Unofficial Copy C1 1997 Regular Session 7lr2292

CF HB 309

By: Senators Baker and Hogan

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Limited Liability Company Reform Act of 1997

3	FOR the purpose of altering the requirement that a limited liability company be formed
4	by two or more persons by allowing formation by any person; altering the powers of
5	a limited liability company; repealing a requirement that the articles of organization
6	of a limited liability company contain the latest date on which the limited liability
7	company is to dissolve; allowing a general partnership or a limited partnership to
8	convert to a limited liability company and establishing procedures for the
9	conversion; repealing certain limitations on the authority of a member of a limited
10	liability company; repealing a requirement that an amendment to an operating
11	agreement of a limited liability company must be in writing if the operating
12	agreement is in writing; repealing certain provisions of law relating to distributions
13	by limited liability companies; allowing assignees of interests in a limited liability
14	company to elect to become members under certain circumstances; altering a
15	requirement that a limited liability be dissolved when a person ceases to be a
16	member to require dissolution only if the limited liability company has had no
17	members for a certain period of time; repealing certain provisions of law relating to
18	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
19	if a limited liability company is not dissolved after a person ceases to be a member,
20	the limited liability company may elect to pay the person or the person's successor
21	in interest a certain amount in complete liquidation of the person's interest;
22	
23	following the withdrawal of a member will be deemed to have entered into an
24	operating agreement containing certain terms and conditions; providing that certain
25	conveyances of partnership property and certain partnership obligations are not
26	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
27	
28	clarifying language; and generally relating to limited liability companies.

- 29 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 30 Article Commercial Law
- 31 Section 15-208
- 32 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 33 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)
- 34 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

2	
1	Article - Corporations and Associations
2	Section 4A-202(a), 4A-203, 4A-204(a), 4A-401(d), 4A-402(b)(3), 4A-507, 4A-604,
3	4A-901(b), 4A-902, 4A-906(a), 4A-907, 4A-909, 4A-910(a), 4A-912,
4	4A-915(a), and 10-101(m)
5	Annotated Code of Maryland
6	•
7	BY adding to
8	Article - Corporations and Associations
9	Section 4A-211, 4A-212, and 4A-606.1
10	Annotated Code of Maryland
11	(1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)
12	2 BY repealing
13	Article - Corporations and Associations
14	Section 4A-503, 4A-504, 4A-904, and 4A-905
15	Annotated Code of Maryland
16	(1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)
17	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18	Article - Corporations and Associations
19	Section 10-101(a)
20	Annotated Code of Maryland
21	(1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)
22	2 BY renumbering
23	Article - Corporations and Associations
24	Section 4A-505, 4A-506, 4A-507, and 4A-906 through 4A-922, respectively
25	to be Section 4A-503, 4A-504, 4A-505, and 4A-904 through 4A-920, respectively
26	Annotated Code of Maryland
27	(1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)
28	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
29	MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
30	Article - Commercial Law
31	15-208.
32	
	B incurred when the partnership is or will be rendered insolvent by it, is fraudulent as to
34	partnership creditors, if the conveyance is made or the obligation is incurred to:
35	
	debts, UNLESS THE CONVEYANCE OR OBLIGATION REPRESENTS FAIR AND
37	REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED OR TO BE PROVIDED BY

38 THE PARTNER TO THE PARTNERSHIP AND THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED OR WILL

3	
1 BE PROVIDED WITHIN 120 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THE DATE THE CONVEYANCE	E IS
2 MADE OR THE OBLIGATION IS INCURRED; or	
3 (2) A person not a partner, without fair consideration to the partnership as	
4 distinguished from consideration to the individual partners.	
5 (B) EVERY CONVEYANCE OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY PROPERTY A	AND
6 EVERY LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OBLIGATION INCURRED WHEN THE LIMIT	ΓED
7 LIABILITY COMPANY IS OR WILL BE RENDERED INSOLVENT BY IT, IS FRAUDUL	ENT
8 AS TO CREDITORS OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, IF THE CONVEYANCE	IS
9 MADE OR THE OBLIGATION IS INCURRED TO:	
10 (1) A MEMBER, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT A PROMISE BY HIM	TO
11 PAY THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY'S DEBTS, UNLESS THE CONVEYANCE O	
12 OBLIGATION REPRESENTS FAIR AND REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR SERVI	ICES
13 PROVIDED OR TO BE PROVIDED BY THE MEMBER TO THE LIMITED LIABILITY	
14 COMPANY AND THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED OR WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN 1	120
15 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THE DATE THE CONVEYANCE IS MADE OR THE	
16 OBLIGATION IS INCURRED; OR	
17 (2) A PERSON NOT A MEMBER, WITHOUT FAIR CONSIDERATION TO	O THE
18 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AS DISTINGUISHED FROM CONSIDERATION TO T	
19 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.	
20 Article - Corporations and Associations	
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21 4A-202. (a) [Two or more persons] ANY PERSON may form a limited liability company by	
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[(4)] (5) Sell, lease, exchange, transfer, convey, mortgage, pledge, and

37 otherwise dispose of any of its assets;

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1 2 hold, improve 3 located;	[(5)] (6) Acquire by purchase or in any other manner, take, receive, own, e, and otherwise deal with any interest in real or personal property, wherever
4 5 by mortgage	[(6)] (7) Issue notes, bonds, and other obligations and secure any of them or deed of trust or security interest of any or all of its assets;
8 otherwise use 9 corporations,	[(7)] (8) Purchase, take, receive, subscribe for or otherwise acquire, own, se, employ, sell, mortgage, loan, pledge, or otherwise dispose of and e and deal in and with stock or other interests in and obligations of other associations, general or limited partnerships, limited liability companies, ed liability companies, business trusts, and individuals;
13 articles of or	[(8)] (9) Invest its surplus funds, lend money in any manner which may be to enable it to carry on the operations or fulfill the purposes set forth in its aganization, and take and hold real property and personal property as security tent of funds so loaned or invested;
15	[(9)] (10) Render professional services within or without this State;
16 17 compensatio	[(10)] (11) Elect or appoint agents and define their duties and fix their on;
18 19 otherwise dis	[(11)] (12) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, transfer, and spose of all or any part of its property and assets;
	[(12)] (13) Be a promoter, stockholder, partner, member, associate, or agent ration, partnership, limited liability company, foreign limited liability int venture, trust, or other enterprise;
25 to act by the26 recklessness	[(13)] (14) Indemnify and hold harmless any member, agent, or employee ainst any and all claims and demands, except in the case of action or failure member, agent, or employee which constitutes willful misconduct or , and subject to the standards and restrictions, if any, set forth in the articles ion or operating agreement;
	[(14)] (15) Make and alter operating agreements, not inconsistent with its ganization or with the laws of the State, for the administration and regulation s of the limited liability company;
31	[(15)] (16) Cease its activities and dissolve; and
32 33 to promote a	[(16)] (17) Do every other act not inconsistent with law which is appropriate and attain the purposes set forth in its articles of organization.
34 4A-204.	
35 (a) 7	The articles of organization shall set forth:
36	(1) The name of the limited liability company;
37	(2) [The latest date on which the limited liability company is to dissolve;
38	(3)] The purpose for which the limited liability company is formed;

- [(4)] (3) The address of its principal office in this State and the name and 2 address of its resident agent; and 3 [(5)] (4) Any other provision, not inconsistent with law, which the members 4 elect to set out in the articles, including, but not limited to, a statement that the authority 5 of members to act for the limited liability company solely by virtue of their being members 7 4A-211. (A) A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP FORMED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 9 9 OF THIS ARTICLE OR A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FORMED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 10 TITLE 10 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY CONVERT TO A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY BY 11 FILING ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 4A-204 12 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (1) THE NAME OF THE FORMER GENERAL PARTNERSHIP OR LIMITED 13 14 PARTNERSHIP; AND (2) THE DATE AND PLACE OF FILING OF THE INITIAL STATEMENT OF 15 16 PARTNERSHIP OR CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP OF THE FORMER 17 GENERAL PARTNERSHIP OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP. 18 (B) THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A CONVERSION OF A GENERAL OR 19 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY SHALL BE APPROVED BY 20 THE PARTNERS IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN THE PARTNERSHIP'S PARTNERSHIP 21 AGREEMENT FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OR, IF NO 22 SUCH PROVISION IS MADE IN A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT, BY UNANIMOUS 23 AGREEMENT OF THE PARTNERS. 24 (C) (1) A GENERAL PARTNER WHO BECOMES A MEMBER OF A LIMITED 25 LIABILITY COMPANY AS A RESULT OF THE CONVERSION REMAINS LIABLE AS A 26 GENERAL PARTNER FOR AN OBLIGATION INCURRED BY THE PARTNERSHIP BEFORE 27 THE CONVERSION TAKES EFFECT. 28 (2) THE GENERAL PARTNER'S LIABILITY FOR ALL OBLIGATIONS OF THE 29 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INCURRED AFTER THE CONVERSION TAKES EFFECT 30 IS THAT OF A MEMBER OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, AS PROVIDED IN THIS 31 TITLE. 32 4A-212. (A) A GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO 33 34 A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY PURSUANT TO § 4A-211 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE 35 DEEMED FOR ALL PURPOSES THE SAME ENTITY THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE 36 CONVERSION. (B) WHEN A CONVERSION TAKES EFFECT: 37
- 38 (1) ALL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CONVERTING GENERAL OR LIMITED 39 PARTNERSHIP REMAINS VESTED IN THE CONVERTED ENTITY;

1 2	(2) ALL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVERTING GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP REMAIN VESTED IN THE CONVERTED ENTITY; AND
	(3) AN ACTION OR PROCEEDING PENDING AGAINST THE CONVERTING GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP MAY BE CONTINUED AS IF THE CONVERSION HAD NOT OCCURRED.
8	(C) IN THE CASE OF A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS BEEN CONVERTED PURSUANT TO \S 4A-211 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED PURSUANT TO \S 4A-211(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SERVE AS A CERTIFICATE OF CANCELLATION OF THE CONVERTING LIMITED PARTNERSHIP.
10	4A-401.
11 12	(d) Unless the members unanimously consent or unless all other members have abandoned the business, no member has authority to:
13 14	(1) Assign the property of the limited liability company in trust for creditors or on the assignee's promise to pay the debts of the limited liability company;
15	(2) Dispose of the goodwill of the business; OR
16 17	(3) Do any other act which would make it impossible to carry on the ordinary business of the limited liability company[;
18	(4) Confess a judgment; or
19 20	(5) Submit a limited liability company claim or liability to arbitration or reference].
21	4A-402.
22 23	(b) (3) An amendment to an operating agreement must be evidenced by a writing signed by an authorized person if:
24	(i) [The operating agreement is in writing;
25 26	(ii)] The amendment was adopted without the unanimous consent of members; or
27 28	[(iii)] (II) An interest in the limited liability company has been assigned to a person who has not been admitted as a member.
29	[4A-503.
30	(a) A distribution may not be made if, after giving effect to the distribution:
31 32	(1) The limited liability company would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business; or
35 36	(2) The limited liability company's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus, unless the operating agreement permits otherwise, the amount that would be needed, if the affairs of the limited liability company were to be wound up at the time of the distribution, to satisfy any preferential rights which are superior to the rights of members receiving the distribution.

1 2	(b) The limited liability company may base a determination that a distribution is not prohibited under subsection (a) of this section on:
_	not promotice under subsection (a) of this section on.
3 4	(1) Financial statements prepared on the basis of accounting practices and principles that are reasonable under the circumstances; or
5 6	(2) A fair valuation or other method that is reasonable under the circumstances.
7 8	(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the effect of a distribution under subsection (a) of this section is measured as of:
9 10	(1) The date the distribution is authorized, if the payment occurs within 120 days after the date of authorization; or
11 12	(2) The date the payment is made, if it occurs more than 120 days after the date of authorization.
15	(d) A limited liability company's indebtedness to a member incurred by reason of an obligation to make a distribution in accordance with this section is at parity with the limited liability company's indebtedness to its general, unsecured creditors, except to the extent subordinated by agreement.
19 20	(e) (1) If terms of the indebtedness provide that payment of principal and interest is to be made only if, and to the extent that, payment of a distribution to members could then be made under this section, indebtedness of a limited liability company, including indebtedness issued as a distribution, is not a liability for purposes of determinations made under subsection (b) of this section.
	(2) If the indebtedness is issued as a distribution, each payment of principal or interest on the indebtedness is treated as a distribution, the effect of which is measured on the date the payment is actually made.]
25	[4A-504.
28	If a member has received a distribution in violation of the operating agreement or § 4A-503 of this subtitle, the member who has received the distribution and any other member or authorized person who approved or authorized the distribution are jointly and severally liable to the limited liability company for the amount wrongfully distributed.]
30	4A-507.
33	[Except as limited by §§ 4A-503 and 4A-504 of this subtitle, a] A member OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY who becomes entitled to receive a distribution has the status of, and is entitled to all remedies available to, a creditor of the limited liability company with respect to the distribution.
35	4A-604.
36 37	(a) An assignee of an interest in a limited liability company may become a member if and to the extent that:

38 (1) The assignor gives the assignee that right under authority described in 39 the operating agreement; [or]

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1	(2) The members unanimously consent; OR
	(3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THE OPERATING AGREEMENT, IF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY HAS NO MEMBERS, ALL OF THE ASSIGNEES OF MEMBERS MAY ELECT TO BECOME MEMBERS.
5	(b) An assignee who becomes a member:
6 7	(1) Has, to the extent assigned, the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and liabilities, of a member under the operating agreement and this title; and
8	(2) Is liable for any obligations of his assignor to make capital contributions.
	(c) If an assignee of an interest in a limited liability company becomes a member, the assignor is not released from the assignor's liability under [§§ 4A-502 and 4A-504] § 4A-502 of this title to the limited liability company.
12	4A-606.1.
	UNLESS THE OPERATING AGREEMENT PROVIDES OTHERWISE, IF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY IS NOT DISSOLVED AFTER A MEMBER CEASES TO BE A MEMBER PURSUANT TO § 4A-606 OF THIS SUBTITLE:
18 19 20 21	(1) WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AFTER A PERSON HAS CEASED TO BE A MEMBER, THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY MAY ELECT TO PAY TO THAT PERSON OR THAT PERSON'S SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST, IN COMPLETE LIQUIDATION OF THE PERSON'S INTEREST, THE FAIR VALUE OF THAT PERSON'S INTEREST IN THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AS OF THE DATE THE PERSON CEASED TO BE A MEMBER, BASED UPON THE PERSON'S RIGHT TO SHARE IN DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; AND
25 26 27 28 29 30	(2) UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED, THE MEMBERS OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY CONTINUING THE BUSINESS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF A MEMBER WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE ENTERED INTO AN OPERATING AGREEMENT UNDER § 4A-402 OF THIS TITLE CONTAINING THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THE OPERATING AGREEMENT IN EFFECT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE WITHDRAWAL, EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS BOUND BY THE OPERATING AGREEMENT SHALL BE ONLY THOSE MEMBERS WHOSE INTERESTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE LIQUIDATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR THE OPERATING AGREEMENT.
32	4A-901.
33 34	(b) On dissolution, the limited liability company is not terminated but continues [either:
35	(1) In accordance with § 4A-904 of this subtitle; or
36 37	(2) Until] UNTIL terminated in accordance with [\S 4A-910] \S 4A-908 of this subtitle.

1	4A-902.
	A limited liability company is dissolved and shall[, except as otherwise provided in § 4A-904 of this subtitle,] commence the winding up of its affairs on the first to occur of the following:
5 6	(1) At the time or on the happening of the events specified in the articles of organization or the operating agreement;
7	(2) At the time specified by the unanimous consent of the members;
8 9	(3) [Except as otherwise provided in the operating agreement, when a person ceases to be a member pursuant to § 4A-606 of this title; or
10 11	(4)] At the time of the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under $\$$ 4A-903 of this subtitle; OR
	(4) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THE OPERATING AGREEMENT, AT THE TIME THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY HAS HAD NO MEMBERS FOR A PERIOD OF 90 CONSECUTIVE DAYS.
15	[4A-904.
18 19 20	Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, if there is at least one remaining member, the limited liability company may continue to carry on its business or affairs following dissolution, other than a judicial decree of dissolution, if, within 90 days after the event causing dissolution, the remaining member consents, or, if there is more than one remaining member, the remaining members unanimously consent to the continuation of the limited liability company.]
22	[4A-905.
23 24	Unless the operating agreement provides otherwise, if the limited liability company is continued under \S 4A-904 of this subtitle following dissolution:
	(1) Subject to the limitations of § 4A-503 of this title, a person ceasing to be a member, or the legal representative or other successor to the interest of that member, shall be entitled to receive, in liquidation of the member's interest:
28 29	(i) The distributions, if any, which that member is entitled to receive under the operating agreement; or
32	(ii) If not otherwise provided in the operating agreement, within a reasonable time after that person has ceased to be a member, the fair market value of that person's interest in the limited liability company as of the date the person ceased to be a member; and
36 37	(2) Unless otherwise agreed, the members of the limited liability company continuing the business following dissolution will be deemed to have entered into an operating agreement under § 4A-402 of this title containing the same terms and conditions as those contained in the operating agreement in effect immediately prior to the dissolution, except that the members bound by the operating agreement shall be only

39 those members whose interests are not required to be liquidated pursuant to this section

40 or the operating agreement.]

1	4A-906.
4	(a) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of organization or the operating agreement, [or unless the business or affairs of the limited liability company are continued under § 4A-904 of this subtitle,] the remaining members OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY may wind up the affairs of the limited liability company.
6	4A-907.
	Following dissolution, [if the business or affairs of the limited liability company are not continued under § 4A-904 of this subtitle,] a member OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY can bind the limited liability company:
12 13	(1) By any act appropriate for winding up the affairs of the limited liability company or completing transactions unfinished at the time of dissolution, unless the member purporting to act on behalf of the limited liability company does not have the authority to do so and the person with whom the member is dealing has actual knowledge or actual notice of the absence of authority; and
	(2) In any transaction which would have been binding on the limited liability company had it not been dissolved; provided, that the person with whom the member is dealing does not have actual knowledge or actual notice of the dissolution.
18	4A-909.
21	(a) (1) [Unless the limited liability company is continued pursuant to § 4A-904 of this subtitle, the] THE remaining members OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY may cause articles of dissolution to be filed with the Department at any time after dissolution and before termination.
23	(2) Articles of dissolution shall contain:
24	(i) The name of the limited liability company;
25 26	(ii) The date of filing of the articles of organization and each amendment thereto;
27	(iii) The date of the dissolution; and
28	(iv) Any other information the members determine.
31	(b) (1) If, at any time after the articles of dissolution have been filed but before the limited liability company has been terminated, the members UNANIMOUSLY agree to continue the limited liability company [pursuant to § 4A-904 of this subtitle], the members shall cause articles of continuation to be filed with the Department.
33	(2) Articles of continuation shall contain:
34	(i) The name of the limited liability company;
35	(ii) The date of filing of the articles of dissolution;
36	(iii) The date of dissolution set forth in the articles of dissolution;

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1 2	(iv) The date the members agreed to continue the limited liability company; and
3	(v) Any other information the members determine.
4	4A-910.
5	(a) The limited liability company is terminated on the later of:
6 7	(1) The date on which the Department accepts for record the articles of cancellation filed pursuant to [§ 4A-911] § 4A-909 of this subtitle; or
8	(2) The effective date of the articles of cancellation.
9	4A-912.
10 11	A limited liability company shall file articles of cancellation for record with the Department:
12 13	(1) If there are known creditors of the limited liability company, after 19 days following the sending of notice under [§ 4A-911(5)] § 4A-909(5) of this subtitle; or
14	(2) If there are no known creditors, at any time.
15	4A-915.
18 19 20	(a) If the Department is satisfied that a limited liability company named in the proclamation has not failed to pay the tax, unemployment insurance contributions, or reimbursement payments, or file the report within the period specified in [§ 4A-913] § 4A-911 of this subtitle, or that it has been mistakenly reported to the Department by the State Comptroller or the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, the Department may correct the mistake by filing its proclamation to that effect in its records.
22	10-101.
23 24	(a) In this title, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have the meanings indicated.
	(m) "Person" means a natural person, partnership, limited partnership (domestic or foreign), trust, estate, association, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN), or corporation.
30	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 4A-505, 4A-506, 4A-507, and 4A-906 through 4A-922, respectively, of Article - Corporations and Associations of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 4A-503, 4A-504, 4A-505, and 4A-904 through 4A-920, respectively.
32 33	SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.