H-2017.1			

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1235

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Appelwick, Padden, Ludwig and Johanson)

Read first time 03/03/93.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to partnerships; adding a new chapter to Title 25
- 2 RCW; and providing an effective date.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 4 ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS
- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 101.** DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter,
- 6 unless the context otherwise requires:
- 7 (1) "Certificate of formation" means the certificate referred to in
- 8 section 201 of this act, and the certificate as amended.
- 9 (2) "Event of dissociation" means an event that causes a person to 10 cease to be a member as provided in section 304 of this act.
- 11 (3) "Foreign limited liability company" means an entity that is:
- 12 (a) An unincorporated enterprise;
- 13 (b) Organized under the laws of a state other than the laws of this
- 14 state, or under the laws of any foreign country;
- 15 (c) Organized under a statute pursuant to which an enterprise may
- 16 be formed that affords to each of its members limited liability with
- 17 respect to the liabilities of the entity; and

p. 1 SHB 1235

- 1 (d) Is not required, in order to transact business or conduct 2 affairs in this state, to be registered or organized under any statute 3 of this state other than this chapter.
- 4 (4) "Limited liability company" and "domestic limited liability 5 company" means a limited liability company organized and existing under 6 this chapter.
- 7 (5) "Limited liability company agreement" means any written 8 agreement as to the affairs of a limited liability company and the 9 conduct of its business which is binding upon all of the members.
- 10 (6) "Limited liability company interest" means a member's share of 11 the profits and losses of a limited liability company and a member's 12 right to receive distributions of the limited liability company's 13 assets.
- (7) "Manager" or "managers" means, with respect to a limited liability company that has set forth in its certificate of formation that it is to be managed by managers, the person, or persons designated in accordance with section 401(2) of this act.
- 18 (8) "Member" means a person who has been admitted to a limited 19 liability company as a member as provided in section 301 of this act 20 and who has not been dissociated from the limited liability company.
- (9) "Person" means a natural person, partnership (whether general or limited and whether domestic or foreign), limited liability company, foreign limited liability company, trust, estate, association, corporation, custodian, nominee, or any other individual or entity in its own or any representative capacity.
- (10) "Professional limited liability company" means a limited liability company which is organized for the purpose of rendering professional service and whose certificate of formation sets forth that it is a professional limited liability company subject to section 109 of this act.
- (11) "Professional service" means any type of personal service to the public which requires as a condition precedent to the rendering of such service the obtaining of a license or other legal authorization, including, but not by way of limitation, certified public accountants, chiropractors, dentists, osteopaths, physicians, podiatrists, chiropodists, architects, veterinarians, and attorneys at law.
- 37 (12) "State" means the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of 38 Puerto Rico or any state, territory, possession, or other jurisdiction 39 of the United States other than the state of Washington.

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 102. NAME SET FORTH IN CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION. (1) The name of each limited liability company as set forth in its certificate of formation:
- 4 (a) Must contain either the words "Limited Liability Company," the 5 words "Limited Liability" and abbreviation "Co.," or the abbreviation 6 "L.L.C.";
- 7 (b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(d) of this section, may 8 contain the name of a member or manager;
- 9 (c) Must not contain language stating or implying that the limited 10 liability company is organized for a purpose other than those permitted 11 by section 106 of this act;
- (d) Must not contain any of the words or phrases: 12 "Bank," 13 "banking," "banker," "trust," "cooperative," "partnership," "corporation," "incorporated," or the abbreviations "corp.," "ltd.," or 14 15 "inc.," or "L.P.," or any combination of the words "industrial" and 16 "loan," or any combination of any two or more of the words "building," "savings," "loan," "home," "association," and "society," or any other 17 words or phrases prohibited by any statute of this state; and 18
- (e) Must be distinguishable upon the records of the secretary of state from the names described in RCW 23B.04.010(1)(d), and the names of any limited liability company reserved, registered, or formed under the laws of this state or qualified to do business as a foreign limited liability company in this state.

25

26

27

28

2930

31

3233

- (2) A limited liability company may apply to the secretary of state for authorization to use any name which is not distinguishable upon the records of the secretary of state from one or more of the names described in subsection (1)(e) of this section. The secretary of state shall authorize use of the name applied for if the other corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company consents in writing to the use and files with the secretary of state documents necessary to change its name or the name reserved or registered to a name that is distinguishable upon the records of the secretary of state from the name of the applying limited liability company.
- 34 (3) A name shall not be considered distinguishable upon the records 35 of the secretary of state by virtue of:
- 36 (a) A variation in the designation, under subsection (1)(a) of this 37 section, used for the same name;
- 38 (b) The addition or deletion of an article or conjunction such as 39 "the" or "and" from the same name;

p. 3 SHB 1235

- 1 (c) Punctuation, capitalization, or special characters or symbols
- 2 in the same name; or
- 3 (d) Use of abbreviation or the plural form of a word in the same
- 4 name.
- 5 (4) This chapter does not control the use of assumed business names
- 6 or "trade names."
- 7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 103.** RESERVED NAME--REGISTERED NAME. (1)
- 8 Reserved Name.
- 9 (a) A person may reserve the exclusive use of a limited liability
- 10 company name by delivering an application to the secretary of state for
- 11 filing. The application must set forth the name and address of the
- 12 applicant and the name proposed to be reserved. If the secretary of
- 13 state finds that the limited liability company name applied for is
- 14 available, the secretary of state shall reserve the name for the
- 15 applicant's exclusive use for a nonrenewable one hundred eighty-day
- 16 period.
- 17 (b) The owner of a reserved limited liability company name may
- 18 transfer the reservation to another person by delivering to the
- 19 secretary of state a signed notice of the transfer that states the name
- 20 and address of the transferee.
- 21 (2) Registered Name.
- 22 (a) A foreign limited liability company may register its name if
- 23 the name is distinguishable upon the records of the secretary of state
- 24 from the names specified in section 102(1)(e) of this act.
- 25 (b) A foreign limited liability company registers its name by
- 26 delivering to the secretary of state for filing an application that:
- 27 (i) Sets forth its name and the state or country and date of its
- 28 organization; and
- 29 (ii) Is accompanied by a certificate of existence, or a document of
- 30 similar import, from the state or country of organization.
- 31 (c) The name is registered for the applicant's exclusive use upon
- 32 the effective date of the application and until the close of the
- 33 calendar year in which the application for registration is filed.
- 34 (d) A foreign limited liability company whose registration is
- 35 effective may renew it for successive years by delivering to the
- 36 secretary of state for filing a renewal application, which complies
- 37 with the requirements of (b) of this subsection, between October 1st

and December 31st of the preceding year. The renewal application when filed renews the registration for the following calendar year.

- 3 (e) A foreign limited liability company whose registration is 4 effective may thereafter qualify as a foreign limited liability company under the registered name, or consent in writing to the use of that 5 name by a limited liability company thereafter organized under this 6 7 chapter, by a corporation thereafter formed under Title 23B RCW, by a 8 limited partnership thereafter formed under chapter 25.10 RCW, or by 9 another foreign limited liability company, foreign corporation, or 10 foreign limited partnership thereafter authorized to transact business The registration terminates when the domestic limited 11 in this state. 12 liability company is organized, the domestic corporation 13 incorporated, or the domestic limited partnership is formed, or the 14 foreign limited liability company qualifies or consents to the 15 qualification of another foreign limited liability 16 corporation, or limited partnership under the registered name.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 104. REGISTERED OFFICE--REGISTERED AGENT. (1)
 18 Each limited liability company shall continuously maintain in this
 19 state:
- (a) A registered office, which may but need not be a place of its 20 business in this state. The registered office shall be at a specific 21 geographic location in this state, and be identified by number, if any, 22 23 and street, or building address or rural route, or, if a commonly known 24 street or rural route address does not exist, by legal description. A 25 registered office may not be identified by post office box number or other nongeographic address. For purposes of communicating by mail, 26 the secretary of state may permit the use of a post office address in 27 the same city as the registered office in conjunction with the 28 29 registered office address if the limited liability company also maintains on file the specific geographic address of the registered 30 office where personal service of process may be made; 31
- 32 (b) A registered agent for service of process on the limited 33 liability company, which agent may be either an individual resident of 34 this state whose business office is identical with the limited 35 liability company's registered office, or a domestic corporation, 36 limited partnership, or limited liability company, or a foreign 37 corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company

p. 5 SHB 1235

- 1 authorized to do business in this state having a business office 2 identical with such registered office; and
- 3 (c) A registered agent who shall not be appointed without having 4 given prior written consent to the appointment. The written consent 5 shall be filed with the secretary of state in such form as the 6 secretary may prescribe. The written consent shall be filed with or as 7 a part of the document first appointing a registered agent.
- 8 (2) A registered agent may change the address of the registered 9 office of the limited liability company or companies for which such 10 registered agent is registered agent to another address in this state by filing with the secretary of state a certificate, executed by such 11 registered agent, setting forth the names of all the limited liability 12 13 companies represented by such registered agent, and the address at which such registered agent has maintained the registered office for 14 15 each of such limited liability companies, and further certifying to the new address to which each such registered office will be changed on a 16 given day, and at which new address such registered agent will 17 thereafter maintain the registered office for each of the limited 18 19 liability companies recited in the certificate. Upon the filing of such certificate, the secretary of state shall furnish to the 20 registered agent a certified copy of the same, and thereafter, or until 21 further change of address, as authorized by law, the registered office 22 in this state of each of the limited liability companies recited in the 23 24 certificate shall be located at the new address of the registered agent 25 thereof as given in the certificate. In the event of a change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a limited liability 26 27 company, such registered agent shall file with the secretary of state a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the new 28 name of such registered agent, the name of such registered agent before 29 30 it was changed, the names of all the limited liability companies represented by such registered agent, and the address at which such 31 registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of such 32 limited liability companies. Upon the filing of such certificate, the 33 34 secretary of state shall furnish to the registered agent a certified 35 copy of the certificate. Filing a certificate under this section shall be deemed to be an amendment of the certificate of formation of each 36 37 limited liability company affected thereby and each such limited liability company shall not be required to take any further action with 38 39 respect thereto, to amend its certificate of formation under section

202 of this act. Any registered agent filing a certificate under this section shall promptly, upon such filing, deliver a copy of any such certificate to each limited liability company affected thereby.

1

2

4

5 6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20

2122

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

3334

35

3637

38

- (3) The registered agent of one or more limited liability companies may resign and appoint a successor registered agent by filing a certificate with the secretary of state, stating that it resigns and the name and address of the successor registered agent. There shall be attached to such certificate a statement executed by each affected limited liability company ratifying and approving such change of registered agent. Upon such filing, the successor registered agent shall become the registered agent of such limited liability companies as have ratified and approved such substitution and the successor registered agent's address, as stated in such certificate, shall become the address of each such limited liability company's registered office in this state. The secretary of state shall furnish to the successor registered agent a certified copy of the certificate of resignation. Filing of such certificate of resignation shall be deemed to be an amendment of the certificate of formation of each limited liability company affected thereby and each such limited liability company shall not be required to take any further action with respect thereto, to amend its certificate of formation under section 202 of this act.
- (4) The registered agent of a limited liability company may resign without appointing a successor registered agent by filing a certificate with the secretary of state stating that it resigns as registered agent for the limited liability company identified in the certificate, but such resignation shall not become effective until one hundred twenty days after the certificate is filed. There shall be attached to such certificate an affidavit of such registered agent, that at least thirty days prior to and on or about the date of the filing of said certificate, notices were sent by certified or registered mail to the limited liability company for which such registered agent is resigning as registered agent, at the principal office thereof within or outside this state, if known to such registered agent or, if not, to the last known address of the attorney or other individual at whose request such registered agent was appointed for such limited liability company, of the resignation of such registered agent. After receipt of the notice of the resignation of its registered agent, the limited liability company for which such registered agent was acting shall obtain and

p. 7 SHB 1235

- 1 designate a new registered agent, to take the place of the registered
- 2 agent so resigning.
- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 105.** SERVICE OF PROCESS ON DOMESTIC LIMITED
- 4 LIABILITY COMPANIES. (1) A limited liability company's registered
- 5 agent is its agent for service of process, notice, or demand required
- 6 or permitted by law to be served on the limited liability company.
- 7 (2) The secretary of state shall be an agent of a limited liability
- 8 company upon whom any such process, notice, or demand may be served if:
- 9 (a) The limited liability company fails to appoint or maintain a 10 registered agent in this state; or
- 11 (b) The registered agent cannot with reasonable diligence be found 12 at the registered office.
- 13 (3) Service on the secretary of state of any such process, notice,
- 14 or demand shall be made by delivering to and leaving with the secretary
- 15 of state, or with any duly authorized clerk of the secretary of state's
- 16 office, the process, notice, or demand. In the event any such process,
- 17 notice, or demand is served on the secretary of state, the secretary of
- 18 state shall immediately cause a copy thereof to be forwarded by
- 19 certified mail, addressed to the limited liability company at its
- 20 principal place of business as it appears on the records of the
- 21 secretary of state. Any service so had on the secretary of state shall
- 22 be returnable in not less than thirty days.
- 23 (4) The secretary of state shall keep a record of all processes,
- 24 notices, and demands served upon the secretary of state under this
- 25 section, and shall record therein the time of such service and the
- 26 secretary of state's action with reference thereto.
- 27 (5) This section does not limit or affect the right to serve any
- 28 process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served
- 29 upon a limited liability company in any other manner now or hereafter
- 30 permitted by law.
- 31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 106. NATURE OF BUSINESS PERMITTED--POWERS. (1)
- 32 Every limited liability company formed under this chapter may carry on
- 33 any lawful business or activity unless a more limited purpose is set
- 34 forth in the certificate of formation. A limited liability company may
- 35 not be formed under this chapter for the purposes of banking or
- 36 engaging in business as an insurer.

- 1 (2) Unless this chapter, its certificate of formation, or its 2 limited liability company agreement provides otherwise, a limited 3 liability company has the same powers as an individual to do all things 4 necessary or convenient to carry out its business and affairs.
- 5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 107. BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS OF MEMBER OR MANAGER WITH THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Except as provided in a limited 6 7 liability company agreement, a member or manager may lend money to, act as a surety, quarantor, or endorser for, quarantee or assume one or 8 9 more specific obligations of, provide collateral for, and transact 10 other business with a limited liability company and, subject to other 11 applicable law, has the same rights and obligations with respect to any 12 such matter as a person who is not a member or manager.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 108. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION. (1) The limited liability company agreement may contain provisions not inconsistent with law that:
- (a) Except as provided in sections 208 and 303 of this act, 16 17 eliminate or limit the personal liability of a member or manager to the 18 limited liability company or its members for monetary damages for conduct as a member or manager, provided that such provisions shall not 19 eliminate or limit the liability of a member or manager for acts or 20 21 omissions that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of 22 law by a member or manager, for conduct of the member or manager, 23 violating section 605 of this act, or for any transaction from which 24 the member or manager will personally receive a benefit in money, 25 property, or services to which the member or manager is not legally entitled; or 26

28

29

30

31

32

33

3435

36 37

(b) Indemnify any member or manager from and against any judgments, settlements, penalties, fines, or expenses incurred in a proceeding to which an individual is a party because he or she is, or was, a member or a manager, provided that no such indemnity shall indemnify a member or a manager from or on account of acts or omissions of the member or manager finally adjudged to be intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law by the member or manager, conduct of the member or manager adjudged to be in violation of section 605 of this act, or any transaction with respect to which it was finally adjudged that such member or manager received a benefit in money, property, or services to which such member or manager was not legally entitled.

p. 9 SHB 1235

(2) To the extent that, at law or in equity, a member or manager 1 2 has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to a limited liability company or to another member or manager 3 4 (a) any such member or manager acting under a limited liability company 5 agreement shall not be liable to the limited liability company or to any such other member or manager for the member's or manager's good 6 7 faith reliance on the provisions of the limited liability company agreement, and (b) the member's or manager's duties and liabilities may 8 9 be expanded or restricted by provisions in a limited liability company 10 agreement.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 109. PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES. 11 12 (1) A person or group of persons licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render professional services within this state may 13 14 organize and become a member or members of a professional limited 15 liability company under the provisions of this chapter for the purposes of rendering professional service. A "professional limited liability 16 company" is subject to all the provisions of chapter 18.100 RCW that 17 18 apply to a professional corporation, and its managers, members, agents, 19 and employees shall be subject to all the provisions of chapter 18.100 RCW that apply to the directors, officers, shareholders, agents, or 20 employees of a professional corporation, except as provided otherwise 21 22 in this section. Nothing in this section prohibits a person duly 23 licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render professional 24 services in any jurisdiction other than this state from becoming a 25 member of a professional limited liability company organized for the purpose of rendering the same professional services. Nothing in this 26 section prohibits a professional limited liability company from 27 rendering professional services outside this state through individuals 28 29 who are not duly licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render 30 such professional services within this state. Notwithstanding RCW 18.100.065, persons engaged in a profession and otherwise meeting the 31 32 requirements of this chapter may operate under this chapter as a professional limited liability company so long as: 33

- 34 (a) At least one manager of the company is duly licensed or 35 otherwise legally authorized to practice the profession in this state; 36 and
- 37 (b) Each resident manager or member in charge of an office of the 38 company in this state and each resident manager or member personally

- engaged in this state in the practice of the profession is duly 1 2 licensed or otherwise legally authorized to practice the profession in this state. 3
- 4 (2) For purposes of applying the provisions of chapter 18.100 RCW 5 to a professional limited liability company, the terms "director" or "officer" shall mean manager, "shareholder" shall 6 mean member, 7 "corporation" shall mean professional limited liability company, 8 "articles of incorporation" shall mean certificate of formation, 9 "shares" or "capital stock" shall mean a limited liability company 10 interest, "incorporator" shall mean the person who executes the certificate of formation, and "bylaws" shall mean the limited liability 11 12 company agreement.
- (3) The name of a professional limited liability company must 13 contain either the words "Professional Limited Liability Company," or 14 15 the words "Professional Limited Liability" and the abbreviation "Co.," 16 or the abbreviation "P.L.L.C." provided that the name of a professional 17 limited liability company organized to render dental services shall contain the full names or surnames of all members and no other word 19 than "chartered" or the words "professional services" or the abbreviation "P.L.L.C."

20

- (4) Subject to the provisions in article VII of this chapter, the 21 following may be a member of a professional limited liability company 22 23 and may be the transferee of the interest of an ineligible person or 24 deceased member of the professional limited liability company:
- 25 (a) A professional corporation, if its shareholders, directors, and its officers other than the secretary and the treasurer, are licensed 26 27 otherwise legally authorized to render the same professional services as the professional limited liability company; 28 29 and
- 30 (b) Another professional limited liability company, if the managers and members of both professional limited liability companies are 31 licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render the same specific 32 professional services. 33
- 34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 110. MEMBER AGREEMENTS. In addition to agreeing among themselves with respect to the provisions of this 35 36 chapter, the members of a limited liability company or professional limited liability company may agree among themselves to any otherwise 37 38 lawful provision governing the company which is not in conflict with

- 1 this chapter. Such agreements include, but are not limited to, buy-
- 2 sell agreements among the members and agreements relating to expulsion
- 3 of members.
- 4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 111. MEMBERSHIP RESIDENCY. Nothing in this
- 5 chapter requires a limited liability company or a professional limited
- 6 liability company to restrict membership to persons residing in or
- 7 engaging in business in this state.

8 ARTICLE II. FORMATION: CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION, AMENDMENT,

9 FILING AND EXECUTION

- 10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 201.** CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION. (1) In order to
- 11 form a limited liability company, one or more persons must execute a
- 12 certificate of formation. The certificate of formation shall be filed
- 13 in the office of the secretary of state and set forth:
- 14 (a) The name of the limited liability company;
- 15 (b) The address of the registered office and the name and address
- 16 of the registered agent for service of process required to be
- 17 maintained by section 104 of this act;
- 18 (c) The address of the principal place of business of the limited
- 19 liability company;
- 20 (d) If the limited liability company is to have a specific date of
- 21 dissolution, the latest date on which the limited liability company is
- 22 to dissolve;
- 23 (e) If management of the limited liability company is vested in a
- 24 manager or managers, a statement to that effect;
- 25 (f) Any other matters the members decide to include therein; and
- 26 (g) The name and address of each person executing the certificate
- 27 of formation.
- 28 (2) Effect of filing:
- 29 (a) Unless a delayed effective date is specified, a limited
- 30 liability company is formed when its certificate of formation is filed
- 31 by the secretary of state. A delayed effective date for a certificate
- 32 of formation may be no later than the ninetieth day after the date it
- 33 is filed.
- 34 (b) The secretary of state's filing of the certificate of formation
- 35 is conclusive proof that the persons executing the certificate

- 1 satisfied all conditions precedent to the formation except in a 2 proceeding by the state to cancel the certificate.
- 3 (c) A limited liability company formed under this chapter shall be 4 a separate legal entity, the existence of which as a separate legal 5 entity shall continue until cancellation of the limited liability 6 company's certificate of formation.
- 7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 202.** AMENDMENT TO CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION.
- 8 (1) A certificate of formation is amended by filing a certificate of
- 9 amendment thereto with the secretary of state. The certificate of
- 10 amendment shall set forth:

- 11 (a) The name of the limited liability company; and
- 12 (b) The amendment to the certificate of formation.
- 13 (2) A manager or, if there is no manager, then any member who 14 becomes aware that any statement in a certificate of formation was 15 false when made, or that any matter described has changed making the 16 certificate of formation false in any material respect, shall promptly 17 amend the certificate of formation.
- 18 (3) A certificate of formation may be amended at any time for any 19 other proper purpose.
- 20 (4) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter or unless a later 21 effective date (which shall be a date not later than the ninetieth day 22 after the date it is filed) is provided for in the certificate of 23 amendment, a certificate of amendment shall be effective when filed by 24 the secretary of state.
- 25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 203. CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE. Α certificate of formation shall be canceled upon the effective date of 26 27 the certificate of cancellation, or as provided in section 805 of this 28 act, or upon the filing of articles of merger if the limited liability 29 company is not the surviving or resulting entity in a merger. certificate of cancellation shall be filed in the office of the 30 secretary of state to accomplish the cancellation of a certificate of 31 32 formation upon the dissolution and the completion of winding up of a 33 limited liability company and shall set forth:
 - (1) The name of the limited liability company;
- 35 (2) The date of filing of its certificate of formation;
- 36 (3) The reason for filing the certificate of cancellation;

p. 13 SHB 1235

- 1 (4) The future effective date (which shall be a date not later than
- 2 the ninetieth day after the date it is filed) of cancellation if it is
- 3 not to be effective upon the filing of the certificate; and
- 4 (5) Any other information the person filing the certificate of
- 5 cancellation determines.
- 6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 204. EXECUTION. (1) Each document required by
- 7 this chapter to be filed in the office of the secretary of state shall
- 8 be executed in the following manner:
- 9 (a) Each original certificate of formation must be signed by the 10 person or persons forming the limited liability company;
- 11 (b) A reservation of name may be signed by any person;
- 12 (c) A transfer of reservation of name must be signed by the 13 applicant for the reserved name;
- 14 (d) A registration of name must be signed by any member or manager
- 15 of the foreign limited liability company;
- 16 (e) A certificate of amendment or restatement must be signed by at
- 17 least one manager, or by a member if management of the limited
- 18 liability company is reserved to the members;
- 19 (f) A certificate of cancellation must be signed by the person or
- 20 persons authorized to wind up the limited liability company's affairs
- 21 pursuant to section 806(1) of this act;
- 22 (g) If a surviving domestic limited liability company is filing
- 23 articles of merger, the articles of merger must be signed by at least
- 24 one manager, or by a member if management of the limited liability
- 25 company is reserved to the members, or if the articles of merger are
- 26 being filed by a surviving foreign limited liability company, limited
- 27 partnership, or corporation, the articles of merger must be signed by
- 28 a person authorized by such foreign limited liability company, limited
- 29 partnership, or corporation; and
- 30 (h) A foreign limited liability company's application for
- 31 registration as a foreign limited liability company doing business
- 32 within the state must be signed by any member or manager of the foreign
- 33 limited liability company.
- 34 (2) Any person may sign a certificate, articles of merger, or
- 35 limited liability company agreement by an attorney-in-fact, so long as
- 36 each document signed in such manner identifies the capacity in which
- 37 the signator signed.

- 1 (3) The person executing the document shall sign it and state 2 beneath or opposite the signature the name of the person and capacity 3 in which the person signs. The document must be typewritten or 4 printed, and must meet such legibility or other standards as may be 5 prescribed by the secretary of state.
- 6 (4) The execution of a certificate or articles of merger by any 7 person constitutes an affirmation under the penalties of perjury that 8 the facts stated therein are true.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 205. EXECUTION, AMENDMENT, OR CANCELLATION BY 9 JUDICIAL ORDER. (1) If a person required to execute a certificate 10 required by this chapter fails or refuses to do so, any other person 11 who is adversely affected by the failure or refusal may petition the 12 superior courts to direct the execution of the certificate. 13 14 court finds that the execution of the certificate is proper and that 15 any person so designated has failed or refused to execute the 16 certificate, it shall order the secretary of state to record an appropriate certificate. 17

19

20

21

2223

24

25

26

- (2) If a person required to execute a limited liability company agreement or amendment thereof fails or refuses to do so, any other person who is adversely affected by the failure or refusal may petition the superior courts to direct the execution of the limited liability company agreement or amendment thereof. If the court finds that the limited liability company agreement or amendment thereof should be executed and that any person required to execute the limited liability company agreement or amendment thereof has failed or refused to do so, it shall enter an order granting appropriate relief.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 206. FILING. (1) The original signed copy, together with a duplicate copy that may be either a signed, photocopied, or conformed copy, of the certificate of formation or any other document required to be filed pursuant to this chapter shall be delivered to the secretary of state. If the secretary of state determines that the documents conform to the filing provisions of this chapter, he or she shall, when all required filing fees have been paid:
- 34 (a) Endorse on each signed original and duplicate copy the word 35 "filed" and the date of its acceptance for filing;
- 36 (b) Retain the signed original in the secretary of state's files; 37 and

p. 15 SHB 1235

- (c) Return the duplicate copy to the person who filed it or the 1 2 person's representative.
- 3 (2) If the secretary of state is unable to make the determination 4 required for filing by subsection (1) of this section at the time any documents are delivered for filing, the documents are deemed to have been filed at the time of delivery if the secretary of state 7 subsequently determines that:

6

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

- 8 (a) The documents as delivered conform to the filing provisions of 9 this chapter; or
- 10 (b) Within twenty days after notification of nonconformance is 11 given by the secretary of state to the person who delivered the documents for filing or the person's representative, the documents are 12 13 brought into conformance.
- (3) If the filing and determination requirements of this chapter 14 are not satisfied completely within the time prescribed in subsection 15 16 (2)(b) of this section, the documents shall not be filed.
 - (4) Upon the filing of a certificate of amendment (or judicial decree of amendment) or restated certificate in the office of the secretary of state, or upon the future effective date or time of a certificate of amendment (or judicial decree thereof) or restated certificate, as provided for therein, the certificate of formation shall be amended or restated as set forth therein. Upon the filing of a certificate of cancellation (or a judicial decree thereof), or articles of merger which act as a certificate of cancellation, or upon the future effective date or time of a certificate of cancellation (or a judicial decree thereof) or of articles of merger which act as a certificate of cancellation, as provided for therein, or as specified in section 805 of this act, the certificate of formation is canceled.
- 29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 207. RESTATED CERTIFICATE. (1) A limited 30 liability company may, whenever desired, integrate into a single instrument all of the provisions of its certificate of formation which 31 are then in effect and operative as a result of there having 32 33 theretofore been filed with the secretary of state one or more 34 certificates or other instruments pursuant to any of the sections referred to in this chapter and it may at the same time also further 35 36 amend its certificate of formation by adopting a restated certificate 37 of formation.

(2) If a restated certificate of formation merely restates and integrates but does not amend the initial certificate of formation, as theretofore amended or supplemented by any instrument that was executed 4 and filed pursuant to any of the sections in this chapter, it shall be specifically designated in its heading as a "Restated Certificate of Formation together with such other words as the limited liability company may deem appropriate and shall be executed by at least one manager, or by a member if management of the limited liability company is reserved to its members, and filed as provided in section 206 of this act in the office of the secretary of state. If a restated certificate restates and integrates and also amends in any respect the certificate of formation, as theretofore amended or supplemented, it shall be specifically designated in its heading as an "Amended and Restated Certificate of Formation" together with such other words as the limited liability company may deem appropriate and shall be executed by at least one manager, or by a member if management of the limited liability company is reserved to its members, and filed as provided in section 206 of this act in the office of the secretary of state.

1

2 3

5

6 7

8

9

10

11

12 13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33 34

35

36 37

38

39

- (3) A restated certificate of formation shall state, either in its heading or in an introductory paragraph, the limited liability company's present name, and, if it has been changed, the name under which it was originally filed, and the date of filing of its original certificate of formation with the secretary of state, and the future effective date (which shall be a date not later than the ninetieth day after the date it is filed) of the restated certificate if it is not to be effective upon the filing of the restated certificate. A restated certificate shall also state that it was duly executed and is being filed in accordance with this section. If a restated certificate only restates and integrates and does not further amend a limited liability company's certificate of formation as theretofore amended or supplemented and there is no discrepancy between those provisions and the restated certificate, it shall state that fact as well.
- (4) Upon the filing of a restated certificate of formation with the secretary of state, or upon the future effective date or time of a restated certificate of formation as provided for therein, the initial certificate of formation, as theretofore amended or supplemented, shall be superseded; thenceforth, the restated certificate of formation, including any further amendment or changes made thereby, shall be the

- 1 certificate of formation of the limited liability company, but the 2 original effective date of formation shall remain unchanged.
- 3 (5) Any amendment or change effected in connection with the 4 restatement and integration of the certificate of formation shall be 5 subject to any other provision of this chapter, not inconsistent with 6 this section, which would apply if a separate certificate of amendment 7 were filed to effect such amendment or change.
- 8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 208.** LIABILITY INSURANCE. (1) The protection 9 from personal liability afforded by section 303 of this act, and any 10 limited liability company agreement provision that purports to 11 eliminate or limit the personal liability of a member or manager as 12 authorized under section 108 of this act are ineffective up to the 13 dollar amounts of insurance coverage specified in this section:
- (a) With respect to liability arising from the operation of a motor vehicle, unless the company maintains liability insurance coverage in accordance with and in the dollar amounts required by chapter 46.30 RCW;
- (b) With respect to general commercial liability, unless the company maintains general commercial liability insurance in an amount of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars per person in a form approved by the insurance commissioner; and
- (c) With respect to products liability, unless the company maintains products liability insurance in an amount of at least five hundred thousand dollars per person in a form approved by the insurance commissioner.
- (2) Subsection (1) of this section applies only to the extent that had insurance been maintained as required by this section, it would have covered the liability in question.
- (3) Any liability resulting from the operation of subsection (1) of this section shall be satisfied first from the assets of the limited liability company. If those assets are insufficient, remaining liability is joint and several among the members and managers of the company.

34 ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 301. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS. (1) In connection with the formation of a limited liability company, a person acquiring a limited liability company interest is admitted as a member of the limited liability company upon the later to occur of:
 - (a) The formation of the limited liability company; or

- 6 (b) The time provided in and upon compliance with the limited 7 liability company agreement or, if the limited liability company 8 agreement does not so provide or does not exist, when the person's 9 admission is reflected in the records of the limited liability company.
- 10 (2) After the formation of a limited liability company, a person 11 acquiring a limited liability company interest is admitted as a member 12 of the limited liability company:
- (a) In the case of a person acquiring a limited liability company interest directly from the limited liability company, at the time provided in and upon compliance with the limited liability company agreement or, if the limited liability company agreement does not so provide or does not exist, upon the consent of all members and when the person's admission is reflected in the records of the limited liability company; or
- (b) In the case of an assignee of a limited liability company interest who meets the conditions for membership set forth in section 704(1) of this act, at the time provided in and upon compliance with the limited liability company agreement or, if the limited liability company agreement does not so provide or does not exist, when any such assignee's admission as a member is reflected in the records of the limited liability company.
- 27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 302. VOTING AND CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP. (1)Except as provided in this chapter, or in the limited liability company 28 29 agreement, and subject to subsection (2) of this section, the 30 affirmative vote, approval, or consent of members contributing, or required to contribute, more than fifty percent of the agreed value (as 31 stated in the records of the limited liability company required to be 32 33 kept pursuant to section 305 of this act) of the contributions made, or 34 required to be made, by all members shall be necessary for actions requiring member approval. 35
- 36 (2) Except as provided in the limited liability company agreement, 37 the affirmative vote, approval, or consent of all members shall be 38 required to:

p. 19 SHB 1235

(a) Amend the limited liability company agreement; or

1

27

28 29

30

31

3233

- 2 (b) Authorize a manager, member, or other person to do any act on 3 behalf of the limited liability company that contravenes the limited 4 liability company agreement, including any provision thereof which 5 expressly limits the purpose, business, or affairs of the limited 6 liability company or the conduct thereof.
- 7 (3) A limited liability company agreement may provide for classes 8 or groups of members having such relative rights, powers, and duties as 9 the limited liability company agreement may provide, and may make 10 provision for the future creation in the manner provided in the limited 11 liability company agreement of additional classes or groups of members having such relative rights, powers, and duties as may from time to 12 13 time be established, including rights, powers, and duties senior to existing classes and groups of members. A limited liability company 14 15 agreement may provide for the taking of an action, including the 16 amendment of the limited liability company agreement, without the vote 17 or approval of any member or class or group of members, including an action to create under the provisions of the limited liability company 18 19 agreement a class or group of limited liability company interests that 20 was not previously outstanding.
- (4) A limited liability company agreement may grant to all or certain identified members or a specified class or group of the members the right to vote separately or with all or any class or group of the members or managers, on any matter. If the limited liability company agreement so provides, voting by members may be on a per capita, number, profit share, class, group, or any other basis.
 - (5) A limited liability company agreement which contains provisions related to voting rights of members may set forth provisions relating to notice of the time, place, or purpose of any meeting at which any matter is to be voted on by any members, waiver of any such notice, action by consent without a meeting, the establishment of a record date, quorum requirements, voting in person or by proxy, or any other matter with respect to the exercise of any such right to vote.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 303. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND MANAGERS TO THIRD PARTIES. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the debts, obligations, and liabilities of a limited liability company, whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, shall be solely the debts, obligations, and liabilities of the limited liability company; and no

- 1 member or manager of a limited liability company shall be obligated
- 2 personally for any such debt, obligation, or liability of the limited
- 3 liability company solely by reason of being a member or acting as a
- 4 manager of the limited liability company.
- 5 (2) A member or manager of a limited liability company is 6 personally liable for his or her own torts.
- 7 (3) Members and managers of a limited liability company are jointly 8 and severally personally liable for claims against the company relating
- 9 to hazardous wastes or substances or solid waste disposal sites.
- 10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 304.** EVENTS OF DISSOCIATION. (1) A person
- 11 ceases to be a member of a limited liability company upon the
- 12 occurrence of one or more of the following events:
- 13 (a) The member withdraws by voluntary act from the limited
- 14 liability company as provided in subsection (3) of this section;
- 15 (b) The member ceases to be a member as provided in section
- 16 702(2)(b) of this act following an assignment of all the member's
- 17 limited liability company interest;
- 18 (c) The member is removed as a member in accordance with the
- 19 limited liability company agreement;
- 20 (d) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company
- 21 agreement, or with the written consent of all other members at the
- 22 time, the member (i) makes a general assignment for the benefit of
- 23 creditors; (ii) files a voluntary petition in bankruptcy; (iii) becomes
- 24 the subject of an order for relief in bankruptcy proceedings; (iv)
- 25 files a petition or answer seeking for himself or herself any
- 26 reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation,
- 27 dissolution, or similar relief under any statute, law, or regulation;
- 28 (v) files an answer or other pleading admitting or failing to contest
- 29 the material allegations of a petition filed against him or her in any
- 30 proceeding of the nature described in (d) (i) through (iv) of this
- 31 subsection; or (vi) seeks, consents to, or acquiesces in the
- 32 appointment of a trustee, receiver, or liquidator of the member or of
- 33 all or any substantial part of the member's properties;
- 34 (e) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company
- 35 agreement, or with the consent of all other members at the time, one
- 36 hundred twenty days after the commencement of any proceeding against
- 37 the member seeking reorganization, arrangement, composition,
- 38 readjustment, liquidation, dissolution, or similar relief under any

p. 21 SHB 1235

- statute, law, or regulation, the proceeding has not been dismissed, or if within ninety days after the appointment without his or her consent or acquiescence of a trustee, receiver, or liquidator of the member or of all or any substantial part of the member's properties, the appointment is not vacated or stayed, or within ninety days after the expiration of any stay, the appointment is not vacated;
 - (f) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement, or with written consent of all other members at the time, in the case of a member who is an individual, the entry of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction adjudicating the member incompetent to manage his or her person or estate;

8

9

10

11

- 12 (g) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company 13 agreement, or with written consent of all other members at the time, in 14 the case of a member that is another limited liability company, the 15 dissolution and commencement of winding up of such limited liability 16 company;
- (h) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement, or with written consent of all other members at the time, in the case of a member that is a corporation, the filing of articles of dissolution or the equivalent for the corporation or the administrative dissolution of the corporation and the lapse of any period authorized for application for reinstatement; or
- (i) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement, or with written consent of all other members at the time, in the case of a member that is a limited partnership, the dissolution and commencement of winding up of such limited partnership.
- 27 (2) The limited liability company agreement may provide for other 28 events the occurrence of which result in a person ceasing to be a 29 member of the limited liability company.
- 30 (3) Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company 31 agreement, a member may withdraw from a limited liability company at 32 any time by giving thirty days' written notice to the other members.
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 305.** RECORDS AND INFORMATION. (1) A limited liability company shall keep at its principal place of business the following:
- 36 (a) A current and a past list, setting forth the full name and last 37 known mailing address of each member and manager, if any;

- 1 (b) A copy of its certificate of formation and all amendments 2 thereto;
- 3 (c) A copy of its current limited liability company agreement and 4 all amendments thereto, and a copy of any prior agreements no longer in 5 effect;
- 6 (d) Unless contained in its certificate of formation or limited 7 liability company agreement, a written statement of:
- 8 (i) The amount of cash and a description of the agreed value of the 9 other property or services contributed by each member (including that 10 member's predecessors in interest), and which each member has agreed to 11 contribute;
- (ii) The times at which or events on the happening of which any additional contributions agreed to be made by each member are to be made; and
- 15 (iii) Any right of any member to receive distributions which 16 include a return of all or any part of the member's contribution.
- (e) A copy of the limited liability company's federal, state, and local tax returns and reports, if any, for the three most recent years; and
- 20 (f) A copy of any financial statements of the limited liability 21 company for the three most recent years.
- (2) The records required by subsection (1) of this section to be kept by a limited liability company are subject to inspection and copying at the reasonable request, and at the expense, of any member during ordinary business hours. A member's agent or attorney has the same inspection and copying rights as the member.
- 27 (3) Each manager shall have the right to examine all of the 28 information described in subsection (1) of this section for a purpose 29 reasonably related to his or her position as a manager.
- 30 (4) A limited liability company may maintain its records in other 31 than a written form if such form is capable of conversion into written 32 form within a reasonable time.
- 33 (5) Any action to enforce any right arising under this section 34 shall be brought in the superior courts.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 306. REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF LIMITED LIABILITY
 COMPANY AGREEMENT BY MEMBER. A limited liability company agreement may
 provide that (1) a member who fails to perform in accordance with, or
 to comply with the terms and conditions of, the limited liability

p. 23 SHB 1235

- 1 company agreement shall be subject to specified penalties or specified
- 2 consequences, and (2) at the time or upon the happening of events
- 3 specified in the limited liability company agreement, a member shall be
- 4 subject to specified penalties or specified consequences.

5 ARTICLE IV. MANAGEMENT AND MANAGERS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 401. MANAGEMENT. (1) Unless the certificate of 6 7 formation vests management of the limited liability company in a manager or managers, management of the business or affairs of the 8 9 limited liability company shall be vested in the members. Subject to any provisions in the limited liability company agreement or this 10 chapter restricting or enlarging the management rights and duties of 11 12 any person or group or class of persons, the members shall have the 13 right and authority to manage the affairs of the limited liability company and to make all decisions with respect thereto. 14
- 15 (2) If the certificate of formation vests management of the limited 16 liability company in one or more managers, then such persons shall have 17 such power to manage the business or affairs of the limited liability 18 company as is provided in the limited liability company agreement. 19 Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement, 20 such persons:
 - (a) Shall be designated, appointed, elected, removed, or replaced by a vote, approval, or consent of members contributing, or required to contribute, more than fifty percent of the agreed value (as stated in the records of the limited liability company required to be kept pursuant to section 305 of this act) of the contributions made, or required to be made, by all members at the time of such action;
- (b) Need not be members of the limited liability company or natural persons; and
- (c) Unless they have been earlier removed or have earlier resigned, shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.
- 32 (3) If the certificate of formation vests management of the limited 33 liability company in a manager or managers, no member, acting solely in 34 the capacity as a member, is an agent of the limited liability company.

SHB 1235 p. 24

21

22

23

2425

26

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 402. LIABILITY OF MANAGERS AND MEMBERS. Unless otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement:
- 3 (1) A member or manager shall not be liable, responsible, or 4 accountable in damages or otherwise to the limited liability company or 5 to the members of the limited liability company for any action taken or 6 failure to act on behalf of the limited liability company unless such 7 act or omission constitutes gross negligence, intentional misconduct, 8 or a knowing violation of law.
- 9 (2) Every member and manager must account to the limited liability 10 company and hold as trustee for it any profit or benefit derived by him or her without the consent of a majority of the disinterested managers 11 12 or members, or other persons participating in the management of the 13 business or affairs of the limited liability company from (a) any transaction connected with the conduct or winding up of the limited 14 15 liability company or (b) any use by him or her of its property, including, but not limited to, confidential or proprietary information 16 17 of the limited liability company or other matters entrusted to him or 18 her as a result of his or her status as manager or member.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 403. MANAGER-MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES. A person who is both a manager and a member has the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and liabilities, of a manager and, except as provided in a limited liability company agreement, also has the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and liabilities, of a member to the extent of his or her participation in the limited liability company as a member.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 404. VOTING AND CLASSES OF MANAGERS. (1)
 Unless the limited liability company agreement provides otherwise, the
 affirmative vote, approval, or consent of more than one-half by number
 of the managers shall be required to decide any matter connected with
 the business and affairs of the limited liability company.
- (2) A limited liability company agreement may provide for classes or groups of managers having such relative rights, powers, and duties as the limited liability company agreement may provide, and may make provision for the future creation in the manner provided in the limited liability company agreement of additional classes or groups of managers having such relative rights, powers, and duties as may from time to time be established, including rights, powers, and duties senior to

p. 25 SHB 1235

- existing classes and groups of managers. A limited liability company agreement may provide for the taking of an action, including the amendment of the limited liability company agreement, without the vote or approval of any manager or class or group of managers, including an action to create under the provisions of the limited liability company agreement a class or group of limited liability company interests that was not previously outstanding.
 - (3) A limited liability company agreement may grant to all or certain identified managers or a specified class or group of the managers the right to vote, separately or with all or any class or group of managers or members, on any matter. If the limited liability company agreement so provides, voting by managers may be on a financial interest, class, group, or any other basis.
- 14 (4) A limited liability company agreement which contains provisions 15 related to voting rights of managers may set forth provisions relating 16 to notice of the time, place, or purpose of any meeting at which any 17 matter is to be voted on by any manager or class or group of managers, waiver of any such notice, action by consent without a meeting, the 18 19 establishment of a record date, quorum requirements, voting in person 20 or by proxy, or any other matter with respect to the exercise of any such right to vote. 21
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 405. REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF LIMITED LIABILITY 22 23 COMPANY AGREEMENT BY MANAGER. A limited liability company agreement 24 may provide that (1) a manager who fails to perform in accordance with, 25 or to comply with the terms and conditions of, the limited liability company agreement shall be subject to specified penalties or specified 26 27 consequences, and (2) at the time or upon the happening of events 28 specified in the limited liability company agreement, a manager shall 29 be subject to specified penalties or specified consequences.
- Sec. 406. RELIANCE ON REPORTS AND INFORMATION BY 30 NEW SECTION. 31 MEMBER OR MANAGER. In discharging the duties of a manager or a member, 32 a member or manager of a limited liability company is entitled to rely 33 in good faith upon the records of the limited liability company and upon such information, opinions, reports, or statements presented to 34 35 the limited liability company by any of its other managers, members, officers, employees, or committees of the limited liability company, or 36 37 by any other person, as to matters the member or manager reasonably

8

10

11 12

13

believes are within such other person's professional or expert competence and who has been selected with reasonable care by or on behalf of the limited liability company, including information, opinions, reports, or statements as to the value and amount of the assets, liabilities, profits, or losses of the limited liability company or any other facts pertinent to the existence and amount of assets from which distributions to members might properly be paid.

8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 407. RESIGNATION OF MANAGER. A manager may 9 resign as a manager of a limited liability company at the time or upon the happening of events specified in a limited liability company 10 agreement and in accordance with the limited liability company 11 12 agreement. A limited liability company agreement may provide that a manager shall not have the right to resign as a manager of a limited 13 14 liability company. Notwithstanding that a limited liability company 15 agreement provides that a manager does not have the right to resign as 16 a manager of a limited liability company, a manager may resign as a manager of a limited liability company at any time by giving written 17 18 notice to the members and other managers. If the resignation of a 19 manager violates a limited liability company agreement, in addition to any remedies otherwise available under applicable law, a limited 20 21 liability company may recover from the resigning manager damages for 22 breach of the limited liability company agreement and offset the 23 damages against the amount otherwise distributable to the resigning 24 manager.

ARTICLE V. FINANCE

25

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 501.** FORM OF CONTRIBUTION. The contribution of a member to a limited liability company may be made in cash, property or services rendered, or a promissory note or other obligation to contribute cash or property or to perform services.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 502. LIABILITY FOR CONTRIBUTION. (1) Except as provided in a limited liability company agreement, a member is obligated to a limited liability company to perform any promise to contribute cash or property or to perform services, even if the member is unable to perform because of death, disability, or any other reason.

p. 27 SHB 1235

If a member does not make the required contribution of property or 1 services, the member is obligated at the option of the limited 2 3 liability company to contribute cash equal to that portion of the 4 agreed value (as stated in the records of the limited liability company required to be kept pursuant to section 305 of this act) of the 5 contribution that has not been made. This option shall be in addition 6 7 to, and not in lieu of, any other rights, including the right to 8 specific performance, that the limited liability company may have 9 against such member under the limited liability company agreement or 10 applicable law.

- (2) Unless otherwise provided in a limited liability company agreement, the obligation of a member to make a contribution or return money or other property paid or distributed in violation of this chapter may be compromised only by consent of all the members. Notwithstanding the compromise, a creditor of a limited liability company who extends credit, after either the certificate of formation, limited liability company agreement or an amendment thereto, or records required to be kept under section 305 of this act reflect the obligation, and before the amendment of any thereof to reflect the compromise, may enforce the original obligation to the extent that, in extending credit, the creditor reasonably relied on the obligation of a member to make a contribution or return. A conditional obligation of a member to make a contribution or return money or other property to a limited liability company may not be enforced unless the conditions of the obligation have been satisfied or waived as to or by such member. Conditional obligations include contributions payable discretionary call of a limited liability company prior to the time the call occurs.
- 29 (3) A limited liability company agreement may provide that the 30 interest of any member who fails to make any contribution that the 31 member is obligated to make shall be subject to specified penalties for, or specified consequences of, such failure. Such penalty or 32 consequence may take the form of reducing or eliminating the defaulting 33 34 member's proportionate interest in a limited liability company, 35 subordinating the member's limited liability company interest to that 36 of nondefaulting members, a forced sale of the member's limited 37 liability company interest, forfeiture of the member's 38 liability company interest, the lending by other members of the amount 39 necessary to meet the member's commitment, a fixing of the value of the

SHB 1235 p. 28

11

12

13 14

15

16 17

18 19

20

21

2223

24

25

26

27

28

- 1 member's limited liability company interest by appraisal or by formula
- 2 and redemption or sale of the member's limited liability company
- 3 interest at such value, or other penalty or consequence.
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 503.** ALLOCATION OF PROFITS AND LOSSES. The
- 5 profits and losses of a limited liability company shall be allocated
- 6 among the members, and among classes or groups of members, in the
- 7 manner provided in a limited liability company agreement. If the
- 8 limited liability company agreement does not so provide, profits and
- 9 losses shall be allocated in proportion to the agreed value (as stated
- 10 in the records of the limited liability company required to be kept
- 11 pursuant to section 305 of this act) of the contributions made, or
- 12 required to be made, by each member.
- 13 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 504.** ALLOCATION OF DISTRIBUTIONS.
- 14 Distributions of cash or other assets of a limited liability company
- 15 shall be allocated among the members, and among classes or groups of
- 16 members, in the manner provided in a limited liability company
- 17 agreement. If the limited liability company agreement does not so
- 18 provide, distributions shall be made in proportion to the agreed value
- 19 (as stated in the records of the limited liability company required to
- 20 be kept pursuant to section 305 of this act) of the contributions made,
- 21 or required to be made, by each member.

22 ARTICLE VI. DISTRIBUTIONS AND RESIGNATION

- 23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 601. INTERIM DISTRIBUTIONS. Except as provided
- 24 in this article, to the extent and at the times or upon the happening
- 25 of the events specified in a limited liability company agreement, a
- 26 member is entitled to receive from a limited liability company
- 27 distributions before the member's dissociation from the limited
- 28 liability company and before the dissolution and winding up thereof.
- 29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 602. DISTRIBUTION ON EVENT OF DISSOCIATION.
- 30 Upon the occurrence of an event of dissociation under section 304 of
- 31 this act which does not cause dissolution (other than an event of
- 32 dissociation specified in section 304(2) of this act where the
- 33 dissociating member's assignee is admitted as a member), a dissociating

p. 29 SHB 1235

member (or the member's assignee) is entitled to receive any 1 2 distribution to which the member (or assignee) is entitled under the limited liability company agreement and, if not otherwise provided in 3 4 a limited liability company agreement, the member (or the member's assignee) is entitled to receive, within a reasonable time after 5 dissociation, the fair value of the member's limited liability company 6 7 interest as of the date of the dissociation based upon the member's 8 right to share in distributions from the limited liability company.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 603. DISTRIBUTION IN-KIND. Except as provided in a limited liability company agreement, a member, regardless of the 10 nature of the member's contribution, has no right to demand and receive 11 12 any distribution from a limited liability company in any form other 13 Except as provided in a limited liability company than cash. 14 agreement, a member may not be compelled to accept a distribution of 15 any asset in-kind from a limited liability company to the extent that 16 the percentage of the asset distributed to the member exceeds a percentage of that asset which is equal to the percentage in which he 17 18 or she shares in distributions from the limited liability company.

19 Sec. 604. RIGHT TO DISTRIBUTION. NEW SECTION. sections 605 and 807 of this act, and unless otherwise provided in a 20 limited liability company agreement, at the time a member becomes 21 22 entitled to receive a distribution, he or she has the status of, and is 23 entitled to all remedies available to, a creditor of a limited 24 liability company with respect to the distribution. 25 liability company agreement may provide for the establishment of a 26 record date with respect to allocations and distributions by a limited 27 liability company.

28 Sec. 605. LIMITATIONS ON DISTRIBUTION. NEW SECTION. (1) A limited liability company shall not make a distribution to a member to 29 the extent that at the time of the distribution, after giving effect to 30 the distribution (a) the limited liability company would not be able to 31 32 pay its debts as they became due in the usual course of business, or (b) all liabilities of the limited liability company, other than 33 34 liabilities to members on account of their limited liability company 35 interests and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is 36 limited to specified property of the limited liability company, exceed

- the fair value of the assets of the limited liability company, except that the fair value of property that is subject to a liability for which the recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in the assets of the limited liability company only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds that liability.
- (2) A member who receives a distribution in violation of subsection 6 7 (1) of this section, and who knew at the time of the distribution that 8 the distribution violated subsection (1) of this section, shall be 9 liable to a limited liability company for the amount of the 10 distribution. A member who receives a distribution in violation of subsection (1) of this section, and who did not know at the time of the 11 distribution that the distribution violated subsection (1) of this 12 section, shall not be liable for the amount of the distribution. 13 Subject to subsection (3) of this section, this subsection (2) shall 14 15 not affect any obligation or liability of a member under a limited 16 liability company agreement or other applicable law for the amount of 17 a distribution.
- (3) Unless otherwise agreed, a member who receives a distribution 18 19 from a limited liability company shall have no liability under this chapter or other applicable law for the amount of the distribution 20 after the expiration of three years from the date of the distribution 21 unless an action to recover the distribution from such member is 22 23 commenced prior to the expiration of the said three-year period and an 24 adjudication of liability against such member is made in the said 25 action.

26 ARTICLE VII. ASSIGNMENT OF LIMITED LIABILITY 27 COMPANY INTERESTS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 701. NATURE OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 INTEREST--CERTIFICATE OF INTEREST. (1) A limited liability company
 interest is personal property. A member has no interest in specific
 limited liability company property.
- 32 (2) A limited liability company agreement may provide that a 33 member's interest in a limited liability company may be evidenced by a 34 certificate of limited liability company interest issued by the limited 35 liability company.

p. 31 SHB 1235

- 1 NEW SECTION. Sec. 702. ASSIGNMENT OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
- 2 INTEREST. (1) A limited liability company interest is assignable in
- 3 whole or in part except as provided in a limited liability company
- 4 agreement. The assignee of a member's limited liability company
- 5 interest shall have no right to participate in the management of the
- 6 business and affairs of a limited liability company except:
- 7 (a) Upon the approval of all of the members of the limited
- 8 liability company other than the member assigning his or her limited
- 9 liability company interest; or

- (b) As provided in a limited liability company agreement.
- 11 (2) Unless otherwise provided in a limited liability company 12 agreement:
- 13 (a) An assignment entitles the assignee to share in such profits
- 14 and losses, to receive such distributions, and to receive such
- 15 allocation of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or similar item
- 16 to which the assignor was entitled, to the extent assigned; and
- 17 (b) A member ceases to be a member and to have the power to
- 18 exercise any rights or powers of a member upon assignment of all of his
- 19 or her limited liability company interest.
- 20 (3) For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise provided in
- 21 a limited liability company agreement:
- 22 (a) The pledge of, or granting of a security interest, lien, or
- 23 other encumbrance in or against, any or all of the limited liability
- 24 company interest of a member shall not be deemed to be an assignment of
- 25 the member's limited liability company interest, but a foreclosure or
- 26 execution sale or exercise of similar rights with respect to all of a
- 27 member's limited liability company interest shall be deemed to be an
- 28 assignment of the member's limited liability company interest to the
- 29 transferee pursuant to such foreclosure or execution sale or exercise
- 30 of similar rights;
- 31 (b) The death of a member who is an individual shall be deemed to
- 32 be an assignment of that member's entire limited liability company
- 33 interest to his or her personal representative;
- 34 (c) Where a limited liability company interest is held in a trust
- 35 or estate, or is held by a trustee, personal representative, or other
- 36 fiduciary, the transfer of the limited liability company interest,
- 37 whether to a beneficiary of the trust or estate or otherwise, shall be
- 38 deemed to be an assignment of such limited liability company interest,
- 39 but the mere substitution or replacement of the trustee, personal

- 1 representative, or other fiduciary shall not constitute an assignment 2 of any portion of such limited liability company interest.
- 3 (4) Unless otherwise provided in a limited liability company 4 agreement and except to the extent assumed by agreement, until an 5 assignee of a limited liability company interest becomes a member, the 6 assignee shall have no liability as a member solely as a result of the 7 assignment.
- 8 Sec. 703. RIGHTS OF JUDGMENT CREDITOR. NEW SECTION. On 9 application to a court of competent jurisdiction by any judgment creditor of a member, the court may charge the limited liability 10 11 company interest of the member with payment of the unsatisfied amount 12 of the judgment with interest. To the extent so charged, the judgment creditor has only the rights of an assignee of the limited liability 13 14 company interest. This chapter does not deprive any member of the 15 benefit of any exemption laws applicable to the member's limited 16 liability company interest.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 704. RIGHT OF ASSIGNEE TO BECOME MEMBER. (1)

 An assignee of a limited liability company interest may become a member

19 upon:

- 20 (a) The approval of all of the members of the limited liability 21 company other than the member assigning his or her limited liability 22 company interest; or
- 23 (b) Compliance with any procedure provided for in the limited 24 liability company agreement.
- 25 (2) An assignee who has become a member has, to the extent 26 assigned, the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and 27 liabilities, of a member under a limited liability company agreement 28 and this chapter. An assignee who becomes a member is liable for the 29 obligations of his or her assignor to make contributions as provided in 30 section 502 of this act, and for the obligations of his or her assignor 31 under article VI of this chapter.
- 32 (3) Whether or not an assignee of a limited liability company 33 interest becomes a member, the assignor is not released from his or her 34 liability to a limited liability company under articles V and VI of 35 this chapter.

p. 33 SHB 1235

- 2 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 801.** DISSOLUTION. A limited liability company
- 3 is dissolved and its affairs shall be wound up upon the first to occur
- 4 of the following:
- 5 (1) The date specified in a limited liability company agreement, or
- 6 thirty years from the date of the formation of the limited liability
- 7 company if no such date is set forth in the limited liability company
- 8 agreement;
- 9 (2) The happening of events specified in a limited liability
- 10 company agreement;
- 11 (3) The written consent of all members;
- 12 (4) An event of dissociation of a member, unless the business of
- 13 the limited liability company is continued either by the consent of all
- 14 the remaining members within ninety days following the occurrence of
- 15 any such event or pursuant to a right to continue stated in the limited
- 16 liability company agreement;
- 17 (5) The entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under section 802
- 18 of this act;
- 19 (6) At any time there are fewer than two members unless, within
- 20 ninety days following the event of dissociation upon which the number
- 21 of members is reduced below two, one or more additional members are
- 22 admitted so that there are at least two members; or
- 23 (7) The expiration of two years after the effective date of
- 24 dissolution under section 804 of this act without the reinstatement of
- 25 the limited liability company.
- 26 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 802.** JUDICIAL DISSOLUTION. On application by
- 27 or for a member or manager the superior courts may decree dissolution
- 28 of a limited liability company whenever: (1) It is not reasonably
- 29 practicable to carry on the business in conformity with a limited
- 30 liability company agreement; or (2) other circumstances render
- 31 dissolution equitable.
- 32 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 803. ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION--COMMENCEMENT
- 33 OF PROCEEDING. The secretary of state may commence a proceeding under
- 34 section 804 of this act to administratively dissolve a limited
- 35 liability company if:

- 1 (1) The limited liability company is without a registered agent or 2 registered office in this state for sixty days or more; or
- 3 (2) The limited liability company does not notify the secretary of 4 state within sixty days that its registered agent or registered office 5 has been changed, that its registered agent has resigned, or that its 6 registered office has been discontinued.
- 7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 804. ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION--NOTICE--8 OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES. (1) If the secretary of state 9 determines that one or more grounds exist under section 803 of this act for dissolving a limited liability company, the secretary of state 10 shall give the limited liability company written notice of the 11 determination by first class mail, postage prepaid, reciting the 12 grounds therefor. Notice shall be sent to the address of the principal 13 place of business of the limited liability company as it appears in the 14 15 records of the secretary of state.

17 18

19

20

2122

23

- (2) If the limited liability company does not correct each ground for dissolution or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the secretary of state that each ground determined by the secretary of state does not exist within sixty days after notice is sent, the limited liability company is thereupon dissolved. The secretary of state shall give the limited liability company written notice of the dissolution that recites the ground or grounds therefor and its effective date.
- 24 (3) A limited liability company administratively dissolved 25 continues its existence but may not carry on any business except as 26 necessary to wind up and liquidate its business and affairs.
- 27 (4) The administrative dissolution of a limited liability company 28 does not terminate the authority of its registered agent.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 805. ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION-REINSTATEMENT--APPLICATION--WHEN EFFECTIVE. (1) A limited liability
 company administratively dissolved under section 804 of this act may
 apply to the secretary of state for reinstatement within two years
 after the effective date of dissolution. The application must:
- 34 (a) Recite the name of the limited liability company and the 35 effective date of its administrative dissolution;
- 36 (b) State that the ground or grounds for dissolution either did not 37 exist or have been eliminated; and

p. 35 SHB 1235

- 1 (c) State that the limited liability company's name satisfies the 2 requirements of section 102 of this act.
- 3 (2) If the secretary of state determines that the application 4 contains the information required by subsection (1) of this section and that the name is available, the secretary of state shall reinstate the 5 limited liability company and give the limited liability company 6 7 written notice, as provided in section 804(1) of this act, of the 8 reinstatement that recites the effective date of reinstatement. If the 9 name is not available, the limited liability company must file with its 10 application for reinstatement an amendment to its certificate of formation reflecting a change of name. 11
- 12 (3) When the reinstatement is effective, it relates back to and 13 takes effect as of the effective date of the administrative dissolution 14 and the limited liability company may resume carrying on its business 15 as if the administrative dissolution had never occurred.
- (4) If an application for reinstatement is not made within the twoyear period set forth in subsection (1) of this section, or if the application made within this period is not granted, the secretary of state shall cancel the limited liability company's certificate of formation.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 806. WINDING UP. (1) Unless otherwise provided 21 22 in a limited liability company agreement, a manager who has not 23 wrongfully dissolved a limited liability company or, if none, the 24 members or a person approved by the members or, if there is more than 25 one class or group of members, then by each class or group of members, in either case, by members contributing, or required to contribute, 26 more than fifty percent of the agreed value (as stated in the records 27 of the limited liability company required to be kept pursuant to 28 29 section 305 of this act) of the contributions made, or required to be 30 made, by all members, or by the members in each class or group, as appropriate, may wind up the limited liability company's affairs. 31 32 superior courts, upon cause shown, may wind up the limited liability company's affairs upon application of any member or manager, his or her 33 34 legal representative or assignee, and in connection therewith, may appoint a receiver. 35
- 36 (2) Upon dissolution of a limited liability company and until the 37 filing of a certificate of cancellation as provided in section 203 of 38 this act, the persons winding up the limited liability company's

- 1 affairs may, in the name of, and for and on behalf of, the limited
- 2 liability company, prosecute and defend suits, whether civil, criminal,
- 3 or administrative, gradually settle and close the limited liability
- 4 company's business, dispose of and convey the limited liability
- 5 company's property, discharge or make reasonable provision for the
- 6 limited liability company's liabilities, and distribute to the members
- 7 any remaining assets of the limited liability company.
- 8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 807.** DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS. (1) Upon the
- 9 winding up of a limited liability company, the assets shall be
- 10 distributed as follows:
- 11 (a) To creditors, including members and managers who are creditors,
- 12 to the extent otherwise permitted by law, in satisfaction of
- 13 liabilities of the limited liability company (whether by payment or the
- 14 making of reasonable provision for payment thereof) other than
- 15 liabilities for which reasonable provision for payment has been made
- 16 and liabilities for distributions to members under section 601 or 604
- 17 of this act;
- 18 (b) Unless otherwise provided in a limited liability company
- 19 agreement, to members and former members in satisfaction of liabilities
- 20 for distributions under section 601 or 604 of this act; and
- 21 (c) Unless otherwise provided in a limited liability company
- 22 agreement, to members first for the return of their contributions and
- 23 second respecting their limited liability company interests, in the
- 24 proportions in which the members share in distributions.
- 25 (2) A limited liability company which has dissolved shall pay or
- 26 make reasonable provision to pay all claims and obligations, including
- 27 all contingent, conditional, or unmatured claims and obligations, known
- 28 to the limited liability company and all claims and obligations which
- 29 are known to the limited liability company but for which the identity
- 30 of the claimant is unknown. If there are sufficient assets, such
- 31 claims and obligations shall be paid in full and any such provision for
- 32 payment made shall be made in full. If there are insufficient assets,
- 33 such claims and obligations shall be paid or provided for according to
- 34 their priority and, among claims and obligations of equal priority,
- 35 ratably to the extent of assets available therefor. Unless otherwise
- 36 provided in a limited liability company agreement, any remaining assets
- 37 shall be distributed as provided in this chapter. Any person winding
- 38 up a limited liability company's affairs who has complied with this

p. 37 SHB 1235

- 1 section shall not be personally liable to the claimants of the
- 2 dissolved limited liability company by reason of such person's actions
- 3 in winding up the limited liability company.

4 ARTICLE IX. FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 901.** LAW GOVERNING. (1) Subject to the 6 Constitution of the state of Washington:
- 7 (a) The laws of the state, territory, possession, or other
- 8 jurisdiction or country under which a foreign limited liability company
- 9 is organized govern its organization and internal affairs and the
- 10 liability of its members and managers; and
- 11 (b) A foreign limited liability company may not be denied
- 12 registration by reason of any difference between those laws and the
- 13 laws of this state.
- 14 (2) A foreign limited liability company shall be subject to
- 15 sections 106 and 208 of this act.
- 16 (3) A foreign limited liability company and its members and
- 17 managers doing business in this state thereby submit to personal
- 18 jurisdiction of the courts of this state and are subject to section 303
- 19 of this act.
- 20 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 902.** REGISTRATION REQUIRED--APPLICATION.
- 21 Before doing business in this state, a foreign limited liability
- 22 company shall register with the secretary of state. In order to
- 23 register, a foreign limited liability company shall submit to the
- 24 secretary of state, an application for registration as a foreign
- 25 limited liability company executed by any member or manager of the
- 26 foreign limited liability company, setting forth:
- 27 (1) The name of the foreign limited liability company and, if
- 28 different, the name under which it proposes to register and do business
- 29 in this state;
- 30 (2) The state, territory, possession, or other jurisdiction or
- 31 country where formed, the date of its formation and a duly
- 32 authenticated statement from the secretary of state or other official
- 33 having custody of limited liability company records in the jurisdiction
- 34 under whose law it was formed, that as of the date of filing the

- 1 foreign limited liability company validly exists as a limited liability 2 company under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation;
- 3 (3) The nature of the business or purposes to be conducted or 4 promoted in this state;
- 5 (4) The address of the registered office and the name and address 6 of the registered agent for service of process required to be 7 maintained by section 904(2) of this act;
- 8 (5) The address of the principal place of business of the foreign 9 limited liability company;
- 10 (6) A statement that the secretary of state is appointed the agent 11 of the foreign limited liability company for service of process under 12 the circumstances set forth in section 910(2) of this act; and
- 13 (7) The date on which the foreign limited liability company first 14 did, or intends to do, business in this state.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 903. ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATION. (1) If the secretary of state finds that an application for registration conforms to law and all requisite fees have been paid, the secretary shall:
- (a) Certify that the application has been filed in his or her office by endorsing upon the original application the word "Filed," and the date of the filing. This endorsement is conclusive of the date of its filing in the absence of actual fraud;
- 22 (b) File the endorsed application.
- (2) The duplicate of the application, similarly endorsed, shall be returned to the person who filed the application or that person's representative.
- 26 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 904.** NAME--REGISTERED OFFICE--REGISTERED AGENT.
- 27 (1) A foreign limited liability company may register with the secretary
- 28 of state under any name (whether or not it is the name under which it
- 29 is registered in the jurisdiction of its formation) that includes the
- 30 words "Limited Liability Company," the words "Limited Liability" and
- 31 the abbreviation "Co.," or the abbreviation "L.L.C." and that could be
- 32 registered by a domestic limited liability company. A foreign limited
- 33 liability company may apply to the secretary of state for authorization
- 34 to use a name which is not distinguishable upon the records of the
- 35 office of the secretary of state from the names described in RCW
- 36 23B.04.010(1)(d), and the names of any domestic or foreign limited
- 37 liability company reserved, registered, or formed under the laws of

p. 39 SHB 1235

- this state. The secretary of state shall authorize use of the name applied for if the other corporation, limited liability company, or limited partnership consents in writing to the use and files with the secretary of state documents necessary to change its name, or the name reserved or registered to a name that is distinguishable upon the records of the secretary of state from the name of the applying foreign limited liability company.
- 8 (2) Each foreign limited liability company shall continuously 9 maintain in this state:
- 10 (a) A registered office, which may but need not be a place of its business in this state. The registered office shall be at a specific 11 geographic location in this state, and be identified by number, if any, 12 13 and street, or building address or rural route, or, if a commonly known street or rural route address does not exist, by legal description. A 14 15 registered office may not be identified by post office box number or 16 other nongeographic address. For purposes of communicating by mail, 17 the secretary of state may permit the use of a post office address in the same city as the registered office in conjunction with the 18 19 registered office address if the foreign limited liability company also 20 maintains on file the specific geographic address of the registered office where personal service of process may be made; 21
 - (b) A registered agent for service of process on the foreign limited liability company, which agent may be either an individual resident of this state whose business office is identical with the foreign limited liability company's registered office, or a domestic corporation, a limited partnership or limited liability company, or a foreign corporation authorized to do business in this state having a business office identical with such registered office; and
- 29 (c) A registered agent who shall not be appointed without having 30 given prior written consent to the appointment. The written consent 31 shall be filed with the secretary of state in such form as the secretary may prescribe. The written consent shall be filled with or 32 as a part of the document first appointing a registered agent. 33 event any individual, limited liability company, limited partnership, 34 35 or corporation has been appointed agent without consent, that person or corporation may file a notarized statement attesting to that fact, and 36 37 the name shall forthwith be removed from the records of the secretary 38 of state.

2223

24

25

26

27

28

(3) A registered agent may change the address of the registered 1 office of the foreign limited liability company or companies for which 2 3 the registered agent is registered agent to another address in this 4 state by filing with the secretary of state a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the names of all the foreign 5 limited liability companies represented by such registered agent, and 6 7 the address at which such registered agent has maintained the 8 registered office for each of such foreign limited liability companies, 9 and further certifying to the new address to which each such registered 10 office will be changed on a given day, and at which new address such registered agent will thereafter maintain the registered office for 11 each of the foreign limited liability companies recited in the 12 Upon the filing of such certificate, the secretary of 13 certificate. 14 state shall furnish to the registered agent a certified copy of the 15 same, and thereafter, or until further change of address, as authorized by law, the registered office in this state of each of the foreign 16 limited liability companies recited in the certificate shall be located 17 at the new address of the registered agent thereof as given in the 18 19 certificate. In the event of a change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a foreign limited liability company, such 20 registered agent shall file with the secretary of state a certificate, 21 executed by such registered agent, setting forth the new name of such 22 registered agent, the name of such registered agent before it was 23 24 changed, the names of all the foreign limited liability companies 25 represented by such registered agent, and the address at which such 26 registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of such 27 foreign limited liability companies. Upon the filing of such certificate, the secretary of state shall furnish to the registered 28 29 agent a certified copy of the same. Filing a certificate under this 30 section shall be deemed to be an amendment of the application for registration of each foreign limited liability company affected thereby 31 and each foreign limited liability company shall not be required to 32 take any further action with respect thereto, to amend its application 33 34 under section 905 of this act. Any registered agent filing a certificate under this section shall promptly, upon such filing, 35 deliver a copy of any such certificate to each foreign limited 36 37 liability company affected thereby.

(4) The registered agent of one or more foreign limited liability companies may resign and appoint a successor registered agent by filing

38

39

p. 41 SHB 1235

a certificate with the secretary of state, stating that it resigns and 2 the name and address of the successor registered agent. There shall be attached to such certificate a statement executed by each affected 3 4 foreign limited liability company ratifying and approving such change 5 of registered agent. Upon such filing, the successor registered agent shall become the registered agent of such foreign limited liability 6 7 company as has ratified and approved such substitution and the 8 successor registered agent's address, as stated in such certificate, 9 shall become the address of each such foreign limited liability company's registered office in this state. The secretary of state 10 shall furnish to the successor registered agent a certified copy of the 11 certificate of resignation. Filing of such certificate of resignation 12 13 shall be deemed to be an amendment of the application for registration of each foreign limited liability company affected thereby and each 14 15 such foreign limited liability company shall not be required to take 16 any further action with respect thereto, to amend its application under 17 section 905 of this act.

(5) The registered agent of a foreign limited liability company may resign without appointing a successor registered agent by filing a certificate with the secretary of state stating that it resigns as registered agent for the foreign limited liability company identified in the certificate, but such resignation shall not become effective until one hundred twenty days after the certificate is filed. There shall be attached to such certificate an affidavit of such registered agent, if an individual, or of the president, a vice-president, or the secretary thereof if a corporation, that at least thirty days prior to and on or about the date of the filing of said certificate, notices were sent by certified or registered mail to the foreign limited liability companies for which such registered agent is resigning as registered agent, at the principal office thereof within or outside this state, if known to such registered agent or, if not, to the last known address of the attorney or other individual at whose request such registered agent was appointed for such foreign limited liability company, of the resignation of such registered agent. After receipt of the notice of the resignation of its registered agent, the foreign limited liability company for which such registered agent was acting shall obtain and designate a new registered agent, to take the place of the registered agent so resigning. If such foreign limited liability company fails to obtain and designate a new registered agent as

SHB 1235 p. 42

18 19

20

21

22

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

3334

35

3637

38 39

aforesaid prior to the expiration of the period of one hundred twenty 2 days after the filing by the registered agent of the certificate of resignation, such foreign limited liability company shall not be 3 4 permitted to do business in this state and its registration shall be deemed to be canceled. After the resignation of the registered agent 5 shall have become effective as provided in this section and if no new 6 7 registered agent shall have been obtained and designated in the time 8 and manner aforesaid, service of legal process against the foreign 9 limited liability company for which the resigned registered agent had 10 been acting shall thereafter be upon the secretary of state in accordance with section 911 of this act. 11

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 905. AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATION. If any 13 statement in the application for registration of a foreign limited 14 liability company was false when made or any arrangements or other 15 facts described have changed, making the application false in any 16 respect, the foreign limited liability company shall promptly file in the office of the secretary of state a certificate, executed by any 17 18 member or manager, correcting such statement.

- 19 Sec. 906. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION. NEW SECTION. 20 foreign limited liability company may cancel its registration by filing with the secretary of state a certificate of cancellation, executed by 21 22 any member or manager. A cancellation does not terminate the authority 23 of the secretary of state to accept service of process on the foreign 24 limited liability company with respect to causes of action arising out of the doing of business in this state. 25
 - (2) The certificate of cancellation shall set forth:

2627

28

- (a) The name of the foreign limited liability company;
- (b) The date of filing of its certificate of registration;
- 29 (c) The reason for filing the certificate of cancellation;
- 30 (d) The future effective date (not later than the ninetieth day 31 after the date it is filed) of cancellation if it is not to be 32 effective upon filing of the certificate;
- 33 (e) The address to which service of process may be forwarded; and
- 34 (f) Any other information the person filing the certificate of 35 cancellation desires.

p. 43 SHB 1235

- 1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 907.** DOING BUSINESS WITHOUT REGISTRATION. (1)
- 2 A foreign limited liability company doing business in this state may
- 3 not maintain any action, suit, or proceeding in this state until it has
- 4 registered in this state, and has paid to this state all fees and
- 5 penalties for the years or parts thereof, during which it did business
- 6 in this state without having registered.
- 7 (2) The failure of a foreign limited liability company to register
- 8 in this state does not impair:
- 9 (a) The validity of any contract or act of the foreign limited
- 10 liability company;
- 11 (b) The right of any other party to the contract to maintain any
- 12 action, suit, or proceeding on the contract; or
- 13 (c) Prevent the foreign limited liability company from defending
- 14 any action, suit, or proceeding in any court of this state.
- 15 (3) A member or a manager of a foreign limited liability company is
- 16 not liable for the obligations of the foreign limited liability company
- 17 solely by reason of the limited liability company's having done
- 18 business in this state without registration.
- 19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 908.** FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES DOING
- 20 BUSINESS WITHOUT HAVING QUALIFIED -- INJUNCTIONS. The superior courts
- 21 shall have jurisdiction to enjoin any foreign limited liability
- 22 company, or any agent thereof, from doing any business in this state if
- 23 such foreign limited liability company has failed to register under
- 24 this article or if such foreign limited liability company has secured
- 25 a certificate of registration from the secretary of state under section
- 26 903 of this act on the basis of false or misleading representations.
- 27 The secretary of state shall, upon the secretary's own motion or upon
- 28 the relation of proper parties, proceed for this purpose by complaint
- 29 in any county in which such foreign limited liability company is doing
- 30 or has done business.
- 31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 909.** TRANSACTIONS NOT CONSTITUTING TRANSACTING
- 32 BUSINESS. (1) The following activities, among others, do not
- 33 constitute transacting business within the meaning of this article:
- 34 (a) Maintaining or defending any action or suit or any
- 35 administrative or arbitration proceeding, or effecting the settlement
- 36 thereof or the settlement of claims or disputes;

- 1 (b) Holding meetings of the members, or managers if any, or 2 carrying on other activities concerning internal limited liability 3 company affairs;
- 4 (c) Maintaining bank accounts, share accounts in savings and loan 5 associations, custodian or agency arrangements with a bank or trust 6 company, or stock or bond brokerage accounts;
- 7 (d) Maintaining offices or agencies for the transfer, exchange, and 8 registration of the foreign limited liability company's own securities 9 or interests or maintaining trustees or depositaries with respect to 10 those securities or interests;
- 11 (e) Selling through independent contractors;
- (f) Soliciting or procuring orders, whether by mail or through employees or agents or otherwise, where the orders require acceptance outside this state before becoming binding contracts and where the contracts do not involve any local performance other than delivery and installation;
- 17 (g) Making loans or creating or acquiring evidences of debt, 18 mortgages, or liens on real or personal property, or recording same;
- 19 (h) Securing or collecting debts or enforcing mortgages and 20 security interests in property securing the debts;
- 21 (i) Owning, without more, real or personal property;
- (j) Conducting an isolated transaction that is completed within thirty days and that is not one in the course of repeated transactions of a like nature;
- (k) Transacting business in interstate commerce;
- 26 (1) Owning a controlling interest in a corporation or a foreign 27 corporation that transacts business within this state;
- 28 (m) Participating as a limited partner of a domestic or foreign 29 limited partnership that transacts business within this state; or
- 30 (n) Participating as a member or a manager of a domestic or foreign 31 limited liability company that transacts business within this state.
- 32 (2) The list of activities in subsection (1) of this section is not 33 exhaustive.
- 34 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 910.** SERVICE OF PROCESS ON REGISTERED FOREIGN
- 35 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES. (1) A foreign limited liability company's
- 36 registered agent is its agent for service of process, notice, or demand
- 37 required or permitted by law to be served on the foreign limited
- 38 liability company.

p. 45 SHB 1235

- 1 (2) The secretary of state shall be an agent of a foreign limited 2 liability company upon whom any such process, notice, or demand may be 3 served if:
- 4 (a) The foreign limited liability company fails to appoint or 5 maintain a registered agent in this state; or
- 6 (b) The registered agent cannot with reasonable diligence be found 7 at the registered office.
- 8 (3) Service on the secretary of state of any such process, notice, 9 or demand shall be made by delivering to and leaving with the secretary 10 of state, or with any duly authorized clerk of the secretary of state's office, the process, notice, or demand. In the event any such process, 11 12 notice, or demand is served on the secretary of state, the secretary of 13 state shall immediately cause a copy thereof to be forwarded by certified mail, addressed to the foreign limited liability company at 14 the address of its principal place of business as it appears on the 15 records of the secretary of state. Any service so had on the secretary 16 17 of state shall be returnable in not less than thirty days.
- (4) The secretary of state shall keep a record of all processes, notices, and demands served upon the secretary of state under this section, and shall record therein the time of such service and the secretary of state's action with reference thereto.
- (5) This section does not limit or affect the right to serve any process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon a foreign limited liability company in any other manner now or hereafter permitted by law.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 911. SERVICE OF PROCESS ON UNREGISTERED FOREIGN 26 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES. (1) Any foreign limited liability company 27 which shall do business in this state without having registered under 28 29 section 902 of this act shall be deemed to have thereby appointed and constituted the secretary of state its agent for the acceptance of 30 legal process in any civil action, suit, or proceeding against it in 31 32 any state or federal court in this state arising or growing out of any business done by it within this state. The doing of business in this 33 34 state by such foreign limited liability company shall be a signification of the agreement of such foreign limited liability 35 36 company that any such process when so served shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served upon a registered agent personally 37 within this state. 38

(2) In the event of service upon the secretary of state in 1 2 accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the secretary of state shall forthwith notify the foreign limited liability company thereof by 3 4 letter, certified mail, return receipt requested, directed to the 5 foreign limited liability company at the address furnished to the secretary of state by the plaintiff in such action, suit, or 6 proceeding. Such letter shall enclose a copy of the process and any 7 other papers served upon the secretary of state. It shall be the duty 8 of the plaintiff in the event of such service to serve process and any 9 10 other papers in duplicate, to notify the secretary of state that service is being made pursuant to this subsection. 11

ARTICLE X. DERIVATIVE ACTIONS

12

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1001. RIGHT TO BRING ACTION. A member may bring an action in the superior courts in the right of a limited liability company to recover a judgment in its favor if managers or members with authority to do so have refused to bring the action or if an effort to cause those managers or members to bring the action is not likely to succeed.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1002. PROPER PLAINTIFF. In a derivative action, the plaintiff must be a member at the time of bringing the action and:
- 22 (1) At the time of the transaction of which the plaintiff 23 complains; or
- (2) The plaintiff's status as a member had devolved upon him or her by operation of law or pursuant to the terms of a limited liability company agreement from a person who was a member at the time of the transaction.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1003. COMPLAINT. In a derivative action, the complaint shall set forth with particularity the effort, if any, of the plaintiff to secure initiation of the action by a manager or member or the reasons for not making the effort.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1004. EXPENSES. If a derivative action is successful, in whole or in part, as a result of a judgment, compromise,

p. 47 SHB 1235

- 1 or settlement of any such action, the court may award the plaintiff
- 2 reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, from any
- 3 recovery in any such action or from a limited liability company.

4 ARTICLE XI. MERGERS

- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1101.** MERGER--PLAN--EFFECTIVE DATE. (1) One or
- 6 more domestic limited liability companies may merge with one or more
- 7 domestic limited partnerships, domestic limited liability companies, or
- 8 domestic corporations pursuant to a plan of merger approved or adopted
- 9 as provided in section 1102 of this act.
- 10 (2) The plan of merger must set forth:
- 11 (a) The name of each limited liability company, limited
- 12 partnership, and corporation planning to merge and the name of the
- 13 surviving limited liability company, limited partnership, or
- 14 corporation into which the other limited liability company, limited
- 15 partnership, or corporation plans to merge;
- 16 (b) The terms and conditions of the merger; and
- 17 (c) The manner and basis of converting the interests of each member
- 18 of each limited liability company, the partnership interests in each
- 19 limited partnership, and the shares of each corporation party to the
- 20 merger into the interests, shares, obligations, or other securities of
- 21 the surviving or any other limited liability company, limited
- 22 partnership, or corporation or into cash or other property in whole or
- 23 part.
- 24 (3) The plan of merger may set forth:
- 25 (a) Amendments to the certificate of formation of the surviving
- 26 limited liability company;
- 27 (b) Amendments to the certificate of limited partnership of the
- 28 surviving limited partnership;
- 29 (c) Amendments to the articles of incorporation of the surviving
- 30 corporation; and
- 31 (d) Other provisions relating to the merger.
- 32 (4) If the plan of merger does not specify a delayed effective
- 33 date, it shall become effective upon the filing of articles of merger.
- 34 If the plan of merger specifies a delayed effective time and date, the
- 35 plan of merger becomes effective at the time and date specified. If
- 36 the plan of merger specifies a delayed effective date but no time is

- 1 specified, the plan of merger is effective at the close of business on
- 2 that date. A delayed effective date for a plan of merger may not be
- 3 later than the ninetieth day after the date it is filed.
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1102.** MERGER--PLAN--APPROVAL. (1) Unless
- 5 otherwise provided in the limited liability company agreement, approval
- 6 of a plan of merger by a domestic limited liability company party to
- 7 the merger shall occur when the plan is approved by the members, or if
- 8 there is more than one class or group of members, then by each class or
- 9 group of members, in either case, by members contributing more than
- 10 fifty percent of the agreed value (as stated in the records of the
- 11 limited liability company required to be kept pursuant to section 305
- 12 of this act) of the contributions made, or obligated to be made, by all
- 13 members or by the members in each class or group, as appropriate.
- 14 (2) If a domestic limited partnership is a party to the merger, the
- 15 plan of merger shall be adopted and approved as provided in RCW
- 16 25.10.810.
- 17 (3) If a domestic corporation is a party to the merger, the plan of
- 18 merger shall be adopted and approved as provided in chapter 23B.11 RCW.
- 19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1103.** ARTICLES OF MERGER--FILING. After a plan
- 20 of merger is approved or adopted, the surviving limited liability
- 21 company, limited partnership, or corporation shall deliver to the
- 22 secretary of state for filing articles of merger setting forth:
- 23 (1) The plan of merger;
- 24 (2) If the approval of any members, partners, or shareholders of
- 25 one or more limited liability companies, limited partnerships, or
- 26 corporations party to the merger was not required, a statement to that
- 27 effect; or
- 28 (3) If the approval of any members, partners, or shareholders of
- 29 one or more of the limited liability companies, limited partnerships,
- 30 or corporations party to the merger was required, a statement that the
- 31 merger was duly approved by such members, partners, and shareholders
- 32 pursuant to section 1102 of this act, RCW 25.10.810, or chapter 23B.11
- 33 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1104. EFFECT OF MERGER. (1) When a merger
- 35 takes effect:

p. 49 SHB 1235

- 1 (a) Every other limited liability company, limited partnership, or 2 corporation that is party to the merger merges into the surviving 3 limited liability company, limited partnership, or corporation and the 4 separate existence of every limited liability company, limited 5 partnership, or corporation except the surviving limited liability 6 company, limited partnership, or corporation ceases;
- 7 (b) The title to all real estate and other property owned by each 8 limited liability company, limited partnership, and corporation party 9 to the merger is vested in the surviving limited liability company, 10 limited partnership, or corporation without reversion or impairment;
- 11 (c) The surviving limited liability company, limited partnership, 12 or corporation has all liabilities of each limited liability company, 13 limited partnership, and corporation that is party to the merger;
- (d) A proceeding pending against any limited liability company, limited partnership, or corporation that is party to the merger may be continued as if the merger did not occur or the surviving limited liability company, limited partnership, or corporation may be substituted in the proceeding for the limited liability company, limited partnership, or corporation whose existence ceased;
- (e) The certificate of formation of the surviving limited liability company is amended to the extent provided in the plan of merger;
- (f) The partnership agreement of the surviving limited partnership is amended to the extent provided in the plan of merger;
- (g) The articles of incorporation of the surviving corporation are amended to the extent provided in the plan of merger; and
 - (h) The former members of every limited liability company party to the merger, holders of the partnership interests of every domestic limited partnership that is party to the merger, and the former holders of the shares of every domestic corporation that is party to the merger are entitled only to the rights provided in the plan of merger, or to their rights under this article, to their rights under RCW 25.10.900 through 25.10.955, or to their rights under chapter 23B.13 RCW.
- 133 (2) Unless otherwise agreed, a merger of a domestic limited liability company, including a domestic limited liability company which is not the surviving entity in the merger, shall not require the domestic limited liability company to wind up its affairs under section 806 of this act or pay its liabilities and distribute its assets under section 807 of this act.

2627

28 29

30

31

32

- 1 (3) Unless otherwise agreed, a merger of a domestic limited 2 partnership, including a domestic limited partnership which is not the 3 surviving entity in the merger, shall not require the domestic limited 4 partnership to wind up its affairs under RCW 25.10.460 or pay its 5 liabilities and distribute its assets under RCW 25.10.470.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1105. MERGER--FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. (1) One or more foreign limited liability companies, one or more foreign limited partnerships, and one or more foreign corporations may merge with one or more domestic limited liability companies, domestic limited partnerships, or domestic corporations if:
- 11 (a) The merger is permitted by the law of the jurisdiction under 12 which each foreign limited liability company was formed, each foreign 13 limited partnership was organized, and each foreign corporation was 14 incorporated, and each foreign limited liability company, foreign 15 limited partnership, and foreign corporation complies with that law in 16 effecting the merger;
 - (b) The surviving entity complies with section 1103 of this act;
- 18 (c) Each domestic limited liability company complies with section 19 1102 of this act;
- 20 (d) Each domestic limited partnership complies with RCW 25.10.810; 21 and
- (e) Each domestic corporation complies with RCW 23B.11.080.
- (2) Upon the merger taking effect, a surviving foreign limited liability company, limited partnership, or corporation is deemed to appoint the secretary of state as its agent for service of process in a proceeding to enforce any obligation or the rights of dissenting partners or shareholders of each domestic limited liability company, domestic limited partnership, or domestic corporation party to the merger.

30 ARTICLE XII. DISSENTERS' RIGHTS

- 31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1201.** DEFINITIONS. As used in this article,
- 32 unless the context otherwise requires:

17

- 33 (1) "Limited liability company" means the domestic limited
- 34 liability company in which the dissenter holds or held a membership

35 interest, or the surviving limited liability company, limited

p. 51 SHB 1235

- 1 partnership, or corporation by merger, whether foreign or domestic, of 2 that limited liability company.
- 3 (2) "Dissenter" means a member who is entitled to dissent from a 4 plan of merger and who exercises that right when and in the manner 5 required by this article.
- 6 (3) "Fair value," with respect to a dissenter's limited liability
 7 company interest, means the value of the member's limited liability
 8 company interest immediately before the effectuation of the merger to
 9 which the dissenter objects, excluding any appreciation or depreciation
 10 in anticipation of the merger unless exclusion would be inequitable.
- (4) "Interest" means interest from the effective date of the merger until the date of payment, at the average rate currently paid by the limited liability company on its principal bank loans or, if none, at a rate that is fair and equitable under all the circumstances.
- 15 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1202.** MEMBER--DISSENT--PAYMENT OF FAIR VALUE.
- 16 (1) Except as provided in section 1204 or 1206(2) of this act, a member
- 17 of a domestic limited liability company is entitled to dissent from,
- 18 and obtain payment of, the fair value of the member's interest in a
- 19 limited liability company in the event of consummation of a plan of
- 20 merger to which the limited liability company is a party as permitted
- 21 by section 1101 or 1105 of this act.

33

- (2) A member entitled to dissent and obtain payment for the member's interest in a limited liability company under this article may not challenge the merger creating the member's entitlement unless the merger fails to comply with the procedural requirements imposed by this title, Title 23B RCW, RCW 25.10.800 through 25.10.840, or the limited liability company agreement, or is fraudulent with respect to the member or the limited liability company.
- (3) The right of a dissenting member in a limited liability company to obtain payment of the fair value of the member's interest in the limited liability company shall terminate upon the occurrence of any one of the following events:
 - (a) The proposed merger is abandoned or rescinded;
- 34 (b) A court having jurisdiction permanently enjoins or sets aside 35 the merger; or
- 36 (c) The member's demand for payment is withdrawn with the written 37 consent of the limited liability company.

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1203. DISSENTERS' RIGHTS--NOTICE--TIMING. (1)
 Not less than ten days prior to the approval of a plan of merger, the
 limited liability company must send a written notice to all members who
 are entitled to vote on or approve the plan of merger that they may be
 entitled to assert dissenters' rights under this article. Such notice
 shall be accompanied by a copy of this article.
- 7 (2) The limited liability company shall notify in writing all 8 members not entitled to vote on or approve the plan of merger that the 9 plan of merger was approved, and send them the dissenters' notice as 10 required by section 1205 of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1204. MEMBER--DISSENT--VOTING RESTRICTION. A member of a limited liability company who is entitled to vote on or approve the plan of merger and who wishes to assert dissenters' rights must not vote in favor of or approve the plan of merger. A member who does not satisfy the requirements of this section is not entitled to payment for the member's interest in the limited liability company under this article.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1205. MEMBERS--DISSENTERS' NOTICE-REQUIREMENTS. (1) If the plan of merger is approved, the limited
 liability company shall deliver a written dissenters' notice to all
 members who satisfied the requirements of section 1204 of this act.
- (2) The dissenters' notice required by section 1203(2) of this act or by subsection (1) of this section must be sent within ten days after the approval of the plan of merger, and must:
 - (a) State where the payment demand must be sent;
- (b) Inform members as to the extent transfer of the member's interest in the limited liability company will be restricted as permitted by section 1207 of this act after the payment demand is received;
- 30 (c) Supply a form for demanding payment;

25

- 31 (d) Set a date by which the limited liability company must receive 32 the payment demand, which date may not be fewer than thirty nor more 33 than sixty days after the date the notice under this section is 34 delivered; and
- 35 (e) Be accompanied by a copy of this article.

p. 53 SHB 1235

- 1 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1206. MEMBER--PAYMENT DEMAND--ENTITLEMENT. (1)
- 2 A member of a limited liability company who demands payment retains all
- 3 other rights of a member of such company until the proposed merger
- 4 becomes effective.
- 5 (2) A member of a limited liability company sent a dissenters'
- 6 notice who does not demand payment by the date set in the dissenters'
- 7 notice is not entitled to payment for the member's interest in the
- 8 limited liability company under this article.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1207.** MEMBER'S INTERESTS--TRANSFER RESTRICTION.
- 10 The limited liability company agreement may restrict the transfer of
- 11 members' interests in the limited liability company from the date the
- 12 demand for their payment is received until the proposed merger becomes
- 13 effective or the restriction is released under this article.
- 14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1208. PAYMENT OF FAIR VALUE--REQUIREMENTS FOR
- 15 COMPLIANCE. (1) Within thirty days of the later of the date the
- 16 proposed merger becomes effective, or the payment demand is received,
- 17 the limited liability company shall pay each dissenter who complied
- 18 with section 1206 of this act the amount the limited liability company
- 19 estimates to be the fair value of the dissenting member's interest in
- 20 the limited liability company, plus accrued interest.
- 21 (2) The payment must be accompanied by:
- 22 (a) Copies of the financial statements for the limited liability
- 23 company for its most recent fiscal year;
- 24 (b) An explanation of how the limited liability company estimated
- 25 the fair value of the member's interest in the limited liability
- 26 company;
- (c) An explanation of how the accrued interest was calculated;
- 28 (d) A statement of the dissenter's right to demand payment; and
- 29 (e) A copy of this article.
- 30 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1209.** MERGER--NOT EFFECTIVE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS--
- 31 TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS. (1) If the proposed merger does not become
- 32 effective within sixty days after the date set for demanding payment,
- 33 the limited liability company shall release any transfer restrictions
- 34 imposed as permitted by section 1207 of this act.
- 35 (2) If, after releasing transfer restrictions, the proposed merger
- 36 becomes effective, the limited liability company must send a new

- 1 dissenters' notice as provided in sections 1203(2) and 1205 of this act
- 2 and repeat the payment demand procedure.
- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1210.** DISSENTER'S ESTIMATE OF FAIR VALUE--
- 4 NOTICE. (1) A dissenting member may notify the limited liability
- 5 company in writing of the dissenter's own estimate of the fair value of
- 6 the dissenter's interest in the limited liability company, and amount
- 7 of interest due, and demand payment of the dissenter's estimate, less
- 8 any payment under section 1208 of this act, if:
- 9 (a) The dissenter believes that the amount paid is less than the
- 10 fair value of the dissenter's interest in the limited liability
- 11 company, or that the interest due is incorrectly calculated;
- 12 (b) The limited liability company fails to make payment within
- 13 sixty days after the date set for demanding payment; or
- 14 (c) The limited liability company, having failed to effectuate the
- 15 proposed merger, does not release the transfer restrictions imposed on
- 16 members' interests as permitted by section 1207 of this act within
- 17 sixty days after the date set for demanding payment.
- 18 (2) A dissenter waives the right to demand payment under this
- 19 section unless the dissenter notifies the limited liability company of
- 20 the dissenter's demand in writing under subsection (1) of this section
- 21 within thirty days after the limited liability company made payment for
- 22 the dissenter's interest in the limited liability company.
- 23 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1211.** UNSETTLED DEMAND FOR PAYMENT--
- 24 PROCEEDING--PARTIES--APPRAISERS. (1) If a demand for payment under
- 25 section 1206 of this act remains unsettled, the limited liability
- 26 company shall commence a proceeding within sixty days after receiving
- 27 the payment demand and petition the court to determine the fair value
- 28 of the dissenting member's interest in the limited liability company,
- 29 and accrued interest. If the limited liability company does not
- 30 commence the proceeding within the sixty-day period, it shall pay each
- 31 dissenter whose demand remains unsettled the amount demanded.
- 32 (2) The limited liability company shall commence the proceeding in
- 33 the superior court. If the limited liability company is a domestic
- 34 limited liability company, it shall commence the proceeding in the
- 35 county where its registered office is maintained.
- 36 (3) The limited liability company shall make all dissenters
- 37 (whether or not residents of this state) whose demands remain unsettled

p. 55 SHB 1235

- 1 parties to the proceeding as in an action against their membership 2 interests in the limited liability company and all parties must be 3 served with a copy of the petition. Nonresidents may be served by 4 registered or certified mail or by publication as provided by law.
- 5 (4) The limited liability company may join as a party to the 6 proceeding any member who claims to be a dissenter but who has not, in 7 the opinion of the limited liability company, complied with the 8 provisions of this article. If the court determines that such member 9 has not complied with the provisions of this article, the member shall 10 be dismissed as a party.
- 11 (5) The jurisdiction of the court in which the proceeding is 12 commenced is plenary and exclusive. The court may appoint one or more 13 persons as appraisers to receive evidence and recommend decisions on 14 the question of fair value. The appraisers have the powers described 15 in the order appointing them or in any amendment to it. The dissenters 16 are entitled to the same discovery rights as parties in other civil 17 proceedings.
- 18 (6) Each dissenter made a party to the proceeding is entitled to 19 judgment for the amount, if any, by which the court finds the fair 20 value of the dissenter's membership interest in the limited liability 21 company, plus interest, exceeds the amount paid by the limited 22 liability company.
 - NEW SECTION. Sec. 1212. UNSETTLED DEMAND FOR PAYMENT--COSTS--FEES AND EXPENSES OF COUNSEL. (1) The court in a proceeding commenced under section 1211 of this act shall determine all costs of the proceeding, including the reasonable compensation and expenses of appraisers appointed by the court. The court shall assess the costs against the limited liability company, except that the court may assess the costs against all or some of the dissenters, in amounts the court finds equitable, to the extent the court finds the dissenters acted arbitrarily, vexatiously, or not in good faith in demanding payment.
- 32 (2) The court may also assess the fees and expenses of counsel and 33 experts for the respective parties, in amounts the court finds 34 equitable:
- 35 (a) Against the limited liability company and in favor of any or 36 all dissenters if the court finds the limited liability company did not 37 substantially comply with the requirements of this article; or

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

- 1 (b) Against either the limited liability company or a dissenter, in 2 favor of any other party, if the court finds that the party against 3 whom the fees and expenses are assessed acted arbitrarily, vexatiously, 4 or not in good faith with respect to the rights provided by this 5 article.
- 6 (3) If the court finds that the services of counsel for any
 7 dissenter were of substantial benefit to other dissenters similarly
 8 situated, and that the fees for those services should not be assessed
 9 against the limited liability company, the court may award to these
 10 counsel reasonable fees to be paid out of the amounts awarded to the
 11 dissenters who were benefited.

12 ARTICLE XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1301. CONSTRUCTION AND APPLICATION OF CHAPTER AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AGREEMENT. (1) The rule that statutes in derogation of the common law are to be strictly construed shall have no application to this chapter.
- 17 (2) It is the policy of this chapter to give the maximum effect to 18 the principle of freedom of contract and to the enforceability of 19 limited liability company agreements.
- (3) Unless the context otherwise requires, as used in this chapter, the singular shall include the plural and the plural may refer to only the singular. The captions contained herein are for purposes of convenience only and shall not control or affect the construction of this chapter and do not constitute part of the law.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1302. ESTABLISHMENT OF FILING FEES AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES. (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules establishing fees which shall be charged and collected for:
- (a) Filing of a certificate of formation for a domestic limited liability company or an application for registration of a foreign limited liability company;
- 31 (b) Filing of a certificate of cancellation for a domestic or 32 foreign limited liability company;
- 33 (c) Filing of a certificate of amendment or restatement for a 34 domestic or foreign limited liability company;

p. 57 SHB 1235

- 1 (d) Filing an application to reserve, register, or transfer a 2 limited liability company name;
- 3 (e) Filing any other certificate, statement, or report authorized 4 or permitted to be filed;
- 5 (f) Copies, certified copies, certificates, service of process 6 filings, and expedited filings or other special services.
- 7 (2) In the establishment of a fee schedule, the secretary of state 8 shall, insofar as is possible and reasonable, be guided by the fee 9 schedule provided for corporations governed by Title 23B RCW. Fees for
- 10 copies, certified copies, certificates of record, and service of 11 process filings shall be as provided for in RCW 23B.01.220.
- 12 (3) All fees collected by the secretary of state shall be deposited 13 with the state treasurer pursuant to law.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1303. AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES. The secretary of state shall adopt such rules as are necessary to implement the transfer of duties and records required by this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1304. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1994.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1305. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the "Washington Limited Liability Company Act."
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1306. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1307. LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVE. Sections 101 through 1306 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 25 RCW.

--- END ---