2008

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to business entities; amending s.
3	607.1109, F.S.; exempting a domestic corporation from the
4	requirement to file articles of merger under certain
5	circumstances; amending s. 607.1113, F.S.; exempting a
6	domestic corporation from the requirement to file a
7	certificate of conversion under certain circumstances;
8	amending s. 607.1115, F.S.; requiring that each converting
9	entity file a certificate of conversion with the
10	Department of State; amending s. 608.4382, F.S.; exempting
11	a domestic limited liability company from the requirement
12	to file a certificate of merger under certain
13	circumstances; amending s. 608.439, F.S.; including a
14	corporation within the definition of "other business
15	entity" or "another business entity"; requiring that each
16	converting entity file a certificate of conversion with
17	the department; amending s. 608.4403, F.S.; exempting a
18	limited liability company from the requirement to file a
19	certificate of conversion under certain circumstances;
20	amending s. 617.1108, F.S.; exempting a domestic
21	corporation not for profit from the requirement to file
22	articles of merger under certain circumstances; providing
23	for a copy of articles of merger or the certificate of
24	merger to be filed in each county in which real property
25	of a party to the merger is situated; amending s.
26	620.1406, F.S.; revising the requirements for general
27	partners with respect to exercising certain management
28	rights; providing that the expulsion of a limited partner
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29 requires the consent of all of the other limited partners; 30 amending s. 620.2104, F.S.; requiring that a certificate of conversion be signed by each general partner and by the 31 converting organization; exempting a limited partnership 32 from the requirement to file a certificate of conversion 33 if the partnership complies with certain other laws; 34 35 amending s. 620.2108, F.S.; providing exceptions to a 36 requirement that constituent limited partnerships file 37 articles of merger or a certificate of merger with the Department of State; amending s. 620.2204, F.S.; changing 38 the date of application of provisions authorizing a 39 limited partner to dissociate from a limited partnership; 40 amending s. 620.8101, F.S.; redefining the term 41 "statement" to exclude a statement of merger; amending s. 42 620.8105, F.S.; requiring that a registration statement be 43 44 filed with the department before filing a certificate of conversion or a certificate of merger; amending s. 45 620.81055, F.S.; providing that a filing fee applies to a 46 47 certificate of merger; amending s. 620.8911, F.S.; clarifying that the term "organization" includes a 48 converted or surviving organization under certain 49 circumstances; amending s. 620.8914, F.S.; revising 50 requirements for conversions; exempting converting 51 domestic partnerships from filing a certificate of 52 53 conversion under certain circumstances; providing that the certificate of conversion acts as a cancellation of the 54 registration statement for a converting partnership; 55 amending s. 620.8918, F.S.; exempting domestic constituent 56 Page 2 of 19

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partnerships from filing a certificate of merger under certain circumstances; requiring that such partnership file a registration statement with the department under certain circumstances; amending s. 621.06, F.S.; revising limitations on qualifications to render professional services; amending s. 621.10, F.S.; revising limitations on disqualifications to render professional services; amending s. 621.13, F.S.; deleting limitations on mergers between domestic and foreign professional corporations and limited liability companies; amending s. 727.114, F.S.; providing for disposition of residue moneys after payment of certain creditors' claims; providing effective dates. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 607.1109, Florida Statutes, to read: 607.1109 Articles of merger.--(3) A domestic corporation is not required to file articles of merger pursuant to subsection (1) if the domestic corporation is named as a party or constituent organization in articles of merger or a certificate of merger filed for the same merger in accordance with s. 608.4382(1), s. 617.1108, s. 620.2108(3), or s. 620.8918(1) and (2), and if the articles of merger or certificate of merger substantially complies with the requirements of this section. In such a case, the other articles of merger or certificate of merger may also be used for purposes

84 of subsection (2).

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85 Section 2. Subsection (3) is added to section 607.1113, 86 Florida Statutes, to read: 607.1113 Certificate of conversion.--87 88 A converting domestic corporation is not required to (3) 89 file a certificate of conversion pursuant to subsection (1) if 90 the converting domestic corporation files a certificate of 91 conversion that substantially complies with the requirements of this section pursuant to s. 608.439, s. 620.2104(1)(b), or s. 92 93 620.8914(1)(b) and contains the signatures required by this 94 chapter. In such a case, the other certificate of conversion may 95 also be used for purposes of subsection (2). Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 96 Section 3. 607.1115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 97 98 607.1115 Conversion of another business entity to a 99 domestic corporation .--100 (2)Any other business entity may convert to a domestic corporation if the conversion is permitted by the laws of the 101 102 jurisdiction that enacted the applicable laws governing the 103 other business entity and the other business entity complies with such laws and the requirements of this section in effecting 104 105 the conversion. The other business entity shall file with the 106 Department of State in accordance with s. 607.0120: 107 A certificate of conversion that has been executed in (a) accordance with s. 607.0120 and by the other business entity as 108 required by applicable law. 109 Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 608.4382, 110 Florida Statutes, to read: 111 608.4382 Certificate of merger.--112 Page 4 of 19

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113 (3) A domestic limited liability company is not required 114 to file a certificate of merger pursuant to subsection (1) if the domestic limited liability company is named as a party or 115 116 constituent organization in articles of merger or a certificate 117 of merger filed for the same merger in accordance with s. 607.1109(1), s. 617.1108, s. 620.2108(3), or s. 620.8918(1) and 118 119 (2), and if the articles of merger or certificate of merger substantially complies with the requirements of this section. In 120 121 such a case, the other articles of merger or certificate of merger may also be used for purposes of subsection (2). 122 123 Section 5. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 608.439, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 124 608.439 Conversion of certain entities to a limited 125 126 liability company. --As used in this section, the term "other business 127 (1) 128 entity" or "another business entity" means a corporation; a 129 common law or business trust or association; a real estate 130 investment trust; a general partnership, including a limited 131 liability partnership; a limited partnership, including a limited liability limited partnership; or any other domestic or 132 133 foreign entity that is organized under a governing law or other 134 applicable law, provided such term shall not include a domestic 135 limited liability company. Any other business entity may convert to a domestic 136 (2) limited liability company if the conversion is permitted by the 137 laws of the jurisdiction that enacted the statute or other 138 applicable law governing the other business entity and the other 139 business entity complies with such laws and the requirements of 140 Page 5 of 19

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141 this section in effecting the conversion. The other business 142 entity shall file with the Department of State in accordance with s. 608.4081: 143 A certificate of conversion that has been executed by 144 (a) 145 one or more authorized persons in accordance with s. 608.408, 146 and by the other business entity as required by applicable law. 147 Section 6. Subsection (3) is added to section 608.4403, Florida Statutes, to read: 148 608.4403 Certificate of conversion.--149 150 (3) A converting limited liability company is not required 151 to file a certificate of conversion pursuant to subsection (1) 152 if the converting limited liability company files a certificate 153 of conversion that substantially complies with the requirements 154 of this section pursuant to s. 607.1115, s. 620.2104(1)(b), or 155 s. 620.8914(1)(b) and contains the signatures required by this 156 chapter. In such a case, the other certificate of conversion may 157 also be used for purposes of subsection (2). 158 Section 7. Section 617.1108, Florida Statutes, is amended 159 to read: 617.1108 Merger of domestic corporation and other business 160 161 entities. --162 Subject to s. 617.0302(16) and other applicable (1) provisions of this chapter, ss. 607.1108, 607.1109, and 163 607.11101 shall apply to a merger involving a corporation not 164 for profit organized under this act and one or more other 165 business entities identified in s. 607.1108(1). 166 A domestic corporation not for profit organized under 167 (2) this chapter is not required to file articles of merger pursuant 168 Page 6 of 19

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to this section if the corporation not for profit is named as a
party or constituent organization in articles of merger or a
certificate of merger filed for the same merger in accordance
with s. 607.1109, s. 608.4382(1), s. 620.2108(3), or s.
620.8918(1) and (2). In such a case, the other articles of
merger or certificate of merger may also be used for purposes of
subsection (3).
(3) A copy of the articles of merger or certificate of
merger, certified by the Department of State, may be filed in
the office of the official who is the recording officer of each
county in this state in which real property of a party to the
merger, other than the surviving entity, is situated.
Section 8. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section
620.1406, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
620.1406 Management rights of general partner; approval
rights of other partners
(3) In addition to the approval of the general partners
required by subsections (1) and (2), the approval of all limited
partners shall <u>also</u> be required <u>in order</u> to take any of the
partners shall <u>also</u> be required <u>in order</u> to take any of the actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a transaction described in paragraph (1)(h), or a transaction
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a transaction described in paragraph (1)(h), or a transaction described in paragraph (1)(i).
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a transaction described in paragraph (1)(h), or a transaction described in paragraph (1)(i). (4) The approval of a plan of conversion under s. 620.2103
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a transaction described in paragraph (1)(h), or a transaction described in paragraph (1)(i). (4) The approval of a plan of conversion under s. 620.2103 or a plan of merger under s. 620.2107 shall <u>also</u> require the
actions under subsection (1) or subsection (2) with the exception of <u>a transaction described in paragraph (1)(e)</u> , a transaction described in paragraph (1)(h), or a transaction described in paragraph (1)(i). (4) The approval of a plan of conversion under s. 620.2103 or a plan of merger under s. 620.2107 shall <u>also</u> require the consent of the limited partners in the manner described therein.

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197 <u>other limited partners.</u> A transaction described in paragraph 198 (1)(i) shall <u>also</u> require approval of limited partners owning a 199 majority of the rights to receive distributions as limited 200 partners at the time the consent is to be effective.

201 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 620.2104, Florida 202 Statutes, is amended to read:

203 620.2104 Filings required for conversion; effective 204 date.--

205

(1) After a plan of conversion is approved:

(a) A converting limited partnership shall deliver to the
Department of State for filing a certificate of conversion,
signed by each general partner listed in the certificate of
limited partnership, and must include:

210 1. A statement that the limited partnership has been211 converted into another organization.

212 2. The name and form of the organization and the213 jurisdiction of its governing law.

3. The date the conversion is effective under thegoverning law of the converted organization.

4. A statement that the conversion was approved asrequired by this act.

5. A statement that the conversion was approved asrequired by the governing law of the converted organization.

6. If the converted organization is a foreign organization not authorized to transact business in this state, the street and mailing address of an office which the Department of State may use for the purposes of s. 620.2105(3).

224 (b) If the converting organization is not a converting Page 8 of 19

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225 limited partnership, the converting organization shall deliver to the Department of State for filing: 226 227 A certificate of limited partnership containing the 1. information required by s. 620.1201, signed by each general 228 229 partner as required by s. 620.1204(1)(a). 230 A certificate of conversion, signed by each general 2. 231 partner listed in the certificate of limited partnership 232 submitted in accordance with subparagraph 1. and by the 233 converting organization as required by applicable law, which certificate of conversion must include: 234 235 A statement that the limited partnership was converted a. 236 from another organization. The name and form of the converting organization and 237 b. 238 the jurisdiction of its governing law. 239 c. A statement that the conversion was approved as 240 required by this act. 241 A statement that the conversion was approved in a d. 242 manner that complied with the converting organization's 243 governing law. (c) A converting limited partnership is not required to 244 245 file a certificate of conversion pursuant to paragraph (a) if 246 the converting limited partnership files a certificate of 247 conversion that substantially complies with the requirements of this section pursuant to s. 607.1115, s. 608.439, or s. 248 620.8914(1)(b) and contains the signatures required by this 249 chapter. In such a case, the other certificate of conversion may 250 also be used for purposes of s. 620.2105(4). 251 252 Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 620.2108, Florida Page 9 of 19

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253 Statutes, is amended to read:

620.2108 Filings required for merger; effective date .--254 255 Each constituent limited partnership shall deliver the (3) 256 certificate of merger for filing in the Department of State 257 unless the constituent limited partnership is named as a party 258 or constituent organization in articles of merger or a 259 certificate of merger filed for the same merger in accordance with s. 607.1109(1), s. 608.4382(1), s. 617.1108, or s. 260 261 620.8918(1) and (2) and such articles of merger or certificate of 262 merger substantially complies with the requirements of this 263 section. In such a case, the other articles of merger or certificate of merger may also be used for purposes of s. 264 265 620.2109(3).

266 Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 267 620.2204, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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620.2204 Application to existing relationships .--

(3) With respect to a limited partnership formed before
January 1, 2006, the following rules apply except as the
partners otherwise elect in the manner provided in the
partnership agreement or by law for amending the partnership
agreement:

(c) The provisions of ss. 620.1601 and 620.1602 do not apply and a limited partner has the same right and power to dissociate from the limited partnership, with the same consequences, as existed immediately before <u>January 1, 2006</u> July 1, 2005.

279 Section 12. Subsection (15) of section 620.8101, Florida 280 Statutes, is amended to read:

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281	620.8101 DefinitionsAs used in this act, the term:
282	
	(15) "Statement" means a statement of partnership
283	authority under s. 620.8303, a statement of denial under s.
284	620.8304, a statement of dissociation under s. 620.8704, a
285	statement of dissolution under s. 620.8805, a statement of
286	merger under s. 620.8918, a statement of qualification under s.
287	620.9001, a statement of foreign qualification under s.
288	620.9102, or an amendment or cancellation of any of the
289	foregoing.
290	Section 13. Subsection (4) of section 620.8105, Florida
291	Statutes, is amended to read:
292	620.8105 Execution, filing, and recording of partnership
293	registration and other statements
294	(4) Except as provided in s. 620.8304 or s. 620.8704, a
295	statement or a certificate of conversion or certificate of
296	merger may be filed with the Department of State only if the
297	partnership has filed a registration statement pursuant to
298	subsection (1). If otherwise sufficient, a certified copy of a
299	statement that is filed in a jurisdiction other than this state
300	may be filed with the Department of State in lieu of an original
301	statement. Any such filing has the effect provided in this act
302	with respect to partnership property located in, or transactions
303	that occur in, this state.
304	Section 14. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
305	620.81055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
306	620.81055 Fees for filing documents and issuing
307	certificates; powers of the Department of State
308	(1) The Department of State shall collect the following
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309 fees when documents authorized by this act are delivered to the 310 Department of State for filing:

311 (i) <u>Certificate</u> Statement of merger for each party
312 thereto: \$25.

313 Section 15. Subsection (7) of section 620.8911, Florida 314 Statutes, is amended to read:

315 620.8911 Definitions.--As used in this section and ss. 316 620.8912-620.8923:

"Organization" means a corporation; general 317 (7)partnership, including a limited liability partnership; limited 318 partnership, including a limited liability limited partnership; 319 limited liability company; common law or business trust or 320 association; real estate investment trust; or any other person 321 322 organized under a governing law or other applicable law, 323 provided such term shall not include an organization that is not 324 organized for profit, unless the not-for-profit organization is 325 the converted organization in a conversion or the surviving 326 organization in a conversion or a merger governed by this act. 327 The term includes both domestic and foreign organizations.

328 Section 16. Section 620.8914, Florida Statutes, is amended 329 to read:

330 620.8914 Filings required for conversion; effective331 date.--

332 (1) After a plan of conversion is approved:

(a) A converting partnership shall deliver to the
Department of State for filing a statement of registration
<u>statement</u> in accordance with s. 620.8105, if such statement was
not previously filed, and a certificate of conversion, in

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337 accordance with s. 620.8105, which must include: 338 1. A statement that the partnership has been converted 339 into another organization. The name and form of the organization and the 340 2. 341 jurisdiction of its governing law. The date the conversion is effective under the 342 3. 343 governing law of the converted organization. 4. A statement that the conversion was approved as 344 345 required by this act. A statement that the conversion was approved as 346 5. required by the governing law of the converted organization. 347 If the converted organization is a foreign organization 348 6. not authorized to transact business in this state, the street 349 350 and mailing address of an office which the Department of State 351 may use for the purposes of s. 620.8915(3). 352 (b) In the case of a converting organization converting into a partnership to be governed by this act, the converting 353 354 organization shall deliver to the Department of State for 355 filing: A certificate of registration statement in accordance 356 1. 357 with s. 620.8105. 358 2. A certificate of conversion, in accordance with s. 359 620.8105, signed by a general partner of the partnership in accordance with s. 620.8105(6) and by the converting 360 organization as required by applicable law, which certificate of 361 conversion must include: 362 A statement that the partnership was converted from 363 a. another organization. 364

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365 The name and form of the converting organization and b. 366 the jurisdiction of its governing law. 367 A statement that the conversion was approved as с. 368 required by this act. 369 A statement that the conversion was approved in a d. 370 manner that complied with the converting organization's 371 governing law. 372 The effective time of the conversion, if other than the e. 373 time of the filing of the certificate statement of conversion. 374 375 A converting domestic partnership is not required to file a 376 certificate of conversion pursuant to paragraph (a) if the 377 converting domestic partnership files a certificate of 378 conversion that substantially complies with the requirements of this section pursuant to s. 607.1115, s. 608.439, or s. 379 380 620.2104(1)(b) and contains the signatures required by this 381 chapter. In such a case, the other certificate of conversion may 382 also be used for purposes of s. 620.8915(4). 383 (2)A conversion becomes effective: If the converted organization is a partnership, at the 384 (a) 385 time specified in the plan of conversion or the certificate of 386 conversion, which may be as of or after the time of the filing 387 of the certificate of conversion, and, if the certificate of conversion does not contain such an effective time, the 388 effective time shall be upon the filing of the certificate of 389 conversion with the Department of State. However, provided, if 390 the certificate has a delayed effective date, the certificate 391

392 may not be effective any later than the 90th day after the date

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it was filed and provided further, the effective date <u>may</u> shall not be any earlier than the effective date of the statement of registration <u>statement</u> filed with the Department of State for the partnership in accordance with s. 620.8105.

397 (b) If the converted organization is not a partnership, as
398 provided by the governing law of the converted organization.
399
400 A certificate of conversion acts as a cancellation of any

401 registration statement for a converting partnership for purposes 402 of s. 620.8105, and the cancellation shall be deemed filed upon 403 the effective date of the conversion.

404Section 17.Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section405620.8918, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

620.8918 Filings required for merger; effective date .--406 407 Each domestic constituent partnership shall deliver (3) 408 the certificate of merger for filing with to the Department of 409 State, unless the domestic constituent partnership is named as a 410 party or constituent organization in articles of merger or a 411 certificate of merger filed for the same merger in accordance with s. 607.1109(1), s. 608.4382(1), s. 617.1108, or s. 412 413 620.2108(3). The articles of merger or certificate of merger 414 must substantially comply with the requirements of this section. 415 In such a case, the other articles of merger or certificate of merger may also be used for purposes of s. 620.8919(3). Each 416 domestic constituent partnership in the merger shall also file a 417 418 registration statement in accordance with s. 620.8105(1) if it does not have a currently effective registration statement filed 419 with the Department of State. for filing a statement of 420

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421 registration in accordance with s. 620.8105, if such statement 422 was not previously filed, and a certificate of merger in 423 accordance with s. 620.8105.

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(4) A merger becomes effective under this act:

425 If the surviving organization is a partnership, at the (a) 426 time specified in the plan of merger or the certificate of 427 merger, which may be as of or after the time of the filing of the certificate of merger, and, if the certificate of merger 428 429 does not contain such an effective time, the effective time 430 shall be upon the filing of the certificate statement of merger with the Department of State. However, provided, if the 431 certificate has a delayed effective date, the certificate may 432 433 not be effective any later than the 90th day after the date it 434 was filed, and provided further, the effective date may shall not be any earlier than the effective date of the statement of 435 436 registration statement filed with the Department of State for the partnership in accordance with s. 620.8105. 437

(b) If the surviving organization is not a partnership, asprovided by the governing law of the surviving organization.

(5) A certificate of merger <u>acts</u> shall act as a
cancellation of any statement of registration <u>statement</u> for
purposes of s. 620.8105 for a partnership that is a party to the
merger that is not the surviving organization, which
cancellation shall be deemed filed upon the effective date of
the merger.

446 Section 18. Section 621.06, Florida Statutes, is amended 447 to read:

448 621.06 Rendition of professional services,

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449 limitations.--No corporation or limited liability company 450 organized under this act may render professional services except through its members, officers, employees, and agents who are 451 duly licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render such 452 453 professional services within this state; provided, however, this 454 provision shall not be interpreted to include in the term 455 "employee," as used herein, clerks, secretaries, bookkeepers, technicians, and other assistants who are not usually and 456 457 ordinarily considered by custom and practice to be rendering professional services to the public for which a license or other 458 459 legal authorization is required; and provided further, that nothing contained in this act shall be interpreted to require 460 that the right of an individual to be a shareholder of a 461 462 corporation or a member of a limited liability company organized 463 under this act, or to organize such a corporation or limited 464 liability company, is dependent upon the present or future 465 existence of an employment relationship between him or her and 466 such corporation or limited liability company, or his or her 467 present or future active participation in any capacity in the production of the income of such corporation or limited 468 469 liability company or in the performance of the services rendered 470 by such corporation or limited liability company.

471 Section 19. Section 621.10, Florida Statutes, is amended 472 to read:

473 621.10 Disqualification of member, shareholder, officer,
474 agent, or employee; administrative dissolution.--If any member,
475 officer, shareholder, agent, or employee of a corporation or
476 limited liability company organized under this chapter who has
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477 been rendering professional service to the public becomes 478 legally disqualified to render such professional services within 479 this state or accepts employment that, pursuant to existing law, places restrictions or limitations upon that person's continued 480 481 rendering of such professional services, that person shall sever 482 all employment with, and financial interests in, such 483 corporation or limited liability company forthwith. A corporation's or limited liability company's failure to require 484 485 compliance with this provision shall constitute a ground for the 486 judicial dissolution of the corporation or limited liability 487 company. When a corporation's or limited liability company's failure to comply with this provision is brought to the 488 attention of the Department of State, the department forthwith 489 490 shall certify that fact to the Department of Legal Affairs for 491 appropriate action to dissolve the corporation or limited 492 liability company.

493 Section 20. Subsections(3) and (4) of section 621.13,
494 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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621.13 Applicability of chapters 607 and 608.--

496 (3) A professional corporation or limited liability 497 company organized under this act shall exchange shares or merge 498 only with other domestic professional corporations or limited 499 liability companies organized under this act to render the same 500 specific professional service, and a merger or consolidation 501 with any foreign corporation or limited liability company is 502 prohibited.

503 <u>(3)</u>(4) A professional corporation or limited liability 504 company heretofore or hereafter organized under this act may Page 18 of 19

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505 change its business purpose from the rendering of professional 506 service to provide for any other lawful purpose by amending its 507 certificate of incorporation in the manner required for an original incorporation under chapter 607 or by amending its 508 509 certificate of organization in the manner required for an 510 original organization under chapter 608. However, such an 511 amendment, when filed with and accepted by the Department of 512 State, shall remove such corporation or limited liability 513 company from the provisions of this chapter including, but not limited to, the right to practice a profession. A change of 514 515 business purpose shall not have any effect on the continued 516 existence of the corporation or limited liability company.

517 Section 21. Effective upon this act becoming a law, 518 subsection (4) is added to section 727.114, Florida Statutes, to 519 read:

520 727.114 Priority of claims.--Allowed claims shall receive 521 distribution under this chapter in the following order of 522 priority and, with the exception of paragraph (1)(a), on a pro 523 rata basis:

524 <u>(4) If all claims subject to distribution under this</u> 525 <u>section have been paid in full, any residue shall be paid to the</u> 526 assignor.

527 Section 22. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this 528 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon 529 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 530 2008.

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