HOUSE BILL 983

 $\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{C1} & \mathrm{0lr2590} \\ \mathrm{CF}\,\mathrm{SB}\,\mathrm{888} \end{array}$

By: Delegate Dumais

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2020

CHAPTER

1 AN ACT concerning

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Corporations and Associations – Limited Liability Companies and Partnerships – Series – Conversion

- 4 FOR the purpose of providing that, under certain circumstances, the personal representative or guardian of the last remaining member of a limited liability 5 6 company shall automatically be admitted as a new member, unless a certain action 7 is taken; authorizing certain persons to wind up the affairs of a limited liability 8 company under certain circumstances; authorizing a court to wind up the affairs of 9 a limited liability company on the application of certain persons under certain 10 circumstances; requiring a certain foreign limited liability series company to make a 11 certain submission to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation under 12 certain circumstances; repealing certain obsolete provisions; defining certain terms; 13 and generally relating to limited liability companies and partnerships.
- 14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 15 Article Corporations and Associations
- 16 Section 4A–101(a) and 4A–606(5)
- 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)
- 19 BY adding to
- 20 Article Corporations and Associations
- 21 Section 4A–101(k), (s), (u), and (v)
- 22 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

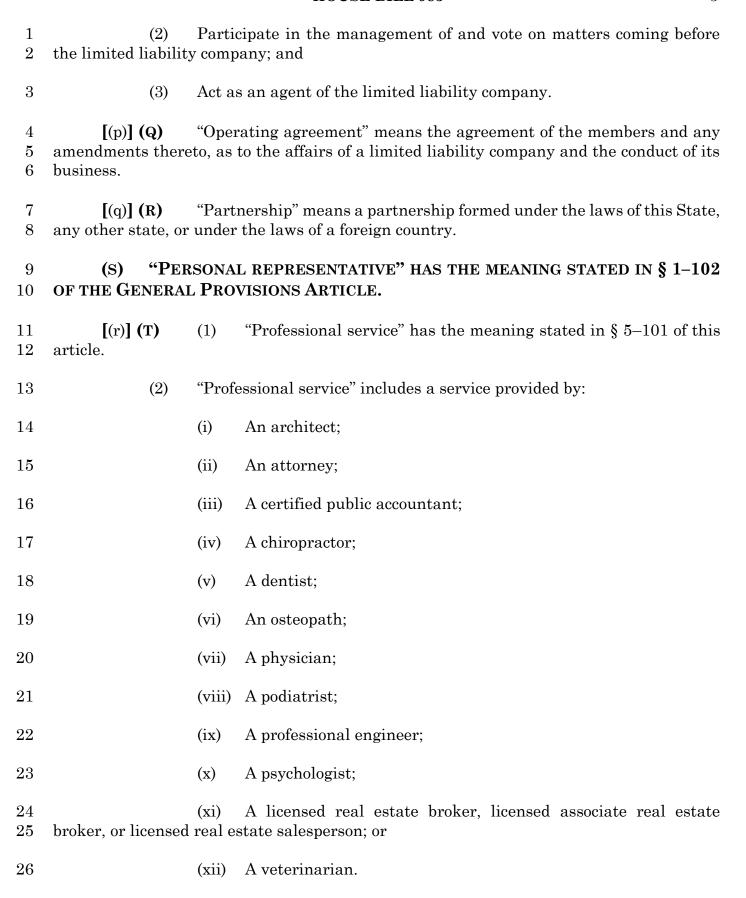
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

1	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,					
2	Article – Corporations and Associations					
3	Section 4A–101(k) through (t), 4A–601, 4A–604, 4A–902, 4A–904, 4A–1002,					
4	4A–1103, 9A–1203, 10–7A–03, and 12–1003					
$\frac{5}{6}$	i					
O	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)					
7	BY repealing					
8	1 0					
9	Section 4A–211					
10	Annotated Code of Maryland					
11	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)					
12	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,					
13	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:					
14	Article - Corporations and Associations					
15	4A–101.					
16	(a) In this title the following terms have the meanings indicated.					
17	(K) "GUARDIAN" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THE COURTS					
18	ARTICLE.					
19	[(k)] (L) "Limited liability company" or "domestic limited liability company"					
20	means a permitted form of unincorporated business organization which is organized and					

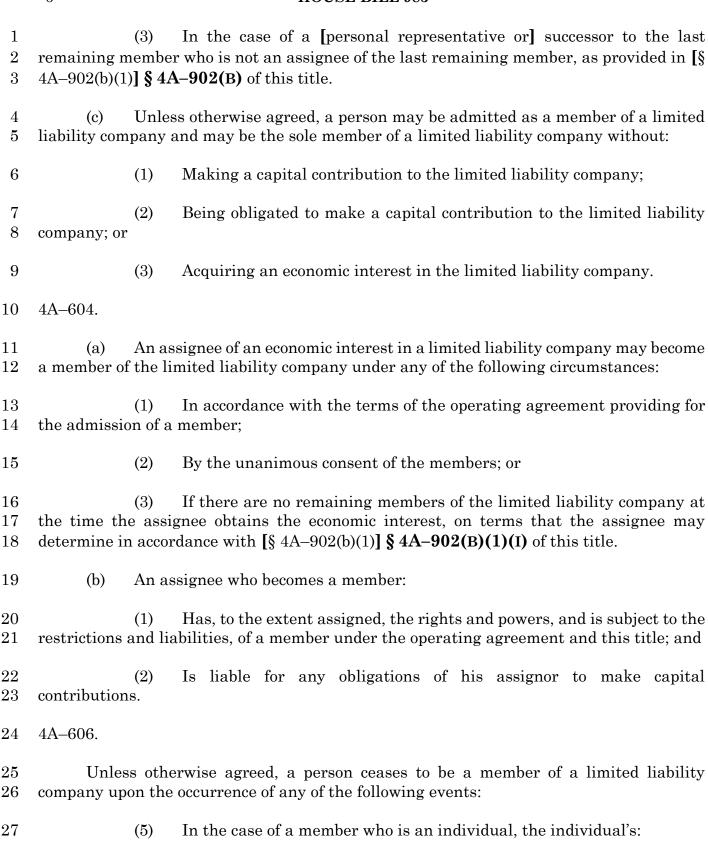
- 1 $\overline{2}$ 21 existing under this title.
- 22"Limited partnership" means a Maryland limited partnership or foreign 23 limited partnership as defined in § 10–101 of this article.
- 24[(m)] (N) "Member" means a person who has been admitted as a member of a limited liability company under § 4A-601 of this title or as a member of a foreign limited 2526 liability company, and who has not ceased to be a member.
- 27 "Membership interest" means a member's economic interest and [(n)] (0)28 noneconomic interest in a limited liability company.
- 29 "Noneconomic interest" means all of the rights of a member in a limited [(o)] **(P)** 30 liability company other than the member's economic interest, including, unless otherwise agreed, the member's right to: 31
 - (1) Inspect the books and records of the limited liability company;



- 1 (U) "SERIES COMPANY" MEANS A FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 2 THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND CONTINUES TO OPERATE UNDER A SERIES
 3 STATUTE.
- 4 (V) "SERIES STATUTE" MEANS THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS OF A FOREIGN 5 JURISDICTION THAT:
- 6 (1) ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED SERIES, EACH OF
 7 WHICH IS LIABLE ONLY FOR THE DEBTS, LIABILITIES, OBLIGATIONS, AND EXPENSES
 8 OF THAT SERIES AND IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE DEBTS, LIABILITIES, OBLIGATIONS,
 9 AND EXPENSES OF THE FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY GENERALLY OR OF
 10 ANY OTHER SERIES OF THE FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; OR
- 11 (2) PROVIDE THAT THE DEBTS, LIABILITIES, OBLIGATIONS, AND
 12 EXPENSES INCURRED OR CONTRACTED FOR WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREIGN
 13 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY GENERALLY OR ANY OTHER SERIES OF THE FOREIGN
 14 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE ENFORCEABLE ONLY AGAINST THE ASSETS OF
 15 THE FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY GENERALLY OR THE OTHER SERIES OF
 16 THE FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
- [(s)] (W) "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- 19 **[**(t)**] (X)** "Unless otherwise agreed" means unless otherwise stated:
- 20 (1) In the articles of organization;
- 21 (2) In the operating agreement; or
- 22 (3) By unanimous consent of the members and any other person whose 23 consent is required by the operating agreement.
- 24 [4A-211.
- 25 (a) A partnership may convert to a limited liability company by filing articles of 26 organization that meet the requirements of § 4A–204 of this subtitle and include the 27 following:
- 28 (1) The name of the former general partnership or limited partnership; and
- 29 (2) The date of formation of the partnership and place of filing of the initial statement of partnership, if any, or certificate of limited partnership of the former general partnership or limited partnership.

- 1 (b) (1) The terms and conditions of a conversion of a general or limited 2 partnership to a limited liability company shall be approved by the partners in the manner 3 provided in the partnership's partnership agreement for amendments to the partnership 4 agreement or, if no such provision is made in a partnership agreement, by unanimous 5 agreement of the partners.
 - (2) A conversion may be abandoned by:
- 7 (i) A vote of the partners in the manner provided in the 8 partnership's partnership agreement for amendments to the partnership agreement; or
- 9 (ii) Unanimous agreement of the partners, if no such provision is 10 made in the partnership agreement.
- 11 (c) (1) A general partner of a limited partnership or a partner of a general partnership who becomes a member of a limited liability company as a result of the conversion remains liable as a general partner of a limited partnership or a partner of a general partnership for any obligation or liability of the partnership incurred or arising before the conversion takes effect, to the extent that the partner or general partner would have been obligated or liable if the conversion had not occurred.
- 17 (2) The partner's or general partner's liability for all obligations or 18 liabilities of the limited liability company incurred or arising after the conversion takes 19 effect is that of a member of a limited liability company, as provided in this title.]
- 20 4A-601.

- 21 (a) A person becomes a member of a limited liability company at:
- 22 (1) The time the limited liability company is formed;
- 23 (2) A later time specified in the operating agreement; or
- 24 (3) The time specified in [§ 4A–902(b)(1)] § 4A–902(B) of this title relating to continuation of the limited liability company after there are no remaining members.
- 26 (b) After the formation of a limited liability company, a person may be admitted 27 as a member:
- 28 (1) In the case of a person acquiring a membership interest directly from 29 the limited liability company, upon compliance with the operating agreement or, if the 30 operating agreement does not so provide, upon the unanimous consent of the members;
- 31 (2) In the case of an assignee of the economic interest of a member, only as 32 provided in § 4A–604 of this subtitle; or



29 (ii) Adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction as incompetent 30 to manage the individual's person or property;

(i)

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Death; or

- 1 4A-902.
- 2 (a) A limited liability company is dissolved and shall commence the winding up 3 of its affairs on the first to occur of the following:
- 4 (1) At the time or on the happening of the events specified in the articles of organization or the operating agreement;
- 6 (2) At the time specified by the unanimous consent of the members;
- 7 (3) At the time of the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under § 8 4A–903 of this subtitle; or
- 9 (4) Unless otherwise agreed or as provided in subsection (b) of this section, 10 at the time the limited liability company has had no members for a period of 90 consecutive 11 days.
- 12 (b) **(1)** A limited liability company may not be dissolved or required to wind up 13 its affairs if within 90 days after there are no remaining members of the limited liability 14 company or within the period of time provided in the operating agreement:
- [(1)] (I) The last remaining member's [personal representative,] successor[,] or assignee agrees in writing to continue the limited liability company and to be admitted as a member or to appoint a designee as a member to be effective as of the time the last remaining member ceased to be a member; or
- [(2)] (II) A member is admitted to the limited liability company in the manner set forth in the operating agreement to be effective as of the time the last remaining member ceased to be a member under a provision in the operating agreement that provides for the admission of a member after there are no remaining members.
- 23**(2)** IF A NEW MEMBER IS NOT ADMITTED TO THE LIMITED LIABILITY 24COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AND THE 25LAST REMAINING MEMBER CEASED TO BE A MEMBER UNDER § 4A-606(5) OF THIS 26 TITLE, THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR GUARDIAN 27 SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE ADMITTED AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE LIMITED 28 LIABILITY COMPANY, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ON THE HAPPENING OF THE EVENT 29 DESCRIBED IN § 4A-606(5) OF THIS TITLE, UNLESS WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE 30 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR GUARDIAN FIRST HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR GUARDIAN: 31
 - (I) RENOUNCES THAT ADMISSION IN WRITING; OR

- 1 (II) DESIGNATES A PERSON TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER, AND 2 THE DESIGNEE ACCEPTS THE DESIGNEE'S ADMISSION IN WRITING OR BY 3 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION TO THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR GUARDIAN.
- 4 (c) An operating agreement may provide that the last remaining member's personal representative, **GUARDIAN**, successor, or assignee shall be obligated to agree in writing to continue the limited liability company and to be admitted as a member or to appoint a designee as a member to be effective as of the time the last remaining member ceased to be a member.
- 9 (d) Unless otherwise agreed and subject to the provisions of [subsection (b)]
 10 SUBSECTIONS (A)(4) AND (B) of this section, the termination of a person's membership
 11 may not cause a limited liability company to be dissolved or to wind up its affairs and the
 12 limited liability company shall continue in existence following the termination of a person's
 13 membership.
- 14 4A-904.
- 15 (a) Unless otherwise agreed, the remaining members of a limited liability company OR, IF THE COMPANY HAS NO REMAINING MEMBERS, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, GUARDIAN, OR OTHER SUCCESSOR TO THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF THE COMPANY may wind up the affairs of the limited liability company.
- 19 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the circuit 20 court of the county in which the principal office of the limited liability company is located, 21 on cause shown after dissolution, may wind up the limited liability company's affairs on 22 application of any member OR, IF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY HAS NO 23 REMAINING MEMBERS, ON APPLICATION OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, 24 GUARDIAN, OR OTHER SUCCESSOR TO THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF THE 25 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
- 26 4A-1002.

- 27 (a) Before doing any interstate, intrastate, or foreign business in this State, a 28 foreign limited liability company shall register with the Department.
- 29 (b) In order to register, a foreign limited liability company shall submit to the 30 Department an application for registration as a foreign limited liability company executed 31 by an authorized person and setting forth:
- 32 (1) The name of the foreign limited liability company and, if different, the 33 name under which it proposes to register and do business in this State;
 - (2) The state under whose laws it was formed and the date of its formation;

1 (3)The general character of the business it proposes to transact in this 2 State: 3 **(4)** The name and address of its resident agent in this State; 4 A statement that the Department is appointed as the resident agent of (5)the foreign limited liability company if no resident agent has been appointed under item 5 (4) of this subsection or, if appointed, the resident agent's authority has been revoked or if 6 7 the agent cannot be found or served with the exercise of reasonable diligence; 8 (6)The address of the office required to be maintained in the state of its 9 organization by the laws of that state or, if not so required, of the principal office of the 10 foreign limited liability company; [and] 11 Proof acceptable to the Department of good standing in the jurisdiction 12 where it currently is organized; AND 13 **(8)** IF THE FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY IS A SERIES 14 COMPANY, A STATEMENT THAT THE COMPANY IS A SERIES COMPANY AND THE NAME 15 OR OTHER DESIGNATION OF EACH SERIES OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY DOING BUSINESS IN MARYLAND. 16 17 4A-1103.In this section, "facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion" includes: 18 (a) (1) An action or a determination by any person, including: 19 20 (i) The limited liability company or other entity, as applicable; 21The members, partners, directors, trustees, officers, or other (ii) agents of the limited liability company or other entity; and 2223 Any other person affiliated with the limited liability company or (iii) 24other entity; and 25(2) Any other event. 26 Articles of conversion shall be filed for record with the Department. (b) 27 In a conversion of a limited liability company to an other entity, the articles of (c) conversion shall set forth: 2829 The name of the limited liability company and the date of filing of the

original articles of organization with the Department;

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- 1 (2) The name of the other entity to which the limited liability company will 2 be converted and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity;
- 3 (3) A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with 4 the provisions of this subtitle;
 - (4) The manner and basis of converting or exchanging membership interests in the limited liability company into shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity, or other consideration, and the treatment of any membership interests not to be converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion;
- 11 (5) [The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 12 of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record 13 of the articles of conversion;
- 14 (6)] If the other entity is not organized under the laws of this State:
- 15 (i) The location of the principal office in the place where it is 16 organized; and
- 17 (ii) The name and address of the resident agent in this State; and
- 18 **[**(7)**] (6)** Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion.
- 19 (d) In a conversion of an other entity to a limited liability company, the articles of 20 conversion shall set forth:
- 21 (1) The name of the other entity, the date on which the other entity was 22 first created, and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity;
- 23 (2) The name of the limited liability company to which the other entity will 24 be converted:
- 25 (3) A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with 26 the provisions of this subtitle;
- 27 (4) The manner and basis of converting or exchanging any outstanding shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity into membership interests in the limited liability company or other consideration, and the treatment of any outstanding shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests not to be converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion: AND

1 The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 2 of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record 3 of the articles of conversion; and 4 (6) Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion. 5 The articles of conversion may contain a future effective time for the articles 6 of conversion that is not later than 30 days after the articles of conversion are accepted for 7 record. 8 9A-1203. 9 In this section, "facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion" includes: (a) 10 (1) An action or a determination by any person, including: (i) 11 The partnership or other entity, as applicable; 12 The partners, members, directors, trustees, officers, or other (ii) 13 agents of the partnership or other entity; and 14 (iii) Any other person affiliated with the partnership or other entity; 15 and 16 (2) Any other event. Articles of conversion shall be filed for record with the Department. 17 (b) 18 In a conversion of a partnership organized under the laws of this State to an 19 other entity, the articles of conversion shall set forth: 20 The name of the partnership and the date of filing of its original 21statement of partnership authority or certificate of limited liability partnership with the 22Department; 23The name of the other entity to which the partnership will be converted (2)24and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity; 25A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle; 2627 The manner and basis of converting or exchanging partnership 28 interests in the partnership into shares of stock, membership interests, partnership 29 interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity, or other

consideration, and the treatment of any partnership interests not to be so converted or

exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the articles

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of conversion;

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10-7A-03.

- 1 (5)The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 2 of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record 3 of the articles of conversion: (6)4 If the other entity is not organized under the laws of this State: 5 (i) The location of the principal office in the place where it is 6 organized; and 7 The name and address of the resident agent in this State; and (ii) [(7)] **(6)** 8 Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion. 9 In a conversion of an other entity to a partnership organized under the laws 10 of this State, the articles of conversion shall set forth: 11 (1) The name of the other entity, the date on which the other entity was 12 first created, and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity; 13 (2)The name of the partnership to which the other entity will be converted; 14 A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with (3)15 the provisions of this subtitle; 16 The manner and basis of converting or exchanging any outstanding shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other 17 18 ownership interests of the other entity into partnership interests in the partnership or 19 other consideration, and the treatment of any outstanding shares of stock, membership 20 interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests not to be 21converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable 22 outside the articles of conversion: AND 23 The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 24of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record 25 of the articles of conversion; and 26 (6)Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion. 27 The articles of conversion may contain a future effective time for the articles 28 of conversion that is not later than 30 days after the articles of conversion are accepted for 29 record.
 - (a) In this section, "facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion" includes:

1		(1)	An ac	tion or a determination by any person, including:	
2			(i)	The limited partnership or other entity, as applicable;	
3 4	agents of the	limite	(ii) ed part	The partners, members, directors, trustees, officers, or other nership or other entity; and	
5 6	entity; and		(iii)	Any other person affiliated with the limited partnership or other	
7		(2)	Any o	ther event.	
8	(b)	Articl	es of co	onversion shall be filed for record with the Department.	
9 10	(c) In a conversion of a limited partnership to an other entity, the articles of conversion shall set forth:				
11 12		(1) limite		ame of the limited partnership and the date of filing of its original nership with the Department;	
13 14		(2) d the 1		ame of the other entity to which the limited partnership will be f incorporation or organization of the other entity;	
15 16	the provision	(3) s of th		tement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with title;	
17 18 19 20 21 22	(4) The manner and basis of converting or exchanging partnership interests in the limited partnership into shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity, or other consideration, and the treatment of any partnership interests not to be converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion;				
23 24 25			articl	future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles es of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record on;	
26		(6)]	If the	other entity is not organized under the laws of this State:	
27 28	organized; ar	nd	(i)	The location of the principal office in the place where it is	
29			(ii)	The name and address of the resident agent in this State; and	
30		[(7)] ((6)	Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion.	

- 1 (d) In a conversion of another entity to a limited partnership, the articles of 2 conversion shall set forth: 3 The name of the other entity, the date on which the other entity was 4 first created, and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity; 5 (2) The name of the limited partnership to which the other entity will be 6 converted; 7 A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with (3)the provisions of this subtitle: 8 9 The manner and basis of converting or exchanging any outstanding **(4)** 10 shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity into partnership interests in the limited partnership 11 12 or other consideration, and the treatment of any outstanding shares of stock, membership 13 interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests not to be 14 converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable 15 outside the articles of conversion: AND 16 (5)The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 17 of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record of the articles of conversion; and 18 19 (6) Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion. 20 (e) The articles of conversion may contain a future effective time for the articles 21 of conversion that is not later than 30 days after the articles of conversion are accepted for 22record. 23 12-1003.In this section, "facts ascertainable outside the articles of conversion" includes: 24(a) 25 (1) An action or determination by any person, including: 26 (i) The statutory trust or other entity, as applicable; 27 The trustees, directors, partners, members, officers, or other (ii) 28agents of the statutory trust or other entity; and 29 (iii) Any other person affiliated with the statutory trust or other
- 31 (2) Any other event.

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entity; and

(b) Articles of conversion shall be filed for record with the Department.

- 1 (c) In a conversion of a statutory trust to an other entity, the articles of conversion 2 shall set forth: 3 (1)The name of the statutory trust and the date of filing of its original 4 certificate of trust with the Department: 5 The name of the other entity to which the statutory trust will be (2)6 converted and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity; 7 (3)A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with 8 the provisions of this subtitle; 9 The manner and basis of converting or exchanging issued beneficial (4) interests of the statutory trust into shares of stock, membership interests, partnership 10 11 interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests of the other entity, or other 12 consideration, and the treatment of any issued beneficial interests not to be converted or 13 exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside of the articles of conversion; 14 15 The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles 16 of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record 17 of the articles of conversion; 18 (6)If the other entity is not organized under the laws of this State: 19 (i) The location of the principal office in the place where it is 20 organized; and 21The name and address of the resident agent in this State; and (ii) 22 [(7)] **(6)** Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion. 23 In a conversion of an other entity to a statutory trust, the articles of conversion shall set forth: 2425(1) The name of the other entity, the date on which the other entity was 26first created, and the place of incorporation or organization of the other entity; 27 (2) The name of the statutory trust to which the other entity will be 28converted:
- 31 (4) The manner and basis of converting or exchanging any outstanding 32 shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other

A statement that the conversion has been approved in accordance with

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(3)

the provisions of this subtitle;

1 2 3	ownership interests of the other entity into beneficial interests of the statutory trust, or other consideration, and the treatment of any outstanding shares of stock, membership interests, partnership interests, beneficial interests, or other ownership interests not to be					
4 5	converted or exchanged, any of which may be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside of the articles of conversion; AND					
6 7 8	(5) [The future effective time, which shall be a time certain, of the articles of conversion, if the articles of conversion are not to be effective on the acceptance for record of the articles of conversion; and					
9	(6)] Any other provision necessary to effect the conversion.					
10 11 12	conversion that is not later than 30 days after the articles of conversion are accepted for					
13 14	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.					
	Approved:					
	Governor.					
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.					
	President of the Senate.					