

**BILL HISTORY FOR SENATE BILL 333 (LRB -3790)**

An Act to repeal 180.1107, 180.1709 and 183.1203 (1); to renumber 178.43, 178.46 (1), 179.14 (1), 179.16 (1), 183.0107 (1), 183.0108 (1) and 551.02 (1); to renumber and amend 183.1203 (2) and 185.83 (1) (b); to amend 77.21 (1e), 178.46 (2) and (4), 178.48 (1) (intro.), 178.51 (1), 179.03 (2), 179.04 (1) (b), 179.11 (1) (intro.), 179.12 (1) (intro.), 179.13 (intro.), 179.185 (1), 179.24 (1) (b), subchapter VIII (title) of chapter 179 [precedes 179.70], 179.82 (intro.), 179.82 (4), 179.86 (1), 179.88, 180.0103 (16), 180.0122 (1) (intro.), 180.0122 (1) (j), 180.0122 (1) (x), 180.0122 (1) (y), 180.0125 (1), 180.0402 (1), 180.0501 (2) and (3), subchapter XI (title) of chapter 180 [precedes 180.1100], 180.1101 (1), 180.1101 (2) (a), 180.1101 (2) (c), 180.1101 (3) (a), 180.1102 (1), 180.1102 (2) (a), 180.1102 (2) (c), 180.1103 (6), 180.1104 (title), 180.1104 (1), 180.1104 (2) (b), 180.1104 (3), 180.1104 (4), 180.1104 (5), 180.1105 (1) (intro.), 180.1105 (1) (b), 180.1106 (1) (a), 180.1106 (1) (b), 180.1106 (1) (c), 180.1106 (1) (d), 180.1106 (1) (f), 180.1150 (3) (e), 180.1421 (1) and (2), 180.1504 (1) (intro.) and (b), 180.1507 (2), 180.1507 (3), 180.1530 (1m) and (2), 180.1531 (1) and (2) (a) and (b), 180.1532 (1), 181.0122 (1) (intro.), 181.0122 (1) (j), 181.0402 (1), 181.0501 (2), 181.0501 (3), subchapter XI (title) of chapter 181 [precedes 181.1100], 181.1101 (1), 181.1101 (2) (a), 181.1101 (2) (d), 181.1101 (3) (a), 181.1103 (6), 181.1104 (title), 181.1104 (1), 181.1104 (2) (b), 181.1104 (3), 181.1104 (4), 181.1105 (intro.), 181.1105 (2), 181.1106 (1), 181.1106 (2), 181.1106 (4), 181.1107 (2), 181.1108, 181.1421 (1), 181.1421 (4) (b), 181.1422 (2) (a) (intro.), 181.1423 (2), 181.1504 (1) (b), 181.1507 (2), 181.1507 (3), 181.1531 (1), 181.1531 (2) (a), (b) and (c) 1. (intro.), 181.1531 (3), 181.1532 (1), 183.0104 (1), 183.0105 (1) (b), 183.0105 (1) (c), 183.0108 (3), 183.0110 (1), 183.0114 (1) (intro.), 183.0114 (1) (j), 183.0114 (1) (w), 183.0802 (3), 183.0901 (4) (intro.), 183.1001 (1), 183.1006 (1) (a), 183.1006 (1) (b), 183.1020 (2), 183.1020 (3), 183.1021 (1) and (2), 183.1021 (3), 183.1022 (1), subchapter XII (title) of chapter 183 [precedes 183.1200], 183.1201 (2), 183.1201 (3), 183.1202 (3), 183.1202 (4), 183.1206, 184.10 (4), 185.48 (4), 185.48 (6), 185.83 (1) (intro.), 551.23 (8) (g), 551.23 (10), 551.23 (11) (a) and 611.72 (2); to repeal and recreate 180.0122 (1) (o), 180.1106 (1) (e), 181.0103 (7), 181.0103 (23), 181.0122 (1) (o), 181.1106 (3), 181.1106 (5), 181.1403 (1) (e), 181.1421 (2), 183.0114 (1) (n), 183.0204, 183.1204 (1) and 183.1205; and to create 71.80 (21), 71.80 (22), 73.03 (58), 77.25 (6d), 77.25 (6m), 77.61 (15), 178.43 (2m) and (3m), 178.46 (1g), 178.48 (4), 179.045, 179.14 (1g), 179.16 (1g), 179.70, 179.76, 179.77, 180.0103 (7g), 180.0103 (7k), 180.0121 (1) (a) 4., 180.0122 (1) (yr), 180.0122 (5), 180.1100, 180.1105 (1) (c), 180.1105 (1) (d), 180.1106 (1) (am), 180.1106 (3), 180.1161, 180.1302 (1) (cm), 180.1421 (2m), 180.1531 (2m), 181.0103 (10m) and (10p), 181.0121 (1) (a) 4., 181.0122 (1) (yr), 181.0122 (5), 181.1100, 181.1105 (3) (c), 181.1105 (5), 181.1105 (6), 181.1106 (1m), 181.1106 (6), 181.1161, 181.1531 (2g), 181.1531 (2r), 183.0107 (1g), 183.0108 (1g), 183.0109 (1) (a) 5., 183.0114 (1) (mp), 183.0114 (3), 183.0404 (2) (fm), 183.0504, 183.1021 (2g), 183.1021 (2r), 183.1200, 183.1202 (6), 183.1207, 185.83 (1) (b) 2., 185.83 (1) (bm), 185.83 (1m), 551.02 (1g) and 551.31 (1) (d) of the statutes; relating to: merger and conversion of business entities, exemptions from securities registration requirements and licensing requirements for securities broker-dealers and securities agents, registered agents for business entities, filing of documents relating to certain business entities, administrative dissolution of business entities, amended certificates of authority for certain foreign business entities, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation. (FE)

2001

- 12-06. S. Introduced by Senators **M. Meyer, Cowles, Burke, Darling, S. Fitzgerald, Huelsman, Kanavas, Roessler and Harsdorf**; cosponsored by Representatives **Jeskewitz, Plale, Vrakas, Duff, Grothman, Hines, Krawczyk, La Fave, Lassa, McCormick, Olsen, Stone, Townsend, Urban, Walker, Sykora and Kreibich**.
- 12-06. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations . . . . . 471
- 12-12. S. Public hearing held.
- 12-12. S. Executive action taken.
- 12-14. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 12-19. S. Report passage recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, Ayes 6, Noes 0 . . . . . 481
- 12-19. S. Available for scheduling.

2002

- 01-08. S. Referred to joint committee on Finance pursuant to Senate Rule 41 (1)(e) . . . . . 497
- 02-04. S. **LRB correction** . . . . . 551
- 02-05. S. Executive action taken.
- 02-05. S. Report introduction and adoption of Senate amendment 1 recommended by joint committee on Finance, Ayes 15, Noes 0 (**LRB a1238**)
- 02-05. S. Report passage as amended recommended by joint committee on Finance, Ayes 15, Noes 0
- 02-05. S. Available for scheduling.
- 02-05. S. Rules suspended and taken up . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Read a second time . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Senate amendment 1 **adopted** . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Ordered to a third reading . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Rules suspended . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Read a third time and **passed**, Ayes 31, Noes 1 . . . . . 556
- 02-05. S. Ordered immediately messaged . . . . . 556
- 02-07. A. Received from Senate . . . . . 644
- 02-07. A. Read first time and referred to committee on Rules . . . . . 644
- 02-07. A. Rules suspended to withdraw from committee on Rules and take up . . . . . 648
- 02-07. A. Read a second time . . . . . 648
- 02-07. A. Ordered to a third reading . . . . . 649
- 02-07. A. Rules suspended . . . . . 649
- 02-07. A. Read a third time and **concurred in**, Ayes 93, Noes 3 . . . . . 649

02-07. A. Ordered immediately messaged ..... 649  
02-13. S. Received from Assembly concurred in.

**2001  
ENROLLED BILL**

01en S B-333

**ADOPTED DOCUMENTS:**

Orig     Engr         SubAmdt     

01-3790 /

Amendments to above (if none, write "NONE"): 3A1

Corrections - show date (if none, write "NONE"): 2-04-02 (pts)

Topic Merger and conversion of  
business entities

2/13/02    [Signature]  
Date                      Enrolling Drafter

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State of Wisconsin  
2001-2002 LEGISLATURE

**CORRECTIONS IN:**

**2001 SENATE BILL 333**

Prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
(January 31, 2002)

1. Page 75, line 14: delete "merger," and substitute "merger,".

## 2001 SENATE BILL 333

December 6, 2001 – Introduced by Senators M. MEYER, COWLES, BURKE, DARLING, S. FITZGERALD, HUELSMAN, KANAVAS, ROESSLER and HARSDORF, cosponsored by Representatives JESKEWITZ, PLALE, VRAKAS, DUFF, GROTHMAN, HINES, KRAWCZYK, LA FAVE, LASSA, McCORMICK, OLSEN, STONE, TOWNSEND, URBAN, WALKER, SYKORA and KREIBICH. Referred to Committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations.

1     **AN ACT** *to repeal* 180.1107, 180.1709 and 183.1203 (1); *to renumber* 178.43,  
2     178.46 (1), 179.14 (1), 179.16 (1), 183.0107 (1), 183.0108 (1) and 551.02 (1); *to*  
3     *renumber and amend* 183.1203 (2) and 185.83 (1) (b); *to amend* 77.21 (1e),  
4     178.46 (2) and (4), 178.48 (1) (intro.), 178.51 (1), 179.03 (2), 179.04 (1) (b), 179.11  
5     (1) (intro.), 179.12 (1) (intro.), 179.13 (intro.), 179.185 (1), 179.24 (1) (b),  
6     subchapter VIII (title) of chapter 179 [precedes 179.70], 179.82 (intro.), 179.82  
7     (4), 179.86 (1), 179.88, 180.0103 (16), 180.0122 (1) (intro.), 180.0122 (1) (j),  
8     180.0122 (1) (x), 180.0122 (1) (y), 180.0125 (1), 180.0402 (1), 180.0501 (2) and  
9     (3), subchapter XI (title) of chapter 180 [precedes 180.1100], 180.1101 (1),  
10    180.1101 (2) (a), 180.1101 (2) (c), 180.1101 (3) (a), 180.1102 (1), 180.1102 (2) (a),  
11    180.1102 (2) (c), 180.1103 (6), 180.1104 (title), 180.1104 (1), 180.1104 (2) (b),  
12    180.1104 (3), 180.1104 (4), 180.1104 (5), 180.1105 (1) (intro.), 180.1105 (1) (b),  
13    180.1106 (1) (a), 180.1106 (1) (b), 180.1106 (1) (c), 180.1106 (1) (d), 180.1106 (1)  
14    (f), 180.1150 (3) (e), 180.1421 (1) and (2), 180.1504 (1) (intro.) and (b), 180.1507

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1 (2), 180.1507 (3), 180.1530 (1m) and (2), 180.1531 (1) and (2) (a) and (b),  
2 180.1532 (1), 181.0122 (1) (intro.), 181.0122 (1) (j), 181.0402 (1), 181.0501 (2),  
3 181.0501 (3), subchapter XI (title) of chapter 181 [precedes 181.1100], 181.1101  
4 (1), 181.1101 (2) (a), 181.1101 (2) (d), 181.1101 (3) (a), 181.1103 (6), 181.1104  
5 (title), 181.1104 (1), 181.1104 (2) (b), 181.1104 (3), 181.1104 (4), 181.1105  
6 (intro.), 181.1105 (2), 181.1106 (1), 181.1106 (2), 181.1106 (4), 181.1107 (2),  
7 181.1108, 181.1421 (1), 181.1421 (4) (b), 181.1422 (2) (a) (intro.), 181.1423 (2),  
8 181.1504 (1) (b), 181.1507 (2), 181.1507 (3), 181.1531 (1), 181.1531 (2) (a), (b)  
9 and (c) 1. (intro.), 181.1531 (3), 181.1532 (1), 183.0104 (1), 183.0105 (1) (b),  
10 183.0105 (1) (c), 183.0108 (3), 183.0110 (1), 183.0114 (1) (intro.), 183.0114 (1) (j),  
11 183.0114 (1) (w), 183.0802 (3), 183.0901 (4) (intro.), 183.1001 (1), 183.1006 (1)  
12 (a), 183.1006 (1) (b), 183.1020 (2), 183.1020 (3), 183.1021 (1) and (2), 183.1021  
13 (3), 183.1022 (1), subchapter XII (title) of chapter 183 [precedes 183.1200],  
14 183.1201 (2), 183.1201 (3), 183.1202 (3), 183.1202 (4), 183.1206, 184.10 (4),  
15 185.48 (4), 185.48 (6), 185.83 (1) (intro.), 551.23 (8) (g), 551.23 (10), 551.23 (11)  
16 (a) and 611.72 (2); **to repeal and recreate** 180.0122 (1) (o), 180.1106 (1) (e),  
17 181.0103 (7), 181.0103 (23), 181.0122 (1) (o), 181.1106 (3), 181.1106 (5),  
18 181.1403 (1) (e), 181.1421 (2), 183.0114 (1) (n), 183.0204, 183.1204 (1) and  
19 183.1205; and **to create** 71.80 (21), 71.80 (22), 73.03 (58), 77.25 (6d), 77.25 (6m),  
20 77.61 (15), 178.43 (2m) and (3m), 178.46 (1g), 178.48 (4), 179.045, 179.14 (1g),  
21 179.16 (1g), 179.70, 179.76, 179.77, 180.0103 (7g), 180.0103 (7k), 180.0121 (1)  
22 (a) 4., 180.0122 (1) (yr), 180.0122 (5), 180.1100, 180.1105 (1) (c), 180.1105 (1) (d),  
23 180.1106 (1) (am), 180.1106 (3), 180.1161, 180.1302 (1) (cm), 180.1421 (2m),  
24 180.1531 (2m), 181.0103 (10m) and (10p), 181.0121 (1) (a) 4., 181.0122 (1) (yr),  
25 181.0122 (5), 181.1100, 181.1105 (3) (c), 181.1105 (5), 181.1105 (6), 181.1106

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1 (1m), 181.1106 (6), 181.1161, 181.1531 (2g), 181.1531 (2r), 183.0107 (1g),  
2 183.0108 (1g), 183.0109 (1) (a) 5., 183.0114 (1) (mp), 183.0114 (3), 183.0404 (2)  
3 (fm), 183.0504, 183.1021 (2g), 183.1021 (2r), 183.1200, 183.1202 (6), 183.1207,  
4 185.83 (1) (b) 2., 185.83 (1) (bm), 185.83 (1m), 551.02 (1g) and 551.31 (1) (d) of  
5 the statutes; **relating to:** merger and conversion of business entities,  
6 exemptions from securities registration requirements and licensing  
7 requirements for securities broker-dealers and securities agents, registered  
8 agents for business entities, filing of documents relating to certain business  
9 entities, administrative dissolution of business entities, amended certificates  
10 of authority for certain foreign business entities, granting rule-making  
11 authority, and making an appropriation.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

***Conversion of business entities***

Current law does not permit the conversion of one form of business entity into another form of business entity. This bill authorizes limited partnerships, limited liability companies, business corporations, and nonstock corporations to convert into any other forms of business entity. Under the bill, the business entity that is to be converted into another business entity must submit to the department of financial institutions (DFI) the plan of conversion, a statement that the conversion was approved in accordance with the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business entity, and the registered agent and registered office, record agent, and record office, or other similar agent and office of the business entity before and after conversion.

The bill requires that the plan of conversion set forth the name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction governing the business entity that is to be converted; the name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction that will govern the business entity after conversion; the terms and conditions of the conversion; the manner and basis of converting the shares or other ownership interests of the business entity that is to be converted into the shares or other ownership interests of the new form of business entity; the effective date and time of the conversion; a copy of the articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document of the business entity after conversion; and, any other provision relating to the conversion, as determined by the business entity.

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Under the bill, when a conversion becomes effective, except with respect to taxation laws of each jurisdiction that are applicable upon the conversion of the business entity, the business entity that is converted is no longer subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governed the organization of the prior form of business entity and is subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the new form of business entity; the business entity continues to have all liabilities of the business entity that was converted; the articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the business entity are as provided in the plan of conversion; and, all other provisions of the plan of conversion apply.

Finally, under the bill, any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding that is pending by or against a business entity that is converted may be continued by or against the business entity after the effective date of conversion.

***Merger of business entities***

Current law authorizes business corporations to merge into other business corporations, nonstock corporations to merge into other nonstock corporations or into a business corporation, and limited liability companies to merge into other limited liability companies. This bill authorizes limited partnerships, limited liability companies, business corporations, and nonstock corporations to merge into any other form of business entity, not just into the same form of business entity. Under the bill, the surviving business entity of the merger must submit to DFI the plan of merger, a statement that the plan of merger was approved by each business entity that is a party to the merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to each business entity, the effective date and time of the merger, and any other provision relating to the merger, as determined by the surviving business entity.

Under the bill, the plan of merger must set forth the name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction governing each business entity that is a party to the merger; the name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction of the surviving business entity with or into which each other business entity proposes to merge; and, the manner and basis of converting the interests in each business entity that is a party to the merger into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities of the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other property in whole or in part. In addition, the plan of merger may set forth amendments to the governing document of the surviving business entity and any other provision relating to the merger.

Under the bill, a merger has the following effects:

1. Every other business entity that is a party to the merger merges into the surviving business entity, and the separate existence of every business entity, except the surviving business entity, ceases.

2. If the merger is with or into a business entity under the laws applicable to which one or more of the owners of the business entity is liable for the debts and obligations of the business entity, the owner or owners are so liable only for the debts and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable.



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3. The title to all property owned by each business entity that is a party to the merger is vested in the surviving business entity without reversion or impairment. Provided that, in the case of real estate located in Wisconsin, the real estate is properly conveyed to the surviving business entity.

4. The surviving business entity has all liabilities of each business entity that is party to the merger.

5. A civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding pending by or against any business entity that is a party to the merger may be continued as if the merger did not occur, or the surviving business entity may be substituted in the proceeding for the business entity whose existence ceased.

6. The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the surviving business entity are amended to the extent provided in the plan of merger.

7. The shares or other interests of each business entity that is party to the merger that are to be converted into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities of the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other property are converted, and the former holders of the shares or interests are entitled only to the rights provided in the articles of merger or to their rights under the laws applicable to each business entity that is a party to the merger.

8. If the surviving business entity is a foreign business entity, DFI is the agent of the surviving foreign business entity for service of process in a proceeding to enforce any obligation of any business entity that is a party to the merger or the rights of the dissenting members or other owners of each business entity that is a party to the merger.

9. When a merger takes effect, any surviving foreign business entity of the merger must promptly pay to the dissenting shareholders of each domestic corporation or dissenting owners of each other domestic business entity that is a party to the merger the amount, if any, to which they are entitled under laws applicable to the domestic corporation or other domestic business entity.

***Merger fees***

Under current law, the fee for filing documents of merger varies depending upon the type of entity executing the merger. The fee for filing articles of merger by a corporation is \$50 per corporation. For a nonstock corporation, the fee is \$30 per corporation. For a limited liability company, the fee is \$50 per company. For a cooperative, the fee is \$10.

This bill sets these filing fees uniformly at \$150, except that the fee applicable to a cooperative under the bill is \$30.

***Electronic filing***

Wisconsin law currently specifies that documents required to be filed by corporations with DFI may be filed in electronic format. This bill specifies that documents required to be filed by limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, nonstock corporations, and limited liability companies may be filed in electronic format, as well.

**SENATE BILL 333*****Filing fees***

Current law specifies numerous fees that limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, corporations, nonstock corporations, limited liability companies, unincorporated nonprofit associations, and cooperatives must pay in order file certain documents with DFI. In certain limited circumstances, current law specifies a higher fee for documents filed in paper format. This bill permits DFI, by rule, to establish a higher fee that applies if any of these documents are filed in paper format.

***Registered agents***

Current law requires every limited partnership, corporation, nonstock corporation, and limited liability company to appoint a registered agent, who receives certain communications on behalf of the business organization and who accepts service of process (for example, service of a summons and complaint). Current law permits these business organizations to appoint a business entity, rather than an individual, as registered agent; however, the types of business entities authorized to serve as registered agent are not uniform across all of the laws governing these business organizations. Current law does not authorize any of these business organizations to appoint a limited partnership or limited liability partnership as registered agent. Under this bill, these business organizations may appoint a limited partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, nonstock corporation, or limited liability company as registered agent.

Current law specifies a procedure which the registered agent of a corporation, nonstock corporation, or limited liability company may follow to resign. This bill creates a similar procedure applicable to the registered agent of a limited partnership or limited liability partnership. This bill also deletes all fees required for filing a document to reflect only a change in registered agent.

***Dissolution of nonstock corporations***

Currently, in order to dissolve, a nonstock corporation must file articles of dissolution with DFI. If approval by members of the nonstock corporation is required for the dissolution, the articles of dissolution must itemize the number of votes cast on the question by each class of members entitled to vote. This bill repeals this requirement and, instead, requires that the articles of dissolution include a statement that dissolution was approved by a sufficient vote of the members of each class entitled to vote.

***Amended certificates of authority for foreign entities***

Under current law, a foreign corporation or foreign nonstock corporation must obtain a certificate of authority from DFI in order to transact business in this state. Similarly, a foreign limited liability company must obtain a certificate of registration from DFI. Current law specifies certain conditions under which a foreign corporation, foreign nonstock corporation, or foreign limited liability company must obtain an amended certificate (for example, if the entity changes the jurisdiction under which it is organized). This bill further requires a foreign corporation, foreign nonstock corporation, or foreign limited liability company to obtain an amended certificate if the entity changes the date of its incorporation or organization.

**SENATE BILL 333*****Notice of administrative dissolution or revocation***

Current law requires DFI to “serve” a domestic or foreign corporation with notice of grounds for administratively dissolving the corporation. A similar requirement applies with regard to foreign limited liability companies. This bill, instead, requires DFI to “give” a notice to the affected entity. The notice must be addressed to the entity’s registered office. The bill also creates a procedure that DFI must follow to give notice, if the original notice is returned as undeliverable.

***Exemptions from securities registration requirements and licensing requirements for securities broker-dealers and securities agents***

Under current law, a person may not offer or sell any security in this state unless a registration statement relating to the security is filed with the division of securities in DFI (division) or unless the security is exempt from state registration requirements under federal law. However, current law exempts certain types of securities and transactions from this registration requirement. For example, an offer or sale of a security currently is exempt from registration if the offer or sale is made to an individual who qualifies as an accredited investor under the rules of the division, as long as the issuer of the security reasonably believes that the accredited investor has such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters as to be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the investment. In addition, with certain exceptions, an offer or sale of a security by the issuer of that security is exempt from registration if the issuer has its principal office in this state and if, among other things, not more than 15 persons will hold all of the securities after the sale. Also, under current law, any transaction that is entered into pursuant to an offer made to not more than ten persons in this state during any period of 12 consecutive months is exempt from registration, if certain other requirements are satisfied.

This bill expands these exemptions from registration. Under this bill, an offer or sale of a security to an accredited investor is exempt from registration if the individual or person receiving the offer or making the purchase qualifies as an accredited investor under certain federal rules. These federal rules define “accredited investor” to include, among other things, certain financial entities, such as banking institutions, and individuals who have a net worth of greater than \$1,000,000 or who have had an income of greater than \$200,000 in the two most recent years. The bill also repeals the requirement that the issuer reasonably believe the accredited investor has a specified level of knowledge and experience in financial and business matters. In addition, under this bill, an offer or sale of a security by the issuer of that security generally is exempt from registration if the issuer has its principal office in this state and if, among other things, not more than 25 persons will hold all of the issuer’s securities after the sale. Also, under this bill, any transaction that is entered into pursuant to an offer made to not more than 25 persons in this state during any period of 12 consecutive months generally is exempt from registration, if the other requirements under current law are satisfied.

Currently, in order to transact business as a securities broker-dealer or securities agent in this state, a person must obtain a license from the division, unless the person is exempt from the licensing requirement. Current law exempts persons

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who give certain group presentations relating to securities, persons who engage exclusively in transactions on account of or with certain financial and governmental entities, and certain persons who are exempt from state licensing requirements under federal law.

This bill creates an additional exemption from this licensing requirement. This bill exempts any securities agent who is acting exclusively on behalf of an issuer of securities (as opposed to acting on behalf of a securities broker-dealer) and who makes offers and sales of the issuer's securities in transactions that are exempt from registration under the rules of the division that specifically exempt transactions involving accredited investors or to persons who qualify as accredited investors under certain federal rules.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 71.80 (21) of the statutes is created to read:

2           71.80 (21) BUSINESS ENTITY CONVERSION. Notwithstanding any provision of ss.  
3 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161, and 183.1207, the conversion of a business entity to  
4 another form of business entity under s. 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161, or 183.1207  
5 shall be treated for state tax purposes in the same manner as the conversion is  
6 treated for federal tax purposes.

7           **SECTION 2.** 71.80 (22) of the statutes is created to read:

8           71.80 (22) BUSINESS ENTITY MERGER. Notwithstanding any provision of ss.  
9 179.77, 180.1101, 180.1104, 181.1101, 181.1104, and 183.1201, the merger of a  
10 business entity with one or more business entities under s. 179.77, 180.1101,  
11 180.1104, 181.1101, 181.1104, or 183.1201 shall be treated for state tax purposes in  
12 the same manner as the merger is treated for federal tax purposes.

13           **SECTION 3.** 73.03 (58) of the statutes is created to read:

14           73.03 (58) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of ss. 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161,  
15 and 183.1207, to treat, for state tax purposes, the conversion of a business entity to

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1 another form of business entity under s. 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161, or 183.1207 in  
2 the same manner as the conversion is treated for federal tax purposes.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of ss. 179.77, 180.1101, 180.1104, 181.1101,  
4 181.1104, and 183.1201, to treat, for state tax purposes, the merger of a business  
5 entity with one or more business entities under s. 179.77, 180.1101, 180.1104,  
6 181.1101, 181.1104, or 183.1201 in the same manner as the merger is treated for  
7 federal tax purposes.

8 **SECTION 4.** 77.21 (1e) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 77.21 (1e) "Mergers of corporations" means the merger or combination of 2 one  
10 or more corporations, nonstock corporations, limited liability companies, or limited  
11 partnerships, or any combination thereof, under a plan of merger or a plan of  
12 consolidation ~~or the combination of 2 or more limited liability companies under a~~  
13 ~~plan of merger permitted by the laws that govern the entities.~~

14 **SECTION 5.** 77.25 (6d) of the statutes is created to read:

15 77.25 (6d) Pursuant to partnerships registering as limited liability  
16 partnerships under s. 178.40.

17 **SECTION 6.** 77.25 (6m) of the statutes is created to read:

18 77.25 (6m) Pursuant to the conversion of a business entity to another form of  
19 business entity under s. 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161, or 183.1207, if, after the  
20 conversion, the ownership interests in the new entity are identical with the  
21 ownership interests in the original entity immediately preceding the conversion.

22 **SECTION 7.** 77.61 (15) of the statutes is created to read:

23 77.61 (15) Notwithstanding any provision of ss. 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161,  
24 and 183.1207, a business entity that converts to another business entity under s.  
25 179.76, 180.1161, 181.1161, or 183.1207 shall be subject to the provisions under this

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1 subchapter applicable to liquidations, reorganizations, and business entity  
2 formations.

3 **SECTION 8.** 178.43 of the statutes is renumbered 178.43 (1).

4 **SECTION 9.** 178.43 (2m) and (3m) of the statutes are created to read:

5 178.43 (2m) The registered agent of a registered limited liability partnership  
6 or a foreign limited liability partnership may resign as registered agent by executing  
7 and filing with the department a written statement that includes all of the following  
8 information, as applicable:

9 (a) The name of the registered limited liability partnership or foreign  
10 registered limited liability partnership for which the registered agent is acting.

11 (b) The name of the registered agent.

12 (c) If the registered agent is acting for a registered limited liability partnership,  
13 the street address of the registered limited liability partnership.

14 (d) If the registered agent is acting for a foreign registered limited liability  
15 partnership, the foreign registered limited liability partnership's current registered  
16 office and the mailing address of the foreign registered limited liability partnership's  
17 current principal office.

18 (e) A statement that the registered agent resigns.

19 (f) If the registered office is also discontinued, a statement to that effect.

20 (3m) After the filing of a statement under sub. (2), the department shall mail  
21 a copy of the statement to the registered limited liability partnership or foreign  
22 registered limited liability partnership at the address provided under sub. (2) (c) or  
23 (d).

24 **SECTION 10.** 178.46 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 178.46 (1r).

25 **SECTION 11.** 178.46 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

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1           178.46 (1g) In this section:

2           (a) “Deliver” means deliver by hand, mail, commercial delivery service,  
3           electronic transmission, or any other method of delivery used in conventional  
4           commercial practice.

5           (b) “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital,  
6           magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

7           (c) “Electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process,  
8           attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person  
9           with intent to authenticate the writing.

10          (d) “Sign” means to execute or adopt a manual, facsimile, conformed, or  
11          electronic signature or any symbol with intent to authenticate a writing.

12          **SECTION 12.** 178.46 (2) and (4) of the statutes are amended to read:

13           178.46 (2) The department shall file photocopies or other reproduced copies of  
14           typewritten or printed documents if the copies satisfy ~~sub. (1)~~ sub. (1r) and are  
15           originally executed to satisfy sub. (3).

16           (4) The department may waive any of the requirements of ~~subs. (1) to (3)~~ subs.  
17           (1r) to (3) if it appears from the face of the document that the document’s failure to  
18           satisfy the requirement is immaterial.

19          **SECTION 13.** 178.48 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           178.48 (1) (intro.) The Except as provided under sub. (4), the department shall  
21           collect the following fees when the documents described under this subsection are  
22           delivered to the department for filing:

23          **SECTION 14.** 178.48 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

24           178.48 (4) The department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing  
25           documents described in sub. (1) in paper format.

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1           **SECTION 15.** 178.51 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           178.51 (1) Upon receipt of a document by the department for filing, the  
3 department shall stamp or otherwise endorse the date and time of receipt on the  
4 original document copy and, upon request, any additional document copy received.  
5 The department shall return any additional document copy to the person delivering  
6 it, as confirmation of the date and time of receipt.

7           **SECTION 16.** 179.03 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

8           179.03 (2) The Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the reservation  
9 shall be made by filing with the department an application executed by the applicant  
10 to reserve a specified name together with a fee of \$10, or such larger amount as the  
11 department requires by rule, if the application is filed in paper format. The  
12 reservation may be made by making a telephone application to reserve a specified  
13 name. The fee for a telephone application to reserve a specified name for 60 days is  
14 \$20. If the department finds that the name is available for use by a domestic limited  
15 partnership or foreign limited partnership, the department shall reserve the name  
16 for the exclusive use of the applicant for a period of 60 days. ~~The department shall~~  
17 ~~cancel the telephone application to reserve a specified name if the department does~~  
18 ~~not receive the proper fee within 15 business days after the application. Once having~~  
19 ~~reserved a name, the same applicant may not again reserve the same name until~~  
20 ~~more than 60 days after the expiration of the last 60-day period for which that~~  
21 ~~applicant reserved that name. The Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,~~  
22 the right to the exclusive use of a reserved name may be transferred to any other  
23 person by filing with the department, together with a fee of \$10, a notice of the  
24 transfer executed by the applicant for whom the name was reserved and specifying



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1 the name and address of the transferee. The department may, by rule, specify a  
2 larger fee for filing a notice of transfer in paper format.

3 **SECTION 17.** 179.04 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 179.04 (1) (b) An agent for service of process on the limited partnership, which  
5 agent must be an individual resident of this state, a domestic corporation, nonstock  
6 corporation, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or limited  
7 liability company, or a foreign corporation, nonstock corporation, limited  
8 partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or limited liability company  
9 authorized to do business in this state, whose business office is identical with the  
10 registered office.

11 **SECTION 18.** 179.045 of the statutes is created to read:

12 **179.045 Resignation of agent for service of process.** (1) An agent for  
13 service of process may resign by executing and filing with the department a  
14 statement, in duplicate, containing all of the following information, as applicable:

15 (a) The name of the domestic or foreign limited partnership for which the agent  
16 is acting.

17 (b) The name and current street address of the agent.

18 (c) If the agent is acting for a domestic limited partnership, the address of the  
19 domestic limited partnership's record office.

20 (d) If the agent is acting for a foreign limited partnership, the address of the  
21 foreign limited partnership's office in its state of organization.

22 (e) A statement that the agent resigns.

23 (2) The department shall note on one of the duplicates filed under sub. (1) the  
24 date of filing and shall mail that duplicate to the limited partnership at the address  
25 provided under sub. (1) (c) or (d).

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1           **(3)** A resignation under this section is effective on the earlier of the following:

2           (a) Thirty days after the date on which the statement is filed under sub. (1).

3           (b) The date on which the appointment of a successor agent is effective.

4           **SECTION 19.** 179.11 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

5           179.11 (1) (intro.) To form a limited partnership, a certificate of limited  
6 partnership must be executed and filed with the department. The certificate shall  
7 be filed together with a fee of \$70 ~~and, except that the department, by rule, may~~  
8 specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format. Each certificate  
9 shall contain all of the following information:

10          **SECTION 20.** 179.12 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          179.12 (1) (intro.) ~~A~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a  
12 certificate of limited partnership is amended by filing a certificate of amendment  
13 with the department, together with a fee of \$25. The department, by rule, may  
14 specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format. No fee may be  
15 collected for filing a certificate of amendment to reflect only a change in the name of  
16 a registered agent. The certificate of amendment shall specify all of the following:

17          **SECTION 21.** 179.13 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

18          **179.13 Cancellation of certificate.** (intro.) A certificate of limited  
19 partnership shall be canceled upon the dissolution and the commencement of  
20 winding up of the limited partnership or at any other time that there are no limited  
21 partners. A certificate of cancellation shall be filed together with a fee of \$10 with  
22 the department ~~and, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for~~  
23 certificates that are filed in paper format. Each certificate shall specify all of the  
24 following:

25          **SECTION 22.** 179.14 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 179.14 (1r).

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1           **SECTION 23.** 179.14 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

2           179.14 (1g) In this section:

3           (a) “Electronic” has the meaning given in s. 179.16 (1g) (b).

4           (b) “Electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process,  
5 attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person  
6 with intent to authenticate the writing.

7           (c) “Sign” means to execute or adopt a manual, facsimile, conformed, or  
8 electronic signature or any symbol with intent to authenticate a writing.

9           **SECTION 24.** 179.16 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 179.16 (1r).

10          **SECTION 25.** 179.16 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

11          179.16 (1g) In this section:

12          (a) “Deliver” means deliver by hand, mail, commercial delivery service,  
13 electronic transmission, or any other method of delivery used in conventional  
14 commercial practice.

15          (b) “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital,  
16 magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

17          **SECTION 26.** 179.185 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

18          179.185 (1) A limited partnership may integrate into a single instrument the  
19 operative provisions of its certificate of limited partnership, as shown by the original  
20 certificate and amendments filed under this subchapter, and it may at the same time  
21 also further amend its certificate of limited partnership by adopting a restated  
22 certificate of limited partnership. The restated certificate shall be filed together with  
23 a fee of \$25 with the department, except that the department, by rule, may specify  
24 a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

25          **SECTION 27.** 179.24 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           179.24 (1) (b) Withdraws from future equity participation in the enterprise by  
2           executing and filing with the department, together with a \$15 filing fee, a certificate  
3           declaring withdrawal under this paragraph, except that the department, by rule,  
4           may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

5           **SECTION 28.** Subchapter VIII (title) of chapter 179 [precedes 179.70] of the  
6           statutes is amended to read:

**CHAPTER 179****SUBCHAPTER VIII****DISSOLUTION; CONVERSION; MERGER**

7  
8  
9  
10          **SECTION 29.** 179.70 of the statutes is created to read:

11          **179.70 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

12          (1) “Business entity” means a domestic business entity and a foreign business  
13          entity.

14          (2) “Domestic business entity” means a corporation, as defined in s. 180.0103  
15          (5), a limited liability company, as defined in s. 183.0102 (10), a limited partnership,  
16          or a corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (5).

17          (3) “Foreign business entity” means a foreign limited liability company, as  
18          defined in s. 183.0102 (8), a foreign limited partnership, a foreign corporation, as  
19          defined in s. 180.0103 (9), or a foreign corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (13).

20          **SECTION 30.** 179.76 of the statutes is created to read:

21          **179.76 Conversion.** (1) A domestic limited partnership may convert to  
22          another form of business entity if it satisfies the requirements under this section and  
23          if the conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that  
24          governs the organization of the business entity into which the domestic limited  
25          partnership is converting.

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1           (2) (a) A business entity other than a domestic limited partnership may convert  
2 to a domestic limited partnership if it satisfies the requirements under this section  
3 and if the conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that  
4 governs the business entity.

5           (b) A business entity converting into a domestic limited partnership shall  
6 comply with the procedures that govern the submission and approval of a plan of  
7 conversion of the jurisdiction that governs the business entity.

8           (3) A plan of conversion shall set forth all of the following:

9           (a) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction  
10 governing the business entity that is to be converted.

11           (b) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction that  
12 will govern the business entity after conversion.

13           (c) The terms and conditions of the conversion.

14           (d) The manner and basis of converting the shares or other ownership interests  
15 of the business entity that is to be converted into the shares or other ownership  
16 interests of the new form of business entity.

17           (e) The effective date and time of the conversion, if the conversion is to be  
18 effective other than at the time of filing the certificate of conversion, as provided  
19 under s. 179.11 (2) or otherwise.

20           (f) A copy of the articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of  
21 limited partnership, or other similar governing document of the business entity after  
22 conversion.

23           (g) Other provisions relating to the conversion, as determined by the business  
24 entity.

25           (4) When a conversion is effective, all of the following apply:

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1 (a) 1. Except with respect to taxation laws of each jurisdiction that are  
2 applicable upon the conversion of the business entity, the business entity that is  
3 converted is no longer subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governed  
4 the organization of the prior form of business entity and is subject to the applicable  
5 law of the jurisdiction that governs the new form of business entity.

6 2. If the conversion is from or to a business entity under the laws applicable to  
7 which one or more of the owners thereof is liable for the debts and obligations of such  
8 business entity, such owner or owners shall be so liable only for debts and obligations  
9 accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable. This  
10 subdivision does not affect liability under any taxation laws.

11 (b) The business entity continues to have all liabilities of the business entity  
12 that was converted.

13 (c) The business entity continues to be vested with title to all property owned  
14 by the business entity that was converted without reversion or impairment, provided  
15 that, if the converting business entity has an interest in real estate in Wisconsin on  
16 the date of the conversion, the converting business entity shall transfer that interest  
17 to the business entity surviving the conversion and shall execute any real estate  
18 transfer return required under s. 77.22. The business entity surviving the  
19 conversion shall promptly record the instrument of conveyance under s. 59.43 in the  
20 office of the register of deeds for each county in which the real estate is located.

21 (d) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited  
22 partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the  
23 business entity are as provided in the plan of conversion.

24 (e) All other provisions of the plan of conversion apply.

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such owner or owners shall be so liable only for debts and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable.

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1           (5) Except as provided under sub. (7), after a plan of conversion is submitted  
2 and approved, the business entity that is to be converted shall deliver to the  
3 department for filing a certificate of conversion that includes all of the following  
4 together with a fee of \$150:

5           (a) The plan of conversion.

6           (b) A statement that the plan of conversion was approved in accordance with  
7 the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business  
8 entity.

9           (c) The registered agent and registered office, record agent and record office,  
10 or other similar agent and office of the business entity before and after conversion.

11           (6) Any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding that is  
12 pending by or against a business entity that is converted may be continued by or  
13 against the business entity after the effective date of conversion.

14           (7) The department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing a certificate of  
15 conversion under sub. (5) in paper format.

16           **SECTION 31.** 179.77 of the statutes is created to read:

17           **179.77 Merger.** (1) One or more domestic limited partnerships may merge  
18 with or into one or more other business entities if the merger is permitted under the  
19 applicable laws of the jurisdiction that governs each other business entity that is a  
20 party to the merger and each business entity approves the plan of merger in the  
21 manner required by the laws applicable to the business entity.

22           (2) The plan of merger shall set forth all of the following:

23           (a) The name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction governing  
24 each business entity that is a party to the merger and the name, form of business

1 entity, and identity of the jurisdiction of the surviving business entity with, or into,  
2 which each other business entity proposes to merge.

3 (b) The manner and basis of converting the interests in each business entity  
4 that is a party to the merger into shares, interests obligations, or other securities of  
5 the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other  
6 property in whole or in part.

7 (3) The plan of merger may set forth any of the following:

8 (a) Amendments to the certificate of limited partnership or other similar  
9 governing document of the surviving business entity.

10 (b) Other provisions relating to the merger.

11 (4) After a merger is authorized, and at any time before the articles of merger  
12 are filed with the department, the planned merger may be abandoned, subject to any  
13 contractual rights, without further action on the part of the shareholders or other  
14 owners, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the plan of merger or, if none  
15 is set forth, in the manner determined by the governing body of any business entity  
16 that is a party to the merger.

17 (5) After a plan of merger is approved by each business entity that is a party  
18 to the merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to each business entity,  
19 the surviving business entity shall deliver to the department the fee specified under  
20 sub. (5m) and articles of merger that include all of the following:

21 (a) The plan of merger.

22 (b) A statement that the plan was approved by each business entity that is a  
23 party to the merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to each business  
24 entity.



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1 (c) The effective date and time of the merger, if the merger is to take effect at  
2 a time other than the close of business on the date of filing the articles of merger  
3 under s. 179.11 (2).

4 (d) Other provisions relating to the merger, as determined by the surviving  
5 business entity.

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7 (5m) The fee for filing articles of merger is \$150, except that the department,  
8 by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing articles in paper format.

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9 (6) A merger has the following effects:

10 (a) Every other business entity that is a party to the merger merges into the  
11 surviving business entity, and the separate existence of every business entity, except  
12 the surviving business entity, ceases.

13 (b) If the merger is with or into a business entity under the laws applicable to  
14 which one or more of the owners of the business entity is liable for the debts and  
15 obligations of the business entity, the owner or owners are so liable only for the debts  
16 and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are  
17 applicable.

18 (c) The title to all property owned by each business entity that is a party to the  
19 merger is vested in the surviving business entity without reversion or impairment,  
20 provided that, if a merging business entity has an interest in real estate in Wisconsin  
21 on the date of the merger, the merging business entity shall transfer that interest to  
22 the business entity surviving the merger and shall execute any real estate transfer  
23 return required under s. 77.22. The business entity surviving the merger shall  
24 promptly record the instrument of conveyance under s. 59.43 in the office of the  
register of deeds for each county in which the real estate is located.

1           (d) The surviving business entity has all liabilities of each business entity that  
2 is party to the merger.

3           (e) A civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding pending by or  
4 against any business entity that is a party to the merger may be continued as if the  
5 merger did not occur, or the surviving business entity may be substituted in the  
6 proceeding for the business entity whose existence ceased.

7           (f) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited  
8 partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the  
9 surviving business entity shall be amended to the extent provided in the plan of  
10 merger.

11           (g) The shares or other interests of each business entity that is party to the  
12 merger that are to be converted into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities  
13 of the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other  
14 property are converted, and the former holders of the shares or interests are entitled  
15 only to the rights provided in the articles of merger or to their rights under the laws  
16 applicable to each business entity that is a party to the merger.

17           (h) If the surviving business entity is a foreign business entity, the department  
18 is the agent of the surviving foreign business entity for service of process in a  
19 proceeding to enforce any obligation of any business entity that is a party to the  
20 merger or the rights of the dissenting members or other owners of each business  
21 entity that is a party to the merger.

22           (i) When a merger takes effect, any surviving foreign business entity of the  
23 merger shall promptly pay to the dissenting shareholders of each domestic  
24 corporation or dissenting owners of each other domestic business entity that is a

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1 party to the merger the amount, if any, to which they are entitled under ss. 180.1301  
2 to 180.1331 or under any law applicable to the other domestic business entity.

3 **SECTION 32.** 179.82 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **179.82 Registration.** (intro.) Before transacting business in this state, a  
5 foreign limited partnership shall register with the department. A foreign limited  
6 partnership shall submit in duplicate, together with a filing fee of \$75, an application  
7 for registration as a foreign limited partnership, signed and sworn to by a general  
8 partner ~~and setting, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for~~  
9 applications that are filed in paper format. Each application shall set forth all of the  
10 following:

11 **SECTION 33.** 179.82 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 179.82 (4) The name and address of an agent for service of process on the  
13 foreign limited partnership, who must be an individual resident of this state, a  
14 domestic corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership, registered limited  
15 liability partnership, or limited liability company, or a foreign corporation, nonstock  
16 corporation, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or limited  
17 liability company ~~having a place of business and authorized to do business in this~~  
18 state, whose business office is identical with the registered office.

19 **SECTION 34.** 179.86 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 179.86 (1) A foreign limited partnership may cancel its registration by filing  
21 with the department, together with a filing fee of \$15, a certificate of cancellation  
22 signed and sworn to by a general partner, ~~except that the department, by rule, may~~  
23 specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

24 **SECTION 35.** 179.88 of the statutes, as affected by 2001 Wisconsin Act 16, is  
25 amended to read:

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1           **179.88 Substituted service.** Service of process on the department under this  
2 subchapter shall be made by serving of duplicate copies of the process on the  
3 department, together with the fee established under s. 182.01 (4) (c). The  
4 department shall mail notice of the service and a copy of the process within 10 days  
5 addressed to the foreign limited partnership at its office in the state of its  
6 organization or its principal office, as appearing on the records of the department  
7 from information supplied under s. 179.82 (6). The time within which the foreign  
8 limited partnership may answer or move to dismiss under s. 802.06 (2) does not start  
9 to run until 10 days after the date of the mailing. The department shall keep a record  
10 of service of process under this section showing the day and hour of service and the  
11 date of mailing.

12           **SECTION 36.** 180.0103 (7g) of the statutes is created to read:

13           180.0103 (7g) “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical,  
14 digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

15           **SECTION 37.** 180.0103 (7k) of the statutes is created to read:

16           180.0103 (7k) “Electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or  
17 process, attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted  
18 by a person with intent to authenticate the writing.

19           **SECTION 38.** 180.0103 (16) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           180.0103 (16) “Signed” or “signature” includes any the execution or adoption  
21 of a manual, facsimile, conformed, or electronic signature, or any symbol executed  
22 or adopted by a party with present intention to authenticate a writing or electronic  
23 transmission, with intent to authenticate a writing.

24           **SECTION 39.** 180.0121 (1) (a) 4. of the statutes is created to read:

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1           180.0121 (1) (a) 4. An application for a certificate of conversion under s.  
2           180.1161 (5).

3           **SECTION 40.** 180.0122 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4           180.0122 (1) (intro.) The Except as provided under sub. (5), the department  
5           shall collect the following fees when the documents described in this subsection are  
6           delivered for filing or, under pars. (e) and (f), the telephone applications are made:

7           **SECTION 41.** 180.0122 (1) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

8           180.0122 (1) (j) Subject to sub. (3) (c), domestic corporation's or foreign  
9           corporation's statement of change of ~~registered agent or registered office or both~~, \$10.

10          **SECTION 42.** 180.0122 (1) (o) of the statutes, as affected by 2001 Wisconsin Act  
11          16, is repealed and recreated to read:

12          180.0122 (1) (o) Articles of merger, \$150.

13          **SECTION 43.** 180.0122 (1) (x) of the statutes, as affected by 2001 Wisconsin Act  
14          16, is amended to read:

15          180.0122 (1) (x) Annual report of a domestic corporation ~~that is submitted to~~  
16          ~~the department by authorized electronic means, \$25; annual report of a domestic~~  
17          ~~corporation that is submitted to the department on paper, \$40.~~

18          **SECTION 44.** 180.0122 (1) (y) of the statutes, as affected by 2001 Wisconsin Act  
19          16, is amended to read:

20          180.0122 (1) (y) Annual report of a foreign corporation ~~that is submitted to the~~  
21          ~~department by authorized electronic means, \$65, and annual report submitted to the~~  
22          ~~department on paper, \$80, and in case the annual report shows that the foreign~~  
23          corporation employs in this state capital in excess of the amount of capital on which  
24          a fee has previously been paid, computed as provided in s. 180.1503, an additional

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1 fee which, with previous payments made on account of capital employed in this state,  
2 will amount to \$2 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the excess.

3 SECTION 45. 180.0122 (1) (yr) of the statutes is created to read:

4 180.0122 (1) (yr) A certificate of conversion, \$150.

5 SECTION 46. 180.0122 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

6 180.0122 (5) The department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing  
7 documents described in sub. (1) in paper format.

8 SECTION 47. 180.0125 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 180.0125 (1) Upon receipt of a document by the department for filing, the  
10 department shall stamp or otherwise endorse the date and time of receipt on the  
11 original, the document copy and, upon request, any additional document copy  
12 received. The department shall return any additional document copy to the person  
13 delivering it, as confirmation of the date and time of receipt.

14 SECTION 48. 180.0402 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 26-13 180.0402 (1) A person may reserve the exclusive use of a corporate name,  
16 including a fictitious name for a foreign corporation whose corporate name is not  
17 available, by delivering an application to the department for filing or by making a  
18 telephone application. The application shall include the name and address of the  
19 applicant and the name proposed to be reserved. If the department finds that the  
20 corporate name applied for under this subsection is available, the department shall  
21 reserve the name for the applicant's exclusive use for a 120-day period, which may  
22 be renewed by the applicant or a transferee under sub. (2) from time to time. If an  
23 application to reserve a name or to renew a reserved name is made by telephone, the  
24 ~~department shall cancel the reservation or renewal if the department does not~~

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1 ~~receive the fee required under s. 180.0122 (1) (e) or (f) within 15 business days after~~  
2 ~~the application is made.~~

3 **SECTION 49.** 180.0501 (2) and (3) of the statutes are amended to read:

4 180.0501 (2) A domestic corporation, a nonstock corporation, a limited  
5 partnership, a registered limited liability partnership, or a limited liability company  
6 incorporated, registered, or organized in this state, whose business office is identical  
7 with the registered office.

8 (3) A foreign corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership,  
9 registered limited liability partnership, or limited liability company authorized to  
10 transact business in this state whose business office is identical with the registered  
11 office.

12 **SECTION 50.** Subchapter XI (title) of chapter 180 [precedes 180.1100] of the  
13 statutes is amended to read:

14 **CHAPTER 180**

15 **SUBCHAPTER XI**

16 **MERGER AND, SHARE**

17 **EXCHANGE, AND CONVERSION**

18 **SECTION 51.** 180.1100 of the statutes is created to read:

19 **180.1100 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

20 (1) “Business entity” means a domestic business entity and a foreign business  
21 entity.

22 (2) “Domestic business entity” means a corporation, a limited liability  
23 company, as defined in s. 183.0102 (10), a limited partnership, as defined in s. 179.01  
24 (7), or a corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (5).

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## SECTION 51

1           (3) “Foreign business entity” means a foreign limited liability company, as  
2 defined in s. 183.0102 (8), a foreign limited partnership, as defined in s. 179.01 (4),  
3 a foreign corporation, as defined in s. 180.0103 (9), or a foreign corporation, as  
4 defined in s. 181.0103 (13).

5           **SECTION 52.** 180.1101 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           180.1101 (1) One or more corporations may merge ~~into another corporation~~  
7 with or into one or more other business entities if the board of directors of each  
8 corporation, by resolution adopted by each board, approves a plan of merger and, if  
9 required by s. 180.1103, its shareholders also approve the plan of merger, and if the  
10 merger is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs each  
11 other business entity that is a party to the merger and each such business entity  
12 approves the plan of merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to the  
13 business entity.

14           **SECTION 53.** 180.1101 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

15           180.1101 (2) (a) ~~The name of each corporation, form of business entity, and~~  
16 identity of the jurisdiction governing each business entity planning to merge and the  
17 name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction of the surviving  
18 corporation business entity into which each other corporation business entity plans  
19 to merge.

20           **SECTION 54.** 180.1101 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

21           180.1101 (2) (c) The manner and basis of converting the ~~shares of each~~  
22 corporation into shares or other interests in each business entity that is a party to  
23 the merger into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities of the surviving  
24 corporation business entity or any other corporation business entity or into cash or  
25 other property in whole or part.



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1           **SECTION 55.** 180.1101 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           180.1101 (3) (a) Amendments to the articles of incorporation or other similar  
3 governing document of the surviving ~~corporation~~ business entity.

4           **SECTION 56.** 180.1102 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

5           180.1102 (1) A corporation may acquire all of the outstanding shares of one or  
6 more classes or series of another ~~corporation~~ business entity if the board of directors  
7 of each corporation, by resolution adopted by each board, approves a plan of share  
8 exchange and, if required by s. 180.1103, its shareholders also approve the plan of  
9 share exchange, and if the share exchange is permitted under the applicable law of  
10 the jurisdiction that governs the other business entity and the other business entity  
11 approves the plan of share exchange in the manner required by the laws of the  
12 jurisdiction that governs the other business entity.

13           **SECTION 57.** 180.1102 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

14           180.1102 (2) (a) The name ~~of the corporation,~~ form of business entity, and  
15 identity of the jurisdiction governing the business entity whose shares will be  
16 acquired and the name of the acquiring ~~corporation~~ business entity.

17           **SECTION 58.** 180.1102 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

18           180.1102 (2) (c) The manner and basis of exchanging the shares or other  
19 ownership interests to be acquired for shares, obligations or other securities of the  
20 acquiring or any other ~~corporation~~ business or for cash or other property in whole or  
21 part.

22           **SECTION 59.** 180.1103 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

23           180.1103 (6) **MERGER OR SHARE EXCHANGE ABANDONED.** After a merger or share  
24 exchange is authorized, and at any time before articles of merger or share exchange  
25 are filed, the planned merger or share exchange may be abandoned, subject to any

**SENATE BILL 333****SECTION 59**

1 contractual rights, without further ~~shareholder~~ action on the part of shareholders or  
2 other owners, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the plan of merger or  
3 share exchange or, if none is set forth, in the manner determined by the board of  
4 directors or other similar governing body of any other business entity that is a party  
5 to the merger.

6 **SECTION 60.** 180.1104 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 **180.1104 (title) Merger of subsidiary or parent.**

8 **SECTION 61.** 180.1104 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 180.1104 (1) A parent corporation owning at least 90% of the outstanding  
10 shares of each class of a subsidiary corporation or at least 90% of the outstanding  
11 interests of each class of any other subsidiary business entity may merge the  
12 subsidiary into itself the parent or the parent into the subsidiary without approval  
13 of the shareholders of the parent or the shareholders or other owners of the  
14 subsidiary.

15 **SECTION 62.** 180.1104 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 180.1104 (2) (b) The manner and basis of converting the shares or other  
17 interests of the subsidiary or parent into shares, interests, obligations, or other  
18 securities of the parent surviving business entity or any other ~~corporation~~ business  
19 entity or into cash or other property in whole or part.

20 **SECTION 63.** 180.1104 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 180.1104 (3) The parent shall mail a copy or summary of the plan of merger to  
22 each shareholder or other owner of the ~~subsidiary~~ merging business entity who does  
23 not waive the mailing requirement in writing.

24 **SECTION 64.** 180.1104 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           180.1104 (4) The parent may not deliver articles of merger to the department  
2 for filing until at least ~~30~~ 10 days after the date on which it mailed a copy of the plan  
3 of merger to each shareholder or other owner of the ~~subsidiary merging business~~  
4 entity who did not waive the mailing requirement.

5           **SECTION 65.** 180.1104 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           180.1104 (5) Articles of merger under this section may not contain  
7 amendments to the articles of incorporation of the ~~parent corporation~~ surviving  
8 business entity, except for amendments enumerated in s. 180.1002 or otherwise not  
9 requiring the approval of the shareholders or other owners of the entity.

10          **SECTION 66.** 180.1105 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          180.1105 (1) (intro.) Except as provided in s. 180.1104 (4), after a plan of merger  
12 or share exchange is approved by the shareholders of the corporation, or adopted by  
13 the board of directors if shareholder approval is not required, and by each other  
14 business entity that is a party to the merger in the manner required by the laws  
15 applicable to the business entity, the surviving or acquiring ~~corporation~~ business  
16 entity shall deliver to the department for filing articles of merger or share exchange  
17 setting forth all of the following:

18          **SECTION 67.** 180.1105 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

19          180.1105 (1) (b) A statement that the plan was approved by each domestic  
20 corporation that is a party to the merger in accordance with s. 180.1103 or 180.1104,  
21 whichever is applicable, and by each other business entity that is a party to the  
22 merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to the business entity.

23          **SECTION 68.** 180.1105 (1) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

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**SECTION 68**

1           180.1105 (1) (c) The effective date and time of the merger or share exchange,  
2 if the merger or share exchange is to take effect at a time other than the close of  
3 business on the date of filing the articles of merger, as provided under s. 180.0123.

4           **SECTION 69.** 180.1105 (1) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

5           180.1105 (1) (d) Other provisions relating to the merger, as determined by the  
6 surviving business entity.

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7           **SECTION 70.** 180.1106 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8           180.1106 (1) (a) Every other ~~corporation~~ business entity that is party to the  
9 merger merges into the surviving ~~corporation~~ business entity, and the separate  
10 existence of every ~~corporation~~ business entity that is a party to the merger, except  
11 the surviving ~~corporation~~ business entity, ceases.

12           **SECTION 71.** 180.1106 (1) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

13           180.1106 (1) (am) If the merger is with or into a business entity under the laws  
14 applicable to which ~~one or more~~ of the owners of the business entity is liable for the  
15 debts and obligations of the business entity, the ~~owner or owners~~ are so liable only  
16 for the debts and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws  
17 are applicable. ~~This paragraph does not affect liability under any taxation laws.~~

18           **SECTION 72.** 180.1106 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

19           180.1106 (1) (b) The title to all property owned by each ~~corporation~~ business  
20 entity that is party to the merger is vested in the surviving ~~corporation~~ business  
21 entity without reversion or impairment, provided that, if a merging business entity  
22 has an interest in real estate in Wisconsin on the date of the merger, the merging  
23 business entity shall transfer that interest to the business entity surviving the  
24 merger and shall execute any real estate transfer return required under s. 77.22.  
25 The business entity surviving the merger shall promptly record the instrument of

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1 conveyance under s. 59.43 in the office of the register of deeds for each county in  
2 which the real estate is located.

3 **SECTION 73.** 180.1106 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 180.1106 (1) (c) The surviving ~~corporation~~ business entity has all liabilities of  
5 each ~~corporation~~ business entity that is party to the merger.

6 **SECTION 74.** 180.1106 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 180.1106 (1) (d) A civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding  
8 pending by or against any ~~corporation~~ business entity that is a party to the merger  
9 may be continued as if the merger did not occur, or the surviving ~~corporation~~ business  
10 entity may be substituted in the proceeding for the ~~corporation~~ business entity whose  
11 existence ceased.

12 **SECTION 75.** 180.1106 (1) (e) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

13 180.1106 (1) (e) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization,  
14 certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever  
15 is applicable, of the surviving business entity shall be amended to the extent  
16 provided in the plan of merger.

17 **SECTION 76.** 180.1106 (1) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 180.1106 (1) (f) The shares or other interests of each ~~corporation~~ business  
19 entity that is party to the merger that are to be converted into shares, interests,  
20 obligations, or other securities of the surviving ~~corporation~~ business entity or any  
21 other ~~corporation~~ business entity or into cash or other property are converted, and  
22 the former holders of the shares or intercrsts are entitled only to the rights provided  
23 in the articles of merger or to their rights under ss. 180.1301 to 180.1331 or otherwise  
24 under the laws applicable to each business entity that is party to the merger.

25 **SECTION 77.** 180.1106 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

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1           180.1106 (3) (a) When a merger or share exchange under this section takes  
2 effect, the department is the agent of any surviving foreign business entity of a  
3 merger or any acquiring foreign business entity in a share exchange, for service of  
4 process in a proceeding to enforce any obligation or the rights of dissenting  
5 shareholders or other owners of each domestic business entity that is a party to the  
6 merger or share exchange.

7           (b) When a merger or share exchange under this section takes effect, any  
8 surviving foreign business entity of a merger or any acquiring foreign business entity  
9 in a share exchange shall promptly pay to the dissenting shareholders of each  
10 domestic corporation or dissenting owners of each other domestic business entity  
11 that is a party to the merger or share exchange the amount, if any, to which they are  
12 entitled under ss. 180.1301 to 180.1331 or under any law applicable to such other  
13 domestic business entity.

14           **SECTION 78.** 180.1107 of the statutes is repealed.

15           **SECTION 79.** 180.1150 (3) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

16           180.1150 (3) (e) Shares acquired under s. 180.1101, 180.1102, or 180.1104 ~~or~~  
17 ~~180.1107~~ if the resident domestic corporation is a party to the merger or share  
18 exchange.

19           **SECTION 80.** 180.1161 of the statutes is created to read:

20           **180.1161 Conversion.** (1) (a) A domestic corporation may convert to another  
21 form of business entity if it satisfies the requirements under this section and if the  
22 conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the  
23 organization of the business entity into which the domestic corporation is converting.

24           (b) In addition to satisfying any applicable legal requirements of the  
25 jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business entity into which the

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1 domestic corporation is converting and that relate to the submission and approval  
2 of a plan of conversion, the domestic corporation shall comply with the procedures  
3 that govern a plan of merger under s. 180.1103 for the submission and approval of  
4 a plan of conversion.

5 (2) (a) A business entity other than a domestic corporation may convert to a  
6 domestic corporation if it satisfies the requirements under this section and if the  
7 conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the  
8 business entity.

9 (b) A business entity converting into a domestic corporation shall comply with  
10 the procedures that govern the submission and approval of a plan of conversion of  
11 the jurisdiction that governs the business entity.

12 (3) A plan of conversion shall set forth all of the following:

13 (a) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction  
14 governing the business entity that is to be converted.

15 (b) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction that  
16 will govern the business entity after conversion.

17 (c) The terms and conditions of the conversion.

18 (d) The manner and basis of converting the shares or other ownership interests  
19 of the business entity that is to be converted into the shares or other ownership  
20 interests of the new form of business entity.

21 (e) The effective date and time of the conversion, if the conversion is to be  
22 effective other than at the close of business on the date of filing the certificate of  
23 conversion, as provided under s. 180.0123.

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1 (f) A copy of the articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of  
2 limited partnership, or other similar governing document of the business entity after  
3 conversion.

4 (g) Other provisions relating to the conversion, as determined by the business  
5 entity.

6 (4) When a conversion is effective, all of the following shall occur:

7 (a) 1. Except with respect to taxation laws of each jurisdiction that are  
8 applicable upon the conversion of the business entity, the business entity that was  
9 converted is no longer subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governed  
10 the organization of the prior form of business entity and is subject to the applicable  
11 law of the jurisdiction that governs the new form of business entity.

12 2. If the conversion is from or to a business entity under the laws applicable to  
13 which one or more of the owners thereof is liable for the debts and obligations of such  
14 business entity, ~~such owner or owners shall be so liable only for debts and obligations~~  
15 ~~accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable.~~ This  
16 subdivision does not affect liability under any taxation laws.

17 (b) The business entity continues to have all liabilities of the business entity  
18 that was converted.

19 (c) The business entity continues to be vested with title to all property owned  
20 by the business entity that was converted without reversion or impairment, provided  
21 that, if the converting business entity has an interest in real estate in Wisconsin on  
22 the date of the conversion, the converting business entity shall transfer that interest  
23 to the business entity surviving the conversion and shall execute any real estate  
24 transfer return required under s. 77.22. The business entity surviving the

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1 conversion shall promptly record the instrument of conveyance under s. 59.43 in the  
2 office of the register of deeds for each county in which the real estate is located.

3 (d) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited  
4 partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the  
5 business entity are as provided in the plan of conversion.

6 (e) All other provisions of the plan of conversion apply.

7 (5) After a plan of conversion is submitted and approved, the business entity  
8 that is to be converted shall deliver to the department for filing a certificate of  
9 conversion that includes all of the following:

10 (a) The plan of conversion.

11 (b) A statement that the plan of conversion was approved in accordance with  
12 the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business  
13 entity.

14 (c) The registered agent and registered office, record agent and record office,  
15 or other similar agent and office of the business entity before and after conversion.

16 (6) Any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding that is  
17 pending by or against a business entity that is converted may be continued by or  
18 against the business entity after the effective date of conversion.

19 **SECTION 81.** 180.1302 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

20 180.1302 (1) (cm) Consummation of a plan of conversion.

21 **SECTION 82.** 180.1421 (1) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

22 180.1421 (1) If the department determines that one or more grounds exist  
23 under s. 180.1420 for dissolving a corporation, the department shall ~~serve~~ give the  
24 corporation under s. ~~180.0504 with written~~ 180.0141 notice of the determination.

1 Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4), the notice shall be in writing and  
2 addressed to the registered office of the corporation.

3 (2) (a) Within 60 days after ~~service of the notice is perfected~~ takes effect under  
4 ~~s. 180.0504~~ 180.0141 (5) (a), the corporation shall correct each ground for dissolution  
5 or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the department that each ground  
6 determined by the department does not exist.

7 (b) If the corporation fails to satisfy par. (a), the department shall  
8 administratively dissolve the corporation ~~by issuing a certificate of dissolution that~~  
9 ~~recites each ground for dissolution and its effective date.~~ The department shall file  
10 ~~the original of the certificate and serve a copy on the corporation under s. 180.0504~~  
11 enter a notation in its records to reflect each ground for dissolution and the effective  
12 date of dissolution and shall give the corporation under s. 180.0141 notice of those  
13 facts. Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4), the notice shall be in writing  
14 and addressed to the registered office of the corporation.

15 **SECTION 83.** 180.1421 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

16 180.1421 (2m) (a) If a notice under sub. (1) or (2) (b) is returned to the  
17 department as undeliverable, the department shall again give notice to the  
18 corporation under s. 180.0141. Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4) and  
19 except as provided under par. (b), the notice under this paragraph shall be in writing  
20 and addressed to the principal office of the corporation.

21 (b) If the notice under par. (a) is returned to the department as undeliverable  
22 or if the corporation's principal office cannot be determined from the records of the  
23 department, the department shall give the notice by publishing a class 2 notice under  
24 ch. 985 in the official state newspaper.

25 **SECTION 84.** 180.1504 (1) (intro.) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

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1           180.1504 (1) (intro.) A foreign corporation authorized to transact business in  
2 this state shall obtain an amended certificate of authority from the department if it  
3 the foreign corporation changes any of the following:

4           (b) ~~The~~ Its date of incorporation or the period of its duration.

5           **SECTION 85.** 180.1507 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           180.1507 (2) A domestic corporation, a nonstock corporation, a limited  
7 partnership, a registered limited liability partnership, or a limited liability company  
8 incorporated, registered, or organized in this state, whose business office is identical  
9 with the registered office.

10          **SECTION 86.** 180.1507 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          180.1507 (3) A foreign corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership,  
12 registered limited liability partnership, or limited liability company authorized to  
13 transact business in this state, whose business office is identical with the registered  
14 office.

15          **SECTION 87.** 180.1530 (1m) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

16          180.1530 (1m) If the department receives a certificate under sub. (1) (f) and a  
17 statement by the foreign corporation that the certificate is submitted by the foreign  
18 corporation to terminate its authority to transact business in this state, the  
19 department shall ~~issue a certificate of revocation~~ revoke the foreign corporation's  
20 certificate of authority under s. 180.1531 (2) (b).

21          (2) A court may revoke under s. 946.87 the certificate of authority of a foreign  
22 corporation authorized to transact business in this state. The court shall notify the  
23 department of the action, and the department shall ~~issue a certificate of revocation~~  
24 revoke the foreign corporation's certificate of authority under s. 180.1531 (2) (b).

25          **SECTION 88.** 180.1531 (1) and (2) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

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1           180.1531 (1) If the department determines that one or more grounds exist  
2 under s. 180.1530 (1) for revocation of a certificate of authority, the department shall  
3 ~~serve~~ give the foreign corporation under s. ~~180.1510 with written~~ 180.0141 notice of  
4 the determination. Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4), the notice shall  
5 be in writing and addressed to the registered office of the foreign corporation.

6           (2) (a) Within 60 days after ~~service of the notice is perfected~~ takes effect under  
7 s. ~~180.1510~~ 180.0141 (5) (a), the foreign corporation shall correct each ground for  
8 revocation or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the department that each  
9 ground determined by the department does not exist.

10           (b) If the foreign corporation fails to satisfy par. (a), the department may revoke  
11 the foreign corporation's certificate of authority by ~~issuing a certificate of revocation~~  
12 ~~that recites~~ entering a notation in the department's records to reflect each ground for  
13 revocation and ~~its~~ the effective date of the revocation. The department shall ~~file the~~  
14 ~~original of the certificate and serve a copy on~~ give the foreign corporation under s.  
15 ~~180.1510~~ 180.0141 notice of each ground for revocation and the effective date of the  
16 revocation. Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4), the notice shall be in  
17 writing and addressed to the registered office of the foreign corporation.

18           **SECTION 89.** 180.1531 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

19           180.1531 (2m) (a) If a notice under sub. (1) or (2) (b) is returned to the  
20 department as undeliverable, the department shall again give notice to the  
21 corporation under s. 180.0141. Notwithstanding s. 180.0141 (2) (b), (3), and (4) and  
22 except as provided under par. (b), the notice under this paragraph shall be in writing  
23 and addressed to the principal office of the foreign corporation.

24           (b) If the notice under par. (a) is returned to the department as undeliverable  
25 or if the corporation's principal office cannot be determined from the records of the

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1 department, the department shall give the notice by publishing a class 2 notice under  
2 ch. 985 in the official state newspaper.

3 **SECTION 90.** 180.1532 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 180.1532 (1) A foreign corporation may appeal the department's revocation of  
5 its certificate of authority under s. 180.1530 (1) to the circuit court for the county  
6 where the foreign corporation's principal office or, if none in this state, its registered  
7 office is located, within 30 days after ~~service of the certificate~~ the notice of revocation  
8 ~~is perfected~~ takes effect under s. ~~180.1510~~ 180.0141 (5) (a). The foreign corporation  
9 shall appeal by petitioning the court to set aside the revocation and attaching to the  
10 petition copies of its certificate of authority and the department's ~~certificate~~ notice  
11 of revocation.

12 **SECTION 91.** 180.1709 of the statutes is repealed.

13 **SECTION 92.** 181.0103 (7) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

14 181.0103 (7) "Deliver" means deliver by hand, mail, commercial delivery  
15 service, electronic transmission, or any other method of delivery used in  
16 conventional commercial practice.

17 **SECTION 93.** 181.0103 (10m) and (10p) of the statutes are created to read:

18 181.0103 (10m) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical,  
19 digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

20 (10p) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process,  
21 attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person  
22 with intent to authenticate the writing.

23 **SECTION 94.** 181.0103 (23) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

24 181.0103 (23) "Sign" means to execute or adopt a manual, facsimile, conformed,  
25 or electronic signature or any symbol with intent to authenticate a writing.