${\bf By}$ Senator Aronberg

	27-00409B-09 20091396
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to administration of estates; amending
3	s. 731.201, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s.
4	732.108, F.S.; providing for nonapplication of certain
5	limitation-of-action provisions to certain paternity
6	determinations; amending s. 732.2025, F.S.; revising a
7	definition; amending s. 732.2045, F.S.; expanding an
8	exclusion from application of certain provisions of
9	law; amending s. 732.2075, F.S.; revising provisions
10	for satisfaction of an elective share; providing
11	additional requirements; amending s. 732.2085, F.S.;
12	correcting a cross-reference; amending s. 732.2135,
13	F.S.; revising criteria for time of an election;
14	providing for award of attorney fees and costs for
15	elections made in bad faith; amending s. 732.402,
16	F.S.; revising criteria for certain household items,
17	motor vehicles, and tuition programs as exempt
18	property; amending s. 733.201, F.S.; revising a
19	criterion for proof of wills to conform; amending s.
20	733.504, F.S.; revising a criterion for removal of a
21	personal representative to conform; amending s.
22	733.602, F.S.; removing a cross-reference; amending s.
23	735.203, F.S.; revising requirements for a petition
24	for summary administration; amending s. 739.102, F.S.;
25	revising a definition; amending s. 739.104, F.S.;
26	excluding from court approval certain disclaimers of
27	interests in property; amending s. 739.201, F.S.;
28	providing an additional rule applicable to disclaimers
29	of interests in property; amending s. 739.207, F.S.;

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30	limiting a criterion for effectiveness of a disclaimer
31	of power held in a fiduciary capacity; amending s.
32	739.402, F.S.; correcting terminology; amending s.
33	739.501, F.S.; preserving application of certain
34	provisions to effectiveness of certain disclaimers or
35	transfers; amending ss. 660.417, 736.0802, and 895.02,
36	F.S.; correcting cross-references to conform;
37	providing an effective date.
38	
39	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
40	
41	Section 1. Subsection (21) of section 731.201, Florida
42	Statutes, is amended, subsections (25) through (39) of that
43	section are renumbered as subsections (26) through (40),
44	respectively, and a new subsection (25) is added to that
45	section, to read:
46	731.201 General definitionsSubject to additional
47	definitions in subsequent chapters that are applicable to
48	specific chapters or parts, and unless the context otherwise
49	requires, in this code, in s. 409.9101, and in chapters 736,
50	738, 739, and 744, the term:
51	(21) <u>"Incapacitated"</u> "Incompetent" means a judicial
52	determination that a person lacks the capacity to manage at
53	least some of the person's property or to meet at least some of
54	the person's essential health and safety requirements. A minor
55	shall be treated as being incapacitated or a person adjudicated
56	incompetent.
57	(25) "Minor" means a person under 18 years of age whose
58	disabilities have not been removed by marriage or otherwise.

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59	Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
60	732.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
61	732.108 Adopted persons and persons born out of wedlock
62	(2) For the purpose of intestate succession in cases not
63	covered by subsection (1), a person born out of wedlock is a
64	descendant of his or her mother and is one of the natural
65	kindred of all members of the mother's family. The person is
66	also a descendant of his or her father and is one of the natural
67	kindred of all members of the father's family, if:
68	(b) The paternity of the father is established by an
69	adjudication before or after the death of the father. <u>Chapter 95</u>
70	shall not apply in determining heirs in a probate proceeding
71	under this paragraph.
72	Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 732.2025, Florida
73	Statutes, is amended to read:
74	732.2025 Definitions.—As used in ss. 732.2025-732.2155, the
75	term:
76	(10) "Transfer in satisfaction of the elective share" means
77	an irrevocable transfer by the decedent <u>during life</u> to an
78	elective share trust.
79	Section 4. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
80	732.2045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
81	732.2045 Exclusions and overlapping application
82	(1) EXCLUSIONSSection 732.2035 does not apply to:
83	(f) The decedent's one-half of the property to which ss.
84	732.216-732.228, or any similar provisions of law of another
85	state, apply and real property that is community property under
86	the laws of the jurisdiction where it is located.
87	Section 5. Section 732.2075, Florida Statutes, is amended

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20091396 27-00409B-09 88 to read: 89 732.2075 Sources from which elective share payable; 90 abatement.-91 (1) Unless otherwise provided in the decedent's will or, in 92 the absence of a provision in the decedent's will, in a trust 93 referred to in the decedent's will, the following are applied 94 first to satisfy the elective share: (a) Property interests included in the elective estate that 95 96 pass or have passed to or for the benefit of the surviving 97 spouse, including interests that are contingent upon making the 98 election, but only to the extent that such contingent interests 99 do not diminish other property interests that would be applied 100 to satisfy the elective share in the absence of the contingent 101 interests. To the extent paid to or for the benefit of the 102 surviving spouse, the proceeds of any term or other policy of 103 insurance on the decedent's life if, at the time of decedent's 104 death, the policy was owned by any person other than the 105 surviving spouse. (b) To the extent paid to or for the benefit of the 106 surviving spouse, amounts payable under any plan or arrangement 107 described in s. 732.2035(7). 108 109 (c) To the extent paid to or for the benefit of the 110 surviving spouse, the decedent's one-half of any property described in s. 732.2045(1)(f). 111 112 (d) To the extent paid to or for the benefit of the 113 surviving spouse, the proceeds of any term or other policy of 114 insurance on the decedent's life if, at the time of decedent's 115 death, the policy was owned by any person other than the 116 surviving spouse.

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and (7).

20091396 27-00409B-09 117 (e) (d) Property held for the benefit of the surviving spouse in a qualifying special needs trust. 118 119 (c) Property interests included in the elective estate that 120 pass or have passed to or for the benefit of the surviving spouse, including interests that are contingent upon making the 121 122 election, but only to the extent that such contingent interests 123 do not diminish other property interests that would be applied 124 to satisfy the elective share in the absence of the contingent 125 interests. (f) Property interests that would have satisfied the 126 127 elective share under any preceding paragraph of this subsection 128 but were disclaimed. 129 (2) If, after the application of subsection (1), the 130 elective share is not fully satisfied, the unsatisfied balance 131 shall be allocated entirely to one class of apportioned among 132 the direct recipients of the remaining elective estate and 133 apportioned among those recipients, and if the elective share 134 amount is not fully satisfied, to the next class of direct 135 recipients, in the following order of priority, until the 136 elective share amount is satisfied: 137 (a) Class 1.-The decedent's probate estate and revocable 138 trusts. 139 (b) Class 2.-Recipients of property interests, other than protected charitable interests, included in the elective estate 140 under s. 732.2035(2), (3), or (6) and, to the extent the 141 142 decedent had at the time of death the power to designate the 143 recipient of the property, property interests, other than 144 protected charitable interests, included under s. 732.2035(5)

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146	(c) Class 3Recipients of all other property interests,
147	other than protected charitable interests, included in the
148	elective estate.
149	(d) Class 4Recipients of protected charitable lead
150	interests, but only to the extent and at such times that
151	contribution is permitted without disqualifying the charitable
152	interest in that property for a deduction under the United
153	States gift tax laws.
154	
155	For purposes of this subsection, a protected charitable interest
156	is any interest for which a charitable deduction with respect to
157	the transfer of the property was allowed or allowable to the
158	decedent or the decedent's spouse under the United States gift
159	or income tax laws. A protected charitable lead interest is a
160	protected charitable interest where one or more deductible
161	interests in charity precede some other nondeductible interest
162	or interests in the property.
163	(3) If, after the application of subsections (1) and (2),
164	the elective share amount is not fully satisfied, the additional
165	amount due to the surviving spouse shall be determined and
166	satisfied as follows:
167	(a) The remaining unsatisfied balance shall be satisfied
168	from property described in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) which
169	passes or which has passed in a trust in which the surviving
170	spouse has a beneficial interest, other than an elective share
171	trust or a qualified special needs trust.
172	(b) In determining the amount of the remaining unsatisfied
173	balance, the effect, if any, of any change caused by the
174	operation of this subsection in the value of the spouse's

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175	beneficial interests in property described in paragraphs (1)(a)
176	and (b) shall be taken into account, including, if necessary,
177	further recalculations of the value of those beneficial
178	interests.
179	(c) If there is more than one trust to which this
180	subsection could apply, unless otherwise provided in the
181	decedent's will or, in the absence of a provision in the
182	decedent's will, in a trust referred to in the decedent's will,
183	the unsatisfied balance shall be apportioned pro rata to all
184	such trusts in proportion to the value, as determined under s.
185	732.2095(2)(d), of the surviving spouse's beneficial interests
186	in the trusts.
187	(4) If, after the application of subsections (1), (2), and
188	(3), the elective share is not fully satisfied, any remaining
189	unsatisfied balance shall be satisfied from direct recipients of
190	protected charitable lead interests, but only to the extent and
191	at such times that contribution is permitted without
192	disqualifying the charitable interest in that property for a
193	deduction under the United States gift tax laws. For purposes of
194	this subsection, a protected charitable lead interest is a
195	protected charitable interest as defined in subsection (2) in
196	which one or more deductible interests in charity precede some
197	other nondeductible interest or interests in the property.
198	(5)(3) The contribution required of the decedent's probate
199	estate and revocable trusts may be made in cash or in kind. In
200	the application of this subsection, subsections (6) (4) and (7)
201	(5) are to be applied to charge contribution for the elective
202	share to the beneficiaries of the probate estate and revocable
203	trusts as if all beneficiaries were taking under a common

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governing instrument.

members of the class.

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205 (6) (4) Unless otherwise provided in the decedent's will or, 206 in the absence of a provision in the decedent's will, in a trust 207 referred to in the decedent's will, any amount to be satisfied 208 from the decedent's probate estate, other than from property 209 passing to an inter vivos trust, shall be paid from the assets 210 of the probate estate in the order prescribed in s. 733.805. 211 (7) (5) Unless otherwise provided in the trust instrument 212 or, in the decedent's will if there is no provision in the trust instrument, any amount to be satisfied from trust property shall 213 214 be paid from the assets of the trust in the order provided for 215 claims under s. 736.05053(2) and (3). A direction in the 216 decedent's will is effective only for revocable trusts. 217 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 218 732.2085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 219 732.2085 Liability of direct recipients and beneficiaries.-220 (1) Only direct recipients of property included in the 221 elective estate and the beneficiaries of the decedent's probate 222 estate or of any trust that is a direct recipient, are liable to 223 contribute toward satisfaction of the elective share. (a) Within each of the classes described in s. 224 225 732.2075(2)(b) and τ (c) τ and (d), each direct recipient is 226 liable in an amount equal to the value, as determined under s. 227 732.2055, of the proportional part of the liability for all

229 Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 732.2135, Florida 230 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that 231 section, to read:

732.2135 Time of election; extensions; withdrawal.-

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233	(3) The surviving spouse or an attorney in fact, guardian
234	of the property, or personal representative of the surviving
235	spouse may withdraw an election <u>at any time within</u> on or before
236	the earlier of the date that is 8 months after the date of the
237	decedent's death and before the court's or the date of a court
238	order of contribution. If an election is withdrawn, the court
239	may assess attorney's fees and costs against the surviving
240	spouse or the surviving spouse's estate.
241	(5) If the court determines that an election is made or
242	pursued in bad faith, the court may assess attorney's fees and
243	costs against the surviving spouse or the surviving spouse's
244	estate.
245	Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 732.402, Florida
246	Statutes, is amended to read:
247	732.402 Exempt property
248	(2) Exempt property shall consist of:
249	(a) Household furniture, furnishings, and appliances in the
250	decedent's usual place of abode up to a net value of $\frac{$20,000}{}$
251	\$10,000 as of the date of death.
252	(b) Two motor vehicles as defined in s. 316.003(21), which
253	do not, individually as to either such motor vehicle, have a
254	gross vehicle weight in excess of 15,000 pounds, All automobiles
255	held in the decedent's name and regularly used by the decedent
256	or members of the decedent's immediate family as their personal
257	motor vehicles automobiles.
258	(c) All qualified tuition programs authorized by s. 529 of
259	the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including, but
260	not limited to, the Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund advance
261	payment contracts under s. 1009.98 and the Florida Prepaid

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262	College Trust Fund participation agreements under s. 1009.981
263	Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program contracts
264	purchased and Florida College Savings agreements established
265	under part IV of chapter 1009.
266	(d) All benefits paid pursuant to s. 112.1915.
267	Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 733.201, Florida
268	Statutes, is amended to read:
269	733.201 Proof of wills
270	(3) If it appears to the court that the attesting witnesses
271	cannot be found or that they have become incapacitated
272	incompetent after the execution of the will or their testimony
273	cannot be obtained within a reasonable time, a will may be
274	admitted to probate upon the oath of the personal representative
275	nominated by the will as provided in subsection (2), whether or
276	not the nominated personal representative is interested in the
277	estate, or upon the oath of any person having no interest in the
278	estate under the will stating that the person believes the
279	writing exhibited to be the true last will of the decedent.
280	Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 733.504, Florida
281	Statutes, is amended to read:
282	733.504 Removal of personal representative; causes for
283	removal.—A personal representative may be removed and the
284	letters revoked for any of the following causes, and the removal
285	shall be in addition to any penalties prescribed by law:
286	(1) Adjudication that the personal representative is
287	incapacitated of incompetency.
288	Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 733.602, Florida
289	Statutes, is amended to read:
290	733.602 General duties

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27-00409B-09 20091396 291 (1) A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall 292 observe the standards of care applicable to trustees as 293 described by part VII of chapter 736. A personal representative 294 is under a duty to settle and distribute the estate of the 295 decedent in accordance with the terms of the decedent's will and 296 this code as expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with 297 the best interests of the estate. A personal representative 298 shall use the authority conferred by this code, the authority in 299 the will, if any, and the authority of any order of the court, 300 for the best interests of interested persons, including 301 creditors. 302 Section 12. Section 735.203, Florida Statutes, is amended 303 to read: 304 735.203 Petition for summary administration.-305 (1) A petition for summary administration may be filed by 306 any beneficiary or person nominated as personal representative 307 in the decedent's will offered for probate. The petition must be 308 signed and verified by the surviving spouse, if any, and any 309 beneficiaries except that the joinder in a petition for summary administration is not required of a beneficiary who will receive 310 311 full distributive share under the proposed distribution. Any 312 beneficiary not joining shall be served by formal notice with 313 the petition. 314 (2) If a person named in subsection (1) has died, is incapacitated, or is a minor, or has conveyed or transferred all 315 316 interest in the property of the estate, then, as to that person,

(a) The personal representative, if any, of a deceasedperson or, if none, the surviving spouse, if any, and the

the petition must be signed and verified certified by:

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320	beneficiaries;
321	(b) The guardian of an incapacitated person or a minor; or
322	(c) The grantee or transferee of any of them shall be
323	authorized to sign and verify the petition instead of the
324	beneficiary or surviving spouse.
325	(3) If each trustee of a trust that is a beneficiary of the
326	estate of the deceased person is also a petitioner, each
327	qualified beneficiary of the trust as defined in s. 736.0103
328	shall be served by formal notice with the petition for summary
329	administration unless joinder in, or consent to, the petition is
330	obtained from each qualified beneficiary of the trust. The
331	joinder in, or consent to, a petition for summary administration
332	is not required of a beneficiary who will receive full
333	distributive share under the proposed distribution. Any
334	beneficiary not joining or consenting shall receive formal
335	notice of the petition.
336	Section 13. Subsection (8) of section 739.102, Florida
337	Statutes, is amended to read:
338	739.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
339	(8) "Insolvent" means, solely for purposes of this chapter,
340	that the sum of a person's debts is greater than all of the
341	person's assets at fair valuation <u>and that</u> . A person is presumed
342	to be "insolvent" if the person is generally not paying his or
343	her debts as they become due. For purposes of this subsection,
344	the term "assets" has the same meaning as that provided in s.
345	726.102.
346	Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 739.104, Florida
347	Statutes, is amended to read:
348	739.104 Power to disclaim; general requirements; when

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20091396 27-00409B-09 349 irrevocable.-350 (2) With court approval, a fiduciary may disclaim, in whole 351 or part, any interest in or power over property, including a 352 power of appointment, except that a disclaimer of a power arising under s. 739.201(4) does not require court approval. 353 354 Without court approval, a fiduciary may disclaim, in whole or in 355 part, any interest in or power over property, including a power 356 of appointment, if and to the extent that the instrument 357 creating the fiduciary relationship explicitly grants the 358 fiduciary the right to disclaim. In the absence of a court-359 appointed guardian, notwithstanding anything in chapter 744 to 360 the contrary, without court approval, a natural guardian under 361 s. 744.301 may disclaim on behalf of a minor child of the 362 natural guardian, in whole or in part, any interest in or power 363 over property, including a power of appointment, which the minor 364 child is to receive solely as a result of another disclaimer, 365 but only if the disclaimed interest or power does not pass to or 366 for the benefit of the natural guardian as a result of the 367 disclaimer. 368 Section 15. Subsection (4) is added to section 739.201, 369 Florida Statutes, to read: 370 739.201 Disclaimer of interest in property.-Except for a disclaimer governed by s. 739.202, s. 739.203, or s. 739.204, 371 the following rules apply to a disclaimer of an interest in 372 373 property: 374 (4) In the case of a disclaimer of property over which the 375 disclaimant has a power, in a fiduciary or nonfiduciary 376 capacity, to direct the beneficial enjoyment of the disclaimed 377 property, unless the disclaimer specifically provides to the

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378	contrary with reference to this subsection, the disclaimant
379	shall also be deemed to have disclaimed that power unless the
380	power is limited by an ascertainable standard, as defined in s.
381	736.0103, as in effect when the disclaimer becomes irrevocable.
382	Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 739.207, Florida
383	Statutes, is amended to read:
384	739.207 Disclaimer of power held in fiduciary capacity
385	(3) A disclaimer under this section is effective as to
386	another fiduciary if the disclaimer so provides and the
387	fiduciary disclaiming has the authority to bind the estate,
388	trust, or other person for whom the fiduciary is acting, except
389	that a disclaimer of a fiduciary power arising under s.
390	739.201(4) shall bind only the disclaiming fiduciary.
391	Section 17. Subsection (2) of section 739.402, Florida
392	Statutes, is amended to read:
393	739.402 When disclaimer is barred or limited
394	(2) A disclaimer of an interest in property is barred if
395	any of the following events occur before the disclaimer becomes
396	effective:
397	(a) The <u>disclaimant</u> disclaimer accepts the interest sought
398	to be disclaimed;
399	(b) The disclaimant voluntarily assigns, conveys,
400	encumbers, pledges, or transfers the interest sought to be
401	disclaimed or contracts to do so;
402	(c) The interest sought to be disclaimed is sold pursuant
403	to a judicial sale; or
404	(d) The disclaimant is insolvent when the disclaimer
405	becomes irrevocable.
406	Section 18. Section 739.501, Florida Statutes, is amended

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20091396 27-00409B-09 407 to read: 408 739.501 Tax-qualified disclaimer.-Notwithstanding any other 409 provision of this chapter other than s. 739.402, if, as a result 410 of a disclaimer or transfer, the disclaimed or transferred 411 interest is treated pursuant to the provisions of s. 2518 of the 412 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as never having been transferred 413 to the disclaimant, the disclaimer or transfer is effective as a 414 disclaimer under this chapter. 415 Section 19. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 660.417, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 416 417 660.417 Investment of fiduciary funds in investment 418 instruments; permissible activity under certain circumstances; 419 limitations.-420 (3) The fact that such bank or trust company or an 421 affiliate of the bank or trust company owns or controls 422 investment instruments shall not preclude the bank or trust 423 company acting as a fiduciary from investing or reinvesting in 424 such investment instruments, provided such investment 425 instruments: 426 (b) When sold to accounts for which the bank or trust 427 company is acting as a trustee of a trust as defined in s. 428 731.201 (37): 429 1. Are available for sale to accounts of other customers; 430 and 431 2. If sold to other customers, are not sold to the trust 432 accounts upon terms that are less favorable to the buyer than 433 the terms upon which they are normally sold to the other 434 customers. 435 Section 20. Paragraph (f) of subsection (5) of section

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20091396 27-00409B-09 436 736.0802, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 437 736.0802 Duty of loyalty.-438 (5)439 (f)1. The trustee of a trust as defined described in s. 440 731.201(37) may request authority to invest in investment 441 instruments described in this subsection other than a qualified 442 investment instrument, by providing to all qualified 443 beneficiaries a written request containing the following: 444 a. The name, telephone number, street address, and mailing 445 address of the trustee and of any individuals who may be contacted for further information. 446 447 b. A statement that the investment or investments cannot be 448 made without the consent of a majority of each class of the 449 qualified beneficiaries. 450 c. A statement that, if a majority of each class of 451 qualified beneficiaries consent, the trustee will have the right 452 to make investments in investment instruments, as defined in s. 453 660.25(6), which are owned or controlled by the trustee or its 454 affiliate, or from which the trustee or its affiliate receives 455 compensation for providing services in a capacity other than as 456 trustee, that such investment instruments may include investment 457 instruments sold primarily to trust accounts, and that the 458 trustee or its affiliate may receive fees in addition to the 459 trustee's compensation for administering the trust. 460 d. A statement that the consent may be withdrawn 461 prospectively at any time by written notice given by a majority 462 of any class of the qualified beneficiaries. 463 464

A statement by the trustee is not delivered if the statement is

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465 accompanied by another written communication other than a 466 written communication by the trustee that refers only to the 467 statement.

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2. For purposes of paragraph (e) and this paragraph:

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a. "Majority of the qualified beneficiaries" means:

470 (I) If at the time the determination is made there are one 471 or more beneficiaries as described in s. 736.0103(14)(c), at 472 least a majority in interest of the beneficiaries described in 473 s. 736.0103(14)(a), at least a majority in interest of the 474 beneficiaries described in s. 736.0103(14)(b), and at least a 475 majority in interest of the beneficiaries described in s. 476 736.0103(14)(c), if the interests of the beneficiaries are 477 reasonably ascertainable; otherwise, a majority in number of 478 each such class: or

(II) If there is no beneficiary as described in s.
736.0103(14)(c), at least a majority in interest of the
beneficiaries described in s. 736.0103(14)(a) and at least a
majority in interest of the beneficiaries described in s.
736.0103(14)(b), if the interests of the beneficiaries are
reasonably ascertainable; otherwise, a majority in number of
each such class.

b. "Qualified investment instrument" means a mutual fund, common trust fund, or money market fund described in and governed by s. 736.0816(3).

489 c. An irrevocable trust is created upon execution of the 490 trust instrument. If a trust that was revocable when created 491 thereafter becomes irrevocable, the irrevocable trust is created 492 when the right of revocation terminates.

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Section 21. Subsection (10) of section 895.02, Florida

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494	Statutes, is amended to read:
495	895.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 895.01-895.08, the term:
496	(10) "Trustee" means any of the following:
497	(a) Any person acting as trustee pursuant to a trust
498	established under s. 689.07 or s. 689.071 in which the trustee
499	holds legal or record title to real property.
500	(b) Any person who holds legal or record title to real
501	property in which any other person has a beneficial interest.
502	(c) Any successor trustee or trustees to any or all of the
503	foregoing persons.
504	
505	However, the term "trustee" does not include any person
506	appointed or acting as a personal representative as defined in
507	s. 731.201 (27) or appointed or acting as a trustee of any
508	testamentary trust or as a trustee of any indenture of trust
509	under which any bonds have been or are to be issued.
510	Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

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