- (b) The name of any foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state;
- (c) A name held reserved pursuant to NRS 78.040 or Section 11;
- (d) The name of any limited partnership formed in this state;
- (e) The name of any foreign limited partnership authorized to transact business in this state; or
 - (f) A name held reserved pursuant to NRS 88.325.
- 2. The secretary of state shall accept for filing in his office the articles of a corporation whose name:
- (a) Cannot be distinguished from that used by or reserved for another entity formed or authorized to transact business in this state; or
- (b) Is the same as that used by a foreign corporation or foreign limited partnership authorized to transact business in this state, or reserved for such a use pursuant to NRS 88.325, if the written acknowledged consent of the other entity to the use of the same accompanies the articles or certificate.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.039.

We have added to subsection 1(c) the citation to this new nonprofit corporation law permitting the secretary of state to reserve names. This statute contains the change suggested by this study to NRS 78.039 requiring the secretary of state to refuse articles with a name which "cannot be distinguished from" the name of a corporation, limited partnership, etc. already on file. This change reflects modern practice as contained in the Revised Model Business Code and other recent statutory schemes.

 Section 11. Name of corporation: Reservation; injunctive relief.

- 1. The secretary of state, when requested to do so, shall reserve, for a period of 90 days, the right to use any name available under NRS 78.039 and Section 10, for the use of any proposed corporation. During the period, a name so reserved is not available for use by any corporation without the consent of the person, firm or corporation at whose request the reservation was made.
- 2. The use by any corporation of a name in violation of NRS 78.039 and Section 10 or subsection 1 of this section may be enjoined, notwithstanding the fact that the articles of incorporation of the corporation may have been filed by the secretary of state.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.040.

Section 12. Articles of incorporation: Prohibited names; insurance business.

- 1. The secretary of state must not accept for filing pursuant to this chapter any articles of incorporation or any certificate of amendment of articles of incorporation of any corporation formed or existing pursuant to this chapter if the name of the corporation contains the words "trust," "engineer," "engineered," "engineering," "professional engineer" or "licensed engineer."
- 2. The secretary of state must not accept for filing any articles of incorporation or any certificate of amendment of articles of incorporation of any corporation formed or existing under this chapter when it appears from the articles or the

certificate of amendment that the business to be carried on by the corporation is subject to supervision by the commissioner of insurance.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.045.

This statute simply forbids the use of the words listed in subsection 1 in the corporate name. NRS 78.045 permits the use of the word "trust" if the articles are first approved by the commissioner of financial institutions and the various engineering words upon approval by the state board of registered professional engineers. Subsection 2 is almost verbatim from NRS 78.045(2).

Section 13. Commencement of corporate existence.

- 1. Upon the filing of the articles of incorporation and the certificate of acceptance pursuant to Section 7, and the payment of the filing fees, the secretary of state must issue to the corporation a certificate that the articles, containing the required statement of facts, have been filed in this office.

 From the date the articles are filed, the corporation is a body corporate, by the name set forth in the articles, subject to the forfeiture of its charter and dissolution as provided in this chapter.
- 2. The filing of the articles does not, by itself, constitute commencement of business by the corporation.
- 3. The date of commencement of a body corporate may be delayed for ninety (90) days by filing a request to delay commencement of corporate existence which date must be honored by the secretary of state upon receipt of an additional filing fee of \$75.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.050 with the changes recommended by this report, where applicable.

Section 14. Articles of incorporation: Evidence.

A copy of any articles of incorporation filed pursuant to this chapter, and certified by the secretary of state under his official seal, or a copy of the copy thereof, filed with the county clerk, or microfilmed by the county clerk, under the county seal, certified by the clerk, shall be received in all courts and places as prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated, and of evidence of the facts therein stated, and of the existence and due incorporation of the corporation therein named.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.055.

POWERS

Section 15. General powers.

- 1. Any corporation:
- (a) Has all the rights, privileges and powers hereby conferred.
- (b) Has such rights, privileges and powers as may be conferred upon such corporations by any existing law.
- (c) May at any time exercise such rights, privileges and powers, when not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, or with the purposes and objects for which such corporation is organized.
- 2. Every corporation, by virtue of its existence as such, has the power:
- (a) To have succession by its corporate name for the period limited in its articles of incorporation, and when no period is limited, perpetually, or until dissolved and its affairs wound up according to law.
 - (b) To sue and be sued in any court of law or equity.

- (c) To make contracts.
- (d) To hold, purchase and convey real and personal estate and to mortgage or lease any such real and personal estate with its franchises. The power to hold real and personal estate shall include the power to take the same by devise or bequest in this state, or in any other state, territory or country.
- (e) To appoint such officers and agents as the affairs of the corporation shall require, and to allow them suitable compensation.
- (f) To make bylaws not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the United States, or of this state, for the management, regulation and government of its affairs and property, the transfer of its memberships (if any), the transaction of its business, and the calling and holding of meetings of its members (if any) or delegates (if any).
- (g) To wind up and dissolve itself, or be wound up or dissolved, in the manner mentioned in this chapter.
- (h) Unless otherwise provided in the articles, to engage in any lawful activity.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.060.

Nonprofit corporations should have the same powers to conduct their affairs as business corporations do (with certain exceptions like paying dividends to members). Thus, this statute has almost the same wording as NRS 78.060 as this study proposes to change it.

Section 16. General powers: Corporate seal or stamp; use not required.

 Every corporation, by virtue of its existence as such, has the power to adopt and use a common seal or stamp, and alter the same at pleasure.

 2. The use of a seal or stamp by a corporation on any corporate documents is not necessary. The corporation may use a seal or stamp, if it desires, but such use or nonuse shall not in any way affect the legality of the document.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.065.

Section 17. Specific powers.

Subject to such limitations, if any, as may be contained in its articles, every corporation has the following powers:

- 1. To borrow money and contract debts when necessary for the transaction of its business, or for the exercise of its corporate rights, privileges or franchises, or for any other lawful purpose of its incorporation; to issue bonds, promissory notes, bills of exchange, debentures, and other obligations and evidences of indebtedness, payable at a specified time or times, or payable upon the happening of a specified event or events, whether secured by mortgage, pledge or other security, or unsecured, for money borrowed, or in payment for property purchased, or acquired, or for any other lawful object.
- 2. To guarantee, purchase, hold, take, obtain, receive, subscribe for, own, use, dispose of, sell, exchange, lease, lend, assign, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise acquire, transfer or deal in or with bonds or obligations of, or shares, securities or interests in or issued by, any person, government, governmental agency or political subdivision of government, and to exercise all the rights, powers and privileges of ownership of such an interest, including the right to vote, if any.
- 3. To issue certificates evidencing membership and issue identity cards.

- 4. To make donations for the public welfare or for community funds, hospital charitables, educational, scientific, civil, religious or similar purposes.
 - 5. To levy dues, assessments and fees.
- 6. To purchase, take, receive, lease, take by gift, devise or bequest, or otherwise acquire, own, improve, use and otherwise deal in and with real or personal property, or any interest therein, wherever situated.
- 7. To carry on a business for profit and apply any profit that results from the business to any activity in which it may lawfully engage.
- 8. To participate with others in any partnership, joint venture or other association, transaction or arrangement of any kind whether or not such participation involves sharing or delegation of control with or to others.
- 9. To act as trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation, and receive, hold, administer, exchange, and expend funds and property subject to such trust.
- 10. To pay reasonable compensation to officers, directors and employees, to pay pensions, retirement allowances, and compensation for past services and establish employee or incentive benefit plans, trusts and provisions for the benefit of its officers, directors, employees, agents and their families, dependents and beneficiaries and indemnify and buy insurance for a fiduciary of an employee benefit and incentive plan, trust or provision.
 - 11. To have one or more offices, and hold, purchase,

mortgage and convey real and personal property in this state, and in any of the several states, territories, possessions and dependencies of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any foreign countries.

- 12. To do everything necessary and proper for the accomplishment of the objects enumerated in its articles of incorporation, or necessary or incidental to the protection and benefit of the corporation, and, in general, to carry on any lawful business necessary or incidental to the attainment of the objects of the corporation, whether or not the business is similar in nature to the objects set forth in the articles of incorporation of the corporation, except that:
- (a) A corporation shall not, by any implication or construction, be deemed to possess the power of issuing bills, notes or other evidences of debt for circulation of money; and
- (b) This chapter does not authorize the formation of banking corporations to issue or circulate money or currency within this state, or outside of this state, or at all, except the federal currency, or the notes of banks authorized under the laws of the United States.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.070; subsection 3 is adapted from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(f); subsection 4 from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(h); subsection 4 from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(g); subsection 6 from MN-PCA §5(d); subsection 7 from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(h); subsection 8 from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(j); subsection 9 from Cal. Corp. Code §7140(k); subsection 10 from Minn. Nonprofit Corporation Act §317A.161(12).

This statute provides for powers generally like those granted in NRS 78.070 but deletes those powers relating to shares and adds a number of categories of powers which should be granted to nonprofit corporations. Issuing membership certificates and making donations are powers which any nonprofit corporation should have. In addition, those with members should be able to levy dues, assessments and fees. All such

2

4

^

7

9

10

12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

25

26

24

27

28

corporations must be able to acquire property by gift. Subsection 7 allows a nonprofit to carry on a business for profit and apply the profits to its activities. Subsection 8 allows nonprofits to participate in partnerships and other money making activities. These provisions make clear that a nonprofit can conduct a business enterprise despite its nonprofit nature. The nonprofit corporation statutes we examined all contain similar provisions. Subsection 10 permits nonprofits to pay officers and directors and to provide benefit plans for its directors and employees and their dependents and to buy This might be under question since nonprofits are, almost by definition, intended not to benefit its members or directors. Again, most modern nonprofit corporation laws contain similar provisions.

Finally, subsection 12 is taken almost verbatim from NRS 78.070(5).

Section 18. Examination of affairs by attorney general.

- 1. A corporation holding assets in charitable trust is subject at all times to examination by the attorney general, on behalf of the state, to ascertain the condition of its affairs and to what extent, if at all, it fails to comply with trusts it has assumed or has departed from the purposes for which it is formed. In case of any such a failure or departure, the attorney general may institute, in the name of the state, the proceeding necessary to correct the noncompliance or departure.
- 2. The attorney general, or any person given relator status by the attorney general, may bring an action to enjoin, correct, obtain damages for or to otherwise remedy a breach of a charitable trust.

Note: Subsection (1) is adapted from existing NRS 81.340 and 81.400 and Cal. Corp. Code §5250; subsection (2) is adapted from Cal. Corp. Code §5142.

Although one cannot exactly determine which nonprofit corporations existing NRS 81.340 and 81.400 apply to, they do provide for an examination of its affairs by the attorney general. The wording of existing NRS 81.340 is almost identical with the wording of the old California Corporations Code and the new nonprofit laws promulgated by the California legislature in 1978.

All the commentators as well as the law review articles and committee notes to the California and Minnesota nonprofit corporation laws provide that the attorney general may bring an action to remedy a breach of a charitable trust by a nonprofit corporation. Subsection 2 provides for this authority in language adapted from the 1978 California Non-Profit Corporation Laws.

Please also note that the Attorney General has power to inquire into the officers of <u>all</u> corporations pursuant to the quo warranto procedure at NRS Chapter 35.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND RESIDENT AGENT;

ANNUAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 19. Resident Agent.

Every corporation must have a resident agent in the manner of, and as provided in, NRS 78.090, 78.095, 78.097 and 78.110. The resident agent must comply with the provisions of those sections.

Note: The requirements for resident agents contained in NRS Chapter 78 are applicable without change to nonprofit corporations. Therefore, it was thought unnecessary to simply repeat the identical statutory language here. This is one of the few places in this nonprofit corporation law where we refer to statutes in Chapter 78.

Section 20. New corporations: Filing requirements; fee.

Each corporation must, within 60 days after the filing of its articles of incorporation with the secretary of state:

- File a list of its officers and directors and a designation of its resident agent. The address of the resident agent must be the same as that of the principal office.
 - Pay to the secretary of state a fee of \$15.00.
- 3. File a copy of the designation of resident agent in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the corporation in this state is located.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.160.

- [81.002] <u>Section 21.</u> Annual list of officers and directors and designation of resident agent: Filing requirements; fee; forms.
- 1. [Beginning on January 1, 1984,] Each corporation must, [organized under the laws of this state shall,] on or before the last date of the month in which the anniversary date of incorporation occurs in each year, file with the secretary of state a list of its officers and directors and a designation of its resident agent in this state, certified by the president, secretary or other officer of the [nonprofit] corporation.
- 2. Upon filing the list of officers and directors and designation of resident agent, the [nonprofit] corporation shall pay to the secretary of state a fee of \$15.
- 3. The secretary of state shall, 60 days before the last day for filing the list required by subsection 1, cause to be mailed to each [nonprofit] corporation, [required to comply with the provisions of this chapter,] and which has not become delinquent, the blank forms to be completed and filed with the secretary of state. Failure of any nonprofit corporation to receive the forms does not excuse it from the penalty imposed by Section 23.

Note: These sections numbered 81.110 through 81.135 merely modernize the wording of existing 81.002 through 81.0095. These provisions are very similar to the correlative provisions in NRS Chapter 78. We have not changed these statutes in any substantive way.

- [81.004] Section 22. Contents of annual list; penalties.
- 1. Every list required to be filed under the provisions

of this chapter must, after the name of each officer and director listed thereon, set forth his post office box or street address.

2. If such addresses are not thus set forth, the secretary of state may refuse to file the list, and the [nonprofit] corporation for which the list has been offered for filing is subject to all the provisions of this chapter relating to failure to file such a list, unless the list is subsequently submitted for filing conformably to the provisions of this chapter.

[81.008] <u>Section 23.</u> Defaulting corporations: Penalties and forfeitures.

- 1. Each [nonprofit] corporation required to make the filings and pay the fees prescribed in this chapter which refuses or neglects to do so within the time provided shall be deemed in default.
- 2. For default, there is added to the amount of the fee a penalty of \$5, and unless the filing is made and the fee and penalty are paid on or before the 1st day of the 9th month following the month in which the filing was required, the defaulting corporation, by reason of its default, forfeits:
- (a) The amount of the fee and penalty to the State of Nevada; and
- (b) Its right to transact any business within this state. The fee penalty must be collected as provided in this chapter.
- [81.0085] <u>Section 24.</u> Forfeiture of right to do business: Duties of secretary of state; distribution of assets.
 - On or before the 15th day of the 3rd month following

8

11 12

13

10

14 15

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

28

the month in which filing was required, the secretary of state shall compile a complete list of all defaulting [nonprofit] corporations, together with the amounts of the filing fees, penalties and costs remaining unpaid.

- Immediately after the 1st day of the 9th month following the month in which filing was required, the secretary of state shall compile a full and complete list containing the names of all [nonprofit] corporations whose right to do business has been forfeited.
- If such a forfeiture of a charter and the right to 3. transact business occurs, all the property and assets of the defaulting [domestic nonprofit] corporation must be held in trust by its directors, as for insolvent corporations, and the same proceedings may be had as are applicable to insolvent corporations. Any interested person may institute those proceedings at any time after a forfeiture has been declared, but if the secretary of state reinstates the charter, the proceedings must be dismissed at once and all property restored to the officers of the [nonprofit] corporation.
- If the corporate assets are distributed, they must be 4. applied to:
- (a) The payment of the filing fee, penalties and costs due to the state; and
- (b) The creditors of the [nonprofit] corporation. Any balance remaining must be distributed as set forth in the articles or bylaws or, if no such provisions exist, among the members of the corporation.

[81.009] <u>Section 25.</u> Reinstatement of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state.

- 1. Subject to the provisions of subsections 3 and 4, the secretary of state may:
- (a) Reinstate any [nonprofit] corporation which has forfeited its right to transact business under the provisions of this chapter; and
- (b) Restore its right to carry on business in this state and exercise its corporate privileges and immunities, upon the filing with him of an affidavit stating the reason for the revocation of its charter, and upon payment to him of all filing fees, fees for licenses, penalties, costs and expenses due and in arrears at the time of the revocation of its charter, and also all filing fees, fees for licenses and penalties which have accrued since the renovation of its charter.
- 2. When [such payment is made and] the secretary of state reinstates the [nonprofit] corporation to its former rights, he [shall] must:
- (a) Immediately issue and deliver to the [nonprofit] corporation a certificate of reinstatement authorizing it to transact business, as if the fees had been paid when due; and
- (b) Upon demand, issue to the [nonprofit] corporation one certified copy of the certificate of reinstatement. [which it must file in the office of the county clerk of the county in which its principal place of business is located or in any other country which it owns, holds or leases property or transacts business.] Additional copies may be purchased for \$5 each.
 - 3. The secretary of state shall not order a reinstatement

 of a [nonprofit] corporation unless the revocation of its charter occurred only by reason of its failure to pay fees, penalties and costs and all its delinquent fees, penalties and costs have been paid.

- 4. If a corporate charter has been revoked pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and has remained revoked for 10 consecutive years, the charter must not be reinstated.
- [81.0095] <u>Section 26.</u> Reinstatement of defaulting corporations: Name.
- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if any [nonprofit] corporation is suspended from doing business under the provisions of this chapter and the name of the corporation, or one [deceptively similar to] which cannot be distinguished from it, is legally acquired by another corporation or a limited partnership or is reserved for its use before the application for reinstatement of the defaulting corporation, it shall, in its application for reinstatement, submit to the secretary of state some other name under which it desires its corporate existence to be reinstated. If that name [is sufficiently distinctive and different] can be distinguished from the names reserved or otherwise in use, the secretary of state shall issue to the defaulting corporation a certificate of reinstatement under that new name.
- 2. If the defaulting [nonprofit] corporation submits the written consent of the entity reserving or using a name which is the same as or similar to the defaulting corporation's old name or a new name it has submitted, it may be reinstated under that name even though it [is]:

25 | 26 |

 (a) <u>Is the</u> [The] same as or [deceptively similar to]

cannot be distinguished from the name used by a foreign

corporation or foreign limited partnership doing business in

Nevada; or

(b) [Deceptively similar to] cannot be distinguished from the name used by, or reserved to be used by, a domestic corporation or domestic limited partnership.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS

Section 27. Copies of articles, bylaws and membership lists to be kept at principal office; rights of directors and members; penalties.

- A corporation must keep a copy of the following records at its principal office:
- (a) A certified copy of its articles and all amendments thereto; and
- (b) A certified copy of its bylaws and all amendments thereto; and
- (c) If the corporation has members, a membership ledger or a duplicate membership ledger, revised annually, containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of all persons who are members of the corporation, showing their places of residence, if known and the class of membership held by each; or
- (d) In lieu of the membership ledger or duplicate membership ledger specified in paragraph (c), a statement setting out the name of the custodian of the membership ledger or duplicate membership ledger, and the present and complete post office address, including street and number, if any, where such membership ledger or duplicate membership ledger specified

- 2. A corporation must maintain its records in written form or in another form capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time.
- 3. Any director or any person who has been a member of record of a corporation for at least 6 months, or at least 5 percent of the members of the corporation, upon at least 5 days' written demand, has the right to inspect in person or by agent or attorney, during usual business hours, the membership ledger or duplicate ledger, whether kept in the principal office of the corporation in this state or elsewhere as provided in paragraph (d) of subsection 1, and to make copies therefrom. Every corporation that neglects or refuses to keep the membership ledger or duplicate copy thereof open for inspection, as required in this subsection, shall forfeit to the state the sum of \$25 for every day of such neglect or refusal.
- 4. An inspection authorized by subsection 2 may be denied to such member or other person upon his refusal to furnish to the corporation an affidavit that such inspection is not desired for any purpose not relating to his interest as a member, including but not limited to those purposes set forth in subsections 6(a), (b) and (c) below.
- 5. When the corporation keeps and maintains a statement in the manner provided for in paragraph (d) of subsection 1, the information contained thereon must be given to any director or member of such corporation as provided in subsection 2 when the demand is made during business hours. Every corporation that neglects or refuses to keep such statement available, as

required in this subsection, shall forfeit to the state the sum of \$25 for every day of such neglect or refusal.

- 6. It shall be a defense to any action to enforce the provisions of this section or for charges or penalties under this section that the person suing has used or intends to use the list for any of the following purposes:
- (a) to solicit money or property from the members unless the money or property will be used solely to solicit the votes of members;
- (b) for any commercial purpose or purpose in competitionwith the corporation;
 - (c) to sell to any person; or
- (d) for any other purpose not related to his interest as a member.
- 7. Nothing contained in this section, however, shall be deemed or construed in anywise to impair the power or jurisdiction of any court to compel the production for examination of the books of a corporation in any proper case.
- 8. In every instance where an attorney or other agent of the stockholder seeks the right of inspection, the demand must be accompanied by a power of attorney executed by the stockholder authorizing the attorney or other agent to inspect on behalf of the stockholder.
- 9. The right to copy records under subsection 3 includes, if reasonable, the right to make copies by photographic, xerographic, or other means.
- 10. The corporation may impose a reasonable charge, covering costs of labor, materials, and copies of any documents

provided to the member or director.

1

2

3

4

5

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.105; portions of subsection 6 adapted from Cal. Corp. Code §6338(a).

We examined closely the rights of members to inspect membership lists as provided in the nonprofit corporation laws of several states. On balance, we found the wording and approach taken by NRS 78.105 to be perfectly acceptable and up to the current standard for nonprofit corporation codes The only real change is contained in subsection 7 generally. listing the improper uses for which the list need not be produced. They are adapted from the lists contained in the California Corporations Code. It was thought the members should not be able to obtain a membership list to solicit money from members, to use the list for any commercial purpose (including selling the list to companies for mail solicitation purposes), to sell to anyone or, generally, for any other purpose not related to his interest as a member. This last subsection allows the court to use its discretion and permit the corporation to refuse lists to members who might use them improperly in ways we cannot now anticipate.

This statute reflects the changes this report recommends be made to NRS 78.105.

Section 28. Right of directors and members to inspect and audit financial records; exceptions.

- 1. Any director or person authorized in writing by at least 15 percent of the members of the corporation upon at least 5 days' written demand, is entitled to inspect in person or by agent or attorney, during normal business hours, the books of account and all financial records of the corporation and to make extracts therefrom. The right of members and directors to inspect the corporate records shall not be limited in the articles or bylaws of any corporation.
- 2. All costs for making extracts of records shall be borne by the person exercising his rights under subsection 1.
- 3. The rights authorized by subsection 1 may be denied to any director or member upon his refusal to furnish the corporation an affidavit that such inspection, extracts or audit

is not desired for any purpose not related to his interest in the corporation as a director or member. Any director or member or other person, exercising rights under subsection 1, who uses or attempts to use information, documents, records or other data obtained from the corporation, for any purpose not related to the director's or member's interest in the corporation as a director or member, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

- 4. A director or member who brings an action or proceeding to enforce any right under this section or to recover damages resulting from its denial:
- (a) Is entitled to costs and reasonable attorney's fees,if he prevails; or
- (b) Is liable for such costs and fees, if he does not prevail, in the action or proceeding.
- 5. It shall be a defense to any action to enforce the provisions of this section or for damages or penalties under this section that the person seeking an inspection of the books of account and financial records, or extracts thereof, has used or intends to use any such accounts and records for any of the following reasons:
- (a) for any commercial purpose or purpose in competitionwith the corporation;
 - (b) to sell to any person; or
- (c) for any other purpose not related to his interest as a member or director.
- 6. The rights and remedies of this section are not available to members of any corporation that makes available at no cost to its members a detailed annual financial statement.

 Note: Adapted from 78.257; subsection 5 adapted from Cal. Corp. Code §6338(a).

The right of directors and members to inspect financial records is placed with statutes dealing with stockholders in Chapter 78. We decided it would be best to place all statutes dealing with access to corporate records in the same area.

Subsection 5 contains almost the same provisions permitting the corporation to deny the members for an improper purpose as we saw in the new Section 27(6) above.

Finally, please note that any director alone can obtain access to the financial records. He need not join with other directors or members in order to do so.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 29. Board of directors: Number and qualifications.

Every corporation must be managed by a board of directors or trustees, all of whom must be at least 18 years of age. A corporation must have at least one director, and may provide in its articles or bylaws for a fixed number of directors or a variable number of directors within a fixed minimum and maximum, and for the manner in which the number of directors may be increased or decreased. Unless otherwise provided in the articles, directors need not be members. The articles or bylaws may provide that some or all the directors or trustees must be chosen by specified persons or by public officials.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.115 and old NRS 81.390.

Sections 29 through 32 are adapted without much change from the correlative sections of NRS Chapter 78 as noted. A close examination of prominent new nonprofit corporation laws shows no improvement has been made from the sections contained in Chapter 78. Existing NRS 81.390 (governing "nonprofit corporations for advancement of state or local interests") allows directors to be chosen by other corporations and associations or by public officials. This structure should be permitted by the new nonprofit corporations law.

The word "person" in the last sentence is defined at NRS 0.039 for the entire NRS as a natural person, any form of social or business organization and other non-governmental entity.

25 | 26 |

Section 30. Powers of board of directors: Generally; bylaws.

- 1. Subject only to such limitations as may be provided by this chapter, or the articles, the board of directors or trustees has full control over the affairs of the corporation.
- 2. Unless otherwise provided in the articles and subject to the bylaws adopted by the members (if any), directors may make the bylaws of the corporation.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.120.

Section 31. Committees of the board of directors: Powers; names.

- 1. Unless otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, the board of directors may, by resolution or resolutions passed by a majority of the whole board, designate one or more committees which, to the extent provided in the resolution or resolutions or in the bylaws, have and may exercise the powers of the board of directors in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, and may have power to authorize the seal of the corporation to be affixed to all papers on which the corporation desires to place a seal.
- 2. Such committee or committees may have such name or names as may be stated in the bylaws or as may be determined from time to time by resolution adopted by the board of directors.
- 3. Each committee must have at least one director.

 Unless it is otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, the board of directors may appoint persons who are not directors to serve on the committees.

8 9

10 11

13 14

12

15 16

17

18

20

22

21

23

2526

27

4. No such committee has the power to:

- (a) Amend, alter or repeal the bylaws;
- (b) Elect, appoint or remove any member of any such committee or any director or officer of the corporation;
- (c) Amend or repeal the articles, adopt a plan of merger or a plan of consolidation with another corporation;
- (d) Authorize the sale, lease or exchange of all of the property and assets of the corporation;
- (e) Authorize the voluntary dissolution of the corporation or revoke proceedings therefor;
- (f) Adopt a plan for the distribution of the assets of the corporation; or
- (g) Amend, alter or repeal any resolution of the board of directors unless it provides by its terms that it may be amended, altered or repealed by a committee.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.125.

Section 32. Officers of corporation: Selection; terms; duties.

- 1. Every corporation must have a president or a chairman of the board, a secretary, a treasurer, and a resident agent.

 They must be chosen by the board of directors and must hold their offices until their successors are chosen and qualify.
- 2. Every corporation may also have one or more vice presidents, assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers, and such other officers and agents as may be deemed necessary.
- 3. All officers must be chosen in such manner, hold their offices for such terms and have such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the bylaws or determined by the board of

directors.

1

2

3

4

5

6

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

4. Any person may hold two or more offices.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.130.

Section 33. Authority of directors and representatives: Contracts and conveyances.

- The statement in the articles or bylaws of the 1. objects, purposes, powers and authorized business of the corporation constitutes, as between the corporation and its directors, officers or members, an authorization to the directors and a limitation upon the actual authority of the representatives of the corporation. These limitations may be asserted in a proceeding by a director or a member entitled to vote for the election of directors or the attorney general to enjoin the doing or continuation of unauthorized business by the corporation or its officers, or both, in cases where third parties have not acquired rights thereby, or to dissolve the corporation, or in a proceeding by the corporation, by a director or a member entitled to vote for the election of directors suing in a representative suit against the officers or directors of the corporation for violation of their authority.
- 2. No limitation upon the business, purposes or powers of the corporation or upon the powers of the members, officers or directors, or the manner of exercise of such powers, contained in or implied by the articles or bylaws shall be asserted as between the corporation, the directors or members and any third person.
- 3. Any contract or conveyance, otherwise lawful, made in the name of a corporation, which is authorized or ratified by

the directors, or is done within the scope of the authority, actual or apparent, given by the directors, binds the corporation, and the corporation acquires rights thereunder, whether the contract is executed or is wholly or in part executory.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.135; right of derivative action given members entitled to vote for directors in Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act § 317.165; right of derivative action given directors and members in Cal. Corp. Code § 5141, Illinois General Not for Profit Corp. Act § 103.15 and MN-PCA § 6. NRS 41.520 should be changed to include members and directors of nonprofit corporations in the term "shareholders".

Nothing in Nevada law determines whether or not members have a right of derivative action against the corporation or its directors and officers. The common law of nonprofit corporations in other states indicates members of nonprofits may have such rights. This statute, in language adapted from NRS 78.135, explicitly gives such rights to members, evoking generally the common law of derivative actions applicable to stockholders of business corporations. However, only members who can vote for directors may file such a derivative action.

Section 34. Standards applicable to directors and officers.

- 1. Directors and officers must exercise their powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation.
- 2. In performing their respective duties, directors and officers are entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, books of account, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, that are prepared or presented by:
- (a) One or more directors, officers, or employees of the corporation reasonably believed to be reliable and competent in the matters prepared or presented;
- (b) Counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters reasonably believed to be within the person's professional or expert competence;

16 ||

c) A committee of the directors upon which the person relying thereon does not serve, duly established in accordance with Section 31, as to matters within the committee's designated authority and matters on which the committee is reasonably believed to merit confidence. A director or officer is not entitled to rely on such information, opinions, reports, books of account, or statements if the director of officer has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause reliance thereon to be unwarranted.

3. A director of officer must not be found to have failed to exercise the director's or officers' powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation unless it is proved by clear and convincing evidence that the director or officer has not acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed by the director or officer to be with a view to the interests of the corporation.

Note: This section contains much of a new statute recommended by this report to be placed after NRS 78.135. It establishes standards by which directors may be judged and a heightened burden of proof for proving deviations from those standards. Omitted are subsection 3 and 4 of the new chapter 78 statute which relate specifically to business corporations and to the conduct of directors to hostile takeover battles.

Section 35. Restrictions on transactions involving interested directors or officers; compensation of directors.

1. Directors and officers must exercise their powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation.

No contract or other transaction between a corporation and one or more of its directors or officers, or between a corporation and any corporation, firm or association in which one or more of its directors or officers are directors or officers or are

financially interested, is either void or voidable solely for this reason or solely because any such director or officer is present at the meeting of the board of directors or a committee thereof which authorizes or approves the contract or transaction, or because the vote or votes of common or interested directors are counted for such purpose, if the circumstances specified in any of the following paragraphs exist:

- (a) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is disclosed or known to the board of directors or committee and noted in the minutes, and the board or committee authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction in good faith by a vote sufficient for the purpose as provided in this chapter, the articles or the bylaws without counting the vote or votes of such director or directors.
- (b) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is disclosed or known to the members (if any), and they approve or ratify the contract or transaction in good faith by a vote sufficient for the purpose as provided in this chapter, the articles or the bylaws. The votes of the common or interested directors or officers must be counted in any such vote of members.
- (c) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is not disclosed or known to the director or officer at the time the transaction is brought before the board of directors of the corporation for action.
- (d) The contract or transaction is fair as to the corporation at the time it is authorized or approved.

8

9

7

10

12

14 15

17

18 19

21

22 23

24

27

28

- 2. Common or interested directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the board of directors or a committee thereof which authorizes, approves or ratifies a contract or transaction, and if the votes of the common or interested directors are not counted at such meeting, then a majority of the disinterested directors may authorize, approve or ratify a contract or transaction.
- 3. Unless otherwise provided in the articles or the bylaws, the board of directors may fix the compensation of directors for services in any capacity.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.140.

The literature concerning nonprofit corporation law contains much discussion of the duties of directors in nonprofit corporations and the regulation of the dealings of directors with their corporations. California provides for three kinds of nonprofit corporations in their 1978 statutes: Public Benefit Corporations, Mutual Benefit Corporations and Religious Corporations. The standards applicable to directors' loyalty to the corporation and self dealing transactions differ for each of the three corporations. Many of the other nonprofit corporations laws have codified directors' obligations in words very similar to those used in their business corporation statutes.

We felt that, on balance, the California approach was needlessly complicated. The extremely complex and labyrinthine description of director's duties and the regulation of directors' self dealing transactions with the corporation makes the counsel's job in advising a nonprofit corporation very difficult. The California statutes even provide for differing burdens of going forward with the evidence between the different This complexity is not, however, compensated by corporations. an increase in practical protection for the corporation. differing standards and shifting burdens of proof set forth in the California statute would, we believe, result in little real benefit to the members once discovery and litigation on the issues actually begins. A director will, as a practical matter, still have to prove to a judge or jury he was right, no matter what the complicated statutory provisions provide for. Thus, we used the same approach contained in our Chapter 78 and provide for the same directors' duties. This statute contains the changes to NRS 78.190 (at subsection (c)) suggested in this report.

6

9

11 12

10

13

14 15

16 17

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

If a public charitable nonprofit corporation formed under this law diverts funds unjustifiably, the attorney general can examine that corporation pursuant to the powers of "parens patriae" contained in Section 18 and pursuant to the powers granted the attorney general by the quo warranto procedure in NRS Chapter 35.

SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Section 36. Shares and dividends prohibited.

- 1. A corporation must not have or issue shares of stock.
- A corporation must not be formed for a purpose involving pecuniary gain to its members.
- 3. A corporation must not distribute any gain, profits or dividends to any member, except as otherwise provided in this chapter or upon dissolution or final liquidation as provided in this chapter and in the corporation's articles and bylaws.

Note: Adapted from California Corporations Code § 5049, Minn. Nonprofit Corporations Act § 317A.011(6) and Illinois Not for Profit Corporation Act § 106.05.

This is one of the most important single provisions of the new nonprofit corporation law. It provides that there will be no shares of stock and no dividends to members, except as otherwise provided in this chapter or with respect to dissolution. The exception has been added with Section 17(10) in mind, permitting a nonprofit corporation to pay reasonable compensation to officers and provide pension and other benefits. Most of the nonprofit corporation statutes as well as the Model Nonprofit Corporation Act contain similar provisions.

MEMBERS

Section 37. Members

- 1. A corporation may have one or more classes of members or may have no members. In the absence of a provision in its articles or bylaws providing for members, a corporation has no members.
- A corporation may admit any person as a member. The articles or bylaws may establish criteria or procedures for

 admission. A person may not be admitted as a member without the person's express or implied consent. For the purposes of this subsection and unless otherwise provided in a corporation's articles or bylaws, consent includes, but is not limited to, (a) the contracting for or acceptance of products or services from the corporation; (b) the acceptance of membership benefits knowing that the benefits are available only to members; or (c) taking some other affirmative action that confers membership benefits. If the articles or bylaws provide that a person who contributes to the corporation is a member, a contribution is consent.

- 3. Except as provided in its articles or bylaws, a corporation may admit members for no consideration or for consideration as is determined by the board.
- 4. Members are of one class unless the articles establish, or authorize the board or members to establish, more than one class. Members are entitled to vote and have equal rights and preferences in matters not otherwise provided for by the board or members, unless and to the extent that the articles or bylaws have fixed or limited the rights and preferences of members or different classes of members or provide for nonvoting members. The articles or bylaws may fix the term of membership.
- 5. A corporation may issue certificates showing membership in the corporation.

Note: Adapted from Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act. §317A.401 and .403.

The Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act provides an excellent and well-drafted basis from which the statutes regarding members, memberships and delegates have been taken. These statutes are Sections 37 through 43.

This statutory scheme concerning members provides much flexibility for the corporation. First, if the articles do not mention members, the corporation has none. The corporation may provide for one or more classes of members and may admit anyone as a member according to criteria in the articles and bylaws. The board is free to set the consideration charged for memberships. A corporation may issue membership certificates.

Of the five types of corporations outlined in existing Chapter 81, two co-ops may have members, one requires members, one educational, religious, etc. corporation allows members and the final corporation (for state and local interests) makes no mention of members at all.

The California approach provides for generally the same kind of structure as the Minnesota Act, but it is extremely complicated and the wording is far less clear. Under California law, public benefit corporations may or may not have members. Mutual benefit corporations may or may not have members. However, when mutual benefit corporations have no members upon dissolution all the assets of the corporation go to the directors.

Section 38. Transfer of membership.

- 1. Except as provided in the articles or bylaws, a member of a corporation may not transfer a membership or a right arising from it.
- 2. Where transfer rights have been provided, a restriction on them is not binding with respect to a member holding a membership issued before the adoption of the restriction unless the restriction is approved by the members and the affected member.

Note: Adapted from Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act. §317A.405.

Some nonprofit corporation schemes forbid the transfers of memberships for consideration, for instance, Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation Act §107.03. This made little sense to us and we provided that generally a member may not transfer his membership, except as provided in the articles or bylaws. This protects homeowners associations from the separation of memberships from the real property to which they may be attached.

The MN-PCA \$11 provides generally that the criteria and standards for members are as provided in the articles or bylaws.

5

8 9

10 11

12 13

14 15

16 | 17

18

19 **2**0 l

21 22

23

25

24

26 27

28

Section 39. Liability of members.

- A member of a corporation is not, as such, personally liable for the acts, debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.
- When authority to do so is conferred by the articles 2. or bylaws and subject to any limitations contained in the articles or bylaws, a corporation may levy dues, assessments, or fees upon its members. The dues, assessments, or fees may be imposed upon all classes of members alike or differently upon different classes of members. Members of one or more classes may be exempted.
 - A corporation in its articles or bylaws may: 3.
- fix the amount of the levy and the method of collection of dues, assessments, or fees; or
- authorize the directors to fix the amount from time to (b) time and determine the methods of collection.
- A corporation in its articles and bylaws may provide for:
- the enforcement or collection of dues, assessments, or (a) fees;
- (b) the cancellation of membership, on reasonable notice, for nonpayment of dues, assessments, or fees; and
 - (c) the reinstatement of membership.

Note: Adapted from Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act. §317A.407.

This very important provision provides for limited liability of the members very similar to the limited liability provided for stockholders in all business corporation laws. used the Minnesota wording as it was short and well-drafted. All the other statutes we reviewed contain similar provisions.

Section 40. Resignation.

Unless otherwise provided in its articles or bylaws, a member of a corporation may resign at any time. The resignation of a member does not relieve the member from any obligations the member may have to the corporation for dues, assessments, or fees or charges for goods or services. No member may avoid liability for dues, assessments, fees or charges by resigning if the member owes them as a condition of or by reason of the ownership of an interest in real property.

Note: Adapted from Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act. §317A.409; the last sentence is adapted from Cal. Corp. Code §7315.

This statute permits a member to resign at any time to avoid dues and assessments. However, if the member acquires his membership by reason of his ownership of real property (as in a homeowners' association) he cannot avoid dues by "resigning". He is a member by reason of the ownership of real property and should not be able to avoid fees by his resignation. This provision is not provided in very many statutory schemes but is important to homeowners associations. See also Section 37.

Section 41. Termination.

- 1. A member may not be expelled or suspended, and a membership may not be terminated or suspended except pursuant to a procedure that is fair and reasonable and is carried out in good faith. This section does not apply to the termination of a membership at the end of a fixed term.
- 2. A procedure is fair and reasonable when it is fair and reasonable taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances. In addition, a procedure is fair and reasonable if it provides:
- (a) not less than 15 days' prior written notice of the expulsion, suspension, or termination, and the reasons for it; and

- (b) an opportunity for the member to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five days before the effective date of the expulsion, suspension, or termination by a person authorized to decide that the proposed expulsion, termination, or suspension not take place.
- 3. A proceeding challenging an expulsion, suspension, or termination, including a proceeding in which defective notice is alleged, must be begun within one year after the effective date of the expulsion, suspension, or termination.
- 4. The expulsion, suspension, or termination of a member does not relieve the member from obligations the member may have to the corporation for dues, assessments, or fees or charges for goods or services.

Note: Adapted from Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act §317A.411.

This statute provides that a member must not be expelled or terminated without a fair and reasonable procedure giving him an opportunity to be heard. Subsection (2) provides a safe harbor procedure for all nonprofits to use if they wish. Both the California and Minnesota statutory schemes contain these due process rights for membership termination. See the Minnesota statute described above and Cal. Corp. Code §5341; §7341.

Existing NRS 81.090 provides that bylaws may contain the conditions when memberships can cease and the mode and manner of the expulsion of a member. However, it provides that the corporation has the full right to purchase the interest of the member in the property of the corporation at book value as determined by the board.

Existing NRS 81.230(4)(f) provides that if the bylaws contain provisions concerning the succession of membership and the cessation of membership, a member will have the right to have a three member board of arbitration appraise his interest in the association and have the corporation pay for his interest in money, property or labor within 40 days after expulsion. These provisions will continue to govern their respective co-ops.

This statute merely allows a corporation to provide what it wants to provide in its articles and bylaws concerning termination and expulsion, subject to the "fair and reasonable" rule.

shares issuable as a result of the merger (either by the conversion of securities issued pursuant to the merger or the exercise of rights and warrants issued pursuant to the merger), will not exceed by more than 20% the total number of participating shares outstanding immediately before a merger.

- 8. As used in subsection (7):
- (a) "Participating shares" means shares that entitle their holders to participate without limitation in distributions.
- (b) "Voting shares" mean shares that entitle their holders to vote unconditionally in elections of directors.
- 9. After a merger or share exchange is approved, and at anytime before articles of merger or share exchange are filed, the planned merger or share exchange may be abandoned (subject to any contractual rights), without further shareholder action, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the plan of merger or share exchange or, if none is set forth, in the manner determined by the board of directors.

Note: NRS 78.471, taken basically from Model Act §11.03, requires mergers or share exchanges to be approved by the shareholders as follows. In the case of a merger (i) the transaction must always be approved by the shareholders of the disappearing corporation; and (ii) the transaction must be approved by the shareholders of the surviving corporation if the number of voting or participating shares is increased by more than 20% as a result of the transaction. In the case of a share exchange (i) the transaction must always be approved by the shareholders of the corporation whose shares are being acquired; and (ii) the transaction need not be approved by the shareholders of the corporation acquiring the shares. Model Act comment, it is believed that the transactions for which shareholder approval is not required by subsection (7) do not alter the investors' prospects any more than any other management decisions and thus should not require a shareholder In particular, the 20% requirement of subsection (7)(c) and (d) is identical to repealed NRS 78.470(3)(c) and broadly consistent with the statutes of several states including

10

11

12

13 14

15

16 17

18

19

20

22 23

24

25 26

27 28 Delaware, Michigan, Pennsylvania and also the New York Stock Exchange requirement that shareholders must be consulted if the number of outstanding shares is to be increased by more than 18.5%. The new language basically changes NRS 78.470 to address only shareholder approval and leaves the filing requirements to new NRS 78.456. It also makes it clear that the corporations may abandon without shareholder approval a merger or share exchange even though it has been previously approved by the shareholders. Abandonment under this section, however, does not affect contract rights of third parties. Moreover, the plan may require that abandonments be approved by shareholders before they are effective.

NRS 78.475 Repeal.

NRS 78.480 Repeal.

NRS 78.485 Repeal.

NRS 78.486 Repeal.

NRS 78.487 Repeal.

Note: NRS 78.487 violates new NRS 78.489(5) and 78.390.

NRS 78.488 Repeal.

Note: This section seems obsolete in view of modern corporate practice and inconsistently applied only to "simple merger".

NRS 78.489 Merger of subsidiary.

- 1. A parent corporation owning at least 90% of the outstanding shares of each class of a subsidiary corporation may merge the subsidiary into itself without approval of the shareholders of the parent or subsidiary.
- 2. The board of directors of the parent shall adopt a plan of merger that sets forth:
 - (a) The names of the parent and subsidiary; and
- (b) The manner and basis of converting the shares of the subsidiary into shares, obligations or other securities of the parent or any other corporation or into cash or other property in whole or part.

9

8

10

13

12

15

17

19

20

22

24

26

27

28

3. The parent shall mail a copy or summary of the plan or merger to each shareholder of the subsidiary who does not waive the mailing requirement in writing.

- 4. The parent may not deliver articles of merger to the secretary of state for filing until at least 30 days after the date it mailed a copy of the plan of merger to each shareholder of the subsidiary who did not waive the mailing requirement.
- 5. Articles of merger under this section may not contain amendments to the articles of incorporation of the parent corporation.

Note: The proposed language from Model Act \$11.04 defines a "parent" corporation as one that owns at least 90% of the outstanding shares of each class of another corporation and a "subsidiary" corporation as one whose shares are so owned. proposed section permits merger with subsidiary into its parent corporation upon adoption of a plan of merger by the board of directors of the parent alone. Separate action by the board of directors of the subsidiary is unnecessary because the share ownership of the parent corporation is normally sufficient to permit it to elect or remove the subsidiary's board of directors. Further, the merger transaction need not be approved by the shareholders of either corporation. Approval by the shareholders of the subsidiary is meaningless because the parent's share ownership is sufficient to insure the plan will be approved. Approval by the parent shareholders is also unnecessary because this transaction does not materially change their rights: the ownership of the parent corporation is being changed only from 90% indirect ownership to 100% direct ownership of the same assets and no significant amendment of the parent's articles of incorporation is being made. For the same reason, shareholders of the parent corporation do not have the right to dissent from the transaction under NRS 78.506. Minority shareholders of the subsidiary may receive shares, obligations or other securities of the parent or any other corporation or cash or other property in whole or in part in exchange for their shares. These shareholders are entitled to 30 days' notice of the plan before it is effectuated. Shareholders of the subsidiary have a right to dissent from the merger transaction under NRS 78.502. The former language in NRS 78.486 which dealt with the "simple" merger of a parent into a subsidiary has been omitted since such a merger requires stockholder approval by the stockholders of the parent and is thus not a true simple merger. It also creates dissenters' right. New NRS 78.489 is simply a merger of a subsidiary into a parent and makes no distinction any longer between domestic and

foreign corporations. These issues are addressed in subsequent sections.

NRS 78.490 Repeal.

Note: The purpose of NRS 78.490 is addressed in new NRS 78.501(2)(a).

NRS 78.491 Articles of merger or share exchange.

- 1. After a plan of merger or share exchange is approved by the shareholders, or adopted by the board of directors if shareholder approval is not required, the surviving or acquiring corporation must deliver to the secretary of state for filing articles of merger or share exchange signed and acknowledged under NRS 11.270 by the president or vice president and secretary or assistant secretary setting forth:
 - (a) The plan of merger or share exchange;
- (b) If shareholder approval was not required, a statement to that effect;
- (c) If approval of the shareholders of one or more corporations party to the merger or share exchange was required:
 - (i) a statement that the plan was approved by the unanimous consent of the shareholders, or
 - (ii) a statement that the plan was submitted to the shareholders by the board of directors in accordance with this chapter, and statement of
 - (1) the designation, number of outstanding shares and number of votes entitled to be cast by each class of shares entitled to vote separately on the plan; and
 - (2) either the total number of votes cast for and against the plan by the shareholders of each class of shares entitled to vote separately on the plan or the

10

12 13

14

15

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24 25

26

27

28

separately by the shareholders of each class of shares
and a statement that the number cast for the plan
by the shareholders of each class of shares was
sufficient for approval by the shareholders of that class
of shares.

2. A merger or share exchange takes effect upon filing or upon a later date as specified in the articles of merger or share exchange which must not be more than 90 days after the articles are filed.

Note: From Model Act §11.05, the articles of merger or share exchange formally make the terms of the transaction a matter of public record and the effective date of the articles is the effective date of their filing unless a delayed effective date is utilized. The articles of merger or share exchange must describe whether the plan was submitted to the vote of one or more voting classes of the participating corporations entitled to vote separately on the plan, and if so either the total vote in favor and against the plan or a statement that the plan was approved by at least the number of undisputed votes required to approve the merger or share exchange by each voting class of each participating corporation entitled to vote separately on the plan. The proposed language, in one section, simplifies the manner of effectuating all mergers whether they include domestic corporations, subsidiary mergers, or foreign corporations.

NRS 78.495 Repeal.

NRS 78.496 Effect of merger or share exchange.

- When a merger takes effect:
- (a) Every other corporation party to the merger merges into the surviving corporation and the separate existence of every corporation except the surviving corporation ceases;
- (b) The title to all real estate and other property owned by each corporation party to the merger is vested in the surviving corporation without reversion or impairment;
 - (c) The surviving corporation has all liabilities of

- 2 (d) A proceeding pending against any corporation party
 3 to the merger may be continued as if the merger did not occur
 4 or the surviving corporation may be substituted in the
 5 proceeding for the corporation whose existence ceased;
 - (e) The articles of incorporation of the surviving corporation are amended to the extent provided in the plan or merger; and
 - (f) The shares of each corporation party to the merger that are to be converted into shares, obligations or other securities of the surviving or any other corporation or into cash or other property are converted, and the former holders of the shares are entitled only to the rights provided in the articles of merger or to their rights under NRS 78.503 to 78.540.
 - 2. When a share exchange takes effect, the shares of each acquired corporation are exchanged as provided in the plan, and the former holders of the shares are entitled only to the exchange rights provided in the articles of share exchange or to their rights under NRS 78.503 to 78.540.

Note: From Model Act §11.06, the proposed language basically describes in simple and more direct fashion, the legal consequences of a merger or share exchange on its effective date. Repealed NRS 78.495 combines merger effect with the right of directors to abandon before the effective date (see NRS 78.471(9)) and the proposed language combines nicely the intended effects of repealed NRS 78.495, 78.500 and 78.525. On the effective date, every disappearing corporation that is a party to the merger disappears into the surviving corporation and the surviving corporation automatically becomes the owner of all real and personal property and becomes subject to all liabilities, actual or contingent, of each disappearing corporation. A merger is not a conveyance or transfer and does not give rise to claims of reverter or impairment of title based on a prohibited conveyance or transfer. Further, all pending

litigation is continued (see repealed NRS 78.525), and the names of the surviving corporation may but need not be, substituted for the name of a disappearing corporation that is a party to litigation. The language further clarifies that the rights of shareholders after the articles of merger are filed are limited to their rights under the plan of merger or their rights under NRS 78.503 to 78.540.

NRS 78.500 Repeal.

Note: This section, in modern corporate practice, seems unnecessary and merely is an extension of the legal consequences of a merger described in the proposed language of NRS 78.496.

NRS 78.501 Merger or share exchange with foreign corporation.

- 1. One or more foreign corporations may merge or enter into a share exchange with one or more domestic corporations if:
- (a) In a merger, the merger is permitted by the law of the state or country under whose law each foreign corporation is incorporated and each foreign corporation complies with that law in effecting the merger;
- (b) In a share exchange, the corporation whose shares will be acquired is a domestic corporation, whether or not a share exchange is permitted by the law of the state or country under whose law the acquiring corporation is incorporated;
- (c) The foreign corporation complies with NRS 78.456 if it is the surviving corporation of the merger or acquiring corporation of the share exchange; and
- (d) Each domestic corporation complies with the applicable provision of NRS 78.451 through 78.489 and, if it is the surviving corporation of the merger or acquiring corporation of the share exchange, with NRS 78.491.
- 2. Upon the merger or share exchange taking effect, the surviving foreign corporation of a merger and the acquiring

- (a) To appoint the secretary of state as its agent for service of process in a proceeding to enforce any obligation or the rights of dissenting shareholders of each domestic corporation party to the merger or share exchange. Service of such process must be made by personally delivering to and leaving with the secretary of state, duplicate copies of such process and the payment of a fee of \$25 for accepting and transmitting the process. The secretary of state shall forthwith send by registered or certified mail one of the copies to the surviving or acquiring corporation at its specified address, unless the surviving or acquiring corporation has designated in writing to the secretary of state, a different address for that purpose, in which case it must be mailed to the last address so designated; and
- (b) To agree that it will promptly pay to the dissenting shareholders of each domestic corporation party to the merger or share exchange the amount, if any, to which they are entitled under NRS 78.503 through 78.540.
- 3. This section does not limit the power of a foreign corporation to acquire all or part of the shares of one or more classes or series of a domestic corporation through a voluntary exchange or otherwise.

Note: From Model Act §11.07, with some modification, this proposed section combines repealed NRS 78.475, 78.480, 78.485 and 78.490 and permits mergers or share exchanges between domestic and foreign corporations. In connection with a plan of merger, the plan must be permitted under the law of the state or country of incorporation of the foreign corporation as well as under the laws of the domestic state. The surviving corporation, if it is a foreign corporation, must file articles of merger to accomplish the disappearance of the domestic

 corporation or corporations and thereby irrevocably appoints the secretary of state as agent for service of process and agrees to pay dissenters in accordance with 78.503 to 78.540. The plan of share exchange, unlike a plan of merger, need not be authorized by the state or country of incorporation of the acquiring foreign corporation if Nevada law authorizes a compulsory share exchange to acquire a class or series of shares of a Nevada corporation. It makes no difference whether the acquiring corporation is foreign or domestic. This kind of transaction does not affect the separate corporate existence of, or impose the liabilities of the disappearing corporation on, the acquiring foreign corporation.

NRS 78.502 Merger of domestic corporation and limited partnership.

- 1. One or more domestic corporations may merge with one or more domestic limited partnerships or one or more foreign limited partnerships if:
- (a) The merger is permitted by the law of the state or country under whose law each foreign limited partnership is formed and in accordance with each limited partnership agreement;
- (b) The foreign limited partnership complies as much as practicable with NRS 78.491 if it is the surviving entity of the merger;
- (c) Each domestic corporation complies with the applicable provisions of NRS 78.451 through 78.489, and if it is the surviving entity of the merger, with NRS 78.491;
- (d) Each domestic limited partnership complies with its limited partnership agreement and as much as practicable with the applicable provisions of NRS 78.451 through 78.489 and, if it is the surviving limited partnership of the merger, with NRS 78.491. For purposes of this subsection, the plan of merger required under NRS 78.451(2) must also set forth the manner and

8

partnership interests of each limited partnership into shares, partnership interests, obligations or other securities of the surviving entity or any other corporation or entity or into cash or other property in whole or part.

2. Upon the merger taking effect, the surviving foreign limited partnership shall comply with the obligations pertaining to surviving foreign corporations of NRS 78.501(2).

Note: This is a new section for Nevada and basically parallels the language of section 263 of the Delaware General Corporation law. Dissenting stockholders would be treated as dissenting shareholders of any other merging coporation provided for under Chapter 78, but dissenting partners of the limited partnership party to the merger would be controlled by the particular limited partnership agreement and the laws of the state under which they are formed, as the case may be.

DISSENTERS' RIGHTS

NRS 78.503 Definitions.

In NRS 78.506 through 78.540, inclusive:

- 1. "Corporation" means the issuer of the shares held by a dissenter before the corporate action, or the surviving or acquiring corporation by merger or share exchange of that issuer.
- 2. "Dissenter" means a shareholder who is entitled to dissent from corporate action under NRS 78.502 and who exercises that right when and in the manner required by NRS 78.511 through 78.538.
- 3. "Fair value", with respect to a dissenter's shares, means the value of the shares immediately before the effectuation of the corporate action to which the dissenter objects, excluding any appreciation or depreciation in an

9

10

12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19 20

21

23 24

25

26

27 28 anticipation of the corporate action unless exclusion would be inequitable.

- 4. "Interest" means interest from the effective date of the corporate action until the date of payment, at the average rate currently paid by the corporation on its principal bank loans or, if none, at a rate that is fair and equitable under all the circumstances.
- 5. "Record shareholder" means the person in whose name shares are registered in the records of a corporation or the beneficial owner of shares to the extent of the rights granted by a nominee certificate on file with the corporation.
- 6. "Beneficial shareholder" means the person who is a beneficial owner of shares held in a voting trust or by a nominee as the record shareholder.
- 7. Shareholder means the record shareholder or the beneficial shareholder.

Note: This new section from Model Act §13.01 contains specialized definitions which are applicable only to particular sections involved. The definition of corporation includes successor or acquiring corporations in mergers or share exchanges within the scope of that definition. The definition of a dissenter is phrased in terms of a shareholder, a term that is itself, specifically defined in subsection (7). The definition of dissenter is also limited since only a shareholder who has performed all the conditions imposed on him in order to obtain payment for his shares is a "dissenter". Under this definition, a shareholder who initially objects, but fails to perform any of these conditions within the time specified, loses his status as a dissenter under this section. The definition of fair value deletes the word "cash" from repealed NRS 78.505 and leaves to the parties (and ultimately to the courts) the details by which fair value is to be determined within the broad outlines of the definition. It thus leaves untouched the accumulated case law about market value based on prior sales, capitalized earnings and asset value. It specifically preserves the present language of repealed NRS 78.505, excluding appreciation and depreciation and in anticipation of the proposed corporate action, but permits an exception for equitable considerations. Fair value is also to be determined

immediately before the effectuation of the corporate action instead of the day before the shareholder's vote as is the case under most state statutes that address the issue as well as repealed NRS 78.501. This comports with the plan of the Model Act to preserve the dissenter's prior rights as a shareholder until the effective date of the corporate action, rather than leaving him in a twilight zone where he has lost former rights, but not yet gained his new ones. The definition of "interest" is included to make interest computations under this chapter more realistic and consistent with the holding in Southdown v. McGinnis, 89 Nev. 184 (1973). The day from which interest runs has been changed from the day before the shareholders' vote to the effective date of the corporate action in conformity with the change in the valuation date.

NRS 78.505 Repeal.

NRS 78.506 Right to dissent.

- 1. A shareholder is entitled to dissent from, and obtain payment of the fair value of his shares in the event of, any of the following corporate actions:
- (a) Consummation of a plan of merger to which the corporation is a party (i) if shareholder approval is required for the merger by NRS 78.471 or the articles of incorporation and the shareholder is entitled to vote on the merger or (ii) if the corporation is a subsidiary, the corporation is a subsidiary and is merged with its parent under NRS 78.489;
- (b) Consummation of a plan of share exchange to which
 the corporation is a party as the corporation whose shares will
 be acquired, if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the plan;
- (c) Any corporate action taken pursuant to a shareholder vote to the extent that the articles of incorporation, bylaws or a resolution of the board of directors provides that voting or nonvoting shareholders are entitled to dissent and obtain payment for their shares.

99-b

2. A shareholder entitled to dissent and obtain

payment under NRS 78.503 to 78.540 may not challenge the corporate action creating his entitlement unless the action is unlawful or fraudulent with respect to the shareholder or the corporation.

- 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, with respect to a plan of merger or share exchange there shall be no right of dissent in favor of holders of shares of any class or series, which, at the record date fixed to determine the shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting at which the plan of merger or share exchange is to be acted on, were either (i) listed on a national securities exchange or (ii) held by at least 2,000 record shareholders, unless in either case:
- (a) The articles of incorporation of the corporation issuing such shares provide otherwise;
- (b) In the case of plan of merger or share exchange, the holders of the class or series are required under the plan of merger or share exchange to accept for such shares anything except cash, shares or shares and cash in lieu of fractional shares of (i) the surviving or acquiring corporation or (ii) any other corporation which, at the effective date of the plan of merger or share exchange, were either listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by at least 2,000 record shareholders; or
- (C) A combination of cash and shares as set forth in subsections 2(a) and 2(b) of this section.

Note: Unlike Model Act §13.02, from which this is basically taken, this retains the "Wall Street" exception of NRS 78.521 for shares that are widely held and publicly traded and

expands the exception to include transactions in which the shareholders receive cash rather than shares of a public The proposed language also establishes the scope of a shareholder's right to dissent (and his resulting right to obtain payment for his shares) by defining the transactions with respect to which a right to dissent exists. These transactions are (i) a plan of merger if the shareholder is entitled to vote under NRS 78.471 or pursuant to provisions in the articles of incorporation or (ii) is a shareholder of a subsidiary that is merged with the parent under NRS 78.489. The right to vote on a merger under NRS 78.471 extends to corporations whose separate existence disappears in the merger and to the surviving corporations if the number of its outstanding shares is increased by more than 20% as a result of the merger. It includes (i) a share exchange under NRS 78.456 if the corporation is a party whose shares are being acquired by the plan and the shareholder is entitled to vote on the exchange or (ii) any corporate action to the extent the articles, bylaws or a board resolution grant a right of dissent. Corporations may wish to grant on a voluntary basis dissenters' rights in connection with important transactions (e.g., those submitted for shareholder approval). The grant may be to nonvoting shareholders in connection with the transactions that give rise to dissenters' rights with respect to voting shareholders. grant of dissenters' rights may add to the attractiveness of preferred shares and may satisfy shareholders who would, in the absence of dissenters' rights, sue to enjoin the transaction. Also in situations where the existence of dissenters' rights may otherwise be disputed, the volunteer offer of those rights under this section will avoid a dispute. Subsection (2) basically adopts the New York form as to exclusivity of a dissenters' remedy under this chapter. The remedy is the exclusive remedy unless the transaction is unlawful or fraudulent. A theory underlying this is as follows: when a majority of shareholders has approved a corporate change, the corporation should be permitted to proceed even if a minority considers the change unwise or disadvantageous and persuades a court that this is correct. Since dissenting shareholders can obtain the fair value of their shares, they are protected from pecuniary loss. Thus, in general terms an exclusivity principle is justified, but the prospect that shareholders may be paid off does not justify the corporation in proceeding unlawfully or fraudulently. The proposed repeals from Chapter 78 and the substitution of the Model Act sections are recommended to organize dissenters' rights under (i) the right to dissent and obtain payment, (ii) the procedure for exercise of dissenters' rights, and (iii) judicial appraisal of shares.

NRS 78.507 Repeal.

3

5

6

8

9

10

16

17

19

20

21

22

24

25

26

27

28

NRS 78.508 Dissent by nominees and beneficial owners.

1. A record shareholder may assert dissenters' rights as to fewer than all the shares registered in his name only if he

 one person and notifies the corporation in writing of the name and address of each person on whose behalf he asserts dissenters' rights. The rights of a partial dissenter under this subsection are determined as if the shares as to which he dissents and his other shares were registered in the names of different shareholders.

- 2. A beneficial shareholder may assert dissenters' rights as to shares held on his behalf only if:
- (a) He submits to the corporation the record

 shareholder's written consent to the dissent not later than
 the time the beneficial shareholder asserts dissenters'
 rights; and
- (b) He does so with respect to all shares of which he is the beneficial shareholder or over which he has power to direct the vote.

Note: Repealed NRS 78.507 is included in new NRS 78.506. NRS 78.508, as discussed in §13.03 of the Model Act, addresses the relationship between dissenters' rights and the widespread practice of nominee or street name ownership of publicly held shares.

NRS 78.510 Repeal.

NRS 78.511 Notice of dissenters' rights.

- 1. If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under NRS 78.506 is submitted to a vote at a shareholders' meeting, the meeting notice must state that shareholders are or may be entitled to assert dissenters' rights under NRS 78.503 to 78.540 and be accompanied by a copy of these sections.
 - 2. If corporate action creating dissenters' rights under

9

10

12

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23 24

25

26 27

28

NRS 78.506 is taken without a vote of shareholders, the corporation shall notify in writing all shareholders entitled to assert dissenters' rights that the action was taken and send them the dissenters' notice described in NRS 78.522.

Note: Taken from § 13.20, the Model Act indicates that this new language requires the corporations to notify record shareholders of the existence of dissenters' rights before the vote is taken on in corporate action. This notice provides the reassurance to investors that the right to dissent is intended to provide because many shareholders have no idea what rights of dissent they have or how to assert them. If the corporation is uncertain whether or not the shareholders have dissenters' rights, it may comply with this notice requirement by stating that the shareholders may have dissenters' rights. A similar requirement of notice is expressly required by proxy rules by the dissenters' rights statutes of several states and possibly under more general disclosure requirements of federal and state securities laws. The language further provides that notice be given after the action is taken in situations where the action is validly taken without a vote of shareholders (e.g., in a merger of the subsidiary into its parent under NRS 78.454.) This notice may be combined with the dissenter's notice required by NRS 78.522.

NRS 78.515 Repeal.

Note: Intent of repealed NRS 78.515 is addressed in NRS 78.522(2), 78.526(2), 78.536, and 78.539(5). Moreover, NRS 78.515 appeared to conflict with NRS 78.471(9).

NRS 78.516 Notice of intent to demand payment.

- 1. If proposed corporate action creating dissenters' rights under NRS 78.506 is submitted to a vote at a shareholders' meeting, a shareholder who wishes to assert dissenters' rights (i) must deliver to the corporation before the vote is taken, written notice of his intent to demand payment for his shares if the proposed action is effectuated and (ii) must not vote his shares in favor of the proposed action.
- 2. A shareholder who does not satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) is not entitled to payment for his shares

under this chapter.

2

5

6

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Taken from Model Act §13.21, if a shareholders' vote is called for, this section requires the shareholder to give notice of his intent to demand payment before the vote on the corporate action is taken similar to repealed NRS 78.505. notice enables other voters to determine how much of a cash payment may be required. It also serves to limit the number of persons to whom the corporation must give further notice including the technical details of depositing share certificates. This subsection has no application to actions taken without a shareholder vote. In order to be and remain a dissenter eligible to demand payment for his shares, this section requires that a shareholder must not only give the notice required by this action, but must also vote against, or at least abstain from voting on, the proposal. This is different from repealed NRS 78.505 which requires the shareholder to vote against the agreement in addition to objecting thereto in writing.

NRS 78.520 Repeal.

Note: Appears to be addressed in NRS 78.516(2).

NRS 78.521 Repeal.

Note: This exception to the right to dissent is addressed in NRS 78.506(3).

NRS 78.522 Dissenters' notice.

- 1. If proposed corporate action creating dissenter's rights under NRS 78.506 is authorized at a shareholders' meeting, the corporation shall deliver a written dissenters' notice to all shareholders whom satisfied the requirements of NRS 78.516.
- 2. The dissenters' notice must be sent no later than 10 days after effectuation of corporate action, and must:
- (a) State where the payment demand must be sent and where and when certificates for certificated shares must be deposited;
- (b) Inform holders of uncertificated shares to what extent transfer of the shares will be restricted after the payment demand is received;

28

8

10

11

13

15

17

18

19

20

22

23

2425

26

2728

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

- (d) Set a date by which the corporation must receive the payment demand, which date may not be fewer than 30 nor more than 60 days after the date the subsection (1) notice is delivered; and
- (e) Be accompanied by a copy of NRS 78.503 to 78.540, inclusive.

Note: Adapted from Model Act §13.22, the basic purpose of this new section is to require the corporation to tell all actual or potential dissenters what they must due in order to take advantage of their right of dissent. The requirements of what the notice (called the dissenters' notice) must contain are spelled out in detail to insure that the notice serves this basic purpose. The new language simplifies the perfection process previously split between repealed NRS 78.505 and 78.507. In case of an action that is submitted to the vote of the shareholders, the dissenters' notice must be sent only to those persons who gave notice of their intention to dissent under NRS 78.516 and who refrained from voting in favor of the proposed action. In case of a transaction not involving a vote by shareholders, the dissenters' notice must be sent to all persons who are eligible to dissent and demand payment. In either case, the dissenters' notice must be sent within 10 days after the effectuation of corporate action is taken and must be accompanied by a copy of pertinent sections. The date of notice is a Model Act modification which requires notification within 10 days from shareholder approval of action creating dissenter's rights.

NRS 78.525 Repeal.

Note: This statute is addressed in the wording of new NRS 78.496(1)(d).

NRS 78.526 Duty to demand payment.

A shareholder sent a dissenters' notice described in

11

10

12

14 15

16

18

20

21

23

24

25

26 27

28

NRS 78.522 must (i) demand payment, (ii) certify whether he acquired beneficial ownership of the shares before the date required to be set forth in the dissenters' notice pursuant to NRS 78.522(2)(c) and (iii) deposit his certificates in accordance with the terms of the notice.

- 2. The shareholder who demands payment and deposits his share certificates under subsection (1) retains all other rights of a shareholder until those rights are cancelled or modified by the taking of the proposed corporate action.
- 3. The shareholder who does not demand payment or deposit his share certificates where required, each by the date set in the dissenters' notice, is not entitled to payment for his shares under NRS 78.503 to 78.540.

Adapted from Model Act §13.23, the demand for payment required by this section is the definitive statement by the dissenter. In case of a transaction involving a vote by shareholders, it is a confirmation of the intention expressed earlier. In case of any other transaction it is the person's first statement of position. In either event, the filing of these demands informs the corporation of the extent of the potential cash if it proceeds with the proposed corporate action. It also requires a person who files a demand to deposit shares certificates as directed by the corporation in its dissenters' notice. This change assumes that the corporation will retain the certificates until it fails to effectuate the proposed corporate action. It thus avoids the need of sending the certificates back to the shareholders only to be surrendered again when payment is made. This section clarifies the perfection process of repealed NRS 78.505 and 78.507 and changes the status under 78.515 so that a shareholder who deposits his shares retains all of the rights of a shareholder until those rights are modified by effectuation of the proposed corporate action.

NRS 78.530 Repeal.

Note: This statute is addressed in the wording of new NRS 78.496(1)(c).

NRS 78.531 Share restrictions.

1. The corporation may restrict the transfer of

uncertificated shares from the date the demand for their payment is received.

2. The person for whom dissenters' rights are asserted as to uncertificated rights retains all other rights of a shareholder until those rights are cancelled or modified by the taking of the proposed corporate action.

Note: From Model Act §13.24, this new section deals with uncertificated shares in the dissent process with minor modification to the Model Act. NRS 78.526 requires certificated shares to be deposited as directed in the corporation's dissenters' notice. The restrictions on transfer of uncertificated shares provided by this section impose an analogous restriction on uncertificated shares for the same reasons. It also makes express that the restrictions on transfer of shares provided by this section does not affect any other rights of the shareholder until those rights are modified by the corporate action.

NRS 78.535 Repeal.

Note: This section seems to be addressed in NRS 78.451 and 78.496.

NRS 78.536 Payment.

1. Except as provided in NRS 78.537, within 30 days after receipt of a payment demand, the corporation shall pay each dissenter who complied with NRS 78.526, the amount the corporation estimates to be the fair value of his shares, plus accrued interest. The obligation of the corporation under this subsection may be enforced by the district court (i) of the county where the corporations' principal office is located, or if none in Nevada, where its resident agent is located, or (ii) at the election of any dissenter residing or having its principal office in Nevada, of the county where the dissenter resides or has its principal office. The court shall dispose of the complaint on an expedited basis.

7

9

10 11

12

13

15

16

17

10

20

21

23

24 25

26

27

28

2. The payment must be accompanied by:

- (a) The corporation's balance sheet as of the end of a fiscal year ending not more than 16 months before the date of payment, an income statement for that year, a statement of changes in the shareholders' equity for that year, and the latest available interim financial statements, if any;
- (b) A statement of the corporation's estimate of the fair value of the shares;
 - (c) An explanation of how the interest was calculated;
- (d) A statement of the dissenters' rights to demand payment under NRS 78.538; and
 - (e) A copy of NRS 78.503 through 78.540, inclusive.

Note: This new section, with some modification from Model Act \$13.25, changes the relative balance between corporation and dissenting shareholders by requiring immediate payment by the corporation upon the receipt of the demand for payment. corporation may not wait for a final agreement on value before making payment, and the shareholder has the immediate use of the amount determined by the corporation to represent fair value without waiting for the conclusion of appraisal proceedings. This obligation to make immediate payment is based on the view that since the person's rights as a shareholder are terminated with the completion of the transaction, he should have immediate use of the money to which the corporation agrees it has no further claim. The difference of opinion over the total amount to be paid should not delay payment of the amount that is undisputed. Since the shareholder must decide whether or not to accept the payment in full satisfaction, he must be furnished at this time with the financial information specified in the section with the reminder of his further rights and liabilities and with a copy of the relevant sections. This is a major change from that existing under current Nevada law.

NRS 78.537 After-acquired shares.

1. A corporation may elect to withhold payment required by NRS 78.536 from a dissenter unless he was the beneficial owner of the shares before the date set forth in the dissenters' notice as the date of the first announcement to news media or

3 4

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

15

16 17

18

19 20

21

24 25

23

26 27

28

to shareholders of the terms of the proposed corporate action.

2. To the extent the corporation elects to withhold payment under subsection (1), after taking the proposed corporate action, it shall estimate the fair value of the shares, plus accrued interest, and shall offer to pay this amount to each dissenter who agrees to accept it in full satisfaction of his demand. The corporation shall send with its offer a statement of its estimate of the fair value of the shares, an explanation of how the interest was calculated, and a statement of the dissenters' right to demand payment under NRS 78.538.

Note: Adapted from Model Act §13.27, this provides for separate treatment of shares required on or after the date of public announcement of the proposed corporate action and this date is specified by the corporation in its dissenters' notice under NRS 78.522. At that corporation's option, holders of shares acquired on or after this date are not entitled to immediate payment under NRS 78.536. Rather, they may receive only an offer of payment which is conditioned on their agreement to accept it in full satisfaction of their claim. If the right of unconditional immediate payment were granted as to all after-acquired shares, speculators and others might be tempted to buy shares merely for the purpose of dissenting. Since the function of dissenters' rights is to protect investors against unforeseen changes, there is no need to give equally favorable treatment to purchasers who knew or should have known about the proposed changes. This is a brand new section for Nevada and corporations are given discretion whether to apply the section to after-acquired shares. Considerations of simplicity and harmony may prompt the corporation to make immediate payment for shares acquired on or after the specified date as well as for preacquired shares.

NRS 78.538 Procedure if shareholder dissatisfied with payment or offer.

1. A dissenter may notify the corporation in writing of his own estimate of the fair value of his shares and amount of interest due, and demand payment of his estimate (less any payment under NRS 78.536), or reject the corporation's offer

8 9

10

12

14

16

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24 25

26

28

27

under NRS 78.538 and demand payment of the fair value of his shares and interest due, if the dissenter believes that the amount paid under NRS 78.536 or offered under NRS 78.538 is less than the fair value of his shares or that the interest due is incorrectly calculated.

2. A dissenter waives his right to demand payment under this section unless he notifies the corporation of his demand in writing under subsection (1) within 30 days after the corporation made or offered payment for his shares.

Taken from Model Act §13.28, this section encourages a negotiated settlement where a shareholder is dissatisfied with a payment or offer of payment. The dissenter who is not content with the corporation's remittance must state in writing the amount he is willing to accept. A dissenter who acquired his shares after public announcement of the transaction and is dissatisfied with the corporation's offer must also state in writing the amount he is willing to accept. A dissenter cannot, by remaining silent, force the corporation into the expense and delay of a judicial appraisal. Furthermore, if his supplemental demand is unreasonable, he runs the risk of being assessed litigation expenses under NRS 78.540. These provisions are designed to encourage settlement without a judicial proceeding. The dissenter must make a supplemental demand within 30 days from receipt of payment or offer of payment in order to permit the corporation to make an early decision on initiating appraisal proceeding. If he fails to do so, he loses the right to demand additional payment under subsection (2).

NRS 78.539 Court action.

- 1. If a demand for payment under NRS 78.538 remains unsettled, the corporation shall commence a proceeding within 60 days after receiving the payment demand and petition the court to determine the fair value of the shares and accrued interest. If the corporation does not commence the proceeding within the 60-day period, it shall pay each dissenter whose demand remains unsettled the amount demanded.
 - 2. A corporation shall commence the proceeding in the

district court of the county where a corporation's principal office (or if none in the state, its resident agent) is located. If the corporation is a foreign corporation without a resident agent in the state, it shall commence the proceeding in the county and the state where the principal office of the domestic corporation merged with or whose shares were required by the foreign corporation was located.

- 3. The corporation shall make all dissenters (whether or not residents of Nevada) whose demands remain unsettled parties to the proceeding as in an action against their shares and all parties must be served with a copy of the petition.

 Nonresidents may be served by registered or certified mail or by publications as provided by law.
- 4. The jurisdiction of the court in which the proceeding is commenced under subsection (2) is plenary and exclusive. The court may appoint one or more persons as appraisers to receive evidence and recommend decision on the question of fair value. The appraisers have the powers described in the order appointing them, or any amendment to it. The dissenters are entitled to the same discovery rights as parties in other civil proceedings.
- 5. Each dissenter made a party to the proceeding is entitled to judgment (i) for the amount, if any, by which the court finds the fair value of his shares, plus interest, exceeds the amount paid by the corporation, or (ii) for the fair value, plus accrued interest, of his after-acquired shares for which the corporation elected to withhold payment under NRS 78.537.

Note: Adapted from Model Act §13.30, this section

significantly changes the procedure under repealed NRS 78.510, but retains the concept of judicial appraisal as the ultimate means of determining fair value. Petition is to be commenced by the corporation within 60 days after receiving a demand for payment under NRS 78.538 and subsection (1) makes this time period jurisdictional. If the petition is not commenced within the period, the corporation must pay the additional amounts demanded by the shareholders under NRS 78.538. Important changes are that appraisers may be appointed within the discretion of the court and if the corporation fails to commence a judicial proceeding to establish the fair value of the shares as is required by this section, it must pay the full amount claimed under NRS 78.538. It also clarifies discovery rights.

NRS 78.540 Court costs and counsel fees.

- 1. The court in an appraisal proceeding commenced under NRS 78.539 shall determine all costs of the proceeding, including the reasonable compensation and expenses of appraisers appointed by the court. The court shall assess the costs against the corporation, except that the court may assess costs against all or some of the dissenters, in amounts the court finds equitable, to the extent the court finds the dissenters acted arbitrarily, vexatiously, or not in good faith in demanding payment under NRS 78.538.
- 2. The court may also assess the fees and expenses of counsel and experts for the respective parties, in amounts the court finds equitable:
- (a) against the corporation and in favor of any and all dissenters if the court finds the corporation did not substantially comply with the requirements of NRS 78.511 through 78.538; or
- (b) against either the corporation or a dissenter in favor of any other party, if the court finds that the party against whom the fees and expenses are assessed acted arbitrarily, vexatiously, or not in good faith with respect to the rights

5

7

9

10

11

13

14 15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

24

25

26

27

28

- 3. If the court finds that the services of counsel for any dissenter were of substantial benefit to other dissenters similarly situated, and that the fees for those services should not be assessed against the corporation, the court may award to those counsel reasonable fees to be paid out of the amounts awarded the dissenters who were benefited.
- 4. In a proceeding commenced under NRS 78.536(1), the court may assess the costs against the corporation, except that the court may assess costs against all or some of the dissenters who are parties to the proceeding, in amounts the court finds equitable, to the extent the court finds that such parties did not act in good faith in instituting the proceeding.
- 5. Nothing in this section shall preclude any party in a proceeding commenced under either NRS 78.539 or 78.536(1)

 from applying the provisions of either NRCP 68 or NRS 17.115.

Note: Modified from Model Act §13.31, this new section clarifies that generally the costs of the appraisal proceeding should be assessed against the corporation. The court is, however, authorized to assess these costs in whole or in part against the dissenters if it concludes they acted arbitrarily, vexatiously, or not in good faith in making demand for additional payment. Similarly, counsel fees may be charged against the corporation or against dissenters upon a finding of a failure to comply in good faith with the requirements of relevant sections. Individual dissenters in turn can be called upon to pay counsel fees for other dissenters if the court finds that the services were of substantial benefit to the other The purpose of all these grants of discretion with respect to costs and counsel fees is to increase the incentives of both sides to proceed in good faith under this chapter to attempt to resolve their disagreement without the need of a formal judicial appraisal of the value of shares. Subsections (4) and (5) are additions to the Model Act.

Summary note: The essence of this report is that all of the current Nevada sections dealing with mergers and dissenters'

rights are repealed and replaced with a clearer organization and the greatly simplified wording from the Model Act, retaining important provisions from current Nevada statutes to preserve the corporate philosophy in this state. Additionally, compulsory share exchanges and mergers of corporations with limited partnerships have been approved. Substantively, the primary changes are found in the perfection process of dissenters' rights and in the judicial appraisal of fair value should a corporation and dissenters be unable to reach an agreement as to fair value. For example, the appraisal process has been greatly simplified with (i) the court merely having the discretion to appoint one or more appraisers should it deem it necessary to determine fair value of shares, (ii) discovery rights being clarified and (iii) the court having enormous discretion in the award of fees and costs.

BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

In addition to control shares legislation, more than twenty jurisdictions have enacted "business combination" legislation. This type of legislation is designed to insure to the extent reasonably practicable that an acquirer who obtains control of a specified percentage of the voting power of certain corporations will not be able to hold the corporation "hostage" to the acquirer's share position, whether by using the corporation's assets for purposes not in the best interests of the corporation and its other shareholders, by forcing unwise transactions that benefit the acquirer to the detriment of the other shareholders, or by using other means to treat other shareholders unfairly after the acquirer obtains its significant ownership position. See Introductory Comment to Chapter 43 of the Indiana Corporation Act (the "Indiana Act").

New York was the first jurisdiction to enact business combination legislation. The Delaware legislature also determined that business combination legislation was the most appropriate method of deterring the potential abuses which often surface in the context of battles for corporate control, most notably coercive effects of the so-called two-tier, front-end loaded tender offer. The constitutionality of the Delaware business combination legislation has been upheld in three Delaware cases. BNS, Inc. v. Koopers Co., 683 F.Supp. 458 (D.Del. 1988); RP Acquisition Corp. v. Staley Continental, Inc., 686 F.Supp. 476 (D.Del. 1988); City Capitol Associates
Limited Partnership v. Interco Inc., 696 F. Supp. 1551, aff'd 860 F.2d 60 (3d Cir. 1988).

As would be expected, however, in light of the powerful takeover lobby present in Delaware, the Delaware legislation is somewhat watered down in comparison to the forms of business combination legislation enacted in other jurisdictions. For example, (1) Delaware has a higher threshold as to what constitutes an "interested shareholder" (20% of the voting power, as opposed to the more common 10%), (2) Delaware has a shorter waiting period during which certain business

combinations are prohibited (3 years, as opposed to the more common 5 years), (3) Delaware provides an exception to the waiting period in the event a business combination is approved after the fact by the Board of Directors and is also approved by two-thirds of the voting stock not owned by the interested shareholder, and (4) Delaware does not seek to regulate what the acquirer can do with its control position after expiration of the waiting period, whereas most of the other statutes require some form of disinterested shareholder approval and/or satisfaction of fairness criteria in order for a business combination to be effected after the waiting period.

3

5

6

7

8

13

15

23

24

25

26

27

These differences are significant, and there may be some concern that the more common and more restrictive forms of business combination statutes in effect in other jurisdictions would not pass constitutional muster. In addition, Delaware does not have a control share statute in addition to its business combination statute. At the present time, more than fifteen jurisdictions have takeover statutes in addition to business combination statutes. For example, Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin each have both control share and business combination statutes.

However, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has recently determined that the business combination statutes in effect in Wisconsin are not preempted by the Williams Act and do not violate the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. Amanda Acquisition Corp. v. Universal Foods Corp., 877 F.2d 496 (7th Cir. 1989). The result in Amanda is quite comforting, as Wisconsin has a strict version of business combination legislation, and also has in effect both control share legislation and fair price legislation. In addition, the court in Amanda was not sympathetic to the wisdom of state takeover statutes; indeed the court stated "If our views of the wisdom of state law mattered, Wisconsin's takeover statute would not survive." However, the court noted at the end of the opinion that "a law can be both economic folly and constitutional." Id. quoting 481 U.S. at 96-97 (Scalia J., concurring). Wisconsin's law may well be folly; we are confident that it is constitutional. Amanda, supra; see also, West Point-Pepperel, Inc. v. Farley, Inc., 711 F.Supp. 1088 (N.D. Ga. 1988);
Vernitron Corp. v. Kollmorgen Corp., No. 89 Civ. 0241 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 15, 1989); Sroufe and Gelband, "Business Combination Statutes: A 'Meaningful Opportunity' for Success?", 45 Bus. Law. 891 (1990).

Thus, Nevada will be acting within the scope of its power to regulate the internal affairs of domestic corporations by enacting a form of business combination legislation in addition to the control share legislation which is presently in effect.

As to the form of business combination statute which should be enacted in Nevada, the following draft of legislation is substantially similar to Chapter 43 of the Indiana Act. We have

1. Nevada's Control Share statutes were patterned after Indiana's and consistency in reference to certain defined terms will be maintained;

4

2. Indiana's statutes have received a mild form of implicit approval, as they were in existence at the time when the United States Supreme Court decided CTS, and are substantially similar to the Wisconsin statute approved in Amanda;

6

7

5

3. Indiana follows a similar codification procedure as is used in Nevada (i.e. definitions each have their own section), which should reduce the need for any significant time being spent by the Legislative Counsel Bureau in amending the proposed legislation contained in this study; and,

8

10

11

4. The Indiana statute contains superior Comments which are a significant aid in understanding the purpose and intent behind each section of the statute. Following each of the proposed statutes, we have printed these comments, as contained in the version of the Indiana Code published by the Michie Company, subject to minor revisions. Ind. Code Ann. §§23-43-1 through 23-1-43-24 (Burns 1990).

13

14

A final word of caution may be in order prior to an unqualified recommendation of the Indiana statute. As mentioned above, Delaware probably had a more balanced viewpoint presented to its legislature than did Indiana, in light of the substantial presence of acquirers during the Delaware legislative hearings. Acquirers choose jurisdictions in which to incorporate also, and may determine that the Nevada legislative scheme unfairly reduces the ability to raise venture capital. The court in Amanda shared these reservations, and certain commentators are of the opinion that while control share legislation enhances shareholder wealth, business combination statutes do not necessarily do so. See, e.g., Ind. Code Ann. §\$23-1-43-1 through 23-1-43-24 (Burns 1990). "The Promise of State Takeover Statutes", 86 Mich. L.R. 1635 (1988). For this reason, it may be wise to consider whether Nevada should modify the enclosed business combination legislation in a fashion similar to Delaware.

On the other hand, a growing number of jurisdictions and some commentators have recognized that shareholders are not the only legitimate constituency for either boards of directors or state legislators. Many state statutes are now authorizing a

constituencies when facing difficult decisions with respect to corporate control, for instance the interests of employees and suppliers along with the state and national economy. Most, if not all, commentators who are skeptical with respect to the propriety of state takeover measures disregard the impact of takeovers on these non-shareholder constituencies. However, it

Τ,

19

20

21

23

state legislators. Many state statutes are now authorizing a board of directors to consider the interest of non-shareholder

26

27

28

appears that a state legislator may appropriately determine that the interests of these constituencies should be taken into account when enacting these types of statutes. See, Ind. Code Ann. §§23-43-1 through 23-1-43-24 (Burns 1990).

"Missing the Point about State Takeover Statutes", 87 Mich. L.R. 846 (1989).

Once again, the notes to the following statutes are largely those appended to the correlative sections of the Indiana statutes. Ind. Code Ann. §§23-43-1 through 23-1-43-24 (Burns 1990). The statutes have been slightly rewritten to conform to the drafting style used in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the notes changed to correct references to other statutes.

Section 1. Definitions.

5

8

9

12

13

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

26

27

28

As used in Sections 1 through 25, inclusive, of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in Sections 2 through 18, inclusive, have the meanings assumed to them in those sections.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure to the extent reasonably practicable that an acquirer who obtains control of 10% or more of the voting power of a "resident domestic corporation" will not be able to hold that corporation "hostage" to the acquirer's share position, whether by using the corporation's assets for purposes not in the best interests of the corporation and its other shareholder, by forcing on the corporation unwise transactions that benefit the acquirer to the detriment of the corporation and its other shareholders, or by using other means to treat other shareholders unfairly after the acquirer obtains its significant ownership position. generally applies to Nevada corporations with more than 100 shareholders that have a class of voting shares registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") under section 12, 15 U.S.C. §781, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, 15 U.S.C. §§78a et seq. (the "Exchange Act") - though such corporations can "opt out" of this Act and other Nevada corporations with more than 100 shareholders may of "opt in." See sections 14, 21 and 23 and the notes thereto.

Section 2. "Affiliate" defined.

"Affiliate" means a person that directly, or indirectly through one (1) or more intermediaries, is controlled by, or is under common control with, a specified person.

Note: The definition of "affiliate" mirrors the definition contained in Reg. 12b-2, 17 C.F.R. §240.12b-2, promulgated under the Exchange Act, as that regulation existed on January 8, 1986.

7

8 9

10

12

13

14 15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

23 | 24 |

2526

27

28

This definition is the operative definition for reports filed pursuant to sections 12, 13 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §§781, 78m & 78o(d).

"Person," as used in this section and elsewhere in this Act, has the same broad meaning it has throughout the Nevada Revised Statutes under NRS 0.039.

Section 3. "Announcement date" defined.

"Announcement date," when used in reference to any business combination, means the date of the first public announcement of the final, definitive proposal for the business combination.

Note: The "announcement date" definition reflects the fact that corporations subject to this Act - since they will generally be publicly-held corporations with a class of voting shares registered with the SEC under section 12 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §781, (see Section 21 and note) - will usually be obligated to announce publicly the vast majority of transactions that constitute "business combinations" under section 6.

Section 4. "Associate" defined.

"Associate," when used to indicate a relationship with any person, means:

- Any corporation or organization of which the person is an officer or partner or is, directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner of ten percent (10%) or more of any class of voting shares;
- 2. Any trust or other estate in which the person has a substantial beneficial interest or as to which the person serves as trustee or in a similar fiduciary capacity; and
- 3. Any relative or spouse of the person, or any relative of the spouse, who has the same home as the person.

Note: The definition of "associate" follows the definition contained in Reg. 12b-2, 17 C.F.R. §240.12b-2, promulgated under the Exchange Act, as that regulation existed on January 8, 1986.

Section 5. "Beneficial owner" defined.

"Beneficial owner," when used with respect to any shares,

- Individually or with or through any of its affiliates or associates, beneficially owns the shares (directly or indirectly);
- 2. Individually or with or through any of its affiliates or associates, has:
- (a) The right to acquire the shares (whether the right is exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time) under any agreement, arrangement, or understanding (whether or not in writing), or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, warrants or options, or otherwise (however, a person is not considered the beneficial owner of shares tendered under a tender or exchange offer made by the person or any of the person's affiliates or associates until the tendered shares are accepted for purchase or exchange); or
- (b) The right to vote the shares under any agreement, arrangement, or understanding (whether or not in writing); however, a person is not considered the beneficial owner of any shares under this clause if the agreement, arrangement, or understanding to vote the shares arises solely from a revocable proxy or consent given in response to a proxy or consent solicitation made in accordance with the applicable regulations under the Exchange Act and is not then reportable on a Schedule 13D under the Exchange Act, or any comparable or successor report; or
- 3. Has any agreement, arrangement, or understanding (whether or not in writing) for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting (except voting under a revocable proxy or

2

3

4 5

6

. 8

10

11

12

14

16

-18

19

20

22

24

26

27

consent as described in subsection 2(b) of this section), or disposing of the shares with any other person that beneficially owns, or whose affiliates or associates beneficially own, directly or indirectly, the shares.

Note: For purposes of this Act (including the percentage ownership and "control" tests of section 9), section 5 defines "beneficial owner" broadly to include all persons who may be able, directly or indirectly, to exercise control over the ownership or voting power of shares of a corporation. Thus, an acquirer cannot evade application of the Act simply because its control over a corporation's shares is exercised through devices other than direct record and beneficial ownership. At the same time, though, the mere fact that another shareholder votes his shares in the same way as a potential acquirer will not, without more, make the acquirer the "beneficial owner" of the other shareholder's shares, if the two are not acting in concert.

- 1. Subsection 1 makes a person the "beneficial owner" of all shares that it owns either (a) directly or indirectly, and (b) either individually or with or through any of its "affiliates or associates," as defined in sections 2 and 4, respectively. Thus, if one entity is an affiliate or an associate of another, each will be the "beneficial owner," for purposes of this Act, of all shares directly or indirectly owned or controlled by either or both.
- Subsection 2 makes a person the "beneficial owner" of all shares as to which it has the right, pursuant to an agreement or other arrangement, to acquire or exercise control over either the ownership or voting power. Subsection 2 does not, however, make a person the "beneficial owner" of shares tendered to the person (or its affiliates or associates) under a tender or exchange offer, until the shares are accepted for purchase or exchange. Likewise, subsection 2 does not make a person the "beneficial owner" of shares legitimately voted pursuant to a revocable proxy or consent given by another shareholder in a proxy contest, if (a) the proxy or consent solicitation was in accordance with applicable Exchange Act regulations, and (b) the other shareholder's relationship with the person is not such that it is reportable under section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78m(d), or any comparable or successor provision.
- 3. Subsection 3 is an inclusive definitional provision that makes a person the "beneficial owner" of any shares of which another person (or its affiliates or associates) is also the "beneficial owner," if the two have any written or oral agreement, arrangement or understanding with respect to acquiring, holding, voting (except for the "proxy" exception of subsection 2(b)) or disposing of the shares. This is similar to the "group" approach adopted by the SEC under the Exchange Act.

9 10

11 12

13 14

15 16

17

18 19

20 21

22

24 25

23

26

27

See Reg. 13d-a5, 17 C.F.R. § 240.13d-5.

Section 6. "Business combination" defined.

"Business combination," when used in reference to any resident domestic corporation and any interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation, means any of the following:

- Any merger or consolidation of the resident domestic corporation or any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation with:
 - The interested shareholder; or (a)
- Any other corporation (whether or not itself an interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation) that is, or after the merger or consolidation would be, an affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder.
- Any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or other disposition (in one (1) transaction or a series of transactions) to or with the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder of assets of the resident domestic corporation of any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation:
- (a) Having an aggregate market value equal to five percent (5%) or more of the aggregate market value of all the assets, determined on a consolidated basis, of the resident domestic corporation;
- (b) Having an aggregate market value equal to five percent (5%) or more of the aggregate market value of all the outstanding shares of the resident domestic corporation; or
- (c) Representing ten percent (10%) or more of the earning power or net income, determined on a consolidated basis, of the

′

3. The issuance or transfer by the resident domestic corporation or any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation (in one (1) transaction or a series of transactions) of any shares of the resident domestic corporation or any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation that have an aggregate market value equal to five percent (5%) or more of the aggregate market value of all the outstanding shares of the resident domestic corporation to the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder or except under the exercise of warrants or rights to purchase shares offered, or a dividend or distribution paid or made, pro rata to all shareholders of the resident domestic corporation.

- 4. The adoption of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the resident domestic corporation proposed by, or under any agreement, arrangement, or understanding (whether or not in writing) with, the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder.
 - 5. Any:
- (a) Reclassification of securities (including without limitation any share split, share dividend, or other distribution or shares in respect of share, or any reverse share split);
 - (b) Recapitalization of the resident domestic corporation;
- (c) Merger or consolidation of the resident domestic corporation with any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation; or

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

(d) Other transaction (whether or not with or into or otherwise involving the interested shareholder) proposed by, or under any agreement, arrangement, or understanding (whether or not in writing) with, the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder, that has the effect (directly or indirectly) of increasing the proportionate share of the outstanding shares of any class or series of voting shares or securities convertible into voting shares of the resident domestic corporation or any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation that is directly or indirectly owned by the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder, except as a result of immaterial changes due to fractional share adjustments.

6. Any receipt by the interested shareholder or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder of the benefit (directly or indirectly, except proportionately as a shareholder of the resident domestic corporation), of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges, or other financial assistance or any tax credits or other tax advantages provided by or through the resident domestic corporation.

Note: Section 6's definition of "business combination" specifies the transactions subject to this Act's rules. Consistent with the shareholder protection purposes of the Act, the definition is intended to include virtually any kind of transaction that would allow a potential acquirer to use the corporation's assets to finance the acquisition or otherwise to benefit its own interests rather than the interests of the corporation and its other shareholders.

(1) Under Subsection 1, a "business combination" includes any merger (whether forward or reverse), with (a) an "interested shareholder", as defined in section 11, or (b) any other corporation that, after the merger, would be an affiliate or an

- (2) Subsection 2 includes in the definition of "business combination" any direct shift of assets from the covered corporation to the interested shareholder or its affiliates or associates whether by sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition, in a single transaction or a series of transactions where the value of the assets being transferred equals (a) 5% or more of the "market value" (as defined in section 12(2) of the corporation's total assets; (b) 5% or more of the "market value" (as defined in section 12(1)) of the corporation's outstanding shares; or (c) the corporation's earning power or net income. The tests are alternative, nor cumulative: If the value of the assets being transferred exceeds any one of the three specified thresholds, the transfer will be a "business combination."
- (3) Subsection 3 makes the term "business combination" include any issuance of a covered corporation's shares to an interested shareholder or its affiliates or associates, if (a) the value of the shares being issued equals 5% or more of the aggregate "market value" (as defined in section 12(1)) of the corporation's outstanding shares, and (b) the shares are not being issued under the exercise of warrants or rights offered, or a dividend or distribution paid or made, pro rata to all shareholders. Thus, an attempted disproportionate issuance of shares to an interested shareholder is subject to this Act's rules.
- (4) Under subsection 4, a "business combination" also includes any plan or proposal for liquidation or dissolution of a covered resident domestic corporation proposed by, or under any written or oral agreement, arrangement or understanding with, an interested shareholder or its affiliates or associates.
- (5) Subsection 5 defines a "business combination" to include any kind of transaction proposed by, or under any written or oral agreement, arrangement or understanding with, an interested shareholder or its affiliates or associates that could result in any disproportionate increase in the ownership of the covered corporation by the interested shareholder or its affiliates or associates.
 - (6) Subsection (6) includes in the definition of "business combination" other disproportionate transfers of money, property, benefits or advantages to the interested shareholder to its affiliates or associates, whether through loans, advances, guarantees, pledges, tax credits, other tax advantages or other financial assistance (such as compensating balances.)

Section 7. "Common shares" defined.

"Common shares" means any shares other than preferred

27 28

26

1

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

16

17

19

23

24

shares.

3 5

1

2

6

7

8 9

10

11

12 13

14

16

15

18

19

20 21

22

23

25 26

27

28

A person's beneficial ownership of ten percent (10%)

Note: Because NRS 78.195 as amended pursuant to this report's recommendations does not distinguish between "common" and "preferred stock", section 7 defines the former term, and section 13 provides a complementary definition of the latter, for purposes of this Act. Section 7 simply excludes from the definition of "common stock" any shares properly determined to be "preferred stock" under section 13, but otherwise is inclusive.

Section 8. "Consummation date" defined.

"Consummation date," with respect to any business combination, means the date of consummation of the business combination or, in the case of a business combination as to which a shareholder vote is taken, the later of:

- The business day before the vote; or
- Twenty (20) days before the date of consummation of 2. the business combination.

Section 8 defines the "consummation date" for a business combination as either (a) the date the business combination is in fact consummated, or (b) if a shareholder vote is taken on the transaction, the later of (i) the date before the vote, and (ii) 20 days before the date the business combination is in fact consummated. This definition is intended to assure that the values tested under the Act's "market value" tests, see sections 6, 12 and 20(3), reflect a true trading market, unaffected by the closing of the "business combination" transaction itself.

Section 9. "Control," controlling," "controlled by" and "under common control with" defined.

"Control", including the terms "controlling," "controlled by," and "under common control with," means the possession (directly or indirectly) of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

or more of the voting power of a corporation's outstanding voting shares creates a presumption that the person has control of the corporation.

3. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2 of this section, a person is not considered to have control of a corporation if the person holds voting power, in good faith and not for the purpose of circumventing this act, as an agent, bank, broker, nominee, custodian, or trustee for one (1) or more beneficial owners who do not as individuals or as a group have control of the corporation.

Note: Section 9 provides an inclusive, but fairly standard, definition of "control."

- (1) Subsection 1 follows the definition of "control" contained in Reg. 12b-2, 17CFR §240.12b-2, promulgated under the Exchange Act, as that regulation existed on January 8, 1986.
- (2) Under subsection 2, 10% "beneficial ownership," as defined in section 5 establishes a presumption of "control." The presumption is conclusive unless it is rebutted under the rules of subsection 3. General arguments that the 10% owner does not have "real control" are irrelevant.

Subsection 2's 10% threshold is the same as that used in section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78p(a), to give rise to liability for short-swing profits in purchases and sales of publicly traded shares, and exists in other Exchange Act contexts as well. Here, as under the Exchange Act, the reason for the 10% threshold is that a shareholder with that degree of control can, if it wishes, obtain inside information that can be abused, or otherwise exert influence over the policies of a publicly-held corporation sufficient to consider the shareholder to be part of corporate management. See also note to section 11(1). The 10% threshold adopted for purposes of this Act is lower than the one-fifth, one-third and one-half thresholds adopted for purposes of NRS 78.378 through 78.3793, inclusive. See section 2 and note.

(3) Subsection 3 excludes from the presumption of control those institutional holders whose aggregate holdings for the accounts of other shareholders exceed 10%, if (a) the vote of such shares in a proxy fight must be directed by the true beneficial owners, and (b) the true beneficial owners themselves do not individually or as a group have "control" over the corporation.

Section 10. "Exchange Act" defined.

"Exchange Act" means the Act of Congress known as the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Note: Section 10 defines the term "Exchange Act" for ease of reference throughout this Act to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, 15 U.S.C. §§78a et seq.

Section 11. "Interested shareholder" defined.

- 1. "Interested shareholder," when used in reference to any resident domestic corporation, means any person (other than the resident domestic corporation or any subsidiary of the resident domestic corporation) that is:
- (a) The beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of ten percent (10%) or more of the voting power of the outstanding voting shares of the resident domestic corporation; or
- (b) An affiliate or associate of the resident domestic corporation and at any time within the five (5) year period immediately before the date in question was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of ten percent (10%) or more of the voting power of the then outstanding shares of the resident domestic corporation.
- 2. For the purpose of determining whether a person is an interested shareholder, the number of voting shares of the resident domestic corporation considered to be outstanding includes shares considered to be beneficially owned by the person through application of section 5 of this Act, but does not include any other unissued shares of voting shares of the resident domestic corporation that may be issuable under any agreement, arrangement, or understanding, or upon exercise of conversion rights, warrants or options, or otherwise.

Note: (1) Subsection 1's definition of "interested shareholder" is one of the keys to this Act, since the Act's substantive prohibitions involve transactions between a resident domestic corporation and an "interested shareholder." Because shares owned by the resident domestic corporation itself to its subsidiaries may not be voted and thus have no control implications, neither the corporation nor any of its subsidiaries is a "person" who can be an "interested shareholder" of that corporation. "Subsidiary" of a "resident domestic corporation" is defined for purposes of this Act in section 17.

Subsection 1 includes in the definition any person who, directly or indirectly, owns 10% or more of the voting power of the resident domestic corporation. The 10% figure has analogs not only in the Exchange Act, see note to section 9(2), but also in other state statutes. Also, a 10% holding can give a shareholder sufficient leverage to force "greenmail," i.e., redemption of his shares at a premium. The 10% threshold adopted for purposes of this Act is lower than the one-fifth, one-third and one-half thresholds adopted for purposes of NRS 78.370 to 78.3793, inclusive. See section 2 and note.

Subsection 2 includes as an "interested shareholder" an 13 | "affiliate" or "associate" of the resident domestic corporation, as defined in sections 2 and 4, respectively, who held as much as a 10% beneficial ownership position at any time during the preceding five years. Such persons will often have used that ownership to put themselves in a position of "control" over the corporation as effectively as if they still held a 10% interest.

(2) Subsection 2 provides that, for purposes of determining whether a person is an "interested shareholder," but (1) the number of outstanding shares of the corporation, and (2) the number of shares owned by that person, will be deemed to include any shares that the person has the right to acquire through any of the means described in section 5, such as written or oral agreements, arrangements or understandings or exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, warrants or options. Such inclusion is proper, because a person attempting to obtain control of a corporation is highly likely to exercise whatever share acquisition rights are available to it. However, shares 22 that might be issuable to other persons through any of the means described in section 5 are not included in calculating the number of outstanding shares of the corporation, since there is no corresponding likelihood that such other persons will exercise such rights. This approach comports with that taken by the SEC in determining (1) a "beneficial owner of a security' under section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78m(d), and (2) a "reporting person" under section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78p(a). See Regs. 13D-3(d) & 16A-2(b), 17 C.F.R. §§240.13d-3(d) & 240.16a-2(b).

> Section 12. "Market value" defined.

27

26

5

6

8

10

11

12

16

3

5

6 7

8

9

10

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

22

23 24

25 26

27

"Market value," when used in reference to the shares or property of any resident domestic corporation, means the following:

- In the case of shares, the highest closing sale price 1. of a share during the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the date in question on the composite tape for New York Stock Exchange listed shares, or, if the shares are not quoted on the composite tape or not listed on the New York Stock Exchange, on the principal United States securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act on which the shares are listed, or, if the shares are not listed on any such exchange, the highest closing bid quotation with respect to a share during the thirty (30) day period preceding the date in question on the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Automated Quotations System or any system then in use, or if no such quotation is available, the fair market value on the date in question of a share as determined by the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation in good faith.
- 2. In the case of property other than cash or shares, the fair market value of the property on the date in question as determined by the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation in good faith.

Note: Section 12's definition of "market value" protects the shareholders of corporations covered by this Act in two contexts - determining the amount of assets that an acquirer can transfer from the corporation, see section 6 and note, and determining the amount of consideration that shareholders can ultimately receive for their shares, see section 20(3) and note.

(1) Subsection 1 provides that the "market value" of a share is its highest closing sale price during the 30-day period preceding the date in question, as reported on the Composite Tape for New York Stock Exchange listed securities; the

10

11

12

13 14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

24

25

27

reporting system for other exchanges recognized by the SEC or the Automated Quotation System for the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or any similar system then in use. This Act's recognition of these established quotation systems is consistent with the "market exception" to dissenters' rights. NRS 78.521.

If the shares are not quoted on any generally recognized quotation system, the board of directors of the corporation may conclusively determine their value on the date in question, so long as its determination is made in good faith.

Subsection 2 provides that the "market value" of property other than shares is its value on the date in question as determined by the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation. As with its determination of the value of shares not quoted on a recognized quotation system, the board's determination of the "market value" of property other than shares is conclusive, if the determination is made in good faith.

Section 13. "Preferred shares" defined.

"Preferred shares" means any class or series of shares of a resident domestic corporation that under the bylaws or articles of incorporation of the resident domestic corporation:

- Is entitled to receive payment of dividends before any payment of dividends on some other class or series of shares; or
- 2. Is entitled in the event of any voluntary liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the corporation to receive payment or distribution of a preferential amount before any payments or distributions are received by some other class or series of shares.

Note: Chapter 78 does not define "preferred stock" as such. Moreover, for financial reporting or tax purposes, a given security can be considered debt, preferred stock or a hybrid, without regard to characteristics that may implicate control. However, because NRS 78.195 distinguishes between "common" and "preferred stock," section 7 defines the former term, and section 13 provides a complementary definition of the latter, for purposes of this Act.

(1) Subsection 1 includes within the definition of "preferred stock" any shares that, by their terms, are entitled to dividends before payment of dividends on any other class or

series of shares.

(2) Subsection 2 defines "preferred stock" to include any shares that by their terms are entitled to preferential payments on liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation before payments are made to any other class or series of shares.

Section 14. "Resident domestic corporation" defined.

- 1. "Resident domestic corporation" means a corporation that has two hundred (200) or more shareholders.
- 2. A resident domestic corporation does not cease to be a resident domestic corporation by reason of events occurring or actions taken while the resident domestic corporation is subject to this Act.

Note: (1) Subsection 1 defines which corporations are "resident domestic corporations" subject to this Act. As the term implies, the first requirement is that the corporation be a Nevada corporation.

Second, a "resident domestic corporation" must have 200 or more shareholders. NRS 78.3788 contains the same "200 shareholder" rule. The "200 or more shareholder" rule limits the applicability of this Act to corporations in which share ownership is fairly dispersed, since it is precisely in such corporations that changes of control can occur in market transactions, and minority shareholders might not be in a position effectively to protect themselves.

Under section 21, a resident domestic corporation must generally also have a class of voting shares registered with the SEC under section 12 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §781, before this Act's rules will apply. However, while corporations that have such a class of registered shares may "opt out" of this Act and corporations without such a class of registered shares may "opt in," see sections 21 and 23 and notes, corporations that do not meet the definition of "resident domestic corporation" - i.e., Nevada corporations with 200 or more shareholders - are not covered by this Act.

(2) Subsection 2 establishes that events or actions that occur while a resident domestic corporation is subject to this Act cannot make the corporation no longer subject to the Act. In other words, action taken after a person has become an "interested shareholder" cannot be used to avoid applicability of this Act to a resident domestic corporation. For example, an acquirer cannot evade this Act by first taking steps to reduce the number of shareholders to less than 200, then engage freely in transactions that are prohibited or regulated by this Act.

Section 15. "Share" defined.

"Share" means:

__

1. Any share or similar security, any certificate of interest, any participation in any profit sharing agreement, any voting trust certificate, or any certificate of deposit for a share; and

2. Any security convertible, with or without consideration, into shares, or any warrant, call, or other option or privilege of buying shares without being bound to do so, or any other security carrying any right to acquire, subscribe to, or purchase shares.

Note: The control context presents special issues which require a broad definition of "share". Accordingly, section 15 defines the "share," for purposes of this Act, to include securities in addition to those defined in section 24 that can give a person the ability to acquire the ownership or voting power of shares.

- (1) Subsection 1 includes in this Act's definition of "share" not only "shares" as defined in section 24, but also securities that could represent interests implicating control, such as voting trust certificates, participations in profit sharing arrangements, certificates of deposits for a share and the like. Exchange Act Reg. 16a-2, 17 C.F.R. §240.16a-2, follows a similar approach.
- (2) Subsection 2 adds to this Act's definition of "share" any security that, while not currently a "share" as defined in section 24, can be transformed into such a share, including options, warrants, rights, calls, convertible securities and the like.

Section 16. "Share acquisition date" defined.

"Share acquisition date," with respect to any person and any resident domestic corporation, means the date that the person first becomes an interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation.

Note: Section 16 defines "share acquisition date" - which is the operative date for application of this Act's rules, (see

sections 20 & 21 and notes) - as the date on which a person becomes an "interested shareholder" as defined in section 11.

Section 17. "Subsidiary" defined.

"Subsidiary" of any resident domestic corporation means any other corporation of which a majority of the outstanding voting shares entitled to be cast are owned (directly or indirectly) by the resident domestic corporation.

Note: Section 17's definition includes all "tiered" subsidiaries: If Corporation A owns a majority of the voting shares of Corporation B, which in turn owns a majority of the voting shares of Corporation C, Corporation C is a "subsidiary" of Corporation A for purposes of this Act.

Section 18. "Voting shares" defined.

"Voting shares" means shares of capital stock of a corporation entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

Note: Section 18 provides that "voting shares" mean shares "entitled to vote generally in the election of directors."

Under NRS 78.195 shares may have full or limited voting power. Whatever other voting or other rights shares may have, however, if they are "entitled to vote generally in the election of directors" they are "voting shares" for purposes of this Act.

Section 19. Combination with resident domestic corporation and interested shareholder of the corporation.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act
(except sections 21 through 25 of this Act), a resident domestic
corporation may not engage in any business combination with any
interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation for
a period of five (5) years following the interested
shareholder's share acquisition date unless the business
combination or the purchase of shares made by the interested
shareholder on the interested shareholder's share acquisition
date is approved by the board of directors of the resident

- 2. If a good faith proposal regarding a business combination is made in writing to the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation, the board of directors shall respond, in writing, within thirty (30) days or such shorter period, if any, as may be required by the Exchange Act, setting forth its reasons for its decision regarding the proposal.
- 3. If a good faith proposal to purchase shares is made in writing to the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation, the board of directors, unless it responds affirmatively in writing within thirty (30) days or such shorter period, if any, as may be required by the Exchange Act, is considered to have disapproved the share purchase.

Note: (1) Section 19(1) prohibits, for a period of five years after an interested shareholder's share acquisition date, any of the "business combinations" defined in section 6 between the resident domestic corporation and the interested shareholder, unless either (a) the proposed business combination, or (b) the acquisition of voting power that made the person an "interested shareholder," was approved by the corporation's board of directors before the share acquisition date.

The effect of this provision is that an acquirer that is serious about acquiring control of a corporation covered by this Act must either (a) be willing and financially able to wait five years before taking value out of the acquired corporation (in which case it must still comply with section 20), or (b) negotiate either the proposed business combination or the proposed acquisition of control itself with the shareholders' elected representatives on the board of directors, before the acquirer obtains a potentially coercive block of voting power that could distort the results of the negotiations.

Subsection 1's rules do not apply if the resident domestic corporation is not subject to this Act for any of the reasons set forth in sections 21 through 23, or if the interested shareholder is one described in sections 24 or 25. The fact that the proposed business combination would satisfy the tests of section 20 has no effect, however, on subsection 1's

2

6 7

8

10

11

12 13

15

16

18

19

20 21

22

23

26

Subsection 2 requires the board of directors of a resident domestic corporation to consider and respond to a written "good faith proposal regarding a business combination" within 30 days of receipt of the proposal, unless the Exchange Act requires a more rapid response. The reference to shorter response periods that may be imposed by the Exchange Act - such as the requirement of Reg. 14d-9, 17 C.F.R. §240.14d-9, that a board of directors must make a recommendation with respect to a tender offer within ten days of its commencement - underscores that subsection 2 does not contradict or purport to supersede applicable Federal statutes or rules.

Subsection 3 creates a statutory presumption that a board of directors that does not respond to a written "good faith proposal to purchase shares" within 30 days (or such shorter period as may be required under the Exchange Act) will be deemed to have disapproved the proposal. Like subsection 2, subsection 3 does not contradict or purport to supersede applicable Federal statutes or rules.

However, unlike subsection 2's rules about a "proposal regarding a business combination," subsection 3 does not itself require a board response to a "proposal to purchase shares" (although a response may be required under Exchange Act rules such as Reg. 14d-9, 18 C.F.R. §240.14d-9, which requires a board recommendation with respect to a tender offer within ten days of its commencement). But by creating a presumption that a board that does not respond to a share acquisition proposal will be deemed to have disapproved it, subsection 3, in combination with subsection 2, "closes the loop" for a potential acquirer - i.e., makes it possible in every case for the acquirer to proceed with knowledge of the board's position about the proposed share acquisition as well as the proposed business combination.

Given the definitions of "beneficial owner" and "share" for purposes of this Act, the phrase "proposal to purchase shares" in subsection 3 includes any proposal directly or indirectly to acquire voting power that will be sufficient to make the acquirer an "interested shareholder."

Section 20. Authorized business combinations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act (except sections 19 and 21 through 25), a resident domestic corporation may not engage at any time in any business combination with any interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation other than a business combination meeting all requirements of the articles of incorporation of the domestic corporation and

the requirements specified in any of the following:

- 1. A business combination approved by the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation before the interested shareholder's share acquisition date, or as to which the purchase of shares made by the interested shareholder on the interested shareholder's share acquisition date had been approved by the board of directors of the resident domestic corporation before the interested shareholder's share acquisition date.
- 2. A business combination approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of stock representing a majority of the outstanding voting power not beneficially owned by the interested shareholder proposing the business combination, or any affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder proposing the business combination, at a meeting called for that purpose no earlier than five (5) years after the interested shareholder's share acquisition date.
- 3. A business combination that meets all of the following conditions:
- (a) The aggregate amount of the cash and the market value as of the consummation date of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of outstanding common shares of the resident domestic corporation in the business combination is at least equal to the higher of the following:
 - (i) The highest per share price paid by the interested shareholder, at a time when the interested shareholder was the beneficial owner (directly or indirectly) of five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding

voting shares of the resident domestic corporation, for any common shares of the same class or series acquired by it within the five (5) year period immediately before the announcement date with respect to the business combination or within the five (5) year period immediately before, or in, the transaction in which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder, whichever is higher; plus, in either case, interest compounded annually from the earliest date on which the highest per share acquisition price was paid through the consummation date at the rate for one (1) year United States Treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per common share since the earliest date, up to the amount of the interest.

- (ii) The market value per common share on the announcement date with respect to the business combination or on the interested shareholder's share acquisition date, whichever is higher; plus interest compounded annually from that date through the consummation date at the rate for one (1) year United States Treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per common share since that date, up to the amount of the interest.
- (b) The aggregate amount of the cash and the market value as of the consummation date of consideration other than cash to be received per share by holders of outstanding shares of any

7

10

9

12

14 15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

2324

25 26

27

28

class or series of shares, other than common shares, of the resident domestic corporation is at least equal to the highest of the following (whether or not the interested shareholder has previously acquired any shares of the class or series of shares):

- (i) The highest per share price paid by the interested shareholder, at a time when the interested shareholder was the beneficial owner (directly or indirectly) of five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding voting shares of the resident domestic corporation, for any shares of the class or series of shares acquired by it within the five (5) year period immediately before the announcement date with respect to the business combination or within the five (5) year period immediately before, or in, the transaction in which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder, whichever is higher; plus, in either case, interest compounded annually from the earliest date on which the highest per share acquisition price was paid through the consummation date at the rate for one (1) year United States Treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of the class or series of shares since the earliest date, up to the amount of the interest.
- (ii) The highest preferential amount per share to which the holders of shares of the class or series of shares are entitled in the event of any voluntary

liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the resident domestic corporation, plus the aggregate amount of any dividends declared or due as to which the holders are entitled before payment of dividends on some other class or series of shares (unless the aggregate amount of the dividends is included in the preferential amount).

- (iii) The market value per share of the class or series of shares on the announcement date with respect to the business combination or on the interested shareholder's share acquisition date, whichever is higher; plus interest compounded annually from that date through the consummation date at the rate for one (1) year United States Treasury obligations from time to time in effect; less the aggregate amount of any cash dividends paid, and the market value of any dividends paid other than in cash, per share of the class or series of shares since that date, up to the amount of the interest.
- (c) The consideration to be received by holders of a particular class or series of outstanding shares (including common shares) of the resident domestic corporation in the business combination is in cash or in the same form as the interested shareholder has used to acquire the largest number of shares of the class or series of shares previously acquired by it, and the consideration shall be distributed promptly.
- (d) The holders of all outstanding shares of the resident domestic corporation not beneficially owned by the interested shareholder immediately before the consummation of the business combination are entitled to receive in the business combination

 cash or other consideration for the shares in compliance with subsections (a), (b), and (c).

- (e) After the interested shareholder's share acquisition date and before the consummation date with respect to the business combination, the interested shareholder has not become the beneficial owner of any additional voting shares of the resident domestic corporation except:
 - (i) As part of the transaction that resulted in the interested shareholder becoming an interested shareholder;
 - (ii) By virtue of proportionate share splits, share dividends, or other distributions of shares in respect of shares not constituting a business combination under section 6(5) of this Act;
 - (iii) Through a business combination meeting all of the conditions of section 19 of this Act this section; or
 - (iv) Through purchase by the interested shareholder at any price that, if the price had been paid in an otherwise permissible business combination the announcement date and consummation date of which were the date of the purchase, would have satisfied the requirements of subsections (a), (b) and (c).

Note: Section 20 protects the shareholders of a "resident domestic corporation" covered by the Act even after expiration of the five-year absolute prohibition of section 19 by requiring that any business combination between the corporation and an "interested shareholder" after the five-year absolute prohibition of section 19 by requiring that any business combination between the corporation and an "interested shareholder" after the five-year period must satisfy the conditions of either subsection (a), (b) or (c).

Section 20 does not apply, however, to a business combination that meets the prior board approval requirements of section 19. Also, section 20 is inapplicable if the resident

domestic corporation is not subject to this Act for any of the reasons set forth in sections 21 through 23 or if the interested shareholder is one described in sections 24 or 25.

- (1) Subsection 1 reiterates the board of director approval exceptions set forth in section 19(1), thereby permitting the board of a resident domestic corporation to consider and approve transactions that the board believes are in the best interests of the corporation or its shareholders. As in section 19(1), however, either the "business combination" or the acquirer's acquisition of sufficient voting power to make it an "interested shareholder" must be approved before the acquirer's "share acquisition date." In effect, this means that any "business combination" permissible under subsection 1 will also have been permissible under section 19, but will not have occurred during the first five years after the acquirer became an "interested shareholder."
- (2) Subsection 2 allows a business combination between the resident domestic corporation and the interested shareholder to occur after section 19's five-year period has elapsed if the transaction is approved by disinterested shareholders i.e., shareholders other than the "interested shareholder" and its associates and affiliates. This subsection permits other shareholders to approve a business combination after the five-year prohibition expires, if it is their decision to do so. The five-year prohibition prevents the "interested shareholder" from taking quick action that could distort that choice or otherwise be detrimental to the interests of the corporation or its other shareholders.
- (3) Subsection 3 protects other shareholders of the resident domestic corporation as to both the amount and kind of consideration they will receive, in the event a business combination with the interested shareholder that has not been approved under subsections 1 or 2 nonetheless takes place after the expiration of section 19's five-year period.

In essence, subsection 3(a)'s rules establish that holders of the corporation's "common stock" will receive, with interest, no less than the greater of (a) the highest price paid by the interested shareholder for such shares during the various periods described in subsection 3(a)(i), or (b) the higher of the market value of such shares on the two dates described in subsection 3(a)(ii). In general, subsection 3(a) is intended to ensure that holders of common stock receive no less than the higher of (a) what they would have gotten on the original buyout of the resident domestic corporation, plus the economic benefit they had to forego by not being "taken out" initially, or (b) the market value of their shares.

Subsection 3(b) establishes essentially identical rules to protect the holders of "preferred stock" but adds a third criterion - namely, that the consideration holders of preferred shares receive also cannot be less than the highest preferential

amount to which they would be entitled on any voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the corporation, plus accrued dividends if appropriate. Again, the subsection's purpose is to prevent an acquirer from discriminating against other shareholders by driving down the value of the corporation and squeezing them out at an unfair price.

Subsection 3(c) requires that holders of both common and preferred stock receive either cash or the same kind of consideration received by the largest number of shareholders previously "taken out" by the interested shareholder, and that they receive such consideration promptly on the completion of the business combination. The subsection thus prevents an acquirer from taking unfair advantage of remaining shareholders by giving them a form of consideration less valuable than that previously received by other shareholders, or by delaying the payment of such consideration.

Subsection 3(d) requires an "interested shareholder" to purchase all remaining shares, not just one class or series. Without this rule, an acquirer could "pick and choose" in a way that harms one or another group of shareholders at a time when they would have no effective remedy.

Finally, subsection 3(e) prohibits any business combination that would otherwise be permissible under subsection 3 if the interested shareholder has become the beneficial owner of additional voting shares other than in ways permitted under this Act. In effect, this subsection prevents an acquirer from evading this Act's rules by acquiring shares in ways that would be disadvantageous to both the selling shareholders and the remaining shareholders.

Section 21. Corporations registered with SEC excepted.

This Act does not apply to any business combination of a resident domestic corporation that does not, as of the share acquisition date, have a class of voting shares registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, unless the corporation's articles of incorporation provide otherwise.

Note: Section 21 provides that this Act applies only to resident domestic corporatoin that (a) have a class of voting shares registered under sectoin 12 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §781, or (b) have elected to be governed by the Act in their articles of incorporation. Corporations that do not meet the definition of "resident domestic corporation" - i.e., a Nevada corporation with 200 or more shareholders, section 14 - are not covered by the Act, regardless whether they have shares

142-b

registered under the Exchange act or would be willing to elect governance of their articles. However, this section allows corporations with 200 or more shareholders to "opt in". The Act's rules are generally inappropriate for corporations with few shareholders, and most appropriate for widely dispersed, publicly-held corporations.

Section 22. Applicability of Act.

This Act does not apply to any business combination of a resident domestic corporation the articles of incorporation of which have been amended to provide that the resident domestic corporation is subject to this Act and that has not had a class of voting shares registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 12 of the Exchange Act on the effective date of the amendment, and that is a business combination with an interested shareholder whose share acquisition date is before the effective date of the amendment.

Note: Section 22 provides that the Act will not apply to a business combination of a resident domestic corporation that (a) amended its articles of incorporation to provide that it is subject to the Act, and (b) did not have a class of voting shares registered under section 12 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §781, on the effective date of the amendment, if the business combination is one with an interested shareholder whose share acquisition date precedes the effective date of the amendment. This rule prohibits a corporation from retroactively prohibiting a business combination with a person who was an interested shareholder before the corporation became subject to the Act.

Section 23. Election not to be governed by Act.

This Act does not apply to any business combination of a resident domestic corporation:

- The original articles of incorporation of which contain a provision expressly electing not to be governed by this Act;
- 2. That, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, adopts an amendment to the resident domestic corporation's

bylaws expressly electing not to be governed by this Act; an election under this subsection may be rescinded by subsequent amendment of the bylaws; or

3. That adopts an amendment to the resident domestic corporation's articles of incorporation, approved by the affirmative vote of the holders, other than interested shareholders and their affiliates and associates, of a majority of the outstanding voting power of the resident domestic corporation, excluding the voting shares of interested shareholders and their affiliates and associates, expressly electing not to be governed by this Act, if the amendment to the articles of incorporation is not to be effective until eighteen (18) months after the vote of the resident domestic corporation's shareholders and does not apply to any business combination of the resident domestic corporation with an interested shareholder whose share acquisition date is on or before the effective date of the amendment.

Note: Section 23 allows a resident domestic corporation to elect, in certain circumstances, not to be governed by the Act.

- (1) Subsection 1 authorizes a resident domestic corporation's original articles of incorporation to contain a provision that the corporation will not be governed by the Act. The articles may thereafter be amended to "opt back in" to the Act; but subsection 1's "opt out" authorization applies to the original articles only. If a corporation's original articles did not "opt out" of coverage, any subsequent amendment of the articles to effect such an "opt out" must satisfy the requirements of subsection 3.
- (2) Subsection 2 authorizes a resident domestic corporation to adopt a bylaws amendment providing that the corporation would not be governed by the Act. Rescission of that election by subsequent amendment of the bylaws is allowed.
- (3) Subsection 3 allows a resident domestic corporation currently covered by this Act to "opt out" of such coverage for the future by appropriate amendment of its articles of

incorporation. However, to prevent this authority from being used to circumvent the Act's protections, the amendment (a) must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding voting power other than those held by an "interested shareholder" or its associates or affiliates; (b) cannot take effect until at least 18 months after its adoption; and (c) does not apply to a business combination with an interested shareholder whose share acquisition date was on or before the effective date of the amendment.

Section 24. Combinations involving inadvertent interested shareholders excepted.

This Act does not apply to any business combination of a resident domestic corporation with an interested shareholder of the resident domestic corporation who became an interested shareholder inadvertently, if the interested shareholder:

- 1. As soon as practicable, divests itself of a sufficient amount of the voting power of the corporation so that it no longer is the beneficial owner (directly or indirectly) of ten percent (10%) or more of the outstanding voting power of the resident domestic corporation; and
- 2. Would not at any time within the five (5) year period preceding the announcement date with respect to the business combination have been an interested shareholder but for the inadvertent acquisition.

Note: Section 24 provides that the Act will not apply to a business combination with an interested shareholder whose acquisition of more than 10% of the resident domestic corporation's outstanding voting power was truly inadvertent, provided that the "inadvertent" interested shareholder (1) divests itself "as soon as practicable" of a sufficient number of voting shares to fall back below the 10% threshold, and (2) but for the inadvertent acquisition, would not have been an interested shareholder at any time during the five-year period preceding the announcement date for the business combination.

Section 25. Interested shareholders prior to January 1, 1991, excepted.

2

3

5 6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

19

20

22 23

25

26 27

28

This Act does not apply to any business combination with an interested shareholder who was an interested shareholder on January 1, 1991.

Note: Section 25 provides that this Act will not apply to a business combination with a person who was already an interested shareholder on January 1, 1991. The new rules on business combinations established by the Act apply only to persons who became interested shareholders after it was publicly known that those rules were being considered.

SALE OF ASSETS; DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP

NRS 78.565 through 78.620 No change.

INSOLVENCY; RECEIVERS AND TRUSTEES

NRS 78.622 No change.

NRS 78.625 Repeal.

The original purpose of NRS 78.625 was to prevent the transfer of property by directors, officers and stockholders when a corporation had become insolvent. This section was originally instituted in 1925 and was modeled after Section 66 of the Stock Corporation Law of New York. See, Caesar v. Bernard, 141 N.Y.S. 659 (1913) (text of Section 66 of the Stock Corporation Law). The New York law was later changed to Section 15 and then to Sections 719 and 720 of the Business Corporation Law. Section 15 was essentially the same as Section 66 and NRS 78.625. However, Section 719 and 720 do not contain provisions from Section 66 relating to the personal liability of directors and officers who cause the fraudulent transfers. We could find no current equivalent to Nevada's NRS 78.625 in modern corporate statutory schemes.

The Bankruptcy Code and the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act ("UFTA") now provide uniform, well-used and well-understood protections against fraudulent transfers. The UFTA is found at NRS Chapter 112. The Bankruptcy Code provisions are found at 11 U.S.C. §548 [preference within one year before the filing of the bankruptcy petition] and 11 U.S.C. §547 [trustee's avoidance powers]. NRS 78.625 merely duplicates protections for creditors found in other, more modern and better known codes. There is no longer any need for this statute and we recommend its repeal.

NRS 78.626 through NRS 78.680, inclusive. No change.

NRS 78.685 [Creditor or receiver may demand jury trial on presentation] Adjudication of claim; [verdict subject to

- [1. Any creditor or claimant who shall, upon order of the court, lay his claim before such receiver may demand that a jury shall decide thereon. In like manner the receiver may demand that the same shall be referred to a jury. In either case the demand shall be entered on the minutes of the court, and thereupon an issue shall be made up between the parties, under the direction of the district court, which may order a jury impaneled, as in other cases, to try the same.
- [2. The verdict of the jury shall be subject to the control of the court, as in suites originally instituted therein, and when rendered, if not set aside by the court, shall be certified by the clerk of the court to the receiver. The creditor shall be considered in all respects as having proved his debt or claim for the amount so ascertained to be due.]
- 1. The clerk of the district court, immediately upon the expiration of the time fixed for the filing of claims, in compliance with NRS 78.675 must notify the trustee or receiver of the filing of the claims. The trustee or receiver must inspect the claims and notify each claimant within thirty days of his decision. The trustee or receiver may require all creditors whose claims are disputed to submit themselves to an examination in relation to their claims, and to produce such books and papers relating to their claims as the trustee or receiver requests. The trustee or receiver has the power to examine, under oath or affirmation, all witnesses produced before him regarding the claims, and must pass upon and allow or disallow the claims, or any part thereof, and notify the

5

 2. Every creditor or claimant who has received notice from the receiver or trustee that his claim has been disallowed in whole or in part may appeal to the district court within 30 days thereafter. The court after hearing, shall determine the rights of the parties.

Note: Currently, NRS 78.685 allows the creditor or claimant to demand a jury trial on his claim. The jury verdict is then subjected to the control of the court. None of the comparable statutes have a similar provision. Under the Delaware Statute, a trustee or receiver approves or disapproves of a creditors claim and the creditor may then appeal to the chancery court. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §296. Under the Pennsylvania Statutes the corporation may determine whether a claim should be accepted or rejected. Pa.C.S.A. §§1993; 1995. Dissatisfied creditors then may presumably go to the court for recompense, although the statutes does not so specifically state. The Rev. MBCA does not deal with this problem.

The United States Bankruptcy Code states that a judge may order that cases are not to be tried to the jury, unless they involve personal injury or wrongful death claims.

I have amended this statute by deleting the current language, and inserting a modified version of Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §296. The current statute could produce major backlog in a district court in a case of dissolution of a large entity, such as a large insurance company. If all the creditors of an insurance company could demand jury trials on their claims, the court would be busy hearing these claims from now until eternity. The Delaware system allows these claims to be disposed of by the receiver, and allows dissatisfied creditors to then appeal to the court. The proposed statute appears to allow the necessary checks and balances on the receiver, while significantly shortening the procedure.

NRS 78.690 Repeal.

Note: This section should be deleted because the revision of NRS 78.685 has deleted the option of a jury trial.

NRS 78.695 through NRS 78.720, inclusive. No change.

REINCORPORATION; RENEWAL AND REVIVAL OF CHARTERS

NRS 78.725 through NRS 78.740, inclusive. No change.

SUITS AGAINST CORPORATIONS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND STOCKHOLDERS

6

7

9

10

11

12

13

15

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

is \$25,000 for:

The maximum fee which may be charged under this section

\$125

175

225 325

425

- (a) The original filing of articles of incorporation or agreements of consolidation.
- (b) A subsequent filing of any instrument which authorizes an increase in [capital stock] the number of shares.
- [3. For the purposes of computing the filing fees according to the schedule in subsection 1, the amount represented by the total number of shares provided for in the articles of incorporation or the agreement of consolidation is:
- (a) The aggregate par value of the shares, if only shares with a par value are therein provided for;
- (b) The product of the number of shares multiplied by \$10, regardless of any lesser amount prescribed as the value or consideration for which shares may be issued and disposed of, if only shares without par value are therein provided for; or
- (c) The aggregate par value of the shares with a par value plus the product of the number of shares without par value multiplied by \$10, regardless of any lesser amount prescribed as the value or consideration for which the shares without par value may be issued and disposed of, if shares with and without par value are therein provided for.
- The value of a corporate share must not be less than one-tenth of a cent.]

Note: Since we advocate abolishing par/no par stock, the sliding scale filing fee schedule must now be based on the number of shares. We have simply dropped the dollar signs and, translating the fee schedule into the par value concept, in effect assume a par value of \$1.00 per share.

Subsection 3 may be dropped altogether. It is now irrelevant.

NRS 78.765 Filing fees: Certificate of amendment

- 1. The fee for filing a certificate of amendment to a certificate of incorporation in order to increase the corporation's [authorized capital stock] <u>number of shares</u> is the difference between the fee computed at the rates specified in NRS 78.760 upon the total [authorized capital stock] <u>number of shares</u> of the corporation, including the proposed increase, and the fee computed at the rates specified in NRS 78.760 upon the total [authorized capital] <u>number of shares</u>, excluding the proposed increase.
 - In no case may the amount be less than \$75.
 NRS 78.767 No change.

NRS 78.770 Filing fees: [Certificate of consolidation or merger] articles of merger or share exchange.

- 1. The fee for filing [a certificate of consolidation or merger] articles of merger of two or more domestic corporations is the difference between the fee computed at the rates specified in NRS 78.760 upon the aggregate [authorized capital stock] number of shares of the corporation created by the [consolidation or] merger and the fee so computed upon the aggregate [amount of the total authorized capital stock] number of shares of the constituent corporations.
- 2. The fee for filing [a certificate of consolidation or]

 articles of merger of one or more domestic corporations with one
 or more foreign corporations is the difference between the fee

 computed at the rates specified in NRS 78.760 upon the aggregate

 [authorized capital stock] number of shares of the corporation
 created by the [consolidation or] merger and the fee so computed

13

15

16

18

19

20

21

22

upon the aggregate [amount of the total authorized capital stock] number of shares of the constituent corporations which have paid fees as required by NRS 78.760 and 80.050.

- In no case may the amount paid be less than \$75, and in no case may the amount paid pursuant to subsection 2 exceed \$25,000.
- 4. The fee for filing articles of share exchange is \$125. NRS 78.775 Filing fees: Certificate of amendment not increasing [authorized capital stock] number of shares; certificates of [reduction of capital and retirement of preferred stock.

The fee for filing:

- An amended certificate of incorporation before payment of capital and not involving an increase of [authorized capital stock] the number of shares; or
- 2. An amendment to the certificate of incorporation not involving an increase of [authorized capital stock;] the number of shares
 - A certificate of reduction of capital; or [3.
- A certificate of retirement of preferred stock] is \$75.

Note: Corporations no longer need to reduce capital since the distinctions between par and no par stock, the requirement of capital, and preferred stock no longer exist. subsections 3 and 4 are no longer necessary.

NRS 78.780 No change.

NRS 78.785 Miscellaneous fees.

The fee for filing a certificate of change of location of a corporation's principal office or resident agent, or a new

23

24

25

26

27

20 |

designation of resident agent is \$15.

- 2. The fee for filing a designation of resident agent, other than as provided in NRS 78.160, is \$25.
- 3. The fee for certifying articles of incorporation where a copy is provided is \$10.
- 4. The fee for certifying a copy of an amendment to articles of incorporation, or to a copy of the articles as amended where a copy is furnished, is [\$5] \$10.
- 5. The fee for certifying an authorized printed copy of the general corporation law as compiled by the secretary of state is [\$5] \$10.
- 6. The fee for certifying the reservation of a corporate name is [\$10] \$20.
- 7. The fee for executing a certificate of corporate existence which does not list the previous documents relating to the corporation, or a certificate of change in a corporate name, is [\$10] \$15.
- 8. The fee for executing, certifying or filing any certificate not provided for in NRS 78.760 to 78.785, inclusive, is \$20.
- 9. The fee for comparing any document or paper submitted for certification, with the record thereof, to ascertain whether any corrections are required to be made before certifying, is 20 cents for each folio of 100 words of each document or paper compared.
- 10. The fee for copies made at the office of the secretary of state is \$1 per page.
 - 11. The fee for copying and providing the copy of the list

8

10 11

12

13

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

of the corporate officers is the fee for copying the necessary pages.

- The fee for filing a certificate of the change of address of a resident agent is \$15, plus \$1 for each corporation which he represents.
- The fee for filing articles of incorporation, 13. [agreements or certificates of consolidation,] certificates of merger or certificates of amendment increasing the basic surplus of a mutual or reciprocal insurer must be computed pursuant to NRS 78.760, 78.765 and 78.770, on the basis of the amount of basic surplus of the insurer.
- The fee for reviewing documents before filing and 14. informing the person submitting the document whether or not the document may be lawfully filed is \$100.

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS

Introduction

NRS 80.240 provides a "short form" qualification procedure for foreign corporations conducting certain limited activities in the State of Nevada. If NRS 80.240 was literally complied with, any out-of-state lender making a loan secured by real property in Nevada must comply with the "short form" qualification procedures. In discussions with personnel at the Secretary of State's office, we learned only about 25 "short form" qualifications have been filed as of May, 1990. Our experience as practitioners in this area leads us to believe that few corporations are complying with NRS 80.240 even though they are conducting the limited activities described in NRS 80.240 in this state.

The Model Business Corporation Act statutes on the qualification of foreign corporations contains no equivalent "short form" qualification procedure. The Model Act deems many of the activities set forth in NRS 80.240 as not "doing business" in this state and, thus, not triggering the requirement for qualification. We believe this approach is better and we have modified the statutes of Chapter 80 to provide for that approach.

However, we have employed language contained in existing NRS 80.015 and 80.240 requiring that, even the limited activities deemed not "doing business" in Nevada can trigger the requirement of qualification if the corporation has an office in this state or accepts or solicits deposits in this state. a corporation might be operating as a bank and should be required to qualify and comply with other statutes regulating banks.

NRS 80.010(1)(b) Repeal. No change with remainder of statute.

Note: Consistent with our recommendation with respect to elimination of the requirement for domestic corporations to file documents with the county clerk of the county where the corporation has its principal office in Nevada, we also recommend elimination of this requirement for foreign corporations.

NRS 80.015 Activities that do not constitute doing business in Nevada.

For the purposes of this chapter, [except those 1. provisions relating to civil actions against foreign corporations,] the following activities [that] do not constitute

1-c

1 2

3

4 5

6

8

9

10 11

13

14

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25

2

doing business in this state [include]:

- [1.] (a) Maintaining, defending, or settling any proceeding;
- (b) Holding meetings of the board of directors or stockholders or carrying on other activities concerning internal corporate affairs;
 - (c) Maintaining bank accounts;
- (d) Maintaining offices or agencies for the transfer,

 exchange, and registration of the corporation's own securities

 or maintaining trustees or depositaries with respect to those

 securities;
 - (e) Making sales through independent contractors;
- [2.] (f) Soliciting or receiving orders, outside this state through or in response to letters, circulars, catalogs or other forms of advertising, accepting those orders outside of this state and filling them by shipping goods into this state; [and]
- (g) Creating or acquiring indebtedness, mortgages, and security interests in real or personal property;
- (h) Securing or collecting debts or enforcing mortgages and security interests in property securing the debts;
 - (i) Owning, without more, real or personal property;
- [3.] (j) Isolated transactions completed within 30 days and not a part of a series of similar transactions
- (k) The production of motion pictures as defined in NRS 231.020; and
 - (1) Transacting business in interstate commerce.
 - 2. The list of activities in subsection 1 is not

exhaustive.

- 3. A person which is not doing business in this state pursuant to the provisions of this section is not required to qualify or comply with any provision of NRS 80.010 to 80.230, inclusive, chapter 645B of NRS or Titles 55 and 56 of NRS unless such person:
- (a) Maintains an office in this state for the transaction of business, or
- (b) Solicits or accepts deposits in the state, except pursuant to NRS 666.225 to 666.375, inclusive.
 - 4. For the purposes of this section:
- (a) A solicitation of a deposit is made in this state, whether or not either party is present in this state, if the solicitation:
 - (1) Originates in this state; or
- (2) Is directed by the solicitor to a destination in this state and received where it is directed, or at a post office in this state if the solicitation is mailed.
- (b) A solicitation of a deposit is accepted in this state if acceptance:
 - (1) Is communicated to the solicitor in this state; and
- (2) Has not previously been communicated to the solicitor, orally or in writing, outside this state.

 Acceptance is communicated to the solicitor in this state, whether or not either party is present in this state, if the depositor directs it to the solicitor reasonably believing the solicitor to be in this state and it is received where it is directed, or at any post office in this state if the acceptance

10 11

13 14

12

15 16

17 18

19

20

21

22 23

24

25

26

27 28 is mailed.

- (c) A solicitation made in a newspaper or other publication of general, regular and paid circulation is not made in this state if the publication:
 - (1) Is not published in this state; or
- (2) Is published in this state but has had more than two-thirds of its circulation outside this state during the 12 months preceding the solicitation. If a publication is published in editions, each edition is a separate publication except for material common to all editions.
- (d) A solicitation made in a radio or television program or other electronic communication received in this state which originates outside this state is not made in this state. A radio or television program or other electronic communication shall be deemed to have originated in this state if the broadcast studio or origination source of transmission is located within the state, unless:
- (1) The program or communication is syndicated and distributed from outside this state for redistribution to the general public in this state;
- (2) The program is supplied by a radio, television or other electronic network with electronic signal originating from outside this state for redistribution to the general public in this state;
- (3) The program or communication is an electronic signal that originates outside this state and is captured for redistribution to the general public in this state by a community antenna or cable, radio, cable television or other

(4) The program or communication consists of an electronic signal which originates within this state, but which is not intended for redistribution to the general public in this state.

Note: NRS 80.015 was added to the NRS during the 1989 legislative session. The above additions to subsection 1 of the statute are based primarily on Section 15.01 of the Model Business Corporation Act ("MBCA"). Approximately thirty-eight jurisdictions have provisions which are the same or similar to the MBCA. The listed activities were believed to be appropriate by the drafters of the MBCA and the legislatures of these states in order to eliminate the frequent ambiguity which arises when the concept of "doing business" is litigated in the courts, and to provide for consistency in result. See MBCA Section 15.01 and Official Comment thereto.

The most expansive, and perhaps controversial, portions are subsections 1(g) and 1(h). Inclusion of these subsections would eliminate the need for NRS 80.240 through 80.260, inclusive, with respect to "short-form" qualification of entities which conduct certain activities involving secured lending in the state. However, subsection 1(g) differs from the MBCA provision when taken in combination with subsection 3 in that the solicitation or acceptance of deposits in Nevada would expressly require qualification to do business. Subsection 4 contains the definitional provisions with respect to the solicitation or acceptance of deposits which are presently contained in NRS 80.240(6).

Subsection 1(k) carries over the limited exemption for the production of motion pictures currently contained in NRS 80.240(1)(g). Inclusion of this provision should continue to encourage the production of motion pictures in Nevada.

Subsection 3 is intended to clarify that irrespective of whether or not a foreign corporation only conducts the types of business enumerated in subsection 1, the foreign corporation must qualify if it maintains an office in Nevada for the transaction of business. Subsection 3 also carries over from NRS 80.240(5) the concept that a person which is otherwise exempt from qualification and which does not (a) maintain an office in the state for the transaction of business, or (b) solicit or accept deposits in this state, is exempt from the provisions of NRS Chapter 645B and NRS Titles 55 and 56.

Two of the terms used in the above amendment are defined in the NRS 0.037 and 0.039. NRS 0.037 provides that "mortgage" includes a deed of trust, and NRS 0.039 contains a broad definition of "person" including the various entities that

are subject to the substantive requirements of NRS Chapter 80.

Whether or not to enact these amendments is a policy question. As stated above, most jurisdictions and the MBCA have provisions similar in effect to those outlined above. On the negative side, enactment of these provisions may result in a loss of revenue due to fewer qualification filings. On the positive side, enactment would potentially encourage the inflow of capital into this state from foreign lenders and would provide a more definitive set of standards which should reduce litigation. In addition, we are informed that the number of corporations which are using the existing "short-form" qualification procedures is relatively insubstantial. On balance, we would recommend passage.

NRS 80.190 through 80.180 No change.

NRS 80.190 Repeal.

Note: NRS 80.190 requires a foreign corporation to annually publish a statement of its last calendar year's business. This requirement only applies to foreign corporations, and not to Nevada corporations.

An equal protection challenge to this statute is conceivable, as there is no apparent rational basis for the different treatment of domestic and foreign corporations. To the extent that the information published serves a valid public purpose, it would appear that such a justification would apply with equal force to a Nevada corporation. Moreover, several of the people responding to our survey recommended repeal of this section.

NRS 80.200 through 80.230 No change.

NRS 80.240 through 80.260 Repeal.

NRS 80.270 No change.

Table of Contents

	NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS	
		Page
Introduct	Lon	1-d
	GENERAL PROVISIONS	
Section 1.	Definitions; construction.	2 - d
Section 2.	Applicability of chapter; effect on corporations existing before October 1, 1991.	4-d
Section 3.	Stock corporations; procedures to accept chapter.	7-d
Section 4.	Limitations on incorporation under chapter; compliance with other laws.	10-d
Section 5.	Reserved power of state to amend or repeal chapter; chapter part of corporation's charter.	11-d
Section 6.	Corporate documents: Microfilming and return.	11-d
	FORMATION	
Section 7.	Filing of articles of incorporation and certificate of acceptance of appointment of resident agent.	12 - d
Section 8.	Articles of incorporation: Required provisions.	12 - d
Section 9.	Articles of incorporation: Optional provisions.	14-d
Section 10	. Name of corporation: Use of indistinguishable name prohibited; exception.	15-d
Section 11	. Name of corporation: Reservation; injunctive relief.	17-d
Section 12	Articles of incorporation: Prohibited names; insurance business.	17-d

Section	13.	existence.	18-d
Section	14.	Articles of incorporation: Evidence.	19 -d
		POWERS	
Section	15.	General powers.	19-d
Section	16.	General powers: Corporate seal or stamp; use not required.	20-đ
Section	17.	Specific powers.	21-d
Section	18.	Examination of affairs by attorney general.	24-d
		PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND RESIDENT AGENT; ANNUAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	
Section	19.	Resident Agent.	25-d
Section	20.	New corporations: Filing requirements; fee.	25-d
Section	21.	Annual list of officers and directors and designation of resident agent: Filing requirements; fee; forms.	26-d
Section	22.	Contents of annual list; penalties.	26 -d
Section	23.	Defaulting corporations: Penalties and forfeitures.	27 - d
Section	24.	Forfeiture of right to do business: Duties of secretary of state; distribution of assets.	27 - d
Section	25.	Reinstatement of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state.	29 - d
Section	26.	Reinstatement of defaulting	30-d

<u>M</u>	EMBERSHIP LISTS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS	
Section 27.	Copies of articles, bylaws and membership lists to be kept at principal office; rights of directors and members; penalties.	31 - d
Section 28.	Right of directors and members to inspect and audit financial records; exceptions.	34-d
	DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS	
Section 29.	Board of directors: Number and qualifications.	36 - d
Section 30.	Powers of board of directors: Generally; bylaws.	37-d
Section 31.	Committees of the board of directors: Powers; names.	37-d
Section 32.	Officers of corporation: Selection; terms; duties.	38-d
Section 33.	Authority of directors and representatives: Contracts and conveyances.	39 - d
Section 34.	Standards applicable to directors and officers.	40-d
Section 35.	Restrictions on transactions involving interested directors or officers; compensation of directors.	41-d
	SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS	
Section 36.	Shares and dividends prohibited.	44- d
	MEMBERS	
Section 37.	Members	44-d

Section 38. Transfer of membership.

Section 39. Liability of members.

46-d

47-d

Section	40.	Resignation.	48-d
Section	41.	Termination.	48-d
Section	42.	Purchase of memberships.	50-d
Section	43.	Delegates.	50-d
	Ī	MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, VOTING AND NOTICE	
Section	44.	Place of members' and directors' meetings.	50 - đ
Section	45.	Directors and delegates' meetings: Quorum; consent for actions taken without meeting; participation by telephone or similar method.	51 - d
Section	46.	Consent of members in lieu of meeting.	52 -d
Section	47.	Actions at meetings not regularly called: Ratification and approval.	53-d
Section	48.	Directors: Election; classification.	5 4- d
Section		Quorum for meetings of members; delegates.	55-d
Section	50.	Directors: Removal; filling of vacancies.	56-d
Section		Failure to hold election of directors on regular day does not dissolve corporation.	58-d
Section		District court to appoint directors upon failure of election.	58-d
Section		Appointment of provisional director on deadlock.	59-d

Section 54	. Determination of members entitled to notice of and to vote at meeting; fixing date when members entitled to give consent in lieu of meeting.	60-d
Section 55	. Proxies.	61-d
Section 56	. Action by written ballot.	62-d
Section 57	. Cumulative voting.	63-d
Section 58	Demand for special meetings; notice of meetings of delegates and members: Signature; contents; service; publication; waiver.	64-d
Section 59	. Waiver of notice.	67-d
	AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLES	
Section 60	 Amendment of articles of incorporation before organizational meeting of directors. 	67-d
Section 6	. Amendment of articles of incorporation: Scope of amendments.	68-d
Section 6	2. Amendment of articles of incorporation: Procedure.	69-d
Section 6	3. Amendment of articles of incorporation: Public benefit corporation.	71-d
Section 6	 Adoption of amended articles of incorporation: Procedure. 	72-d
Section 6	 Restated articles of incorporation: Filing requirements; execution of certificates; use. 	73-d
	MERGER	
Section 6	 Merger of domestic corporations authorized. 	74-d

Section	67.	Domestic corporations: Agreement of directors to merge; approval by other person.	75-d
Section	68.	Domestic corporations: Mandatory provisions of agreement.	76-d
Section	69.	Notice to attorney general; waiting period.	76-d
Section	70.	Domestic corporations: Approval of agreement by members required; exceptions; voting rights by class; certified copy of agreement prima facie evidence of existence of corporation; filing.	77-d
Section	71.	Merger of domestic and foreign corporations authorized.	80-d
Section	72.	Domestic and foreign corporations: Agreement for merger.	80-d
Section	73.	Domestic and foreign corporations: Approval of agreement.	81-d
Section	74.	Domestic and foreign corporations: Service of process in Nevada in certain proceedings.	82-d
Section	75.	Effect of merger.	83-d
Section	76.	Power of directors and officers of constituent corporations to execute necessary instruments of title after merger.	85 - d
Section	77.	Dissent and resignation of member.	86-d
Section	78.	Sale, lease or exchange of assets: Conditions; procedure.	88-d
Section	79.	Sale, lease or exchange: notice to attorney general.	89-d
Section		Voluntary dissolution by member	90-đ

Section 81.	voluntary dissolution by directors and members; by directors alone; directors to be trustees of	91 - d
	dissolved or expired corporation.	91-u
Section 82.	Dissolution: powers of directors; powers and jurisdiction of the court; limitation on actions.	92 - d
		93-d
Section 83.	Distribution of assets.	93-u
	INSOLVENCY; RECEIVERS AND TRUSTEES	
Section 84.	Reorganization under federal law.	94-d
Section 85.	Filing with secretary of state.	95-d
Section 86.	Application of creditors or	
	members of insolvent corporation for injunction and appointment	
	of receiver or trustee; hearing.	95-d
Section 87	Appointment of receiver or trustee of insolvent corporation: Powers.	96-d
	of insolvent corporation. Towers.	30 G
Section 88	. Circumstances under which	98-d
	corporations may resume control.	90-u
Section 89	. Involuntary dissolution.	98-đ
Section 90	. Powers of district court.	103-d
Section 91	. Creditors' proofs of claims;	
Section 91	when participation barred; notice.	103-d
Section 92	. Creditors' claims to be in	
Section 72	writing under oath examination of claimants.	104-d
Section 93	. Abatement of actions.	10 4- d
Section 94	. Distribution of money to creditors and others.	104-d
Section 95	. Employees' liens for wages when corporation insolvent.	105-đ

INDEMNIFICATION

Section 96. Indemnification; insurance and other financial arrangements against liability.

105-d

FEES PAYABLE TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Section 97. Fees.

106-d

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Section 98. Annual financial reports to be filed with secretary of state.

106-d

NONPROFIT CORPORATION LAW

Introduction

We reviewed Chapters 81 through 86, inclusive, the statutes providing for various kinds of nonprofit and charitable corporations and three kinds of cooperative associations. review found outmoded statutes, outmoded concepts, indecipherable statutory language and generally a chaotic and ad-hoc approach to the creation of nonprofit and charitable corporations.

Existing Chapter 81 contains statutes providing for three kinds of cooperative associations and two different kinds of nonprofit corporations. In addition, it contains the "Charitable Corporation Act" an act promulgated pursuant to a 1969 change in the Internal Revenue Code. This change permitted the states to pass laws automatically inserting certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code for tax exemption into the charter of every corporation seeking such an exemption.

Chapter 82 "deems bodies corporate and politic" various lodges and other organizations. They are special incorporation statutes created over the years for certain organizations obviously then favored by the legislature. These organizations include the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Order of the Eastern 14 | Star, the Knights of Pythias, the Irish American Benevolent Society, the Ancient Order of Hybernians, the Benevolent 15 Bachelor Brothers, the Independent Order of Good Templers, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, two churches, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the American Legion, the VFW and the Nevada Library Association. Chapter 83 creates cemetery associations and contains clumsy and inappropriate language with regard to the lands that can be owned by such associations. It does, however, contain a tax exemption and a law imposing criminal and civil penalties with a willful injury to cemeteries.

Chapter 84 governs corporations sole, a peculiar corporate entity derived from 16th Century English law and available for use in hierarchical churches in a few of the United States.

Chapter 85 permits the incorporation of asylums and hospitals.

Finally, Chapter 86 permits the creation of two additional charitable corporations and requires charitable organizations to file financial reports with the Nevada Secretary of State.

There is no statutory or case law which established what statutes should be examined to find guidance on procedures not covered in the extremely brief and poorly worded statutory schemes in Chapters 81 through 86. One attorney general's opinion rendered some time ago held that NRS 78.015 imposed Chapter 78 on these nonprofits. Business corporation statutes are unsuitable for use by nonprofits. The contain concepts like

10 11

1

2

3

4

5

7

18

19 20

21

22 23

stockholders and stock which are inapplicable to nonprofits. All the Chapter 78 statutes anticipate stockholders with pecuniary motives will closely oversee the management of their corporation.

After examining these problems, we concluded that we had no choice but to draft a completely new nonprofit corporation law. This law is intended to replace the two types of nonprofit corporations found in Chapter 81, the cemetery associations in Chapter 83, the hospitals and charitable asylums found in Chapter 85 and both types of nonprofits found in Chapter 86. We recommend repeal of all those statutes.

The statutes creating the three types of cooperatives found in Chapter 81 should remain. One of the cooperative associations, NRS 81.010 through 81.160, inclusive, anticipates the issuance of stock. Therefore, we provided in this new nonprofit corporation law and in changes to NRS 81.010, that Chapter 78 will continue to govern all matters not specifically provided for in those statutes.

The other two kinds of cooperative associations do not anticipate the issuance of stock. Therefore, we have provided that the new nonprofit corporation law generally applies to them, except for two specific exceptions and except as specifically otherwise provided in the Chapter 81 statutes.

We recommend the repeal of Chapter 82. We provide in the new nonprofit corporation law that the Chapter 82 corporations continue to exist as presently constituted for two more years. In that two year period, they must file articles of incorporation under the new nonprofit corporation law. After the two year period expires, their existence automatically ceases.

We recommend the repeal of Chapters 83, 85 and 86 (with a few exceptions). Those corporations will continue to exist but will, after the passage of the nonprofit corporation law, be governed by the nonprofit corporation law exclusively.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Definitions; construction.

- As used in this chapter:
- (a) "Articles of incorporation" and "articles" are synonymous terms and unless the context otherwise requires, include all certificates filed pursuant to Sections 7, 60, 62, 64 and 65, inclusive, and any agreement of merger filed pursuant to Sections 66 to 73, inclusive.

(b)

7 8 9

11 12

10

14 15

13

17 18

16

19 20

21

23

22

24 25

> 26 27

28

"Directors" and "trustees" are synonymous terms.

Unless otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, the word "member" means (without regard to what a person is called in the articles or bylaws) any person or persons who on more than one occasion has the right pursuant to the articles or bylaws to vote for the election of a director or directors. person is not a member by virtue of any rights he has as a delegate or director or any rights he has to designate a director or directors.

"Principal office," "principal place of business," and "principal office in this state," are synonymous terms referring to the office maintained in this state as required by NRS

- "Public benefit corporation" is a corporation formed (e) or existing pursuant to this chapter that: (i) is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 in effect on October 1, 1991, future amendments to such section and the corresponding provisions of the future Internal Revenue laws; (ii) is organized for a public or charitable purpose and which upon dissolution must distribute its assets to the United States, a state or a person which is recognized as exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as described above; or (iii) is organized only for a public or charitable purpose and not for the private gain or benefit of any person.
- "Receiver" includes receivers and trustees appointed as provided in this chapter.
 - As used in Section 5 through Section 98, except as the 2.

TO

context otherwise requires, "corporation" means a corporation organized or governed by this chapter.

3. General terms and powers given in this chapter must not be restricted by the use of special terms, or be held to be restricted by any grant of special powers contained in this chapter.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.010; subsection (e) is adapted from NRS 81.570, Minn. Nonprofit Corp. Act §317A.813(i), Tennessee Nonprofit Corp. Act §98-68-104 and Cal. Corp. Code §5130; subsection (f) is adapted from Rev. MNPCA §1.40(21).

The definition of "articles of incorporation," etc. are carried over from existing NRS 78.010.

The definition of "public benefit corporation" is for use in statutes requiring public benefit corporations to submit copies of the documents to the attorney general's office a certain number of days before filing amendments to the articles or dissolving or merging with other corporations. This allows a heightened degree of attorney general oversight to make sure assets given to public benefit corporations are not diverted to private se, thereby violating the public trust such corporations hold, the conditions by which the corporation may have acquired assets or the representations made to the public when assets or money were solicited from the public.

The definition of the word "corporation" is provided to avoid constantly repeating throughout the statutes "a corporation organized pursuant to this chapter" or similar wording. The definition does not apply to Sections 2, 3 and 4. Those statutes discuss corporations existing before the new nonprofit corporation scheme goes into effect.

The definition of "member" is added to ensure that organizations with many people using their services often called "members" -- like the Y.M.C.A. -- are not required to send all notices to all those people.

Section 2. Applicability of chapter; effect on corporations existing before October 1, 1991.

- 1. This chapter applies to the following corporations, which are hereafter governed by the provisions of this chapter:
- (a) Corporations hereafter organized in this state pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

- (b) Corporations organized pursuant to the following repealed statutes as they existed on September 30, 1991 and all predecessor acts: NRS 81.290 through 81.340, inclusive; NRS 81.350 through 81.400 inclusive; NRS 83.010 through 83.100 inclusive; NRS 85.010 through 85.070, inclusive; and NRS 86.010 through 86.190.
- (c) Except where the following statutes are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, corporations organized pursuant to: NRS 81.170 through 81.280, inclusive; and NRS 81.410 through 81.540, inclusive.
- (d) Corporations organized and still existing pursuant to the statutes described in subsection 1(b) above whose charters are renewed or revived in the manner provided in this chapter.
- (e) Corporations having shares or capital stock organized and existing on September 30, 1991 pursuant to the statutes described in subsection 1(b) and 1(c) above and subsection 2 below which elect to accept this chapter as provided in Section 3.
- 2. Except as otherwise specifically provided therein, corporations organized and existing pursuant to NRS 81.010 through 81.160, inclusive, and predecessor acts, are governed by the provisions of NRS Chapter 78.
- 3. Except as provided in subsection 4, neither the existence of corporations formed or existing before October 1, 1991, nor any liability, cause of action, right, privilege or immunity validly existing in favor of or against any such corporation on October 1, 1991, are affected, abridged, taken away or impaired by this chapter, or by any change in the

requirements for the formation of corporations provided by this chapter, nor by the amendment or repeal of any laws under which such prior existing corporations were formed or created.

1

2

3

4

5

6

10

11

12

13

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Corporations existing, or organized and existing, pursuant to NRS 82.010 through 82.690 and NRS 86.100 through 86.180, as those statutes existed on September 30, 1991, and all predecessor acts, continue to exist and are governed by this chapter until October 1, 1993 when their existence shall cease. However, at any time before October 1, 1993, any such corporation may file articles with the secretary of state conforming to the requirements of this chapter, or conforming to the requirements of NRS Chapter 84, and stating that the corporation elects to be governed by this chapter or by NRS Chapter 84. Upon filing those articles with the secretary of state as described above, the existence of any such corporation continues and the corporation is thereafter governed by the provisions of this chapter or by the provisions of NRS Chapter 84 and this chapter, as set forth in the articles which are so filed.

Note: Adapted generally from NRS 78.015; subsection (1) is adapted from Model Non-Profit Corporation Act §83(c).

We recommend that both the nonprofit corporations provided for in existing Chapter 81 (existing NRS 81.290-81.400) be repealed. All three types of cooperatives in Chapter 81 will remain. Chapters 82, 83, 85 and 86 will be repealed for the most part. Chapter 84 (corporations sole, most particularly the Catholic Church) remains in force.

The cooperatives formed pursuant to existing NRS 81.010 through 81.150, labeled "Nonprofit Cooperative Corporations", are able to issue stock. The new nonprofit corporation law forbids the issuance of stock and does not discuss the rights of stockholders. Thus, those co-ops will be governed by Chapter 78, (which provides for stock and the rights of stockholders) except as specifically provided in their special statutes.

8

We recommend that Chapter 82 be repealed. This chapter deems certain lodges and fraternities, two churches, the American Legion, the V.F.W., the WCTU and the Nevada Library Association to be "bodies corporate and politic." None of these organizations (except the WCTU) were required to file articles with the secretary of state's office. Chapter 82 appears to be one creating corporations by special acts of the legislature, forbidden by the Nevada Constitution, Article 8, Section 1.

NRS 86.100 through 86.180 allows the incorporation of "churches, congregations, religious, moral, beneficial, charitables, literacy or scientific associations or societies" by filing a "certificate of appointment of the trustees or directors" with the county clerk. In keeping with the universal practice of a central state filing place for articles, we believe full articles of incorporation should be filed in the secretary of state's office for each of these entities. We believe we should abolish the extremely antiquated statutes by which each of them were formed.

Under subsection 4, each of these Chapter 82 and NRS 86.100 through 86.180 corporations have 2 years from the projected effective date of the new act to file new articles and conform with the requirements of the new nonprofit chapter or form a corporation sole under Chapter 84 if they are a hierarchial church. If they do not file new articles under either this chapter or Chapter 84, their existence ceases on October 1, 1993.

October 1, 1991 is the reference date since a new set of statutes written during the 1991 session will go into effect then.

Section 3. Stock corporations; procedures to accept chapter.

Any corporation with shares or capital stock organized pursuant to the statutes described in 81.015(1)(b), 1(c) and (2), may elect to accept this chapter in the following manner:

1. If there are members or stockholders entitled to vote thereon, the board of directors must adopt a resolution recommending that the corporation accept this chapter, adopt new articles of incorporation conforming to this chapter and any other statutes pursuant to which the corporation may have been organized and directing that the question of such acceptance and

of the members or stockholders entitled to vote thereon.

Written notice stating that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of such meeting is to consider electing to accept this chapter and the adoption of new articles of incorporation must be given to each member and stockholder entitled to vote at such meeting, within the time and in the manner provided in this chapter for the giving of notice of meetings of members. The election to accept this chapter and adopt new articles of incorporation require for adoption at least a majority of the votes which members or stockholders present at such meeting in person or by proxy are entitled to cast.

adoption be submitted to a vote of an annual or special meeting

- 2. If there are no members or stockholders entitled to vote thereon, election to accept this chapter and adopt new articles of incorporation conforming to the provisions of this chapter may be made at a meeting of the board of directors pursuant to majority vote of the directors in office.
- 3. A certificate of election to accept this chapter must be signed by the president or a vice president and by the secretary or an assistant secretary and acknowledged in the manner prescribed by NRS 14.270 before a person authorized by the laws of this state to take acknowledgments of deeds and must set forth:
 - (a) The name of the corporation.
- (b) A statement by the corporation that it has elected to accept this chapter and adopt new articles of incorporation conforming to the provisions of this chapter and any other statutes pursuant to which the corporation may have been

- (d) If there are no members or stockholders entitled to vote thereon, a statement of such fact, the date of the meeting of the board of directors at which election to accept and adopt was made, that a quorum was present at such meeting and that such acceptance and adoption was authorized by a majority vote of the directors present at such meeting.
- (e) A statement that, in addition, the corporation followed the requirements of the law under which it was organized, its old articles of incorporation and its old bylaws so far as applicable in effecting such acceptance.
- (f) A statement that the attached copy of the articles of incorporation of the corporation shall be the new articles of incorporation of the corporation.
- (g) If the corporation has issued shares of stock, a statement of such fact including the number of shares theretofore authorized, the number issued and outstanding and that from and after the effective date of the certificate of acceptance the authority of the corporation to issue shares of stock shall be thereby terminated.

4. The certificate so signed and acknowledged must be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

5. Upon the issuance of a certificate of acceptance, the election of the corporation to accept this chapter is effective and the corporation has the powers and privileges and is subject to the duties, restrictions, penalties and liabilities given to and imposed upon the corporation by this chapter and by any other statutes pursuant to which it was created. The articles of incorporation attached to the certificate are thereafter the articles of incorporation of the corporation. The holders of shares of stock issued by the corporation shall thereafter be members of the corporation with one vote for each share of stock so surrendered, unless the articles so adopted and attached to the certificate provide otherwise.

Note: Adapted from optional provisions of MN-PCA, §§37A, 37B, 37C and 37D.

The Model Non-Profit Corporation Act notes that certain states have nonprofit corporation laws permitting the issuance of stock. Like the MN-PCA, this new non-profit corporation law does not permit the issuance of stock. At least one of the co-ops provided for in existing Chapter 81 permits the issuance of stock. We provide at Section 2(1)(d) that the new chapter does not apply to the stock non-profit co-ops which do not choose to be converted into nonprofit corporations without shares pursuant to this new chapter. If they do so choose to be converted, they are governed by the new chapter, as well as the special statutes pursuant to which they were formed.

Section 4. Limitations on incorporation under chapter; compliance with other laws.

No insurance company, stock fire insurance company, surety company, express company, trust company, stock savings and loan association, or corporation organized for the purpose of conducting a banking business may be organized under this

chapter.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.020.

This statute removes from the operation of this chapter many of the entities removed from Chapter 78 of the NRS. No stock insurance companies or stock savings and loan associations should be governed by this chapter. However, mutual insurance companies and mutual savings and loan associations should be governed by co-op statutes two of which are, except as specifically provided in their special statutes, governed by this chapter. Banks have a stand-alone corporation law of their own. The other companies listed are identical with those excepted from the coverage of Chapter 78, as provided in NRS 78.020.

Section 5. Reserved power of state to amend or repeal chapter; chapter part of corporation's charter.

This chapter may be amended or repealed at the pleasure of the legislature, and every corporation created under this chapter, or availing itself of any of the provisions of this chapter, and all members and delegates of such corporation shall be bound by such amendment. Such amendment or repeal shall not take away or impair any remedy against any corporation, or its officers, for any liability which shall have been previously incurred. This chapter, and all amendments thereof, shall be a part of the charter of every corporation, except so far as the same are inapplicable and inappropriate to the objects of the corporation.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.025.

Section 6. Corporate documents: Microfilming and return.

The secretary of state may microfilm any document which is filed in his office by a corporation pursuant to this chapter and may return the original document to the corporation.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.027.

FORMATION

Section 7. Filing of articles of incorporation and certificate of acceptance of appointment of resident agent.

- 1. One or more natural persons may associate to establish a corporation no part of the income or profit of which is distributable to its members, directors or officers, except as provided in this chapter, for the transaction of any lawful business, or to promote or conduct any legitimate object or purpose, pursuant and subject to the requirements of this chapter, by:
- (a) Executing, acknowledging and filing in the office of the secretary of state articles of incorporation;
- (b) Filing a certificate of acceptance of appointment, executed by the resident agent of the corporation, in the office of the secretary of state.
- 2. The articles of incorporation must be as provided in Section 8, and the secretary of state must require it to be in the form prescribed. If any articles are defective in this respect, the secretary of state must return them for correction.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.030.

We have placed the definition of a nonprofit corporation found in many statutory schemes in this statute at the preamble to subsection 1.

We have omitted provisions for filing copies of the articles with the county clerk. Since this report on Chapter 78 recommends eliminating that requirement from Chapter 78, we anticipate eliminating it from this new chapter as well.

Section 8. Articles of incorporation: Required provisions.

The articles of incorporation must set forth:

. The name of the corporation. A name appearing to be

that of a natural person and containing a given name or initials must not be used as a corporate name except with an additional word or words such as "Incorporated," "Limited," "Inc.," "Ltd.," "Company," "Co.," "Corporation," "Corp.," or other word which identifies it as not being a natural person.

- 2. The name of the county, and the city or town, and the place within the county, city or town in which its principal office or place of business is to be located in this state, giving the street and number wherever practicable, and if not so described as to be easily located within the county, city or town, the secretary of state shall refuse to issue this certificate until the location is marked and established.
 - That the corporation is a nonprofit corporation.
- 4. The nature of the business, or objects or purposes proposed to be transacted, promoted or carried on by the corporation. It is sufficient to state, either alone or with other purposes, that the corporation may engage in any lawful activity, subject to expressed limitations, if any. Such a statement makes all lawful activities within the objects or purposes of the corporation.
- 5. Whether the members of the governing board must be styled directors or trustees of the corporation, and the number, names and post office, street or business addresses of the first board of directors or trustees, together with any desired provisions relative to the right to change the number of directors as provided in Section 47.
- 6. The names and post office, street or business addresses of each of the incorporators signing the articles of

incorporation.

7. Whether or not the corporation is to have perpetual existence, and, if not, the time when its existence is to cease.

Note: Adapted from NRS 78.035.

Most of this is taken directly from NRS 78.035. New subsection 3 requires a statement that the corporation is a nonprofit corporation. This statute omits NRS 78.035(4) discussing stock and 78.035(6) discussing par value and assessability.

Section 9. Articles of incorporation: Optional provisions.

The articles of incorporation may also contain:

- 1. A provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director or officer to the corporation or its members for damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, but such a provision must not eliminate or limit the liability of a director or officer for:
- (a) Acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law; or
- (b) The payment of distributions in violation of Section 35.
- 2. Any provision subordinating the corporation to the authority of a head organization or any person, and providing for its dissolution when its charter is surrendered to, taken away by or revoked by the head organization or any person granting it.
- 3. Any provision providing that, upon dissolution of the corporation and the payment of its debts and the provision for other matters as required by this chapter, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to the head organization or any person.

10

12

15

16

14

20 l 21

22 23 l

24

25

27

28

Any provision allowing members or directors, or classes of members or directors, to have more or less than one vote in any election or any other matter presented to the members or directors for a vote.

- Any provision allowing or providing for delegates with 5. some or all the authority of members.
- Any provision, not contrary to the laws of this state, 6. for the management of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the corporation, and any provision creating, defining, limiting or regulating the powers of the corporation or the rights, powers or duties of the directors, members (if any) or delegates (if any), or any class of members, delegates, or directors, or the holders of bonds as other obligations of the corporation.

Adapted from NRS 78.037; subsections 2-4 adapted Note: from Cal. Corp. Code §9132.

Subsections 2 through 4 are necessary for certain nonprofit Subsection (2) provides for the authority of a 17 corporations. head organization, like a subordinate lodge to the grand dragon of a lodge of some kind or a superior church. Subsection (3) provides for distribution of assets upon dissolution to the head corporation. Subsection (5) allows delegates. The Nevada Medical Association is an organization providing that members Subsection (6) is elect delegates who in turn elect directors. adapted from existing NRS 78.037(2) but substituting members and delegates for stockholders in the statutory language.

Section 10. Name of corporation: Use of indistinguisable name prohibited; exception.

- Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the 1. secretary of state must refuse to accept for filing in his office the articles of any corporation whose name cannot be distinguished from:
 - (a) The name of any other corporation formed or

	IN THE SUPREME COURT (OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
1	WYNN RESORTS LIMITED,	Case No.
2	Petitioners,	
3	vs.	Electronically Filed Mar 30 2016 09:27 a.m.
5	THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF	APPENDIX IN SIGN OF LINDS MAN RESORTES PORTING TO COURT
6	NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK; AND THE	PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION OR
7	HONORABLE ELIZABETH GONZALEZ, DISTRICT JUDGE, DEPT. XI,	ALTERNATIVELY, MANDAMUS
8	Respondent,	VOLUME I OF VI
9	and	
10	KAZUO OKADA, UNIVERSAL	
11	ENTERTAINMENT CORP. AND ARUZE USA, INC.,	
12	Real Parties in Interest.	
13	DATED 11' 2011 1 CM 1 20	-
14	DATED this 29th day of March, 20)16.
15	PISANEI	LLI BICE PLLC
16 17	By:	/s/ Todd L. Bice
18	Jan	nes J. Pisanelli, Esq., Bar No. 4027
19	De	dd L. Bice, Esq., Bar No. 4534 bra L. Spinelli, Esq., Bar No. 9695
20		0 South 7th Street, Suite 300 s Vegas, Nevada 89101
21	Attorneys	for Petitioner Wynn Resorts, Limited
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
	l .	

CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX

	Γ		
DOCUMENT	DATE	VOL.	PAGE
Vargas & Bartlett, Study of Nevada Corporate Law	07/30/1990	I/II	PA000001 – PA000396
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. Joint S. & Assemb. Comms. on Judiciary	05/07/1991	II	PA000397 – PA000418
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Legis. Assemb. Comm. on Judiciary	05/21/1991	II	PA000419 – PA000428
Memorandum regarding Recommendations for Legislation regarding business law statutes for the 1999 Nevada Legislature – Senate Bill 61	02/03/1999	II	PA000429 – PA000433
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. S. Comm. on Judiciary	05/22/2001	II	PA000434 – PA000458
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. Assemb. Comm. on Judiciary	05/30/2001	II	PA000459 – PA000479
Second Amended Complaint	04/22/2013	II, III	PA000480 – PA000505
Defendants' Motion to Compel Wynn Resorts, Limited to Produce Brownstein Hyatt Documents – FILED UNDER SEAL	03/03/2016	III, IV, V	PA000506 – PA001193
Plaintiff Wynn Resorts, Limited's Opposition to Defendant' Motion to Compel Brownstein Hyatt Documents – FILED UNDER SEAL	03/07/2016	V	PA001194 – PA001209
Transcript of Proceedings, Hearing on Defendants' Motion to Compel	03/08/2016	V, VI	PA001210 – PA001247
District Court's March 24, 2016 Order	03/24/2016	VI	PA001248 – PA001250

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

DOCUMENT	DATE	VOL.	PAGE
Defendants' Motion to Compel Wynn Resorts, Limited to Produce Brownstein Hyatt Documents – FILED UNDER SEAL	03/03/2016	III, IV, V	PA000506 – PA001193
District Court's March 24, 2016 Order	03/24/2016	VI	PA001248 – PA001250
Memorandum regarding Recommendations for Legislation regarding business law statutes for the 1999 Nevada Legislature – Senate Bill 61	02/03/1999	II	PA000429 – PA000433
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Legis. Assemb. Comm. on Judiciary	05/21/1991	II	PA000419 – PA000428
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. S. Comm. on Judiciary	05/22/2001	II	PA000434 – PA000458
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. Assemb. Comm. on Judiciary	05/30/2001	II	PA000459 – PA000479
Minutes of Hearing of the Nev. State Leg. Joint S. & Assemb. Comms. on Judiciary	05/07/1991	II	PA000397 – PA000418
Plaintiff Wynn Resorts, Limited's Opposition to Defendant' Motion to Compel Brownstein Hyatt Documents – FILED UNDER SEAL	03/07/2016	V	PA001194 – PA001209
Second Amended Complaint	04/22/2013	II, III	PA000480 – PA000505
Transcript of Proceedings, Hearing on Defendants' Motion to Compel	03/08/2016	V, VI	PA001210 – PA001247
Vargas & Bartlett, Study of Nevada Corporate Law	07/30/1990	I, II	PA000001 – PA000396

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1		
2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a	n employee of PISANELLI BICE PLLC, and
3	that on this 29th day of March, 2016, I el	ectronically filed and served by electronic
4	mail and United States Mail a true and	correct copy of the above and foregoing
5	APPENDIX IN SUPPORT OF PETITI	ONER WYNN RESORTS LIMITED'S
6	PETITION FOR WRIT OF PRO	HIBITION OR ALTERNATIVELY
7	MANDAMUS properly addressed to the	following:
8	SERVED VIA U.S. MAIL	
9	J. Stephen Peek, Esq.	Donald J. Campbell, Esq.
10	Bryce K. Kunimoto, Esq. Robert J. Cassity, Esq.	J. Colby Williams, Esq. CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS
11	Brian G. Anderson, Esq. HOLLAND & HART LLP	700 South 7th Street Las Vegas, NV 89101
12	9555 Hillwood Drive, Second Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134	Attorneys for Stephen A. Wynn
13	Attorneys for Defendants/Counterclaimants	
14	David S. Krakoff, Esq. Benjamin B. Klubes, Esq.	William R. Urga, Esq. Martin A. Little, Esq.
15	Joseph J. Reilly, Esq. BUCKLEY SANDLER LLP	JOLLEY URGA WOODBURY & LITTLE
16	1250 – 24th Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20037	3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 16th Floor Las Vegas, NV 89169
17	Attorneys for Defendants/Counterclaimants	Attorneys for Elaine P. Wynn
18	Richard A. Wright, Esq. WRIGHT STANISH & WINCKLER	John B. Quinn, Esq. Michael T. Zeller, Esq.
19	300 South 4th Street, Suite 701 Las Vegas, NV 89101	Jennifer D. English, Esq. Susan R. Estrich, Esq.
20	Attorneys for Defendants/Counterclaimants	QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN LLP
21		865 Figueroa Street, Tenth Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017
22	SERVED VIA HAND-DELIVERY	Attorneys for Elaine P. Wynn
23	The Honorable Elizabeth Gonzalez Eighth Judicial District court, Dept. XI	
24	Regional Justice Center 200 Lewis Avenue	
25	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155	
26		
27	An	/s/ Kimberly Peets employee of PISANELLI BICE PLLC
	All	CHIDIOVEE OF FISANELLI DICE PLLC

An employee of PISANELLI BICE PLLC

STUDY OF NEVADA CORPORATE LAW

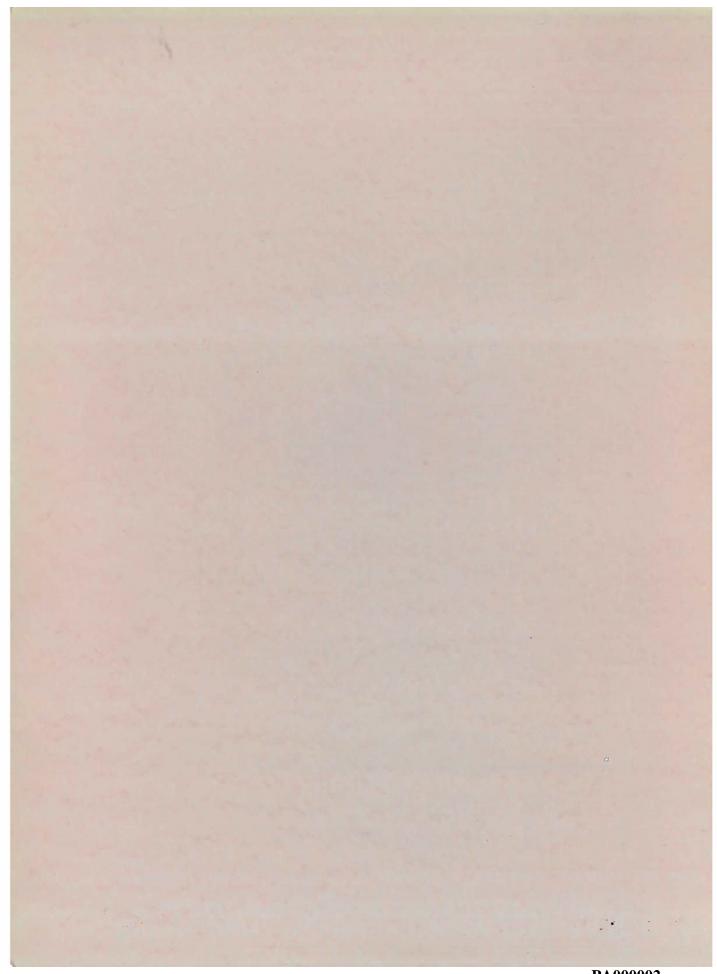
VARGAS & BARTLETT 201 West Liberty Street Reno, Nevada 89504

and

7th Floor, 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

July 30, 1990

JOINT ASSEMBLY & SENATE JUDICIARY (EXHIBIT C1:/5-7-91)



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We had the invaluable assistance and advice from a large number of people. First, we must recognize the invaluable assistance, patience and tolerance of Karen Easton who, under great pressure, exhibited serenity, and cheerfully gave technical advice and expertise. She kept us all on track and, more or less, on time.

The Business Law Committee of the State Bar of Nevada produced a long list of suggestions which was the starting point for all our work on Chapter 78. Thanks to the committee and its members, Douglas G. Crosby, Thomas W. Davis, II, Michael J. Toigo, Kenneth A. Woloson, Michael J. Bonner and Martha J. Ashcraft.

We also obtained suggestions from others concerning business corporations. Figuring prominently in the early work were Kirk S. Schumacher and Robert E. Armstrong, who suggested drafting a limited liability company statute based on Wyoming's.

Karen Zupon and Cindy Woodgate at the Secretary of State's office provided us insight into the problems and rewards of administering the rapidly-expanding operation of a modern Secretary of State's office.

Robert O. Vaughan of Elko provided advice and assistance in drafting the nonprofit corporation law from the point of view of an attorney for cooperatives. Two kinds of cooperative associations will be governed by the new nonprofit law, if it is enacted.

Many members of the Nevada State Bar submitted suggestions in response to the Secretary of State's letter to all Nevada attorneys seeking suggestions. They are too numerous to name but we appreciate all their suggestions, both great and small.

Finally, we must salute those at Vargas & Bartlett who participated in the research and drafting of this report. They are: Rew R. Goodenow, Jeffrey J. Whitehead, C. Thomas Burton, Jr., David S. McElroy, John N. Brewer, H. Gregory Nasky, Barbara C. Mendez, Martha J. Ashcraft, Georlen K. Spangler, Paul Lal, Sam Basile, Kelly Boyle and Greg Barnard.

Thanks to all of you. We all hope this study will assist the Secretary of State, the Legislative Counsel's Office and the 1991 Legislature in drafting new corporate statutes for Nevada.

John P. Fowler Vargas & Bartlett July 30, 1990

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS		
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Section	A
CHAPTER 78 - BUSINESS CORPORATIONS	Section	B 145 1
CHAPTER 80 - FOREIGN CORPORATIONS	Section	c 6 p
NONPROFIT CORPORATION LAW	Section	D 107 P
CHAPTERS 81 through 86	Section	E 32 #
CHAPTER 89 - PROFESSIONAL COROPRATIONS	Section	F 67
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES	Section	G 349
SPECIAL SERVICES	Section	н 3 р

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vargas & Bartlett has completed its study of Nevada's corporate laws and submits this report as the product of that study. We were engaged by the Secretary of State to study Chapters 78, 80, 81 through 86 and 89 to determine what changes should be made to keep Nevada in the forefront of corporate law. We have compared the Nevada statutes with the statutes of many other states and have sought to streamline corporate procedures and make them easy to use.

All of the following sections of this report contain a short introduction. Suggested statutory language amending existing statutes or complete new statutes follow the introduction, each accompanied by detailed notes explaining why the change are made or the new statute is suggested. The notes also show the source of much of the new language.

We recommend extensive changes to Chapter 78, the statute regulating Nevada Business Corporations. We suggest eliminating the distinction between par and no par stock, eliminating the terms "preferred" and "special" stock and the concepts of "capital" and "surplus". We suggest repealing the old "first generation" takeover bid legislation. The most important parts of that legislation were declared unconstitutional and the remainder should be removed from the books.

We recommend a complete overhaul of the merger statutes to make the statutory language easier to read and more understandable. We recommend that Nevada adopt a share exchange procedure, abolish the outmoded concept of consolidations and permit mergers between corporations and limited partnership. We also recommend that the dissenters' rights procedures be simplified so that dissenters' rights lawsuits are less expensive and less cumbersome to conduct.

We recommend that Nevada enact a Business Combination statute prohibiting mergers and other major corporate transactions for a period of five years after an "interested shareholder" acquires a certain percentage of a corporation's shares. The prohibition has no affect if the transaction proposed by the interested shareholder is approved by the board of directors.

Finally, we propose the Nevada Secretary of State be given general power to permit the filing of documents by facsimile machine and the power to adopt rules, regulations and procedures to meet the challenge of new communications

technology. The pace of technological change in the computer age with respect to the receipt, storage and transmission of documents quickly makes obsolete legislation passed by a legislature which meets only every two years.

In the nonprofit corporation area, we have drafted a complete new nonprofit corporation law governing almost all types of nonprofit corporations which may arise. We recommend that statutes creating the three types of cooperative corporations remain largely intact but provide that two of the three kinds of co-ops be regulated (except as specifically set forth in their specific statutes) by the new nonprofit corporation law. The remaining co-op will be otherwise regulated by the business corporation law found at Chapter 78.

As to foreign corporations, we propose that foreign corporations which conduct only certain transactions involving little actual contact with the state be exempted from the requirement of qualification with the Nevada Secretary of State. However, if those corporations do any of the transactions in combination with maintaining an office in this state or with accepting or soliciting deposits in this state, they must qualify and, possibly, be subject to our banking laws.

We suggest small changes to Chapter 89 regulating professional corporations.

Finally, we briefly examined the operation of the Secretary of State's office and the statute permitting the Secretary of State to render and charge for special services. We recommend that the Secretary of State open a Las Vegas office. We propose that the Secretary of State be allowed to charge fees for certain special services which she now has no power to charge for at all.

It was a pleasure drafting this report for the Secretary of State. We hope the report will be useful in drafting legislation encouraging the flow of commerce into Nevada and making our corporate laws the most advanced, simplest and accessible to the public of any in the nation.

Table of Contents

	PRI	VATE	CO	RP	OR	AT	I	ONS	5
--	-----	------	----	----	----	----	---	-----	---

		Page
Introduct	tion	1-h
	GENERAL PROVISIONS	
78.010	Definitions; construction.	3-b
78.015	Applicability of Chapter; effect on corporations existing before April 1, 1925.	4-h
78.020- 78.027	No change.	5-b
	<u>FORMATION</u>	
78.030	Filing of articles and certificate of acceptance of appointment of resident agent.	5 - b
78.035	Articles of incorporation: required provisions.	6 - b
78.037	Articles of incorporation: Optional provisions.	9 - b
78.039	Name of corporation: Use of same or [deceptively similar] indistinguishable names prohibited; consent of other entity to use of name.	10-b
78.040; 78.045	No change.	12 - b
78.050	Commencement of corporate existence.	12 - b
78.055	No change.	13-b
	POWERS	
78.060	General powers.	13 - b
78.065-	No change.	15 - b

		Page
	PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND RESIDENT AGENT	
78.090	Resident agent in state; powers of corporation acting as resident agent; penalties for noncompliance; service of process, demands and notices on resident agent.	15-b
78.095	Change of address of resident agent.	17-b
78.097	Filing of statement of resignation of resident agent; notice to corporation of resignation; filing new certificate of acceptance after death, resignation or removal of resident agent.	18-b
78.105	[Copies of articles, bylaws and duplicate stock ledgers or statements] Records to be kept at principal office; inspection, [rights or judgment creditors and stockholders;] penalties.	20-b
78.110	Change of resident agent or location of principal office.	25 - b
78.115	No change.	27-b
78.120	Powers of the board of directors: Generally; bylaws.	27 - b
78.125	Committees of the board of directors: Powers; names.	28 - b
78.130; 78.135	No change.	29-b
78	Standards applicable to directors officers.	29-b
78.140	Restrictions on transactions involving interested directors or officers; compensation of directors.	32-b
78.145	Reneal	34-b

	ANNUAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; DESIGNATION OF RESIDENT AGENT	Page
78.150	No change.	3 4- b
78.155	Certificate of authorization to to transact business.	34 - b
78.160	New corporations: Filing requirements; fee.	35 - b
78.165	Addresses of officers and directors; penalty for failure to file.	36 - b
78.170	No change.	36-b
78.175	Forfeiture of charters of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state; distribution of corporate assets.	36 - b
78.180	Reinstatement of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state.	38 - b
78.185	Acquisition of new name by defaulting corporation upon reinstatement.	39 - b
	STOCK, DIVIDENDS AND SECURITIES	
78	Definition of "distribution".	41-b
78.195	[Classes and kinds of stock; rights of stockholders.] <u>Authorized stock</u> .	41-b
78.197	No change.	49-b
78.200	Rights or options to purchase [capital] stock.	49 - b
78.205	No change.	50-b
78.206	No change.	50 - b
78.2065	No change.	50 - b

		Page
78.207	No change.	50-b
78.210	Repeal.	50 - b
78	Issuance of shares.	51 - b
78.215	Consideration for shares. [without par value.]	52 - b
78.220	No change.	53 - b
78.225	Stockholder's liability: No individual liability except on unpaid subscription contract.	53 - b
78.230; 78.235; 78.240	No change.	5 4- b
78.242	Restrictions on transfer of corporation securities.	54-b
78.245; 78.250; 78.257	No change.	56 - b
78.265	Repeal.	56 - b
78	[Preemptive right of stockholders to acquire new stock; exceptions.] Shareholders' preemptive rights.	56 - b
78.270	Repeal.	58 - b
78.275; 78.280	No change.	58-b
78.283	Repeal.	58 - b
78.285	Repeal.	58-b
78.290	Repeal.	58-b

		Page
78	Distributions to shareholders.	59 - b
78.295	Liability of directors as to [dividends] <u>distributions</u> .	60 - b
78.300	Liability of directors for unlawful payment of [dividends] <u>distributions;</u> exoneration from liability.	61 - b
78.307	No change.	61 - b
	MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, VOTING AND NOTICE	
78.310	No change.	61 - b
78.315	Director's meetings: Quorum; consent for actions taken without meeting; participation by telephone or similar method.	61 - b
78.320	[Consent of stockholders in lieu of meeting.] Stockholders' meetings: Quorum, consent for actions taken without meeting; participation by telephone or similar method.	63-b
78.325	No change.	65 - b
78.330	No change.	65 - b
78.335	Directors: Removal; filing of vacancies.	65 - b
78.340	No change.	67-b
78.345	No change.	67 - b
78.346	Appointment of custodian or receiver or corporation on deadlock or for other cause.	68 - b
78.350	Voting rights of stockholders; determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at meeting; fixing date when stockholders entitled to give consent in lieu of meeting.	69 - b

		Page
78.355	No change.	71 - k
78.360	Cumulative voting.	71 - b
78.365	Voting trusts.	73 - b
78.370	Notice of stockholders' meetings: Signature; contents; service; publication; waiver; exception.	74 - b
78.375	No change.	77-b
	TAKEOVER BIDS	
78.376 - 78.3778	Repeal.	77 - b
	ACQUISITION OF CONTROLLING INTEREST	
78.378 - 78.379	No change.	78 - b
78.3791	Approval of voting rights of acquiring person.	78-b
78.3792; 78.3793	No change.	79 - b
	AMENDMENTS AND RESTATEMENT OF ARTICLES; REDUCTION OF CAPITAL	
78.380; 78.385	No change.	79 - b
78.390	Amendment of articles of incorporation after payment of capital: Procedure.	79 - b
78.395	Adoption of amended articles of incorporaton: Procedure.	81 - b
78.400- 78.403	No change.	82 - b
78.410- 78.445	Repeal.	82 - b

		Page
	MERGER [OR CONSOLIDATION] OR SHARE EXCHANGE	
78.450	Repeal.	82 - b
78.451	Merger of domestic corporations authorized.	82 - b
78.455	Repeal.	84-b
78.456	Share exchange.	84 - b
78.460	Repeal.	85 - b
78.465	Repeal.	85 - b
78.470	Repeal.	85 - b
78.471	Shareholder action on plan.	85 - b
78.475 - 78.488	Repeal.	89 - b
<u>78.489</u>	Merger of subsidiary.	89 - b
78.490	Repeal.	91-b
78.491	Articles of merger or share exchange.	91-b
78.495	Repeal.	92-b
78.496	Effect of merger or share exchange.	92-b
78.500	Repeal.	94-b
78.501	Merger or share exchange with foreign corporation.	94 - b
78.502	Merger of domestic corporation and limited partnership.	96 - b
	DISSENTERS' RIGHTS	
78.503	Definitions.	97 - b
78.505	Repeal.	99 - b

		Page
78.506	Right to dissent.	99 - b
78.507	Repeal.	101-k
78.508	Dissent by nominees and beneficial owners.	101 - h
78.510	Repeal.	102 - b
78.511	Notice of dissenters' rights.	102-b
78.515	Repeal.	103-b
<u>78.516</u>	Notice of intent to demand payment.	103-b
78.520	Repeal.	104-b
78.521	Repeal.	104-b
78.522	Dissenters' notice.	104-b
78.525	Repeal.	105-b
78.526	Duty to demand payment.	105-b
78.530	Repeal.	106-b
78.531	Share restrictions.	106-b
78.535	Repeal.	107-b
<u>78.536</u>	Payment.	107 - b
78.537	After-acquired shares.	108-b
78.538	Procedure if shareholder dissatisfied with payment or offer.	109-b
78.539	Court action.	110-b
70 540	Court costs and councel fees	112 - F

BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

Introduction		114-k
Section 1	Definitions.	117 - 1
Section 2	"Affiliate" defined.	117 - 1
Section 3	Announcement date" defined.	118-1
Section 4	"Associate" defined.	118 - 1
Section 5	"Beneficial owner" defined.	118-h
Section 6	"Business combination" defined.	121 - k
Section 7	"Common shares" defined.	12 4- k
Section 8	"Consummation date" defined.	125 - 1
Section 9	"Control," "controlling," "controlled by" and "under common control with" defined.	125 - 1
Section 10	"Exchange Act" defined.	127 - b
Section 11	"Interested shareholder" defined.	127-b
Section 12	"Market value" defined.	128-b
Section 13	"Preferred shares" defined.	130-b
Section 14	"Resident domestic corporation" defined.	131-b
Section 15	"Share" defined.	132-b
Section 16	"Share acquisition date" defined.	132-b
Section 17	"Subsidiary defined.	133-b
Section 18	"Voting shares defined.	133-b
Section 19	Combination with resident domestic corporation and interested shareholder of the corporation.	133 - b
Section 20	Authorized business combinations.	135-b

			Page
Section	21	Corporations registered with SEC excepted.	142-b
Section	22	Applicability of Act.	143-b
Section	23	Election not to be governed by Act.	143-b
Section	24	Combinations involving inadvertent interested shareholders excepted.	145-b
Section	25	Interested shareholders prior to January 1, 1991, excepted.	145-b
	SALE	OF ASSETS; DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP	
78.565- 78.620	No c	hange.	146-b
	<u>I</u>	NSOLVENCY; RECEIVERS AND TRUSTEES	
78.622	No c	hange.	146-b
78.625	Repe	al.	146-b
78.626- 78.680	No c	hange.	146-b
78.685	on p	ditor or receiver demand jury trial resentation] Adjudication of claim; dict subject to control] appeal to t.	146-b
78.690	Repe	al.	148-b
78.695 - 78.720	No c	hange.	148-b
RE	INCORP	ORATION; RENEWAL AND REVIVAL OF CHARTERS	
78.725- 78.740	No c	hange.	148-b
S -		GAINST CORPORATIONS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND STOCKHOLDERS	
78.745 - 78.752	No c	hange.	149-b

	FEES PAYABLE TO SECRETARY OF STATE	Page
78.755	Secretary of state to collect required fees[.]; power to employ new technology.	149-b
78.760	Filing fees: Articles of incorporation [and agreements of consolidation].	149-b
78.765	Filing fees: Certificate of amendment increasing authorized capital stock.	150-b
78.767	No change.	151-b
78.770	Filing fees: [Certificate of consolidation or merger] <u>articles</u> of merger or share exchange.	151 - b
78.775	Filing fees: Certificate of amendment not increasing [authorized capital stock] <u>number of shares;</u> certificates of [reduction of capital and retirement of preferred stock].	152-b
78.780	No change.	152 - b
78.785	Miscellaneous fees.	152 - b

CHAPTER 78

Introduction

We have reviewed Chapter 78 intensely and compared it with new corporate statutory schemes in Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Revised Model Business Corporation Act (1984), the Delaware General Corporation Law and other statutory schemes. We have also reviewed the extensive suggestions kindly submitted to us by the Business Law Committee of the State Bar of Nevada and many others. As a result of this study, we are recommending substantial changes to NRS Chapter 78.

We recommend simplifying the provisions which must be contained in articles of incorporation by deleting the necessity of stating stock shall not be assessed and the necessity to state that a corporation has perpetual existence. NRS 78.030. Corporate names must now be "indistinguishable", a term which is clarified by a new subsection. The old standard of "deceptively similar" was difficult to administer and did not establish a clear standard for those names which are so similar to other names that the Secretary of State's office should not permit a filing. NRS 78.039.

Incorporators may now delay the commencement of the existence of the corporation after the filing date up to a period of 90 days. NRS 78.050. The procedures for changing the resident agent have been simplified. NRS 78.097. Standards of conduct applicable to directors and officers have been clarified under a new statute to be placed after NRS 78.135.

We recommend major changes be made in the statutes regulating the kinds of stock which may be issued by Nevada corporations. The distinction between par and no par stock has been abolished. The language of the statute referring to "preferred" stock and "special" stock has been eliminated. The requirements for the issuance of stock are now largely borrowed from the Revised Model Business Corporation Act. See NRS 78.195 through 78.215. Preemptive rights available to stockholders have been defined and clarified and must be specifically provided for in the articles of incorporation.

The simplification and modernization of statutes relating to stock have eliminated the concepts of capital, surplus, etc. Directors must not issue "distributions" if the corporation is insolvent. The old standard by which directors were forbidden to issue "dividends" if the issuance "impairs capital" has been abolished. See the new statute to be placed after NRS 78.290.

Changes to NRS 78.320 comply with suggestions from the Business Law Committee to clarify what a quorum of a meeting may be and to clarify the procedures for conducting a director's meeting by a teleconference. In addition, if the corporation's management is deadlocked, a custodian may be appointed by a court to break the deadlock. NRS 78.346.

1-b

PA000025

ΤŢ

An unnecessarily detailed procedure for the exercise of cumulative voting has been deleted from the statute. Now, the corporation need only be notified before the shareholders meeting for cumulative voting to be invoked. NRS 78.360.

1

2

6

10

11

16

17

21

22

23

For years, corporations have had to mail notices of meetings, etc. to shareholders even though the corporation knows that the mailing will be returned undeliverable. Now, if two consecutive notices are returned undeliverable, further notices need not be sent. NRS 78.370.

We recommend that the "first generation" takeover bid legislation at NRS 78.376 through 78.3778 be repealed. The most important operative portions of the statute have been declared unconstitutional. There is no reason to leave the remaining sections on the books.

We recommend a complete replacement of our merger statutes. The new statutes eliminate the concept of consolidation and permit share exchanges and mergers with limited partnerships. The Revised Model Business Corporation Act (1984) was used as a model for much of the statutory language. In all cases, the procedures actually effecting a merger or share exchange are similar to the old procedures. However, the new statutory wording is much clearer, the number of statutes has been reduced and the organization is much improved. We have given statutory section numbers to each of the merger statutes in order to make the cross references between the sections in this area understandable. See statutes labeled NRS 78.451, 78.456, 78.471, 78.489, 78.491, 78.496, 78.501 and 78.502.

The dissenters' rights provisions have also been changed and largely replaced. Statutory language taken largely from the Model Business Corporations Act (1984) has been used to properly reflect the language contained in the revamped merger area. See statutes labeled NRS 78.503, 78.506, 78.508, 78.511, 78.516, 78.522, 78.526, 78.531, 78.536, 78.537, 78.538, 78.539 and 78.540. The court procedure to determine the fair value of the shares has been greatly simplified. No longer must the corporation appoint three appraisers who render a report to which a party may object resulting in yet another trial before the court with new experts. See existing NRS 78.510. New NRS 78.539 makes dissenters' rights actions less expensive to all parties concerned.

We recommend that Nevada enact a business combination statute placed immediately following the new dissenters' rights statutes. The business combination statutes we recommend are largely those obtained from Chapter 43 of the Indiana Corporation Act. This new act prohibits, for a period of five years after an interested shareholder acquires a certain percentage of the corporation's shares, any "business combination" between the Nevada corporation and the interested shareholder or his affiliates unless the board of directors approves the transaction. See Section 19 of the new Act. A

"business combination" is defined at Section 6 of the new Act as a merger with the person, a sale lease or exchange of the corporation's assets having a market value equal to 5% or more of its assets, an issuance of the Nevada's corporation's stock equal to 5% or more of the market value of that stock, and the adoption of any plan of liquidation or a reclassification of securities involving the interested party.

We have made a few changes in the area of insolvency and receivers. At NRS 78.685, we recommend that the trustee or receiver of the corporation inspect creditor's claims himself and make an initial determination of their validity. The creditor may appeal to the district court after the receiver or trustee rules on the claim and the court has the right to decide the claim without a jury.

We have also given the power to the Secretary of State to employ new technology. Specifically, the statutes allow the filing of documents by fax machines and the Secretary of State to pass regulations concerning these matters. NRS 78.755. We have changed the statutes regarding filing fees, computing the filing fees of articles and amendments to articles by the number of shares described in those documents, not the authorized capital. As we have seen, the concepts of "capital" and "surplus" have been abolished. See NRS 78.760. Other filing fees have been changed in certain respects. See NRS 78.785.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

NRS 78.010 Definitions; construction.

1. As used in this chapter:

- (a) <u>"articles"</u>, "articles of incorporation," "certificate of incorporation," and <u>"restated articles"</u> are synonymous terms and unless the context otherwise requires, include all certificates filed pursuant to NRS 78.030, 78.195, 78.207, 78.380, 78.385, 78.390, <u>and 78.403</u>, [and 78.410 to 78.445,] inclusive, and any [agreement] <u>articles</u> of [consolidation or] merger filed pursuant to NRS [78.450 to 78.490] 78.451 to 78.502, inclusive.
 - (b) "Directors" and "trustees" are synonymous terms.
- (c) "Receiver" includes receivers and trustees appointed as provided in this chapter or in NRS Chapter 32.

7

10

11

12

13 14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

27

26

28

- (d) "Principal office," "principal place of business," and "principal office in this state," are synonymous terms referring to the office maintained in this state as required by NRS 78.090.
- (e) "Stockholder of record" means a person whose name appears on the stock ledger of the corporation.
- 2. General terms and powers given in this chapter must not be restricted by the use of special terms, or be held to be restricted by any grant of special powers contained in this chapter.

Note: The changes in this section were suggested by the State Bar of Nevada's Business Law Committee ("B.L.C."). They clarify the defined terms. The addition of NRS Chapter 32 gives receivers appointed by that chapter the benefit of definition and discussion of their substantive powers and procedures contained in NRS 78.565 through 78.720.

NRS 78.015 Applicability of chapter; effect on corporations existing before April 1, 1925.

- 1. The provisions of this chapter apply to:
- (a) Corporations hereafter organized in this state except:
 [such]
- (i) corporations as are expressly excluded by the provision of this chapter; and
 - (ii) corporations described in Section 2 of Chapter
- (b) Corporations whose charters are renewed or revised in the manner provided in NRS 78.730.
- (c) Corporations organized and still existing under any prior act or any amendment thereto.
- (d) Close corporations, unless otherwise provided in NRS Chapter 78A.

8

9 10

11 12

13 14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23 24

25 26

27 28

- (e) All insurance companies, mutual fire insurance companies, surety companies, express companies, railroad companies, and public utility companies now existing and heretofore formed under any other act or law of this state, subject to special provisions concerning any class of corporations inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, in which case such special provisions continue to apply.
- 2. Neither the existence of corporations formed or existing before April 1, 1925, nor any liability, cause of action, right, privilege or immunity validity existing in favor of or against any such corporation on April 1, 1925, are affected, abridged, taken away or impaired by this chapter, or by any other change in the requirements for the formation of corporations provided by this chapter, nor by the amendment or repeal of any laws under which such prior existing corporations were formed or created.

Note: Chapter 78 should no longer govern nonprofit corporations to be governed by the new nonprofit corporation law recommended by this report. The additional language at NRS 78.015(1)(a) excludes such nonprofits.

NRS 78.020-78.027 No change.

FORMATION

NRS 78.030 Filing of articles and certificate of acceptance of appointment of resident agent.

- 1. One or more natural persons may associate to establish a corporation for the transaction of any lawful business, or to promote or conduct any legitimate object or purpose, pursuant and subject to the requirements of this chapter, by:
 - (a) Executing, acknowledging and filing in the office of

the secretary of state articles of incorporation, [or a certificate of incorporation]; and

- (b) Filing a certificate of acceptance of appointment, executed by the resident agent of the corporation, in the office of the secretary of state. [; and]
- [(c) Filing copies of the articles of incorporation and the certificate of acceptance, certified under the hand and official seal of the secretary of state, in the office of the clerk of the county in which the principal place of business in the company is intended to be located. The county clerk may microfilm these copies for filing in his records rather than filing he copies.]
- 2. The articles of incorporation [or certificate of incorporation,] must be as provided in NRS 78.035, and the secretary of state shall require it to be in the form prescribed. If any articles [or certificates] are defective in this respect, the secretary of state shall return them for correction.

Note: Changes made to this section eliminate the need for local county filings, as was done under the Revised Model Business Code Annotated ("Rev. MBCA") as adopted in Georgia under O.C.G.A. §14-2-120 or Rev. MBCA §1.20. With modern telephone and fax communications, the business would no longer need to have copies of corporate documents stored at the local county courthouse. An unnecessary step in the filing process is eliminated.

Similar changes to other statutes in Chapter 78 and in the nonprofit chapters also eliminate the county filings.

NRS 78.035 Articles of incorporation: required provisions.

The [certificates or] articles of incorporation must set forth:

1. The name of the corporation. A name appearing to be

0

that of a natural person and containing a given name or initials must not be used as a corporate name except with an additional word or words such as "Incorporated," "Limited," "Inc.," "Ltd.," "Company," "Co.," "Corporation," "Corp.," or other word which identifies it as not being a natural person.

- 2. The name of the county, and the city or town, and the place within the county, city or town in which its principal office or place of business is to be located in this state, giving the street and number wherever practicable, and if not so described as to be easily located within the county, city or town, the secretary of state shall refuse to issue his certificate until the location is marked and established.
- [3. The nature of the business, or objects or purposes proposed to be transacted, promoted or carried on by the corporation. It is sufficient to state, either alone or with other purposes, that the corporation may engage in any lawful activity, subject to expressed limitations, if any. Such a statement makes all lawful activities within the objects or purposes of the corporation.]
- [4. The amount of the total authorized capital stock of the corporation, and the number and par value of the shares of which it is to consist or, if the corporation is to issue shares without par value, the total number of shares that may be issued by the corporation, the number of shares, if any, which are to have a par value, and the par value of each thereof, and the number of shares which are to be without par value. If the corporation is to issue more than one class of stock, there must be set forth therein a statement that more than one class of

0

stock is authorized, whether each class if preferred, special or common, and the total number of shares of each class of stock which the corporation may issue. If the corporation is to issue any class or series of stock which is preferred as to dividends, assets or otherwise, over stock of any other class or series, there must be set forth in the articles of incorporation the limits, if any, of variation between the respective classes or series of each class, as to designation, voting, amount of preference upon distribution of assets, rate of dividends, premium or redemption, conversion rights or other variations, but in any corporation the articles of incorporation may vest authority in the board of directors to fix and determine the designations, rights, preferences or other variations of each class or series within each class as provided in NRS 78.195.]

- 3. The number of shares the corporation is authorized to issue and, if more than one class or series of stock is authorized, the classes, series and the number of shares of each class or series which the corporation is authorized to issue, unless the articles authorize the board of directors to fix and determine in a resolution the price, series and number of each class or series as provided in NRS 78.195.
- [5] 4. Whether the members of the governing board must be styled directors or trustees of the corporation and the number, names and post office, street or business addresses of the first board of directors, together with any desired provisions relative to the right to change the number of directors as provided in NRS 78.115.
 - [6. Whether or not capital stock, after the amount of the

6

7

8

9

10

11

13

14

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

in this particular.]

- [7] 5. The name and post office, street or business address of each of the incorporators signing the [certificate or] articles of incorporation.
- [8. Whether or not the corporation is to have perpetual existence, and, if not, the time when its existence is to cease.]

Several changes are suggested for this section to reflect current corporate practice. The provisions requiring statements that the corporation have perpetual existence and may conduct any lawful business activity have both been deleted and placed in NRS 78.060. Perpetual existence is assumed under Rev. MBCA §3.02 and under the Pennsylvania corporate scheme, See 15 Pa.C.S.A. §1501(a)(1). Pennsylvania also assumes a corporation is organized to conduct any lawful activity, See 15 Pa.C.S.A. §1301; Rev. MBCA §2.02 (1986 Revised Edition). Corporations rarely choose to make stock assessable. We recommend that a new subsection 3 of NRS 78.195 be created using the second sentence of existing NRS 78.035(6) to allow for assessability, if desired, but generally providing for non-assessability.

Finally, changes to new subsections 4 and 5 allow the addresses of the incorporators and directors to be their post office, street or business addresses. This clarifies a previous ambiguity as to whether an incorporator or director could use his business address in the articles.

NRS 78.037 Articles of incorporation: Optional provisions.

The certificate or articles of incorporation may also contain:

A provision eliminating or limiting the personal 1.

liability of a director or officer to the corporation or its stockholders for damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, but such a provision must not eliminate or limit the liability of a director or officer for:

- (a) Acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law; or
- (b) The payment of [dividends] <u>distributions</u> in violation of NRS 78.300.
- 2. Any provision, not contrary to the laws of this state, for the management of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the corporation, and any provision creating, defining, limiting or regulating the powers of the corporation or the rights, powers or duties of the directors, and the stockholders, or any class of the stockholders, or the holders of bonds as other obligations of the corporation, or governing the distribution or division of the profits of the corporation.

Note: With the revision to statutes relating to stock, eliminating the concepts of par and no-par stock, the terminology has also changed. NRS 78.300 now uses the word "distributions".

NRS 78.039 Name of corporation: Use of same or [deceptively similar] <u>indistinguishable</u> names prohibited; consent of other entity to use of name.

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the secretary of state shall refuse to accept for filing in his office the articles [or certificate] of incorporation of any corporation whose name [is the same as or deceptively similar to:] cannot be distinguished from:
 - (a) The name of any other corporation formed or

incorporated in this state;

2

(b) The name of any foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state;

3

(c) A name held reserved pursuant to NRS 78.040;

5

state;

6

7

8 9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17 18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

- The name of any limited partnership formed in this
- The name of any foreign limited partnership authorized to transact business in this state; or
 - (f) A name held reserved pursuant to NRS 88.325.
- 2. The secretary of state shall accept for filing in his office the articles or certificate of a corporation whose name [is]:
- [Deceptively similar to] Cannot be distinguished from that used by or reserved for another entity formed or authorized to transact business in this state; or
- (b) Is [T] the same as that used by a foreign corporation or foreign limited partnership authorized to transact business in this state, or reserved for such a use pursuant to NRS 88.325,

if the written acknowledged consent of the other entity to the use of the name accompanies the articles or certificate.

3. For the purposes of this section, the name of one corporation must not be deemed distinguishable from another solely because its name contains distinctive lettering, a distinctive mark, a trade mark or a trade name or any combination of these.

Note: Modern business corporation statutes make is easier for secretaries of state to determine if a corporate name is sufficiently distinguishable to permit a corporation to file

_

under its chosen name. Thus, if a corporate name can be distinguished from another corporate name on file, the name can be used. A change from "Inc." to "Co." would be enough.

Subsection 3 was added to make clear that a corporation cannot distinguish its names from others through the use of a name spelled identically to another but employing distinctive typography or a distinctive mark, for example, using a star in lieu of an apostrophe, or a distinctive first letter, or using all capitals or all small case lettering, instead of the more normal initial capital letters.

NRS 78.040; 78.045 No change.

NRS 78.050 Commencement of corporate existence.

- 1. Upon the filing of [the certificate or] the articles of incorporation and the certificate of acceptance pursuant to NRS 78.030(1), and the payment of the filing fees to the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall issue to the corporation a certificate that the articles, containing the required statement of facts, have been filed in his office. From the date [of the certificate the persons so acting, their successors and assigns are] the articles are filed, the corporation is a body corporate, by the name set forth in the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, subject to the forfeiture of its charter or dissolution as provided in this chapter.
- 2. Neither the incorporator(s) nor the director(s) designated in the articles of incorporation shall thereby be considered subscribers or stockholders of the corporation.
- 3. The filing of the articles of incorporation does not, by itself, constitute commencement of business by the corporation.
 - 4. The date of commencement of a body corporate may be

10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

22 23

24 25

26

27

28

delayed for ninety (90) days by filing a request to delay commencement of corporate existence which date must be honored by the secretary of state upon receipt of an additional filing fee of \$75.

Note: The second sentence of subsection 1 is a modification of the Business Law Committee's suggestions. The commencement date of the existence of a corporation has been changed to be the date the articles are filed. The Business Law Committee suggested Nevada follow the Delaware General Corporation Law and begin corporate existence on the date of filing the articles.

New Subsections 2, 3 and 4 were suggested by the B.L.C. New Subsection 3 limits incorporators' or directors' liability as subscribers or stockholders. Our sources did not contain comparable sections. New Subsection 3 allows a corporation to delay the commencement of business.

New Subsection 4 allows the Secretary of State to hold articles for a period of ninety (90) days, for an extra filing fee, to allow new flexibility in commencement of corporate existence. Other statutes have comparable provisions. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §103(d); Revised MBCA § 2.04 and § 1.23(b).

NRS 78.055 No change.

POWERS

NRS 78.060 General powers.

- 1. Any corporation organized under the provisions of this chapter:
- (a) Shall have all the rights, privileges and powers hereby conferred.
- (b) Shall have such rights, privileges and powers as may be conferred upon corporations by any existing law.
- (c) May at any time exercise such rights, privileges and powers, when not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, or with the purposes and objects for which such corporation is organized.
 - 2. Every corporation, by virtue of its existence as such,

- (a) Unless otherwise provided in its articles,

 to have perpetual existence and [T]to have succession by its

 corporate name [for the period limited in its certificate or

 articles of incorporation, and when no period is limited,

 perpetually, or] until dissolved and its affairs wound up

 according to law.
 - (b) To sue and be sued in any court of law or equity.
 - (c) To make contracts.
- (d) To hold, purchase and convey real and personal estate and to mortgage or lease any such real and personal estate with its franchises. The power to hold real and personal estate shall include the power to take the same by devise or bequest in this state, or in any other state, territory or country.
- (e) To appoint such officers and agents as the affairs of the corporation shall require, and to allow them suitable compensation.
- (f) To make bylaws not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the United States, or of this state, for the management, regulation and government of its affairs and property, the transfer of its stock, the transaction of its business, and the calling and holding of meetings of its stockholders.
- (g) To wind up and dissolve itself, or be wound up or dissolved, in the manner mentioned in this chapter.
- (h) Unless otherwise provided in the articles, to engage in any lawful activity.

Note: The additional language picks up the necessary

4 5

 powers to engage in any lawful activity and to have perpetual existence deleted from NRS 78.035. These powers should be given to every Nevada corporation without the necessity of providing for them in the articles.

As to new subsection (2)(h), Pennsylvania assumes a corporation may conduct any lawful business unless otherwise restricted. 15 Pa. C.S.A. §1301.

Revised new subsection (2)(a) presumes perpetual existence unless otherwise provided. Both the Rev. MBCA and Pennsylvania adopt this concept in the corporate powers area. See Pa.C.S.A. §1501(a)(1) and Rev. MBCA §3.02.

NRS 78.065 - 78.085 No change.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND RESIDENT AGENT

NRS 78.090 Resident agent in state; powers of corporation acting as resident agent; penalties for noncompliance; service of process, demands and notices on resident agent.

- 1. Except during any period of vacancy described in NRS 78.097, every corporation [shall] <u>must</u> have a resident agent, who may be either a natural person or a corporation, resident or located in this state. <u>Every resident agent must have a mailing address</u>, such as a post office box, which may be different from its physical address, and must have a physical street address, where it maintains an office for personal service. The address of the resident agent is the principal office of the corporation in this state.
- 2. The resident agent may be any bank or banking corporation, or other corporation, <u>foreign or domestic</u>, located and doing business in this state, and the bank or corporation acting as resident agent may:
- (a) Act as the fiscal or transfer agent of any state, municipality, body politic or corporation and in that capacity

5

6 7

8

9 10

11

12 13

14

15

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25

27

28

- (b) Transfer, register, and countersign certificates of stock, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness and act as agent of any corporation, foreign or domestic, for any purpose required by statute, or otherwise.
- (c) Act as trustee under any mortgage or bond issued by any municipality, body politic or corporation, and accept and execute any other municipal or corporate trust not inconsistent with the laws of this state.
- (d) Receive and manage any sinking fund of any corporation, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the corporation and those dealing with it.
- 3. Every corporation organized pursuant to this chapter that fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this section is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, to be recovered with costs by the state, before any court of competent jurisdiction, by action at law prosecuted by the attorney general or by the district attorney of the county in which the action or proceeding to recover the fine is prosecuted.
- 4. All legal process and any demand or notice authorized by law to be served upon a corporation may be served upon the resident agent of the corporation in the manner provided in subsection 2 of NRS 14.020. If any demand, notice or legal process, other than a summons and complaint, cannot be served upon the resident agent, it may be served in the manner provided in NRS 14.030. These manners and modes of service are in addition to any other service authorized by law.

Note: In 1987 and 1989, several technical changes were made to this section originally enacted in 1925, and codified in CL 1929, §1677, 1678 and amended in 1959 and 1969. The section remains little changed.

Nevada is unique among the comparable group of statutes, in that it uses the term "resident agent" rather than "registered agent". This difference in terminology has no legal significance.

Presently, Nevada, unlike Delaware and the Rev. MBCA, does not explicitly allow the resident agent to be a foreign corporation doing business in Nevada. We recommend this change for the benefit of the great number of professional corporation service companies which perform this service for corporations principally located in a distant state.

The statute presently does not refer to the address of the resident agent. Because service of process in Nevada requires personal service in many cases under NRS 14.020 and NRCP 4(d), the statute should require that the address of the resident agent must include a physical street address where service can be effected. Our suggestions contain language similar to that contained in the official comments to the MBCA.

The Bar Proposals change the statute to require that the office of the resident agent be the same as that of the registered office. This clarifies the reference to provide certainty and predictability of location and consistency of reference, as these terms are used elsewhere in Chapter 78.

NRS 78.095 Change of address of resident agent.

1. The location of the office of any resident agent of corporations in any county in the state may be transferred from one address to another, in the same county upon the making and executing by the resident agent of a certificate, acknowledged before a person authorized by the laws of this state to take acknowledgment of deeds, setting forth the names of all the corporations represented by the resident agent, and the address at which the resident agent has maintained the principal office for each such corporations, and further certifying to the new address to which the resident agency will be transferred and at which the resident agent will thereafter maintain the principal

-b

office for each of the corporations recited in the certificate.

2. Upon the filing of the certificate in the office of the Secretary of State [and a copy thereof in the office of the County Clerk of the County where the principal place of business is located], the principal office in the state of each of the corporations recited in the certificate is located at the new address of the resident agent thereof as given in the certificate.

Note: We have discussed completely doing away with the system of County filing in Nevada's corporate laws. This is one of the statutes where County filing has been required. Subsection 2 provides that the certificate required to change location of resident agent be filed in the office of the County Clerk of the county where the principal place of business is located. None of the comparable statutes, except Delaware, require County filing. The proposed language deletes this requirement.

NRS 78.097 Filing of statement of resignation of resident agent; notice to corporation of resignation; filing new certificate of acceptance after death, resignation or removal of resident agent.

- 1. Any resident agent who desires to resign must file with the secretary of state a signed statement that he is unwilling to continue to act as the agent of the corporation for service of process. The execution of this statement must be acknowledged. A resignation is not effective until the signed statement is filed with the secretary of state.
- 2. The statement of resignation may contain an acknowledged statement of each corporation affected appointing a successor resident agent for that corporation. A certificate of acceptance executed by the new resident agent must accompany the statement.

3. [2]. Upon the filing of the statement with the secretary of state, the capacity of the person as resident agent terminates[,]. [and the secretary of state] If the statement of resignation contains no statement by the corporation appointing a successor resident agent, the resident agent [shall forthwith] must immediately give written notice, by mail, to the corporation of the filing of the statement and its effect. The notice must be addressed to any officer of the corporation other than the resident agent.

4. [3]. If a resident agent dies, resigns or removes from the state, the corporation, within thirty days thereafter, [shall] must file with the Secretary of State a Certificate of Acceptance executed by the new resident agent. The Certificate must set forth the name and complete address of the new resident agent.

Note: There are several differences between the comparable statutes in this area, and each statute has desirable aspects. For instance, in Delaware, a resident agent may file a Statement of Resignation coupled with an appointment of its successor, Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §135, or a simple Statement of Resignation not coupled with the appointment of a successor. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8 §136. The appointment of a successor by the resident agent is allowed only with the ratification of the corporation. Where no successor is appointed, the resignation is not effective until the end of the sixty day period. The resident agent must notify the corporation of its resignation on or before thirty days prior thereto. The Secretary of State notifies the County where the resident office is located of the resignation.

Pennsylvania allows resignation by filing a Statement of Change with the Department of State. 15 Pa.C.S.A. §108. The Pennsylvania statute requires prompt notice by the agent to the corporation, but not a new filing. However, if an agent resigns, the office remains at the same place with the agent having no further responsibility, until the corporation changes the location of the office. The Pennsylvania committee found that this change was not important, because of the service of process rules which allow service on basically any office of the corporation within the state. This is not recommended for

3

5

8

10

11

12 13

15 16

17

18 19

20

21

22 23

24 25

26

27

28

Nevada, even though we have similar service rules, because it would serve as a trap for the unwary, and would delay litigation unnecessarily.

Section 503 of Rev. the MBCA allows resignation of the registered agent by filing two copies of a Statement of Resignation, which may be for the agent, or for the agent and the office as well. After filing, the Secretary of State mails one copy to the registered office, if not discontinued, and the other to the principal office. The resignation is effected on the 31st day after filing. Rev. MBCA §15.09 has the same requirement for a foreign corporation.

In order to ease the transition where a resident agent resigns, we suggest allowing the resident agent to resign and the corporation to appoint a successor, provided that the corporation ratifies the appointment. This suggestion is reflected in the suggested changes. This will allow the whole process to be completed with one document, saving time and simplifying the process.

Since the B.L.C. Proposals require that the registered office be the same as the address of the resident agent, the Secretary of State would not necessarily know where the officers of the corporation can be reached. See NRS 78.010(c) and 78.090(1). We recommend that the resident agent be required to give the corporation notice of its resignation as required by Delaware. Otherwise, the Secretary of State may not know where to send the required notice.

[Copies of articles, bylaws and duplicate NRS 78.105 stock ledgers or statements] Records to be kept at principal office; inspection, [rights or judgment creditors and stockholders;] penalties.

- A corporation must keep a copy of the following records at its principal office:
- [1. Every corporation shall keep and maintain at its principal office in this state:]
- (a) A certified copy of its certificate of incorporation or articles of incorporation, and all amendments thereto; and
- (b) A certified copy of its bylaws and all amendments thereto: and
 - (c) A stock ledger or a duplicate stock ledger, revised

8

10

12 13

14

15 16

17 18

19

2021

22

23 24

25 26

27

28

annually, containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of all persons who are stockholders of the corporation, showing their places of residence, if known, and the number of shares held by them respectively; or

- (d) In lieu of the stock ledger or duplicate stock ledger specified in paragraph (c), a statement setting out the name of the custodian of the stock ledger or duplicate stock ledger, and the present and complete post office address, including street and number, if any, where such stock ledger or duplicate stock ledger specified in this section is kept.
- 2. A corporation must maintain its records in written form or in another form capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time.
- [2] 3. Any person who has been a stockholder of record of a corporation for at least 6 months immediately preceding his demand, or any person holding, or thereunto authorized in writing by the holders of, at least 5 percent of all its outstanding shares, upon at least 5 days' written demand[, or any judgment creditor of the corporation without prior demand,] shall have the right to inspect in person or by agent or attorney, during usual business hours, the stock ledger or duplicate stock ledger, whether kept in the principal office of the corporation in this state or elsewhere as provided in paragraph (d) of subsection 1, and to make extracts therefrom. Holders of voting trust certificates representing shares of the corporation shall be regarded as stockholders for the purpose of this subsection. Every corporation that neglects or refuses to keep the stock ledger or duplicate copy thereof open for

inspection, as required in this subsection, shall forfeit to the state the sum of \$25 for every day of such neglect or refusal.

- [3] 4. An inspection authorized by subsection 1 may be denied to such stockholder or other person upon his refusal to furnish to the corporation an affidavit that such inspection is not desired for a purpose which is in the interest of a business or object other than the business of the corporation and that he has not at any time sold or offered for sale any list of stockholders of any domestic or foreign corporation or aided or abetted any person in procuring any such record of stockholders for any such purpose.
- [4] <u>5</u>. If any [officer of agent of any such] corporation willfully neglects or refuses to make any proper entry in such stock ledger or duplicate copy thereof, or neglects or refuses to permit an inspection of such stock ledger or duplicate thereof upon demand by a person entitled to inspect the same, or refuses to permit extracts to be taken therefrom as provided in subsections <u>3</u>, [2] and [3] <u>4</u>, such corporation and such officer or agent shall be jointly and severally liable to the person injured for all damages resulting to him therefrom.
- [5] 6. When the corporation keeps and maintains a statement in the manner provided for in paragraph (d) of subsection 1, the information contained thereon shall be given to any [judgment creditor of the corporation or to any] stockholder of such corporation demanding such information, when the demand is made during business hours. Every corporation that neglects or refuses to keep such statement available, as in this subsection required, shall forfeit to the state the sum of

2

7 8

9

- 10 11
- 12
- 13 14
- 15
- 16 17
- 19
- 20 21
- 22
- 23 24
- 25
- 27

26

28

[6. If any officer or agent of any such corporation willfully neglects or refuses to keep the statement current and accurate, or neglects or refuses to give the information contained thereon, upon demand, to a person entitled to such information, such corporation and such officer or agent shall be jointly and severally liable to the person injured for all damages resulting to him therefrom.]

- It shall be a defense, however, to any action for penalties under this section that the person suing has at any time sold, or offered for sale, any list of stockholders of such corporation, or any other corporation, or has aided or abetted any person in procuring any such stock list for any such purpose, or that the person suing desired inspection for a purpose which is in the interest of a business or object other than the business of the corporation.
- 8. Nothing contained in this section, however, shall be deemed or construed in anywise to impair the power or jurisdiction of any court to compel the production for examination of the books of a corporation in any proper case.
- 9. In every instance where an attorney or other agent of the stockholder seeks the right of inspection, the demand must be accompanied by a power of attorney executed by the stockholder authorizing the attorney or other agent to inspect on behalf of the stockholder.
- 10. The right to copy records under subsection 3 includes, if reasonable, the right to make copies by photographic, xerographic, or other means.

11. The corporation may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor, materials and the cost of copies of any documents provided to the stockholder.

1

2

3

8

10

11

12

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

26

27

28

This statute was enacted in 1925, and amended in 1951, 1959, 1963, and 1965. The 1951 amendment added the requirement that the stock ledger be revised annually, and allowed the duplicate stock ledger to be kept in the principal office in this state. The 1959 amendment added the requirement that judgment creditors be allowed to inspect the corporation's The 1959 amendment also added the liability of officers and directors for failing to keep the books current and accurate. The 1963 amendment added the exception to the right of inspection for persons who had previously sold or offered for sale a list of stockholders, or aided anyone in doing so. also added to the defense of damages for refusal that the person suing for inspection had an object other than the best interests of the corporation in mind. The 1965 amendment allowed judgment creditors to inspect the corporation's books required by this statute without prior demand.

This statute has been construed in favor of stockholder inspection in several different cases. See Cenergy Corp. v. Bryson Oil & Gas, 662 F.Supp. 1144 (D. Nev. 1987); Garaventa v. Garaventa, 61 Nev. 110, 118 P.2d 703 (1941). No reported decisions in Nevada have construed the creditors' right to inspect. There is no legislative history surrounding these amendments.

Nevada appears to be the only state which grants a statutory right of inspection to judgment creditors of the corporation. Rev. MBCA §1728. The writers of the Rev. MBCA maintain that the Nevada Statute does not grant judgment creditors of a corporation which is listed and traded on a recognized stock exchange or that furnishes its shareholders detailed financial statements the right to inspect. However, the statute does not specifically so provide. The authors have probably confused this statute with NRS 78.257, which governs the stockholders' rights to inspect financial records.

Some criticize this statute because creditors already have the right to pretrial discovery once the creditors file lawsuits. It is not immediately apparent why creditors of corporations should be granted a right to discovery if they have not yet filed a lawsuit. There has never been a recorded case in Nevada which construed the statute with respect to creditors. None of the comparable jurisdictions have a similar requirement. Since normal pretrial discovery rules adequately protect creditors, we recommend the repeal of the creditor's right to inspect pursuant to this statute.

Pennsylvania at 15 Pa.C.S.A. §1508, contains a requirement that a power of attorney be required for any non-stockholder to

_

inspect the corporate records maintained in accordance with that provision. This requirement should be adopted in order to foster respect for and prevent misuse of the right to inspect.

Wherever possible, we have left intact the existing Nevada statutory language, and the provisions unrelated to the above changes.

The suggested changes deal differently with noncompliance. The personal liability for directors and officers has been deleted, and replaced with corporate liability determined by the court. This reflects better the nature of modern corporate liability and responsibility. In addition, a reasonableness standard has been inserted to allow for those situations where the inspection has been denied in reliance upon a reasonable ground, which is later found insufficient.

NRS 78.110 Change of resident agent or location of principal office.

Whenever any corporation created pursuant to this chapter desires to change the location within the state of its principal office, or change its resident agent, or both, the change may be effected [in the following manner] by filing with the Secretary of State a certificate of change that sets forth:

- [1. The board of directors shall adopt a resolution reciting the change in the location of the principal office of the corporation within this state, or the change of the resident agent, or both.
- 2. The board of directors shall file a certificate containing a copy of the resolution, certified by the president and secretary, or vice president and assistant secretary, of the corporation, in the office of the secretary of state and in the office of the county clerk of the county where the principal office of the corporation is located.
- If the corporation changes its resident agent, the board of directors shall also file, in the manner required by

subsection 2, a certificate of acceptance executed by the new resident agent.

- 4. From and after the time of the filing of copies of the resolution and, if required, the certificate of acceptance, the change is effective.]
 - The name of the corporation;
- 2. That the change authorized by this section is effective from and after the filing of the certificate of change;
 - 3. The street address of its current principal office;
- 4. If the current principal office is to be changed, the street address of the new principal office;
 - 5. The name of its current resident agent;
- 6. If the current resident agent is to be changed, the name of the new resident agent and the new resident agent's certificate of acceptance attached to the certificate of change. The certificate of change must be signed by two officers or directors of the corporation, and acknowledged before a person authorized by the laws of the state to take acknowledgements of deeds.

Note: This section allows the corporation to change its resident agent and the location of its principal office. The statute currently requires the board of directors to adopt a resolution, and file a certificate containing a copy of the resolution certified by the president and secretary or the vice president and assistant secretary with the Secretary of State and the county where the principal office is located. If the resident agent is changed, the board must also file a certificate of acceptance of a new one. The change then becomes effective from the date of filing.

As the official comment to §5.02 of the Rev. MBCA states, changes of registered office or registered agent are usually routine matters which do not affect the rights of shareholders. The Rev. MBCA permits these changes without a formal amendment

8 9

7

10 11

12

13

15

16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23 24

25

26 27

28

of the articles of incorporation, without approval of the shareholders, and even without formal approval of the board of directors. Delaware, at Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §133, requires a resolution by the board of directors and a certificate certifying the change, executed, acknowledged and filed with the Secretary of State, and with the County Recorder. Delaware law is, therefore, similar in requirements to Nevada's. Pennsylvania has separate sections for domestic and foreign corporations. 15 Pa.C.S.A. §§5507(b) and 6144(b). Corporations can change the registered agent or registered office by amending the articles or certificate of authority, or by filing a statement under corporate seal executed by two officers setting out: the corporate name, the address of the existing agent, the address of the new agent, and the procedure by which the change was authorized. For a domestic corporation the change requires approval of the majority of the board of directors.

Only 14 jurisdictions do not have statutes which expressly require that the statement of change by authorized by an officer or director of the corporation. Most jurisdictions specify that the authorization must be in the form of a resolution adopted by the board of directors.

The change of resident agent or location of principal office by the corporation is purely an administrative function and does not affect the rights of stockholders. redrafted the Nevada statute to reflect this approach. proposed statute also deletes the requirement of county filing.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

NRS 78.115 No Change.

NRS 78.120 Powers of the board of directors: Generally; bylaws.

- 1. Subject only to such limitations as may be provided by this chapter, or the [certificate or] articles of incorporation of the corporation[, or an amendment thereof], the board of directors [or trustees] shall have full control over the affairs of the corporation.
- Subject to the bylaws, if any, adopted by the 2. stockholders, the directors may make the bylaws of the corporation.
 - The selection of a time frame for the achievement

Note: In conjunction with the enactment of a new NRS 78.135 (see below), we also suggest the addition of a new subsection 3 to NRS 78.120 with respect to the powers of the board of directors. Subsection 3 is derived from the recently enacted Sec. 1701.59(A) of the Ohio corporation act, and codifies the holding of the Delaware courts in Paramount Communication, Inc. v. Time, Inc., Revised March 9, 1990.

NRS 78.125 Committees of the board of directors: Powers; names.

1. Unless it shall be otherwise provided in the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or an amendment thereof, the board of directors may, by resolution or resolutions passed by a majority of the whole board, designate one or more committees [, each committee to consist of one or more of the directors of the corporation,] which, to the extent provided in the resolution or resolutions or in the bylaws of the corporation, shall have and may exercise the powers of the board of directors in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, and may have power to authorize the seal of the corporation to be affixed to all papers on which the corporation desires to place its seal.

2. Such committee or committees [shall] <u>must</u> have such name or names as may be stated in the bylaws of the corporation or as may be determined from time to time by resolution adopted by the board of directors.

3. Each committee must consist of at least one director.

Unless the articles of incorporation or the bylaws provide

otherwise, the board of directors may appoint natural persons

who are not directors to serve on committees.

Note: The Bar Proposals recommend that the statute be

9 10

11 12

13

14 15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

changed to expressly permit non-director membership on committees, with the limitation that such committees be subject to the direction and control of the board of directors. this change would contribute to greater flexibility in the economy of management, we recommend these changes.

NRS 78.130; NRS 78.135. No change.

- Standards applicable to directors and officers.
- 1. Directors and officers must exercise their powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation.
- 2. In performing their respective duties, directors and officers are entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, books of account, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, that are prepared or presented by:
- (a) One or more directors, officers, or employees of the corporation reasonably believed to be reliable and competent in the matters prepared or presented;
- (b) Counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters reasonably believed to be within the person's professional or expert competence;
- (c) A committee of the directors upon which the person relying thereon does not serve, duly established in accordance with NRS 78.125, as to matters within the committee's designated authority and matters on which the committee is reasonably believed to merit confidence. A director or officer is not entitled to rely on such information, opinions, reports, books of account, or statements if the director or officer has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause reliance

 thereon to be unwarranted.

- 3. Directors and officers, in exercising their respective powers with a view to the interests of the corporation, may in their discretion consider any of the following:
- (a) The interests of the corporation's employees, suppliers, creditors, and customers;
 - (b) The economy of the state and nation;
 - (c) Community and societal considerations; and,
- (d) The long-term as well as short-term interests of the corporation and its stockholders, including the possibility that these interests may be best served by the continued independence of the corporation.
- 4. Directors may resist a change or potential change in control of the corporation if the directors by a majority vote of a quorum determine that the change or potential change is opposed to or not in the best interest of the corporation
- (a) upon consideration of the interests of the corporation's stockholders and any of the matters set forth in subsection 3 of this section, or
- (b) because the amount or nature of the indebtedness and other obligations to which the corporation or any successor or the property of either may become subject in connection with the change or potential change in control provides reasonable grounds to believe that, with a reasonable period of time, any of the following would apply:
- (1) the assets of the corporation or any successor would be or become less than its liabilities plus its stated

(2) the corporation or any successor would be or become insolvent; or,

4

5

6

7 8

10

11

13

14

19

20

21 22

23

24 25

27

(3) any voluntary or involuntary proceeding under the federal bankruptcy laws concerning the corporation or any successor would be commenced by any person.

A director or officer must not be found to have failed to exercise the director's or officer's powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation unless it is proved by clear and convincing evidence that the director or officer has not acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed by the director or officer to be with a view to the interests of the corporation.

Note: In 1987, Nevada enacted one of the better provisions in existence with respect to limitation of the liability of directors and officers of a corporation the its shareholders. NRS 78.037(1). Most other jurisdictions have now enacted similar legislation, in light of the difficulty in attracting competent management and obtaining director's and officer's liability coverage in the absence of such provisions. Although there are some additional modifications which appear in other jurisdictions, Nevada's legislation establishes one of the clearest and easiest to understand standards for imposition of liability. For this reason, we recommend no change in the language of 78.037(1).

On the other hand, because there are many occasions where the business judgment of directors and officers is called into question which would not be subject to 78.037(1) (e.g. cases seeking equitable relief; corporations which have not "opted-in" to the statute) many jurisdictions have enacted legislation which more clearly defines the factors which a board of directors may properly consider when making decisions. factors are especially important in the context of decisions relating to corporate control and planning.

The only two statutes in Nevada which presently address the powers and standards applicable to the decisions of a board of directors and the officers are NRS 78.120 and the first sentence of NRS 78.140. NRS 78.120 provides in essence that "the board of directors or trustees shall have full control over the affairs of the corporation" and have the power to make the

bylaws of the corporation, subject to any bylaws adopted by the shareholders. The first sentence of NRS 78.140 provides that "Directors and officers shall exercise their powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation."

We suggest that the legislature add a new section to the Nevada Revised Statutes with respect to the standards applicable to the board of directors and officers. This new section could appear and be codified at NRS 78.137. The language is largely derived from a review of similar provisions which have recently enacted in several jurisdictions, including Indiana, Ohio, Arizona and Virginia.

- 78.140 Restrictions on transactions involving interested directors or officers; compensation of directors.
- 1. Directors and officers [shall] <u>must</u> exercise their powers in good faith and with a view to the interests of the corporation. No contract or other transaction between a corporation and one or more of its directors or officers, or between a corporation and any corporation, firm or association in which one or more of its directors or officers are directors or officers or are financially interested, is either void or voidable solely for this reason or solely because any such director or officer is present at the meeting of the board of directors or a committee thereof which authorizes or approves the contract or transaction, or because the vote or votes of common or interested directors are counted for such purpose, if the circumstances specified in any of the following paragraphs exist:
- (a) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is disclosed or known to the board of directors or committee and noted in the minutes, and the board of committee authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction in good faith by a vote sufficient for the purpose without counting

- (b) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is disclosed or known to the stockholders, and they approve or ratify the contract or transaction in good faith by a majority vote or written consent of stockholders holding a majority of the shares entitled to vote; the votes of the common or interested directors or officers shall be counted in any such vote of stockholders.
- (c) The fact of the common directorship or financial interest is not disclosed or known to the director or officer at the time the transaction is brought before the board of directors of the corporation for action.
- (d) [(c)] The contract or transaction is fair as to the corporation at the time it is authorized or approved.
- 2. Common or interested directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the board of directors or a committee thereof which authorizes, approves or ratifies a contract or transaction, and if the votes of the common or interested directors are not counted at such meeting, then a majority of the disinterested directors may authorize, approve or ratify a contract or transaction.
- 3. Unless otherwise provided in the certificate or incorporation or the bylaws, the board of directors may fix the compensation of directors for services in any capacity.

Note: The Nevada, Delaware and Pennsylvania statutes are similar to MBCA (1984) §8.31. The MBCA has now changed. Subchapter F breaks down the conflicting interest transactions for directors into a detailed definitions, and provisions providing for action by the court, directors, and shareholders. No state has adopted the Rev. MBCA Subchapter F.

We recommend leaving this statute essentially the same. It is much simpler than the Rev. MBCA, and the Rev. MBCA does not add anything of substance to the current framework, except that the director must know there is a conflict before liability may be attached. This change is reflected in the recommended changes. This change also reflects the B.L.C. Proposals' change to NRS 78.145, which requires that the director know the nature of his conduct in order to be liable for them.

NRS 78.145 Repeal.

Note: The B.L.C. Proposals edited this statute to clarify that the penalty for directors' false and fraudulent statements arises only in cases where officers and directors know their statements to be false or fraudulent. Our recommendation is that the statute be repealed. None of the comparable statutory schemes have such a provision. This is probably because the statute duplicates federal and common law covering director liability. In addition, the subject matter of this statute is covered, as to directors' and officers' liability to stockholders, in NRS Chapter 90, which applies to securities transactions.

ANNUAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; DESIGNATION OF RESIDENT AGENT

NRS 78.150 No change.

Note: This statute provides that each corporation organized under the laws of Nevada must file an annual list of officers and directors, and a designation of its resident agent certified by a corporate officer with the secretary of state, along with a \$50.00 fee. The statute also requires the secretary of state to mail the blank forms to the corporation 60 days before the list is due.

Delaware and Pennsylvania have no similar provision for all corporations, although Delaware does require an annual report for foreign corporations. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, Section 374. The Rev. MBCA requires that each domestic corporation file during the first part of the year an annual report setting forth the name of the corporation, where the corporation is incorporated, the address of the corporation, the directors' and officers' names and addresses, a brief description of the corporation's business, the total authorized shares of the corporation. Rev. MBCA §16.22. All the information must be current, and the secretary of state is required to return incomplete reports to the corporation and allow 30 days for refiling.

Nevada's annual filing requirement satisfies Nevada's interest in having current data concerning vital aspects of the corporation. There is no reason to change it.

NRS 78.155 Certificate of authorization to transact

34-b

business.

When the annual fee for filing the list of officers and directors and designation of resident agent has been paid, the cancelled check received by the corporation constitutes a certificate authorizing it to transact its business within this state until the anniversary date of its incorporation in the next succeeding calendar year. If the corporation desires a formal certificate upon its payment of the annual fee, its payment must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope and an additional fee of \$25.00.

Note: Delaware has no similar statute. Pennsylvania provides for a certificate of authority for foreign corporations, but there is no corresponding provision for domestic corporations. Rev. MBCA §1.28 provides that any person may obtain a certificate of authorization or existence concerning a corporation for a fee.

Those businesses wishing to have a formal certificate for display, or verification, should be able to obtain one. Consequently, the present statute should be left intact. However, to defray the costs associated with the secretary of state's issuing such a certificate, both in terms of the time involved in drafting the certificate, and in the record keeping necessary, the secretary of state should be able to charge a fee. The fee of \$25.00 seems to be in keeping with the basic fee structure set forth in NRS 78.785.

NRS 78.160 New corporations: Filing requirements; fee.

Each corporation organized pursuant to the laws of this state shall, within 60 days after the filing of its articles of incorporation with the secretary of state:

- File a list of its officers and directors and a designation of its resident agent. The address of the resident agent must be the same as that of the principal office.
 - 2. Pay to the secretary of state a fee of \$50.00.
 - [3. File a copy of the designation of resident agent in

 the office of the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the corporation in this state is located.]

Note: This statute requires every corporation to file a list of officers, directors, and resident agent, including address and name of each, and to pay a \$50.00 fee within 60 days after the filing of the articles of incorporation. This statute also requires the filing of a designation of resident agent. The proposed change deletes the requirement of county filing.

NRS 78.165 Addresses of officers and directors; penalty for failure to file.

- 1. Every list required to be filed under the provisions of NRS 78.150 to 78.185, inclusive, must, after the name of each officer and director listed thereon, set forth the post office, [or] street or business address of each officer and director.
- 2. If the addresses are not stated for each person on any list offered for filing, the secretary of state may refuse to file the list, and the corporation for which the list has been offered for filing is subject to all the provisions of NRS 78.150 to 78.185, inclusive, relating to failure to file the list within or at the times therein specified, unless a list is subsequently submitted for filing which conforms to the provisions of NRS 78.150 to 78.185, inclusive.

Note: The change to this statute clarifies that an officer or director may use his or her business address in the annual list of officers and directors.

NRS 78.170 No change.

NRS 78.175 Forfeiture of charters of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state; distribution of corporate assets.

 On or before the 15th day of the 3rd month following the month in which filing was required, the secretary of state

shall compile a complete list of all defaulting corporations, together with the amount of the filing fee, penalties and costs remaining unpaid.

- 2. Immediately after the 1st day of the 9th month following the month in which filing was required, the secretary of state [shall] <u>must</u> compile a full and complete list containing the names of all corporations whose right to do business has been forfeited. The secretary of state shall forthwith notify [the several county clerks in whose offices the articles of incorporation which have been forfeited are on file and shall also] by letter addressed to its president or secretary [notify] each corporation of the forfeiture of its charter. [In case of a reinstatement, the secretary of state shall also notify immediately the county clerks of the fact.]
- 3. In case of forfeiture of the charter and of the right to transact business thereunder, all the property and assets of the defaulting domestic corporation shall be held in trust by the directors of the corporation as for insolvent corporations, and the same proceedings may be had with respect thereto as are applicable to insolvent corporations. Any person interested may institute proceedings at any time after a forfeiture has been declared, but if the secretary of state reinstates the charter the proceedings shall at once be dismissed and all property restored to the officers of the corporation.
- 4. Where the assets are distributed they shall be applied:
- (a) To the payment of the filing fee, penalties and costsdue to the state;

 (b) To the creditors of the corporation; and

(c) Any balance remaining shall be distributed among the stockholders.

Note: This statute provides for the functions of the secretary of state when a corporation forfeits its charter, and for the distribution of corporate assets upon forfeiture. This statute is primarily ministerial, and fulfills its essential function. We have deleted county filings from this statute.

NRS 78.180 Reinstatement of defaulting corporations: Duties of secretary of state.

- 1. Except as otherwise provides in subsections 3 and 4, the secretary of state may:
- (a) Reinstate any corporation which has forfeited its right to transact business under the provisions of NRS 78.150 to 78.185, inclusive; and
- (b) Restore to the corporation its right to carry on business in this state, and to exercise its corporate privileges and immunities, if it:
- (1) Files with the secretary of state an affidavit stating the reason for the revocation of its charter; and
- (2) Pays to the secretary of state all filing fees, licenses, penalties, costs and expenses due and in arrears at the time of the revocation of its charter, and all filing fees, licenses and penalties which have accrued since the revocation of its charter.
- 2. When [payment is made and] the secretary of state reinstates the corporation [to its former rights] he [shall] must:
- (a) Immediately issue and deliver to the corporation a certificate of reinstatement authorizing it to transact business

 as if the filing fee had been paid when due; and

- (b) Upon demand, issue to the corporation one or more certified copies of the certificate of reinstatement. [, a copy of which must be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the principal place of business of the corporation is located or in any other county in which it owns, holds or leases property or transacts business].
- 3. The secretary of state shall not order a reinstatement unless all delinquent fees, penalties and costs have been paid, and the revocation of the charter occurred only by reason of failure to pay the fees, penalties and costs.
- 4. If a corporate charter has been revoked pursuant to the provisions of NRS 78.175 and has remained revoked for a period of 5 consecutive years, the charter must not be reinstated.

Note: This statute sets forth the procedure for reinstatement of defaulting corporations. All of the comparable statutes contain similar reinstatement provisions. Although there are some differences between these statutes, none seem to be particularly superior. The Nevada statute accomplishs its purpose sufficiently. Consequently, we recommend that the statute remain essentially unchanged.

However, we have changed subsection 2 to make the reference specific with regard to its requirement of full compliance before reinstatement. A change is made to subsection (b) to reflect the elimination of county filings.

NRS 78.185 Acquisition of new name by defaulting corporation upon reinstatement.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if any corporation is suspended from doing business under the provisions of this chapter or any previous act of the legislature of Nevada and the name of the corporation[, or]

cannot be distinguished from one [deceptively similiar to it,]:

- (a) Legally acquired by another corporation or a limited partnership; or
- (b) Reserved for the use of a proposed corporation or limited partnership, before the application for reinstatement of the defaulting corporation, the defaulting corporation [shall] must, in its application for reinstatement, submit to the secretary of state some other name under which it desires its corporation existence to be reinstated. If that name is [sufficiently distinctive and different] distinguishable from any name reserved or otherwise in use, the secretary of state [shall] must issue to the defaulting corporation a certificate of reinstatement under that new name.
- 2. If the defaulting corporation submits the written consent of the entity reserving or using a name which is the same as or cannot be distinguished from [similar to] the defaulting corporation's old name or a new name it has submitted it may be reinstated under that name. [even though it is:
- (a) The same as or deceptively similar to the name used by a foreign corporation or foreign limited partnership doing business in Nevada; or
- (b) Deceptively similar to the name used by, or reserved to be used by, a domestic corporation or domestic limited partnership].
- 3. For the purposes of this section, the name of one corporation must not be deemed distinguishable from another solely because its name contains distinctive lettering, a distinctive mark, a trade mark or a trade name or any

combination of those.

Note: This statute governs a reinstated corporation's right to use its name. When a corporation defaults under the statutes, it may lose the right to use its name. The Delaware and Pennsylvania statutes have similar provisions. The MBCA does not. The Nevada statute allows a subsequent user of the corporation's name to consent to the corporation's continued use after reinstatement, a condition not allowed by the comparable statutes.

The change in this statute reflects the clarification of the standard for reserved names. A name may now be reserved if "distinguishable from" the name already reserved or in use. The new wording and new subsection 3 sets forth the new clarified standard.

Several other changes have been made. "Must" has been substituted for "shall" to reflect the Legislative Counsel Bureau's preferred form. More importantly, the verbiage in Subsection 2 has been deleted. It is unnecessary to redescribe the nature of the conflicting name reservation. Finally, as provided in recommended changes to NRS 78.039, new subsection 3 clarifies what "distinguishable" means.

STOCK, DIVIDENDS AND SECURITIES

NRS 78. Definition of "distribution".

As used in NRS 78.195 through 78.300, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the word "distribution" means a direct or indirect transfer of money or other property (except its own shares) or incurrence of indebtedness by a corporation to or for the benefit of its shareholders in respect of any of its shares. A distribution may be in the form of a declaration or payment of a dividend, a purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of shares, a distribution of indebtedness, or otherwise.

NRS 78.195 [Classes and kinds of stock; rights of stockholders.] Authorized stock.

[1. Every corporation may issue one or more classes or kinds of stock, any of which may be of stock with or without par

10

11 12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25 26

27 28

1 | value, with full or limited voting powers or without voting powers and with such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, or qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as are stated in the articles of incorporation or in the resolution providing for the issuance of the stock adopted by the board of directors pursuant to authority expressly vested in it by the provisions of the articles of incorporation.]

- [2. Any voting power, designation, preference, right, qualification, limitation or restriction on any class or series of stock may be made dependent upon any fact which may be ascertained outside of the articles of incorporation or the resolution providing for the issuance of such stock adopted by the board of directors, if the manner in which a fact may operate upon the voting power, designation, preference, right, qualification, limitation or restriction on such class or series of stock is stated in the articles of incorporation or the resolution.]
- [3. Any class or kind of stock may be special stock, whether the corporation has the power to issue one or more classes or kinds of stock. The power to increase or decrease or otherwise adjust the capital stock as provided in this chapter applies to all classes of stock.]
- [4. Any preferred or special stock may be made subject to redemption at such times and prices, and may be issued in such series, with such designations, preferences, and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof as are stated in the

10

12

13 14

15 16

17

18 19

20

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

articles of incorporation or in the resolution providing for the issuance of such stock adopted by the board of directors.]

- [5. The holder of preferred or special stock of any class or series thereof is entitled to receive dividends at such rates, on such conditions and at such times as are stated in the articles of incorporation or in the resolution providing for the issuance of such stock adopted by the board of directors, payable in preference to, or in relation to, the dividends payable on any other class or classes of stock, and cumulative or noncumulative as stated.]
- 1. Every corporation must prescribe the classes, series, and the number of shares of each class or series which the corporation is authorized to issue in the articles of incorporation. If more than one class or series of stock is authorized, the articles of incorporation may vest authority in the board of directors to fix and determine in a resolution the price or value to be received for stock and the classes, series and the number of each class or series of stock. If more than one class or series of stock is authorized, the articles of incorporation or the resolution of the board of directors passed pursuant to a provision of the articles must prescribe a distinguishing designation for each class and series. Before the issuance of shares of a class or series, the voting powers, designations, preferences, limitations, restrictions and relative rights of that class or series of stock must be described in the articles of incorporation or the resolution of the board of directors.
 - 2. Except as provided in subsection 7, all shares of a

class must have voting powers, preferences, designations,
limitations, restrictions and relative rights identical with
those of other shares of the same class except to the extent
otherwise permitted by this section. All shares of a series
must have voting powers, designations, preferences, limitations,
restrictions and relative rights identical with those of other
series of the same class.

- 3. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, no stock issued as fully paid up may ever be assessed and the articles of incorporation must not be amended in this particular.
 - 4. The articles of incorporation must authorize:
- (a) one or more classes of shares that together have unlimited voting rights, and
- (b) one or more classes of shares that together are entitled to receive the net assets of the corporation upon dissolution.
- 5. The articles of incorporation, or the resolution of the board of directors pursuant thereto, may authorize one or more classes of stock that:
- (a) have special, conditional, or limited voting powers, or no right to vote, except to the extent otherwise prohibited by this chapter;
 - (b) are redeemable or convertible:
 - (i) at the option of the corporation, the shareholders, or another person or upon the occurrence of a designated event;
 - (ii) for cash, indebtedness, securities or other

property;

- (iii) in a designated amount or in an amount

 determined in accordance with a designated formula or by

 reference to extrinsic data or events;
- (c) entitle the stockholders to distributions calculated in any manner, including dividends that may be cumulative, noncumulative, or partially cumulative;
- (d) have preference over any other class of shares with respect to distributions, including dividends and distributions upon the dissolution of the corporation.
- (e) have powers, designations, preferences, limitations, restrictions and relative rights dependent upon any fact which may be ascertained outside of the articles of incorporation or the resolution if the manner in which a fact may operate on such class or series of stock is stated in the articles of incorporation or the resolution.

 The description of voting powers, designations, preferences, qualifications, limitations, restrictions, and relative rights of the share classes contained herein is not exhaustive or exclusive.
- 6. [Any rate, condition or time for payment of dividends of] Any voting power, designation, preference, right, qualification, limitation or restriction on any class or series of stock may be made dependent upon any fact or event which may be ascertained outside the articles of incorporation or the resolution providing for the issuance of such stock adopted by the board of directors, [providing for the dividends provided that] if the manner in which a fact or event may operate upon

the [rate, condition or time of payment for such dividends]

voting power, designation, preference, right, qualification,

limitation, or restriction on such class or series of stock is

stated in the articles of incorporation or the resolution.

- [7. When a dividend upon the preferred and special stocks, if any, to the extent of the preference to which such stocks are entitled, has been paid or declared and set apart for payment, a dividend on any remaining class of stock may then be paid out of the remaining assets of the corporation available for dividends.]
- [8. The holders of the preferred or special stocks of any class or series thereof are entitled to such rights upon the dissolution of, or upon any distribution of the assets of, the corporation as are stated in the articles of incorporation or in the resolution providing for the issuance of such stock adopted by the board of directors.]
- [9. Any preferred or special stocks of any class or series thereof may be made convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or classes or of any other series of the same or any other class or classes of stock of the corporation at such prices or at such rates of exchange and with such adjustments as are stated in the articles of incorporation or in the resolution providing for the issuance of such stocks adopted by the board of directors.]
- [10.] 7. If the corporation is authorized to issue more than one class of stock or more than one series of any class, the <u>voting powers</u>, designations, preferences, [and relative, participating, optional or other special] rights,

qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the various classes of stock or series thereof, must be set forth in full or summarized on the face or back of each certificate which the corporation issues to represent such stock, or on the informational statement sent pursuant to NRS 78.235, except that, in lieu thereof, the certificate or informational statement may contain a statement setting forth the office or agency of the corporation from which a stockholder may obtain a copy of a statement setting forth in full or summarizing the voting powers, designations, preferences, [and relative, participating, optional or other special rights] rights, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the various classes of stock or series thereof [and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions of such rights.] The corporation [shall] <u>must</u> furnish to its stockholders upon request and without charge, a copy of any such statement or summary.

2

3

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

[11. If the corporation is authorized to issue only special stock, each certificate or informational statement sent pursuant to NRS 78.235 must set forth in full or summarize the rights of the holders of the stock and, when stock of any class or series thereof is issued, the designations, preferences and rights which have not been set forth in the articles of incorporation, the designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights of such stock and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions of such rights must be set forth in a certificate made under the seal of the corporation and signed by its president, or a vice president, and its secretary, or an assistant secretary, and acknowledged

by the president or vice president before a person authorized by the laws of Nevada to take acknowledgments of deeds, and the certificate must be filed and a copy recorded in the same manner as articles of incorporation are required to be filed and recorded.]

[12] 8. The provisions of this section do not restrict the directors of a corporation from taking action to protect the interests of the corporation and its stockholders, including but not limited to, adopting or executing plans, arrangements or instruments that deny rights, privileges, power or authority to a holder of a specified number of shares or percentage of share ownership or voting power.

The revisions to this statute abolish the distinction between "preferred" and "common" shares of stock. As one commentator observed, "[t]his distinction has little meaning today when a corporation can create a class of 'common' shares with important preferential rights and a class of 'preferred' shares with rights subordinate to those of the common shares." The approach of the revised Model Business Code breaks away from the antiquated, inherited concepts and develops more flexible language, which directs more focus upon the actual characteristics of the security. Similarly, the concept of "special stock" which was embodied in NRS 78.195 has been eliminated. Nevada practitioners often have wondered what is special stock and how or why it is different from common and preferred. Apparently, the concept was believed to be necessary to authorize stock with characteristics that did not clearly fall within the traditional "common" and "preferred" class perimeters. With the abolition of these traditional designations, the concept of special stock seems unnecessary.

In the absence of traditional "common" and "preferred" stock concepts, subsection 4 mandates that two fundamental corporate characteristics will always exist -- unlimited voting rights and the right to receive the net assets of the corporation upon dissolution. This subsection thus ensures that there is always in existence (a) a class or classes of shareholders to elect the board of directors and make fundamental corporate decisions and (b) one or more classes of shareholders who share in the ultimate residual interest in the corporation. These two characteristics need not be placed in a single class of stock, but rather may be divided as desirable.

27

28

3

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

17

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

The provisions concerning redemption and exchange of securities have been expanded. Under NRS 78.195(5), it was not clear on the face of the statute whether a redemption which is a "put" (exercisable by the shareholder or a third party) was permissible. Since stock restrictions may create a right identical to shareholder's ability to "put" the stock back to the corporation, there seems little reason to leave this ambiguity of the face of the statute. The provisions of NRS 78.195 have been expanded to allow clearly stock to be converted or exchanged not only for other classes of stock, but also for cash, indebtedness, or other property.

New subsection 1 makes clear that the articles may give the board the power to set the rights etc. of a class of stock. This power is also contained in NRS 78.035(4) which refers to this section.

New subsection 3 provides for nonassessability of stock and has been moved from NRS 78.035(6). The articles no longer must state whether or not stock is assessable. Now, stock will be assumed to be nonassessable unless the articles provide otherwise.

NRS 78.197 No change.

NRS 78.200 Rights or options to purchase [capital] stock.

Every corporation shall have the power to create and issue, whether [or not] in connection with the issue and sale of any shares of stock or other securities of the corporation, rights and options entitling the holders thereof to purchase from the corporation any shares of its [capital] stock of any class or classes, such right or options to be evidenced by or in such instrument or instruments as shall be approved by the board of directors. The terms upon which, the time or times, which may be limited or unlimited in duration, at or within which, and the price or prices at which any such shares may be purchased from the corporation upon the exercise of any such right or option shall be such as shall be fixed and stated in the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or in any amendment thereto, or in a resolution or resolutions adopted by the board of directors

 providing for the creation and issue of such rights or options, and, in every case, set forth or incorporated by reference in the instrument or instruments evidencing such rights or options[;].[provided:

- 1. That in case the shares of stock of the corporation to be issued upon the exercise of such rights or options shall be shares having a par value, the price or prices to be received therefor shall not be less than the par value thereof; and
- 2. That in case the shares of stock so to be issued shall be shares of stock without par value, the consideration therefor shall be determined in the manner provided in this chapter for the fixing of the consideration for the issue of such stock.]

Note: The changes made to this statute are substantially technical, except for the deletion of the sections which mandate the manner in which the price of the stock shall be set. These sections have been deleted consistent with the approach taken by these proposed amendments to eliminate the concepts of par value, surplus and stated capital from the Nevada corporate code.

NRS 78.205 No change.

NRS 78.206 No change.

Note: NRS 78.206 gives appraisal rights to stockholders cashed out in a reduction of shares. Since the reduction of shares and cashing out of minority shareholders in this context usually involves the freezing out of minority shareholders and/or a corporation "going private", the protection contained in NRS 78.206 seems reasonable without being unduly burdensome to the corporation. Sufficient question must exist concerning the price a shareholder will be paid for his fractional shares that at least 15% or more of the outstanding shares of the corporation must demand an appraisal. The appraisal demand must be made timely, so that the corporation is not burdened with stockholder "after the fact" discontent.

NRS 78.2065 No change.

NRS 78.207 No change.

NRS 78.210 Repeal.

NRS 78. Issuance of shares.

- 1. The board of directors may authorize shares to be issued for consideration consisting of any tangible or intangible property or benefit to the corporation, including but not limited to cash, promissory notes, services performed, contracts for services to be performed, or other securities of the corporation.
- 2. Before the corporation issues shares, the board of directors must determine that the consideration received or to be received for the shares to be issues is adequate. The judgment of the board of directors as to the adequacy of the consideration received for the shares issued is conclusive in the absence of actual fraud in the transaction.
- 3. When the corporation receives the consideration for which the board of directors authorized the issuance of shares, the shares issued therefor are fully paid and nonassessable.
- 4. The corporation may place in escrow shares issued for a contract for future services or benefits or a promissory note, or make any other arrangements to restrict the transfer of the shares. The corporation may credit distributions in respect of the shares against their purchase price, until the services are performed, the benefits are received or the promissory note is paid. If the services are not performed, the benefits are not received, or the promissory note is not paid, the shares escrowed or restricted and the distributions credited may be cancelled in whole or in part.

Note: This statute is intended to replace NRS 78.210. It once again reflects the recommendation to modernize the concepts concerning capital structure of Nevada corporations.

Commentators have long argued that the statutory structure embodying "par value" and "legal capital" is complex and confusing, often frustrating management's need for financing flexibility. Worse yet, it is clear that these rules do not provide the once-contemplated protection for shareholders or creditors.

Therefore, this proposed new statute eliminates completely the idea of "par value" and the concept that the price to be paid for stock is in any manner related thereto. There is no arbitrary minimum price at which shares must be issued. Fair consideration for the stock is left as a matter of the business judgment of the board of directors. Concerns relating to the dilution of a shareholder's interest if a large number of shares are issued for overvalued property were not effectively addressed by setting a minimum price through the par value device, in any event. Therefore, equal treatment of shareholders and the value of any type of property or opportunity to the corporation is better left within the realm of the directors fiduciary obligations.

NRS 78.215 Consideration for shares. [without par value.]

- 1. A corporation[s] may issue and dispose of their authorized shares [without nominal or par value,] for such consideration[s] as may be prescribed in the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or in any amendment thereof, or, if no consideration is so prescribed, then for such consideration as may be fixed by the board of directors.
- [2. If a consideration is prescribed for shares without par value, such consideration shall not be used to determine the fees required for filing articles of incorporation pursuant to NRS 78.760.]
- 2. Upon authorization by the board of directors, the corporation may issue its own shares in exchange for or in conversion of its outstanding shares, or distribute its own shares, pro rata to its shareholders or the shareholders of one or more classes or series, to effectuate stock dividends or splits. Any such transaction shall not require consideration.

2

3

4 5

6

7

9

10

11 12

13

15

16 17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

> 27 28

However, no such issuance of shares of any class or series may be made to the holders of shares of any other class or series unless it is expressly provided for in the articles of incorporation, or is authorized by any affirmative vote or the written consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of the class or series in which the distribution is to be made.

NRS 78.220 No change.

NRS 78.225 Stockholder's liability: No individual liability except on unpaid subscription contract.

Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, [n]o stockholder [in] of any corporation formed under the laws of this state shall be individually liable for the debts or liabilities of such corporation, except that such stockholder may become personally liable by reason of his own acts or conduct. [Where a written contract of subscription has been made between the corporation and the subscriber for shares of stock, but only in that event, a holder of shares of stock not fully paid shall be personally liable to the corporation in an amount not in excess of the amount unpaid on shares held by him, at the subscription price.] A purchaser of shares of stock from the corporation is not liable to the corporation or its creditors with respect to the shares, except to pay the consideration for which the shares were authorized to be issued or which was specified in the written subscription agreement.

Note: The proposed revisions to this statute do not change the basic rule of non-liability of shareholders for corporate acts or debts. The suggested revisions recognize that

shareholders, as a matter of contract, may accept greater than the statutorily recognized levels of responsibility through the articles of incorporation. The clause added to the first sentence also recognizes that the shareholder may assume further liability by his own actions, i.e. the exercise of apparent authority.

The second sentence deals with the responsibility for payment by the purchaser of shares of the corporation. The new second sentence was inserted in order to use language consistent with earlier statutory revisions related to the power of the board of directors to determine adequate consideration for the corporation's stock. No substantive change from the existing statute is intended. As in the existing version of NRS 78.225, questions related to the rights of subsequent purchasers of stock and the power of the corporation to cancel shares if the agreed upon consideration has not been paid are left to the Uniform Commercial Code. See, NRS 104.8202 and 104.8301.

NRS 78.230; 78.235; 78.240 No change.

NRS 78.242 Restrictions on transfer of corporation securities.

- 1. Subject to the limitation imposed by NRS 104.8204, a written restriction on the transfer or registration of transfer of a security of a corporation, if permitted by this section, may be enforced against the holder of the restricted security or any successor or transferee of the holder, including an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary entrusted with like responsibility for the person or estate of the holder.
- 2. A restriction on the transfer or registration of transfer of [securities] the stock of a corporation may be imposed either by the [certificate] articles of incorporation or by the bylaws or by an agreement among any number of [security holders] shareholders or between one or more shareholders and the corporation. No restriction so imposed is binding unless the shareholders [of the securities] are parties to an agreement

or voted in favor of the restriction.

- 3. A restriction on the transfer or the registration of transfer of shares is valid and enforceable against the transferee of the shareholder if the restriction is authorized by this section and its existence is noted conspicuously on the front or back of the stock certificate or is contained in the information statement required by NRS 78.235. Unless so noted, a restriction is not enforceable against a person without knowledge of the restriction.
- [3.] 4. A restriction on the transfer or registration of transfer of [securities] stock of a corporation is permitted by this section if it:
- (a) [0]obligates the shareholder [of the restricted securities] first to offer to the corporation or to any other shareholder or shareholders [of securities] of the corporation or to any other person and persons or to any combination of the foregoing a prior opportunity, to be exercised within a reasonable time, to acquire the [restricted securities] stock;
- (b) [0]obligates the corporation or any holder of the [securities] stock of the corporation or any other person or any combination of the foregoing to purchase [the securities] stock which [are] is the subject of an agreement respecting the purchase and sale of the [restricted securities] stock;
- (c) [R]requires the corporation or any [specified proportion of the holders of any class of securities of the corporation] shareholder or shareholders to consent to any transfer of the [restricted securities] stock or to approve the proposed transferee of [the restricted securities] stock;

- (d) [P]prohibits the transfer of the [restricted] securities] stock to designated persons or classes of persons, and such designation is not manifestly unreasonable; or
- [4.](e) [Any restriction on the transfer of] prohibits the transfer of shares [of a corporation for the purpose of maintaining its status as an electing small business corporation under subchapter S of the United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. §§ 1371 et seq.) is conclusively presumed to be for a reasonable purpose.]
 - (i) to maintain the corporation's status when it is dependant on the number or identity of its shareholders;
 - (ii) to preserve exemptions under the federal, or state tax or securities laws; or
 - (iii) for any other reasonable purpose.
- 5. Any other lawful restriction on transfer or registration of transfer of [securities] stock is permitted by this section.
- 6. For the purposes of this section, "shares" or "stock" include a security convertible into or carrying a right to subscribe for or to acquire shares.
 - NRS 78.245; 78.250; 78.257 No change.
 - NRS 78.265 Repeal.
- NRS 78. [Preemptive right of stockholders to acquire new stock; exceptions.] Shareholders' preemptive rights.
- 1. The shareholders of a corporation do not have a preemptive right to acquire the corporation's unissued shares except to the extent the articles of incorporation so provide.
 - 2. A statement included in the articles of incorporation

that "the corporation elects to have preemptive rights" or words of similar import, shall mean that, unless the articles of incorporation otherwise provide:

- (a) The shareholders of the corporation have a preemptive right, granted on uniform terms and conditions prescribed by the board of directors to provide a fair and reasonable opportunity to exercise the right to acquire proportional amounts of the corporation's unissued shares upon the decision of the board of directors to issue them.
- (b) A shareholder may waive his preemptive right. A waiver evidenced by a writing is irrevocable even though it is not supported by consideration.
 - (c) There is no preemptive right with respect to:
 - (i) shares issued as compensation to directors, officers, agents, or employees of the corporation, its subsidiaries or affiliates;
 - (ii) shares issued to satisfy conversion or option rights created to provide compensation to directors, officers, agents or employees of the corporation, its subsidiaries or affiliates;
 - (iii) shares authorized in articles of incorporation that are within six months from the effective date of incorporation;
 - (iv) shares sold otherwise than for money.
- (d) Holders of shares of any class without general voting rights but without preferential rights to distributions or assets have no preemptive rights to distributions or assets unless the shares with preferential rights are convertible into

1

3 4

5

6 7

8

9

10

12

13 14

15

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

23

24

25 26

27

28

(f) Shares subject to preemptive rights that are not acquired by shareholders may be issued to any person for a period of one year after being offered to shareholders at a consideration set by the board of directors that is not lower than the consideration set for the exercise of preemptive rights. An offer at a lower consideration or after the expiration of one year is subject to the shareholders' preemptive rights.

3. For purposes of this section, "shares" includes a security convertible into or carrying a right to subscribe for or acquire shares.

The presently existing NRS 78.265 provides an "opt Note: out" mechanism for preemptive rights. Unless the articles of incorporation expressly limit or deny preemptive rights, a shareholder has a preemptive right to acquire unissued shares of the corporation's stock. The proposed amended statute adopts an "opt in" mechanism for preemptive rights. Unless an affirmative reference to these rights appears in the articles of incorporation, no preemptive rights exist. The "opt in" approach has been adopted by the Model Business Code as well as twenty-one jurisdictions. It is believed to be the preferable approach because preemptive rights thereby become a thoughtful part of corporate planning in contexts where such rights are appropriate, rather than being a trap for the unwary who are unaware of the need to specifically exclude such rights in the articles of incorporation. The corporation also is less likely to inadvertently fail to offer the stock when such rights are expressly granted, rather than existent by default.

NRS 78.270 Repeal.

NRS 78.275; 78.280 No change.

NRS 78.283 Repeal.

NRS 78.285 Repeal.

NRS 78.290 Repeal.

NRS	78.	Distributions	to	shareholders

- 1. A board of directors may authorize and the corporation may make distributions to its shareholders subject to restriction by the articles of incorporation and the limitation in subsection 2 below.
 - 2. No distribution may be made if, after giving it effect:
- (a) the corporation would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business; or
- (b) the corporation's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus (unless the articles of incorporation permit otherwise) the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time of distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders.
- 3. The board of directors may base a determination that a distribution is not prohibited under subsection 2 above either of financial statements prepared on the basis of accounting practices that are reasonable in the circumstances or on a fair valuation or other method that is reasonable in the circumstances.
- 4. The effect of a distribution under subsection 2 is measured:
- (a) in the case of a distribution by purchase, redemption or other acquisition of the corporation's shares, as of the earlier of:
 - (i) the date money or other property is transferred or debt incurred by the corporation, or
 - (ii) the date upon which the shareholder ceases to be

a_	shareholder	with	respect	to	the	acqui	ired	shares	;

- (b) in the case of any other distribution of indebtedness, as of the date the indebtedness is distributed:

 (c) in all other cases, as of:
 - (i) the date the distribution is authorized if the payment occurs within 120 days after the date of authorization; or
 - (ii) the date the payment is made if it occurs more than 120 days after the date of authorization.
- 5. A corporation's indebtedness to a shareholder incurred by reason of a distribution made in accordance with this section is at parity with the corporation's indebtedness to its general unsecured creditors except to the extent subordinated by agreement.

Note: The new statute replaces NRS 78.290 and relates to dividends, now called distributions. It is consistent with the general approach taken herein abandoning the outdated concepts of par value, legal capital and the like. Most traditional dividend statutes contained elaborate provisions establishing "stated capital," "capital surplus," and "earned surplus" to establish a baseline concerning what could be paid out to shareholders. However, the net effect of these statutes is that distribution of most or all of corporation's net assets was permitted, if the shareholders wished this to be done.

The provisions proposed above eliminate the distinctions surrounding various types of surplus but retain the equity insolvency and balance sheet considerations.

NRS 78.295 Liability of directors as to [dividends] distributions.

A director shall be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the books and records of the corporation or statements prepared by any of its officers as to the value and amount of assets, liabilities or net profits of the corporation,

 or any other facts pertinent to the existence and amount of [surplus or other] funds from which [dividends might]

distributions may properly be declared.

78.300 Liability of directors for unlawful payment of [dividends] <u>distributions</u>; exoneration from liability.

- The directors of a corporation shall not make
 [dividends or other] distributions to stockholders except as provided by this chapter.
- 2. In case of any willful or grossly negligent violation of the provisions of this section, the directors under whose administration the violation occurred, except those who caused their dissent to be entered upon the minutes of the meeting of the directors at the time, or who not then being present caused their dissent to be entered on learning of such action, are jointly and severally liable, at any time within 3 years after each violation, to the corporation, and, in the event of its dissolution or insolvency, to its creditors at the time of the violation, or any of them, to the lesser of the full amount of the dividend made or of any loss sustained by the corporation by reason of the dividend or other distribution to stockholders.

78.307 No change.

MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, VOTING AND NOTICE

NRS 78.310 No change.

NRS 78.315 Director's meetings: Quorum; consent for actions taken without meeting; participation by telephone or similar method.

1. Unless the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or any amendment thereof, or the by-laws, provide for a lessor

 proportion, a majority of the board of directors of the corporation, at a meeting duly assembled, is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is the act of the board of directors or trustees.

- 2. Unless otherwise restricted by the articles of incorporation or by-laws, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors or of any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if, before or after to the action, a written consent thereto is signed by all the members of the Board or of such committee. Such written consent [shall] <u>must</u> be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board or committee.
- 3. Unless otherwise restricted by the articles of incorporation or by-laws, members of the Board of Directors or the governing body of any corporation, or of any committee designated by such Board or body, may participate in a meeting of such Board, body or committee by means of a conference telephone network or a similar communications method by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this subsection constitutes presence in person at such meeting. Each person participating in the meeting shall sign the minutes thereof. The minutes may be signed in counterparts.

Note: This statute sets forth the voting requirements and procedure for director's meetings. All the comparable states have similar provisions.

In order to avoid a "trap for the unwary", where action has

been taken without strict compliance with the statute, we have included language contained in the Pennsylvania statute which provides that written consent may be given before or after the meeting or date of action taken.

NRS 78.320 [Consent of stockholders in lieu of meeting.]

Stockholders' meetings: Quorum, consent for actions taken

without meeting; participation by telephone or similar method.

- amendment thereof, or the bylaws provide for a lesser proportion, stockholders holding at least a majority of the voting power are necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of stockholders holding at least a majority of the voting power present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is the act of the stockholders.
- [1] 2. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, and except for the removal of directors pursuant to NRS 78.335, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the stockholders may be taken without a meeting if a written consent thereto is signed by [which may be taken by the vote of stockholders at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if authorized by the written consent of] stockholders holding at least a majority of the voting power, except that:
- (a) If any greater portion of voting power is required for such an action at a meeting, then the greater proportion of written consents is regiured; and
- (b) This general provision for action by written consent does not supersede any specific provision for action by written consent contained in this chapter.

- [2] 3. In no instance where action is authorized by written consent need a meeting of stockholders be called or noticed. The written consent must be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the stockholders.
 - [3. A written consent is not valid unless it is:
 - (a) Signed by the stockholder;
- (b) Dated, as to the date of the stockholder's signature; and
- (c) Delivered to the corporation, in the manner prescribed in subsection 4, within 60 days after the earliest date that a stockholder signed the written consent.
- [4. Delivery of a written consent must be made personally or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the corporation's principal place of business, principal office in this state or officer or agent who has custody of the book in which the minutes of meetings of stockholders are recorded.
- [5. If any action is taken which was authorized by written consent.
- (a) Prompt notice of the action must be given to any stockholders who did not consent in writing.
- (b) Any certificate required to be filed must state that written consent and notice has been given in accordance with the provisions of this section.]
- 4. Unless otherwise restricted by the articles
 of incorporation or bylaws, stockholders may participate
 in a meeting of stockholders by means of a conference telephone
 network or a similar communications method by which all persons
 participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation

11

12

13

14

16

17 18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25

26 27

28

in a meeting pursuant to this subsection constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

Note: The B.L.C. Proposals suggest certain changes to clarify matters of quorum, procedure, and to delete several procedural provisions enacted by the 1989 legislature, which have proved to be either unworkable, or unnecessarily complicated. The changes also allow telephone network conferencing previously permitted only for directors' meetings. NRS 78.315. These changes both modernize and simplify the statute. In addition, we recommend clarifying all the statutes in Chapter 78 dealing with stockholder votes so that all votes are taken and counted according to voting power, not the number of shares. This change takes into account shares with multiple votes or fractions of votes.

Finally, the changes to subsection 2 make clear that the only act of stockholders which cannot be accomplished by written consent is the removal of directors.

NRS 78.325 No change.

NRS 78.330 No change.

The comparable states have each had differing provisions on this general subject. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §223 provides that vacancies and newly created directorships may be filled by a majority of the directors in office, or by a court of chancery if no directors remain in office. It does not require that at least 1/4 of the directors be elected every year, as does Pa.C.S.A. §1725 simply provides that directors are elected by the shareholders. This would allow maximum flexibility for election to be determined by the articles and However, the Nevada statute is not necessarily more restrictive, simply more explicit, excepting the requirement that 1/4 of the directors be elected every year. Rev. MBCA §8.03 provides that directors must be elected at the annual shareholder's meeting every year unless staggered elections are It also provides that at least 1/3 of the directors authorized. must be elected every year. Rev. MBCA §7.28 provides that unless otherwise provided in the articles, directors must be elected by a plurality of the quorum of entitled shareholders. The Rev. MBCA provisions are, probably, unnecessarily restrictive. So long as the elections are held pursuant to the established requirements for meetings and actions in Nevada, the sufficient certainty and fairness should be attained under the Nevada statute. Consequently, we do not recommend changing this statute.

NRS 78.335 Directors: Removal; filing of vacancies.

1. Any director may be removed from office by the vote of stockholders representing not less than two-thirds of the

11 12

13

15

14

16 17

18

19

20 21

22 23

24

25 26

27 28

voting power of the issued and outstanding capital stock entitled to voting power, provided:

- (a) That in case of corporations which have provided in their articles of incorporation for the election of directors by cumulative voting, no director may be removed from office under the provisions of this section except upon the vote of stockholders owning sufficient shares to have prevented his election to office in the first instance; and
- That the [certificate or] articles of incorporation may require the concurrence of a larger percentage of the stock entitled to voting power in order to remove a director.
- No director may be removed from office by the written consent of stockholders.
- [2.] 3. All vacancies, including those caused by an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum, unless it is otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation.
- [3.] 4. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, when one or more directors give notice of his or their resignation to the board, effective at a future date, the board may fill the vacancy or vacancies to take effect when the resignation or resignations become effective, each director so appointed to hold office during the remainder of the term of office of the resigning director or directors.

Note: All of the comparable statutes contain cumulative voting requirements similar to Nevada's, in that a removal may be stopped if the votes against removal could elect the director.

Nevada requires a 2/3 vote for removal, except for the case of cumulative voting. Delaware requires only a majority, except

where there is cumulative voting, or staggered term boards. Staggered term boards are removable only for cause. Pennsylvania law states that directors may be removed for cause only, by a majority of those entitled to vote, except for cumulative voting. Pa.C.S.A. §1726. Furthermore, directors may be removed without cause by a unanimous vote. A court may remove for dishonest acts. Pa.C.S.A. §1725 also provides that the board may select alternate board members. Rev. MBCA §8.08 provides that shareholders may remove board members with or without cause unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise. If voting groups are formed, then removal may only be accomplished by the voting group from which a director is elected. Removal may be accomplished only at a meeting called for that purpose. Rev. MBCA §8.09 provides that a court may remove directors. Vacancies are filled under Rev. MBCA §8.10 by the board or shareholders.

This statute was amended in 1989 to remove the words "or written consent", presumably to require an actual stockholders' meeting in order to remove directors. In the face of the otherwise clear wording of NRS 78.320, we have amended that statute to specifically except NRS 78.335 from its general effect. We have added new subsection 2 to this statute to further clarify the issue.

The 2/3 vote required for removal should remain the same. We do not think it is wise to include a bifurcated requirement for "cause" and "without cause" removals, as several of the other statutes do. A corporation is a democracy, and the desires of the majority ought to prevail. The threshold vote for removing directors should not be reduced to a majority. A large shareholder might not be able to prevent the election by a resolute minority of one or two directors, but could, after the general election, vote all his shares for the removal of the minority director. Consequently, the 2/3 vote is more desirable.

NRS 78.340 No change.

3

5

6

8

9

10

13

15

16

19

20

23

24

25

27

28

None of the comparable statutes contain similar provisions. This statute states that a failure to hold an election of directors on a regular day does not dissolve the corporation. A repeal of this statute might raise the implication that the failure to elect directors might dissolve the corporation.

NRS 78.345 No change.

This statute provides that if there is no election within six months of the annual meeting, the stockholders may apply to the district court to appoint a board. Appointees have the same power, number, etc. as a regular board. The Rev. MBCA has no similar provision. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §§ 226 and 227 provide that a custodian or receiver may be appointed in the case of deadlock and a master may be appointed to hold elections. Pa.C.S.A. §1767 allows the court to appoint a board

67-b

upon deadlock. However, neither of these provisions really address the issue addressed by this statute, since this statute does not apply to deadlock. This statute applies only to elections. To this extent, it should be left intact, as it serves a legitimate purpose.

NRS 78.346 Appointment of custodian or receiver of corporation on deadlock or for other cause.

- 1. Any stockholder may apply to the district court to appoint one or more persons to be custodians, and, if the corporation is insolvent, to be receivers of the corporation when:
- (a) The business of the corporation is suffering or is threatened with irreparable injury because the directors are so divided respecting the management of the affairs of the corporation that the required vote for action by the board of directors cannot be obtained and the stockholders are unable to terminate this division; or
- (b) The corporation has abandoned its business and has failed within a reasonable time to take steps to dissolve, liquidate, or distribute its assets in accordance with this chapter.
- 2. A custodian appointed under this section has all the powers and title of a trustee appointed under NRS 78.590,

 NRS 78.635 and NRS 78.650, but the authority of the custodian is to continue the business of the corporation and to not to liquidate its affairs and distribute its assets, except when the district court otherwise orders and except in cases arising under of subsection (1)(b) of this section.

Note: The deadlock problem is a very real and timely problem in the case of widely held, and even closely held corporations. The larger a state and corporate community

becomes, the more frequent become these types of impasses. For that reason, Nevada should adopt a provision which solves the deadlock problem in an orderly and efficient fashion. Of the Delaware and Pennsylvania statutes, the Delaware statute is the more desirable. It is shorter, clearer, and more neutral in terms of its effect on the shareholders. There is also more judicial gloss accompanying the Delaware Section. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §226. Consequently, We have modeled a new statute, NRS 78.346, after the Delaware provision.

NRS 78.350 Voting rights of stockholders; determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at meeting; fixing date when stockholders entitled to give consent in lieu of meeting.

- 1. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, or in the resolution providing for the issuance of the stock adopted by the board of directors pursuant to authority expressly vested in it by the provisions of the articles of incorporation, every stockholder of record of a corporation is entitled at each meeting of stockholders thereof to one vote for each share of stock standing in his name on the books of the corporation. If the articles of incorporation, or the resolution providing for the issuance of the stock adopted by the board of directors pursuant to authority expressly vested in it by the articles of incorporation, provide for more or less than one vote for any shares, on any matter, every reference in this chapter to a majority or other proportion of stock shall refer to such majority or other proportion of the votes of such stock.
- 2. Unless contrary provisions are contained in the articles of incorporation, the directors may prescribe a period not exceeding 60 days before any meeting of the stockholders during which no transfer of stock on the books of the

 corporation may be made, or may fix a day not more than 60 days before the holding of any such meeting as the day as of which stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at such meetings must be determined. Only stockholders of record on that day are entitled to notice or to vote at such meeting.

- [3. The directors may adopt a resolution prescribing a date upon which the stockholders of record are entitled to give written consent pursuant to NRS 78.320. The date prescribed by the directors may not precede nor be more than 10 days after the date the resolution is adopted by the directors. If the directors do not adopt a resolution prescribing a date upon which the stockholders of record are entitled to give written consent pursuant to NRS 78.320 and;
- (a) No prior action by the directors is required by this chapter, the date is the first date on which a valid written consent is delivered in accordance with the provisions of NRS 78.320.
- (b) Prior action by the directors is required by this chapter, the date is at the close of business on the day which the directors adopt the resolution taking the required action.]
- [4]3. The provisions of this section do not restrict the directors from taking action to protect the interests of the corporation and its stockholders, including, but not limited to, adopting or executing plans, arrangements or instruments that deny rights, privileges, power or authority to a holder or holders of a specified number of shares or percentage of share ownership or voting power.

Note: The B.L.C. Proposals contain language designated to

clarify that when corporations have multiple vote shares, the multiple vote shares are to be taken into account when determining the proportion of votes necessary to approve matters requiring a proportion to vote. The Bar Proposals also delete a more detailed reference to how a resolution prescribing the date of a stockholder's meeting is adopted, in favor of a general statement that a resolution may be made.

NRS 78.355 No change.

NRS 78.360 Cumulative voting.

- [1.] The [certificate or] articles of incorporation of any corporation, or any amendment thereof, may provide that at all elections of directors of the corporation each holder of stock possessing voting power is entitled to as many votes as equal the number of his shares of stock multiplied by the number of directors to be elected, and that he may cast all of such votes for a single director or may distribute them among the number to be voted for or any two or more of them, as he may see fit. In order to exercise the right of cumulative voting, one or more of the stockholders calling or requesting a vote by cumulative voting must give notice before the vote to the president or secretary of the corporation that the stockholder desires that the voting for the election of directors be cumulative.
- [2. If the certificate or articles of incorporation of a corporation, or any amendment thereof, contains the provisions authorized by subsection 1, the stockholders of such corporation and any proxyholders for such stockholders are entitled to exercise the right of cumulative voting at any meeting held for the election of directors, if:
- (a) Not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for holding such meeting, if notice of the meeting has been given at

least ten days prior to the date of the meeting, and otherwise not less than 24 hours before such time, a stockholder of such corporation has given notice in writing to the president or the secretary of the corporation that he desires that the voting at such election of directors shall be cumulative; and

(b) At such meeting, prior to the commencement of voting for the election of directors, an announcement of the giving of such notice has been made by chairman or secretary of the meeting or by or on behalf stockholder giving such notice.

Notice to stockholders of the requirements of paragraph (a) shall be contained in the notice calling such meeting or in the proxy material accompanying such notice.

3. The provisions of subsection 2 applicable only to corporations which have filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. §§77(a) et seq.).]

Note: This statute is an "opt-in" cumulative voting statute. It allows the corporation to provide for cumulative voting in its articles or bylaws. All the comparable statutes interpret the term "cumulative voting" in basically the same way. The Nevada statute requires notice of cumulative voting prior to a meeting held for election of directors where cumulative voting will take place. The notice requirement is only applied to corporations which have filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933. Nevada is the only state which limits the notice requirement to these corporations registering under the Securities Act. There does not seem to be any rational reason for doing so. Delaware does not require notice. Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §214. Pennsylvania also does not require notice. Pa.C.S.A. §1758(c). Rev. MBCA §7.28 does require 48 hours advance notice.

Most corporations will not elect to have cumulative voting. Those that do probably have a good reason for doing so. In that case, the directors and shareholders should already know of the cumulative voting possibility. The allowance of cumulative voting poses practical difficulties in terms of logistics or computation. The notice of cumulative voting should be required. It would be better to leave the determination of what type of notice is most efficient and practicable to the articles or bylaws. Consequently, we recommend deleting the second and

NRS 78.365 Voting trusts.

- 1. A stockholder, by agreement in writing, may transfer his stock to a voting trustee or trustees for the purpose of conferring the right to vote thereon for a period not exceeding [10] 15 years upon the terms and conditions therein stated. Any certificate of stock so transferred must be surrendered and canceled and new certificates therefor issued to the trustee or trustees in which it must appear that they are issued pursuant to the agreement, and in the entry of ownership in the proper books of the corporation that fact must also be noted, and thereupon the trustee or trustees may vote upon the stock so transferred during the terms of the agreement. A duplicate of every such agreement must be filed in the principal office of the corporation and at all times during its terms be open to inspection by any stockholder or his attorney.
- 2. At any time within the 2 years next preceding the expiration of an agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1, or the expiration of an extension of that agreement, any beneficiary of the trust may, by written agreement with the trustee or trustees, extend the duration of the trust for a time not to exceed [10] 15 years after the scheduled expiration date of the original agreement or the latest extension. An extension is not effective unless the trustee, before the expiration date of the original agreement or the latest extension, files a duplicate of the agreement providing for the extension in the principal office of the

 corporation. An agreement providing for an extension does not affect the rights or obligations of any person not a party to that agreement.

- 3. An agreement between two or more stockholders, if in writing and signed by them, may provide that in exercising any voting rights the stock held by them must be voted upon:
 - (a) Pursuant to the provisions of the agreement;
 - (b) As they may subsequently agree; or
 - (c) In accordance with a procedure agreed upon.
- 4. An agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3 is not effective for a term of more than [10] 15 years, but at any time within the 2 years next preceding the expiration of the agreement the parties thereto may extend its duration for as many additional periods, each not to exceed [10] 15 years, as they wish.
- 5. An agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 or 3 is not invalidated by the fact that by its terms its duration is more than [10] 15 years, but its duration shall be deemed amended to conform with the provisions of this section.

Note: The changes shown in the list of statutory changes restore the maximum term of a voting trust to a term of 15 years, consistent with the pre-1989 time limit. This change is in accordance with the B.L.C. Proposals.

NRS 78.370 Notice of stockholders' meetings: Signature; contents; service; publication; waiver; exception.

 Whenever under the provisions of this chapter stockholders are required or authorized to take any action at a meeting, the notice of the meeting shall be in writing and

signed by the president or a vice president, or the secretary, or an assistant secretary, or by such other person or persons as the bylaws may prescribe or permit or the directors shall designate.

- 2. Such notice shall state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called and the time when, and the place, which may be within or without this state, where it is to be held.
- personally to, or shall be mailed postage prepaid, to each stockholder of record entitled to vote at such meeting not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before such meeting. If mailed, it shall be directed to a stockholder at his address as it appears upon the records of the corporation, and upon such mailing of any such notice the service thereof shall be complete, and the time of the notice shall begin to run from the date upon which such notice is deposited in the mail for transmission to such stockholder. Personal delivery of any such notice to any officer of a corporation or association, or to any member of a partnership, shall constitute delivery of such notice to such corporation, association or partnership.
- 4. The [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or an amendment thereof, or the bylaws may require that such notice be also published in one or more newspapers.
- 5. Notice duly delivered or mailed to a stockholder in accordance with the provision of this section and the provisions, if any, of the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or an amendment thereof, or the bylaws, shall be deemed

sufficient, and in the event of the transfer of his stock after such delivery or mailing and prior to the holding of the meeting it shall not be necessary to deliver or mail notice of the meeting upon the transferee.

- 6. Any stockholder may waive notice of any meeting by a writing signed by him, or his duly authorized attorney, either before or after the meeting.
- 7. Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, whenever notice is required to be given, under any provision of this chapter or the articles of incorporation or bylaws of any corporation, to any stockholder to whom:
- (a) notice of 2 consecutive annual meetings, and all notices of meetings or of the taking of action by written consent without a meeting to such person during the period between such 2 consecutive annual meetings, or
- (b) all, and at least 2, payments (if sent by first-class mail) of dividends or interest on securities during a 12-month period,

have been mailed addressed to such person at his
address as shown on the records of the corporation and have
been returned undeliverable, the giving of further notices to
such person is not required. Any action or meeting taken or
held without notice to such person has the same force and
effect as if the notice had been duly given. If any such
person delivers to the corporation a written notice setting
forth his current address, the requirement that notice
be given to such person is reinstated. In the event that the

action taken by the corporation is such as to require the filing of a certificate under any of the other sections of this title, the certificate need not state that notice was not given to persons to whom notice was not required to be given pursuant to this subsection.

Note: New subsection 7 has been added to solve the problem in today's widely held corporation of continuing to correspond with stockholders who have ceased to exist or simply cannot be located. The language is adopted from Del. Code Ann., tit. 8, §230. This new provision should reduce the cost to corporations of attempting to run down disinterested stockholders.

NRS 78.375 No change.

TAKEOVER BIDS

NRS 78.376 through NRS 78.3778, inclusive. Repeal.

Note: In 1969, Nevada enacted a "first generation" form of takeover legislation regulating takeover bids, NRS 78.376 through 78.3778, inclusive. This form of statute regulates disclosure and timing with respect takeover bids, similar to the federal Williams Act. However, due to the similarity of this type of legislation with the Williams Act, many courts have held these types of statutes to be unconstitutional. Indeed, in Batus, Inc. v. McKay, 684 F.Supp. 637 (D.Nev. 1988), the federal district court for the District of Nevada held the Nevada takeover bid statutes to be unconstitutional.

Some jurisdictions (e.g. Minnesota and Ohio) have attempted to cure the constitutional infirmities by removing many of the substantive provisions which conflict with the Williams Act and by creating a state bureaucracy to examine the sufficiency of disclosures with respect to takeover bids. The amended Minnesota legislation was held to be constitutional in Cardiff Acquisitions, Inc. v. Hatch, 751 F.2d 906 (8th Cir. 1985).

However, other jurisdictions which have the more modern forms of takeover statute in place have chosen to avoid creation of an additional arm of the state to examine takeover bid disclosures, and have consequently repealed their first generation statutes (e.g. Pennsylvania).

It is our view that the Nevada takeover bid statutes have outlived their usefulness, in light of our control share legislation and potential enactment of our proposed business combination legislation. The Williams Act already requires sufficient disclosure in the context of a takeover bid, and for these reasons we suggest that NRS 798.376 through 78.3778,

inclusive, be repealed.

2

ACQUISITION OF CONTROLLING INTEREST

6

3

Nevada's Control Share Acquisition legislation was enacted during the 1987 legislative session in response to the decision of the United States Supreme Court in CTS Corp. v. Dynamics Corp. of America, 107 S. Ct. 1637 (1987) ("CTS"). The court held in CTS that Indiana's Control Share legislation was not preempted by the federal Williams Act pertaining to tender offers, and did not violate the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. Thus, CTS cleared the way for state regulation or mergers and acquisitions to the extent that the regulation involves corporate statutes affecting the internal affairs of domestic corporations.

8

9

10

11

13

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25 26

27 28

Today, over twenty states have enacted control share legislation similar to Indiana's. During the 1989 legislative session, these statutes were reviewed to determine if any improvements had been made on the Indiana model. Several areas of difference and potential ambiguity were discovered, which resulted in the enactment of A.B. 768 by the 1989 Nevada 12 | legislature.

Nevada's control share legislation remains competitive, and little reason is seen for further amendment. Our legislation provides significant shareholder protection and should serve to attract corporations and recognize Nevada as a favorable corporate domicile.

NRS 78.378 through 78.379, inclusive. No change.

Approval of voting rights of acquiring NRS 78.3791 person.

Except as otherwise provided by the [certificate or] articles of incorporation of the issuing corporation, a resolution of the stockholders granting voting rights to the control shares acquired by an acquiring person must be approved by:

- The holders of a majority of the [outstanding shares] voting power of the corporation; and
- If the acquisition will result in any change of the 2. kind described in subsection 2 of NRS 78.390.

Note: One technical amendment which is appropriate

 involves the vote required in order to confer voting rights on the acquiring person. This study seeks to resolve the ambiguities in Chapter 78 with respect to whether or not a majority of shares or the majority of the voting power is required for certain corporate action.

NRS 78.3792 and 78.3793 No change.

AMENDMENTS AND RESTATEMENT OF ARTICLES; REDUCTION OF CAPITAL NRS 78.380 and 78.385 No change.

NRS 78.390 Amendment of articles of incorporation after payment of capital: Procedure.

- 1. Every amendment adopted pursuant to the provisions of NRS 78.385 [shall] <u>must</u> be made in the following manner:
- (a) The board of directors [shall] <u>must</u> adopt a resolution setting forth the amendment proposed, declaring its advisability and call a meeting, either annual or special, of the stockholders entitled to vote for the consideration thereof.
- (b) At the meeting, of which notice [shall] <u>must</u> be given to each stockholder entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of this section, a vote of the stockholders entitled to vote in person or by proxy shall be taken for and against the proposed amendment. If it appears upon the canvassing of the votes that stockholders holding shares in the corporation entitling them to exercise at least a majority of the voting power (or such greater proportion of [the outstanding shares] <u>voting power</u> as may be required in the case of a vote by classes or series, as provided in subsections 2 and 4, or as may be required by the provisions of the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or an amendment thereof) have voted in favor of the amendment, the president, or vice president, and secretary, or assistant secretary, [shall] <u>must</u> execute a certificate setting forth the

amendment, or setting forth the [certificate or] articles of incorporation as amended, and the vote by which the amendment was adopted, and the president, or vice president, and secretary, or assistant secretary, [shall] must acknowledge the certificate before a person authorized by the laws of the place where the acknowledgment is taken to take acknowledgments of deeds.

- (c) The certificate so executed and acknowledged, [shall] must be filed in the office of the secretary of state and upon filing the certificate the articles of incorporation are amended accordingly. [A copy of the certificate, certified by the secretary of state, shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county where the corporation maintains its principal office.]
- 2. If any proposed amendment would alter or change any preference or any relative or other right given to any class or series of outstanding shares, then such amendment must be approved by the vote, in addition to the affirmative vote otherwise required, of the holders of shares representing a majority of the [outstanding shares] voting power of each class or series affected by the amendment regardless of limitations or restrictions on the voting power thereof.
- 3. It is lawful to make provision in the [certificate or] articles of incorporation, or an amendment thereof, requiring, in the case of any specified amendments, a larger [vote] proportion of the voting power of stockholders than that required by this section.
 - 4. Different series of the same class of shares do not

 constitute different classes of shares for the purpose of voting by classes except when the series is adversely affected by an amendment in a different manner than other series of the same class.

Note: We recommend that this statute be clarified to require a majority vote of the voting power of shareholders, not a majority of shares.

We also recommend that the requirement of county filing be removed.

78.395 Adoption of amended articles of incorporation: Procedure.

- 1. If the provisions of NRS 78.150 and 78.160 have been complied with, the board of directors and stockholders of any corporation, when amending any portion of its articles of incorporation pursuant to the provisions of NRS 78.385 and 78.390, may, at the same time, pursuant to the procedure prescribed in NRS 78.390 to effect an amendment of articles, adopt amended articles of incorporation, which must:
 - (a) Be titled "amended articles of incorporation."
- (b) Set forth in full every provision of the original articles of incorporation as of record in the office of the secretary of state, including the execution and acknowledgment thereof, as amended to date.
- (c) State, after each provision of the amended articles, whether or not it has been amended; and if any provision of the articles has been amended it must be made to read as it was last amended, and the date of the certificate last amending it must be stated.
 - (d) Include the provisions of the articles which were

 2. Upon the filing with the secretary of state of the certificate of amendment, the articles of incorporation are amended accordingly. [A copy of such certificate must be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the original articles of incorporation have been filed.]

3. Notice of any meeting of stockholders at which the adoption of the subject amended articles of incorporation is to be considered must specifically state the purpose to consider the adoption thereof at the meeting.

Note: We have removed the requirement for a filing with the county clerk's office.

NRS 78.400 through 78.403, inclusive. No change.

NRS 78.410 through 78.445 Repeal.

Note: These statutes all deal with the reduction of capital, the methods by which it can be accomplished, and how the "surplus" which results can be used. We recommend that the concepts of par value stock, capital and surplus be eliminated entirely. See notes to NRS 78.195 et seq. The complicated procedures for the reduction of capital become unnecessary and we recommend their repeal.

MERGER [OR CONSOLIDATION] OR SHARE EXCHANGE

We have arbitrarily assigned statute numbers to the new statutes in this area and in the "Dissenters' Rights" area in order to allow one statute to refer to the other understandably. These statute numbers are not necessarily those that will be used by the Legislative Counsel Bureau upon final codification.

NRS 78.450 Repeal.

NRS 78.451. Merger of domestic corporations authorized.

1. One or more corporations may merge into another corporation if the board of directors of each corporation adopts and its shareholders (if required by NRS 78.452) approve a plan of merger.

1

3

4

5 6

7

8

10

11

12 13

> 14 15

16 17

18

19

20

22 23

24

25

27

- (a) The name of each corporation planning to merge and the name of the surviving corporation into which each other corporation plans to merge;
 - (b) The terms and conditions of the merger; and
- (c) The manner and basis of converting the shares of each corporation into shares, obligations, or other securities of the surviving or any other corporation or into cash or other property in whole or part.
 - 3. The plan of merger may set forth:
- (a) Amendments to the articles of incorporation of the surviving corporation; and
 - (b) Other provisions relating to the merger.

The proposed language comes from the Model Act §11.01 which describes a merger as a transaction by which one or more corporations disappear into the surviving corporation which becomes vested with all the business and assets and becomes liable for the debts and liabilities, of each disappearing corporation. Earlier versions of the Model Act also provided for a "consolidation", which was similar to a merger, except that all corporate parties to the transaction disappeared and an entirely new corporation was created. In modern corporate practice, consolidation transactions are obsolete since it is nearly always advantageous for one of the parties in the transaction to be the surviving corporation. (If creation of a new entity is considered desirable, a new entity may be created before the merger and the disappearing entities merged into it). As a result, all references to a statutory "consolidation" have been deleted from Chapter 78.

Proposed NRS 78.451 authorizes a statutory merger to be accomplished by (i) the adoption of a plan of merger under NRS 78.451(1), (ii) approval of the transaction by the shareholders (if required by NRS 78.471) and (iii) filing articles of merger under NRS 78.491. Upon the effective date of the merger, the surviving corporation becomes vested with all the assets of the disappearing corporation and becomes subject to their liabilities. Under the proposed language, there are virtually no restrictions or limitations on the terms of a statutory merger. Shareholders of the disappearing corporation may receive securities of the surviving corporation, securities of a third corporation, e.g. shares issued by the parent of the

surviving or disappearing corporation (which may be publicly traded and marketable while the shares of the surviving or disappearing corporation are not), or cash or other property (a "cash" or "cash-out" merger). Some of the holders of a single class shares may be required to accept securities or properties while the remaining holders may be compelled to accept different securities, property or cash. The capitalization of the surviving corporation may be restructured in the merger or its articles of incorporation may be amended by the plan of merger in any way deemed appropriate. Any other provisions considered necessary or desirable with respect to the merger may be included in the plan of merger. Merger transactions may give rise to voting by separate classes of shareholders under NRS 78.471(6), and dissenting shareholders may have dissenters' rights under NRS 78.501 through 78.516, inclusive.

NRS 78.455 Repeal.

NRS 78.456 Share exchange.

- 1. A corporation may acquire all of the outstanding shares of one or more classes or series of another corporation if the board of directors of each corporation adopts and its shareholders (if required by NRS 78.471) approve the exchange.
 - 2. The plan of exchange must set forth:
- (a) The name of the corporation whose shares will be acquired and the name of the acquiring corporation;
 - (b) The terms and conditions of the exchange;
- (c) The manner and basis of exchanging the shares to be acquired for shares, obligations or other securities of the acquiring or any other corporation or for cash or other property in whole or part.
- 3. The plan of exchange may set forth other provisions relating to the exchange.
- 4. This section does not limit the power of a corporation to acquire all or part of the shares of one or more classes or series of another corporation through a voluntary exchange or otherwise.

12

10

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

The proposed language from Model Act §11.02 establishes a procedure by which a direct exchange of shares for cash or other consideration in corporate combinations may be affected under the same safeguards applicable to statutory mergers or similar transactions. A share exchange under this section is binding upon all shareholders of the acquired class It is often desirable to affect a or series of shares. reorganization or combination so that the corporation being acquired does not go out of existence, but becomes a subsidiary of the acquiring corporation or holding company, the securities of which are issued as part of the transaction. These objectives often are particularly important in the formation of holding company systems for, or for the acquisition of, insurance companies and banks, but are not limited to these transactions. In the absence of a share exchange procedure, this kind of transaction often may be accomplished only by the process of a "reverse triangular merger": the formation of a new subsidiary of the acquiring or holding company, followed by a merger of that subsidiary into the corporation to be acquired in which securities of the new subsidiary's parents are exchanged for securities of the corporation to be acquired. proposed language provides a straightforward procedure to accomplish the same end. Under this section, all shares of the particular class or series of shares must be acquired. However, shares of one or more classes or series may be excluded from the plan or may be included on different basis. After the plan is adopted and approved by the shareholders as required by 78.471, it is binding on all holders of shares of the class or series to be acquired. Members of the class or series, however, have the right to dissent under subsequent sections. Twenty four jurisdictions specifically authorizing companies share exchanges and define the procedure for such exchange.

NRS 78.460 Repeal.

NRS 78.465 Repeal.

The purpose of repealed 78.455 is included in Note: 78.451(1) and (2). The purpose of repealed 78.460 is included in 78.451(3)(a). The purpose of repealed 78.465 is included in 78.451(3)(b).

NRS 78.470 Repeal.

NRS 78.471 Shareholder action on plan.

After adopting a plan of merger or share exchange, the board of directors of each corporation party to the merger, and the board of directors of the corporation whose shares will be acquired in the share exchange, must submit the plan of merger (except as provided in subsection (7)) or share exchange

for approval by its shareholders.

For a plan of merger or share exchange to be approved:

- (a) The board of directors must recommend the plan of merger or share exchange to the shareholders, unless the board of directors determines that because of a conflict of interest or other special circumstances it should make no recommendation and it communicates the basis for its determination to the shareholders with the plan; and
- (b) The shareholders entitled to vote must approve the plan.
- 3. The board of directors may condition its submission of the proposed merger or share exchange on any basis.
- 4. The corporation must notify each shareholder, whether or not entitled to vote, of the proposed shareholders' meeting in accordance with NRS 78.370. The notice must also state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the plan of merger or share exchange and contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the plan.
- 5. Unless this chapter, the articles of incorporation, or the board of directors (acting pursuant to subsection (3)) require a greater vote or a vote by classes of shareholders, the plan of merger or share exchange to be authorized must be approved by a majority of the voting power unless shareholders of a class of shares are entitled to vote thereon as a class. If shareholders of a class of shares are so entitled, the plan must be approved by a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the plan by each class and representing a majority of all votes entitled to be voted.

- 6. Separate voting by a class of shareholders is required:
- (a) On a plan of merger if the plan contains a provision that, if contained in the proposed amendment to articles of incorporation, would entitle particular shareholders to vote as a class on the proposed amendment; and
- (b) On a plan of share exchange by each class or series
 of shares included in exchange, with each class or series
 constituting a separate voting class.
- 7. Action by the shareholders of the surviving corporation or plan of merger is not required if:
- (a) The articles of incorporation of the surviving corporation will not differ from its articles before the merger;
- (b) Each shareholder of the surviving corporation whose shares were outstanding immediately before the effective date of the merger will hold the same number of shares, with identical designations, preferences, limitations and relative rights, immediately after;
- (c) The number of voting shares outstanding immediately after the merger, plus the number of voting shares issued as a result of the merger (either by the conversion of securities issued pursuant to the merger or the exercise of rights and warrants issued pursuant to the merger), will not exceed by more than 20% the total number of voting shares of the surviving corporation outstanding immediately before the merger; and
- (d) The number of participating shares outstanding immediately after the merger, plus the number of participating