LEGISLATIVE BILL 78

Approved by the Governor March 07, 2019

Introduced by Williams, 36.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to limited liability companies; to amend section 21-147, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 21-192, 21-507, 21-509, 21-510, 21-513, 21-514, 21-517, 21-520, 21-521, 21-523, 21-525, 21-526, 21-528, 21-529, 21-532, 21-534, 21-537, 21-539, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to provide changes and corrections to the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act; to change filing fees and dissolution provisions under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal section 21-541, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 21-147, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

21-147 (RULLCA 701) (a) A limited liability company is dissolved, and its activities must be wound up, upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(1) an event or circumstance that the operating agreement states causes dissolution;
(2) the consent of all the members;
(3) the passage of ninety consecutive days during which the company has no members;
(4) on application by a member, the entry by the district court of an order dissolving the company on the grounds that:
(A) the conduct of all or substantially all of the company's activities is unlawful; or
(B) it is not reasonably practicable to carry on the company's activities in conformity with the certificate of organization and the operating agreement; or
(5) on application by a member, the entry by the district court of an order dissolving the company on the grounds that the managers or those members in control of the company:
(A) have acted, are acting, or will act in a manner that is illegal or fraudulent; or
(B) have acted or are acting in a manner that is oppressive and was, is, or will be directly harmful to the applicant.

(b) In a proceeding brought under subdivision (a)(5) of this section, the court may order a remedy other than dissolution.

(c) A limited liability company may rescind its dissolution, unless a statement of termination applicable to the company has become effective, the district court has entered an order under subdivision (a)(4) of this section dissolving the company, or the Secretary of State has administratively dissolved the company under section 21-151.

(d) Rescinding dissolution under this section requires:

(1) the consent of all the members; and
(2) if the limited liability company has delivered to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of dissolution under section 21-148 and:
(A) the statement has not become effective, delivery to the Secretary of State for filing of a statement of withdrawal under section 21-121 applicable to the statement of dissolution; or
(B) if the statement of dissolution has become effective, delivery to the Secretary of State for filing of a statement of rescission stating the name of the company and that dissolution has been rescinded under this section.

(e) If a limited liability company rescinds its dissolution:

(1) the company resumes carrying on its activities and affairs as if dissolution had never occurred;
(2) subject to subdivision (e)(3) of this section, any liability incurred by the company after the dissolution and before the rescission has become effective is determined as if dissolution had never occurred; and
(3) the rights of a third party arising out of conduct in reliance on the dissolution before the third party knew or had notice of the rescission may not be adversely affected.

Sec. 2. Section 21-192, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-192 (1) The filing fee for all filings under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, including amendments and name reservation, shall be ten dollars plus the recording fees set forth in subdivision one of section 33-101, except that the filing fee for filing a certificate of organization under section 21-117 and for filing an application for a certificate of authority to transact business in this state as a foreign limited liability company under section 21-156 shall be one hundred dollars plus such recording fees and ten dollars for a certificate, and except that the filing fee for filing a protected-series designation under section 21-540 shall be one hundred dollars for each protected series stated plus such recording fees and ten -1-
dollars for a certificate and the filing fee for an application for a certificate of authority to do business in this state as a foreign protected series under section 21-537 shall be one hundred dollars plus such recording fees and ten dollars for a certificate.

(2) The filing fee for filing a statement of change of address for an agent for service of process under section 21-114 shall be ten dollars for each limited liability company or foreign limited liability company for which the agent is designated plus the recording fees set forth in subdivision (4) of section 33-101.

(3) The filing fee for filing a statement of designation change under section 21-510 shall be ten dollars for each of the series limited liability company's protected series plus the recording fees set forth in subdivision (4) of section 33-101.

(4) The filing fee for the filing of a biennial report under section 21-514 shall be ten dollars for the series limited liability company and ten dollars for each of the series limited liability company's protected series.

(5) There shall be no recording fee collected for the filing of a biennial report required by section 21-125 or any corrections or amendments thereto.

(6) The fee for an application for reinstatement more than five years after the effective date of an administrative dissolution shall be five hundred dollars.

(7) A fee of one dollar per page plus ten dollars per certificate shall be paid for a certified copy of any document on file under the act.

(8) The fees for filings under the act shall be paid to the Secretary of State and remitted by him or her to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit two-thirds of the fees to the General Fund and one-third of the fees to the Corporation Cash Fund.

Sec. 3. Section 21-507, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-507 (a) An operating agreement may not vary the effect of:

(1) this section;
(2) section 21-503;
(3) subsection (a) of section 21-504;
(4) subsection (b) of section 21-504 to provide a protected series a power beyond the powers the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act provides a limited liability company;
(5) subsection (c) or (d) of section 21-504;
(6) section 21-505;
(7) section 21-506;
(8) section 21-508;
(9) section 21-509, except to vary the manner in which a limited liability company approves establishing a protected series;
(10) section 21-510;
(11) section 21-515;
(12) section 21-516;
(13) subsection (a) or (b) of section 21-517;
(14) subsection (c) or (f) of section 21-518;
(15) section 21-528, except to decrease or eliminate a limitation of liability stated in section 21-520;
(16) section 21-521;
(17) section 21-522;
(18) section 21-523;
(19) subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section 21-524;
(20) section 21-525, except to designate a different person to manage winding up;
(21) section 21-526;
(22) sections 21-527 to 21-534;
(23) sections 21-535 to 21-538;
(24) section 21-542; or sections 21-541 to 21-542, except to vary:

(A) the person in which a series limited liability company may elect under subdivision (a)(2) of section 21-541 to be subject to the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act; or
(B) the person that has the right to sign and deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a record under subdivision (b)(2) of section 21-541; or

(25) a provision of the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act pertaining to:

(A) registered agents; or
(B) the Secretary of State, including provisions pertaining to records authorized or required to be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing under the act.

(b) An operating agreement may not unreasonably restrict the duties and rights under section 21-519 but may impose reasonable restrictions on the availability and use of information obtained under section 21-519 and may provide appropriate remedies, including liquidated damages, for a breach of any reasonable restriction on use.

Sec. 4. Section 21-509, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-509 (a) With the affirmative vote or consent of all members of a limited liability company, the company may establish a protected series.

(b) To establish one or more a protected series, a limited liability company shall deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a protected-series designation, signed by the company, stating the name of the company and the name or names of the protected series to be established.

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(c) A protected series is established when the protected-series designation takes effect under section 21-121.

(d) To amend a protected-series designation, a series limited liability company shall deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of designation change, signed by the company, that changes the name of the company, the name or names of the protected series to which the designation applies, or both. The change takes effect when the statement of designation change takes effect under section 21-121.

Sec. 5. Section 21-510, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-510 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the name of a protected series must be distinguishable in the records of the Secretary of State from:

(1) the name of each person that is not an individual and that is incorporated, organized, or authorized to transact business in this state; and

(2) each name reserved under section 21-109 or other state laws allowing the reservation or registration of business names, including fictitious or assumed name statutes.

(b) The name of a protected series of a series limited liability company must:

(1) begin with the name of the company, including any word or abbreviation required by section 21-108; and

(2) contain the phrase Protected Series or protected series or the abbreviation P.S. or PS.

(c) If a series limited liability company changes its name, the company shall deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of designation change for each of the company’s protected series, changing the name of each protected series to comply with this section.

Sec. 6. Section 21-513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-513 (a) On request of any person, the Secretary of State shall issue a certificate of existence good standing for a protected series of a series limited liability company or a certificate of authority registration for a foreign protected series if:

(1) in the case of a protected series:

(A) no statement of dissolution, termination, or relocation pertaining to the protected series has been filed; and

(B) the company has delivered to the Secretary of State for filing the most recent biennial report required by section 21-125 and the report includes the name of the protected series, unless:

(i) when the company delivered the report for filing, the protected series designation pertaining to the protected series had not yet taken effect; or

(ii) after the company delivered the report for filing, the company delivered to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of designation change changing the name of the protected series; or

(2) in the case of a foreign protected series, it is authorized registered to do business in this state.

(b) A certificate issued under subsection (a) of this section must state:

(1) in the case of a protected series:

(A) the name of the protected series of the series limited liability company and the name of the company;

(B) that the requirements of subsection (a) of this section are met;

(C) the date the protected-series designation pertaining to the protected series took effect; and

(D) if a statement of designation change pertaining to the protected series has been filed, the effective date and contents of the statement;

(2) in the case of a foreign protected series, that it is authorized registered to do business in this state;

(3) that the fees, taxes, interest, and penalties owed to this state by the protected series or foreign protected series and collected through the Secretary of State have been paid, if:

(A) payment is reflected in the records of the Secretary of State; and

(B) nonpayment affects the good standing of the protected series; and

(4) other facts reflected in the records of the Secretary of State pertaining to the protected series or foreign protected series which the person requesting the certificate reasonably requests.

(c) Subject to any qualification stated by the Secretary of State in a certificate issued under subsection (a) of this section, the certificate may be relied on as conclusive evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

Sec. 7. Section 21-514, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-514 (a) In the biennial report required by section 21-125, a series limited liability company shall include the name of each protected series of the company:

(1) for which the company has previously delivered to the Secretary of State for filing a protected-series designation; and

(2) which has not dissolved and completed winding up.

(b) A failure by a series limited liability company to comply with subsection (a) of this section with regard to a protected series prevents issuance of a certificate of existence good standing pertaining to the protected series but does not otherwise affect the protected series.

Sec. 8. Section 21-517, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:
21-517 (a) A protected-series transferable interest of a protected series of a series limited liability company must be owned initially by an associated member of the protected series or the company.

(b) If a protected series of a series limited liability company has no associated members when established, the company owns the protected-series transfer interests in the protected series.

(c) In addition to acquiring a protected-series [series] transferable interest under subsection (b) of this section, a series limited liability company may acquire a protected-series [series] transferable interest through a transfer from another person or as provided in the operating agreement.

(d) Except for subdivision (a)(3) of section 21-568, a provision of the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act which applies to a protected-series transferee of a protected series of a series limited liability company applies to the company in its capacity as an owner of a protected-series transfer interest of the protected series. A provision of the operating agreement of a series limited liability company which applies to a protected-series transferee of a protected series of the company applies to the company in its capacity as an owner of a protected-series transferee of the protected series.

Sec. 9. Section 21-520, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-520 (a) A person is not liable, directly or indirectly, by way of contribution or otherwise, for a debt, obligation, or other liability of:

(1) a protected series of a series limited liability company solely by reason of being or acting as:

(A) an associated member, protected-series [series] manager, or protected-series transferee of the protected series; or

(B) a member, manager, or a transferee of the company; or

(C) an associated member or protected-series transferee of a protected series of the company.

(b) Subject to section 21-523, the following rules apply:

(1) A debt, obligation, or other liability of a series limited liability company is solely the debt, obligation, or liability of the company.

(2) A debt, obligation, or other liability of a protected series is solely the debt, obligation, or liability of the protected series.

(3) A series limited liability company is not liable, directly or indirectly, by way of contribution or otherwise, for a debt, obligation, or other liability of a protected series of the company solely by reason of the protected series being a protected series of the company or the company:

(A) being or acting as a protected-series manager of the protected series;

(B) having the protected series manage the company; or

(C) owning a protected-series transferable interest of the protected series.

(4) A protected series of a series limited liability company is not liable, directly or indirectly, by way of contribution or otherwise, for a debt, obligation, or other liability of the company or another protected series of the company solely by reason of:

(A) being a protected series of the company;

(B) being or acting as a manager of the company or a protected-series manager of another protected series of the company; or

(C) having the company or another protected series of the company be act as a protected-series manager of the protected series.

Sec. 10. Section 21-521, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-521 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a claim seeking to disregard a limitation in section 21-520 is governed by the principles of law and equity, including a principle providing a right to a creditor or holding a person liable for a debt, obligation, or other liability of a protected series of the company solely by reason of:

(A) an associated member or protected-series transferee of a protected series of the company;

(B) having the protected series manage the company; or

(C) owning a protected-series transferable interest of the protected series.

(b) The failure of a limited liability company or a protected series to observe formalities relating to the exercise of its powers or management of its activities and affairs is not a ground to disregard a limitation in subsection (a) of section 21-520 but may be a ground to disregard a limitation in subsection (b) of section 21-520.

Sec. 11. Section 21-522, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-522 Section 21-142 applies Sections 21-140 to 21-143 apply to a judgment creditor of:

(1) an associated member or protected-series transferee of a protected series; or
(2) A series limited liability company, to the extent the company owns a protected-series transferable interest of a protected series.

Sec. 12. Section 21-523, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-523 (a) In this section:

(1) Enforcement date means 12:01 a.m. on the date on which a claimant first serves process on a series limited liability company or protected series in an action seeking to enforce this section a claim against an asset of the company or protected series by attachment, levy, or the like.

(2) Subject to subsection (b) of section 21-534, incurrence date means the date on which a series limited liability company or protected series incurred the liability giving rise to a claim that a claimant seeks to enforce under this section.

(b) If a claim against a series limited liability company or a protected series of the company has been reduced to judgment, in addition to any other remedy provided by law or equity, the judgment may be enforced in accordance with the following rules:

(1) A judgment against the company may be enforced against an asset of a protected series of the company if the asset:

(A) was a nonassociated asset of the protected series on the incurrence date; or

(B) is a nonassociated asset of the protected series on the enforcement date.

(2) A judgment against a protected series may be enforced against an asset of the company if the asset:

(A) was a nonassociated asset of the company on the incurrence date; or

(B) is a nonassociated asset of the company on the enforcement date.

(3) A judgment against a protected series may be enforced against an asset of another protected series of the company if the asset:

(A) was a nonassociated asset of the other protected series on the incurrence date; or

(B) is a nonassociated asset of the other protected series on the enforcement date.

(4) In addition to any other remedy provided by law or equity, if a claim against a series limited liability company or a protected series has not been reduced to a judgment and other than the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act permits a prejudgment remedy by attachment, levy, or the like, the court may apply subsection (b) of this section as a prejudgment remedy.

(5) In a proceeding under this section, the party asserting that an asset is or was an associated asset of a series limited liability company or a protected series of the company has the burden of proof on the issue.

Sec. 13. Section 21-525, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-525 (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section and in accordance with section 21-508:

(1) a dissolved protected series shall wind up its activities and affairs in the same manner that a limited liability company winds up its activities and affairs under sections 21-147 to 21-154, subject to the same requirements and conditions and with the same effects; and

(2) judicial supervision or another judicial remedy is available in the winding up of the protected series to the same extent, in the same manner, under the same conditions, and with the same effects that apply under subsection (e) of section 21-148.

(b) When a protected series of a series limited liability company dissolves, the company shall deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of protected-series dissolution stating the name of the company and the protected series and that the protected series is dissolved. The filing of the statement by the Secretary of State has the same effect as the filing by the Secretary of State of a statement of dissolution under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of section 21-103.

(c) When a protected series of a series limited liability company has completed winding up, the company may deliver to the Secretary of State for filing a statement of designation cancellation stating the name of the company and the protected series and that the protected series is terminated. The filing of the statement by the Secretary of State has the same effect as the filing by the Secretary of State of a statement of termination under subdivision (d)(2)(B) of section 21-103.

(d) A series limited liability company has not completed its winding up until each of the protected series of the company has completed its winding up.

Sec. 14. Section 21-526, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-526 If a series limited liability company that has been
administratively dissolved is reinstated, or a series limited liability company that voluntarily dissolved rescinds its dissolution:

(1) each protected series of the company ceases winding up; and

(2) section 21-152 applies sections 21-152 and 21-153 apply to each protected series of the company in accordance with section 21-508.

Sec. 15. Section 21-528, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-528 A protected series may not:

(1) be an acquiring, acquired, converting, converted, merging, or surviving organization entity;

(2) participate in a domestication; or

(3) be a party to or be formed, organized, established, or created in a transaction substantially like a merger, interest exchange, conversion, or domestication.

Sec. 16. Section 21-529, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-529 A series limited liability company may not be:

(1) an acquiring, acquired, converting, converted, domesticating, or domesticated organization entity; or

(2) except as otherwise provided in section 21-530, a party to or the surviving company of a merger.

Sec. 17. Section 21-532, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-532 In a merger under section 21-530, the articles statement of merger must:

(1) comply with sections 21-171 to 21-174; and

(2) include as an attachment the following records, each to become effective when the merger becomes effective:

(A) for a protected series of a merging company being terminated as a result of the merger, a statement of termination signed by the company;

(B) for a protected series of a nonsurviving company which after the merger will be a relocated protected series:

(i) a statement of relocation signed by the nonsurviving company which contains the name of the company and the name of the protected series before and after the merger; and

(ii) a statement of protected-series designation signed by the surviving company; and

(C) for a protected series being established by the surviving company as a result of the merger, a statement of designation signed by the company.

Sec. 18. Section 21-534, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-534 (a) A creditor’s right that existed under section 21-523 immediately before a merger under section 21-530 may be enforced after the merger in accordance with the following rules:

(1) A creditor’s right that existed immediately before the merger against the surviving company, a continuing protected series, or a relocated protected series continues without change after the merger.

(2) A creditor’s right that existed immediately before the merger against a nonsurviving company:

(A) may be asserted against an asset of the nonsurviving company which vested in the surviving company as a result of the merger; and

(B) does not otherwise change.

(3) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the following rules apply:

(A) In addition to the remedy stated in subdivision (a)(1) of this section, a creditor with a right under a section 21-523 which existed immediately before the merger against a nonsurviving company or a relocated protected series may assert the right against:

(i) an asset of the surviving company, other than an asset of the nonsurviving company which vested in the surviving company as a result of the merger;

(ii) an asset of a continuing protected series; or

(iii) an asset of a protected series established by the surviving company as a result of the merger;

(iv) if the creditor’s right was against an asset of the nonsurviving company an asset of a relocated series;

(v) if the creditor’s right was against an asset of a relocated protected series, an asset of another relocated protected series.

(B) In addition to the remedy stated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, a creditor with a right that existed immediately before the merger against the surviving company or a continuing protected series may assert the right against:

(i) an asset of a relocated protected series; or

(ii) an asset of a nonsurviving company which vested in the surviving company as a result of the merger.

(b) For the purposes of subdivision (a)(3) of this section and subdivisions (b)(1)(A), (b)(2)(A), and (b)(3)(A) of section 21-523, the incurrence date is deemed to be the date on which the merger becomes effective.

(c) A merger under section 21-530 does not affect the manner in which section 21-523 applies to a liability incurred after the merger.

Sec. 19. Section 21-537, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-537 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and subject to sections 21-521 and 21-523, the law of this state governing the authorization
registration of a foreign limited liability company to do business in this state, including the consequences of not complying with that law, applies to a foreign protected series of a foreign series limited liability company as if the foreign protected series were a foreign limited liability company formed separately from the foreign series limited liability company and distinct from the foreign series limited liability company and any other foreign protected series of the foreign series limited liability company.

(b) An application by a foreign protected series of a foreign series limited liability company for a certificate of authority registration to do business in this state must include:

(1) the name and jurisdiction of formation of the foreign series limited liability company along with a certificate of existence or equivalent for the foreign protected series issued in its jurisdiction of formation, except that if the jurisdiction of formation of the foreign series limited liability company does not provide for issuance of a certificate of existence or equivalent for a foreign protected series, the application must include a certificate of existence or equivalent for the foreign series limited liability company and in that case the foreign protected series is deemed to be in existence as long as the foreign series limited liability company is in existence or good standing in its jurisdiction of formation; and

(2) if the company has other foreign protected series, the name and street and mailing address of an individual who knows the name and street and mailing address of:

(A) each other foreign protected series of the foreign series limited liability company; and

(B) the foreign protected-series manager of and agent for service of process for each other foreign protected series of the foreign series limited liability company.

(c) The name of a foreign protected series applying for a certificate of authority registration or registered to do business in this state must comply with section 21-108 and subsection (b) of section 21-510 and may do so using subdivision (b)(2) of section 21-108, if the fictitious name complies with section 21-108 and subsection (b) of section 21-510.

(d) A foreign protected series that has been issued a certificate of authority to do business in this state pursuant to this section shall file an amendment to its application if there is any change in the information required by subsection (b) of this section. The requirement in subdivision (a)(5) and subsection (c) of section 21-114, subsection (e) of section 21-118, section 21-122, subsection (d) of section 21-125, and section 21-172 to amend a statement of registration to update information applies to the information required by subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 20. Section 21-539, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

21-539 In applying and construing the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact the Uniform Protected Series Act.  

Sec. 21. Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 24 of this act become operative on January 1, 2021. The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

Sec. 22. Original section 21-147, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.


Sec. 24. The following section is outright repealed: Section 21-541, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.