

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2293

C 216 L 12
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Expanding consumer cooperative provisions under the nonprofit miscellaneous and mutual corporations act.

Sponsors: Representatives Pedersen, Rodne and Orwall.

House Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Background:

A business that is operated on a nonprofit basis may organize under the Nonprofit Miscellaneous and Mutual Corporations Act (NMMCA) for any lawful purpose, including mutual, social, cooperative, fraternal, or other purposes. The NMMCA sets forth the powers, duties, rights, and obligations of both the corporation and members or shareholders of the corporation, including establishing requirements with respect to annual and other meetings of the corporation.

Meeting Notices.

A corporation must give notice of the place and time of meetings not less than 10 nor more than 50 days prior to the meeting date to each member or shareholder entitled to vote at the meeting. If allowed under the corporation's articles, notice of regular meetings other than the annual meeting may be given by providing each member with the adopted schedule of regular meetings for the year at any time after the annual meeting and 10 days prior to a regular meeting. Meeting notices may be provided by electronic transmission if authorized in the articles.

Materials Accompanying Meeting Notices.

In certain circumstances, the NMMCA requires written or printed copies of certain information or materials to accompany a meeting notice to members or shareholders. For example, additional materials must accompany a meeting notice when the meeting will address an amendment to the articles of incorporation or a proposed merger of the corporation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Location of the Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members or shareholders of a corporation may be held at any place as provided in the bylaws of the corporation. If a meeting place is not specified in the bylaws, the annual meeting must be held at the registered office of the corporation in Washington.

Summary:

New provisions governing notice and other requirements with respect to meetings are established for consumer cooperatives under the NMMCA. A consumer cooperative is a corporation engaged in the retail sale, to its members and other consumers, of goods and services for personal, living, or family use.

Meeting Notices.

The window of time in which a consumer cooperative may give notice to its members of the place and time of the annual meeting is expanded to not less than 10 nor more than 120 days before the date of the annual meeting.

Materials Accompanying Meeting Notices.

A consumer cooperative may satisfy the requirement of providing certain information or materials in a writing accompanying a meeting notice by: posting the information or materials on an electronic network at least 30 days prior to the meeting; and delivering to members eligible to vote a notification that provides the address of the electronic network and instructions on how to access the posted information or materials.

A consumer cooperative must provide a written copy of the materials upon the request of any member who is eligible to vote.

Location of the Annual Meeting.

The articles of incorporation or bylaws of a consumer cooperative may allow annual meetings of the consumer cooperative to take place by means of electronic or other remote communications, rather than a physical assembly at a specific geographic location. Meetings held by means of electronic or other remote access must allow members a reasonable opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote by electronic transmission on matters submitted to a vote by members, and pose questions and make comments to management.

Members participating in an annual meeting by electronic or other remote communications are deemed present at the meeting for all purposes, and the place of the meeting is deemed to be the address of the electronic network or other communications site or connection specified in the meeting notice.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 96 0
Senate 48 0

Effective: June 7, 2012