By: Longoria

H.B. No. 4279

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to business entities and nonprofit entities. 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Sections 71.002(2) and (7), Business & Commerce 4 5 Code, are amended to read as follows: 6 (2) "Assumed name" means: 7 (A) for an individual, a name that does not include the surname of the individual; 8 9 (B) for a partnership, a name that does not include the surname or other legal name of each joint venturer or 10 11 general partner; 12 (C) for an individual or a partnership, a name, including a surname, that suggests the existence of additional 13 owners by including words such as "Company," "& Company," "& Son," 14 "& Sons," "& Associates," "Brothers," and similar words, but not 15 16 words that merely describe the business being conducted or the 17 professional service being rendered; 18 (D) for a limited partnership, a name other than the name stated in its certificate of formation; 19 20 for a company, a name used by the company; (E) 21 (F) for a corporation, a name other than the name stated in its certificate of formation or a comparable document; 22 23 (G) for a limited liability partnership, a name 24 other than the name stated in its application filed with the office

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1 of the secretary of state or a comparable document; 2 (H) for a limited liability company, a name other than the name stated in its certificate of formation or a comparable 3 document, including the name of any protected series of the limited 4 5 liability company established by its company agreement if the name of the protected series does not include the name of the limited 6 liability company stated in the limited liability company's 7 8 certificate of formation or a comparable document; and for a registered series of a domestic limited 9 (I) 10 liability company, a name other than the name stated in its certificate of registered series. 11 (7) "Office" means,[+ 12  $[(\Lambda)]$  for a person that is not an individual  $[\sigma r$ 13 14 that is a corporation that is not required to or does not maintain a 15 registered office in this state], the person's[+ 16 [(i)] principal office in this state or 17 outside of this state, as applicable [; and [(ii) principal place of business if not 18 19 the same as the person's principal office; and [(B) for a corporation, limited partnership, 20 21 limited liability partnership, limited liability company, foreign filing entity that is required to maintain a registered 22 office in this state, the entity's: 23 24 [(i) registered office; and 25 [(ii) principal office if not the same as 26 the entity's registered office]. SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 1, Business Organizations 27

1 Code, is amended by adding Section 1.055 to read as follows: 2 Sec. 1.055. DOCTRINE OF INDEPENDENT LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE. An action validly taken under a provision of this code may not be 3 considered invalid because the action is identical or similar in 4 substance to an action that could have been taken under another 5 provision of this code but fails to satisfy one or more requirements 6 prescribed by that other provision. 7 SECTION 3. Section 3.059(b), Business Organizations Code, 8 is amended to read as follows: 9 A restated certificate of formation may omit: 10 (b) (1) the name and address of each organizer other than 11 12 the name and address of each general partner of a limited partnership or trust manager of a real estate investment trust; 13 14 [and] 15 (2) the initial mailing address of the filing entity; 16 and 17 (3) any other information that may be omitted under the provisions of this code applicable to the filing entity. 18 SECTION 4. Section 3.203, Business Organizations Code, is 19 amended to read as follows: 20 21 Sec. 3.203. SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT. (a) <u>A certificate</u> representing an ownership interest in [The managerial official or 22 officials of] a domestic entity must contain the signature or 23 signatures of each managerial official of the entity that is 24 authorized by the governing documents of the entity to sign 25 26 certificated ownership interests of the entity [must sign any certificate representing an ownership interest in the entity]. 27

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(b) A certificated ownership interest that contains the [manual or facsimile] signature of a person who is no longer a 2 3 managerial official of a domestic entity when the certificate is issued may be issued by the entity in the same manner and with the 4 5 same effect as if the person had remained a managerial official.

6 SECTION 5. Section 3.251(3), Business Organizations Code, 7 is amended to read as follows:

8 (3) "Emergency period" means any period during which the governing authority of a domestic entity, due to a condition 9 10 that is a part of or results from an emergency, is unable to satisfy one or more requirements of the entity's governing documents or 11 12 this code necessary for action by vote at a meeting of the governing authority outside of an emergency period. 13

14 SECTION 6. Section 4.005, Business Organizations Code, is 15 amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

16 (f) Subject to any qualification stated in the certificate, 17 a certificate issued by the secretary of state stating that a domestic registered series is in existence may be relied on as 18 19 conclusive evidence of the existence of the domestic registered 20 series.

21 SECTION 7. Section 5.051, Business Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows: 22

Sec. 5.051. ASSUMED NAME. A domestic entity, a protected 23 24 series or registered series of a domestic limited liability company, or a foreign entity having authority to transact business 25 26 in this state may transact business under an assumed name on compliance [by filing an assumed name certificate in accordance] 27

with Chapter 71, Business & Commerce Code. The requirements of this
 subchapter do not apply to an assumed name set forth in an assumed
 name certificate filed under that chapter.

4 SECTION 8. Section 6.201(b-3), Business Organizations 5 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-3) By a provision in the written consent or by a written 6 7 instruction to an agent of the filing entity, a person signing a 8 written consent may provide that the person's consent is to take effect at a future time, which must be not later than the 60th day 9 after the date all persons entitled to vote on the action have 10 signed the [person's] consent or consents. The [A] person's written 11 consent is considered to have been given at the later of that future 12 effective time or a later effective time determined under 13 14 Subsection (b-1) or (b-2), so long as the person:

(1) is entitled to vote on the action subject to the consent, which is determined as of the applicable effective time or, if applicable, the record date established under Section 6.102; and

19 (2) did not revoke the consent before the applicable20 effective time.

21 SECTION 9. Sections 6.202(b) and (c-3), Business 22 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by this code, the certificate of formation of a filing entity may authorize the owners or members of the entity to take action without holding a meeting, providing <u>prior</u> notice, or taking a vote if owners or members of the entity having at least the minimum number of votes that would be necessary

1 to take the action that is the subject of the consent at a meeting,
2 in which each owner or member entitled to vote on the action is
3 present and votes, sign a written consent or consents stating the
4 action taken.

5 (c-3) If two or more of the written consents described by 6 Subsection (c-2) have different future effective times, the latest 7 future effective time of those consents applies to all of the 8 consents. The written consent or consents are considered to have 9 been given for purposes of this section at the applicable effective 10 time so long as owners or members satisfying the minimum 11 requirements in Subsection (b):

12 (1) are determined to be owners or members, as 13 applicable, as of:

14

(A) that effective time; or

(B) if applicable, the record date establishedunder Section 6.102; and

17 (2) have signed and not revoked <u>the</u> [the owner's or
18 member's] consent or consents at any time before the applicable
19 effective time of the consent <u>or consents</u>.

20 SECTION 10. Section 10.151(a), Business Organizations 21 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) <u>A</u> [After approval of a plan of merger or a plan of exchange as provided by this code, a] certificate of merger, which may also include an exchange, or a certificate of exchange, as applicable, must be filed for a merger or interest exchange to become effective if:

27 (1) for a merger:

H.B. No. 4279 1 (A) any domestic entity that is a party to the merger is a filing entity; or 2 any domestic entity to be created under the 3 (B) plan of merger is a filing entity; or 4 5 (2) for an exchange, an ownership or membership interest in any filing entity is to be acquired in the interest 6 7 exchange. 8 SECTION 11. Section 10.154(a), Business Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows: 9  $\underline{A}$  [After approval of a plan of conversion as provided by 10 (a) this code, a] certificate of conversion must be filed for the 11 conversion to become effective if: 12 (1) any domestic entity that is a party to the 13 14 conversion is a filing entity; or 15 (2) any domestic entity to be created under the plan of 16 conversion is a filing entity. 17 SECTION 12. Section 10.355(c), Business Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows: 18 (c) A notice required to be provided under Subsection (a), 19 (b), or (b-1) must: 20 21 (1) be accompanied by: (A) a copy of this subchapter; or 2.2 23 (B) information directing the owner to a publicly available electronic resource at which this subchapter may be 24 accessed without subscription or cost; and 25 26 (2) advise the owner of the location of the responsible organization's principal executive offices to which a 27

1 notice required under Section 10.356(b)(1) or a demand under 2 Section 10.356(b)(3), or both, may be provided.

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3 SECTION 13. Section 10.364(d), Business Organizations
4 Code, is amended to read as follows:

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(d) The responsible organization shall[+

6 [(1) immediately] pay the amount of the judgment to
7 <u>the</u> [a] holder of <u>the</u> [an uncertificated] ownership interest <u>on the</u>
8 <u>terms and conditions ordered by the court</u>[; and

9 [(2) pay the amount of the judgment to a holder of a 10 certificated ownership interest immediately after the certificate 11 holder surrenders to the responsible organization an endorsed 12 certificate representing the ownership interest].

SECTION 14. Section 11.056, Business Organizations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) The termination of the continued membership of the last
remaining member of a domestic limited liability company is an
event requiring winding up under Section 11.051(4) unless, not
later than <u>one year</u> [the 90th day] after the date of the termination
<u>or within the period of time provided by the company agreement:</u>

21 (1)  $[-\tau]$  the legal representative or successor of the 22 last remaining member agrees:

23 (A) [(1)] to continue the company; and

24 <u>(B)</u> [<del>(2)</del>] to become a member of the company 25 effective as of the date of the termination or to designate another 26 person who agrees to become a member of the company effective as of 27 the date of the termination<u>; or</u>

1 (2) a member is admitted to the company in the manner 2 provided by the company agreement, effective as of the occurrence 3 of the termination, under a provision of the company agreement that 4 specifically provides for the admission of a member to the company 5 after there is no longer a remaining member of the company.

6 (c) The company agreement may provide that the legal 7 representative or successor of the last remaining member is 8 obligated to agree to continue the company and to the admission of 9 the legal representative or successor, or the representative's or 10 successor's nominee or designee, as a member effective as of the 11 occurrence of the event that terminates the continued membership of 12 the last remaining member.

13 SECTION 15. Sections 11.202(a) and (c), Business 14 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To the extent applicable, a terminated entity, to be
reinstated, must complete the requirements of this section [not
<del>later than the third anniversary of the date the termination of the</del>
<del>terminated entity's existence took effect</del>].

(c) After approval of the reinstatement of a filing entity that was terminated, [and not later than the third anniversary of the date of the filing of the entity's certificate of termination,] the filing entity shall file a certificate of reinstatement in accordance with Chapter 4.

24 SECTION 16. Section 11.253, Business Organizations Code, is 25 amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The reinstatement of a terminated limited liability
 27 company automatically reinstates any protected series or

1 registered series that terminated because of the termination of the 2 company.

3 SECTION 17. Section 11.254, Business Organizations Code, is
4 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

5 <u>(c) The reinstatement of a limited liability company's</u> 6 <u>certificate of formation after its forfeiture automatically</u> 7 <u>reinstates any protected series or registered series that</u> 8 <u>terminated because of the forfeiture.</u>

9 SECTION 18. Subchapter F, Chapter 11, Business 10 Organizations Code, is amended by adding Section 11.255 to read as 11 follows:

12 Sec. 11.255. REINSTATEMENT OF CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION FOLLOWING FAILURE TO FILE PERIODIC REPORT; REINSTATEMENT 13 14 RETROACTIVE. (a) A nonprofit corporation whose certificate of 15 formation has been terminated under Section 22.360 must follow the procedure required by Section 22.363 to reinstate the nonprofit 16 17 corporation's certificate of formation. A nonprofit corporation whose certificate of formation is reinstated under Section 22.363 18 19 is considered to have continued in existence without interruption from the date of termination. 20

(b) A limited partnership whose certificate of formation has been terminated under Section 153.307 must follow the procedure required by Section 153.310 to reinstate the limited partnership's certificate of formation. A limited partnership whose certificate of formation is reinstated under Section 153.310 is considered to have continued in existence without interruption from the date of termination.

SECTION 19. Sections 11.356(a) and (b), Business
 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

3 (a) Notwithstanding the termination of a domestic filing 4 entity under this <u>code or the Tax Code</u> [<del>chapter</del>], the terminated 5 filing entity continues in existence until the third anniversary of 6 the effective date of the entity's termination only for purposes 7 of:

8 (1) prosecuting or defending in the terminated filing 9 entity's name an action or proceeding brought by or against the 10 terminated entity;

11 (2) permitting the survival of an existing claim by or 12 against the terminated filing entity;

13 (3) holding title to and liquidating property that 14 remained with the terminated filing entity at the time of 15 termination or property that is collected by the terminated filing 16 entity after termination;

17 (4) applying or distributing property, or its18 proceeds, as provided by Section 11.053; and

19 (5) settling affairs not completed before 20 termination.

(b) A terminated filing entity may not continue its existence for the purpose of continuing the business or affairs for which the terminated filing entity was formed unless the terminated filing entity is reinstated under <u>this code or the Tax Code</u> [<u>Subchapter E</u>].

26 SECTION 20. Section 11.359(c), Business Organizations 27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

H.B. No. 4279 (b), 1 (c) Notwithstanding Subsections (a) and the extinguishment of an existing claim with respect to a terminated 2 3 filing entity as provided by this section is nullified if: 4 (1) the filing entity's termination is revoked with 5 retroactive effect under Section 11.153; 6 (2) the terminated filing entity is reinstated with 7 retroactive effect as provided by Section 11.206; 8 (3) the terminated filing entity is reinstated with 9 retroactive effect as provided by Section 11.253(d); [or] the terminated filing entity's certificate of 10 (4) formation is reinstated under the Tax Code with retroactive effect 11 12 as provided by Section 11.254; (5) the terminated filing entity's certificate of 13 14 formation is reinstated under Chapter 22 with retroactive effect as 15 provided by Section 11.255(a); or 16 (6) the terminated filing entity's certificate of 17 formation is reinstated under Chapter 153 with retroactive effect as provided by Section 11.255(b). 18 20.002(c), Business 19 SECTION 21. Section Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows: 20 The fact that an act or transfer is beyond the scope of 21 (c) the expressed purpose or purposes of the corporation or 22 is 23 inconsistent with an expressed limitation on the authority of an 24 officer or director may be asserted in a proceeding: 25 (1) by a shareholder or member against the corporation 26 to enjoin the performance of an act or the transfer of property by 27 or to the corporation;

(2) by the corporation, acting directly or through a 1 receiver, trustee, or other legal representative, or through 2 3 members or shareholders in a representative suit, against an officer or director or former officer or director of 4 the 5 corporation for exceeding that person's authority; or by the attorney general to: 6 (3) 7 terminate the corporation; (A)

8 (B) enjoin the corporation from performing an9 unauthorized act; or

10 (C) enforce divestment of real property acquired11 or held contrary to the laws of this state.

SECTION 22. Section 21.157, Business Organizations Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 21.158, a corporation may
issue shares for consideration if authorized by the board of
directors of the corporation. <u>Shares may be issued in one or more</u>
<u>transactions in the number, at the time, and for the consideration</u>
<u>stated in or determined by the authorization of the board of</u>
directors.

(d) <u>An authorization of the board of directors may delegate</u> to a person or persons, including a committee, the authority, in addition to the authority retained by the board, to enter into one or more transactions to issue shares. With respect to a transaction entered into by a person to whom authority was delegated under this subsection, shares may be issued in the number, at the time, and for the consideration the person or persons may determine [The

authorization by the board of directors for the issuance of shares 1 may provide that any shares to be issued under the authorization may 2 be issued: 3 4 [(1) in one or more transactions in the numbers and at 5 the times as stated in or determined by the authorization; or [(2) in the manner stated in the authorization, which 6 7 may include a determination or action by any person or persons, including the corporation,] if the authorization: 8 9 (1) states: the maximum number of shares that may be 10 (A) issued under the authorization; 11 the period of time during which the shares 12 (B) may be issued; and 13 the minimum amount of consideration for which 14 (C) 15 the shares may be issued; and 16 (2) otherwise permits the person to whom authority was 17 delegated to issue shares to the purchaser. (e) A provision of an authorization provided under 18 Subsection (a) or (d) may depend on a fact ascertainable outside of 19 the authorization, if the manner in which the fact operates on the 20 authorization is clearly and expressly included in the 21 authorization. In this subsection, "fact" includes the occurrence 22 of any event, including a determination or action by any person or 23 24 persons. (f) If the authorization of the board of directors delegates 25 to a person or persons the authority to enter into a transaction to 26 issue shares under Subsection (d), the provisions of the 27

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1 <u>authorization under Subsection (d)(1) may not depend on a</u> 2 <u>determination or action by the person to whom authority was</u> 3 <u>delegated.</u>

4 (g) In this section and notwithstanding Section 1.002,
5 "person" includes a committee of the board of trustees.

6 SECTION 23. Section 21.160(a), Business Organizations 7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) Subject to Subsection (b) <u>and Section 21.157</u>,
9 consideration to be received for shares must be determined:

10 (1) by the board of directors;

(2) by a plan of conversion, if the shares are to beissued by a converted corporation under the plan; or

13 (3) by a plan of merger, if the shares are to be issued14 under the plan by a corporation created under the plan.

15 SECTION 24. Section 21.168, Business Organizations Code, is 16 amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsections 17 (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(c) Subject to the certificate of formation, a right or 18 option described by this section must state the terms and 19 conditions on which, the time within which, and any consideration, 20 including a formula by which the consideration may be determined, 21 for which the shares may be purchased or received from the 22 23 corporation on the exercise of the right or option. [A formula by 24 which the consideration may be determined may include or be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the formula, if the manner 25 26 in which those facts operate on the formula is clearly or expressly set forth in the formula or in the authorization approving the 27

1 formula.]

Subject to the certificate of formation, convertible 2 (d) 3 indebtedness described by this section must state the terms and conditions on which, the time within which, and the conversion 4 5 ratio, which may be stated as a formula by which the conversion ratio may be determined, at which the indebtedness may be converted 6 7 into shares. The formula may include or be made dependent on facts ascertainable outside the formula, if the manner in which those 8 facts operate on the formula is clearly or expressly provided by the 9 10 formula or in the authorization approving the formula.

11 (e) An authorization of the board of directors may delegate 12 the authority, in addition to that retained by the board, to enter 13 into one or more transactions to issue rights or options. For a 14 transaction entered into by a person to whom authority was 15 delegated under this section, the rights or options may be issued in 16 the number, at the time, and for the consideration as the person or 17 persons may determine if that authorization of the board of 10 directore

18 <u>directors</u>:

19 <u>(1)</u> states:

20 (A) the maximum number of rights or options, and 21 the maximum number of shares issuable on exercise of those rights or 22 options, that may be issued under the authorization; 23 (B) the period of time during which the rights or

24 <u>options, and the shares issuable on exercise of those rights or</u> 25 <u>options, may be issued; and</u>

26	(C)	the m	lini	mum a	moun	nt of c	onsi	deratio	n:	
27		(i)	if	any,	for	which	the	rights	or	options

1 may be issued; and

2 (ii) for the shares issuable on exercise of 3 the rights or options; and 4 (2) otherwise permits the person to whom authority was

5 <u>delegated to issue shares to the purchaser.</u>

6 <u>(f) A provision of a right or option or an authorization of a</u> 7 right or option under this section may depend on a fact 8 ascertainable outside of the right, option, or authorization, if 9 the manner in which the fact operates on the authorization is 10 clearly and expressly set forth in the authorization. In this 11 subsection, "fact" includes the occurrence of any event, including 12 a determination or action by any person.

13 (g) If the authorization of the board of directors delegates 14 to a person or persons the authority to enter into a transaction to 15 issue rights or options under Subsection (e), the provisions of the 16 authorization under Subsection (e)(1) may not depend on a 17 determination or action by the person to whom authority was 18 delegated.

(h) In this section and notwithstanding Section 1.002,
 20 "person" includes a committee of the board of trustees.

21 SECTION 25. Section 21.169(c), Business Organizations
22 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) <u>Except as provided by Section 21.168, unless</u> [Unless]
otherwise provided under the terms of rights or options or the agreement or plan under which the rights or options are issued, the authority to grant, amend, redeem, extend, or replace the rights or options on behalf of a corporation is vested exclusively in the

1 board of directors of the corporation. A bylaw may not require the 2 board to grant, amend, redeem, extend, or replace the rights or 3 options.

4 SECTION 26. Section 21.218, Business Organizations Code, is 5 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection 6 (b-1) to read as follows:

On written demand stating a proper purpose, a holder of 7 (b) 8 shares of a corporation for at least six months immediately preceding the holder's demand, or a holder of at least five percent 9 10 of all of the outstanding shares of a corporation, is entitled to examine and copy, at a reasonable time at the corporation's 11 principal place of business or other location approved by the 12 corporation and the holder, the corporation's books, records of 13 account, minutes, [and] share transfer records, and other records, 14 whether in written or other tangible form, if the record is 15 reasonably related to and appropriate to examine and copy for that 16 17 proper [relating to the stated] purpose.

18 <u>(b-1)</u> The examination <u>and copying</u> may be conducted <u>by the</u> 19 <u>holder of shares</u> [<u>in person</u>] or through an agent, accountant, or 20 attorney. <u>An agent, accountant, or attorney who conducts an</u> 21 <u>examination and copying under this section is subject to any</u> 22 <u>obligations of the shareholder with respect to the records made</u> 23 <u>available for examination and copying.</u>

(c) This section does not impair the power of a court, on the presentation of proof of proper purpose by a beneficial or record holder of shares, to compel the production for examination by the holder, at the holder's cost, of the books and records of account

1 [accounts], minutes, [and] share transfer records, and other
2 records, whether in written or other tangible form, of a
3 corporation, regardless of the period during which the holder was a
4 beneficial holder or record holder and regardless of the number of
5 shares held by the person.

6 SECTION 27. Section 21.220, Business Organizations Code, is 7 amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.220. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PREPARE VOTING LIST. An 8 officer or agent of a corporation who is in charge of 9 the corporation's share transfer records and who does not prepare the 10 list of shareholders, keep the list on file for a 10-day period 11 12 before the annual meeting, or [produce and] keep the list available for inspection [at the annual meeting] as required by Sections 13 14 21.354 and 21.372 is liable to a shareholder who suffers damages 15 because of the failure for the damage caused by the failure.

SECTION 28. Section 21.354(a), Business Organizations
Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting
prepared under Section 21.372 shall be[+

20 [(1)] subject to inspection by a shareholder during 21 regular business hours[<del>, and</del>

22

# [<del>(2) produced and kept open at the meeting</del>].

23 SECTION 29. Section 21.372(a-1), Business Organizations
24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) Instead of being kept on file, the list required by
Subsection (a) may be kept on a reasonably accessible electronic
data system if the information required to gain access to the list

1 is provided with notice of the meeting. Section 21.353(c)[2 Section 21.354(a=1)3 require a corporation to include any electronic contact information
4 of a shareholder on the list. A corporation that elects to make the
5 list available on an electronic data system must take reasonable
6 measures to ensure the information is available only to
7 shareholders of the corporation.

8 SECTION 30. Section 22.220, Business Organizations Code, is 9 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to 10 read as follows:

(a) The certificate of formation or bylaws of a corporation 11 12 may provide that an action required by this chapter to be taken at a 13 meeting of the corporation's directors or an action that may be 14 taken at a meeting of the directors or a committee may be taken 15 without holding a meeting, providing prior notice, or taking a vote if a written consent, stating the action to be taken, is signed by 16 17 the number of directors or committee members necessary to take that action at a meeting at which all of the directors or committee 18 19 members are present and voting. The consent must state the date of each director's or committee member's signature. 20

21 (c) Notwithstanding a provision of this code, advance
22 notice is not required to be given to take an action by written
23 consent as provided by this section.

24 SECTION 31. Section 22.230(e), Business Organizations 25 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) If at least one of the conditions of Subsection (b) issatisfied, neither the corporation nor any of the corporation's

<u>members</u> [shareholders] will have a cause of action against any of the persons described by Subsection (a) for breach of duty with respect to the making, authorization, or performance of the contract or transaction because the person had the relationship or interest described by Subsection (a) or took any of the actions authorized by Subsection (d).

7 SECTION 32. Section 101.001(1), Business Organizations 8 Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 (1) "Company agreement" means any agreement, written, 10 implied, or oral, of the members concerning the affairs or the conduct of the business of a limited liability company. A company 11 12 agreement of a limited liability company having only one member is not unenforceable because only one person is a party to the company 13 14 agreement. A written company agreement may consist of one or more 15 agreements, instruments, or other writings and may include or incorporate one or more schedules, supplements, or other writings 16 17 providing for the conduct of the business and affairs of the limited liability company or of a series of the limited liability company. 18

SECTION 33. Section 101.051, Business Organizations Code, amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.051. CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION. (a) A provision that may be <u>included</u> [contained] in the company agreement of a limited liability company may [alternatively] be included in the certificate of formation of the company as provided by Section 3.005(b).

(b) A reference in this title to the company agreement of a27 limited liability company includes any provision contained in the

1 company's certificate of formation to the extent that the provision 2 reflects the agreement of each member concerning the affairs or the 3 conduct of the business of the limited liability company [instead 4 of the company agreement as provided by Subsection (a)].

5 SECTION 34. Section 101.052, Business Organizations Code, 6 is amended by amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (g) to 7 read as follows:

8 (f) A company agreement is enforceable by or against the 9 limited liability company, <u>including a protected series or</u> 10 <u>registered series of the company</u>, regardless of whether the 11 company, or the protected series or registered series of the 12 company, has signed or otherwise expressly adopted the agreement.

13 (g) A member or manager of a limited liability company, or 14 an assignee of a membership interest of a limited liability 15 company, is bound by the company agreement, regardless of whether 16 the member, manager, or assignee signs the company agreement.

SECTION 35. Sections 101.054(a) and (e), Business
Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by this section, the following provisions may not be waived or modified in the company agreement of a limited liability company:

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(1) this section;

(2) Section 101.101, 101.151, 101.206, 101.501, or
Subchapter M of Chapter 101, except that Sections 101.601(d),
101.610, 101.611, 101.613(a), 101.616(2)(A) through (D), 101.618,
or 101.619(b) may be waived or modified in the company agreement;
(3) Chapter 1, if the provision is used to interpret a

H.B. No. 4279 1 provision or define a word or phrase contained in a section listed in this subsection; 2 3 (4) Chapter 2, except that Section 2.104(c)(2), 2.104(c)(3), or 2.113 may be waived or modified in the company 4 5 agreement; 6 (5) Chapter 3, except that Subchapters C and E may be 7 waived or modified in the company agreement; or 8 (6) Chapter 4, 5, 10, 11, or 12[, other than Section 11.056]. 9 10 (e) The company agreement may not unreasonably restrict a member's or assignee's rights [person's right of access to records 11 and information] under Section 101.502. 12 SECTION 36. Subchapter B, Chapter 13 101, Business 14 Organizations Code, is amended by adding Section 101.056 to read as 15 follows: 16 Sec. 101.056. RATIFICATION OF VOID OR VOIDABLE ACTS OR 17 TRANSACTIONS. (a) Any act or transaction taken by or on behalf of a limited liability company under this code or a company agreement 18 19 that is void or voidable when taken may be ratified, and the failure to comply with any requirements of the company agreement which 20 caused the act or transaction to be void or voidable may be waived, 21 22 in accordance with this section. (b) An act or transaction may be ratified or waived, as 23 24 applicable, with the approval of the members, managers, or other persons whose approval would be required under the company 25 26 agreement at the time of the ratification or waiver:

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(1) for the void or voidable act or transaction to be

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validly taken; or
(2) to amend the company agreement in a manner that
would permit the void or voidable act or transaction to be validly
taken.
(c) If the void or voidable act or transaction was the
issuance or assignment of any membership interests, the membership
interests purportedly issued or assigned are deemed to have not
been issued or assigned for purposes of determining whether the
void or voidable act or transaction is ratified or waived under this
section.
(d) Any act or transaction ratified or waived under this
section is deemed validly taken at the time the act or transaction
occurred.
(e) This section may not be construed to limit the
accomplishment of a ratification or waiver of a void or voidable act
or transaction by other lawful means.
SECTION 37. Section 101.206(e), Business Organizations
Code, is amended to read as follows:
(e) This section may not be construed to affect the
obligation of a member of a limited liability company to return a
distribution to the company under the company agreement, another
agreement, or other state or federal law.
SECTION 38. Section 101.252, Business Organizations Code,
is amended to read as follows:
Sec. 101.252. MANAGEMENT BY GOVERNING AUTHORITY. The
governing authority of a limited liability company shall <u>direct the</u>
management of [manage] the business and affairs of the company and

1 exercise or authorize the exercise of the powers of the company as
2 provided by:

3

(1) the company agreement; and

4 (2) this title and the provisions of Title 1 5 applicable to a limited liability company to the extent that the 6 company agreement does not provide for the management of the 7 company.

8 SECTION 39. Section 101.358(b), Business Organizations 9 Code, is amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding Sections 6.201 and 6.202, an action may 10 (b) be taken without holding a meeting, providing prior or subsequent 11 notice, or taking a vote if a written consent or consents stating 12 the action to be taken is signed by the number of governing persons, 13 members, or committee members of a limited liability company, as 14 15 appropriate, necessary to have at least the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to take the action at a meeting at which 16 17 each governing person, member, or committee member, as appropriate, entitled to vote on the action is present and votes. 18

SECTION 40. Section 101.457, Business Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.457. TOLLING OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. A written demand filed with the limited liability company under Section 101.453 tolls the statute of limitations on the claim on which demand is made until the later of:

(1) the 31st day after the expiration of any waiting
period under Section <u>101.453</u> [<del>101.453(a)</del>]; or

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(2) the 31st day after the expiration of any stay

1 granted under Section 101.455, including all continuations of the 2 stay.

3 SECTION 41. Section 101.502, Business Organizations Code, 4 is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.502. RIGHT TO EXAMINE RECORDS [AND CERTAIN OTHER 5 6 INFORMATION]. (a) A member of a limited liability company or an 7 assignee of a membership interest in a limited liability company, 8 [or a representative of the member or assignee,] on written demand stating [request and for] a proper purpose, is entitled to [may] 9 10 examine and copy at <u>a</u> [any] reasonable time <u>at the limited liability</u> company's principal office identified under Section 101.501(c) or 11 12 another location approved by the limited liability company and the member or assignee, any records of the limited liability company, 13 whether in written or other tangible form, which are reasonably 14 15 related to and appropriate to examine and copy for that proper purpose [and at the member's or assignee's expense: 16

17 [(1) records required under Sections 3.151 and 18 101.501; and

19 [(2) other information regarding the business, 20 affairs, and financial condition of the company that is reasonable 21 for the person to examine and copy].

(b) <u>The examination and copying under Subsection (a) may be</u> <u>conducted</u> [A limited liability company shall provide to a member of the company or an assignce of a membership interest in the company, on written request] by the member or assignce <u>or through an agent</u>, accountant, or attorney. An agent, accountant, or attorney who <u>conducts an examination and copying under this section is subject</u>

to any obligations of the member or assignee with respect to the 1 records made available for examination and copying. [sent to the 2 company's principal office in the United States or, if different, 3 the person and address designated in the company agreement, a free 4 5 copy of:] 6 (c) On written request of a member or an assignee of a membership interest, the limited liability company shall provide to 7 8 the requesting member or assignee without charge copies of: 9 (1)the company's certificate of formation, including any amendments to or restatements of the certificate of formation; 10 (2) if in writing, the company agreement, including 11 12 any amendments to or restatements of the company agreement; and (3) any described 13 tax returns by Section 14 101.501(a)(2). 15 (d) A demand or request made by a member or assignee under Subsection (a) or (c) must be made to: 16 17 (1) the person who is designated to receive the demand or request in the company agreement at the address designated in the 18 19 company agreement; or (2) if there is no designation, a manager or managing 20 21 member at the limited liability company's principal office in the 22 United States. SECTION 42. Section 101.601(c), Business Organizations 23 24 Code, is amended to read as follows: 25 (c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to limit the application of the principle of freedom of [to] contract to a 26 series that is not a protected series or a registered series. 27

Except as otherwise provided by Sections 101.627 through 101.636, a
 series may not merge or convert.

3 SECTION 43. Section 101.623(b), Business Organizations
4 Code, is amended to read as follows:

5

(b) A certificate of registered series must state:

6

the name of the limited liability company;

7 (2) the name of the registered series being formed,
8 which must conform with the requirements of Section <u>5.0561</u>
9 [<u>5.056(c)</u>]; and

10 (3) if the registered series is formed under a plan of11 conversion or merger, a statement to that effect.

SECTION 44. Section 101.624(d), Business Organizations
Code, is amended to read as follows:

A manager associated with a registered series or, if 14 (d) 15 there is no manager, any member associated with the registered series who becomes aware that any statement in a certificate of 16 17 registered series filed with respect to the registered series was false when made, or that any provision in the certificate of 18 registered series has changed making the certificate of registered 19 series false in any material respect, or that the name of the 20 registered series does not comply with Section 101.626, shall 21 promptly amend the certificate of registered series. 22

23 SECTION 45. Section 101.625(b), Business Organizations 24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The certificate of termination must contain:
(1) the name of the limited liability company;
(2) the name of the registered series;

(3) the registered series' filing number assigned by
 the secretary of state;

3 (4) the nature of the event requiring winding up <u>of</u> the
4 registered series;

5 (5) a statement that the registered series has 6 complied with the provisions of this code governing the series' 7 winding up; and

8 (6) any other information the person filing the 9 certificate of termination determines.

10 SECTION 46. Section 101.627(a), Business Organizations
11 Code, is amended to read as follows:

12 (a) Upon compliance with Section 101.628, a registered 13 series of a domestic limited liability company may convert to a 14 protected series of the domestic limited liability company by 15 filing a certificate of conversion that complies with Section 16 101.631 with the secretary of state in accordance with  $[\tau]$  and 17 taking effect as a filing instrument as specified  $[\tau]$  by Chapter 4.

SECTION 47. Section 101.628(g), Business Organizations
Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g) Any of the terms of the plan of conversion may be made dependent on a fact ascertainable outside of the plan if the manner in which <u>the fact</u> [those facts] will operate on the terms of the conversion is clearly and expressly stated in the plan. In this subsection, <u>"fact"</u> ["facts"] includes the occurrence of any event, including a determination or action by any person.

26 SECTION 48. Section 101.631(a), Business Organizations 27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) <u>A</u> [After adoption of a plan of conversion as provided by
 Section 101.628, a] certificate of conversion must be signed by the
 converting series and must include a statement certifying the
 following:

5 (1) the name of the limited liability company and, if 6 it has been changed, the name under which the company's certificate 7 of formation was originally filed;

8 (2) the filing number of the limited liability company9 assigned by the secretary of state;

10 (3) the name of the converting series and, if it is a 11 registered series and its name has been changed, the name under 12 which its certificate of registered series was originally filed;

13 (4) if the converting series is a registered series, 14 the filing number of the registered series assigned by the 15 secretary of state;

16 (5) that a plan of conversion is on file at the 17 principal place of business of the converting series, and the 18 address of the principal place of business;

(6) that a plan of conversion will be on file after the
conversion at the principal place of business of the converted
series, and the address of the principal place of business;

(7) that a copy of the plan of conversion will be on written request furnished without cost by the converting series before the conversion or by the converted series after the conversion to any owner or member of the converting series or the converted series; and

27 (8) that the plan of conversion has been adopted as

H.B. No. 4279 1 required by the company agreement of the limited liability company and Section 101.628. 2 SECTION 49. Section 101.633(a)(1), Business Organizations 3 Code, is amended to read as follows: 4 5 (1)"Merger" means: the division of a merging series into: 6 (A) 7 (i) two or more new protected series or 8 [and] registered series; or 9 (ii) a surviving merging series and one or 10 more new protected series or registered series; or the combination of one or more merging series 11 (B) with one or more merging series resulting in: 12 (i) one or more surviving merging series; 13 14 (ii) the creation of one or more new 15 protected series or registered series; or 16 (iii) one or more surviving merging series 17 and the creation of one or more new protected series or registered series. 18 SECTION 50. Sections 101.633(b) (e), 19 and Business Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows: 20 21 (b) One or more merging series of the same limited liability company may effect [affect] a merger as provided by a plan of merger 22 23 that is approved in accordance with this section and that complies 24 with Sections 101.634 through 101.636. The plan of merger shall provide for one or more surviving or new protected series or 25 26 registered series of the same limited liability company. An item required by Subsection [Subsections] (d)(6), 27 (e)

1 (7), or [and] (8) may be included in the plan of merger by an
2 attachment or exhibit to the plan.

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3 SECTION 51. Sections 101.634(a), (d), and (e), Business
4 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) <u>If</u> [After approval of a plan of merger as provided by 6 <u>Section 101.633, if</u>] a registered series is a party to the merger or 7 if a new registered series is to be created by the merger, a 8 certificate of merger must be signed by each merging series that is 9 a party to the merger and must include a statement certifying the 10 following:

(1) the name of each merging series that is a party to the merger and the name of the limited liability company that formed that merging series;

14 (2) that a plan of merger has been approved and15 executed by or on behalf of each merging series that is to merge;

16 (3) the name of each merging series that survives the 17 merger and each new registered series or protected series that is 18 created by the merger;

any amendment to the certificate of registered 19 (4)series of any registered series that is a surviving merging series, 20 21 including a change in the name of the surviving registered series, to be effected by the merger or a statement that amendments are 22 being made to the certificate of registered series of 23 any 24 registered series that is a surviving merging series under a 25 certificate of amendment attached to the certificate of merger under Subsection (d); 26

27

(5) the certificate of registered series for each new

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1 registered series that is to be created by the merger is being filed
2 with the certificate of merger;

3 (6) that the plan of merger is on file at a place of 4 business of each surviving or new registered series or the limited 5 liability company that formed the registered series, and the 6 address of that place of business;

(7) that a copy of the plan of merger will be on 7 8 written request furnished without cost by each surviving merging series or new registered series or protected series to any member of 9 10 any merging series that is a party to the merger or any registered series or protected series created by the plan of merger and, for a 11 12 merger with multiple surviving or new series, to any creditor or obligee of the parties to the merger at the time of the merger if a 13 14 liability or obligation is then outstanding;

(8) if approval of the members of any merging series that was a party to the plan of merger is not required by this code or the company agreement, a statement to that effect; and

18 (9) a statement that the plan of merger has been19 approved as required by this code and by the company agreement.

The certificate of merger must be filed with the 20 (d) secretary of state in accordance with  $[\tau]$  and take effect as a filing 21 instrument as specified by Chapter 4. If a new registered series is 22 to be created by the merger, a certificate of registered series for 23 24 the new registered series that complies with Section 101.623 must simultaneously filed with the certificate of merger 25 be in 26 accordance with Chapter 4 as a filing instrument and must take effect simultaneously with the effectiveness of the certificate of 27

1 merger.

2 (e) Whenever this section requires the filing of a 3 certificate of merger, that requirement <u>may be</u> [<del>is</del>] satisfied by 4 the filing of the plan of merger containing the information 5 required to be included in the certificate of merger as provided by 6 this section.

7 SECTION 52. Section 101.636, Business Organizations Code,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 101.636. PROHIBITION ON MERGER PERMITTED. A company 10 agreement may provide that a protected series or registered series 11 [company] does not have the power to merge under Section 101.633.

SECTION 53. Section 151.001(5), Business Organizations
Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Partnership agreement" means any agreement, 14 (5) 15 written or oral, of the partners concerning a partnership and the partnership's affairs or business, and includes amendments to the 16 17 partnership agreement. A partnership is not required to sign its partnership agreement. A partnership is bound by its partnership 18 19 agreement whether or not the partnership signs the partnership agreement. A partnership agreement may provide rights to any 20 person, including a person who is not a party to the partnership 21 agreement, to the extent contained in the partnership agreement. A 22 partner of a partnership or a transferee or assignee of a 23 24 partnership interest is bound by the partnership agreement whether or not the partner, transferee, or assignee signs the partnership 25 26 agreement. A written partnership agreement may consist of one or more agreements, instruments, or other writings and may include or 27

1 <u>incorporate one or more schedules, supplements, or other writings</u>
2 <u>providing for the conduct of the business and affairs of the</u>
3 <u>partnership</u>.

4 SECTION 54. Section 152.002(b), Business Organizations 5 Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 (b) A partnership agreement or the partners may not:

7 (1) unreasonably restrict a partner's or former
8 partner's right of access to books and records under Section
9 152.212;

10 (2) eliminate the duty of loyalty under Section 11 152.205, except that the partners by agreement may identify 12 specific types of activities or categories of activities that do 13 not violate the duty of loyalty if the types or categories are not 14 manifestly unreasonable;

(3) eliminate the duty of care under Section 152.206,
except that the partners by agreement may determine the standards
by which the performance of the obligation is to be measured if the
standards are not manifestly unreasonable;

(4) eliminate the obligation of good faith under Section 152.204(b), except that the partners by agreement may determine the standards by which the performance of the obligation is to be measured if the standards are not manifestly unreasonable;

(5) vary the power to withdraw as a partner under Section 152.501(b)(1), (7), or (8), except for the requirement that notice be in writing;

26 (6) vary the right to expel a partner by a court in an
27 event specified by Section 152.501(b)(5);

H.B. No. 4279 (7) restrict rights of a third party under this 1 chapter or the other partnership provisions, except for a 2 3 limitation on an individual partner's liability in a limited liability partnership as provided by this chapter; 4 5 (8) select a governing law not permitted under 6 Sections 1.103 and 1.002(43)(C); or except as provided in Subsections (c) and (d), 7 (9) 8 waive or modify the following provisions of Title 1: Chapter 1, if the provision is used to 9 (A) 10 interpret a provision or to define a word or phrase contained in a section listed in this subsection; 11 12 (B) Chapter 2, other than Sections 2.104(c)(2), 2.104(c)(3), and 2.113; 13 14 (C) Chapter 3, other than Subchapters C and E of 15 that chapter; or 16 (D) Chapters 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12, other than 17 Sections 11.057(a), (b), (c)(1), (c)(3), (d), and (f). SECTION 55. Section 153.004(a), Business Organizations 18 Code, is amended to read as follows: 19 (a) Except as provided by this section, the following 20 provisions of Title 1 may not be waived or modified in the 21 partnership agreement of a limited partnership: 22 (1) Chapter 1, if the provision is used to interpret a 23 24 provision or define a word or phrase contained in a section listed in this subsection; 25 26 (2) Chapter 2, other than Section 2.104(c)(2), 27 2.104(c)(3), or 2.113;

(3) Chapter 3, other than Subchapters C and E of that chapter and Section 3.151 (provided, that in all events a partnership agreement may not validly waive or modify Section 153.551 or unreasonably restrict a partner's <u>or assignee's rights</u> [<u>right of access to books and records</u>] under Section 153.552); or

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6 (4) Chapter 4, 5, 10, 11, or 12, other than Section 7 11.058.

8 SECTION 56. Section 153.112, Business Organizations Code, 9 is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 153.112. RECEIPT OF WRONGFUL DISTRIBUTION. A limited 10 partner who receives a distribution that is not permitted under 11 12 Section 153.210 is not required to return the distribution unless the limited partner knew that the distribution violated the 13 prohibition of Section 153.210. This section does not affect an 14 15 obligation of the limited partner under the partnership agreement, 16 another agreement, or other applicable law to return the 17 distribution.

SECTION 57. Section 153.552, Business Organizations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 153.552. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS [AND INFORMATION]. 20 (a) On written <u>demand</u> [request] stating a proper purpose, a partner 21 or an assignee of a partnership interest in a limited partnership is 22 entitled [may examine and copy, in person or through a 23 24 representative, records required to be kept under Section 153.551 and other information regarding the business, affairs, and 25 financial condition of the limited partnership as is just and 26 reasonable for the person] to examine and copy, at a reasonable time 27

at the partnership's principal office identified under Section 1 153.551 or other location approved by the partnership and the 2 partner or assignee, any records of the partnership, whether in 3 written or other tangible form, which are reasonably related to and 4 appropriate to examine and copy for that proper purpose. 5 6 (b) The examination and copying [records requested] under 7 Subsection (a) may be conducted by the partner or assignee or 8 through an agent, accountant, or attorney. An agent, accountant, or attorney who conducts an examination and copying under this 9 section is subject to any obligations of the partner or assignee 10

11 with respect to the records made available for examination and 12 copying [examined and copied at a reasonable time and at the 13 partner's sole expense].

14 (c) On written request by a partner or an assignee of a 15 partnership interest, the partnership shall provide to the 16 requesting partner or assignee without charge copies of:

17 (1) the partnership agreement and certificate of18 formation and all amendments or restatements; and

19 (2) any tax return described by Section 153.551(a)(2).
20 (d) A demand or request made by a partner or assignee under
21 Subsection (a) or (c) must be made to:

(1) the person who is designated to receive the <u>demand</u>
 <u>or</u> request in the partnership agreement at the address designated
 in the partnership agreement; or

(2) if there is no designation, a general partner at
the partnership's principal office in the United States.

27 SECTION 58. Subchapter C, Chapter 154, Business

Organizations Code, is amended by adding Section 154.205 to read as
 follows:

3 Sec. 154.205. RATIFICATION OF VOID OR VOIDABLE ACTS OR TRANSACTIONS. (a) Any act or transaction taken by or on behalf of a 4 5 partnership under this code or a partnership agreement that is void or voidable when taken may be ratified, and the failure to comply 6 7 with any requirements of the partnership agreement which caused the act or transaction to be void or voidable may be waived, in 8 accordance with this section. 9 10 (b) An act or transaction may be ratified or waived, as applicable, with the approval of the partners or other persons 11 12 whose approval would be required under the partnership agreement at the time of the <u>ratification or waiver</u>: 13 14 (1) for the void or voidable act or transaction to be

16 (2) to amend the partnership agreement in a manner 17 that would permit the void or voidable act or transaction to be 18 validly taken.

15

validly taken; or

19 <u>(c) If the void or voidable act or transaction was the</u> 20 <u>issuance or assignment of any partnership interests, the</u> 21 <u>partnership interests purportedly issued or assigned are deemed to</u> 22 <u>have not been issued or assigned for purposes of determining</u> 23 <u>whether the void or voidable act or transaction is ratified or</u> 24 <u>waived under Subsection (b).</u>

25 (d) Any act or transaction ratified or waived under this
26 section is deemed validly taken at the time the act or transaction
27 occurred.

1	(e) This section may not be construed to limit the
2	accomplishment of a ratification or waiver of a void or voidable act
3	or transaction by other lawful means.
4	SECTION 59. The following provisions of the Business
5	Organizations Code are repealed:
6	(1) Section 21.160(d);
7	(2) Sections 21.169(d) and (e);
8	(3) Section 21.354(a-1); and
9	(4) Section 22.158(d).
10	SECTION 60. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.