

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments  
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1045**

Introduced by

Representative Toman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact subsection 16 to section 9-16-01, section 9-16-19, a new  
2 section to chapter 10-19.1, and section 10-32.1-102 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
3 to electronic transaction definitions, blockchain technology and smart contracts, number of  
4 shareholders, and series limited liability companies; and to amend and reenact sections  
5 9-16-02, 10-06.1-17, 10-19.1-01, and 10-19.1-01.2, subsection 6 of section 10-19.1-66,  
6 subsection 1 of section 10-19.1-73.3, sections 10-19.1-76.3 and 10-19.1-81, subsections 1, 2,  
7 and 11 of section 10-19.1-84, subsection 1 of section 10-19.1-110, subsection 2 of section  
8 10-19.1-146, and subsection 2 of section 10-35-28 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
9 to electronic transactions, filing of an annual report by corporations engaged in farming or  
10 ranching, Business Corporation Act definitions, knowledge and notice, share certificates,  
11 corporate voting list and voting trusts, acceptance of shareholder act by the corporation,  
12 corporate records, corporate dissolution procedure, and the filing of an annual report by a  
13 publicly traded corporation.

14 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

15 **SECTION 1.** Subsection 16 of section 9-16-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
16 and enacted as follows:

17 16. "Writing" or "written" includes blockchain technology as defined in section 9-16-19.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 9-16-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended  
19 and reenacted as follows:

20 **9-16-02. Scope.**

21 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3, this chapter applies to electronic  
22 records and electronic signatures relating to a transaction.

23 2. ~~This~~Except as provided in subsection 3, this chapter does not apply to a transaction to  
24 the extent the transaction is governed by:

- 1 a. A law governing the creation and execution of wills, codicils, or testamentary
- 2 trusts;
- 3 b. The Uniform Commercial Code other than section 41-01-20 and chapters 41-02
- 4 and 41-02.1; and
- 5 c. Chapters 41-03, 41-04, 41-04.1, 41-05, 41-07, 41-08, or 41-09.
- 6 3. Section 9-16-19 applies only to title 10 and transactions governed by chapters 41-02,
- 7 41-02.1, and 41-07.
- 8 4. This chapter applies to an electronic record or electronic signature otherwise excluded
- 9 from the application of this chapter under subsection 2 or 3, to the extent it is governed
- 10 by a law other than those specified in subsection 2 or 3.
- 11 4.5. A transaction subject to this chapter is also subject to other applicable substantive law.

12 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-16-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as  
13 follows:

14 **9-16-19. Signatures and records secured through blockchain technology - Smart**  
15 **contracts - Ownership of information - Definitions.**

- 16 1. A signature secured through blockchain technology is considered to be in an electronic
- 17 form and to be an electronic signature.
- 18 2. A record or contract secured through blockchain technology is considered to be in an
- 19 electronic form and to be an electronic record.
- 20 3. Smart contracts may exist in commerce. A contract relating to a transaction may not
- 21 be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because the contract contains a
- 22 smart contract term.
- 23 4. Notwithstanding title 10 or chapters 41-02, 41-02.1, and 41-07, a person in or affecting
- 24 interstate or foreign commerce using blockchain technology to secure information the
- 25 person owns or has the right to use retains the same rights of ownership or use with
- 26 respect to that information as before the person secured the information using
- 27 blockchain technology. This subsection does not apply to the use of blockchain
- 28 technology to secure information in connection with a transaction to the extent the
- 29 terms of the transaction expressly provide for the transfer of rights of ownership or use
- 30 with respect to that information.
- 31 5. As used in this subsection:

- 1           a. "Blockchain technology" means distributed ledger technology that uses a  
2           distributed, decentralized, shared, and replicated ledger, which may be public or  
3           private, permissioned or permissionless, or driven by tokenized crypto economics  
4           or tokenless and which is protected with cryptography, is immutable, and  
5           auditable and provides an uncensored truth.  
6           b. "Smart contract" means an event-driven program, with state, that runs on a  
7           distributed, decentralized, shared, and replicated ledger and which can take  
8           custody over and instruct transfer of assets on that ledger.

9           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-06.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11           **10-06.1-17. Annual report - Contents - Filing requirements.**

12           Before April sixteenth of each year, everya corporation engaged in farming or ranching after  
13 June 30, 1981, and everya limited liability company engaged in farming or ranching shall file  
14 with the secretary of state an annual report signed as provided in subsection 5458 of section  
15 10-19.1-01 if a corporation and subsection 47 of section 10-32.1-02 if a limited liability company.  
16 If the corporation or limited liability company is in the hands of a receiver or trustee, it must be  
17 signed on behalf of the corporation or limited liability company by the receiver or trustee. An  
18 annual report in a sealed envelope postmarked by the United States postal service before the  
19 date provided in this section or an annual report in a sealed packet with a verified shipment date  
20 by any other carrier service before the date provided in this section meets the filing date  
21 requirement. An annual report must include the following information with respect to the  
22 preceding calendar year:

- 23           1. The name of the corporation or limited liability company.  
24           2. The name of the registered agent of the corporation or limited liability company as  
25           provided in chapter 10-01.1 and, if a noncommercial registered agent, the address of  
26           the registered office of the corporation or limited liability company in this state.  
27           3. With respect to each corporation:  
28           a. A statement of the aggregate number of shares the corporation has authority to  
29           issue, itemized by classes, par value of shares, shares without par value, and  
30           series, if any, within a class.

- 1           b. A statement of the aggregate number of issued shares, itemized by classes, par  
2           value of shares, shares without par value, and series, if any, within a class.
- 3       4. With respect to each shareholder or member:
  - 4           a. The name and address of each, including the names and addresses and  
5           relationships of beneficiaries of trusts and estates which own shares or  
6           membership interests;
  - 7           b. The number of shares or membership interests or percentage of shares or  
8           membership interests owned by each;
  - 9           c. The relationship of each;
  - 10          d. A statement of whether each is a citizen or permanent resident alien of the United  
11          States; and
  - 12          e. A statement of whether at least one is an individual residing on or operating the  
13          farm or ranch.
- 14       5. With respect to management:
  - 15           a. If a corporation, then the names and addresses of the officers and members of  
16           the board of directors; or
  - 17           b. If a limited liability company, then the names and addresses of the managers and  
18           members of the board of governors.
- 19       6. A statement listing the acreage [hectarage] and location listed by section, township,  
20       range, and county of all land in the state owned or leased by the corporation or limited  
21       liability company and used for farming or ranching. The statement must also designate  
22       which, if any, of the acreage [hectarage] is leased from or jointly owned with any  
23       shareholder or member and list the name of the shareholder or member with that  
24       acreage [hectarage].
- 25       7. A statement of the percentage of the annual average gross income of the corporation  
26       or limited liability company which has been derived from farming or ranching  
27       operations over the previous five years or for each year of existence if less than five  
28       years.
- 29       8. A statement of the percentage of gross income of the corporation or limited liability  
30       company derived from nonfarm rent, nonfarm royalties, dividends, interest, and  
31       annuities during the period covered by the report.

- 1           9. A corporation engaged in farming which fails to file an annual report is subject to the  
2           penalties for failure to file an annual report as provided in chapter 10-19.1, except that  
3           the penalties must be calculated from the date of the report required by this section.
- 4           10. A limited liability company engaged in farming which fails to file an annual report is  
5           subject to the penalties for failure to file an annual report as provided in chapter  
6           10-32.1, except that the penalties must be calculated from the date of the report  
7           required by this section.

8           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-19.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9           amended and reenacted as follows:

10          **10-19.1-01. Definitions.**

11          For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 12          1. "Acquiring corporation" means the domestic or foreign corporation that acquires the  
13          shares of a corporation in an exchange.
- 14          2. "Acquiring organization" means the foreign or domestic organization acquiring the  
15          ownership interests of another foreign or domestic organization participating in an  
16          exchange.
- 17          3. "Address" means:
- 18              a. In the case of a registered office or principal executive office, the mailing address,  
19              including the zip code, of the actual office location, which may not be only a  
20              post-office box; and
- 21              b. In any other case, the mailing address, including the zip code.
- 22          4. "Articles" means:
- 23              a. In the case of a corporation incorporated under or governed by this chapter,  
24              articles of incorporation, articles of amendment, a resolution of election to  
25              become governed by this chapter, a demand retaining the two-thirds majority for  
26              shareholder approval of certain transactions, a statement of change of registered  
27              office, registered agent, or name of registered agent, a statement establishing or  
28              fixing the rights and preferences of a class or series of shares, a statement of  
29              cancellation of authorized shares, articles of merger, articles of abandonment,  
30              articles of conversion, and articles of dissolution.

- 1           b. In the case of a foreign corporation, the term includes all records serving a similar  
2           function required to be filed with the secretary of state or other officer of the state  
3           of incorporation of the foreign corporation.
- 4        5. "Authenticated electronic communication" means:
- 5           a. That the electronic communication is delivered:
- 6                (1) To the principal place of business of the corporation; or  
7                (2) To an officer or agent of the corporation authorized by the corporation to  
8                receive the electronic communication; and
- 9           b. That the electronic communication ~~sets forth~~provides information from which the  
10          corporation can reasonably conclude that the electronic communication was sent  
11          by the purported sender.
- 12        6. "Ballot" means a written ballot or a ballot transmitted by electronic communications.
- 13        7. "Board" or "board of directors" means the board of directors of a corporation.
- 14        8. "Board member" means:
- 15           a. An individual serving on the board of directors in the case of a corporation; and  
16           b. An individual serving on the board of governors in the case of a limited liability  
17           company.
- 18        9. "Bylaws" means the code adopted for the regulation or management of the internal  
19          affairs of a corporation, regardless of how that code is designated.
- 20        10. "Class", when used with reference to ownership interests, means a category of  
21          ownership interests that differs in designation or one or more rights or preferences  
22          from another category of ownership interests of the organization.
- 23        11. "Closely held corporation" means a corporation that does not have more than  
24          thirty-five shareholders.
- 25        12. "Constituent corporation" means a corporation or a foreign corporation that:
- 26           a. In a merger, is either the surviving corporation or a foreign or domestic  
27           corporation that is merged into the surviving organization; or  
28           b. In an exchange, is either the acquiring corporation or a foreign or domestic  
29           corporation whose shares are acquired by the acquiring organization.
- 30        13. "Constituent organization" means an organization that:

- 1           a.    In a merger, is either the surviving organization or an organization that is merged  
2           into the surviving organization; or
- 3           b.    In an exchange, is either the acquiring organization or an organization whose  
4           securities are acquired by the acquiring organization.
- 5    14.    "Converted organization" means the organization into which a converting organization  
6           converts pursuant to sections 10-19.1-104.1 through 10-19.1-104.6.
- 7    15.    "Converting organization" means an organization that converts into another  
8           organization pursuant to sections 10-19.1-104.1 through 10-19.1-104.6.
- 9    16.    "Corporation" or "domestic corporation" means a corporation, other than a foreign  
10           corporation, organized for profit and incorporated under or governed by this chapter.
- 11   17.    "Data address" means the string of alphanumeric characters on a distributed or other  
12           electronic network or database which may be accessed only by knowledge or  
13           possession of a private key to facilitate or record transactions on the distributed or  
14           other electronic network or database.
- 15   18.    "Director" means a member of the board.
- 16   ~~18-19.~~ "Distribution" means a direct or indirect transfer of money or other property, other than  
17           its own shares, with or without consideration, or an incurrence or issuance of  
18           indebtedness, by a corporation to any of its shareholders in respect of its shares, and  
19           may be in the form of a dividend, an interim distribution, or a distribution in liquidation,  
20           or as consideration for the purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of its shares, or  
21           otherwise.
- 22   ~~19-20.~~ "Division" or "combination" means dividing or combining shares of a class or series,  
23           whether issued or unissued, into a greater or lesser number of shares of the same  
24           class or series.
- 25   ~~20-21.~~ "Domestic organization" means an organization created under the laws of this state.
- 26   ~~21-22.~~ "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless,  
27           optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.
- 28   ~~22-23.~~ "Electronic communication" means any form of communication, not directly involving  
29           the physical transmission of paper, including a process of communication which uses  
30           a distributed or other electronic network or database, or that:

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- 1 a. Creates a record that may be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by a recipient of  
2 the communication; and
- 3 b. May be directly reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated  
4 process.
- 5 ~~23-24.~~ "Electronic record" means a record created, generated, sent, communicated, received,  
6 or stored by electronic means.
- 7 ~~24-25.~~ "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or  
8 logically associated with a record and signed or adopted by a person with the intent to  
9 sign the record.
- 10 ~~25-26.~~ "Filed with the secretary of state" means, except as otherwise permitted by law or rule:  
11 a. That a record meeting the applicable requirements of this chapter, together with  
12 the fees provided in section 10-19.1-147, was delivered or communicated to the  
13 secretary of state by a method or medium of communication acceptable by the  
14 secretary of state and was determined by the secretary of state to conform to law.  
15 b. That the secretary of state did then:  
16 (1) Record the actual date on which the record was filed, and if different the  
17 effective date of filing; and  
18 (2) Record the record in the office of the secretary of state.
- 19 ~~26-27.~~ "Foreign corporation" means a corporation organized for profit which is incorporated  
20 under laws other than the laws of this state for a purpose for which a corporation may  
21 be incorporated under this chapter.
- 22 ~~27-28.~~ "Foreign limited liability company" means a limited liability company organized under  
23 laws other than the laws of this state for a purpose for which a limited liability company  
24 may be organized under chapter 10-32.1.
- 25 ~~28-29.~~ "Foreign organization" means an organization created under laws other than the laws  
26 of this state for a purpose for which an organization may be created under the laws of  
27 this state.
- 28 ~~29-30.~~ "Good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct of an act or transaction.
- 29 ~~30-31.~~ "Governing body" means for an organization that is:  
30 a. A corporation, its board of directors;  
31 b. A limited liability company, its board of governors; or



1 c. Any other organization, the body selected by its owners that has the ultimate  
2 power to determine the policies of the organization and to control its policies.

3 ~~31-32.~~ "Governing statute" of an organization means:

4 a. With respect to a domestic organization, the following chapters of this code which  
5 govern the internal affairs of the organization:

6 (1) If a corporation, then this chapter;

7 (2) If a limited liability company, then chapter 10-32.1;

8 (3) If a general partnership, then chapters 45-13 through 45-21;

9 (4) If a limited partnership, then chapter 45-10.2;

10 (5) If a limited liability partnership, then chapter 45-22; and

11 (6) If a limited liability limited partnership, then chapter 45-23; and

12 b. With respect to a foreign organization, the laws of the jurisdiction under which the  
13 organization is created and under which the internal affairs of the organization  
14 are governed.

15 ~~32-33.~~ "Identity" means the name of a shareholder or the data address for which the  
16 shareholder has knowledge or possession of the private key uniquely associated with  
17 the data address.

18 34. "Intentionally" means that the person referred to has a purpose to do or fail to do the  
19 act or cause the result specified or believes that the act or failure to act, if successful,  
20 will cause that result. A person "intentionally" violates a statute:

21 a. If the person intentionally does the act or causes the result prohibited by the  
22 statute; or

23 b. If the person intentionally fails to do the act or cause the result required by the  
24 statute, even though the person may not know of the existence or  
25 constitutionality of the statute or the scope or meaning of the terms used in the  
26 statute.

27 ~~33-35.~~ "Legal representative" means a person empowered to act for another person,  
28 including an agent, a manager, an officer, a partner, or an associate of an  
29 organization; a trustee of a trust; a personal representative; a trustee in bankruptcy;  
30 and a receiver, guardian, custodian, or conservator.

1 ~~34-36.~~ "Limited liability company" or "domestic limited liability company" means a limited  
2 liability company, other than a foreign limited liability company, organized under or  
3 governed by chapter 10-32.1.

4 ~~35-37.~~ "Network signature" means a string of alphanumeric characters which when  
5 broadcasted by a shareholder to the data address's corresponding distributed or other  
6 electronic network or database provides reasonable assurances to a corporation that  
7 the shareholder has knowledge or possession of the private key uniquely associated  
8 with the data address.

9 ~~38.~~ "Nonprofit corporation" means a corporation, whether domestic or foreign,  
10 incorporated under or governed by chapter 10-33.

11 ~~36-39.~~ "Notice":

12 a. Is given by a shareholder of a corporation to the corporation or an officer of the  
13 corporation:

14 (1) When in writing and mailed or delivered to the corporation or the officer at  
15 the registered office or principal executive office of the corporation; or

16 (2) When given by a form of electronic communication consented to by the  
17 corporation to which the notice is given if by:

18 (a) Facsimile communication, when directed to a telephone number at  
19 which the corporation has consented to receive notice.

20 (b) Electronic mail, when directed to an electronic mail address at which  
21 the corporation has consented to receive notice.

22 (c) Posting on an electronic network on which the corporation has  
23 consented to receive notice, together with separate notice to the  
24 corporation of the specific posting, upon the later of:

25 [1] The posting; or

26 [2] The giving of the separate notice.

27 (d) Any other form of electronic communication by which the corporation  
28 has consented to receive notice, when directed to the corporation.

29 b. Is given by a publicly held corporation to a shareholder if:

30 (1) If the notice is addressed to the shareholder or group of shareholders in a  
31 manner permitted by the rules and regulations under the Securities

1 Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, provided that the corporation has first  
2 received any affirmative written consent or implied consent required under  
3 those rules and regulations;

4 (2) When an electronic transmission has been made to a data address provided  
5 by the shareholder; or

6 (3) When electronically transmitted to the shareholder in a manner by which the  
7 shareholder has consented, when directed to the shareholder.

8 c. Is given, in all other cases:

9 (1) When mailed to the person at an address designated by the person or at  
10 the last-known address of the person;

11 (2) When deposited with a nationally recognized overnight delivery service for  
12 overnight delivery or, if overnight delivery to the person is not available, for  
13 delivery as promptly as practicable to the person at an address designated  
14 by the person or at the last-known address of the person;

15 (3) When handed to the person;

16 (4) When left at the office of the person with a clerk or other person in charge of  
17 the office or:

18 (a) If there is no one in charge, when left in a conspicuous place in the  
19 office; or

20 (b) If the office is closed or the person to be notified has no office, when  
21 left at the dwelling house or usual place of abode of the person with  
22 some person of suitable age and discretion then residing there;

23 (5) When given by a form of electronic communication consented to by the  
24 person to whom the notice is given if by:

25 (a) Facsimile communication, when directed to a telephone number at  
26 which the person has consented to receive notice.

27 (b) Electronic mail, when directed to an electronic mail address at which  
28 the person has consented to receive notice.

29 (c) Posting on an electronic network on which the person has consented  
30 to receive notice, together with separate notice to the person of the  
31 specific posting, upon the later of:

1 [1] The posting; or

2 [2] The giving of the separate notice.

3 (d) Any other form of electronic communication by which the person has  
4 consented to receive notice, when directed to the person; or

5 (6) When the method is fair and reasonable when all of the circumstances are  
6 considered.

7 d. Is given by mail when deposited in the United States mail with sufficient postage  
8 affixed.

9 e. Is given by deposit for delivery when deposited for delivery as provided in  
10 paragraph 2 of subdivision c, after having made sufficient arrangements for  
11 payment by the sender.

12 f. Is deemed received when it is given.

13 ~~37-40.~~ "Officer" means an individual who is eighteen years of age or more who is:

14 a. Elected, appointed, or otherwise designated as the president, the treasurer, or  
15 any other officer pursuant to section 10-19.1-52; or

16 b. Deemed elected as an officer pursuant to section 10-19.1-56.

17 ~~38-41.~~ "Organization":

18 a. Means, whether domestic or foreign, a corporation, limited liability company,  
19 general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited  
20 liability limited partnership, or any other person subject to a governing statute; but

21 b. Excludes:

22 (1) ~~Any~~A nonprofit corporation, whether a domestic nonprofit corporation which  
23 is incorporated under chapter 10-33 or a foreign nonprofit corporation which  
24 is incorporated in another jurisdiction; and

25 (2) ~~Any~~A nonprofit limited liability company, whether a domestic nonprofit  
26 limited liability company which is organized under chapter 10-36 or a foreign  
27 nonprofit limited liability company which is organized in another jurisdiction.

28 ~~39-42.~~ "Originating records" means for an organization that is:

29 a. A corporation, its articles of incorporation;

30 b. A limited liability company, its articles of organization;

31 c. A limited partnership, its certificate of limited partnership;

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- 1           d. A limited liability partnership, its registration; or
- 2           e. A limited liability limited partnership, its certificate of limited liability limited
- 3           partnership.
- 4 ~~40.43.~~ "Outstanding shares" means all shares duly issued and not reacquired by a
- 5           corporation.
- 6 ~~41.44.~~ "Owners" means the holders of ownership interests in an organization.
- 7 ~~42.45.~~ "Ownership interests" means for a domestic or foreign organization that is:
- 8           a. A corporation, its shares;
- 9           b. A limited liability company, its membership interests;
- 10          c. A limited partnership, its partnership interests;
- 11          d. A general partnership, its partnership interests;
- 12          e. A limited liability partnership, its partnership interests;
- 13          f. A limited liability limited partnership, its partnership interests; or
- 14          g. Any other organization, its governance or transferable interests.
- 15 ~~43.46.~~ "Parent" of a specified organization means an organization that directly, or indirectly
- 16           through related organizations, owns more than fifty percent of the voting power of the
- 17           ownership interests entitled to vote for directors or other members of the governing
- 18           body of the specified organization.
- 19 ~~44.47.~~ "Principal executive office" means:
- 20          a. If the corporation has an elected or appointed president, then an office where the
- 21           elected or appointed president of a corporation has an office; or
- 22          b. If the corporation has no elected or appointed president, then the registered office
- 23           of the corporation.
- 24 ~~45.48.~~ "Publicly held corporation" means a corporation that has a class of equity securities
- 25           registered pursuant to section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C.
- 26           78L], or is subject to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C.
- 27           78o(d)].
- 28 ~~46.49.~~ "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in
- 29           an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- 30 ~~47.50.~~ "Record of shareholders" means a record administered by or on behalf of a
- 31           corporation and which records the identity of all the corporation's shareholders and the

1 number and class of shares held by each shareholder in accordance with section  
2 10-19.1-84. The term includes a record of all issuances and transfers of shares of a  
3 corporation at the discretion of the corporation;

4 51. "Registered office" means the place in this state designated in a corporation's articles  
5 of incorporation or in a foreign corporation's certificate of authority as the registered  
6 office.

7 ~~48-52.~~ "Related organization" means an organization that controls, is controlled by, or is  
8 under common control with another organization with control existing if an  
9 organization:

- 10 a. Owns, directly or indirectly, at least fifty percent of the ownership interests of  
11 another organization;  
12 b. Has the right, directly or indirectly, to elect, appoint, or remove fifty percent or  
13 more of the voting members of the governing body of another organization; or  
14 c. Has the power, directly or indirectly, to direct or cause the direction of the  
15 management and policies of another organization, whether through the  
16 ownership of voting interests, by contract, or otherwise.

17 ~~49-53.~~ "Remote communication" means communication via electronic communication,  
18 conference telephone, videoconference, the internet, or such other means by which  
19 persons not physically present in the same location may communicate with each other  
20 on a substantially simultaneous basis.

21 ~~50-54.~~ "Security" has the meaning given in section 10-04-02.

22 ~~51-55.~~ "Series" means a category of shares, within a class of shares authorized or issued by  
23 a corporation by or pursuant to a corporation's articles, that have some of the same  
24 rights and preferences as other shares within the same class, but that differ in  
25 designation or one or more rights and preferences from another category of shares  
26 within that class.

27 ~~52-56.~~ "Share" means one of the units, however designated, into which the shareholders'  
28 proprietary interests of the shareholder in a corporation are divided.

29 ~~53-57.~~ "Shareholder" means a person registered on the books or records of a corporation or  
30 the corporation's transfer agent or registrar as the owner of whole or fractional shares

1           of the corporation or the owner of a private key uniquely associated with a data  
2           address that facilitates or records the sending and receiving of shares.

3   54-58. "Signed" means:

4           a.   That the signature of a person, which may be a facsimile affixed, engraved, by  
5           network signature, printed, placed, stamped with indelible ink, transmitted by  
6           facsimile telecommunication or electronically, or in any other manner reproduced  
7           on the record, is placed on a record with the present intention to authenticate that  
8           record; and

9           b.   With respect to a record required by this chapter to be filed with the secretary of  
10          state, that:

11               (1)   The record is signed by a person authorized to do so by this chapter, the  
12               articles or bylaws, or a resolution approved by the directors as required  
13               under section 10-19.1-46 or the shareholders as required under section  
14               10-19.1-74; and

15               (2)   The signature and the record are communicated by a method or medium of  
16               communication acceptable by the secretary of state.

17   55-59. "Subscriber" means a person that subscribes for shares in a corporation, whether  
18          before or after incorporation.

19   56-60. "Subsidiary" of a specified organization means an organization having more than fifty  
20          percent of the voting power of its ownership interests entitled to vote for directors,  
21          governors, or other members of the governing body of the organization owned directly,  
22          or indirectly, through related organizations, by the specified organization.

23   57-61. "Surviving corporation" means the domestic or foreign corporation resulting from a  
24          merger which:

- 25               a.   May pre-exist the merger; or  
26               b.   May be created by the merger.

27   58-62. "Surviving organization" means the organization resulting from a merger which:

- 28               a.   May pre-exist the merger; or  
29               b.   May be created by the merger.

30   59-63. "Vote" includes authorization by written action.

31   60-64. "Written action" means:

- 1 a. A written record signed by all of the persons required to take the action; or
- 2 b. The counterparts of a written record signed by any of the persons taking the
- 3 action described.
- 4 (1) Each counterpart constitutes the action of the person signing; and
- 5 (2) All the counterparts, taken together, constitute one written action by all of
- 6 the persons signing the counterparts.

7 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-19.1-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **10-19.1-01.2. Knowledge and notice.**

- 10 1. A person knows or has knowledge of a fact if the person has actual knowledge of it. A
- 11 person does not know or have knowledge of a fact merely because the person has
- 12 reason to know or have knowledge of the fact.
- 13 2. A person has notice of a fact if the person:
- 14 a. Knows of the fact;
- 15 b. Has received notice of the fact as provided in subsection 3639 of section
- 16 10-19.1-01;
- 17 c. Has reason to know the fact exists from all of the facts known to the person at the
- 18 time in question; or
- 19 d. Has notice of it under subsection 3.
- 20 3. Subject to subsection 8, a person has notice of:
- 21 a. The intention of a corporation to dissolve, ninety days after the effective date of
- 22 the filed notice of intent to dissolve;
- 23 b. The dissolution of a corporation, ninety days after the effective date of the filed
- 24 articles of dissolution;
- 25 c. The conversion of a corporation, ninety days after the effective date of the filed
- 26 articles of conversion; or
- 27 d. The merger of a corporation, ninety days after the effective date of the filed
- 28 articles of merger.
- 29 4. A person notifies or gives a notification to another person by taking the steps provided
- 30 in subsection 3639 of section 10-19.1-01, whether or not the other person learns of it.
- 31 5. A person receives a notification as provided in subsection 3639 of section 10-19.1-01.



- 1           6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7 and except as otherwise provided in  
2           subsection ~~3639~~ of section 10-19.1-01, a person other than an individual knows, has  
3           notice, or receives a notification of a fact for purposes of a particular transaction when  
4           the individual conducting the transaction for the person knows, has notice, or receives  
5           a notification of the fact, or in any event when the fact would have been brought to the  
6           attention of the individual if the person had exercised reasonable diligence.
- 7           a. A person other than an individual exercises reasonable diligence if it maintains  
8           reasonable routines for communicating significant information to the individual  
9           conducting the transaction for the person and there is reasonable compliance  
10          with the routines.
- 11          b. Reasonable diligence does not require an individual acting for the person to  
12          communicate information unless the communication is part of the regular duties  
13          of the individual or the individual has reason to know of the transaction and that  
14          the transaction would be materially affected by the information.
- 15          7. Knowledge, notice, or receipt of a notification of a fact relating to the corporation by an  
16          officer or director is effective immediately as knowledge of, notice to, or receipt of a  
17          notification by the corporation, except in the case of a fraud on the corporation  
18          committed by or with the consent of the officer or director. Knowledge, notice, or  
19          receipt of a notification of a fact relating to the corporation by a shareholder who is not  
20          an officer or director, is not effective as knowledge by, notice to, or receipt of a  
21          notification by the corporation.
- 22          8. Notice otherwise effective under subsection 3 does not affect the power of a person to  
23          transfer real property held in the name of a corporation unless at the time of transfer a  
24          certified copy of the relevant statement, amendment, or articles, as filed with the  
25          secretary of state, has been recorded in the office of the county recorder in the county  
26          in which the real property affected by the statement, amendment, or articles is located.
- 27          9. With respect to notice given by a form of electronic communication:
- 28          a. Consent by an officer or director to notice given by electronic communication may  
29          be given in writing or by authenticated electronic communication. The corporation  
30          is entitled to rely on any consent so given until revoked by the officer or director.

1                   However, no revocation affects the validity of any notice given before receipt by  
2                   the corporation of revocation of the consent.

3                   b.    An affidavit of an officer or director or an authorized agent of the corporation, that  
4                   the notice has been given by a form of electronic communication is, in the  
5                   absence of fraud, prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the affidavit.

6                   **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 10-19.1-66 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8                   6.    Unless uncertificated shares are prohibited by the articles or bylaws, a corporation  
9                   may provide that some or all of any or all classes and series of the corporation's  
10                  shares will be uncertificated shares.

11                  a.    The action by the corporation provided in this subsection does not apply to  
12                  shares represented by a certificate until the certificate is surrendered to the  
13                  corporation.

14                  b.    Within a reasonable time after the issuance or transfer of uncertificated shares,  
15                  the corporation shall ~~send~~give to the new shareholder the information required by  
16                  this section to be stated on certificates.

17                  c.    The information required under this section is not required to be ~~sent~~given to the  
18                  new shareholder by a publicly held corporation that adopted a system of  
19                  issuance, recordation, and transfer of the corporation's shares by electronic or  
20                  other means not involving the issuance of certificates if the system complies with  
21                  federal law.

22                  d.    Except as otherwise expressly provided by statute, the rights and obligations of  
23                  the holders of certificated and uncertificated shares of the same class and series  
24                  are identical.

25                  **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 10-19.1-73.3 of the North Dakota  
26 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

27                  1.    After fixing a record date for notice of and voting at a meeting, a corporation shall  
28                  prepare an alphabetical or numerical list of the ~~names~~identities of all its shareholders  
29                  entitled to notice and to vote. The list must show ~~the address and~~;

30                  a.    The number of shares each shareholder is entitled to vote at the meeting;

- 1           b. Each shareholder's physical mailing address, if the identity of a shareholder on  
2           the list consists of the shareholder's name; and  
3           c. Each shareholder's authorized means of receipt for electronic transmissions, if  
4           the identity of a shareholder on the list consists of the shareholder's data  
5           address.

6           **SECTION 9.** A new section to chapter 10-19.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8           **Number of shareholders.**

- 9           1. The following identified as a shareholder in a corporation's current record of  
10           shareholders constitutes one shareholder:  
11           a. Three or fewer co-owners;  
12           b. A corporation, partnership, trust, estate, or other entity;  
13           c. The trustees, guardians, custodians, or other fiduciaries of a single trust, estate,  
14           or account; or  
15           d. One data address.  
16           2. Shareholdings registered in substantially similar names constitute one shareholder if it  
17           is reasonable to believe the names represent the same person.

18           **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-19.1-76.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20           **10-19.1-76.3. Acceptance of shareholder act by the corporation.**

- 21           1. If the name or network signature signed on a vote, consent, waiver, or proxy  
22           appointment corresponds to the record name or data address of a shareholder, the  
23           corporation if acting in good faith may accept the vote, consent, waiver, or proxy  
24           appointment and give it effect as the act of the shareholder.  
25           2. Unless the articles or bylaws provide otherwise, if the name or network signature  
26           signed on a vote, consent, waiver, or proxy appointment does not correspond to the  
27           record name or data address of a shareholder, the corporation if acting in good faith  
28           may accept the vote, consent waiver, or proxy appointment and give it effect as the act  
29           of the shareholder if:  
30           a. The shareholder is an organization and the name or network signature signed  
31           purports to be that of an officer, manager, or agent of the organization;

- 1           b. The name or network signature signed purports to be that of an administrator,  
2           guardian, or conservator representing the shareholder and, if the corporation  
3           requests, evidence of fiduciary status acceptable to the corporation has been  
4           presented with respect to the vote, consent, waiver, or proxy appointment;
- 5           c. The name or network signature signed purports to be that of a receiver or trustee  
6           in bankruptcy of the shareholder, and, if the corporation requests, evidence of  
7           this status acceptable to the corporation has been presented with respect to the  
8           vote, consent, waiver, or proxy appointment;
- 9           d. The name or network signature signed purports to be that of a pledgee, beneficial  
10          owner, or attorney in fact of the shareholder, and if, the corporation requests,  
11          evidence acceptable to the corporation of the signatory's authority to sign for the  
12          shareholder has been presented with respect to the vote, consent, waiver, or  
13          proxy appointment; or
- 14          e. Two or more persons hold the shares as cotenants or fiduciaries and the name or  
15          network signature signed purports to be the name or data address of at least one  
16          of the coholders and the person signing appears to be acting on behalf of all the  
17          coholders.
- 18          3. The corporation may reject a vote, consent, waiver, or proxy appointment if the officer  
19          or agent authorized to tabulate votes, acting in good faith, has reasonable basis to  
20          doubt the validity of the signature on it or the authority of the signatory to sign for the  
21          shareholder.
- 22          4. The corporation or its officer or agent who accepts or rejects a vote, consent, waiver,  
23          or proxy appointment in good faith and in accordance with the standards of this  
24          section is not liable in damages to the shareholder for the consequences of the  
25          acceptance or rejection.
- 26          5. Corporate action based on the acceptance or rejection of a vote, consent, waiver, or  
27          proxy appointment under this section is valid unless a court of competent jurisdiction  
28          determines otherwise.

29          **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-19.1-81 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30          amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **10-19.1-81. Voting trusts.**

2       1. Shares in a corporation may be transferred to a trustee pursuant to written agreement,  
3       for the purpose of conferring on the trustee the right to vote and otherwise represent  
4       the beneficial owner of those shares for a period not exceeding ten years, except that  
5       if the agreement is made in connection with an indebtedness of the corporation, the  
6       voting trust may extend until the indebtedness is discharged. Unless otherwise  
7       specified in the agreement, the voting trust may be terminated at any time by the  
8       beneficial owners of a majority of the voting power of the shares held by the trustee. A  
9       signed original of the agreement must be filed with the corporation.

10      2. When a voting trust agreement is signed, the trustee shall prepare a list of the  
11      identities of all owners of beneficial interests in the trust, together with the number and  
12      class of shares each transferred to the trust. The list must include each shareholder's:  
13      a. Physical mailing address, if the identity of a shareholder on the list consists of the  
14      shareholder's name; or  
15      b. Authorized means of receipt for electronic transmissions, if the identity of a  
16      shareholder on the list consists of the shareholder's data address.

17      3. Unless otherwise provided in the trust agreement, if there are two or more trustees,  
18      the manner of voting is determined as provided in subsection 5 of section  
19      10-19.1-73.2.

20      **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 10-19.1-84 of the North Dakota  
21      Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22      1. A corporation shall keep, at the corporation's principal executive office or at another  
23      place or places within the United States determined by the board, a share register not  
24      more than one year old, containing the ~~name and address~~identities of each  
25      shareholder ~~and, in alphabetical or numerical order by class of shares showing the~~  
26      number and classes of shares held by each shareholder.

27      a. The list must include each shareholder's:  
28      (1) Physical mailing address, if the identity of a shareholder on the list consists  
29      of the shareholder's name; or  
30      (2) Authorized means of receipt for electronic transmissions, if the identity of a  
31      shareholder on the list consists of the shareholder's data address.



1        11. The records maintained by a corporation, including its share register, financial records,  
2        and minute books, may ~~utilize any information storage technique~~ be retained on, or by  
3        means of, or be in the form of any information storage device or method, including, ~~for~~  
4        ~~example~~, punched holes, printed ~~or~~, magnetized spots, ~~or~~ microimages, ~~even though~~  
5        ~~that makes them illegible visually~~, if or any one or more distributed or other electronic  
6        networks or databases provided the records are retained in written form or in another  
7        form that can be converted accurately and into written form within a reasonable time,  
8        ~~into a form that~~ is legible visually and whose contents are assembled by related  
9        subject matter to permit convenient use by people in the normal course of business. A  
10       corporation shall convert ~~any of~~ the records referred to in subsection 4 upon the  
11       request of a person entitled to inspect them, and the expense of the conversion shall  
12       be borne by the person who bears the expense of copying pursuant to subsection 10.  
13       A copy of the conversion is admissible in evidence, and must be accepted for all other  
14       purposes, to the same extent as the existing or original records would be if they were  
15       legible visually.

16       **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 10-19.1-110 of the North Dakota  
17       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 18       1. If notice to creditors and claimants is given, it must be given by:
  - 19       a. Publishing the notice once each week for four successive weeks in an official  
20       newspaper, as defined in chapter 46-06, in the county or counties where the  
21       registered office and the principal executive office of the corporation are located;  
22       and
  - 23       b. Giving written notice to known creditors and claimants pursuant to  
24       subsection ~~3639~~ of section 10-19.1-01.

25       **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 10-19.1-146 of the North Dakota  
26       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 27       2. The annual report must be submitted on forms prescribed by the secretary of state.  
28       The information provided must be given as of the date of the execution of the report.  
29       The annual report must be signed as provided in subsection ~~5458~~ of section  
30       10-19.1-01. If the corporation or foreign corporation is in the hands of a receiver or  
31       trustee, it must be signed on behalf of the corporation or foreign corporation by the

1 receiver or trustee. The secretary of state may destroy all annual reports provided for  
2 in this section after they have been on file for six years.

3 **SECTION 17.** Section 10-32.1-102 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
4 enacted as follows:

5 **10-32.1-102. Series of members, managers, transferable interests or assets - General**  
6 **powers of series - Governing authority - Distributions - Termination of series.**

7 1. An operating agreement may establish or provide for the establishment of a  
8 designated series of members, managers, transferable interests, or assets that:

9 a. Has separate rights, powers, or duties with respect to specified property or  
10 obligations of the limited liability company or profits and losses associated with  
11 specified property or obligations; or

12 b. Has a separate business purpose or investment objective.

13 2. A series established in accordance with subsection 1 may carry on any business,  
14 purpose, or activity, whether or not for profit, which is not prohibited by this chapter.

15 3. Subject to subsection 4, if an operating agreement establishes or provides for the  
16 establishment of a particular series:

17 a. The debts, obligations, or other liabilities of the particular series, whether arising  
18 in contract, tort, or otherwise, are enforceable against the assets of the series  
19 only and not against:

20 (1) The assets of the limited liability company generally or any other series  
21 thereof; or

22 (2) A member of the limited liability company.

23 b. The debts, obligations, or other liabilities of the limited liability company generally  
24 or any other series thereof, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise, are not  
25 enforceable against the assets of the particular series.

26 4. The limitations on liabilities in subsection 3 apply if:

27 a. The records for the particular series accounting for the assets of the series are  
28 separately maintained from the records accounting for the assets of the limited  
29 liability company or any other series thereof. Records that reasonably identify the  
30 assets of a particular series, including by specific listing, category, type, quantity,  
31 computational or allocational formula or procedure such as a percentage or share



- 1           of assets, or by any other method in which the identity of the assets is objectively  
2           determinable, is deemed to account for the assets of the particular series  
3           separately from the assets of the limited liability company or any other series  
4           thereof;
- 5           b. The operating agreement specifically provides for the limitations on liabilities; or  
6           c. Notice of the limitations on liabilities of the particular series is included in the  
7           articles of organization. Notice is sufficient whether or not the limited liability  
8           company has established or referenced any particular series in the notice.
- 9           5. This section, an operating agreement, or articles of organization may not restrict:
- 10          a. A series or limited liability company on behalf of a series from agreeing in the  
11          operating agreement or otherwise that any debt, obligation, or other liability of the  
12          limited liability company generally or any other series thereof is enforceable  
13          against the assets of the series;
- 14          b. A limited liability company from agreeing in the operating agreement or otherwise  
15          that any debt, obligation, or other liability of a series is enforceable against the  
16          assets of the limited liability company generally; or
- 17          c. Notwithstanding section 10-32.1-26, a member or manager from agreeing in the  
18          operating agreement or otherwise to be personally liable for any debt, obligation,  
19          or other liability of a series.
- 20          6. A series established under this section may, in its own name, contract, hold title to  
21          assets including real, personal and intangible property, grant liens and security  
22          interests, and sue or be sued. A series may:
- 23          a. Have separate rights, powers, or duties with respect to specified property or  
24          obligation of the limited liability company or profit and loss associated with any  
25          specified property or obligation;
- 26          b. Carry on a lawful purpose regardless of whether for profit, except for the purpose  
27          of acting as a financial institution or acting as an insurer; or
- 28          c. Hold assets directly or indirectly, including in the name of the series or the name  
29          of the limited liability company.
- 30          7. An operating agreement that establishes or provides for the establishment of a series  
31          may:

- 1           a. Provide for classes or groups of members or managers of the series having the  
2           relative rights, powers, and duties specified in the operating agreement;
- 3           b. Provide for and specify the future creation of additional classes or groups of  
4           members or managers of the series having the relative rights, powers, and duties  
5           as may be established, including rights, powers, and duties senior to existing  
6           classes and groups of members or managers of the series;
- 7           c. Provide for the taking of an action, including the amendment of the operating  
8           agreement, without the vote or approval of a member, manager, class, or group  
9           of members or managers of the series;
- 10          d. Provide that a member, class, or group of members of a series do not have  
11          voting rights; and
- 12          e. Grant to all or certain identified members, managers, class, or group of members  
13          or managers of the series the right to vote on a matter separately or with all or  
14          any class or group of members or managers of the series. Voting by members or  
15          managers may be on a per capita, number, financial interest, class, group, or  
16          other basis.
- 17      8. The management of a series is vested as follows:
- 18          a. In the members of the series pursuant to subsection 2 of section 10-32.1-39. A  
19          member shall cease to be a member of a series upon the divestment of all the  
20          member's transferable interests of the series. The fact a person ceases to be a  
21          member of a particular series must not by itself cause the person to cease to be  
22          a member of the limited liability company or any other series thereof or cause the  
23          termination of the series, regardless of whether the person was the last  
24          remaining member of the series; or
- 25          b. If the operating agreement provides for the management of the series in whole or  
26          in part by a manager, the management must be vested in one or more managers  
27          who must be chosen as provided in the operating agreement and who must hold  
28          the offices and have the responsibilities as specified in the agreement. A  
29          manager ceases to be a manager of a series as provided in an operating  
30          agreement and subject to subdivision e of subsection 3 of section 10-32.1-39.  
31          The fact a person ceases to be a manager of a particular series must not by itself

1           cause the person to cease to be a manager of the limited liability company or any  
2           other series thereof.

3        9. Notwithstanding section 10-32.1-30 and subject to subsections 10 and 12, if a member  
4        of a series becomes entitled to receive a distribution, the member has the status of,  
5        and is entitled to all remedies available to, a creditor of the series with respect to the  
6        distribution. An operating agreement may provide for the establishment of a record  
7        date for allocations and distributions associated with a series.

8        10. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of section 10-32.1-31, a limited liability company may  
9        make a distribution with respect to a series established under this section unless the  
10       total assets of the series after the distribution would be less than the sum of its total  
11       liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if the series were to be dissolved,  
12       wound up, and terminated at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential  
13       rights upon winding up and termination of members whose preferential rights are  
14       superior to those of the persons receiving the distribution. A member that receives a  
15       distribution knowing the distribution was made in violation of this subsection is  
16       personally liable to the series for the amount of the distribution.

17        a. This subsection does not affect an obligation or liability of a member under an  
18        agreement or other applicable law for the amount of a distribution, except an  
19        action under this subsection must be subject to subsection 5 of section  
20        10-32.1-32.

21        b. For purposes of this subsection, "distribution" does not include amounts  
22        constituting reasonable compensation for present or past services or reasonable  
23        payments made in the ordinary course of business under a bona fide retirement  
24        plan or other benefits program.

25        11. Subject to section 10-32.1-51, a series established under this section may be  
26        terminated and its affairs wound up without causing the dissolution of the limited  
27        liability company. The termination of the series does not affect the limitations on  
28        liabilities of the series as provided in subsection 3. A series is terminated and its affairs  
29        must be wound up upon the occurrence of any of the following:

30        a. The dissolution of the limited liability company under section 10-32.1-51;

31        b. The time or happening of events specified in the operating agreement;

- 1           c. The vote or consent of members of the series who own more than two-thirds of  
2           the interests in the profits of the series; or
- 3           d. On application by a member or manager of the series, the entry of a court order  
4           terminating the series on the grounds the series is not reasonably practicable to  
5           carry on the purposes of the series in conformity with the operating agreement.
- 6       12. A person winding up the affairs of a series may, in the name of the limited liability  
7       company and for and on behalf of the limited liability company and the series, take any  
8       action with respect to the series as authorized by section 10-32.1-51. The person shall  
9       provide for the claims and obligations of the series and distribute the assets of the  
10       series as provided in section 10-32.1-54. Any action taken in accordance with this  
11       subsection does not affect the liability of members and does not impose liability on a  
12       liquidating trustee appointed in accordance with this subsection. Notwithstanding  
13       section 10-32.1-51, the following persons may wind up the affairs of a series:
- 14       a. A manager of the series who has not wrongfully terminated the series;  
15       b. If the series has no manager who qualifies under subdivision a, the members of  
16       the series or a person approved by the members;
- 17       c. The members who own more than fifty percent of the interests in the profits of the  
18       series; or
- 19       d. On application of a member or manager of the series or a personal  
20       representative or assignee of the member or manager, and upon cause shown, a  
21       court or a liquidating trustee appointed by the court.
- 22       13. A foreign limited liability company doing business in this state and governed by an  
23       operating agreement that establishes or provides for the establishment of a  
24       designated series of members, managers, transferable interests, or assets shall state  
25       the following on its certificate of authority:
- 26       a. That the operating agreement of the foreign limited liability company establishes  
27       or provides for the establishment of series having separate rights, powers, or  
28       duties with respect to specified property or obligations of the foreign limited  
29       liability company or profits and losses associated with specified property or  
30       obligations;

1            b. If any debt, obligation, or other liability of any particular series, whether arising in  
2            contract, tort, or otherwise, is enforceable against the assets of the particular  
3            series only and not against the assets of the foreign limited liability company  
4            generally or any other series thereof; and

5            c. If any debt, obligation, or other liability of the foreign limited liability company  
6            generally or any other series thereof, whether arising in contract, tort, or  
7            otherwise, is enforceable against the assets of the particular series.

8            14. The secretary of state may adopt rules reasonable or necessary to address  
9            requirements related to the secretary of state for registration and continuing existence  
10           of the series limited liability companies established under this section.

11           **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 10-35-28 of the North Dakota  
12 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13           2. The annual report must be submitted on forms prescribed by the secretary of state.  
14           The information provided must be given as of the date of the execution of the report.  
15           The annual report must be signed as provided in subsection ~~5458~~ of section  
16           10-19.1-01, the articles or the bylaws, or by a resolution approved by the affirmative  
17           vote of the required proportion or number of the directors. If the publicly traded  
18           corporation is in the hands of a receiver or trustee, it must be signed on behalf of the  
19           publicly traded corporation by the receiver or trustee. The secretary of state may  
20           destroy all annual reports provided for in this section after they have been on file for  
21           six years.