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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5786**

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**State of Washington****68th Legislature****2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Pedersen, Padden, Mullet, Nobles, and Salomon; by request of Washington State Bar Association)

1 AN ACT Relating to making updates to the Washington business  
2 corporation act; amending RCW 23B.07.250, 23B.07.270, 23B.08.080,  
3 23B.08.240, 23B.09.030, 23B.10.030, 23B.12.020, 23B.13.020,  
4 23B.13.200, 23B.13.210, 23B.13.220, 23B.17.015, 23B.25.100, and  
5 23B.25.130; reenacting and amending RCW 23B.01.400; adding a new  
6 chapter to Title 23B RCW; and repealing RCW 23B.11.010, 23B.11.020,  
7 23B.11.030, 23B.11.035, 23B.11.040, 23B.11.045, 23B.11.050,  
8 23B.11.060, 23B.11.070, 23B.11.080, 23B.11.090, 23B.11.100, and  
9 23B.11.110.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
12 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
13 otherwise.

14 (1) "Acquired entity" means the domestic corporation that will  
15 have all of one or more classes or series of its shares acquired in a  
16 share exchange.

17 (2) "Acquiring entity" means the domestic corporation that will  
18 acquire all of one or more classes or series of shares of the  
19 acquired entity in a share exchange.

20 (3) "New owner liability" means owner liability of a person,  
21 resulting from a merger or share exchange, that is (a) in respect of

1 an entity which is different from the entity in which the person held  
2 shares or interests immediately before the merger or share exchange  
3 became effective; or (b) in respect of the same entity as the one in  
4 which the person held shares or interests immediately before the  
5 merger or share exchange became effective if (i) the person did not  
6 have owner liability immediately before the merger or share exchange  
7 became effective, or (ii) the person had owner liability immediately  
8 before the merger or share exchange became effective, the terms and  
9 conditions of which were changed when the merger or share exchange  
10 became effective.

11 (4) "Party to a merger" means any domestic corporation or other  
12 entity that will merge under a plan of merger.

13 (5) "Surviving entity" in a merger means the domestic corporation  
14 or other entity into which one or more other domestic corporations or  
15 other entities are merged.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By complying with this chapter, one or  
17 more domestic corporations may merge with one or more domestic  
18 corporations or other entities in accordance with a plan of merger,  
19 resulting in a surviving entity.

20 (2) By complying with the provisions of this chapter applicable  
21 to other entities, an other entity may be a party to a merger with a  
22 domestic corporation, but only if the merger is permitted by the  
23 organic law of the other entity.

24 (3) If the organic law or organic rules of a domestic other  
25 entity do not provide procedures for the approval of a merger, a plan  
26 of merger may nonetheless be approved by the unanimous consent of all  
27 of the interest holders of that other entity, and the merger may  
28 thereafter be effected as provided in the other provisions of this  
29 chapter. For the purposes of applying this chapter in such a case:

30 (a) The other entity, its interest holders, interests, and  
31 organic rules taken together will be deemed to be a domestic  
32 corporation, shareholders, shares, and articles of incorporation,  
33 respectively, and vice versa as the context may require; and

34 (b) If the business and affairs of the other entity are managed  
35 by a person or persons that are not identical to the interest  
36 holders, that group will be deemed to be the board of directors.

37 (4) The plan of merger must include:

38 (a) As to each party to the merger, its name, jurisdiction of  
39 organization, and type of entity;

1 (b) The surviving entity's name, jurisdiction of organization,  
2 and type of entity;

3 (c) The manner and basis of converting the shares of each merging  
4 domestic corporation and interests of each merging other entity into  
5 shares or other securities, interests, obligations, rights to acquire  
6 shares, other securities or interests, cash, or other property, or of  
7 canceling some or all of such shares or interests, or any combination  
8 of the foregoing; and

9 (d) Any other provisions required by the laws under which any  
10 party to the merger is organized or by which it is governed, or by  
11 the articles of incorporation or organic rules of any such party.

12 (5) In addition to the requirements of subsection (4) of this  
13 section, a plan of merger may contain amendments to the articles of  
14 incorporation or public organic record of any party to the merger  
15 that will be the surviving entity, a restatement that includes one or  
16 more amendments to the surviving entity's articles of incorporation  
17 or public organic record, and any other provision not prohibited by  
18 law.

19 (6) Terms of a plan of merger may be made dependent on facts  
20 objectively ascertainable outside the plan in accordance with RCW  
21 23B.01.200(3).

22 (7) A plan of merger may be amended only with the consent of each  
23 party to the merger, except as provided in the plan of merger. An  
24 amendment to a plan of merger that has previously been approved by a  
25 party's shareholders or interest holders must be approved:

26 (a) In the same manner as the plan was approved, if the plan of  
27 merger does not provide for the manner in which it may be amended; or

28 (b) In the manner provided in the plan of merger, except that  
29 shareholders or interest holders that were entitled to vote on or  
30 consent to approval of the plan of merger are entitled to vote on or  
31 consent to any amendment of the plan of merger that will change:

32 (i) The amount or kind of shares or other securities, interests,  
33 obligations, rights to acquire shares, other securities or interests,  
34 cash, or other property to be received under the plan of merger by  
35 the shareholders or interest holders of any party to the merger;

36 (ii) The articles of incorporation of any domestic corporation,  
37 or the organic rules of any other entity, that will be the surviving  
38 entity of the merger, unless (A) the change constitutes an amendment  
39 to the articles of incorporation or organic rules of the surviving  
40 entity that would be permitted without approval of shareholders or

1 interest holders by RCW 23B.10.020 or by comparable provisions of the  
2 organic law of any such other entity, or (B) the shareholders or  
3 interest holders that were entitled to vote on or consent to approval  
4 of the plan of merger will not continue as or become shareholders or  
5 interest holders of the surviving entity; or

6 (iii) Any of the other terms or conditions of the plan of merger  
7 if the change would adversely affect such shareholders or interest  
8 holders in any material respect.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By complying with this chapter:

10 (a) A domestic corporation may acquire all of the shares of one  
11 or more classes or series of shares of another domestic corporation  
12 in exchange for shares or other securities, obligations, rights to  
13 acquire shares or other securities, cash, other property, or any  
14 combination of the foregoing, pursuant to a plan of share exchange;  
15 or

16 (b) All of the shares of one or more classes or series of shares  
17 of a domestic corporation may be acquired by another domestic  
18 corporation in exchange for shares or other securities, obligations,  
19 rights to acquire shares or other securities, cash, other property,  
20 or any combination of the foregoing, pursuant to a plan of share  
21 exchange.

22 (2) The plan of share exchange must include:

23 (a) The name of each domestic corporation the shares of which  
24 will be acquired and the name of the domestic corporation that will  
25 acquire those shares; and

26 (b) The manner and basis of exchanging shares of a domestic  
27 corporation that is the acquired entity for shares or other  
28 securities, obligations, rights to acquire shares, other securities,  
29 cash, other property, or any combination of the foregoing.

30 (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) of this  
31 section, a plan of share exchange may contain any other provision not  
32 prohibited by law.

33 (4) Terms of a plan of share exchange may be made dependent on  
34 facts objectively ascertainable outside the plan in accordance with  
35 RCW 23B.01.200(3).

36 (5) A plan of share exchange may be amended only with the consent  
37 of each party to the share exchange, except as provided in the plan  
38 of share exchange. A domestic corporation may approve an amendment to  
39 a plan of share exchange:

1 (a) In the same manner as the plan of share exchange was  
2 approved, if the plan of share exchange does not provide for the  
3 manner in which it may be amended; or

4 (b) In the manner provided in the plan of share exchange, except  
5 that shareholders that were entitled to vote on or consent to  
6 approval of the plan of share exchange are entitled to vote on or  
7 consent to any amendment of the plan of share exchange that will  
8 change:

9 (i) The amount or kind of shares or other securities,  
10 obligations, rights to acquire shares, other securities, cash, or  
11 other property to be received under the plan by the shareholders of  
12 the acquired entity; or

13 (ii) Any of the other terms or conditions of the plan of share  
14 exchange if the change would adversely affect such shareholders in  
15 any material respect.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In the case of a domestic corporation that  
17 is a party to a merger or the acquired entity in a share exchange,  
18 the plan of merger or share exchange must be approved in the  
19 following manner:

20 (1) The plan of merger or share exchange must first be approved  
21 by the board of directors.

22 (2) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and in  
23 sections 6, 7, and 11 of this act, the plan of merger or share  
24 exchange must then be approved by the shareholders. In submitting the  
25 plan of merger or share exchange to the shareholders for approval,  
26 the board of directors must recommend that the shareholders approve  
27 the plan or, in the case of an offer referred to in section 6(1)(b)  
28 of this act, that the shareholders tender their shares to the offeror  
29 in response to the offer, unless (a) the board of directors makes a  
30 determination that because of conflicts of interest or other special  
31 circumstances it should not make such a recommendation, or (b) RCW  
32 23B.08.245 applies. If either (a) or (b) of this subsection applies,  
33 the board of directors must inform the shareholders of the basis for  
34 so proceeding.

35 (3) The board of directors may set conditions for the approval of  
36 the plan of merger or share exchange by the shareholders or the  
37 effectiveness of the plan.

38 (4) If the plan of merger or share exchange is required to be  
39 approved by the shareholders, and if the approval is to be given at a

1 meeting, the corporation must notify each shareholder, regardless of  
2 whether entitled to vote, of the meeting of shareholders at which the  
3 plan is to be submitted for approval. The notice must state that the  
4 purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the  
5 plan and must contain or be accompanied by a copy of the plan or a  
6 summary of the material terms and conditions of the proposed merger  
7 or share exchange and the consideration to be received by  
8 shareholders. If the corporation is to be merged into a domestic  
9 corporation or other entity, the notice must also include or be  
10 accompanied by a copy or summary of the articles of incorporation and  
11 bylaws of that domestic corporation or the organic rules of that  
12 other entity.

13 (5) (a) With respect to a domestic corporation formed before  
14 August 1, 2024:

15 (i) Unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
16 directors acting in accordance with subsection (3) of this section,  
17 require a different vote, shareholder approval of the plan of merger  
18 or share exchange requires (A) the approval of two-thirds of the  
19 voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the  
20 plan, and (B) the approval of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be  
21 cast on the plan by each other voting group entitled under section 5  
22 of this act or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on  
23 the plan; and

24 (ii) The articles of incorporation may require a different vote  
25 than that provided in this subsection, or a different vote by  
26 separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not less than  
27 a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan and of  
28 each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the plan.

29 (b) With respect to a domestic corporation formed on or after  
30 August 1, 2024, unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
31 directors acting in accordance with subsection (3) of this section,  
32 require a greater vote, shareholder approval of the plan of merger or  
33 share exchange requires (i) the approval of a majority of the voting  
34 group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan, and  
35 (ii) the approval of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on  
36 the plan by each other voting group entitled under section 5 of this  
37 act or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the plan.

38 (6) Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise,  
39 approval of a plan of merger by the shareholders of a domestic  
40 corporation that is a party to the merger is not required if:

1 (a) Such corporation will survive the merger;  
2 (b) Except for amendments permitted by RCW 23B.10.020, its  
3 articles of incorporation will not be changed; and  
4 (c) Each shareholder of such corporation whose shares were  
5 outstanding immediately before the merger becomes effective will hold  
6 the same number of shares, with identical preferences, rights, and  
7 limitations, immediately after the merger becomes effective.  
8 (7) If as a result of a merger or share exchange one or more  
9 shareholders of a domestic corporation would become subject to new  
10 owner liability, approval of the plan of merger or share exchange  
11 requires the express written consent of each such shareholder to  
12 become subject to that new owner liability in connection with the  
13 merger or share exchange, unless in the case of a shareholder that  
14 already has owner liability with respect to that domestic  
15 corporation, (a) the new owner liability is with respect to a  
16 domestic corporation (which may be a different or the same domestic  
17 corporation in which the person is a shareholder) or other entity,  
18 and (b) the terms and conditions of the new owner liability are  
19 substantially identical to those of the existing owner liability  
20 (other than for changes that eliminate or reduce that owner  
21 liability).

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this  
23 section, separate voting by voting groups is required:

24 (a) On a plan of merger, by each class or series of shares of a  
25 domestic corporation that is a party to the merger that:

26 (i) Is to be converted under the plan into shares, other  
27 securities, interests, obligations, rights to acquire shares, other  
28 securities or interests, cash, other property, or any combination of  
29 the foregoing, or is to be canceled under the plan; or

30 (ii) Is entitled to vote as a separate group on a provision in  
31 the plan that constitutes a proposed amendment to the articles of  
32 incorporation of such corporation that requires action by separate  
33 voting groups under RCW 23B.10.040 if such corporation is the  
34 surviving entity in the merger and the holders of such class or  
35 series will continue as shareholders of the surviving entity;

36 (b) On a plan of share exchange, by each class or series of  
37 shares of a domestic corporation included in the exchange, with each  
38 class or series constituting a separate voting group; and

1 (c) On a plan of merger or share exchange, if the voting group is  
2 entitled under the articles of incorporation to vote as a separate  
3 voting group on the plan of merger or share exchange, respectively.

4 (2) The articles of incorporation may expressly limit or  
5 eliminate the separate voting rights provided in subsection (1)(a)(i)  
6 and (b) of this section as to any class or series of shares. A  
7 provision in the articles of incorporation of a domestic corporation  
8 formed before August 1, 2024, limiting or eliminating the separate  
9 voting rights provided under RCW 23B.11.035 in effect prior to the  
10 effective date of this section will be deemed to limit or eliminate  
11 the separate voting rights provided in subsection (1)(a)(i) and (b)  
12 of this section to the same extent.

13 (3) If a proposed plan of merger or share exchange that entitles  
14 the holders of two or more classes or series of shares to vote as  
15 separate voting groups under this section would affect those two or  
16 more classes or series in the same or a substantially similar way,  
17 then instead of voting as separate voting groups, the holders of  
18 shares of the classes or series so affected are to vote together as a  
19 single voting group on the proposed plan of merger or share exchange,  
20 unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or by the  
21 board of directors in accordance with section 4(3) of this act.

22 (4) Holders of shares of two or more classes or series of shares  
23 of a domestic corporation that is a party to the merger or the  
24 acquired entity in a share exchange who would, under a proposed plan,  
25 receive the same type of consideration in the form of shares or other  
26 securities, interests, obligations, rights to acquire shares, other  
27 securities or interests of the surviving or acquiring entity or of  
28 any parent entity of the surviving entity, cash or other form of  
29 consideration, or the same combination thereof, but in differing  
30 amounts resulting solely from application of provisions in the  
31 corporation's articles of incorporation governing distribution of  
32 consideration received in a merger or share exchange, are deemed to  
33 be affected in the same or a substantially similar way and are not,  
34 by reason of receiving the same types or differing amounts of  
35 consideration, entitled to vote as separate voting groups on the  
36 proposed plan, unless the articles of incorporation of such  
37 corporation expressly require otherwise or the board of directors  
38 conditions its submission of the proposed plan on a separate vote by  
39 one or more classes or series.



1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    (1) Unless the articles of incorporation  
2 provide otherwise, approval by a corporation's shareholders of a plan  
3 of merger or share exchange is not required if:

4        (a) The plan of merger or share exchange expressly (i) permits or  
5 requires the merger or share exchange to be effected under this  
6 section, and (ii) provides that, if the merger or share exchange is  
7 to be effected under this section, the merger or share exchange will  
8 be effected as soon as practicable following the satisfaction of the  
9 requirements of (f) of this subsection;

10       (b) Another party to the merger, the acquiring entity in the  
11 share exchange, or a parent of another party to the merger or the  
12 acquiring entity in the share exchange, makes an offer to purchase,  
13 on the terms stated in the plan of merger or share exchange, any and  
14 all of the outstanding shares of the corporation that, absent this  
15 section, would be entitled to vote on the plan of merger or share  
16 exchange, except that the offer may exclude shares of the corporation  
17 that are owned at the commencement of the offer by the corporation,  
18 the offeror, or any parent of the offeror, or by any wholly owned  
19 subsidiary of any of the foregoing;

20       (c) The offer discloses that the plan of merger or share exchange  
21 provides that the merger or share exchange will be effected as soon  
22 as practicable following the satisfaction of the requirements of (f)  
23 of this subsection and that the shares of the corporation that are  
24 not tendered in response to the offer will be treated as provided in  
25 (h) of this subsection;

26       (d) The offer remains open for at least 10 days;

27       (e) The offeror purchases all shares properly tendered in  
28 response to the offer and not properly withdrawn;

29       (f) The (i) shares purchased by the offeror in accordance with  
30 the offer; (ii) shares otherwise owned by the offeror or by any  
31 parent of the offeror or any wholly owned subsidiary of any of the  
32 foregoing; and (iii) shares subject to an agreement that they are to  
33 be transferred, contributed, or delivered to the offeror, any parent  
34 of the offeror, or any wholly owned subsidiary of any of the  
35 foregoing in exchange for shares or interests in that offeror,  
36 parent, or subsidiary, are collectively entitled to cast at least the  
37 minimum number of votes on the merger or share exchange that, absent  
38 this section, would be required by this chapter and the articles of  
39 incorporation for the approval of the merger or share exchange by the  
40 shareholders and by any other voting group entitled to vote on the

1 merger or share exchange at a meeting at which all shares entitled to  
2 vote on the merger or share exchange were present and voted;

3 (g) The offeror or a wholly owned subsidiary of the offeror  
4 merges with or into, or effects a share exchange in which it acquires  
5 shares of, the corporation; and

6 (h) Each outstanding share of each class or series of shares of  
7 the corporation that the offeror is offering to purchase in  
8 accordance with the offer, and which is not purchased in accordance  
9 with the offer, is to be converted in the merger into, or into the  
10 right to receive, or is to be exchanged in the share exchange for, or  
11 for the right to receive, the same amount and kind of securities,  
12 interests, obligations, rights, cash, or other property to be paid or  
13 exchanged in accordance with the offer for each share of that class  
14 or series of shares that is tendered in response to the offer, except  
15 that shares of the corporation that are owned by the corporation or  
16 that are described in (f)(ii) or (iii) of this subsection need not be  
17 converted into or exchanged for the consideration described in this  
18 subsection.

19 (2) As used in this section:

20 (a) "Offer" means the offer referred to in subsection (1)(b) of  
21 this section.

22 (b) "Offeror" means the person making the offer.

23 (c) "Parent" of an entity means a person that owns, directly or  
24 indirectly, through one or more wholly owned subsidiaries, all of the  
25 outstanding shares of or interests in that entity.

26 (d) Shares tendered in response to the offer will be deemed to  
27 have been "purchased" in accordance with the offer at the earliest  
28 time as of which:

29 (i) The offeror has irrevocably accepted those shares for  
30 payment; and

31 (ii) Either: (A) In the case of shares represented by  
32 certificates, the offeror, or the offeror's designated depository or  
33 other agent, has physically received the certificates representing  
34 those shares; or (B) in the case of shares without certificates,  
35 those shares have been transferred into the account of the offeror or  
36 its designated depository or other agent, or an agent's message  
37 relating to those shares has been received by the offeror or its  
38 designated depository or other agent.

39 (e) "Wholly owned subsidiary" of a person means an entity of or  
40 in which that person owns, directly or indirectly, through one or

1 more wholly owned subsidiaries, all of the outstanding shares or  
2 interests.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) A domestic corporation or other entity  
4 that owns shares of a domestic corporation that are entitled to cast  
5 votes comprising at least 90 percent of the voting power of each  
6 class and series of the outstanding voting shares of that subsidiary  
7 corporation may: (a) Merge the subsidiary corporation into itself or  
8 into (i) another domestic corporation in which the parent entity owns  
9 shares that are entitled to cast votes comprising at least 90 percent  
10 of the voting power of each class and series of the outstanding  
11 voting shares of that other domestic corporation or (ii) an other  
12 entity in which the parent entity owns interests that are entitled to  
13 cast votes comprising at least 90 percent of the total number of  
14 votes entitled to be cast by all outstanding interests of that other  
15 entity, or (b) merge itself into that subsidiary corporation, in  
16 either case without the approval of the board of directors or  
17 shareholders of the subsidiary corporation, unless the articles of  
18 incorporation or organic rules of the parent entity or the articles  
19 of incorporation of the subsidiary corporation provide otherwise.  
20 Section 4(7) of this act applies to a merger under this section. The  
21 articles of merger relating to a merger under this section do not  
22 need to be executed by the subsidiary corporation.

23 (2) A parent entity must, within 10 days after a merger under  
24 subsection (1) of this section becomes effective, notify each of the  
25 subsidiary corporation's other shareholders that the merger has  
26 become effective. The notice must contain or be accompanied by a copy  
27 of the plan of merger or a summary of the material terms and  
28 conditions of the merger and the consideration to be received by  
29 shareholders.

30 (3) Except as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this  
31 section, a merger under this section will be governed by the  
32 provisions of this chapter applicable to mergers generally.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1)(a) After a plan of merger has been  
34 approved (i) as required by this title, and (ii) in the case of each  
35 other entity, if any, that is party to the merger, as required by the  
36 organic law or organic rules governing such other entity or by  
37 section 2(3) of this act, as applicable, then articles of merger must

1 be executed by each party to the merger except as provided in section  
2 7(1) of this act.

3 (b) The articles of merger must state:

4 (i) The name, jurisdiction of organization, and type of entity of  
5 each party to the merger;

6 (ii) The name, jurisdiction of organization, and type of entity  
7 of the surviving entity;

8 (iii) If the surviving entity of the merger is a domestic  
9 corporation and its articles of incorporation are amended or amended  
10 and restated, the amendments to or the amendment and restatement of  
11 the surviving entity's articles of incorporation;

12 (iv) If the surviving entity of the merger is a domestic other  
13 entity and its public organic record is amended or amended and  
14 restated, the amendments or the amendment and restatement of the  
15 surviving entity's public organic record;

16 (v) If the plan of merger required approval by the shareholders  
17 of a domestic corporation that is a party to the merger, a statement  
18 that the plan was duly approved by the shareholders and, if voting by  
19 any separate voting group was required, by each such separate voting  
20 group, in the manner required by this title and the articles of  
21 incorporation;

22 (vi) If the plan of merger did not require approval by the  
23 shareholders of a domestic corporation that is a party to the merger,  
24 a statement to that effect; and

25 (vii) As to each other entity that is a party to the merger, a  
26 statement that the merger was approved in accordance with its organic  
27 law or section 2(3) of this act.

28 (2) After a plan of share exchange has been approved as required  
29 by this title, then articles of share exchange must be executed by  
30 the acquired entity and the acquiring entity. The articles of share  
31 exchange must state:

32 (a) The name of the acquired entity;

33 (b) The name of the acquiring entity; and

34 (c) A statement that the plan of share exchange was duly approved  
35 by the acquired entity by:

36 (i) The required vote or consent of each class or series of  
37 shares included in the exchange; and

38 (ii) The required vote or consent of each other class or series  
39 of shares entitled to vote on approval of the exchange by the  
40 articles of incorporation of the acquired entity.

1 (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) or (2) of  
2 this section, articles of merger or share exchange may contain any  
3 other provision not prohibited by law.

4 (4) The articles of merger or share exchange must be delivered to  
5 the secretary of state for filing and, subject to subsection (5) of  
6 this section, the merger or share exchange will become effective at  
7 the effective date and time of the articles of merger or share  
8 exchange as determined in accordance with RCW 23B.01.230.

9 (5) With respect to a merger in which one or more other entities  
10 is a party, the merger will become effective at the later of:

11 (a) The date and time when all documents required to be filed in  
12 foreign jurisdictions to effect the merger have become effective; and

13 (b) The effective date and time of the articles of merger as  
14 determined in accordance with RCW 23B.01.230.

15 (6) Articles of merger filed under this section may be combined  
16 with any filing required under the organic law governing any other  
17 entity involved in the transaction if the combined filing satisfies  
18 the requirements of both this section and the other organic law.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) When a merger becomes effective:

20 (a) The domestic corporation or other entity that is designated  
21 in the plan of merger as the surviving entity continues;

22 (b) The separate existence of every domestic corporation or other  
23 entity that is merged into the surviving entity ceases;

24 (c) All property owned by, and every contract right possessed by,  
25 each domestic corporation or other entity that is merged into the  
26 surviving entity are the property and contract rights of the  
27 surviving entity without transfer, reversion, or impairment;

28 (d) All debts, obligations, and other liabilities of each  
29 domestic corporation or other entity that is merged into the  
30 surviving entity are debts, obligations, or liabilities of the  
31 surviving entity;

32 (e) The name of the surviving entity may, but need not be,  
33 substituted in any pending proceeding for the name of any party to  
34 the merger whose separate existence ceased in the merger;

35 (f) If the surviving entity is a domestic entity, the articles of  
36 incorporation and bylaws or the organic rules of the surviving entity  
37 are amended, or amended and restated, to the extent provided in the  
38 plan of merger;

1 (g) The shares of or interests in each entity that is a party to  
2 the merger that are to be converted in accordance with the terms of  
3 the merger into shares or other securities, interests, obligations,  
4 rights to acquire shares, other securities, or interests, cash, other  
5 property, or any combination of the foregoing, are converted, and the  
6 former holders of such shares or interests are entitled only to the  
7 rights provided to them by those terms or to any rights they may have  
8 under chapter 23B.13 RCW or the organic law governing the other  
9 entity;

10 (h) Except as provided by law or the plan of merger, all the  
11 rights, privileges, franchises, and immunities of each entity that is  
12 merged into the surviving entity, are the rights, privileges,  
13 franchises, and immunities of the surviving entity;

14 (i) All the property and contract rights of the surviving entity  
15 remain its property and contract rights without transfer, reversion,  
16 or impairment;

17 (j) The surviving entity remains subject to all its debts,  
18 obligations, and other liabilities; and

19 (k) Except as provided by law or the plan of merger, the  
20 surviving entity continues to hold all of its rights, privileges,  
21 franchises, and immunities.

22 (2) When a share exchange becomes effective, the shares in the  
23 acquired entity that are to be exchanged for shares or other  
24 securities, obligations, rights to acquire shares, other securities,  
25 cash, other property, or any combination of the foregoing, are  
26 entitled only to the rights provided to them in the plan of share  
27 exchange or to any rights they may have under chapter 23B.13 RCW.

28 (3) Except as provided otherwise in the articles of incorporation  
29 of a domestic corporation or the organic law governing or organic  
30 rules of an other entity, the effect of a merger or share exchange on  
31 owner liability is as follows:

32 (a) A person who becomes subject to new owner liability in  
33 respect of an entity as a result of a merger or share exchange will  
34 have that new owner liability only in respect of owner liabilities  
35 that arise after the merger or share exchange becomes effective;

36 (b) If a person had owner liability with respect to a party to  
37 the merger or the acquired entity before the merger or share exchange  
38 becomes effective with respect to shares or interests of such party  
39 or acquired entity which were exchanged in the merger or share  
40 exchange, which were canceled in the merger, or the terms and

1 conditions of which relating to owner liability were amended under  
2 the terms of the merger:

3 (i) The merger or share exchange does not discharge that prior  
4 owner liability with respect to any owner liabilities that arose  
5 before the merger or share exchange becomes effective;

6 (ii) The provisions of the organic law governing any entity for  
7 which the person had that prior owner liability will continue to  
8 apply to the collection or discharge of any owner liabilities  
9 preserved by (b)(i) of this subsection (3), as if the merger or share  
10 exchange had not occurred;

11 (iii) The person will have such rights of contribution from other  
12 persons as are provided by the organic law governing the entity for  
13 which the person had that prior owner liability with respect to any  
14 owner liabilities preserved by (b)(i) of this subsection (3), as if  
15 the merger or share exchange had not occurred; and

16 (iv) The person will not, by reason of such prior owner  
17 liability, have owner liability with respect to any owner liabilities  
18 that arise after the merger or share exchange becomes effective;

19 (c) If a person has owner liability both before and after a  
20 merger becomes effective with unchanged terms and conditions with  
21 respect to the entity that is the surviving entity by reason of  
22 owning the same shares or interests before and after the merger  
23 becomes effective, the merger has no effect on such owner liability;  
24 and

25 (d) A share exchange has no effect on owner liability related to  
26 shares of the acquired entity that were not exchanged in the share  
27 exchange.

28 (4) Upon a merger becoming effective, a foreign other entity that  
29 is the surviving entity of the merger is deemed to:

30 (a) Appoint the secretary of state as its agent for service of  
31 process in a proceeding to enforce the rights of shareholders of each  
32 domestic corporation that is a party to the merger who are entitled  
33 to and exercise dissenters' rights under chapter 23B.13 RCW; and

34 (b) Agree that it will promptly pay the amount, if any, to which  
35 such shareholders are entitled under chapter 23B.13 RCW.

36 (5) Except as provided in the organic law governing a party to a  
37 merger or in its articles of incorporation or organic rules, the  
38 merger does not give rise to any rights that a shareholder, interest  
39 holder, governor, or third party would have upon a dissolution,  
40 liquidation, or winding up of that party. The merger does not require

1 a party to the merger to wind up its affairs and does not constitute  
2 or cause its dissolution or termination.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) After a plan of merger or share  
4 exchange has been approved as required by this chapter, and before  
5 articles of merger or share exchange have become effective, the plan  
6 of merger or share exchange may be abandoned by a domestic  
7 corporation that is a party to the plan of merger or share exchange  
8 without action by its shareholders in accordance with any procedures  
9 provided in the plan of merger or share exchange or, if no such  
10 procedures are provided in the plan of merger or share exchange, in  
11 the manner determined by the board of directors.

12 (2) If a merger or share exchange is abandoned under subsection  
13 (1) of this section after articles of merger or share exchange have  
14 been delivered to the secretary of state for filing but before the  
15 merger or share exchange has become effective, a statement of  
16 withdrawal executed by all the parties that executed the articles of  
17 merger or share exchange must be delivered to the secretary of state  
18 for filing before the articles of merger or share exchange become  
19 effective in accordance with RCW 23.95.215.

20 (3) The statement of withdrawal will become effective at the  
21 effective date and time as determined in accordance with RCW  
22 23.95.210 and the merger or share exchange will be deemed abandoned  
23 and will not become effective.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) As used in this section:

25 (a) "Holding company" means the corporation that is or becomes  
26 the direct parent of the surviving corporation of a merger  
27 accomplished under this section and whose capital stock is issued in  
28 that merger;

29 (b) "Parent constituent corporation" means the parent corporation  
30 that merges with or into the subsidiary constituent corporation in  
31 the merger; and

32 (c) "Subsidiary constituent corporation" means the subsidiary  
33 corporation with or into which the parent constituent corporation  
34 merges in the merger.

35 (2) Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, a  
36 parent constituent corporation may merge with or into a single  
37 indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the parent constituent



1 corporation without the approval of the plan of merger by the  
2 shareholders of the parent constituent corporation if:

3 (a) The plan expressly permits or requires the merger to be  
4 effected under this subsection;

5 (b) The holding company and the constituent corporations to the  
6 merger are each organized under this title;

7 (c) At all times from its incorporation until consummation of a  
8 merger under this section, the holding company was a direct wholly  
9 owned subsidiary of the parent constituent corporation;

10 (d) Immediately before consummation of a merger under this  
11 section, the subsidiary constituent corporation is a direct wholly  
12 owned subsidiary of the holding company and an indirect wholly owned  
13 subsidiary of the parent constituent corporation;

14 (e) The parent constituent corporation and the subsidiary  
15 constituent corporation are the only constituent entities to the  
16 merger;

17 (f) Immediately after the merger becomes effective, the surviving  
18 corporation of the merger becomes or remains a direct wholly owned  
19 subsidiary of the holding company;

20 (g) Each share or fraction of a share of the parent constituent  
21 corporation outstanding immediately before the merger becomes  
22 effective is converted in the merger into a share or equal fraction  
23 of a share of the holding company having the same designations and  
24 relative preferences, rights, and limitations as the share or  
25 fraction of a share of the parent constituent corporation being  
26 converted in the merger;

27 (h) The articles of incorporation and bylaws of the holding  
28 company immediately after the merger becomes effective contain  
29 provisions identical to the articles of incorporation and bylaws of  
30 the parent constituent corporation immediately before the merger  
31 becomes effective, other than any provisions regarding the  
32 incorporator or incorporators, the corporate name, the registered  
33 office and agent, the initial board of directors and the initial  
34 subscribers for shares, and the provisions contained in any amendment  
35 to the articles of incorporation of the parent constituent  
36 corporation that were necessary to effect an exchange,  
37 reclassification, or cancellation of shares if the exchange,  
38 reclassification, or cancellation has become effective;

39 (i) The articles of incorporation and bylaws of the surviving  
40 corporation immediately after the merger becomes effective contain

1 provisions by specific reference to this subsection requiring that  
2 any corporate action by or involving the surviving corporation, other  
3 than the election or removal of directors of the surviving  
4 corporation, must be approved by the shareholders of the holding  
5 company (or any successor by merger) by the same vote as is required  
6 by this title or under the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the  
7 parent constituent corporation immediately before the merger becomes  
8 effective, if that corporate action would have required the approval  
9 of the shareholders of the parent constituent corporation under this  
10 title or under the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the parent  
11 constituent corporation immediately before the merger becomes  
12 effective;

13 (j) The directors of the parent constituent corporation  
14 immediately before the merger becomes effective become or remain the  
15 directors of the holding company immediately after the merger becomes  
16 effective; and

17 (k) The board of directors of the parent constituent corporation  
18 determines that the shareholders of the parent constituent  
19 corporation will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal  
20 income tax purposes as a result of the merger.

21 (3) The holding company must, within 10 days after the effective  
22 date of a merger effected under subsection (2) of this section,  
23 notify each person who was a shareholder of the parent constituent  
24 corporation immediately before the merger became effective that the  
25 merger has become effective. The notice must contain or be  
26 accompanied by a copy of the plan of merger or a summary of the  
27 material terms and conditions of the merger and the consideration to  
28 be received by those shareholders.

29 (4) To the extent restrictions under chapter 23B.19 RCW applied  
30 to the parent constituent corporation or any of its shareholders at  
31 the effective time of the merger, those restrictions apply to the  
32 holding company and its shareholders immediately after the merger  
33 becomes effective as though the holding company were the parent  
34 constituent corporation, and all shares of stock of the holding  
35 company acquired in the merger will, for the purposes of chapter  
36 23B.19 RCW, be deemed to have been acquired at the time that the  
37 corresponding shares of stock of the parent constituent corporation  
38 were acquired. No shareholder who, immediately before the merger  
39 becomes effective, was not an acquiring person of the parent  
40 constituent corporation under chapter 23B.19 RCW will, solely by

1 reason of the merger, become an acquiring person of the holding  
2 company under chapter 23B.19 RCW.

3 (5) To the extent a shareholder of the parent constituent  
4 corporation immediately before the merger was eligible to commence a  
5 proceeding in the right of the parent constituent corporation in  
6 accordance with RCW 23B.07.400, nothing in this section is deemed to  
7 limit or extinguish that eligibility.

8 (6) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) of  
9 this section, a merger between a parent constituent corporation and a  
10 subsidiary constituent corporation will be governed by the provisions  
11 of this chapter applicable to mergers generally.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 11 of this act  
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 23B RCW.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
15 each repealed:

16 (1) RCW 23B.11.010 (Merger) and 2022 c 42 s 107, 2020 c 194 s 11,  
17 & 1989 c 165 s 131;

18 (2) RCW 23B.11.020 (Share exchange) and 2020 c 194 s 12 & 1989 c  
19 165 s 132;

20 (3) RCW 23B.11.030 (Approval of plan of merger or share exchange)  
21 and 2023 c 432 s 5, 2022 c 42 s 108, 2011 c 328 s 6, 2009 c 189 s 38,  
22 2003 c 35 s 6, & 1989 c 165 s 133;

23 (4) RCW 23B.11.035 (Plan of merger or share exchange—Separate  
24 voting group) and 2003 c 35 s 7;

25 (5) RCW 23B.11.040 (Merger of or into subsidiary) and 2017 c 28 s  
26 17, 2009 c 189 s 39, 2002 c 297 s 34, & 1989 c 165 s 134;

27 (6) RCW 23B.11.045 (Merger without approval of plan of merger—  
28 Definitions) and 2023 c 432 s 6;

29 (7) RCW 23B.11.050 (Articles of merger or share exchange) and  
30 2022 c 42 s 109 & 1989 c 165 s 135;

31 (8) RCW 23B.11.060 (Effect of merger or share exchange) and 2022  
32 c 42 s 110 & 1989 c 165 s 136;

33 (9) RCW 23B.11.070 (Merger or share exchange with foreign  
34 corporation) and 2015 c 176 s 2124 & 1989 c 165 s 137;

35 (10) RCW 23B.11.080 (Merger) and 2015 c 188 s 110, 2009 c 188 s  
36 1401, 1998 c 103 s 1310, & 1991 c 269 s 38;

1 (11) RCW 23B.11.090 (Articles of merger) and 2022 c 42 s 111,  
2 2015 c 188 s 111, 2009 c 188 s 1402, 1998 c 103 s 1311, & 1991 c 269  
3 s 39;

4 (12) RCW 23B.11.100 (Merger—Corporation is surviving entity) and  
5 2022 c 42 s 112, 1998 c 103 s 1312, & 1991 c 269 s 40; and

6 (13) RCW 23B.11.110 (Merger with foreign and domestic entities—  
7 Effect) and 2015 c 188 s 112, 2015 c 176 s 2125, 2009 c 188 s 1403,  
8 1998 c 103 s 1313, & 1991 c 269 s 41.

9 **Sec. 14.** RCW 23B.01.400 and 2023 c 432 s 1 are each reenacted  
10 and amended to read as follows:

11 The definitions in this section apply throughout this title  
12 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

13 (1) "Articles of incorporation" include amended and restated  
14 articles of incorporation and articles of merger.

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

17 (3) "Conspicuous" means so prepared that a reasonable person  
18 against whom the writing is to operate should have noticed it. For  
19 example, text in italics, boldface, contrasting color, capitals, or  
20 underlined is conspicuous.

21 (4) "Controlling interest" means ownership of an entity's  
22 outstanding shares or interests in such number as to entitle the  
23 holder at the time to elect a majority of the entity's directors or  
24 other governors without regard to voting power which may thereafter  
25 exist upon a default, failure, or other contingency.

26 (5) "Corporate action" means any resolution, act, policy,  
27 contract, transaction, plan, adoption or amendment of articles of  
28 incorporation or bylaws, or other matter approved by or submitted for  
29 approval to a corporation's incorporators, board of directors or a  
30 committee thereof, or shareholders.

31 (6) "Corporation" or "domestic corporation" means a corporation  
32 for profit, including a social purpose corporation, which is not a  
33 foreign corporation, incorporated under or subject to the provisions  
34 of this title.

35 (7) "Deliver" or "delivery" means any method of delivery used in  
36 conventional commercial practice, including delivery by hand, mail,  
37 commercial delivery, and, if authorized in accordance with RCW  
38 23B.01.410, by electronic transmission.

1 (8) "Distribution" means a direct or indirect transfer of money  
2 or other property, except its own shares, or incurrence of  
3 indebtedness by a corporation to or for the benefit of its  
4 shareholders in respect to any of its shares. A distribution may be  
5 in the form of a declaration or payment of a dividend; a distribution  
6 in partial or complete liquidation, or upon voluntary or involuntary  
7 dissolution; a purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of shares;  
8 a distribution of indebtedness; or otherwise.

9 (9) "Document" means:

10 (a) Any tangible medium on which information is inscribed, and  
11 includes handwritten, typed, printed, or similar instruments or  
12 copies of such instruments; and

13 (b) An electronic record.

14 (10) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical,  
15 digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar  
16 capabilities.

17 (11) "Electronic mail" means an electronic transmission directed  
18 to a unique electronic mail address, which electronic mail will be  
19 deemed to include any files attached thereto and any information  
20 hyperlinked to a website if the electronic mail includes the contact  
21 information of an officer or agent of the corporation who is  
22 available to assist with accessing such files and information.

23 (12) "Electronic mail address" means a destination, commonly  
24 expressed as a string of characters, consisting of a unique user name  
25 or mailbox, commonly referred to as the "local part" of the address,  
26 and a reference to an internet domain, commonly referred to as the  
27 "domain part" of the address, whether or not displayed, to which  
28 electronic mail can be sent or delivered.

29 (13) "Electronic record" means information that is stored in an  
30 electronic or other nontangible medium and: (a) Is retrievable in  
31 paper form by the recipient through an automated process used in  
32 conventional commercial practice; or (b) if not retrievable in paper  
33 form by the recipient through an automated process used in  
34 conventional commercial practice, is otherwise authorized in  
35 accordance with RCW 23B.01.410(10).

36 (14) "Electronic transmission" or "electronically transmitted"  
37 means internet transmission, telephonic transmission, electronic mail  
38 transmission, transmission of a telegram, cablegram, or datagram, the  
39 use of, or participation in, one or more electronic networks or  
40 databases including one or more distributed electronic networks or

1 databases, or any other form or process of communication, not  
2 directly involving the physical transfer of paper or another tangible  
3 medium, which:

4 (a) Is suitable for the retention, retrieval, and reproduction of  
5 information by the recipient; and

6 (b) Is retrievable in paper form by the recipient through an  
7 automated process used in conventional commercial practice, or, if  
8 not retrievable in paper form by the recipient through an automated  
9 process used in conventional commercial practice, is otherwise  
10 authorized in accordance with RCW 23B.01.410(10).

11 (15) "Employee" includes an officer but not a director. A  
12 director may accept duties that make the director also an employee.

13 (16) "Entity" includes a corporation and foreign corporation,  
14 not-for-profit corporation, business trust, estate, trust,  
15 partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture,  
16 two or more persons having a joint or common economic interest, the  
17 state, United States, and a foreign governmental subdivision, agency,  
18 or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

19 (17) "Execute," "executes," or "executed" means, with present  
20 intent to authenticate or adopt a document:

21 (a) To sign or adopt a tangible symbol to the document, and  
22 includes any manual, facsimile, or conformed signature;

23 (b) To attach or logically associate with an electronic  
24 transmission an electronic sound, symbol, or process, and includes an  
25 electronic signature; or

26 (c) With respect to a document to be filed with the secretary of  
27 state, in compliance with the standards for filing with the office of  
28 the secretary of state as prescribed by the secretary of state.

29 (18) "Foreign corporation" means a corporation for profit  
30 incorporated under a law other than the law of this state.

31 (19) "Foreign limited partnership" means a partnership formed  
32 under laws other than of this state and having as partners one or  
33 more general partners and one or more limited partners.

34 (20) "Forward stock split" means the pro rata division of all the  
35 outstanding shares of a class of stock into a greater number of  
36 shares of the same class, whether or not the authorized shares of  
37 such a class are increased in the same proportion, but does not  
38 include a share dividend under RCW 23B.06.230.

39 (21) "General social purpose" means the general social purpose  
40 for which a social purpose corporation is organized as set forth in

1 the articles of incorporation of the corporation in accordance with  
2 RCW 23B.25.040(1)(c).

3 (22) "Governmental subdivision" includes authority, county,  
4 district, and municipality.

5 (23) "Governor" has the meaning given that term in RCW 23.95.105.

6 (24) "Includes" denotes a partial definition.

7 (25) "Individual" includes the estate of an incompetent or  
8 deceased individual.

9 (26) "Limited partnership" or "domestic limited partnership"  
10 means a partnership formed by two or more persons under the laws of  
11 this state and having one or more general partners and one or more  
12 limited partners.

13 (27) "Means" denotes an exhaustive definition.

14 (28) "Notice" has the meaning provided in RCW 23B.01.410.

15 (29) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust,  
16 estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association,  
17 joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or  
18 instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

19 (30) "Principal office" means the office, in or out of this  
20 state, so designated in the annual report where the principal  
21 executive offices of a domestic or foreign corporation are located.

22 (31) "Proceeding" includes civil suit and criminal,  
23 administrative, and investigatory action.

24 (32) "Public company" means a corporation that either has a class  
25 of shares registered with the federal securities and exchange  
26 commission pursuant to section 12 or which is subject to section  
27 15(d) of the securities exchange act of 1934, or section 8 of the  
28 investment company act of 1940, or any successor statute.

29 (33) "Qualified director" means (a) with respect to a director's  
30 conflicting interest transaction as defined in RCW 23B.08.700, any  
31 director who does not have either (i) a conflicting interest  
32 respecting the transaction, or (ii) a familial, financial,  
33 professional, or employment relationship with a second director who  
34 does have a conflicting interest respecting the transaction, which  
35 relationship would, in the circumstances, reasonably be expected to  
36 exert an influence on the first director's judgment when voting on  
37 the transaction; (b) with respect to RCW 23B.08.735, a qualified  
38 director under (a) of this subsection if the business opportunity  
39 were a director's conflicting interest transaction; and (c) with  
40 respect to RCW 23B.02.020(2)(g), a director who is not a director (i)

1 to whom the limitation or elimination of the duty of an officer to  
2 offer potential business opportunities to the corporation would  
3 apply, or (ii) who has a familial, financial, professional, or  
4 employment relationship with another officer to whom the limitation  
5 or elimination would apply, which relationship would, in the  
6 circumstances, reasonably be expected to exert an influence on the  
7 director's judgment when voting on the limitation or elimination.

8 (34) "Record date" means the date fixed for determining the  
9 identity of a corporation's shareholders and their shareholdings for  
10 purposes of this title. The determinations shall be made as of the  
11 close of business on the record date unless another time for doing so  
12 is specified when the record date is fixed.

13 (35) "Registered office" means the address of the corporation's  
14 registered agent.

15 (36) "Reverse stock split" means the pro rata combination of all  
16 the outstanding shares of a class of stock into a smaller number of  
17 shares of the same class, whether or not the authorized shares of  
18 such a class are reduced in the same proportion.

19 (37) "Secretary" means the corporate officer to whom the board of  
20 directors has delegated responsibility under RCW 23B.08.400(3) for  
21 custody of the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors and  
22 of the shareholders and for authenticating records of the  
23 corporation.

24 (38) "Shareholder" means the person in whose name shares are  
25 registered in the records of a corporation or the beneficial owner of  
26 shares to the extent of the rights granted by a nominee certificate  
27 on file with a corporation.

28 (39) "Shares" means the units into which the proprietary  
29 interests in a corporation are divided.

30 (40) "Social purpose" includes any general social purpose and any  
31 specific social purpose.

32 (41) "Social purpose corporation" means a corporation that has  
33 elected to be governed as a social purpose corporation under chapter  
34 23B.25 RCW.

35 (42) "Specific social purpose" means the specific social purpose  
36 or purposes for which a social purpose corporation is organized as  
37 set forth in the articles of incorporation of the corporation in  
38 accordance with RCW 23B.25.040(2)(a).

39 (43) "State," when referring to a part of the United States,  
40 includes a state and commonwealth, and their agencies and



1 governmental subdivisions, and a territory and insular possession,  
2 and their agencies and governmental subdivisions, of the United  
3 States.

4 (44) "Stock split" means a forward stock split or a reverse stock  
5 split.

6 (45) "Subscriber" means a person who subscribes for shares in a  
7 corporation, whether before or after incorporation.

8 (46) "Subsidiary" means an entity in which the corporation has,  
9 directly or indirectly, a controlling interest.

10 (47) "United States" includes a district, authority, bureau,  
11 commission, department, and any other agency of the United States.

12 (48) "Voting group" means all shares of one or more classes or  
13 series that under the articles of incorporation or this title are  
14 entitled to vote and be counted together collectively on a matter at  
15 a meeting of shareholders. All shares entitled by the articles of  
16 incorporation or this title to vote generally on the matter are for  
17 that purpose a single voting group.

18 (49) "Writing" or "written" means any information in the form of  
19 a document.

20 (50) "Interest" means either or both of the following rights  
21 under the organic law governing an other entity:

22 (a) A right to receive distributions from the other entity either  
23 in the ordinary course of business or upon liquidation; or

24 (b) The right to receive notice of or vote on issues involving  
25 the other entity's internal affairs, other than as an agent,  
26 assignee, proxy, or person responsible for managing the other  
27 entity's business affairs.

28 (51) "Interest holder" means a person who holds of record an  
29 interest.

30 (52) "Jurisdiction of organization" means the state or country  
31 the law of which includes the organic law governing a domestic  
32 corporation or other entity.

33 (53) "Organic law" means the statute governing the internal  
34 affairs of an entity.

35 (54) "Organic rules" means the public organic record and private  
36 organic rules of an entity.

37 (55) "Other entity" means any entity that is not any of the  
38 following: A domestic corporation, a domestic or foreign not-for-  
39 profit corporation, a series of a limited liability company or  
40 similar entity, an estate, a trust, a state, the United States, or a

1 foreign governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality. The  
2 term includes, but is not limited to, a foreign corporation, a  
3 limited partnership, a general partnership, a limited liability  
4 company, a joint venture, a joint stock company, and a business  
5 trust.

6 (56) "Owner liability" means personal liability for a debt,  
7 obligation, or liability of an entity that is imposed on a person:

8 (a) Solely by reason of the person's status as a shareholder or  
9 interest holder;

10 (b) By the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a corporation  
11 authorizing the articles of incorporation or bylaws to make one or  
12 more specified shareholders liable in their capacity as shareholders  
13 for all or specified debts, obligations, or liabilities of the  
14 corporation; or

15 (c) By one or more organic rules of an other entity authorizing  
16 the organic rules to make one or more specified interest holders  
17 liable in their capacity as interest holders for all or specified  
18 debts, obligations, or liabilities of the other entity.

19 (57) "Private organic rules" means (a) the bylaws of a domestic  
20 corporation or (b) the rules, regardless of whether in writing, (i)  
21 that govern the internal affairs of an other entity, (ii) which are  
22 binding on all of the other entity's interest holders, and (iii)  
23 which are not part of the other entity's public organic record, if  
24 any. Where private organic rules have been amended or restated, the  
25 term means the private organic rules as last amended or restated.

26 (58) "Public organic record" means (a) the articles of  
27 incorporation of a domestic corporation or (b) the document, if any,  
28 the filing of which is required to create an other entity. Where a  
29 public organic record has been amended or restated, the term means  
30 the public organic record as last amended or restated.

31 (59) "Voting power" means the total number of votes entitled to  
32 be cast by all of the outstanding voting shares of a corporation on  
33 the date in question.

34 (60) "Voting shares" means the shares of all classes of a  
35 corporation entitled to vote generally in the election of directors  
36 on the date in question.

37 **Sec. 15.** RCW 23B.07.250 and 2009 c 189 s 18 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 (1) Shares entitled to vote as a separate voting group may  
2 approve a corporate action at a meeting only if a quorum of those  
3 shares exists with respect to that corporate action. Unless the  
4 articles of incorporation or this title provide otherwise, a majority  
5 of the votes entitled to be cast on the corporate action by the  
6 voting group constitutes a quorum of that voting group for approval  
7 of that corporate action. Whenever this title requires a particular  
8 quorum for a specified corporate action, the articles of  
9 incorporation may not provide for a lower quorum.

10 (2) Once a share is represented for any purpose at a meeting  
11 other than solely to object to holding the meeting or transacting  
12 business at the meeting, it is deemed present for quorum purposes for  
13 the remainder of the meeting and for any adjournment of that meeting  
14 unless a new record date is or must be set for that adjourned  
15 meeting.

16 (3) If a quorum exists, a corporate action, other than the  
17 election of directors, is approved by a voting group if the votes  
18 cast within the voting group favoring the corporate action exceed the  
19 votes cast within the voting group opposing the corporate action,  
20 unless the articles of incorporation or this title require a greater  
21 number of affirmative votes.

22 (4) An amendment of the articles of incorporation adding,  
23 changing, or deleting (~~((either (i) [(a)]))~~) a quorum (~~((for a voting~~  
24 ~~group greater or lesser than specified in subsection (1) of this~~  
25 ~~section,~~) or (~~((ii) [(b)] a)~~) voting requirement for a voting group  
26 greater than specified in subsection (1) or (3) of this section(~~(7)~~)  
27 is governed by RCW 23B.07.270.

28 (5) Whenever a provision of this title provides for voting of  
29 classes or series as separate voting groups, the rules provided in  
30 RCW 23B.10.040(3) for amendments of the articles of incorporation  
31 apply to that provision.

32 (6) The election of directors is governed by RCW 23B.07.280.

33 **Sec. 16.** RCW 23B.07.270 and 2009 c 189 s 20 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (~~((1) The articles of incorporation may provide for a greater or~~  
36 ~~lesser quorum, but not less than one-third of the votes entitled to~~  
37 ~~be cast, for shareholders, or voting groups of shareholders, than is~~  
38 ~~provided for by this title.~~

1       ~~(2) The articles of incorporation may provide for a greater~~  
2 ~~voting requirement for shareholders, or voting groups of~~  
3 ~~shareholders, than is provided for by this title.~~

4       ~~(3) Under RCW 23B.10.030, 23B.11.030, 23B.12.020, and 23B.14.020,~~  
5 ~~the articles of incorporation may provide for a lesser vote than is~~  
6 ~~otherwise prescribed in those sections or for a lesser vote by~~  
7 ~~separate voting groups, so long as the vote provided for each voting~~  
8 ~~group entitled to vote separately on the plan or transaction is not~~  
9 ~~less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan~~  
10 ~~or transaction by that voting group.~~

11       ~~(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, an~~  
12 ~~amendment to the articles of incorporation that adds, changes, or~~  
13 ~~deletes a greater or lesser quorum or voting requirement for a~~  
14 ~~particular corporate action must meet the same quorum requirement and~~  
15 ~~be adopted by the same vote and voting groups as are required under~~  
16 ~~the quorum and voting requirements then in effect for approval of the~~  
17 ~~corporate action.~~

18       ~~(5)) An amendment to the articles of incorporation that adds,~~  
19 ~~changes, or deletes a ((greater or lesser)) quorum or voting~~  
20 ~~requirement ((for a merger, share exchange, sale of substantially all~~  
21 ~~assets, or dissolution must be adopted)) must meet the same quorum~~  
22 ~~requirement and be approved by the same vote and voting groups ((as~~  
23 ~~are)) required ((under the quorum and voting requirements then in~~  
24 ~~effect for approval of the particular corporate action, or)) to take~~  
25 ~~action under the quorum and voting requirements then in effect ((for~~  
26 ~~amendments to articles of incorporation)) or proposed to be approved,~~  
27 ~~whichever is greater.~~

28       **Sec. 17.** RCW 23B.08.080 and 1995 c 47 s 7 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30       (1) The shareholders may remove one or more directors with or  
31 without cause unless the articles of incorporation provide that  
32 directors may be removed only for cause.

33       (2) If a director is elected by holders of one or more authorized  
34 classes or series of shares, only the holders of those classes or  
35 series of shares may participate in the vote to remove the director.

36       (3) ~~((If))~~ A director may be removed if the number of votes cast  
37 to remove exceeds the number of votes cast not to remove the  
38 director, except to the extent the articles of incorporation or  
39 bylaws require a greater number; except that if cumulative voting is

1 authorized, and if less than the entire board is to be removed, no  
2 director may be removed if, in the case of a meeting, the number of  
3 votes sufficient to elect the director under cumulative voting is  
4 voted against the director's removal (~~(. If cumulative voting is not~~  
5 ~~authorized, a director may be removed only if the number of votes~~  
6 ~~cast to remove the director exceeds the number of votes cast not to~~  
7 ~~remove the director)) and, if action is taken by less than unanimous  
8 written consent, voting shareholders entitled to the number of votes  
9 sufficient to elect the director under cumulative voting do not  
10 consent to the removal.~~

11 (4) A director may be removed by the shareholders only at a  
12 special meeting called for the purpose of removing the director and  
13 the meeting notice must state that (~~the purpose, or one of the~~  
14 ~~purposes, of the meeting is~~) removal of the director is a purpose of  
15 the meeting.

16 **Sec. 18.** RCW 23B.08.240 and 2020 c 57 s 61 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws (~~require~~)  
19 provide for a greater or lesser number or unless otherwise expressly  
20 provided in this title, a quorum of a board of directors consists of  
21 a majority of the number of directors specified in or fixed in  
22 accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws.

23 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a quorum of  
24 (~~a~~) the board of directors (~~may in no event be less than one-third~~  
25 ~~of the number of directors specified in or fixed in accordance with~~  
26 ~~the articles of incorporation or bylaws~~) specified in or fixed in  
27 accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws may not  
28 consist of less than one-third of the specified or fixed number of  
29 directors.

30 (3) If a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative  
31 vote of a majority of directors present is the act of the board of  
32 directors unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws require the  
33 vote of a greater number of directors or unless otherwise expressly  
34 provided in this title.

35 (4) A director who is present at a meeting of the board of  
36 directors or a committee when corporate action is approved is deemed  
37 to have assented to the corporate action unless: (a) The director  
38 objects at the beginning of the meeting, or promptly upon the  
39 director's arrival, to holding it or transacting business at the

1 meeting; (b) the director's dissent or abstention as to the corporate  
2 action is entered in the minutes of the meeting; or (c) the director  
3 delivers written notice of the director's dissent or abstention as to  
4 the corporate action to the presiding officer of the meeting before  
5 adjournment or to the corporation within a reasonable time after  
6 adjournment of the meeting. The right of dissent or abstention is not  
7 available to a director who votes in favor of the corporate action.

8 **Sec. 19.** RCW 23B.09.030 and 2020 c 57 s 65 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 In the case of an entity conversion of a domestic corporation to  
11 an other entity, the plan of conversion must be approved in the  
12 following manner:

13 (1) The plan of entity conversion must first be ~~((adopted))~~  
14 approved by the board of directors of the converting entity ~~((and the~~  
15 ~~shareholders entitled to vote must approve the plan))~~.

16 ~~((After adopting a plan of entity conversion, the board of~~  
17 ~~directors of the converting entity must submit the plan of entity~~  
18 ~~conversion for approval by its shareholders.~~

19 ~~(3))~~ The plan of entity conversion must then be approved by the  
20 shareholders of the converting entity. In submitting the plan of  
21 entity conversion to the shareholders for approval, the board of  
22 directors must recommend that the shareholders approve the plan of  
23 entity conversion ~~((to the shareholders))~~, unless (a) the board of  
24 directors makes a determination that because of conflicts of interest  
25 or other special circumstances it should not make such a  
26 recommendation; or (b) RCW 23B.08.245 applies ~~((, and in either case~~  
27 ~~the board of directors communicates the basis for so proceeding to~~  
28 ~~the shareholders))~~. If either (a) or (b) of this subsection applies,  
29 the board of directors must inform the shareholders of the basis for  
30 its so proceeding.

31 ~~((4))~~ (3) The board of directors may ~~((condition its~~  
32 ~~submission))~~ set conditions for the approval of the plan of entity  
33 conversion ~~((on any basis, including the affirmative vote of holders~~  
34 ~~of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of shareholders~~  
35 ~~not otherwise entitled to vote as a separate voting group on))~~ or the  
36 effectiveness of the plan of entity conversion.

37 ~~((5) In the case of an entity conversion of a domestic~~  
38 ~~corporation to a foreign corporation, in addition to any other voting~~  
39 ~~conditions imposed by the board of directors acting pursuant to~~

1 subsection (4) of this section, approval of the plan of entity  
2 conversion requires the affirmative vote of shareholders that would  
3 be required to approve a plan of merger under RCW 23B.11.030, and of  
4 each other voting group entitled under RCW 23B.11.035 or the articles  
5 of incorporation to vote separately on a plan of merger. Separate  
6 voting by additional voting groups is required on a plan of entity  
7 conversion if such voting group or groups would be entitled to vote  
8 on a plan of merger under the circumstances described in RCW  
9 23B.11.035. The articles of incorporation may require a greater or  
10 lesser vote to approve a plan of entity conversion than that provided  
11 in this subsection, or a greater or lesser vote by separate voting  
12 groups, so long as the required vote is not less than a majority of  
13 all the votes entitled to be cast on the plan of entity conversion  
14 and of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the  
15 plan.

16 (6) In the case of an entity conversion of a domestic corporation  
17 to an other entity that is not a foreign corporation, approval of the  
18 plan of entity conversion requires the approval of all shareholders  
19 of the domestic corporation, whether or not entitled to vote under  
20 this title or the articles of incorporation.

21 (7) If as a result of the conversion one or more shareholders of  
22 the domestic corporation would become subject to owner liability for  
23 the debts, obligations, or liabilities of any other person or entity,  
24 in addition to the approval requirements under subsections (5) and  
25 (6) of this section, approval of the plan of entity conversion must  
26 also require each such shareholder to execute a separate written  
27 consent to become subject to such owner liability.

28 (8)) (4) If the approval of the shareholders is to be given at a  
29 meeting, the ((domestic corporation)) converting entity must notify  
30 each shareholder, regardless of whether ((or not)) entitled to vote,  
31 of the ((proposed)) meeting of shareholders at which the plan of  
32 entity conversion is to be submitted for approval ((in accordance  
33 with RCW 23B.07.050)). The notice must state that ((the purpose, or  
34 one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the plan of entity  
35 conversion)) consideration of the plan of entity conversion is a  
36 purpose of the meeting and must contain or be accompanied by a copy  
37 or summary of the plan of entity conversion. The notice must include  
38 or be accompanied by a copy of the organic ((documents)) rules of the  
39 surviving entity as they will be in effect immediately after the  
40 conversion.

1       ~~((9) If any provision of the articles of incorporation, bylaws,~~  
2 ~~or an agreement to which any of the directors or shareholders of the~~  
3 ~~domestic corporation are parties, adopted, or entered into before~~  
4 ~~June 12, 2014, applies to a merger of the domestic corporation, other~~  
5 ~~than a provision that limits or eliminates voting or dissenters'~~  
6 ~~rights, and the document does not refer to an entity conversion of~~  
7 ~~the domestic corporation, the provision is deemed to apply to an~~  
8 ~~entity conversion of the domestic corporation until the provision is~~  
9 ~~subsequently amended.))~~

10       (5) Unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
11 directors acting in accordance with subsection (3) of this section,  
12 requires a greater vote, shareholder approval of the plan of entity  
13 conversion requires (a) the affirmative vote of shareholders that  
14 would be required to approve a plan of merger under section 4 of this  
15 act, and (b) the approval of each other voting group that would be  
16 entitled under the circumstances described in section 5 of this act  
17 or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on a plan of  
18 merger.

19       (6) If as a result of the conversion one or more shareholders of  
20 the converting entity would become subject to owner liability,  
21 approval of the plan of entity conversion must also require each such  
22 shareholder to execute a separate written consent to become subject  
23 to such owner liability.

24       **Sec. 20.** RCW 23B.10.030 and 2011 c 328 s 5 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26       ~~((1) A corporation's board of directors may propose one or more~~  
27 ~~amendments to the articles of incorporation for submission to the~~  
28 ~~shareholders.~~

29       ~~(2) For the amendment to be adopted:~~

30       ~~(a) The)~~ If a corporation has issued shares, an amendment to the  
31 articles of incorporation, other than an amendment pursuant to RCW  
32 23B.10.020, must be approved in the following manner:

33       (1) The proposed amendment must first be approved by the board of  
34 directors;

35       (2) Except as provided in RCW 23B.10.070 and 23B.10.080, the  
36 amendment must then be approved by the shareholders. In submitting  
37 the proposed amendment to the shareholders for approval, the board of  
38 directors must recommend that the shareholders approve the amendment  
39 ~~((to the shareholders))~~ unless ((i)) (a) the board of directors



1 ((determines)) makes a determination that because of conflicts of  
2 interest or other special circumstances it should not make ((no))  
3 such a recommendation, or ((-ii-)) (b) RCW 23B.08.245 applies((, and  
4 in either case the board of directors communicates the basis for so  
5 proceeding to the shareholders; and

6 ~~(b) The shareholders entitled to vote on the amendment must~~  
7 ~~approve the amendment as provided in subsection (5) of this~~  
8 ~~section)). If either (a) or (b) of this subsection applies, the board  
9 of directors must inform the shareholders of the basis for its so  
10 proceeding.~~

11 (3) The board of directors may ((condition its submission of the  
12 proposed amendment on any basis, including the affirmative vote of  
13 holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of  
14 shareholders not otherwise entitled under this title or the articles  
15 of incorporation to vote as a separate voting group on the proposed  
16 amendment)) set conditions for the approval of the amendment by the  
17 shareholders or the effectiveness of the amendment.

18 (4) ((The)) If the amendment is required to be approved by the  
19 shareholders, and if the approval is to be given at a meeting, the  
20 corporation ((shall)) must notify each shareholder, regardless of  
21 whether ((or not)) entitled to vote, of the ((proposed shareholders'  
22 meeting in accordance with RCW 23B.07.050)) meeting of shareholders  
23 at which the amendment is to be submitted for approval. The notice of  
24 meeting must ((also)) state that the purpose, or one of the purposes,  
25 of the meeting is to consider the ((proposed)) amendment and contain  
26 or be accompanied by a copy of the amendment.

27 (5) ((In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the  
28 board of directors under subsection (3) of this section, the  
29 amendment to be adopted must be approved by two-thirds, or, in the  
30 case of a public company, a majority, of the voting group comprising  
31 all the votes entitled to be cast on the proposed amendment, and of  
32 each other voting group entitled under RCW 23B.10.040 or the articles  
33 of incorporation to vote separately on the proposed amendment. The  
34 articles of incorporation may require a greater vote than that  
35 provided for in this subsection. The articles of incorporation of a  
36 corporation other than a public company may require a lesser vote  
37 than that provided for in this subsection, or may require a lesser  
38 vote by separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not  
39 less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the  
40 proposed amendment and of each other voting group entitled to vote

1 ~~separately on the proposed amendment. Separate voting by additional~~  
2 ~~voting groups is required on a proposed amendment under the~~  
3 ~~circumstances described in RCW 23B.10.040))~~ (a) With respect to a  
4 corporation formed before August 1, 2024:

5 (i) Unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
6 directors acting in accordance with subsection (3) of this section,  
7 require a different vote, shareholder approval of the amendment  
8 requires (A) the approval of two-thirds, or, in the case of a public  
9 company, a majority, of the votes entitled to be cast on the  
10 amendment, and (B) the approval of two-thirds, or, in the case of a  
11 public company, a majority, of the votes entitled to be cast on the  
12 amendment by each other voting group entitled under RCW 23B.10.040 or  
13 the articles of incorporation to vote separately on the amendment;  
14 and

15 (ii) The articles of incorporation may require a different vote  
16 than that provided in this subsection, or a different vote by  
17 separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not less than  
18 a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the amendment and  
19 of each other voting group entitled to vote separately on the  
20 amendment.

21 (b) With respect to a corporation formed on or after August 1,  
22 2024, unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of directors  
23 acting in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, require a  
24 greater vote, shareholder approval of the amendment requires (i) the  
25 approval of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the  
26 amendment, and (ii) the approval of a majority of the votes entitled  
27 to be cast on the amendment by each other voting group entitled under  
28 RCW 23B.10.040 or the articles of incorporation to vote separately on  
29 the amendment.

30 **Sec. 21.** RCW 23B.12.020 and 2019 c 141 s 7 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Except as provided in subsection (11) of this section, a  
33 sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of a corporation's  
34 property and assets, other than in the usual and regular course of  
35 its business, requires approval of the corporation's shareholders if  
36 the disposition would leave the corporation without a significant  
37 continuing business activity.

38 (2) A continuing business activity will be conclusively presumed  
39 to represent a significant continuing business activity if, for the

1 corporation and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, it  
2 represented at least:

3 (a) Twenty-five percent of total assets at the end of the most  
4 recently completed fiscal year; and

5 (b) Either: (i) Twenty-five percent of income from continuing  
6 operations before taxes, or (ii) twenty-five percent of revenues from  
7 continuing operations, in each case for the most recently completed  
8 fiscal year.

9 (3) No presumption that a disposition will leave the corporation  
10 without a significant continuing business activity will arise from  
11 the fact that the corporation's continuing business activity does not  
12 equal or exceed any of the percentages set forth in subsection (2) of  
13 this section.

14 (4) The determination of whether or not a continuing business  
15 activity constitutes a significant continuing business under  
16 subsection (2) of this section may be based either on financial  
17 statements prepared on the basis of accounting practices and  
18 principles that are reasonable in the circumstances or, in the case  
19 of subsection (2)(a) of this section, on a fair valuation or other  
20 method that is reasonable in the circumstances.

21 (5) For a disposition to be approved by a corporation's  
22 shareholders:

23 (a) The board of directors must approve the disposition and  
24 submit the proposed disposition for approval by the shareholders;

25 (b) The board of directors must recommend the proposed  
26 disposition to the shareholders unless (i) the board of directors  
27 determines that because of conflicts of interest or other special  
28 circumstances it should make no recommendation or (ii) RCW 23B.08.245  
29 applies, and in either case the board of directors communicates the  
30 basis for so proceeding to the shareholders; and

31 (c) The shareholders entitled to vote on the proposed disposition  
32 must approve the proposed disposition as provided in subsection (8)  
33 of this section.

34 (6) The board of directors may condition its submission of the  
35 proposed disposition on any basis, including the affirmative vote of  
36 holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of  
37 shareholders not otherwise entitled under this title or the articles  
38 of incorporation to vote as a separate voting group on the proposed  
39 disposition.

1 (7) If the approval of the shareholders is to be given at a  
2 meeting, the corporation must notify each shareholder, whether or not  
3 entitled to vote, of the proposed shareholders' meeting in accordance  
4 with RCW 23B.07.050. The notice must state that the purpose, or one  
5 of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the proposed  
6 disposition and contain or be accompanied by a description of the  
7 proposed disposition, including a summary of the material terms and  
8 conditions thereof and the consideration to be received by the  
9 corporation.

10 (8) (~~In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the~~  
11 ~~board of directors under subsection (6) of this section)~~ (a) With  
12 respect to a corporation formed before August 1, 2024:

13 (i) Unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
14 directors acting in accordance with subsection (6) of this section,  
15 require a different vote, shareholder approval of the proposed  
16 disposition requires (A) the approval of two-thirds of the votes  
17 entitled to be cast on the proposed disposition, and (B) the approval  
18 of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the proposed  
19 disposition by each other voting group entitled under the articles of  
20 incorporation to vote separately on the proposed disposition, unless  
21 shareholder approval is not required under subsection (11) of this  
22 section; and

23 (ii) The articles of incorporation may require a different vote  
24 than that provided in this subsection, or a different vote by  
25 separate voting groups, so long as the required vote is not less than  
26 a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the proposed  
27 disposition and of each other voting group entitled to vote  
28 separately on the proposed disposition.

29 (b) With respect to a corporation formed on or after August 1,  
30 2024, unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of directors  
31 acting in accordance with subsection (6) of this section, requires a  
32 greater vote, the proposed disposition must be approved by (~~two-~~  
33 ~~thirds)) a majority~~ of the voting group comprising all the votes  
34 entitled to be cast on the proposed disposition, and of each other  
35 voting group entitled under the articles of incorporation to vote  
36 separately on the proposed disposition, unless shareholder approval  
37 is not required under subsection (11) of this section. (~~The articles~~  
38 ~~of incorporation may require a greater or lesser vote than provided~~  
39 ~~in this subsection, or a greater or lesser vote by any separate~~  
40 ~~voting groups provided for in the articles of incorporation, so long~~

1 ~~as the required vote is not less than a majority of all the votes~~  
2 ~~entitled to be cast on the proposed disposition and of each other~~  
3 ~~voting group entitled to vote separately on the proposed~~  
4 ~~disposition.)~~)

5 (9) After a proposed disposition has been approved by the  
6 shareholders as required by this section, and at any time before the  
7 proposed disposition has been consummated, the board of directors may  
8 abandon the proposed disposition without further action by the  
9 shareholders, subject to any contractual rights of other parties  
10 relating thereto.

11 (10) A disposition that constitutes a distribution is governed by  
12 RCW 23B.06.400 and not by this section.

13 (11) Unless the articles of incorporation otherwise require,  
14 approval by the shareholders of a parent corporation is not required  
15 for the transfer of any or all of the parent corporation's property  
16 and assets to one or more subsidiaries all of the shares or interests  
17 of which are owned, directly or indirectly, by the parent  
18 corporation.

19 (12) The assets of a subsidiary are to be treated as the assets  
20 of its parent corporation for purposes of this section.

21 **Sec. 22.** RCW 23B.13.020 and 2022 c 42 s 113 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) A shareholder is entitled to dissent from, and obtain payment  
24 of the fair value of the shareholder's shares in the event of, any of  
25 the following corporate actions:

26 (a) ~~((A plan of merger, which has become effective, to which the~~  
27 ~~corporation is a party (i) if shareholder approval was required for~~  
28 ~~the merger by RCW 23B.11.030, 23B.11.080, or the articles of~~  
29 ~~incorporation, or would have been required but for the provisions of~~  
30 ~~RCW 23B.11.030(9), and the shareholder was, or but for the provisions~~  
31 ~~of RCW 23B.11.030(9) would have been, entitled to vote on the merger,~~  
32 ~~or (ii) if the corporation was a subsidiary and the plan of merger~~  
33 ~~provided for the merger of the subsidiary with its parent under RCW~~  
34 ~~23B.11.040)) Consummation of a merger to which the corporation is a~~  
35 party (i) if shareholder approval is required for the merger by  
36 section 4 of this act or the articles of incorporation, or would be  
37 required but for the provisions of section 6 of this act, and the  
38 shareholder is, or but for the provisions of section 6 of this act  
39 would be, entitled to vote on the merger, except that the right to

1 dissent will not be available to any shareholder of the corporation  
2 with respect to shares of any class or series that remain outstanding  
3 after consummation of the merger; or (ii) if the corporation is a  
4 subsidiary and the merger is governed by section 7 of this act;

5 (b) A plan of share exchange, which has become effective, to  
6 which the corporation is a party as the corporation whose shares have  
7 been acquired, if the shareholder was entitled to vote on the plan;

8 (c) A sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition, which has  
9 become effective, of all, or substantially all, of the property and  
10 assets of the corporation other than in the usual and regular course  
11 of business, if the shareholder was entitled to vote on the sale,  
12 lease, exchange, or other disposition, including a disposition in  
13 dissolution, but not including a disposition pursuant to court order  
14 or a disposition for cash pursuant to a plan by which all or  
15 substantially all of the net proceeds of the disposition will be  
16 distributed to the shareholders within one year after the date of the  
17 disposition;

18 (d) An amendment of the articles of incorporation, whether or not  
19 the shareholder was entitled to vote on the amendment, if the  
20 amendment effects a redemption or cancellation of all of the  
21 shareholder's shares in exchange for cash or other consideration  
22 other than shares of the corporation;

23 (e) Any action described in RCW 23B.25.120;

24 (f) Any corporate action approved pursuant to a shareholder vote  
25 to the extent the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or a resolution  
26 of the board of directors provides that voting or nonvoting  
27 shareholders are entitled to dissent and obtain payment for their  
28 shares; or

29 (g) A plan of entity conversion in the case of a conversion of a  
30 domestic corporation to a foreign corporation, which has become  
31 effective, to which the domestic corporation is a party as the  
32 converting entity, if: (i) The shareholder was entitled to vote on  
33 the plan; and (ii) the shareholder does not receive shares in the  
34 surviving entity that have terms as favorable to the shareholder in  
35 all material respects and that represent at least the same percentage  
36 interest of the total voting rights of the outstanding shares of the  
37 surviving entity as the shares held by the shareholder before the  
38 conversion.

39 (2) A shareholder entitled to dissent and obtain payment for the  
40 shareholder's shares under this chapter may not challenge the

1 corporate action creating the shareholder's entitlement unless the  
2 action fails to comply with the procedural requirements imposed by  
3 this title, RCW 25.10.831 through 25.10.886, the articles of  
4 incorporation, or the bylaws, or is fraudulent with respect to the  
5 shareholder or the corporation.

6 (3) The right of a dissenting shareholder to obtain payment of  
7 the fair value of the shareholder's shares shall terminate upon the  
8 occurrence of any one of the following events:

9 (a) The proposed corporate action is abandoned or rescinded;

10 (b) A court having jurisdiction permanently enjoins or sets aside  
11 the corporate action; or

12 (c) The shareholder's demand for payment is withdrawn with the  
13 written consent of the corporation.

14 **Sec. 23.** RCW 23B.13.200 and 2022 c 42 s 114 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
17 under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted for approval by a vote at a  
18 shareholders' meeting, the meeting notice must state that  
19 shareholders are or may be entitled to assert dissenters' rights  
20 under this chapter and be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.

21 (2) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
22 under RCW 23B.13.020 would be submitted for approval by a vote at a  
23 shareholders' meeting but for the provisions of (~~RCW 23B.11.030(9)~~)  
24 section 4 of this act, the offer made pursuant to (~~RCW~~  
25 ~~23B.11.030(9)~~) section 4 of this act must state that shareholders  
26 are or may be entitled to assert dissenters' rights under this  
27 chapter and be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.

28 (3) If corporate action creating dissenters' rights under RCW  
29 23B.13.020 is submitted for approval without a vote of shareholders  
30 in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, the shareholder consent described  
31 in RCW 23B.07.040(1)(b) and the notice described in RCW  
32 23B.07.040(3)(a) must include a statement that shareholders are or  
33 may be entitled to assert dissenters' rights under this chapter and  
34 be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.

35 **Sec. 24.** RCW 23B.13.210 and 2022 c 42 s 115 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
38 under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted to a vote at a shareholders'

1 meeting, a shareholder who wishes to assert dissenters' rights must  
2 (a) deliver to the corporation before the vote is taken written  
3 notice of the shareholder's intent to demand payment for the  
4 shareholder's shares if the proposed corporate action is effected,  
5 and (b) not vote such shares in favor of the proposed corporate  
6 action.

7 (2) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
8 under RCW 23B.13.020 does not require shareholder approval pursuant  
9 to (~~RCW 23B.11.030(9)~~) section 4 of this act, a shareholder who  
10 wishes to assert dissenters' rights with respect to any class or  
11 series of shares:

12 (a) Shall deliver to the corporation before the shares are  
13 purchased pursuant to the offer under (~~RCW 23B.11.030(9)~~) section 4  
14 of this act written notice of the shareholder's intent to demand  
15 payment for the shareholder's shares if the proposed corporate action  
16 is effected; and

17 (b) Shall not tender, or cause to be tendered, any shares of such  
18 class or series in response to such offer.

19 (3) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
20 under RCW 23B.13.020 is submitted for approval without a vote of  
21 shareholders in accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, a shareholder who  
22 wishes to assert dissenters' rights must not execute the consent or  
23 otherwise vote such shares in favor of the proposed corporate action.

24 (4) A shareholder who does not satisfy the requirements of  
25 subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section is not entitled to  
26 payment for the shareholder's shares under this chapter.

27 **Sec. 25.** RCW 23B.13.220 and 2022 c 42 s 116 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
30 under RCW 23B.13.020 is approved at a shareholders' meeting, the  
31 corporation shall within ten days after the effective date of the  
32 corporate action deliver to all shareholders who satisfied the  
33 requirements of RCW 23B.13.210(1) a notice in compliance with  
34 subsection (6) of this section.

35 (2) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
36 under RCW 23B.13.020 is approved without a vote of shareholders in  
37 accordance with (~~RCW 23B.11.030(9)~~) section 4 of this act, the  
38 corporation shall within 10 days after the effective date of the  
39 corporate action deliver to all shareholders who satisfied the



1 requirements of RCW 23B.13.210(2) a notice in compliance with  
2 subsection (6) of this section.

3 (3) If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights  
4 under RCW 23B.13.020 is approved without a vote of shareholders in  
5 accordance with RCW 23B.07.040, the notice delivered pursuant to RCW  
6 23B.07.040(3)(b) to shareholders who satisfied the requirements of  
7 RCW 23B.13.210(3) shall comply with subsection (6) of this section.

8 (4) In the case of proposed corporate action creating dissenters'  
9 rights under RCW 23B.13.020(1)(a)(ii), the corporation shall within  
10 ten days after the effective date of the corporate action deliver to  
11 all shareholders of the subsidiary other than the parent a notice in  
12 compliance with subsection (6) of this section.

13 (5) In the case of proposed corporate action creating dissenters'  
14 rights under RCW 23B.13.020(1)(d) that, pursuant to RCW  
15 23B.10.020(4)(b), is not required to be approved by the shareholders  
16 of the corporation, the corporation shall within ten days after the  
17 effective date of the corporate action deliver to all shareholders  
18 entitled to dissent under RCW 23B.13.020(1)(d) a notice in compliance  
19 with subsection (6) of this section.

20 (6) Any notice under subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of  
21 this section must:

22 (a) State where the payment demand must be sent and where and  
23 when certificates for certificated shares must be deposited;

24 (b) Inform holders of uncertificated shares to what extent  
25 transfer of the shares will be restricted after the payment demand is  
26 received;

27 (c) Supply a form for demanding payment that includes the date of  
28 the first announcement to news media or to shareholders of the terms  
29 of the proposed corporate action and requires that the person  
30 asserting dissenters' rights certify whether or not the person  
31 acquired beneficial ownership of the shares before that date;

32 (d) Set a date by which the corporation must receive the payment  
33 demand, which date may not be fewer than thirty nor more than sixty  
34 days after the date the notice in subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), or  
35 (5) of this section is delivered; and

36 (e) Be accompanied by a copy of this chapter.

37 **Sec. 26.** RCW 23B.17.015 and 2011 c 42 s 1 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 (1) A corporation that meets the following requirements is  
2 subject to the alternative quorum and voting requirements set forth  
3 in subsection (2) of this section:

4 (a) As of the record date of the annual or special meeting of  
5 shareholders:

6 (i) The corporation is a public company;

7 (ii) Shares of its common stock are admitted to trading on a  
8 regulated market listed on the list of the regulated markets notified  
9 to the European commission by the member states under Article 16 of  
10 the investment services directive (93/22/EEC), as such list is  
11 amended from time to time; and

12 (iii) At least twenty percent of the shares of the corporation's  
13 common stock are held of record by the depository trust company and  
14 are deposited securities, as defined in the rules, bylaws, and  
15 organization certificate of the depository trust company, credited to  
16 the account or accounts of one or more stock depositories located in  
17 a member state of the European Union;

18 (b) At the time that such shares were initially listed on the  
19 regulated market, shares of the corporation's common stock were  
20 listed on the New York stock exchange or the (~~nasdaq~~) NASDAQ stock  
21 market;

22 (c) At the time that such shares were initially listed on the  
23 regulated market, such listing was a condition to the acquisition of  
24 one hundred percent of the equity interests of a foreign corporation  
25 or similar entity where:

26 (i) The securities of the foreign corporation or similar entity  
27 were admitted to trading on the regulated market immediately prior to  
28 the acquisition;

29 (ii) The consideration for the acquisition was newly issued  
30 shares of common stock of the corporation; and

31 (iii) The shares issued in connection with the acquisition  
32 equaled before the issuance more than forty percent of the  
33 outstanding common stock of the corporation; and

34 (d) At the corporation's most recent annual or special meeting of  
35 shareholders less than sixty-five percent of the shares within the  
36 voting group comprising all the votes entitled to be cast were  
37 present in person or by proxy.

38 (2) At any annual or special meeting actually held, other than by  
39 written consent under RCW 23B.07.040, by a corporation meeting the  
40 requirements of subsection (1) of this section:

1 (a) The required quorum of the voting group consisting of all  
2 votes entitled to be cast, and of each other voting group that  
3 includes common shares of the corporation which is entitled to vote  
4 separately with respect to a proposed corporate action, shall be the  
5 lesser of:

6 (i) A majority of the shares of such voting group other than  
7 shares credited to the account of stock depositories located in a  
8 member state of the European Union as described in subsection  
9 (1)(a)(iii) of this section, provided the number of votes comprising  
10 such majority equals or exceeds one-sixth of the total votes entitled  
11 to be cast by the voting group; or

12 (ii) One-third of the total votes entitled to be cast by the  
13 voting group.

14 (b) The vote required for approval by any voting group entitled  
15 to vote with respect to any amendment of the corporation's articles  
16 of incorporation or bylaws, or any plan of merger or share exchange  
17 to which the corporation is a party, or any sale, lease, exchange, or  
18 other disposition of all or substantially all of the corporation's  
19 property otherwise than in the usual and regular course of business,  
20 or dissolution, shall be a majority of the votes actually cast by  
21 such voting group with respect to the proposed corporate action,  
22 provided that the votes approving the proposed corporate action equal  
23 or exceed fifteen percent of the votes within the voting group.

24 (3) The alternative quorum and voting requirements specified in  
25 subsection (2) of this section shall, with respect to any corporation  
26 meeting the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, control  
27 over and supersede any greater quorum or voting requirements that may  
28 be specified in the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws  
29 or in RCW 23B.02.020, 23B.07.250, 23B.07.270, 23B.10.030,  
30 (~~23B.11.030~~) section 4 of this act, 23B.12.020, or 23B.14.020.

31 **Sec. 27.** RCW 23B.25.100 and 2012 c 215 s 11 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) In addition to approval in accordance with (~~RCW 23B.11.030~~)  
34 section 4 of this act, a plan of merger or share exchange pursuant to  
35 which a social purpose corporation would not be the surviving  
36 corporation must be approved by two-thirds of the voting group  
37 comprising all the votes of the corporation entitled to be cast on  
38 the plan, and by two-thirds of the holders of the outstanding shares  
39 of each class or series, voting as separate voting groups, and of

1 each other voting group entitled under the articles of incorporation  
2 to vote separately on the proposed plan. The articles of  
3 incorporation may require a greater vote than that provided for in  
4 this subsection.

5 (2) The additional approval described in subsection (1) of this  
6 section is not required if the surviving corporation of the plan of  
7 merger or share exchange is a social purpose corporation governed by  
8 this chapter and includes a specific social purpose or purposes that  
9 do not materially differ from the disappearing corporation's specific  
10 social purpose or purposes, if any.

11 **Sec. 28.** RCW 23B.25.130 and 2012 c 215 s 14 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) ~~((Any))~~ By complying with this chapter, any corporation that  
14 is not a social purpose corporation may ~~((elect to))~~ become a social  
15 purpose corporation ~~((if, pursuant to the proposed election, each of~~  
16 ~~the following conditions are met:~~

17 ~~(a) Each))~~ in accordance with a plan of election.

18 (2) The plan of election must provide that each share of the same  
19 class or series of the electing corporation shall, unless all  
20 shareholders of the class or series consent, be treated equally with  
21 respect to any cash, rights, securities, or other property to be  
22 received by, or any obligations or restrictions to be imposed on, the  
23 holder of that share~~((?))~~.

24 (3) The plan of election must include an amendment to the  
25 articles of incorporation to include the matters required to be  
26 included in the articles of incorporation in accordance with RCW  
27 23B.25.040(1).

28 (4) The plan of election must be approved in the following  
29 manner:

30 (a) The plan of election must first be approved by the board of  
31 directors.

32 (b) The plan of election must then be approved by the  
33 shareholders. In submitting the plan of election to the shareholders  
34 for approval, the board of directors ((of the electing corporation))  
35 must recommend ((the election to)) that the shareholders approve the  
36 plan of election, unless the board of directors determines that  
37 because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances it  
38 should make no recommendation ((and communicates the basis for its  
39 determination to the shareholders with the proposed election; and

1 ~~(c) In addition to any other voting conditions imposed by the~~  
2 ~~board of directors under subsection (2) of this section, the)), in~~  
3 ~~which case the board of directors must inform the shareholders of the~~  
4 ~~basis for so proceeding.~~

5 (c) The board of directors may set conditions for the approval of  
6 the plan of election by the shareholders or the effectiveness of the  
7 plan.

8 (d) Unless the articles of incorporation, or the board of  
9 directors acting in accordance with (c) of this subsection, requires  
10 a greater vote, the plan of election must be approved by an  
11 affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting group  
12 comprising all the votes of the electing corporation's shareholders  
13 entitled to be cast on the ((corporate action)) plan, and by  
14 two-thirds of the holders of the outstanding shares of each class or  
15 series, voting as separate voting groups, and each other voting group  
16 entitled under the articles of incorporation to vote separately on  
17 the ((corporate action)) plan.

18 ~~((2) The board of directors of a corporation electing to become~~  
19 ~~a social purpose corporation may condition its submission of the~~  
20 ~~proposed election on any basis, including the affirmative vote of~~  
21 ~~holders of a specified percentage of shares held by any group of~~  
22 ~~shareholders not otherwise entitled to vote as a separate group on~~  
23 ~~the proposed election.~~

24 ~~(3) To elect to become a social purpose corporation, an electing~~  
25 ~~corporation must amend its articles of incorporation to include the~~  
26 ~~matters required to be set forth in the articles of incorporation~~  
27 ~~pursuant to RCW 23B.25.040(1).~~

28 ~~(4))~~ (5) After an election to become a social purpose  
29 corporation is approved, and at any time prior to filing the articles  
30 of amendment to amend the electing corporation's articles of  
31 incorporation ~~((in compliance with subsection (3) of this section)),~~  
32 the planned election may be abandoned by the electing corporation,  
33 subject to any contractual rights, without further shareholder  
34 approval, in the manner determined by the board of directors.

35 ~~((5))~~ (6) The election to become a social purpose corporation  
36 shall be effective upon the later of the filing of the articles of  
37 amendment with the secretary of state or the effective date or time  
38 set forth in the articles of amendment.

39 ~~((6))~~ (7) Upon the effective time of the election to become a  
40 social purpose corporation, the electing corporation shall thereafter

1 be a social purpose corporation and shall be subject to all of the  
2 provisions of this chapter and the existence of the social purpose  
3 corporation shall be deemed to have commenced on the date the  
4 electing corporation was incorporated.

5 ~~((7))~~ (8) The election to become a social purpose corporation  
6 shall not be deemed to affect any obligations or liabilities of the  
7 electing corporation incurred prior to its election to become a  
8 social purpose corporation or the personal liability of any person  
9 incurred prior to such election.

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