

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

BILL: CS/SB 892

INTRODUCER: Committee on Commerce and Tourism and Senator Passidomo

SUBJECT: Business Organizations

DATE: March 11, 2019

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harmsen	McKay	CM	Fav/CS
2.			JU	
3.			ATD	
4.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 892 is a comprehensive amendment to the Florida Business Corporation Act (FBCA), ch. 607, F.S. Representatives of the Florida Bar’s Business Law Section recommend these revisions to modernize the FBCA, incorporate updates from the Model Business Corporation Act (Model Act), and harmonize the FBCA with the recently updated Florida Revised Limited Liability Corporate Act (FRLCA), ch. 605, F.S.

The bill modifies and creates several provisions regarding corporate governance, including, but not limited to the following:

- Modifies the process for the correction of documents filed by a corporation;
- Authorizes articles of incorporation and bylaws to include exclusive forum provisions in limited circumstances;
- Permits proxy access provisions in a corporation’s bylaws;
- Modernizes service of process provisions for corporations;
- Allows remote participation at shareholder meetings;
- Modifies how a vacancy on a corporation’s board of directors is filled;
- Updates provisions regarding shareholder agreements;
- Clarifies the prescribed composition, operation, and authority of boards and committees;
- Reorganizes sections regarding derivative action and indemnification;
- Amends burdens of proof in provisions regarding director conflict of interest;

- Modifies the processes of judicial dissolution of a corporation and appointment of receivers and custodians made in the process thereof;
- Updates and modernizes laws regarding mergers, share exchanges, and conversions;
- Expands statute to allow corporate domestication in additional circumstances;
- Clarifies appraisal rights provisions; and
- Makes conforming changes to mirror the FRLCA provisions regarding corporate names, registered agent appointments and successorships, and qualifications to transact business in Florida.

The bill takes effect on January 1, 2020.

II. Present Situation:

Florida generally follows the revised Model Act as a basis for its laws that govern for-profit corporations.¹ The Corporate Laws Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section promulgates the Model Act, and most recently re-worked the Model Act in its entirety in 2016.² The FBCA was last updated as a whole in 1989, and therefore does not best reflect the modern state of corporate law.³

Further discussion of the present situation is discussed below in conjunction with the Effect of Proposed Changes.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Filing of Records and General Provisions (Sections 1-15)

The FBCA requires domestic and foreign corporations that seek to transact business in Florida to register and file annual reports and other notices with the Department of State (Department). These documents must be executed by an officer, incorporator, or fiduciary and contain information as prescribed by law. The Department determines whether submitted filings and forms meet the pertinent statutory requirements and then records and indexes those filings in its database of records.⁴ If the Department refuses to file a document, the filing corporation may seek to remedy the defect, or may appeal the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 1 amends s. 607.0101, F.S., to clarify that Part I of ch. 607, F.S., applies generally to corporations.

Section 3 amends s. 607.0120, F.S., to allow a corporation to make its articles of incorporation or amendments thereto, terms of shares, mergers, share exchanges, domestications, or conversion transactions dependent on extrinsic facts.⁵ The corporation must state both the fact and the effect

¹ 8A Fla. Jur 2d *Business Relationships* §4 (2018).

² American Bar Association, *Model Business Corporation Act* (2016), https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/business_law/corplaws/2016_mbca.pdf (last visited Mar. 11, 2019).

³ Ch. 89-154, Laws of Fla.

⁴ Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, *About Us*, <https://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/about-us/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2019). *See also*, s. 607.0125(4), F.S.

⁵ However, a foreign corporation may not make its certificate of authority dependent on extrinsic facts.

it will have on the document. This section prohibits specific terms from being made dependent on extrinsic facts, including the identity of a corporation's registered agent and the effective date of a document.

Sections 6 and 7 amend ss. 607.0123 and 607.0124, F.S., respectively, to clarify the determination of the date and time a document is filed as follows:

- A corporation may make the effective date of its article of incorporation retroactive up to 5 days before the date of filing;
- Articles of incorporation must take effect no later than the date of filing;
- No document, subject to provisions otherwise in law, may include a delayed effective date of more than 90 days from the date of filing;
- The default effective time of a document is changed from the "start of business" to "12:01 am;" and
- The default time zone is that of the location where the document was filed.

Sections 6 and 7 also create a process for the withdrawal of a filing delivered to the Department. This withdrawal statement must be signed by or signed on behalf of all who filed the underlying document, and must be filed with the Department prior to the effective date of the document that it requests to withdraw. A withdrawal statement may not be filed with a delayed effective date.

Section 7 eliminates the 30-day statute of limitations to correct a document filed by a corporation. A corporation may now correct a document at any time.

Section 8 amends s. 607.0125, F.S., to clarify that the Department files a document by "stamping or otherwise endorsing" it. Prior law only required to the Department to "record" it. Additionally, the section permits notice of filing by electronic mail, but limits the form of a notice of filing sent by U.S. mail to a filed copy.

Section 9 amends s. 607.0126, F.S., to limit a corporation's venue for appeal of the Department's refusal to file a document to Leon County Circuit Court. Previously, a corporation could pursue an appeal in either Leon County or the county in which its principal office is located.

Section 10 amends s. 607.0127, F.S., to require certified copies of documents to bear the secretary of state's signature, in either original or facsimile form, and the state seal. Prior language did not require any specific mark. This section adds language that requires certificates issued by the Department to be received by all courts, public offices, and official bodies as prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

A certificate of status is a summary prepared by the Department of a corporation's activity, especially related to timely reporting and payment of fees. **Section 11** amends s. 607.0128, F.S., to clarify the information required on a certificate of status, and that the Department may require the requisite fee to be paid prior to its issuance.

Sections 13-15 amend ss. 607.01401-607.0143, F.S., to add definitions for use in ch. 607, F.S.

Section 14 updates forms of notice to permit electronic forms of notice, specifically requiring individual shareholder and director consent to send notice by e-mail. The section allows a corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws to override the consent requirement for electronic notice to directors only.

Section 15 defines "qualified director," which is used in updated provisions relating to derivative actions, transactions that involve a director conflict of interest, and indemnification. A qualified director is one who has neither a material interest nor relationship with any of the interests at issue, and therefore is truly independent in his or her determinations.

Sections 2, 4, and 5 make conforming changes to ss. 607.0102, 607.0121, and 607.0122, F.S., respectively. **Section 12** amends s. 607.0130, F.S., to make a technical change that eliminates certain express powers of the Department, but does not reduce the Department's authority or power to administer the act.

Incorporation (Sections 16-23)

A corporation must file articles of incorporation with the Department before it may transact business in the state. Generally, s. 607.0202, F.S., requires articles of incorporation to include the corporation's name and address, the number of shares it is authorized to issue, and information about the registered agent.

Section 20 amends s. 607.0205, F.S., to reduce the amount of time (from 3 to 2 days before the meeting) that a director must receive notice of a corporation's organizational meeting.

Section 23 amends s. 607.0208, F.S., to define an internal corporate claim as any:

- Claim based on a director's, officer's, or shareholder's violation of duty;
- Derivative action or proceeding brought on the corporation's behalf;
- Action that asserts a claim arising pursuant to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or ch. 607, F.S.;
- Action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine.

Sections 17, 21, and 23 amend ss. 607.0202, 607.0206, and 607.0208, F.S., to allow articles of incorporation and bylaws to include exclusive forum provisions relating to internal corporate claims. However, Section 23 prohibits articles of incorporation or bylaws from including forced arbitration clauses relating to the resolution of an internal corporate claim.

Sections 17, 21 limit the adoption of articles of incorporation and bylaws provisions that make shareholders liable for fees related to internal corporate claims they institute or participate in. However, **Section 71** amends s. 607.0732, F.S., to allow such provisions pursuant to a shareholder agreement.

Section 21 continues to allow a corporation to include any provision in its bylaws that is consistent with law and its articles of incorporation, but now explicitly allows provisions that permit or limit proxy access provisions.

Sections 1, 18, 19, and 22 amend ss. 607.0101, 607.0203, 607.0204, and 607.0207, F.S., to make clarifying and conforming changes that do not substantively change existing law.

Purposes and Powers (Sections 24-27)

Section 24 amends s. 607.0301, F.S., to set a default corporate purpose of “engaging in any lawful business” unless a more limited purpose is stated in a corporation’s articles of incorporation. It also limits corporations that engage in a regulated business under another Florida statute from incorporating under ch. 607, F.S., unless the underlying regulating chapter expressly permits.

Section 27 amends s. 607.0304, F.S., to correct a term, replacing “Attorney General” with “Department of Legal Affairs.”

Sections 25 and 26 amend ss. 607.0302 and 607.0303, F.S., to make clarifying and conforming changes that do not substantively change existing law.

Corporate Names (Sections 28-30)

Section 607.0401, F.S., requires corporations to file a corporate name that is distinguishable and clearly indicates that the corporation is not a natural person.

Section 28 amends s. 607.0401, F.S., to permit corporations to register under a name that is indistinguishable from another entity’s name if it files the written consent of the similarly named entity with its registration.

Section 29 creates s. 607.04021, F.S., to restore a practice that allows a corporation to reserve its name for 120 days prior to its incorporation.⁶

Section 30 amends s. 607.0403, F.S., to make clarifying and conforming changes that do not substantively change existing law.

Office and Agent (Sections 31-37)

A corporation transacting business in Florida must designate and maintain a registered agent and registered office that is located in Florida.⁷ Currently, either a Florida resident or a corporation authorized to do business in Florida may serve as a corporation’s registered agent. **Section 31** updates these qualifications in s. 607.0501, F.S., to allow any business entity (e.g., LLCs, partnerships, etc) authorized to do business in Florida to serve as a registered agent.

Section 31 also explicitly provides a registered agent’s duties, including forwarding documents served to the corporation and providing proper notice of its resignation as the registered agent. This section also clarifies that a corporation that has failed to comply with this subsection may defend itself in Florida court actions, but may not prosecute or otherwise maintain such actions until it has appointed a registered agent.

⁶ Ch. 98-101, § 15, Laws of Fla.

⁷ Section 607.0501, F.S.

Sections 32 amends s. 607.0502, F.S., to require a corporation's designation of a successor registered agent to include a written statement of acceptance from the successor registered agent which operates to designate the new registered agent at the same moment of its acceptance of the position.

Sections 33 and 34 re-designate current law regarding a registered agent's resignation⁸ or change of name or address⁹ under their own sections—ss. 607.0503 and 607.05031, F.S., respectively.

Section 35 creates s. 607.05032, F.S., which subjects delivery of notice to the Department to a different standard than that in s. 607.0141, F.S., Notice sent to the Department is not achieved until its actual receipt by the Department. A check sent to the Department is received as of the postmark on the transmitting envelope or package.

Section 36 amends s. 607.0504, F.S., to update methods of service of process for corporations, requiring attempts to be made on certain parties before others may be served.

Section 37 makes a clarifying change in s. 607.0505, F.S., that does not substantively affect existing law.

Shares and Distribution (Sections 38-51)

A corporation's articles of incorporation must prescribe the classes of shares and the number of each class that the corporation is authorized to issue.¹⁰ At least one class of shares must have unlimited voting rights, and one (which may be the same as the voting class) that is entitled to the corporation's net assets. The corporation may issue the number of shares as detailed in its articles of incorporation. Shareholder and corporate rights regarding the shares are laid out in statute, but may also be defined in the corporation's articles of incorporation, bylaws, or agreement.

Section 38 amends s. 607.0601, F.S., to establish that a corporation may define both series and classes of shares that the corporation will issue. This section also defines the preferences, limits, and rights assigned to classes or series of shares as "terms." **Section 39** amends s. 607.0602, F.S., to grant boards authority to reclassify the class or series of any unissued shares, and to determine the shares' terms without shareholder approval. **Section 50** amends s. 607.0631, F.S., to allow a board, without shareholder approval, to re-acquire its issued shares in order to effectuate a reduction in its overall shares, but any shares the corporation holds a fiduciary capacity may not be considered the corporation's property for the purpose of reducing its number of shares.

⁸ Section 607.0502(2), F.S.

⁹ Section 607.0502(3), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 607.0601, F.S.

Section 40 removes requirements in s. 607.0604, F.S., that the board authorize the issuance of a scrip¹¹ only when considered desirable, and that the board's good faith judgment of the fair value of fractions of a share is conclusive.

Section 41 amends the duration of time provided for in s. 607.0620, F.S., that a corporation must wait to sell shares to satisfy the debt incurred as the result of a subscription share from 20 days after demand is *sent* to 20 days after its *delivery*.

Section 45 amends s. 607.0624, F.S., to authorize boards of directors to delegate to committees and officers the ability to issue equity compensation awards.

Section 51 amends s. 607.06401, F.S., to clarify that a board may fix a record date to determine shareholders eligible for distributions made pursuant to the terms of their shares, but that date may not be retroactive. Additionally, this section excludes liquidations pursuant to ss. 607.1401-607.14401, F.S., from its application.

Sections 42-44, and 46-49 make clarifying changes to ss. 607.0621-607.0623 and 607.0625-607.0630, F.S., respectively, that do not substantively affect existing law.

Shareholders (Sections 52-81)

Shareholder Meetings

Corporations are required to hold an annual shareholders meeting to elect directors and transact business; a board of directors, persons authorized to call such a meeting, or a specified percentage of shareholders may call a special meetings for an express, limited purpose.

Sections 52 and 53 amends ss. 607.0701 and 607.0702, F.S., respectively, to clarify that shareholders may participate in meetings by remote communication. **Section 56** amends s. 607.0705, F.S., to require a corporation's board of directors to give notice of the types of remote communication that a shareholder can use to participate in a meeting. **Section 59** outlines limits on participation in a meeting by remote communication in s. 607.0709, F.S.

If a corporation fails to hold an annual or special meeting in a timely manner, a court may order a meeting. **Section 54** amends s. 607.0703, F.S., to lengthen from 13 to 15 months the amount of time a corporation has to hold its annual meeting or undertake action by written consent before a court may order a meeting or other action. Section 54 also recognizes a court's ability to establish quorum requirements for separate voting groups at a meeting held upon its call.

Sections 56 and 57 make clarifying changes to ss. 607.0705 and 607.0706, F.S., respectively, that do not substantively affect existing law.

¹¹ A "scrip issue," also known as a "bonus issue," is a corporation's offer of free shares to existing shareholders, usually in proportion to their holdings and especially as an alternative to dividend payout. BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (10th ed. 2014).

Voting Rights

Current law allows certain shareholders to instigate a vote by written consent. If the shareholders deliver a sufficient number of votes by written consent to the corporation within a 60-day timeframe, the matter is adopted and the corporation must give notice of the action to all shareholders who did not give written consent. **Section 55** updates s. 607.0704, F.S., to allow a corporation to delay the effectiveness of a written consent vote for a reasonable time to allow it to count the votes delivered by written consent, and also clarifies that a corporation's failure to give notice of the outcome of a written consent vote does not affect the vote's outcome.

A corporation must compile a list of shareholders eligible to participate in the corporation's meetings on the record date at a fixed period prior to the meeting. Any shareholder may inspect and copy this list.

Section 58 amends s. 607.0707, F.S., to expressly allow a corporation's bylaws to establish more than one record date to establish separate issues, e.g., which shareholders may vote at or are entitled notice to a meeting, who may demand a special meeting, or who may take other specified actions. This section also sets certain default record dates if the corporation does not establish them in their bylaws.

Sections 59 creates s. 607.0709, F.S., and **Section 60** amends s. 607.0720, F.S., to adopt language to further implement bifurcated record dates, explicitly state that shareholders' electronic mail addresses may be excluded from the shareholder list, and remove a \$5,000 civil penalty for the improper sale or distribution of a shareholder's list. The Florida Bar opines that this grants courts judicial discretion in determining a penalty for improper disclosure of the shareholder list.

A shareholder is entitled to at least one vote per share on matters that are subject to a vote. However, if a corporation holds its own shares indirectly through a second corporation that it controls, those shares do not entitle their corporation owner to a vote. **Section 61** amends s. 607.0721, F.S., to further preclude a corporation from using shares it owns directly as a source of voting rights.

Section 63 clarifies by amendment to s. 607.0723, F.S., the process required to create a beneficial ownership certificate, which is a designation of a third party who is treated as the record shareholder when the shares are actually held by an intermediate party. Specifically, the section requires a beneficial ownership certificate to be signed by or assented to by the record shareholder and the person on behalf of whom the shares are held.

Section 68 creates the office of inspector of elections in s. 607.0729, F.S. A public corporation must, and any other corporation may, appoint an inspector of elections to determine voting results at shareholder meetings. The inspector of elections generally determines the validity and number of votes cast and keeps relevant books and records relating to corporations' shareholders. **Section 64** incorporates the role of an inspector of elections in current s. 607.0724, F.S., and expands corporations' or inspector of elections' scope of scrutiny to include ballots and shareholder demands in addition to votes, consents, waivers, or proxy appointments. Lastly, the

bill deems a determination made by an inspector of elections controlling, but also subjects the decision to de novo review by a court.

Sections 70 and 71 distinguish voting agreements from shareholder agreements. A voting agreement is one between shareholders that provides how they will vote on a particular subject. A shareholder agreement is a written agreement among shareholders regarding specific matters outlined in s. 607.0732(1), F.S. This bill expands matters that may be subject to shareholder agreement to include the:

- Imposition of shareholder liability for participation in an internal corporate claim; and
- Establishment of a mechanism for breaking deadlock between the corporation's directors or shareholders or to address an oppressive action initiated by a shareholder.

Sections 62, 65-67, and 69 make clarifying changes to ss. 607.0722, 607.0725-607.0728, and 607.0730, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Derivative Actions

A shareholder derivative action is a proceeding brought by a shareholder on behalf of a corporation to assert a claim that the corporation refuses to bring suit in support thereof.¹² A shareholder may not pursue a derivative action in court before he or she requests that the corporation take specific action. If the corporation refuses to act, or ignores the shareholder's request for at least 90 days, then the shareholder may bring the complaint in a court.

Sections 72-79 conform Florida's current law regarding shareholder derivative actions, s. 607.07401, F.S., to the style of the Model Act. Additionally, the bill creates ss. 607.0741-607.0747 to:

- Remove the requirement that a shareholder maintain his or her shares in the corporation during the entirety of the derivative action that the shareholder initiated;
- Allow a shareholder to initiate a derivative action without waiting 90 days for the corporation to respond to his or her demand, if the shareholder is able to prove that such a demand would be futile;
- Replace the term "independent director" with "qualified director," which is defined in s. 607.0143(a), F.S., of the bill, as a director who has neither a material interest in the outcome of the proceeding, nor a material relationship with a person who has a material interest in the proceeding;
- Permit a court to order the plaintiff in a derivative action to pay the defendant's expenses and attorney fees if the court finds that the plaintiff began or maintained the action without reasonable cause or for an improper purpose; and
- In accordance with the internal affairs doctrine,¹³ allow court action as outlined in ss. 607.0743, 607.0745, and 607.0746, F.S., regarding foreign corporations, but ensure the application of their organic law otherwise.

¹² Deborah DeMott, *Shareholder Derivative Actions: Law and Practice*, § 1:1 (Nov. 2018)

¹³ "The internal affairs doctrine is a conflict of laws principle which recognizes that only one State should have the authority to regulate a corporation's internal affairs [...]." *Edgar v. Mite Corp*, 457 U.S. 624, 645 (1982).

Alternatives to Judicial Dissolution

Where harm is threatened to or incurred by a corporation as a result of a deadlock between its directors, or of a director's fraudulent activity, a shareholder may petition a court to appoint a receiver or custodian to manage the corporation's business and affairs.

Section 80 creates s. 607.0748, F.S., to permit a shareholder to petition a court to appoint a receiver or custodian to manage a corporation's business and affairs where the directors' activities harm or threaten the corporation. This remedy is limited to instances where the directors are deadlocked in their management of the corporation and the shareholders cannot break the deadlock, or the directors are acting fraudulently. Currently, a shareholder's only resolution to such harm is to seek judicial dissolution of the corporation under s. 607.1430, F.S., pursuant to which a court may also appoint a receiver or custodian.

Section 81 creates s. 607.0749, F.S., to allow a court to appoint an impartial provisional director to remedy, outside of a judicial dissolution proceeding, a deadlock between directors that cannot be broken by shareholder action. The provisional director is vested with all the powers of an elected director and is subject to removal by a shareholder vote or court action.

Directors and Officers (Sections 82-114)

A corporation is managed by and subject to the oversight of its board of directors. Florida law requires a director to be a natural person who is at least 18 years old, but any other qualifications, if any, are set by the corporation's articles of incorporation.

Section 83 clarifies s. 607.0802, F.S., to distinguish qualifications for nominees for directors from qualifications for current directors. Any qualification that applies expressly to nominees does not apply after the nominee has been appointed or elected to the board; conversely, any qualification prescribed during a director's term of office will not apply until the director has finished his or her term.

Sections 86 and 87 amend ss. 607.0805 and 607.0806, F.S., respectively, to clarify the effect of staggering directors' terms of service.

Section 90 creates s. 607.08081, F.S., to allow a court acting pursuant to a shareholder derivative proceeding to remove a director where other remedies are inadequate and impracticable. This remedy is limited to cases in which:

- The director acted fraudulently with respect to the corporation or its shareholders, grossly abused his or her position, or intentionally inflicted harm on the corporation; and
- Removal of the director is in the best interests of the corporation.

Section 91 modifies s. 607.0809, F.S., governing how vacancies created by directors who were elected by a separate voting group will be filled, requiring the same voting group or remaining directors elected by that voting group, whichever applies, to vote to fill the vacancy.

A board of directors or members of a committee may act without meeting, even if the action is otherwise required to be taken at a meeting, by way of a written consent signed by all members

of the board or committee. **Section 93** amends s. 607.0821, F.S., to clarify that a written consent is only effective upon delivery to the corporation.

Section 94 amends s. 607.0823, F.S., to require a director who objects to holding the meeting or to the business transacted at the meeting to both state an objection at the beginning of the meeting and to refuse to vote on any action taken at the meeting. If the director fails to do both, his or her presence constitutes a waiver of notice of the meeting and of all objections to the date, time, place, or purpose of the meeting. Previously, a director was required only to register his or her objection at the beginning of the meeting.

Section 607.0825, F.S., currently allows a board of directors to delegate many of its functions to a board committee. **Section 96** reduces the members of a board committee required from two to one, and allows the board to replace or fill any absent or disqualified members during his or her absence or disqualification. Additionally, the bill removes the restriction on a board committee's ability to issue or sell shares, or to designate a voting group's rights, preferences, and limitations.

Section 97 creates s. 607.0826, F.S., to authorize a board of directors to enter into an agreement that contains a "force the vote" provision. Such provisions, often used in merger agreements, require the board to submit a matter to a shareholder vote even if the board no longer wants to pursue or enter into the agreement.

Section 98 updates Florida's business judgment rule and clarifies directors' fiduciary duties in s. 607.0830, F.S. Specifically, the prudent person standard of care is modified to require a director to act as an "ordinary prudent person in a like position would reasonably believe appropriate under similar circumstances." This section expands guidance of whom a board member may rely upon in discharging his or her duties.

Section 100 amends s. 607.0832, F.S., relating to director conflict of interest. In particular, the bill requires the conflict of interest transaction to be fair to the corporation¹⁴ at the time it is authorized. Additionally, the bill creates a shifting burden of proof, wherein approval by a disinterested majority of directors or shareholders who received advanced notice of the conflict places the burden on the person challenging the transaction, but the lack of any such approval places the burden on the person defending the transaction.

Section 102 clarifies the statute of limitations for a director's liability for unlawful distributions in s. 607.0834, F.S.

Section 104 creates s. 607.08411, F.S., which provides standards of conduct for officers that parallel a director's fiduciary duties. Generally, the bill requires an officer to act in good faith and in a manner the officer reasonable believes to be in the best interests of the corporation. This section requires an officer to report or inform superior officers or other appropriate persons within the corporation of (1) material information about the corporation's affairs, (2) actual or probable material violations of law that involve the corporation, and (3) actual or probable

¹⁴ The term "fair to the corporation" is defined in s. 607.0832(1)(b) as a transaction that, as a whole, is beneficial to the corporation and its shareholders, taking into appropriate account whether it is: (1) fair in terms of the director's dealing with the corporation in connection with that transaction and (2) comparable to what might have been obtainable in an arm's length transaction.

breaches of duty to the corporation. Lastly, this section creates guidance dictating upon whom an officer may rely in reasonably discharging his or her duties.

Sections 82, 84-85, 88-89, 92, 95, 99, 101, and 103 make clarifying changes to ss. 607.0801, 607.0803-607.0804, 607.0807-607.0808, 607.0820, 607.0824, 607.0831, 607.0833, and 607.08401, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Indemnification and Advancement of Expenses

Indemnification is the duty to make good any loss, damage, or liability incurred by another.¹⁵ Florida law allows corporate directors, officers, employees, and agents who act in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the corporation (and reasonably believed to be lawful) to be indemnified by the corporation.

Sections 106-114 make several changes to Florida's current indemnification law (s. 607.0850, F.S.), including:

- Excluding employees and agents of a corporation from indemnification pursuant to law and specifying that a corporation may indemnify its employees or agents in its articles of incorporation, bylaws, or other agreement;
- Establishing a process for the board of directors to determine whether, and the extent to which, an officer or director may be indemnified in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation;
- Setting a new standard for mandatory indemnification, requiring an officer or director involved in a proceeding because of his or her role as a corporate director or officer to be “wholly successful”¹⁶ in the action, rather than “successful on the merits;”
- Explicitly outlining how advancement of expenses is authorized by either the board of directors or shareholders; and
- Clarifying a corporation's ability to indemnify above and beyond indemnification provided for in law.

Section 105 makes clarifying changes to s. 607.0842, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Anti-Takeover Laws (Sections 115-116)

Florida's affiliated transaction statute is intended to deter hostile takeovers. It protects minority shareholders in merger offers by ensuring that specific transactions are either approved by an appropriate number of disinterested directors or shareholders, or result in a fair price to all shareholders.¹⁷

¹⁵ BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY, 837 (9th Ed. 2009).

¹⁶ Commentary to s. 8.52 of the Model Act provides that “A defendant is ‘wholly successful’ only if the entire proceeding is disposed of on a basis which does not involve a finding of liability.”

¹⁷ Daniel Nunn, Jr., *The Wolf at the Door: Florida's Takeover Laws Revisited*, Florida Bar Journal Vol. 83, No. 3, p. 10 (Mar. 2009), available at <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/the-wolf-at-the-door-floridas-takeover-laws-revisited/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2019).

Section 115 amends s. 607.0901, F.S., to define an “interested shareholder” as a person who owns 15 percent or more of a public corporation’s shares. This section requires that any affiliated transaction with an interested shareholder receive approval from either disinterested directors or a supermajority vote of disinterested shareholders. If neither of the first two are possible, this section requires a fair price to be paid to shareholders in the transaction.

Section 115 also amends the definition of an affiliated transaction to include those that constitute the sale of 10 percent or more of the corporation’s assets, net income, or fair market value of the corporation’s outstanding shares.

Section 116 makes a conforming change in s. 607.0902, F.S., that does not substantively affect existing law.

Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

A board of directors may amend the corporation’s articles of incorporation without shareholder approval in limited, usually administrative, circumstances. **Section 118** amends s. 607.1002, F.S., to allow a board to make amendments that reflect a reduction in authorized shares and to delete an extinct class of shares when no shares of that class remain.

Section 119 deletes language in s. 607.10025, F.S., that permitted board approval of share splits or combinations without shareholder approval in corporations of 35 or more shareholders. The effect is to now permit all corporations to take such action without shareholder approval.

Section 120 amends s. 607.1003, F.S., to require a full copy, as compared to the summary provided for in current law, of a proposed amendment to a corporation’s articles of incorporation to be provided to shareholders prior to their meeting for approval of the amendment.

Additionally, Section 120 requires that a board must obtain written consent of all shareholders who will be subject to new interest holder liability as a result of the board’s amendment to the articles of incorporation. **Section 126** amends s. 607.1009, F.S., which governs the effect of interest holder liability imposed as a result of amendment to articles of incorporation for both parties who incurred new interest holder liability and those whose interest holder liability is affected.

Section 130 creates s. 607.1023, F.S., to adopt language from the Model Act that provides a method of voting for directors, though a corporation must elect to be governed by this section in its bylaws for it to have effect.

Sections 121-125 and 127-128 make clarifying or conforming changes to ss. 607.1004-1008 and 607.1020-607.1021, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Mergers and Share Exchanges (Sections 131-146)

Current Florida law does not anticipate the merger of a domestic corporation with certain types of business entities, e.g., a limited liability corporation, or a foreign entity. **Section 131** makes several changes to s. 607.1101, F.S., to accommodate such mergers that ultimately create or merge into a corporation.

Similarly, **Section 132** expands language in s. 607.1102, F.S., regarding share exchanges to accommodate such transactions between a Florida corporation and a non-corporate domestic entity or a foreign entity. A share exchange is a method by which a corporation acquires the equity interests of an acquired entity in exchange for its own equity interest or other consideration. This results in the acquired entity being wholly owned by the acquiring entity, but continuing to exist as a distinct entity.¹⁸

Section 133 provides a more clear process under s. 607.1103, F.S., for shareholder approval of a merger or share exchange where a domestic corporation either is a party to the merger, or is the acquired entity in the share exchange.

This section also allows the newly formed entity's articles of incorporation to eliminate or limit separate voting rights, except when:

- The merger or share exchange includes an amendment to the new corporation's articles of incorporation that requires voting by separate groups or classes, and
- The transaction will not affect a substantive business combination.

A domestic corporation that acquires another in a share exchange is not required to seek its shareholders' approval. Conversely, shareholders that do not have voting rights tied to their shares in a corporation that is acquired under a share exchange may not seek to vote on the plan.

Section 134 creates provisions in s. 607.11035, F.S., that permit the merger of corporations without a shareholder vote if a tender offer is first made to shareholders, and ultimately results in the offeror's acquisition of a large enough interest in the corporation to satisfy the shareholder approval that would otherwise be required. This form of merger is often called a "two-step merger."¹⁹ In order to prevent predatory share devaluation of the shares held by (now minority) shareholders who did not sell in response to the tender offer, this section implements a guarantee that the unsold shares retain their right to receive the same payment offered in the initial tender offer after their shares have been converted to the stock of the new entity created as a result of the two-step merger.

Section 135 amends s. 607.1104, F.S., to subject mergers between a parent corporation and its subsidiary, or between a parent corporation's two subsidiaries, to the general merger provisions in ss. 607.1101-607.1107, F.S. Additionally, a parent corporation must give notice of a successful merger to each of the subsidiary's shareholders within 10 days of the merger's effective date. This notice requirement replaces a provision that required the parent company to wait 30 days after it sent notice of the merger to shareholders to file its notice of merger with the Department.

¹⁸ Duane Morris, *Florida Legislature Unanimously Approves New Limited Liability Company Act* (Jan. 31, 2014), https://www.duanemorris.com/alerts/florida_legislature_unanimously_approves_new_LLC_act_5106.html (last visited Mar. 11, 2019).

¹⁹ Daniel Nunn, *The Wolf at the Door: Florida's Takeover Laws Revisited*, 83 Fla. B.J. 10, (Mar. 2009), available at <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/the-wolf-at-the-door-floridas-takeover-laws-revisited/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2019).

Section 137 provides for the formalization of articles of mergers and articles of share exchanges, the content required in the articles, the method of filing the articles with the Department, and the effective date of the articles by amendment to s. 607.1105, F.S.

Section 138 amends s. 607.1106, F.S., to clarify the effect of mergers or share exchanges on domestic and foreign corporations, especially to accommodate the inclusion of non-corporate business entities and foreign corporations in these transactions. Section 138 addresses the merger's or share exchanges' effect on its parties':

- Corporate existence;
- Property ownership;
- Debt obligations, other liabilities, and creditor rights;
- Ongoing proceedings;
- Articles of incorporation, bylaws, or organic rules; and
- Shareholders' rights and interest holder liability.

Section 139 conforms s. 607.1107, F.S., regarding the abandonment of a merger or share exchange, to the Model Act by allowing a statement of abandonment that is signed by all the parties to result in an abandonment after articles of merger have been filed with the Department, but before they have become effective. Section 607.1107, F.S., currently only permits abandonment before the articles have been filed with the Department.

Sections 140-146 delete ss. 607.1108-607.1115, F.S., governing mergers and conversions. These subjects are re-organized and re-written by sections 131-139 (mergers, *supra*) and 152-157 (conversions, *infra*) of the bill.

Domestication (Sections 147-151)

Current law allows a non-U.S. corporation to become a Florida domestic corporation by the process of domestication. **Section 147** creates s. 607.11920, F.S., to expand the types of domestications permitted in Florida to include in-bound domestications by foreign corporations and out-bound domestications by Florida corporations into foreign corporations. Specifically, this section allows Florida corporations to domesticate into foreign corporations organized in other U.S. states and foreign corporations organized in other U.S. states to become Florida domestic corporations, if the organic law of the foreign corporation allows it.

Sections 148-150 create ss. 607.11921-607.11923, F.S., to establish the formalization of a plan of domestication of a domestic corporation into a foreign jurisdiction, govern the effectiveness and contents of articles of domestication, and permit the amendment or abandonment of the plan under certain circumstances.

Section 151 creates s. 607.11924, F.S., to outline the effect of the domestication on the domesticating corporation, including the ultimate ownership of property, debt and other obligations, and shares as between the two corporations, ultimate locus of governance, and overall duties.

Conversions (152-157)

Section 152 creates s. 607.11930, F.S., to generally address all conversion actions (conversion of domestic corporations into domestic or foreign entities and domestic or foreign entities into domestic corporations), and require the adoption of a plan of conversion to effectuate such actions. **Sections 153 and 154** create ss. 607.11931-607.11932, F.S., to outline the information required in a plan of conversion and the method of adoption of the plan of conversion by the subsumed corporation's board of directors and shareholders. Additionally, Section 154 provides for notice requirements to shareholders of the subsumed corporation, shareholders affected by interest holder liability because of the conversion, and shareholders who may become a general partner of the converted partnership or limited partnerships.

Sections 155 establishes in s. 607.11933, F.S., the method for filing the articles of conversion and their effective date, as well as the effect of such filing on the business governance structure of the subsumed corporation or entity in. **Section 157** more specifically addresses the transfer of property, debt, records and rules, and other specific rights or duties to the converted entity with the creation of s. 607.11935, F.S. **Section 156** creates s. 607.11934, F.S., to allow a converting entity to amend or abandon its plan of conversion.

Sale of Assets (Sections 158-159)

A corporation may sell its assets in the regular course of business without approval by shareholders, unless otherwise required by its articles of incorporation. **Section 158** amends s. 607.1201, F.S., to permit a corporation to distribute its assets pro rata to shareholders, except for as part of a dissolution, without shareholder approval. **Section 159** amends s. 607.1202, F.S., to provide that if a board wishes to dispose of all, or substantially all, of its property not in the usual course of business, then it must submit such proposal to a shareholder vote with a resolution that recommends the sale, unless specific factors apply.

Appraisal Rights (Sections 160-173)

Minority shareholders may choose to sell their shares in a corporation by asserting appraisal rights, which triggers a fair payout for their shares. This right is limited to situations where a material change in the relationship between the corporation and the shareholder is proposed, e.g., a merger or share exchange, but the shareholder lacks a right to vote on the transaction.

Section 160 defines "interested transaction" and related terms in s. 607.1301, F.S., for purposes of an appraisal of a corporation's shares. This section also deletes language in s. 607.1301(5)(c), F.S., to clarify that an appraisal of fair value of a share should be determined without any discount for the share's lack of marketability or minority status.

Section 161 expands by amendment to s. 607.1302, F.S., the transactions pursuant to which a shareholder may exercise his or her appraisal rights to include conversion and domestication transactions. This section also updates definitions of public companies that are exempt from the exercise of shareholder appraisal rights.

Section 163 amends the notice required under s. 607.1320, F.S., which requires corporations to notify shareholders of proposed actions that trigger appraisal rights under s. 607.1302, F.S. Specifically, this section requires a statement of possible appraisal rights and appropriate law to be sent with notice of the meeting at which shareholder consent is solicited for specific transactions. If approval of a corporate action that would trigger appraisal rights is sought by written consent, then notice of the appraisal rights must be sent to any nonconsenting or nonvoting shareholders at least 10 days before the corporate action becomes effective. Additionally, this section requires the corporation to send pertinent financial documents to its shareholders with the notice of appraisal rights.

Section 164 amends s. 607.1321, F.S., regarding a shareholder's assertion of his or her appraisal rights. If a shareholder ultimately decides to assert appraisal rights, he or she must deliver notice of intent before the proposed transaction is effectuated and abstain from voting on the matter, as described in Section 164 of the bill. Additionally, the bill dictates that a shareholder who wishes to assert appraisal rights pursuant to a proposed two-step merger in which there is no shareholder vote, can assert appraisal rights by delivery of his or her shares to the corporation with intent to demand payment if the transaction occurs and holding back any of his or her shares from the tender offer.

Section 173 limits, via creation of s. 607.1340, F.S., a shareholder from challenging a corporate transaction under which he could have asserted appraisal rights, except on the basis of fraud, material misrepresentation, omission of fact, or illegal approval.

Sections 162-172 make clarifying and conforming changes to s. 607.1303-607.1333, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Dissolution (Sections 174-195)

Sections 174-177 update ss. 607.1401-607.1405, F.S., which allow a corporation to dissolve at the action of its board and, if applicable, shareholders. The bill makes several conforming changes relating to the articles of dissolution a corporation must file to formalize the dissolution, and adds a grace period that allows the corporation to revoke its dissolution within 120 days of the effective date of its articles of dissolution.

Section 178 clarifies that a "dissolved corporation," as defined in s. 1405, F.S., is one whose articles of dissolution are effective, and includes a "successor entity" that may exist solely for the purpose of prosecuting and defending suits on behalf of the dissolved corporation. This permits the dissolved corporation to wind up and fully liquidate its assets in an appropriate manner, while still meeting its duty to engage in ongoing matters. This section also adds language allowing a dissolved corporation to fix a new record date for purposes of liquidation of assets to its shareholders.

Section 179 updates the process for disposition of known claims against a dissolved corporation in s. 607.1406, F.S., requiring the dissolved corporation to give written notice to such claimants no later than 270 days before the date that is 3 years after the effect of the articles of dissolution. This section also removes contingent claims and those claims that are effective upon an event

that may occur after dissolution from the definition of known claims that must receive notice from the dissolved corporation.

Sections 181-182 create new ss. 607.1408-607.1409, F.S., to provide for the enforcement of a claim against a dissolved corporation, and for a procedure for handling unknown and contingent claims against a dissolved corporation.

Section 183 creates s. 607.1410, F.S., to add to a director's duties the payment of claims and distributions of assets during a corporation's dissolution or liquidation. This section also shields directors from liability against claims of breach of these duties if the corporation was properly dissolved.

Section 180 makes clarifying and conforming changes to s. 607.1407, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Administrative Dissolution

Sections 184-187 amend ss. 607.1420-607.1423, F.S., to add failure to pay a fee or penalty to the Department as bases for the administrative dissolution of a corporation by the Department. These sections also clarify that an administratively dissolved corporation may wind up its affairs and liquidate its assets. If a corporation wants to be reinstated pursuant to administrative dissolution, it may file the appropriate forms and fees with the Department. The Department may deny reinstatement, and the corporation may appeal its denial to Leon County Circuit Court. Current law allows the corporation to file such a petition where the involved state agency or corporation resides.

Judicial Dissolution

A shareholder may request that a court dissolve a corporation in which he or she owns shares for several reasons ranging from fraud to ineffectiveness. **Section 188** amends s. 607.1430, F.S., to add oppressive conduct by the corporation as grounds for dissolution, but limit it as a valid claim only for those who own at least 10 percent of the corporation's outstanding shares. This section clarifies how a shareholder agreement alternative to judicial dissolution takes effect.

Section 189 amends s. 607.1431, F.S., to require a corporation defendant in a judicial dissolution proceeding to notify all shareholders, other than the petitioner of the proceeding, that they may avoid dissolution by electing to purchase the petitioner's shares. This remedy exists in current law, but the required notice is new. **Section 192** grants, by amendment to s. 607.1434, F.S., a court in a judicial dissolution proceeding broader discretion to order remedies other than those outlined in statute to avoid dissolution.

Section 194 amends s. 607.1436, to require as a matter of public policy that a corporation that elects to purchase its shares instead of dissolving to follow through on that transaction, and prohibit the corporation from ultimately dissolving.

Section 195 removes a requirement from s. 607.14401, F.S., that a dissolved corporation deposit funds owed to a missing or incompetent shareholder with the Department of Financial Services *within 6 months* of the final liquidating distribution.

Sections 190, 191, and 193 make clarifying and conforming changes to ss. 607.1432-607.1433, and 607.1435, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Foreign Corporations (Sections 196-216)

Foreign corporations operate under a certificate of authority issued by the Department and, like domestic corporations, must notify the Department of their registered agent, principal office, and other pertinent information. A foreign corporation must amend its certificate of authority to reflect any change in its operating document within 90 days of the occurrence. If a foreign corporation attempts to file for a certificate of authority under a name that is already in use by another business entity, it must find a distinguishable alternative or, pursuant to changes made to s. 607.1506, F.S., in **Section 202**, it may register under a name that is not distinguishable with the written consent of the other entity.

Section 197 creates s. 607.15015, F.S., to clarify that a foreign corporation's organic law governs its organization, internal affairs, and shareholders' interest holder liability. **Section 198** further provides by amendment to s. 607.1502, F.S., that a foreign corporation's organic law applies when the corporation fails to have a certificate of authority to transact business in Florida, and the Florida Secretary of State is the designated agent for the corporation should any unauthorized transactions occur in Florida.

Sections 203-206 amends or creates ss. 607.1507-607.15091, F.S., to parallel the requirements regarding a foreign corporation's registered agent to those of a domestic corporation's registered agent.

Sections 207 creates a new notice delivery requirement in s. 607.15092, F.S., to reflect electronic communication. **Section 208** implements in s. 607.15101, F.S., a specific order for alternative service if a foreign corporation's registered agent is unavailable for service.

Sections 210 and 211 create ss. 607.1521 and 607.1522, F.S., respectively, to specify that a converting, merging, or dissolving foreign corporation must give specific notice to the Department of the transaction and the effect thereof on its certificate of authority.

Section 212 amends s. 607.1523, F.S., to grant the Florida Department of Legal Affairs authority to maintain an action to enjoin a foreign corporation from transacting business in violation of ch. 607, F.S.

Section 213 makes clarifying and conforming changes to s. 607.1530, F.S., and adopts the substance of s. 607.1531, F.S., which is deleted by **Section 214**.

Section 215 amends s. 607.15315, F.S., to permit the reinstatement of a foreign corporation's certificate of authority following its revocation, but removes as a basis for reinstatement that the grounds for revocation did not or no longer exist. **Section 216** amends s. 607.1532, F.S., to designate Leon County Circuit Court as proper venue for appeals of the Department's denial of a foreign corporation's petition for reinstatement.

Records and Reports (Sections 217-224)

Section 217 replaces a corporation's duty to "keep as permanent records" with a duty to "maintain" certain documents in s. 607.1601, F.S. This section is also updated to explicitly include financial statements and notices required under s. 607.0120(11), F.S., within the record of documents that a corporation must maintain.

Sections 218-221 amend ss. 607.1602-607.1605, F.S., to reduce the number of days a corporation has to produce *certain records* upon shareholder request from 15 to 5, and permit such production by electronic format. A new extension of a shareholder right to inspect corporate documents of a corporation's subsidiary has been added. The bill further entitles a shareholder who must resort to court action to enforce his or her right of inspection to reimbursement of attorney fees and reasonable expenses expended in the proceeding. Lastly, these sections clarify a court's right to impose reasonable confidentiality requirements on any court-ordered right to inspection and copy of a corporation's documents.

Section 222 revises s. 607.1620, F.S., regarding the corporation's requirement to provide *financial statements* and any related public accountant report or audit to its shareholders. Currently, a corporation must furnish shareholders with its annual financial report within 120 days of the close of each fiscal year. This section now requires a corporation to furnish such financial information to a shareholder within 5 days of his or her request. If the shareholder's initial request so specifies, the corporation must also give notice to all other shareholders of the financial information's availability. The corporation may provide the requested documents by posting them on its website, place reasonable confidentiality restrictions on their distribution, and decline the request if the corporation determines that it was made in bad faith or for an improper purpose.

A shareholder may enforce his or her right to review the corporation's financial documents in a circuit court in the applicable county. The corporation has the burden of demonstrating that its refusal to furnish its financial documents to a shareholder and its restrictions placed on the distribution of its financial documents are reasonable or made in good faith. Reimbursement of attorney fees and costs is available to a prevailing shareholder in these proceedings.

Section 223 deletes s. 607.1622, F.S., which requires a corporation to notify shareholders when it provides indemnification or an advance of funds to any director, officer, employee, or agent.

Section 224 makes conforming changes to the corporate annual reporting requirements in s. 607.1622, F.S. This section also:

- Removes a requirement that the corporation include in its annual report language permitting a voluntary contribution to be transferred into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund;
- Deletes a provision requiring each report to be executed by a corporate officer or director;
- Clarifies the effect of multiple submissions of an annual report in one year—that any subsequent is treated as an amended report for that calendar year;
- Confirms the corporation's right to defend itself in an action in this state, but re-asserts that it may not prosecute or maintain an action if it has failed to timely file an annual report and related fees; and

- Requires as a condition of merger, conversion, share exchange, or domestication of any corporation active under ch. 607, F.S., that the corporation is active and current in its filings with the Department.

Sections 196, 199-201, and 209 make clarifying and conforming changes to ss. 607.1501, 607.1503-607.1505, and 607.1520, F.S., that do not substantively affect existing law.

Miscellaneous

The bill makes several changes throughout, including:

- Updating the language used to identify public companies from those “listed on a national securities exchange” to those “registered pursuant to s. 12 of the Securities Act of 1934;”
- Replacing “act” with “chapter” to refer to the FBCA, ch. 607, F.S.;
- Replacing “executed” with “signed;”
- Ensuring the consistent use of “department” to refer to the Florida Department of State; and
- Including Limited Liability Companies as a type of eligible entity throughout the chapter.

Sections 225 and 226 provide that ch. 607, F.S., applies to all corporations registered or authorized to do business in Florida on January 1, 2020. **Section 229** is a savings provision that permits any pending action, proceeding, or right accrued prior to January 1, 2020, to be completed as though the amendments pursuant to this act had not become effective. **Section 230** is a severability clause that ensures provisions in the bill remain valid if any other provision is held invalid.

Sections 231-291 make non-substantive, conforming changes to parts II and III of ch. 607, F.S., as well as chs. 331, 339, 605, 617, 620, 621, 631, 658, 662, 663, and 694, F.S.

Section 292 provides an effective date of January 1, 2020.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Corporations and those wishing to incorporate will need to familiarize themselves with the extensive updates to ch. 607, F.S.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

It is unclear what filing fee applies to an article of amendment filed pursuant to s. 607.0102, F.S.

Section 607.0742(2), F.S., regarding notice required to institute a shareholder derivative action, may be clearer if it included guidance for shareholders who make a demand of a corporation as required, but such demand is ignored for the entire duration of the required 90-day waiting period. Lines 4000-4001 require a shareholder to show that his or her demand was “refused, rejected, or ignored by the board of directors *prior* to the expiration of 90 days...”

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 607.0101, 607.0102, 607.0120, 607.0121, 607.0122, 607.0123, 607.0124, 607.0125, 607.0126, 607.0127, 607.0128, 607.0130, 607.01401, 607.0141, 607.0201, 607.0202, 607.0203, 607.0204, 607.0205, 607.0206, 607.0207, 607.0301, 607.0302, 607.0303, 607.0304, 607.0401, 607.0403, 607.0501, 607.0502, 607.0504, 607.0505, 607.0601, 607.0602, 607.0604, 607.0620, 607.0621, 607.0622, 607.0623, 607.0624, 607.0625, 607.0626, 607.0627, 607.0630, 607.0631, 607.06401, 607.0701, 607.0702, 607.0703, 607.0704, 607.0705, 607.0706, 607.0707, 607.0720, 607.0721, 607.0722, 607.0723, 607.0724, 607.0725, 607.0726, 607.0728, 607.0730, 607.0731, 607.0732, 607.0801, 607.0802, 607.0803, 607.0804, 607.0805, 607.0806, 607.0807, 607.0808, 607.0809, 607.0820, 607.0821, 607.0823, 607.0824, 607.0825, 607.0830, 607.0831, 607.0832, 607.0833, 607.0834, 607.08401, 607.0842, 607.0850, 607.0901, 607.0902, 607.1001, 607.1002, 607.10025, 607.1003, 607.1004, 607.1005, 607.1006, 607.1007, 607.1008, 607.1009, 607.1020, 607.1021, 607.1022, 607.1101, 607.1102, 607.1103, 607.1104, 607.11045, 607.1105, 607.1106, 607.1107, 607.1201, 607.1202, 607.1301, 607.1302, 607.1303, 607.1320, 607.1321, 607.1322, 607.1323, 607.1324, 607.1326,

607.1330, 607.1331, 607.1332, 607.1333, 607.1401, 607.1402, 607.1403, 607.1404, 607.1405, 607.1406, 607.1407, 607.1420, 607.1422, 607.1423, 607.1430, 607.1431, 607.1432, 607.1433, 607.1434, 607.1435, 607.1436, 607.14401, 607.1501, 607.1502, 607.1503, 607.1504, 607.1505, 607.1506, 607.1507, 607.1508, 607.1509, 607.15101, 607.1520, 607.1530, 607.15315, 607.1532, 607.1601, 607.1602, 607.1603, 607.1604, 607.1605, 607.1620, 607.1622, 607.1701, 607.1702, 607.1711, 607.1907, 607.504, 607.604, 605.0102, 605.0105, 605.0112, 605.0113, 605.0114, 605.0115, 605.0116, 605.0117, 605.0118, 605.0207, 605.0209, 605.0210, 605.0211, 605.0215, 605.04092, 605.0410, 605.0702, 605.0706, 605.0715, 605.0716, 605.0803, 605.0903, 605.0904, 605.0906, 605.0907, 605.0908, 605.0910, 605.0911, 605.0912, 605.1025, 605.1035, 605.1061, 605.1063, 605.1072, 617.0302, 617.0501, 617.0831, 617.1102, 617.1108, 617.1507, 620.1108, 620.2104, 620.2108, 620.8918, 621.12, 865.09, 662.150, 331.355, 339.12, 628.530, 631.0515, 658.44, 663.03, 663.403, and 694.16.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 607.0143, 607.0208, 607.04021, 607.0503, 607.05031, 607.05032, 607.0709, 607.0729, 607.0741, 607.0742, 607.0742, 607.0744, 607.0745, 607.0746, 607.0747, 607.0748, 607.0749, 607.08081, 607.0826, 607.08411, 607.0851, 607.0852, 607.0853, 607.0854, 607.0855, 607.0857, 607.0858, 607.0859, 607.1023, 607.11035, 607.11920, 607.11921, 607.11922, 607.11923, 607.11924, 607.11930, 607.11931, 607.11932, 607.11933, 607.11934, 607.11935, 607.1340, 607.1408, 607.1409, 607.1410, 607.15015, 607.15091, 607.15092, 607.1521, 607.1522, 607.1523, 607.1908, 605.01125, 605.09091, 617.05015, and 620.11085.

This bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 607.07401, 607.1108, 607.1109, 607.11101, 607.1112, 607.1113, 607.1114, 607.1115, 607.1421, 607.1531, 607.1621, and 607.1801.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Commerce and Tourism on March 11, 2019:

The committee substitute reverts to current law to allow corporations to provide notice of dissolution to unknown claimants by either newspaper publication or filing with the Department of State.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.