By Senator Martin

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the corporate actions; creating s. 607.0145, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 607.0146, F.S.; providing that a defective corporate action is not void or voidable in certain circumstances; providing that ratification or validation under certain circumstances may not be deemed the exclusive means of either ratifying or validating defective corporate actions, and that the absence or failure to ratify defective corporate actions does not affect the validity or effectiveness of certain corporate actions properly ratified; providing for the validity of putative shares in the event of an overissue; creating s. 607.0147, F.S.; requiring the board of directors to take certain action to ratify a defective corporate action; authorizing those exercising the powers of the directors to take certain action when certain defective actions are related to the ratification of the initial board of directors; requiring members of the board of directors to seek approval of the shareholders under certain conditions; authorizing the board of directors to abandon ratification at any time before the validation effective time after action by the board and, if required, approval of the shareholders; creating s. 607.0148, F.S.; providing quorum and voting requirements for the ratification of certain defective corporate actions; requiring the board to send notice to all identifiable shareholders of a certain meeting date; requiring that the notice

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state that a purpose of the meeting is to consider ratification of a defective corporate action; requiring the board to send notice to all identifiable shareholders if the ratification of the defective corporate action is to be accomplished by consent of the shareholders; specifying the quorum and voting requirements applicable to ratification of the election of directors; prohibiting holders of putative shares from voting on ratification of any defective corporate action and providing that they may not be counted for quorum purposes or in certain written consent; requiring approval of certain amendments to the corporation's articles of incorporation under certain circumstances; creating s. 607.0149, F.S.; requiring that notice be given to shareholders of certain corporate action taken by the board of directors; providing requirements for such notice; providing requirements for such notice for corporations subject to certain federal reporting requirements; creating s. 607.0150, F.S.; specifying the effects of ratification; creating s. 607.0151, F.S.; requiring corporations to file articles of validation under certain circumstances; providing applicability; providing requirements for articles of validation; creating s. 607.0152, F.S.; authorizing certain persons and entities to file certain motions; providing for service of process; requiring that certain actions be filed within a specified timeframe; authorizing the court to consider certain factors in

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resolving certain issues; authorizing the courts to take certain actions in cases involving defective corporate actions; amending ss. 605.0115, 607.0503, 607.1509, 617.0502, and 620.1116, F.S.; providing that a registered agent may resign from certain limited liability companies or foreign limited liability companies, certain inactive or dissolved corporations, certain inactive or dissolved foreign corporations, certain active or inactive corporations, and certain limited partnerships or foreign limited partnerships, respectively, by delivering a specified statement of resignation to the Department of State; providing requirements for the statement; providing that a registered agent who is resigning from one or more such corporations, companies, or partnerships may elect to file a statement of resignation for each such company, corporation, or partnership or a composite statement; providing requirements for composite statements; requiring that a copy of the each of the statements of resignation or the composite statement be mailed to the address on file with the department for the company, corporation, or partnership or companies, corporations, or partnerships, as applicable; amending ss. 605.0213 and 607.0122, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing registered agents may pay one resignation fee regardless of whether resigning from one or multiple inactive or dissolved companies or corporations; reenacting ss. 605.0207 and

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605.0113(3)(b), F.S., relating to effective dates and times and to registered agents, respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 605.0115, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 658.23(1), F.S., related to submission of articles of incorporation, to incorporate the amendments made in s. 607.0122, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 607.0501(4), F.S., relating to the registered offices and registered agents, to incorporate the change made to s. 607.0503, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 607.193(2)(b), F.S., relating to supplemental corporate fees, to incorporate the amendments made in ss. 605.0213 and 607.0122, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 607.0120(9) and 607.1507(4), F.S., relating to filing requirements and registered offices and agents of foreign corporations, respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 607.1509, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 39.8298(1)(a), 252.71(2)(a), 288.012(6)(a), 617.1807, and 617.2006(4), F.S., relating to the Guardian Ad Litem direct-support organization, the Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation, State of Florida international offices, conversion to corporation not for profit, and incorporation of labor unions or bodies, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made in s. 617.0122, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 617.0501(3) and 617.0503(1)(a), F.S., relating to registered agents, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 617.0502, F.S., in references 33-01639-24 20241198

thereto; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 607.0145, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

123 607.0145 Definitions.—As used in ss. 607.0145-607.0152, the term:

- (1) "Corporate action" means any action taken by or on behalf of a corporation, including any action taken by the incorporator, the board of directors, a committee of the board of directors, an officer or agent of the corporation, or the shareholders.
- (2) "Date of the defective corporate action" means the date, or, if the exact date is unknown, the approximate date, on which the defective corporate action was purported to have been taken.
  - (3) "Defective corporate action" means:
- (a) Any corporate action purportedly taken which is, and at the time such corporate action was purportedly taken would have been, within the power of the corporation, but is void or voidable due to a failure of authorization; or
  - (b) An overissue.
- (4) "Failure of authorization" means the failure to authorize, approve, or otherwise effect a corporate action in compliance with this chapter, the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, a corporate resolution, or any plan or agreement to which the corporation is a party, if and to the extent such failure would render such corporate action void or

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voidable.

- (5) "Overissue" means the purported issuance of:
- (a) Shares of a class or series in excess of the number of shares of the class or series the corporation has the power to issue under s. 607.0601 at the time of such issuance; or
- (b) Shares of any class or series that is not then authorized for issuance by the corporation's articles of incorporation.
- (6) "Putative shares" means the shares of any class or series, including shares issued upon exercise of rights, options, warrants or other securities convertible into shares of the corporation, or interests with respect to such shares, which were created or issued as a result of a defective corporate action and which:
- (a) Would constitute valid shares but for any failure of authorization; or
- (b) Cannot be determined by the board of directors to be valid shares.
- (7) "Valid shares" means the shares of any class or series which have been duly authorized and validly issued, including as a result of ratification or validation under ss. 607.0145-607.0152.
- (8) "Validation effective time," with respect to any defective corporate action ratified under ss. 607.0145-607.0152, means the later of the following:
- (a) The date on which the ratification of the defective corporate action is approved by the shareholders, or if approval of shareholders is not required, the date on which the notice required by s. 607.0149 becomes effective in accordance with s.

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175 607.0141;

(b) If no articles of validation are required to be filed in accordance with s. 607.0151, the date on which the notice required by s. 607.0149 becomes effective in accordance with s. 607.0141; or

(c) If articles of validation are required to be filed in accordance with s. 607.0151, the date on which the articles of validation filed in accordance with s. 607.0151 become effective.

Section 2. Section 607.0146, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

607.0146 Defective corporate actions.-

- (1) A defective corporate action is not void or voidable
  if:
- (a) The defective corporate action was ratified in accordance with the requirements of s. 607.0147, including the filing, if required, of articles of validation pursuant to s. 607.0151; or
- (b) The defective corporate action was validated pursuant to s. 607.0152.
- (2) Ratification pursuant to s. 607.0147 or validation pursuant to s. 607.0152 may not be deemed to be the exclusive means of ratifying or validating any defective corporate action, and the absence or failure of ratification pursuant to ss. 607.0145-607.0152 does not, in and of itself, affect the validity or effectiveness of any corporate action properly ratified under common law or otherwise, and it does not create a presumption that any such corporate action is or was a defective corporate action or is or was void or voidable.

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(3) In the case of an overissue, putative shares are valid effective as of the date originally issued or purportedly issued upon:

- (a) Adoption of an amendment to the articles of incorporation authorizing, designating, or creating such shares pursuant to ss. 607.0145-607.0152 and ss. 607.1001-607.1009; or
- (b) Other corporate action taken under ss. 607.0145-607.0152 ratifying the authorization, designation, or creation of such shares.
- Section 3. Section 607.0147, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 607.0147 Ratification of defective corporate actions.
- (1) To ratify a defective corporate action under this section, other than ratification of an election of the initial board of directors under subsection (2), the board of directors must ratify the action in accordance with s. 607.0148, stating all of the following:
- (a) The defective corporate action to be ratified and, if the defective corporate action involved the issuance of putative shares, the number and type of putative shares purportedly issued.
  - (b) The date of the defective corporate action.
- (c) The nature of the failure of authorization with respect to the defective corporate action that is the subject of the ratification.
- (d) That the board of directors approves the ratification of the defective corporate action.
- (2) In the event that a defective corporate action to be ratified relates to the election of the initial board of

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directors of the corporation under s. 607.0205(1)(b), a majority
of the persons who, at the time of the ratification, are
exercising the powers of directors may take an action stating
all of the following:

- (a) The name of the person or persons who first took action in the name of the corporation as the initial board of directors of the corporation.
- (b) The earlier of the dates on which either such persons first took such action or were purported to have been elected to the initial board of directors.
- (c) That the ratification of the election of such person or persons to the initial board of directors is approved.
- (3) If any action taken pursuant to this section, the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, any corporate resolution, or any plan or agreement in effect at the time of the action to which the corporation is a party under subsection (1) requires shareholder approval, or would have required shareholder approval, at the date of the occurrence of the defective corporate action, the ratification of the defective corporate action approved in the action taken by the directors under subsection (1) must be submitted to the shareholders for approval in accordance with s. 607.0148.
- (4) Unless otherwise provided in the action taken by the board of directors under subsection (1), after the action by the board of directors has been taken and, if required, approved by the shareholders, the board of directors may abandon the ratification at any time before the validation effective time without further action of the shareholders.
  - Section 4. Section 607.0148, Florida Statutes, is created

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to read:

## 607.0148 Action on ratification.

(1) The quorum and voting requirements applicable to a ratifying action by the board of directors under s. 607.0147(1) are the quorum and voting requirements applicable to the corporate action proposed to be ratified at the time such ratifying action is taken.

(2) (a) If the ratification of the defective corporate action requires approval by the shareholders under s.

607.0147(3), and if the approval is to be given at a meeting, the corporation must notify each holder of valid and putative shares that, regardless of whether entitled to vote as of the record date for notice of the meeting and as of the date of the occurrence of the defective corporate action, approval is required; however, such notice is not required to be given to holders of valid or putative shares whose identities or addresses for notice cannot be determined from the records of the corporation. The notice must state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider ratification of a defective corporate action.

(b) If the ratification of the defective corporate action requires approval by the shareholders under s. 607.0147(3), and if the approval is to be ratified by one or more written consents of the shareholders, the corporation must notify each holder of valid and putative shares as of the record date of the action by written consent and as of the date of the occurrence of the defective corporate action, regardless of whether entitled to vote; however, notice is not required to be given to holders of valid or putative shares whose identities or

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addresses for notice cannot be determined from the records of
the corporation. The notice must state that the purpose, or one
of the purposes, of the written consent is to consider
ratification of a defective corporate action.

- (c) The notice must be accompanied by both of the
  following:
- 1. Either a copy of the action taken by the board of directors pursuant to s. 607.0147(1) (a), or the information required pursuant to s. 607.0147(1) (a) (d).
- 2. A statement that any claim asserting that the ratification of such defective corporate action, and any putative shares issued as a result of such defective corporate action, are not effective, or may only be effective on certain conditions, and must be brought within 120 days after the applicable validation effective time.
- (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) with respect to the voting requirements to ratify the election of a director, any quorum and voting requirements applicable to the approval by the shareholders required by s. 607.0147(3) are those applicable, at the time of such shareholder approval, to the corporate action proposed to be ratified.
- (4) The approval by shareholders at a meeting to ratify the election of a director requires that the votes cast by the voting group favoring such ratification exceed the votes cast by the voting group opposing such ratification at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Approval by shareholders by written consent to ratify the election of a director requires that the consents given by the voting group favoring such ratification represent a majority of the shares of the voting group.

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determining the shareholders entitled to vote on any matter submitted to shareholders under s. 607.0147(3), and without giving effect to any ratification of putative shares which becomes effective as a result of such vote, are not entitled to vote and may not be counted for quorum purposes in any vote to approve the ratification of any defective corporate action. Putative shares on the record date for the action by written consent, and without giving effect to any ratification of putative shares which becomes effective as a result of such written consent, are not entitled to be counted in any written consent to approve the ratification of any defective corporate action.

(6) If approval under this section of putative shares would result in an overissue, in addition to the approval required by s. 607.0147, approval is also required of an amendment to the corporation's articles of incorporation under ss. 607.1001-607.1009 to increase the number of shares of an authorized class or series or to authorize the creation of a class or series of shares so there is no overissue.

Section 5. Section 607.0149, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

607.0149 Notice requirements.

(1) Unless shareholder approval is required under s. 607.0147(3), prompt notice of an action taken by the board of directors under s. 607.0147 must be given to each holder of valid shares and each holder of putative shares, regardless of whether entitled to vote, who is a holder of valid shares or putative shares as of:

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(a) The date of the action by the board of directors taken under s. 607.0147; and

- (b) The date of the occurrence of the defective corporate action being ratified.
- (2) Notice is not required to those holders of valid shares or those holders of putative shares whose identities or addresses for notice cannot be determined from the records of the corporation.
  - (3) The notice must contain both of the following:
- (a) Either a copy of the action taken by the board of directors pursuant to s. 607.0147(1) or the information required by s. 607.0147(1)(a)-(d) or s. 607.0147(2)(a), (b), and (c), as applicable.
- (b) A statement that, in order to be considered, any claim asserting that the ratification of the defective corporate action, and any putative shares issued as a result of such defective corporate action, are not effective, or are effective only on certain conditions, and must be brought within 120 days after the applicable validation effective time.
- (4) Notice is not required under this section with respect to any action required to be submitted to shareholders for approval pursuant s. 607.0147(3) if notice is given pursuant to s. 607.0148(2).
- (5) Notice required by this section may be given in any manner authorized under s. 607.0141 and, for any corporation subject to the reporting requirements of ss. 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, may be given by means of a filing or furnishing of such notice with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Section 6. Section 607.0150, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 607.0150 Effects of ratification.—The following provisions apply upon the validation effective time, without regard to the 120-day period during which a claim may be brought pursuant to s. 607.0152:
- (1) Each defective corporate action ratified pursuant to s. 607.0147 is not void or voidable as a result of the failure of authorization set forth and identified pursuant to s. 607.0147(1) or (2) and is deemed a valid corporate action effective as of the date of the defective corporate action.
- (2) The issuance of each putative share or fraction of a putative share purportedly issued pursuant to a defective corporate action identified in the action taken pursuant to s. 607.0147 is not void or voidable, and each such putative share is deemed to be an identical share or fraction of a valid share as of the time it was purportedly issued.
- (3) Any corporate action taken subsequent to the defective corporate action ratified pursuant to ss. 607.0145-607.0152 in reliance on such defective corporate action having been validly effected, and any subsequent defective corporate action resulting directly or indirectly from such original defective corporate action, is valid as of the respective time such corporate action was taken.
- Section 7. Section 607.0151, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 607.0151 Filings.-
- (1) If the defective corporate action ratified under ss. 607.0145-607.0152 would have required a filing under ss.

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607.0145-607.0152, and either:

(a) Any previous filing requires any change to the filing to give effect to the defective corporate action in accordance with this section, including a change to the date and time of the effectiveness of such filing; or

(b) A filing was not previously filed with respect to the defective corporate action,

In lieu of a filing otherwise required under ss. 607.0145-607.0152, the corporation must file articles of validation in accordance with this section, and such articles of validation will serve to amend or be a substitute for any other filing with respect to such defective corporate action required under ss. 607.0145-607.0152.

- (2) Articles of validation must specify all of the following:
- (a) The defective corporate action that is the subject of the articles of validation, including, in the case of any defective corporate action involving the issuance of putative shares, the number and type of putative shares issued and the date or dates upon which such putative shares were purported to have been issued.
  - (b) The date of the defective corporate action.
- (c) The nature of the failure of authorization with respect to the defective corporate action.
- (d) A statement that the defective corporate action was ratified pursuant to s. 607.0147, including the date on which the board of directors ratified such defective corporate action and, if applicable, the date on which the shareholders approved

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the ratification of such defective corporate action.

(e)1. If a filing was previously made with respect to the defective corporate action and such filing requires any change to give effect to the ratification of such defective corporate action pursuant to s. 607.0147:

- a. The name, title, and filing date of the filing previously made and any articles of correction for that filing;
- b. A statement that a filing containing all of the information required to be included under the applicable provisions of this chapter to give effect to such defective corporate action is attached as an exhibit to the articles of validation; and
- c. The date and time that such filing is deemed to have become effective.
- 2. If a filing was not previously made with respect to the defective corporate action and the defective corporate action ratified pursuant to s. 607.0147 would have required a filing under any other provision of this chapter:
- a. A statement that a filing containing all of the information required to be included under the applicable provisions of this chapter to give effect to such defective corporate action is attached as an exhibit to the articles of validation; and
- <u>b. The date and time that such filing is deemed to have become effective.</u>
- Section 8. Section 607.0152, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 463 607.0152 Judicial proceedings regarding validity of corporate actions.—

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(1) Subject to subsection (4), upon application by the corporation, any successor entity to the corporation; a director of the corporation; any shareholder, beneficial shareholder, or unrestricted voting trust beneficial owner of the corporation, including any such shareholder, beneficial shareholder, or unrestricted voting trust beneficial owner as of the date of the defective corporate action ratified pursuant to s. 607.0147; or any other person claiming to be substantially and adversely affected by a ratification pursuant to s. 607.0147 may file in the circuit court in the applicable county motions for any of the following:

- (a) A determination of the validity and effectiveness of any corporate action or defective corporate action ratified pursuant to s. 607.0147.
- (b) A determination of the validity and effectiveness of any ratification of any defective corporate action pursuant to s. 607.0147.
- (c) A determination of the validity and effectiveness of any defective corporate action not ratified or not ratified effectively pursuant to s. 607.0147.
  - (d) A determination of the validity of any putative shares.
- (e) A modification or waiver of any of the procedures specified in s. 607.0147 or s. 607.0148 to ratify a defective corporate action.
- (2) Upon the filing of such a motion, the court may make such findings or issue such orders as it deems proper under the circumstances. Factors that the court may consider include, but are not limited to, those set forth in subsections (5) and (6).
  - (3) Service of process of the application under subsection

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(1) on the corporation may be made in any manner provided in chapter 48 for service on a corporation, and no other party need be joined in order for the court to adjudicate the matter. In an action filed by the corporation, the court may require that notice of the action be provided to other persons specified by the court and permit such other persons to intervene in the action.

- (4) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an action asserting that the ratification of a defective corporate action, and any putative shares issued as a result of such defective corporate action, is not effective, or may be given effect only upon certain conditions, and must be brought within 120 days after the validation effective time.
- (5) In determining judicial proceedings under this section, the court may consider the following:
- (a) Whether the defective corporate action was originally approved or effectuated with the belief that the approval or effectuation was in compliance with ss. 607.0145-607.0152, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws of the corporation.
- (b) Whether the corporation and board of directors have treated the defective corporate action as a valid act or transaction and whether any person has acted in reliance on the public record that such defective corporate action was valid.
- (c) Whether any person will be or was harmed by the ratification or validation of the defective corporate action, excluding any harm that would have resulted if the defective corporate action had been valid when approved or effectuated.
- (d) Whether any person will be harmed by the failure to ratify or validate the defective corporate action.

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(e) Whether the defective corporate action was a conflict of interest transaction.

- (f) Any other factors or considerations the court deems just and equitable.
- (6) The court may do any of the following in connection with an action under this section:
- (a) Declare that a ratification pursuant to s. 607.0147 is not effective or is effective only at a time or upon conditions established by the court.
- (b) Validate and declare effective any defective corporate action or putative shares and impose conditions upon such validation.
- (c) Require measures to remedy or avoid harm to any person substantially and adversely affected by a ratification pursuant to s. 607.0147 or by any order of the court pursuant to this section, excluding any harm that may have resulted if the defective corporate action had been valid when approved or effectuated.
- (d) Order the department to accept an instrument for filing with an effective time specified by the court, which effective time may be before or after the date of such order, provided that the filing date of such instrument must be determined in accordance with s. 607.0123.
- (e) Approve a stock ledger for the corporation which includes any shares ratified or validated pursuant with this section or s. 607.0147.
- (f) Declare that the putative shares are valid shares or require a corporation to issue and deliver valid shares in place of any putative shares.

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(g) Order that a meeting of holders of valid shares or putative shares be held and exercise such powers as it deems appropriate with respect to such a meeting.

- (h) Declare that a defective corporate action validated by the court is effective as of the date of the defective corporate action or at such other time as determined by the court.
- (i) Declare that putative shares validated by the court are deemed to be identical valid shares or a fraction of valid shares as of the date originally issued or purportedly issued or at such other time as determined by the court.
- (j) Require payment by the corporation of reasonable expenses, including attorney fees and costs, as determined by the court.
- (k) Issue other orders as it deems necessary under the circumstances.

Section 9. Present subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 605.0115, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4), (5), and (6) respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and subsections (1) and (2) of that section, are amended, to read:

605.0115 Resignation of registered agent.-

(1) A registered agent may resign as agent for an active limited liability company or a foreign limited liability company, an inactive limited liability company or an inactive foreign limited liability company, or for one or more inactive limited liability companies or inactive foreign limited liability companies that have been inactive for 10 years or longer for a limited liability company or foreign limited liability company by delivering for filing to the department a

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must contain: containing the name of the limited liability company or foreign limited liability company.

- (a) The name of the limited liability company or foreign limited liability company; and
- (b) If the limited liability company or foreign limited liability company has been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer, the date of the inactivity or the date of the dissolution.
- (2) If a registered agent is resigning from one or more limited liability companies or foreign limited liability companies that each have been inactive or dissolved for at least 10 years or longer, the registered agent may elect to file the statement of resignation separately for each inactive or dissolved limited liability company or foreign limited liability company or may elect to file a single composite statement of resignation covering two or more limited liability companies or foreign limited liability companies. Such composite statement of resignation must set forth, for each inactive or dissolved limited liability company or foreign limited liability company covered by the statement of resignation, the name of each limited liability company or foreign limited liability company and each limited liability company's or foreign limited liability company or date of inactivity.
- (3) After delivering the statement of resignation to the department for filing, the registered agent must promptly mail:
- (a) A copy of the statement to the limited liability company's or foreign limited liability company's current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department, if the

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registered agent is resigning from one limited liability or foreign limited liability company; or

(b) If the registered agent is resigning from more than one limited liability company or foreign limited liability company, a copy of either the composite statement of resignation or a separate notice of resignation for the inactive or dissolved limited liability companies or foreign limited liability companies, using the current mailing address of the respective companies as they appear in the records of the department.

Section 10. Present subsections (2) through (5) of section 607.0503, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3) through (6), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) and present subsection (2) of that section are amended, to read:

607.0503 Resignation of registered agent.-

- (1) A registered agent may resign as agent for <u>an active</u> a corporation, an inactive corporation, or for one or more inactive corporations that have been inactive for 10 years or <u>longer</u> by delivering to the department for filing a signed statement of resignation. The statement of resignation must contain: <u>containing</u>
  - (a) The name of the corporation; and
- (b) The date of the inactivity or the date of the dissolution, if the corporation has been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer.
- (2) If a registered agent is resigning from one or more corporations that each have been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer, the registered agent may elect to file the statement of resignation separately for each inactive or

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dissolved corporation or may elect to file a single composite statement of resignation covering two or more corporations. Such composite statement of resignation must set forth, for each inactive or dissolved corporation covered by the statement of resignation, the name of each corporation and each corporation's date of dissolution or date of inactivity.

- (3) (2) After delivering the statement of resignation to the department for filing, the registered agent must promptly mail:
- (a) A copy to the corporation at its current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department, if the registered agent is resigning from one corporation; or
- (b) If the registered agent is resigning from more than one corporation, a copy of either the composite statement of resignation or a separate notice of resignation for the inactive or dissolved corporation to the current mailing address of the respective corporation as it appears in the records of the department.

Section 11. Present subsections (2) through (5) of section 607.1509, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3) through (6), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) and present subsection (2) of that section are amended, to read:

607.1509 Resignation of registered agent of foreign corporation.—

(1) A registered agent may resign as agent for a foreign corporation by delivering to the department for filing a signed statement of resignation for an active foreign corporation, an inactive foreign corporation, or for one or more inactive or dissolved foreign corporations that have each been inactive or

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dissolved for 10 years or longer. The statement of resignation must contain: containing

- (a) The name of the foreign corporation; and
- (b) If the foreign corporation has been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer, the date that the foreign corporation became inactive or the date of dissolution.
- (2) A registered agent resigning from more than one foreign corporation may elect to file the statement of resignation separately for each inactive or dissolved foreign corporation or may elect to file a single composite statement of resignation covering two or more foreign corporations. Such composite statement of resignation must set forth, for each inactive or dissolved foreign corporation covered by the statement of resignation, the name of the corporation and the date of inactivity or date of dissolution of the foreign corporation.
- (3) (2) After delivering the statement of resignation to the department for filing, the registered agent must promptly mail:
- (a) A copy to the foreign corporation at its current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department, if the registered agent is resigning from one foreign corporation; or
- (b) If the registered agent is resigning from more than one foreign corporation, a copy of either the composite statement of resignation or a separate notice of resignation for the inactive or dissolved corporations to the current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department.
- Section 12. Present subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 617.0502, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5), (6), and (7), respectively, new subsections

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(3), (4), and (5) are added to that section, and subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

- 617.0502 Change of registered office or registered agent; resignation of registered agent.—
- (2) A Any registered agent may resign his or her agency appointment by signing and delivering for filing with the Department of State a statement of resignation for an active corporation or an inactive corporation, or for one or more inactive or dissolved corporations that have been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer. The statement of resignation must contain:
  - (a) The name of the corporation; and
- (b) The date of the inactivity or date of the dissolution, if the corporation has been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer.
- (3) If a registered agent is resigning from one or more corporations that have each been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer, the registered agent may elect to file the statement of resignation separately for each inactive or dissolved corporation or may elect to file a single composite statement of resignation covering two or more corporations. Such composite statement of resignation must set forth, for each inactive or dissolved corporation covered by the statement of resignation, the respective name of the corporation and the date of dissolution or date of inactivity of the corporation.
- (4) After delivering the statement of resignation to the department for filing, the registered agent must promptly mail:
- (a) A copy to the corporation at its current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department, if the

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registered agent is resigning from one corporation; or

- (b) A copy of either the composite statement of resignation or a separate notice of resignation for the inactive or dissolved corporation to the current mailing address of the respective corporation as it appears in the records of the department if the registered agent is resigning from more than one corporation and mailing a copy of such statement to the corporation at its principal office address shown in its most recent annual report or, if none, filed in the articles of incorporation or other most recently filed document. The statement of resignation shall state that a copy of such statement has been mailed to the corporation at the address so stated.
- (5) The agency is terminated as of the 31st day after the date on which the statement was filed and unless otherwise provided in the statement, termination of the agency acts as a termination of the registered office.

Section 13. Present subsections (2) and (3) of section 620.1116, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) and present subsection (2) are amended, to read:

- 620.1116 Resignation of registered agent.-
- (1) In order to resign as registered agent of a limited partnership or foreign limited partnership, the agent must deliver to the Department of State for filing a signed statement of resignation for an active limited partnership or foreign limited partnership, or more than one inactive or dissolved limited partnership or foreign limited partnership that have

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been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer containing the following:

- (a) The name of the limited partnership or foreign limited partnership; and
- (b) The date that the limited partnership or foreign limited partnership became inactive or the date of dissolution, if the limited partnership or foreign limited partnership has been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer.
- (2) If a registered agent is resigning from more than one limited partnership or foreign limited partnership that each have been inactive or dissolved for 10 years or longer, the registered agent may elect to file the statement of resignation separately for each inactive or dissolved limited partnership or foreign limited partnership or may elect to file a single composite statement of resignation covering two or more limited partnerships or foreign limited partnerships. Such composite statement of resignation must, for each inactive or dissolved limited partnership or foreign limited partnership, set forth the respective name of the limited partnership or foreign limited partnership or the date that the limited partnership or foreign limited partnership became inactive.
- $\underline{(3)}$  After filing the statement with the Department of State, the registered agent shall mail:
- (a) A copy to the limited partnership's or foreign limited partnership's current mailing address as it appears in the records of the department, if the registered agent is resigning from one limited partnership or foreign limited partnership; or
  - (b) A copy of either the composite statement of resignation

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or a separate notice of resignation for the inactive or dissolved limited partnership or foreign limited partnership, to the current mailing address of the respective limited partnership or foreign limited partnership as it appears in the records of the department if the registered agent is resigning from more than one limited partnership or foreign limited partnership.

Section 14. Subsection (9) of section 605.0213, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

605.0213 Fees of the department.—The fees of the department under this chapter are as follows:

(9) For filing a registered agent's statement of resignation from <u>inactive or a dissolved limited liability</u> companies <del>company</del>, \$25.

Section 15. Subsection (7) of section 607.0122, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

607.0122 Fees for filing documents and issuing certificates.—The department shall collect the following fees when the documents described in this section are delivered to the department for filing:

(7) Agent's statement of resignation from <u>inactive</u> corporations an <u>inactive corporation</u>: \$35.

Section 16. Subsection (7) of section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

617.0122 Fees for filing documents and issuing certificates.—The Department of State shall collect the following fees on documents delivered to the department for filing:

(7) Agent's statement of resignation from inactive

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corporations corporation: \$35.

Any citizen support organization that is required by rule of the Department of Environmental Protection to be formed as a nonprofit organization and is under contract with the department is exempt from any fees required for incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and the Secretary of State may not assess any such fees if the citizen support organization is certified by the Department of Environmental Protection to the Secretary of State as being under contract with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 17. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 605.0115, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 605.0207, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

605.0207 Effective date and time.—Except as otherwise provided in s. 605.0208, and subject to s. 605.0209(3), any document delivered to the department for filing under this chapter may specify an effective time and a delayed effective date. In the case of initial articles of organization, a prior effective date may be specified in the articles of organization if such date is within 5 business days before the date of filing. Subject to ss. 605.0114, 605.0115, 605.0208, and 605.0209, a record filed by the department is effective:

- (1) If the record filed does not specify an effective time and does not specify a prior or a delayed effective date, on the date and at the time the record is accepted as evidenced by the department's endorsement of the date and time on the filing.
  - (2) If the record filed specifies an effective time, but

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not a prior or delayed effective date, on the date the record is accepted, as evidenced by the department's endorsement, and at the time specified in the filing.

- (3) If the record filed specifies a delayed effective date, but not an effective time, at 12:01 a.m. on the earlier of:
  - (a) The specified date; or
  - (b) The 90th day after the record is filed.
- (4) If the record filed specifies a delayed effective date and an effective time, at the specified time on or the earlier of:
  - (a) The specified date; or
  - (b) The 90th day after the record is filed.
- (5) If the record filed is the initial articles of organization and specifies an effective date before the date of the filing, but no effective time, at 12:01 a.m. on the later of:
  - (a) The specified date; or
  - (b) The 5th business day before the record is filed.
- (6) If the record filed is the initial articles of organization and specifies an effective time and an effective date before the date of the filing, at the specified time on the later of:
  - (a) The specified date; or
  - (b) The 5th business day before the record is filed.
- (7) If the record filed does not specify the time zone or place at which the date or time, or both, is to be determined, the date or time, or both, at which it becomes effective shall be those prevailing at the place of filing in this state.
  - Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments

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made by this act to section 605.0115, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 605.0113, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

605.0113 Registered agent.-

- (3) The duties of a registered agent are as follows:
- (b) If the registered agent resigns, to provide the notice required under s. 605.0115(2) to the company or foreign limited liability company at the address most recently supplied to the agent by the company or foreign limited liability company.

Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 607.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 658.23, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 658.23 Submission of articles of incorporation; contents; form; approval; filing; commencement of corporate existence; bylaws.—
- (1) Within 3 months after approval by the office and the appropriate federal regulatory agency, the applicant shall submit its duly executed articles of incorporation to the office, together with the filing fee due the Department of State under s. 607.0122.

Section 20. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 607.0503, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 607.0501, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 607.0501 Registered office and registered agent.-
- (4) The duties of a registered agent are:
- (a) To forward to the corporation at the address most recently supplied to the registered agent by the corporation, a

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process, notice, or demand pertaining to the corporation which is served on or received by the registered agent; and

(b) If the registered agent resigns, to provide the notice required under s. 607.0503 to the corporation at the address most recently supplied to the registered agent by the corporation.

Section 21. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 605.0213 and 607.0122, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 607.193, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

607.193 Supplemental corporate fee.-

(2)

(b) In addition to the fees levied under ss. 605.0213, 607.0122, and 620.1109 and the supplemental corporate fee, a late charge of \$400 shall be imposed if the supplemental corporate fee is remitted after May 1 except in circumstances in which a business entity was administratively dissolved or its certificate of authority was revoked due to its failure to file an annual report and the entity subsequently applied for reinstatement and paid the applicable reinstatement fee.

Section 22. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 607.1509, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (9) of section 607.0120, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

607.0120 Filing requirements.—

(9) The document must be delivered to the office of the department for filing. Delivery may be made by electronic transmission if and to the extent permitted by the department. If it is filed in typewritten or printed form and not

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transmitted electronically, the department may require one exact or conformed copy, to be delivered with the document, except as provided in s. 607.1509.

Section 23. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 607.1509, Florida Statutes, subsection (4) of section 607.1507, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 607.1507 Registered office and registered agent of foreign corporation.—
  - (4) The duties of a registered agent are as follows:
- (a) To forward to the foreign corporation at the address most recently supplied to the registered agent by the foreign corporation, a process, notice, or demand pertaining to the foreign corporation which is served on or received by the registered agent; and
- (b) If the registered agent resigns, to provide the notice required under s. 607.1509 to the foreign corporation at the address most recently supplied to the registered agent by the foreign corporation.

Section 24. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 39.8298, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 39.8298 Guardian Ad Litem direct-support organization.
- (1) AUTHORITY.—The Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office created under s. 39.8296 is authorized to create a direct-support organization.
- (a) The direct-support organization must be a Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated under the provisions of

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chapter 617. The direct-support organization shall be exempt from paying fees under s. 617.0122.

Section 25. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 252.71, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 252.71 Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation. -
- (2) The foundation is hereby created as a direct-support organization of the division to provide assistance, funding, and support to the division in its disaster response, recovery, and relief efforts for natural emergencies.
- (a) The foundation must be an organization that is a Florida nonprofit corporation incorporated under chapter 617, approved by the Department of State, and recognized under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation is exempt from paying fees under s. 617.0122.

Section 26. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 288.012, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

288.012 State of Florida international offices; direct-support organization.—The Legislature finds that the expansion of international trade and tourism is vital to the overall health and growth of the economy of this state. This expansion is hampered by the lack of technical and business assistance, financial assistance, and information services for businesses in this state. The Legislature finds that these businesses could be assisted by providing these services at State of Florida international offices. The Legislature further finds that the

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accessibility and provision of services at these offices can be enhanced through cooperative agreements or strategic alliances between private businesses and state, local, and international governmental entities.

(6) (a) The department shall establish and contract with a direct-support organization, organized as a nonprofit under chapter 617 and recognized under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to carry out the provisions of this section; assist with the coordination of international trade development efforts; and assist in development and planning related to foreign investment, international partnerships, and other international business and trade development. The organization is exempt from paying fees under s. 617.0122.

Section 27. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 617.1807, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

617.1807 Conversion to corporation not for profit; authority of circuit judge.—If the circuit judge to whom the petition and proposed articles of incorporation are presented finds that the petition and proposed articles are in proper form, he or she shall approve the articles of incorporation and endorse his or her approval thereon; such approval shall provide that all of the property of the petitioning corporation shall become the property of the successor corporation not for profit, subject to all indebtedness and liabilities of the petitioning corporation. The articles of incorporation with such endorsements thereupon shall be sent to the Department of State, which shall, upon receipt thereof and upon payment of all taxes

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due the state by the petitioning corporation, if any, issue a certificate showing the receipt of the articles of incorporation with the endorsement of approval thereon and of the payment of all taxes to the state. Upon payment of the filing fees specified in s. 617.0122, the Department of State shall file the articles of incorporation, and from thenceforth the petitioning corporation shall become a corporation not for profit under the name adopted in the articles of incorporation and subject to all the rights, powers, immunities, duties, and liabilities of corporations not for profit under state law, and its rights, powers, immunities, duties, and liabilities as a corporation for profit shall cease and determine.

Section 28. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 617.2006, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

617.2006 Incorporation of labor unions or bodies.—Any group or combination of groups of workers or wage earners, bearing the name labor, organized labor, federation of labor, brotherhood of labor, union labor, union labor committee, trade union, trades union, union labor council, building trades council, building trades union, allied trades union, central labor body, central labor union, federated trades council, local union, state union, national union, international union, district labor council, district labor union, American Federation of Labor, Florida Federation of Labor, or any component parts or significant words of such terms, whether the same be used in juxtaposition or with interspace, may be incorporated under this act.

(4) Upon the filing of the articles of incorporation and

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the petition, and the giving of such notice, the circuit judge to whom such petition may be addressed shall, upon the date stated in such notice, take testimony and inquire into the admissions and purposes of such organization and the necessity therefor, and upon such hearing, if the circuit judge shall be satisfied that the allegations set forth in the petition and articles of incorporation have been substantiated, and shall find that such organization will not be harmful to the community in which it proposes to operate, or to the state, and that it is intended in good faith to carry out the purposes and objects set forth in the articles of incorporation, and that there is a necessity therefor, the judge shall approve the articles of incorporation and endorse his or her approval thereon. Upon the filing of the articles of incorporation with its endorsements thereupon with the Department of State and payment of the filing fees specified in s. 617.0122, the subscribers and their associates and successors shall be a corporation by the name given.

Section 29. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0502, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 617.0501, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 617.0501 Registered office and registered agent.-
- (3) A registered agent appointed pursuant to this section or a successor registered agent appointed pursuant to s. 617.0502 on whom process may be served shall each file a statement in writing with the Department of State, in such form and manner as shall be prescribed by the department, accepting the appointment as a registered agent simultaneously with his or

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her being designated. Such statement of acceptance shall state that the registered agent is familiar with, and accepts, the obligations of that position.

Section 30. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 617.0502, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 617.0503, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

617.0503 Registered agent; duties; confidentiality of investigation records.—

(1) (a) Each corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization that owns real property located in this state, that owns a mortgage on real property located in this state, or that transacts business in this state shall have and continuously maintain in this state a registered office and a registered agent and shall file with the Department of State notice of the registered office and registered agent as provided in ss. 617.0501 and 617.0502. The appointment of a registered agent in compliance with s. 617.0501 or s. 617.0502 is sufficient for purposes of this section if the registered agent so appointed files, in the form and manner prescribed by the Department of State, an acceptance of the obligations provided for in this section.

Section 31. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.