment of the fair value of the shareholder's shares in the event of, any of the following corporate actions:
 - (a) ((Consummation of)) \underline{A} plan of merger, which has become effective, to which the corporation is a party (i) if shareholder approval ((\underline{is})) was required for the merger by RCW 23B.11.030, 23B.11.080, or the articles of incorporation, and the shareholder ((\underline{is})) was entitled to vote on the merger, or (ii) if the corporation ((\underline{is})) was a subsidiary that ((\underline{is})) has been merged with its parent under RCW 23B.11.040;
 - (b) ((Consummation of)) \underline{A} plan of share exchange, which has become effective, to which the corporation is a party as the corporation whose shares ((will be)) have been acquired, if the shareholder ((is)) was entitled to vote on the plan;
 - (c) ((Consummation of)) A sale or exchange, which has become effective, of all, or substantially all, of the property of the corporation other than in the usual and regular course of business, if the shareholder ((is)) was entitled to vote on the sale or exchange, including a sale in dissolution, but not including a sale pursuant to court order or a sale for cash pursuant to a plan by which all or substantially all of the net proceeds of the sale will be distributed to the shareholders within one year after the date of sale;
- (d) An amendment of the articles of incorporation, whether or not the shareholder was entitled to vote on the amendment, if the amendment effects a redemption or cancellation of all of the shareholder's shares

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in exchange for cash or other consideration other than shares of the corporation; or

- (e) Any corporate action ((taken)) approved pursuant to a shareholder vote to the extent the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or a resolution of the board of directors provides that voting or nonvoting shareholders are entitled to dissent and obtain payment for their shares.
- (2) A shareholder entitled to dissent and obtain payment for the shareholder's shares under this chapter may not challenge the corporate action creating the shareholder's entitlement unless the action fails to comply with the procedural requirements imposed by this title, RCW 25.10.900 through 25.10.955, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws, or is fraudulent with respect to the shareholder or the corporation.
- 15 (3) The right of a dissenting shareholder to obtain payment of the 16 fair value of the shareholder's shares shall terminate upon the 17 occurrence of any one of the following events:
 - (a) The proposed corporate action is abandoned or rescinded;
- 19 (b) A court having jurisdiction permanently enjoins or sets aside 20 the corporate action; or
- 21 (c) The shareholder's demand for payment is withdrawn with the 22 written consent of the corporation.
- **Sec. 42.** RCW 23B.13.200 and 2002 c 297 s 36 are each amended to 24 read as follows:
 - (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted ((to)) for approval by a vote at a shareholders' meeting, the meeting notice must state that shareholders are or may be entitled to assert dissenters' rights under this chapter and be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.
 - (2) If corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is ((taken)) submitted for approval without a vote of shareholders((, the corporation, within ten days after the effective date of such corporate action, shall deliver a notice to all shareholders entitled to assert dissenters' rights that the action was taken and send them the notice described in RCW 23B.13.220)) in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, the shareholder consent described in RCW 23B.07.040(3)(a)

- 1 <u>must include a statement that shareholders are or may be entitled to</u>
- 2 assert dissenters' rights under this chapter and be accompanied by a
- 3 copy of this chapter.

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- 4 **Sec. 43.** RCW 23B.13.210 and 2002 c 297 s 37 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted to a vote at a shareholders' meeting, a shareholder who wishes to assert dissenters' rights must (a) deliver to the corporation before the vote is taken notice of the shareholder's intent to demand payment for the shareholder's shares if the proposed corporate action is effected, and (b) not vote such shares in favor of the proposed corporate action.
 - (2) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted for approval without a vote of shareholders in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, a shareholder who wishes to assert dissenters' rights must not execute the consent or otherwise vote such shares in favor of the proposed corporate action.
- 18 <u>(3)</u> A shareholder who does not satisfy the requirements of 19 subsection (1) <u>or (2)</u> of this section is not entitled to payment for 20 the shareholder's shares under this chapter.
- 21 **Sec. 44.** RCW 23B.13.220 and 2002 c 297 s 38 are each amended to 22 read as follows:
 - (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is ((authorized)) approved at a shareholders' meeting, the corporation shall within ten days after the effective date of the corporate action deliver ((a notice)) to all shareholders who satisfied the requirements of RCW 23B.13.210(1) a notice in compliance with subsection (3) of this section.
 - (2) ((The)) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW 23B.13.020 is approved without a vote of shareholders in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, the notice delivered pursuant to RCW 23B.07.040(3)(b) to shareholders who satisfied the requirements of RCW 23B.13.210(2) shall comply with subsection (3) of this section.
- 34 (3) Any notice <u>under subsection</u> (1) or (2) of this section must 35 ((be sent within ten days after the effective date of the corporate 36 action, and must)):

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- 1 (a) State where the payment demand must be sent and where and when 2 certificates for certificated shares must be deposited;
 - (b) Inform holders of uncertificated shares to what extent transfer of the shares will be restricted after the payment demand is received;
 - (c) Supply a form for demanding payment that includes the date of the first announcement to news media or to shareholders of the terms of the proposed corporate action and requires that the person asserting dissenters' rights certify whether or not the person acquired beneficial ownership of the shares before that date;
- (d) Set a date by which the corporation must receive the payment demand, which date may not be fewer than thirty nor more than sixty days after the date the notice in subsection (1) or (2) of this section is delivered; and
 - (e) Be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.

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- 15 **Sec. 45.** RCW 23B.13.240 and 1989 c 165 s 147 are each amended to read as follows:
- 17 (1) The corporation may restrict the transfer of uncertificated 18 shares from the date the demand for ((their)) payment under RCW 19 23B.13.230 is received until the proposed corporate action is effected 20 or the restriction is released under RCW 23B.13.260.
- 21 (2) The person for whom dissenters' rights are asserted as to 22 uncertificated shares retains all other rights of a shareholder until 23 the effective date of the proposed corporate action.
- 24 **Sec. 46.** RCW 23B.13.260 and 1989 c 165 s 149 are each amended to 25 read as follows:
 - (1) If the corporation does not effect the proposed <u>corporate</u> action within sixty days after the date set for demanding payment and depositing share certificates, the corporation shall return the deposited certificates and release any transfer restrictions imposed on uncertificated shares.
- 31 (2) If after returning deposited certificates and releasing 32 transfer restrictions, the corporation wishes to ((undertake)) effect 33 the proposed corporate action, it must send a new dissenters' notice 34 under RCW 23B.13.220 and repeat the payment demand procedure.

Sec. 47. RCW 23B.13.270 and 1989 c 165 s 150 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) A corporation may elect to withhold payment required by RCW 23B.13.250 from a dissenter unless the dissenter was the beneficial owner of the shares before the date set forth in the dissenters' notice as the date of the first announcement to news media or to shareholders of the terms of the proposed corporate action.
- (2) To the extent the corporation elects to withhold payment under subsection (1) of this section, after ((taking)) the effective date of the proposed corporate action, it shall estimate the fair value of the shares, plus accrued interest, and shall pay this amount to each dissenter who agrees to accept it in full satisfaction of the dissenter's demand. The corporation shall send with its offer an explanation of how it estimated the fair value of the shares, explanation of how the interest was calculated, and a statement of the dissenter's right to demand payment under RCW 23B.13.280.
 - Sec. 48. RCW 23B.13.280 and 2002 c 297 s 40 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A dissenter may deliver a notice to the corporation informing the corporation of the dissenter's own estimate of the fair value of the dissenter's shares and amount of interest due, and demand payment of the dissenter's estimate, less any payment under RCW 23B.13.250, or reject the corporation's offer under RCW 23B.13.270 and demand payment of the dissenter's estimate of the fair value of the dissenter's shares and interest due, if:
 - (a) The dissenter believes that the amount paid under RCW 23B.13.250 or offered under RCW 23B.13.270 is less than the fair value of the dissenter's shares or that the interest due is incorrectly calculated;
 - (b) The corporation fails to make payment under RCW 23B.13.250 within sixty days after the date set for demanding payment; or
 - (c) The corporation does not effect the proposed <u>corporate</u> action and does not return the deposited certificates or release the transfer restrictions imposed on uncertificated shares within sixty days after the date set for demanding payment.
- 36 (2) A dissenter waives the right to demand payment under this 37 section unless the dissenter notifies the corporation of the

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- 1 dissenter's demand under subsection (1) of this section within thirty
- 2 days after the corporation made or offered payment for the dissenter's
- 3 shares.

- **Sec. 49.** RCW 23B.14.010 and 2006 c 52 s 5 are each amended to read 5 as follows:
 - (1) A majority of the initial directors, or, if initial directors were not named in the articles of incorporation and have not been elected, a majority of the incorporators, of a corporation that has not issued shares may ((authorize)) approve dissolution of the corporation.
 - (2) Unless prohibited by the articles of incorporation, a majority of the board of directors may ((authorize)) approve dissolution of the corporation without approval by the shareholders, upon a finding by the board of directors that:
 - (a) The corporation is not able to pay its liabilities as they become due in the usual course of business, or the corporation's assets are less than the sum of its total liabilities; and
 - (b) Ten or more days have elapsed since the corporation gave notice to all shareholders, whether or not they would otherwise be entitled to vote under RCW 23B.14.020, of the intent of the board of directors to ((authorize)) approve dissolution under this subsection.
- **Sec. 50.** RCW 23B.14.020 and 2006 c 52 s 6 are each amended to read 22 as follows:
 - (1) A corporation's board of directors may propose dissolution for submission to the shareholders.
 - (2) For a proposal to dissolve to be ((adopted)) approved:
 - (a) The board of directors must recommend dissolution to the shareholders unless the board of directors determines that because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances it should make no recommendation and communicates the basis for its determination to the shareholders; and
 - (b) The shareholders entitled to vote must approve the proposal to dissolve as provided in subsection (5) of this section.
- 33 (3) The board of directors may condition its submission of the 34 proposal for dissolution on any basis, including the affirmative vote 35 of holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of

shareholders not otherwise entitled under this title or the articles of incorporation to vote as a separate voting group on the proposed dissolution.

- (4) The corporation shall notify each shareholder, whether or not entitled to vote, of the proposed dissolution either (a) by giving notice of a shareholders' meeting in accordance with RCW 23B.07.050 and stating that the purpose or one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider dissolving the corporation, or (b) in accordance with the requirements of RCW 23B.07.040 for ((taking action on the proposal)) approving the proposed dissolution without a meeting.
- 11 (5) In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the board 12 of directors under subsection (3) of this section, the ((proposal to 13 dissolve)) proposed dissolution must be approved by two-thirds of the voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the 14 15 ((proposal)) proposed dissolution, and of each other voting group entitled under the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the 16 The articles of incorporation may 17 ((proposal)) proposed dissolution. require a greater or lesser vote than provided in this subsection, or 18 19 a greater or lesser vote by any separate voting groups provided for in the articles of incorporation, so long as the required vote is not less 20 21 than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the 22 ((proposal)) proposed dissolution and of each other voting group 23 entitled to vote separately on the ((proposal)) proposed dissolution.
- 24 **Sec. 51.** RCW 23B.14.030 and 2006 c 52 s 7 are each amended to read 25 as follows:
- 26 (1) At any time after dissolution is authorized under RCW 23B.14.010 or 23B.14.020, the corporation may dissolve by delivering to the secretary of state for filing:
- 29 (a) A copy of a revenue clearance certificate issued pursuant to 30 RCW 82.32.260; and
 - (b) Articles of dissolution setting forth:
 - (i) The name of the corporation;

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- (ii) The date dissolution was ((authorized)) approved; and
- (iii) A statement that dissolution was duly ((authorized)) approved by the initial directors, the incorporators, or the board of directors in accordance with RCW 23B.14.010, or was duly proposed by the board of

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directors and approved by the shareholders in accordance with RCW 2 33B.14.020.

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- (2) A corporation is dissolved upon the effective date of its articles of dissolution.
- (3) A dissolved corporation shall, within thirty days after the effective date of its articles of dissolution, publish notice of its dissolution and request that persons with claims against the dissolved corporation present them in accordance with the notice. The notice must be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the dissolved corporation's principal office (or, if none in this state, registered office) is or was last located. The notice must also describe the information that must be included in a claim, provide a mailing address where a claim may be sent, and state that claims against the dissolved corporation may be barred in accordance with the provisions of this chapter if not timely asserted. corporation's failure to publish notice in accordance with this subsection does not affect the validity or the effective date of its dissolution.
 - (4) For purposes of this chapter, "dissolved corporation" means a corporation whose dissolution has been ((authorized)) approved in accordance with RCW 23B.14.010 or 23B.14.020 and whose articles of dissolution have become effective, and includes any trust or other successor entity to which the remaining assets of such a corporation are transferred subject to its liabilities for purposes of liquidation in accordance with RCW 23B.14.050.
- 27 **Sec. 52.** RCW 23B.14.040 and 1989 c 165 s 157 are each amended to 28 read as follows:
- 29 (1) A corporation may revoke its dissolution within one hundred 30 twenty days of its effective date.
 - (2) Revocation of dissolution must be ((authorized)) approved in the same manner as the dissolution was ((authorized)) approved unless that ((authorization)) approval permitted revocation upon approval by ((action of)) the board of directors alone, in which event the board of directors may revoke the dissolution without shareholder ((action)) approval.

- (3) After the revocation of dissolution is ((authorized)) approved, the corporation may revoke the dissolution by delivering to the secretary of state for filing articles of revocation of dissolution, together with a copy of its articles of dissolution, that set forth:
- (a) The name of the corporation and a statement that such name satisfies the requirements of RCW 23B.04.010; if the name is not available, the corporation must file articles of amendment changing its name with the articles of revocation of dissolution;
 - (b) The effective date of the dissolution that was revoked;
- 10 (c) The date that the revocation of dissolution was ((authorized))
 11 approved;
 - (d) If the corporation's board of directors, or incorporators, revoked the dissolution, a statement to that effect;
 - (e) If the corporation's board of directors revoked a dissolution authorized by the shareholders, a statement that revocation was permitted by action by the board of directors alone pursuant to that authorization; and
- (f) If shareholder ((action)) approval was required to revoke the dissolution, a statement that revocation of the dissolution was duly approved by the shareholders in accordance with RCW 23B.14.040(2) and 23B.14.020.
- 22 (4) Revocation of dissolution is effective upon the effective date 23 of the articles of revocation of dissolution.
- 24 (5) When the revocation of dissolution is effective, it relates 25 back to and takes effect as of the effective date of the dissolution 26 and the corporation resumes carrying on its business as if dissolution 27 had never occurred.
- 28 **Sec. 53.** RCW 23B.14.050 and 2006 c 52 s 8 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
- 30 (1) A dissolved corporation continues its corporate existence but 31 may not carry on any business except that appropriate to wind up and 32 liquidate its business and affairs, including:
 - (a) Collecting its assets;

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34 (b) Disposing of its properties that will be applied toward 35 satisfaction or making reasonable provision for satisfaction of its 36 liabilities or will otherwise not be distributed in kind to its

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- shareholders, but in any case subject to applicable liens and security interests as well as any applicable contractual restrictions on the disposition of its properties;
 - (c) Satisfying or making reasonable provision for satisfying its liabilities, in accordance with their priorities as established by law, and on a pro rata basis within each class of liabilities;
 - (d) Subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 23B.06.400, distributing its remaining property among its shareholders according to their interests; and
- 10 (e) Doing every other act necessary to wind up and liquidate its 11 business and affairs.
- 12 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, dissolution of a corporation does not:
 - (a) Transfer title to the corporation's property;

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- 15 (b) Prevent transfer of its shares or securities, although the 16 authorization to dissolve may provide for closing the corporation's 17 share transfer records;
 - (c) Subject its directors or officers to standards of conduct different from those prescribed in chapter 23B.08 RCW;
 - (d) Change quorum or voting requirements for its board of directors or shareholders; change provisions for selection, resignation, or removal of its directors or officers or both; or change provisions for amending its bylaws;
 - (e) Prevent commencement of a proceeding by or against the corporation in its corporate name;
 - (f) Abate or suspend a proceeding pending by or against the corporation on the effective date of dissolution; or
- 28 (g) Terminate the authority of the registered agent of the 29 corporation.
 - (3) A dissolved corporation's board of directors may make a determination that reasonable provision for the satisfaction of any liability, whether arising in tort or by contract, statute, or otherwise, and whether matured or unmatured, contingent, or conditional, has been made by means of a purchase of insurance coverage, provision of security therefor, contractual assumption thereof by a solvent person, or any other means, that the board of directors determines is reasonably calculated to provide for satisfaction of the reasonably estimated amount of such liability.

Upon making such a determination, the board of directors shall, for of determining whether a subsequent distribution shareholders is prohibited under RCW 23B.06.400(2), be entitled to treat such liability as fully satisfied by the assets used or committed in order to make such provision. In making determinations under RCW 23B.06.400(2), the board of directors of a dissolved corporation may also disregard, and make no provision for the satisfaction of, any liabilities that are barred in accordance with RCW 23B.14.060(2), or that may exceed any provision for their satisfaction ordered by a superior court pursuant to RCW 23B.14.065, or that the board of directors does not consider, based on the facts known to it, reasonably likely to arise prior to expiration of the survival period specified in RCW 23B.14.340.

- (4) The board of directors of a dissolved corporation may at any time petition to have the dissolution continued under court supervision in accordance with RCW 23B.14.300, or, upon a finding that the corporation is not able to pay its liabilities as they become due in the usual course of business or that its assets are less than the sum of its total liabilities, may dedicate the corporation's assets to the repayment of its creditors by making an assignment for the benefit of creditors in accordance with chapter 7.08 RCW or obtaining the appointment of a general receiver in accordance with chapter 7.60 RCW. The assumption of control over the corporation's assets by a court, an assignee for the benefit of creditors, or a general receiver relieves the directors of any further duties with respect to the liquidation of the corporation's assets or the application of any assets or proceeds toward satisfaction of its liabilities.
- (5) Corporate actions ((and decisions)) to be ((taken)) approved by a corporation that has been dissolved under RCW 23B.14.030 or 23B.14.210, which are within the scope of activities permitted in this chapter, may be ((taken)) approved by the corporation's board of directors and, if required, by its shareholders, membership in both groups determined as of the effective date of the dissolution. If vacancies in the board of directors occur after the effective date of dissolution, the shareholders, or the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum of the board, may fill the vacancies. A special meeting of the shareholders for purposes of ((authorizing)) approving any corporate action required or permitted to be ((authorized)) approved by

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- 1 shareholders, or for purposes of electing directors, may be called by
- 2 any person who was an officer, director, or shareholder of the
- 3 corporation at the effective date of the dissolution.

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- 4 **Sec. 54.** RCW 23B.16.010 and 2002 c 297 s 45 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A corporation shall keep as permanent records minutes of all meetings of its shareholders and board of directors, a record of all corporate actions ((taken)) approved by the shareholders or board of directors by executed consent without a meeting, and a record of all corporate actions ((taken)) approved by a committee of the board of directors exercising the authority of the board of directors on behalf of the corporation.
 - (2) A corporation shall maintain appropriate accounting records.
 - (3) A corporation or its agent shall maintain a record of its shareholders, in a form that permits preparation of a list of the names and addresses of all shareholders, in alphabetical order by class of shares showing the number and class of shares held by each.
 - (4) A corporation shall maintain its records in written form or in another form capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time.
- 21 (5) A corporation shall keep a copy of the following records at its 22 principal office:
- 23 (a) Its articles or restated articles of incorporation and all 24 amendments to them currently in effect;
 - (b) Its bylaws or restated bylaws and all amendments to them currently in effect;
 - (c) The minutes of all shareholders' meetings, and records of all ((action taken)) corporate actions approved by shareholders without a meeting, for the past three years;
- 30 (d) The financial statements described in RCW 23B.16.200(1), for 31 the past three years;
- 32 (e) All communications in the form of a record to shareholders 33 generally within the past three years;
- 34 (f) A list of the names and business addresses of its current 35 directors and officers; and
- 36 (g) Its initial report or most recent annual report delivered to 37 the secretary of state under RCW 23B.16.220.

- 1 **Sec. 55.** RCW 23B.16.020 and 2002 c 297 s 46 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A shareholder of a corporation is entitled to inspect and copy, during regular business hours at the corporation's principal office, any of the records of the corporation described in RCW 23B.16.010(5) if the shareholder gives the corporation notice of the shareholder's demand at least five business days before the date on which the shareholder wishes to inspect and copy.
 - (2) A shareholder of a corporation is entitled to inspect and copy, during regular business hours at a reasonable location specified by the corporation, any of the following records of the corporation if the shareholder meets the requirements of subsection (3) of this section and gives the corporation notice of the shareholder's demand at least five business days before the date on which the shareholder wishes to inspect and copy:
 - (a) Excerpts from minutes of any meeting of the board of directors, ((records of any action)) or of any meeting of a committee of the board of directors while exercising the authority of the board of directors, minutes of any meeting of the shareholders, and records of ((action taken)) corporate actions approved by the shareholders or board of directors or a committee thereof without a meeting, to the extent not subject to inspection under subsection (1) of this section;
 - (b) Accounting records of the corporation; and
 - (c) The record of shareholders.

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- (3) A shareholder may inspect and copy the records described in subsection (2) of this section only if:
- (a) The shareholder's demand is made in good faith and for a proper purpose;
- 29 (b) The shareholder describes with reasonable particularity the 30 shareholder's purpose and the records the shareholder desires to 31 inspect; and
- 32 (c) The records are directly connected with the shareholder's 33 purpose.
- 34 (4) The right of inspection granted by this section may not be 35 abolished or limited by a corporation's articles of incorporation or 36 bylaws.
 - (5) This section does not affect:

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- (a) The right of a shareholder to inspect records under RCW 1 2 23B.07.200 or, if the shareholder is in litigation with the corporation, to the same extent as any other litigant; or 3
 - (b) The power of a court, independently of this title, to compel the production of corporate records for examination.
- (6) For purposes of this section, "shareholder" includes 7 beneficial owner whose shares are held in a voting trust or by a 8 nominee on the beneficial owner's behalf.
- 9 Sec. 56. RCW 23B.19.040 and 2007 c 45 s 1 are each amended to read as follows: 10
 - (1)(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this title, a target corporation shall not for a period of five years following the acquiring person's share acquisition time engage in a significant business transaction unless:
 - (i) It is exempted by RCW 23B.19.030;

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- (ii) The significant business transaction or the purchase of shares made by the acquiring person is approved prior to the acquiring person's share acquisition time by a majority of the members of the board of directors of the target corporation; or
- (iii) At or subsequent to the acquiring person's share acquisition time, such significant business transaction is approved by a majority of the members of the board of directors of the target corporation and ((authorized)) <u>approved</u> at an annual or special meeting shareholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting shares, except shares beneficially owned by or under the voting control of the acquiring person.
- (b) If a good faith proposal for a significant business transaction is made in writing to the board of directors of the target corporation prior to the significant business transaction or prior to the share acquisition time, the board of directors shall respond in writing, within thirty days or such shorter period, if any, as may be required by the exchange act setting forth its reasons for its decision regarding the proposal. If a good faith proposal to purchase shares is made in writing to the board of directors of the target corporation, the board of directors, unless it responds affirmatively in writing

within thirty days or a shorter period, if any, as may be required by the exchange act shall be deemed to have disapproved such share purchase.

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- (2) Except for a significant business transaction approved under subsection (1) of this section or exempted by RCW 23B.19.030, in addition to any other requirement, a target corporation shall not engage at any time in any significant business transaction described in RCW 23B.19.020(15) (a) or (e) with any acquiring person of such a corporation other than a significant business transaction that either meets all of the conditions of (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection or meets the conditions of (d) of this subsection:
- (a) The aggregate amount of the cash and the market value as of the consummation date of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of outstanding common shares of such a target corporation in a significant business transaction is at least equal to the higher of the following:
- (i) The highest per share price paid by such an acquiring person at time when the person was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of five percent or more of the outstanding voting shares of a target corporation, for any shares of common shares of the same class or series acquired by it: (A) Within the five-year period immediately prior to the announcement date with respect to a significant business transaction; or (B) within the five-year period immediately prior to, in, the transaction in which the acquiring person became an acquiring person, whichever is higher plus, in either case, interest compounded annually from the earliest date on which the highest per share acquisition price was paid through the consummation date at the rate for one-year United States treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of common shares since the earliest date, up to the amount of the interest; and
- (ii) The market value per share of common shares on the announcement date with respect to a significant business transaction or on the date of the acquiring person's share acquisition time, whichever is higher; plus interest compounded annually from such a date through the consummation date at the rate for one-year United States treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of

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any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of common shares since the date, up to the amount of the interest.

- (b) The aggregate amount of the cash and the market value as of the consummation date of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of outstanding shares of any class or series of shares, other than common shares, of the target corporation is at least equal to the highest of the following, whether or not the acquiring person has previously acquired any shares of such a class or series of shares:
- (i) The highest per share price paid by an acquiring person at a time when the person was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of five percent or more of the outstanding voting shares of a resident domestic corporation, for any shares of the same class or series of shares acquired by it: (A) Within the five-year period immediately prior to the announcement date with respect to a significant business transaction; or (B) within the five-year period immediately prior to, or in, the transaction in which the acquiring person became an acquiring person, whichever is higher; plus, in either case, interest compounded annually from the earliest date on which the highest per share acquisition price was paid through the consummation date at the rate for one-year United States treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of the same class or series of shares since the earliest date, up to the amount of the interest;
- (ii) The highest preferential amount per share to which the holders of shares of the same class or series of shares are entitled in the event of any voluntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the target corporation, plus the aggregate amount of any dividends declared or due as to which the holders are entitled prior to payment of dividends on some other class or series of shares, unless the aggregate amount of the dividends is included in the preferential amount; and
- (iii) The market value per share of the same class or series of shares on the announcement date with respect to a significant business transaction or on the date of the acquiring person's share acquisition time, whichever is higher; plus interest compounded annually from such a date through the consummation date at the rate for one-year United

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States treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of the same class or series of shares since the date, up to the amount of the interest.

- (c) The consideration to be received by holders of a particular class or series of outstanding shares, including common shares, of the target corporation in a significant business transaction is in cash or in the same form as the acquiring person has used to acquire the largest number of shares of the same class or series of shares previously acquired by the person, and the consideration shall be distributed promptly.
- (d) The significant business transaction is approved at an annual meeting of shareholders, or special meeting of shareholders called for such a purpose, no earlier than five years after the acquiring person's share acquisition time, by a majority of the votes entitled to be counted within each voting group entitled to vote separately on the transaction. The votes of all outstanding shares entitled to vote under this title or the articles of incorporation shall be entitled to be counted under this subsection except that the votes of shares as to which an acquiring person has beneficial ownership or voting control may not be counted to determine whether shareholders have approved a transaction for purposes of this subsection. The votes of shares as to which an acquiring person has beneficial ownership or voting control shall, however, be counted in determining whether a transaction is approved under other sections of this title and for purposes of determining a quorum.
- (3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a target corporation that on June 6, 1996, had a provision in its articles of incorporation, adopted under RCW 23B.17.020(3)(d), expressly electing not to be covered under RCW 23B.17.020, which is repealed by section 6, chapter 155, Laws of 1996.
- (4) A significant business transaction that is made in violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section and that is not exempt under RCW 23B.19.030 is void.

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