

- 1 SB204
- 2 S69H758-2
- 3 By Senators Sessions, Allen
- 4 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development
- 5 First Read: 06-Mar-24



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5	A BILL
6	TO BE ENTITLED
7	AN ACT
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9	Relating to corporations; to amend Section 10A-1-7.12,
10	Section 10A-2A-1.40, as last amended by Act 2023-503, 2023
11	Regular Session, and Sections 10A-2A-1.41 and 10A-2A-16.01,
12	Code of Alabama 1975, and repeal Section 10A-2A-16.11, Code of
13	Alabama 1975, to remove the requirement that corporations file
14	an annual report with the Secretary of State and remove any
15	reference to an annual report.
16	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
17	Section 1. Section 10A-1-7.12, Section 10A-2A-1.40, as
18	last amended by Act 2023-503, 2023 Regular Session, and
19	Sections 10A-2A-1.41 and 10A-2A-16.01, Code of Alabama 1975,
20	are amended to read as follows:
21	"\$10A-1-7.12
22	The Secretary of State may commence a proceeding under
23	Section 10A-1-7.13 to revoke the registration of a foreign
24	entity authorized to transact business in this state if:
25	(1) the foreign entity does not deliver its annual
26	report, if required by law, to the Secretary of State within
27	180 days after it is due;
28	(2)(1) the foreign entity does not pay within 180 days



29 after they are due any applicable privilege or corporation 30 share tax, qualification fee or admission tax, or interest or 31 penalties imposed by this title or other law;

32 (3)(2) the foreign entity is without a registered agent 33 or registered office in this state for 60 days or more;

34 (4) (3) the foreign entity does not file a statement of 35 change of registered agent or registered office with the 36 Secretary of State under Section 10A-1-5.32 within 60 days of 37 the change or its registered agent does not file a change of 38 name or change of address of the registered office with the 39 Secretary of State under Section 10A-1-5.33 within 60 days of 40 the change;

41 (5)(4) an organizer, governing person, or agent of the 42 foreign entity signed a document he or she knew was false in 43 any material respect with intent that the document be 44 delivered to the Secretary of State for filing; or

45 (6)(5) the Secretary of State receives a duly 46 authenticated certificate from the Secretary of State or other 47 official having custody of entity records in the state or 48 country under whose laws the foreign entity is formed or is 49 governed stating that the foreign entity has been terminated."

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"\$10A-2A-1.40

As used in this chapter, unless otherwise specified or unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms have the following meanings:

54 (1) AUTHORIZED STOCK means the stock of all classes and
 55 series a corporation or foreign corporation is authorized to
 56 issue.

(2) BENEFICIAL STOCKHOLDER means a person who owns the

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58 beneficial interest in stock, which is either a record 59 stockholder or a person on whose behalf shares of stock are 60 registered in the name of an intermediary or nominee. 61 (3) CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION means the certificate 62 of incorporation described in Section 10A-2A-2.02, all 63 amendments to the certificate of incorporation, and any other 64 documents permitted or required to be delivered for filing by a corporation with the Secretary of State under this chapter 65 or Chapter 1 that modify, amend, supplement, restate, or 66 67 replace the certificate of incorporation. After an amendment of the certificate of incorporation or any other document 68 filed under this chapter or Chapter 1 that restates the 69 70 certificate of incorporation in its entirety, the certificate 71 of incorporation shall not include any prior documents. When 72 used with respect to a corporation incorporated and existing 73 on December 31, 2019, under a predecessor law of this state, 74 the term "certificate of incorporation" means articles of 75 incorporation, charter, or similar incorporating document, and 76 all amendments and restatements to the certificate of 77 incorporation, charter, or similar incorporating document. 78 When used with respect to a foreign corporation, a nonprofit 79 corporation, or a foreign nonprofit corporation, the 80 "certificate of incorporation" of such an entity means the 81 document of such entity that is equivalent to the certificate of incorporation of a corporation. The term "certificate of 82 incorporation" as used in this chapter is synonymous to the 83 84 term "certificate of formation" used in Chapter 1.



(4) CORPORATION, except in the phrase foreign
 corporation, means an entity incorporated or existing under
 this chapter.

(5) DELIVER or DELIVERY means any method of delivery used in conventional commercial practice, including delivery by hand, mail, commercial delivery, and, if authorized in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, by electronic transmission.

93 (6) DISTRIBUTION means a direct or indirect transfer of cash or other property (except a corporation's own stock) or 94 incurrence of indebtedness by a corporation to or for the 95 benefit of its stockholders in respect of any of its stock. A 96 97 distribution may be in the form of a payment of a dividend; a 98 purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of stock; a 99 distribution of indebtedness; a distribution in liquidation; 100 or otherwise.

101 (7) DOCUMENT means a writing as defined in Chapter 1.
102 (8) EFFECTIVE DATE, when referring to a document

103 accepted for filing by the Secretary of State, means the time 104 and date determined in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 1.

105 (9) ELECTRONIC MAIL means an electronic transmission106 directed to a unique electronic mail address.

(10) ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS means a destination, commonly expressed as a string of characters, consisting of a unique user name or mailbox (commonly referred to as the "local part" of the address) and a reference to an internet domain (commonly referred to as the "domain part" of the address), whether or not displayed, to which electronic mail



113 can be sent or delivered.

(11) ELIGIBLE ENTITY means an unincorporated entity, foreign unincorporated entity, nonprofit corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation.

117 (12) ELIGIBLE INTERESTS means interests or memberships.

(13) EMPLOYEE includes an officer, but not a director.
A director may accept duties that make the director also an
employee.

(14) ENTITY includes corporation; foreign corporation; nonprofit corporation; foreign nonprofit corporation; estate; trust; unincorporated entity; foreign unincorporated entity; and state, United States, and foreign government.

125 (15) EXPENSES means reasonable expenses of any kind126 that are incurred in connection with a matter.

(16) FILING ENTITY means an unincorporated entity, other than a limited liability partnership, that is of a type that is created by filing a public organic record or is required to file a public organic record that evidences its creation.

132 (17) FOREIGN CORPORATION means a corporation 133 incorporated under a law other than the law of this state 134 which would be a corporation if incorporated under the law of 135 this state.

(18) FOREIGN NONPROFIT CORPORATION means a corporation incorporated under a law other than the law of this state which would be a nonprofit corporation if incorporated under the law of this state.

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(19) GOVERNING STATUTE means the statute governing the



141 internal affairs of a corporation, foreign corporation, 142 nonprofit corporation, foreign nonprofit corporation, 143 unincorporated entity, or foreign unincorporated entity. 144 (20) GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISION includes authority, county, district, and municipality. 145 146 (21) INCLUDES and INCLUDING denote a partial definition 147 or a nonexclusive list. (22) INTEREST means either or both of the following 148 149 rights under the governing statute governing an unincorporated 150 entity: 151 (i) the right to receive distributions from the entity either in the ordinary course or upon liquidation; or 152 153 (ii) the right to receive notice or vote on issues 154 involving its internal affairs, other than as an agent, 155 assignee, proxy, or person responsible for managing its business and affairs. 156 157 (23) INTEREST HOLDER means a person who holds of record 158 an interest. 159 (24) KNOWLEDGE is determined as follows: 160 (a) A person knows a fact when the person: 161 (1) has actual knowledge of it; or 162 (2) is deemed to know it under law other than this 163 chapter. 164 (b) A person has notice of a fact when the person: 165 (1) knows of it; (2) receives notification of it in accordance with 166 Section 10A-2A-1.41; 167 168 (3) has reason to know the fact from all of the facts



169 known to the person at the time in question; or 170 (4) is deemed to have notice of the fact under 171 subsection (d). 172 (c) A person notifies another of a fact by taking steps 173 reasonably required to inform the other person in ordinary course in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, whether or not 174 175 the other person knows the fact. 176 (d) A person is deemed to have notice of a 177 corporation's: (1) matters included in the certificate of 178 179 incorporation upon filing; (2) dissolution, 90 days after a certificate of 180 dissolution under Section 10A-2A-14.03 becomes effective; 181 182 (3) conversion, merger, or interest exchange under 183 Article 9 or Article 11, 90 days after a statement of conversion, or statement of merger or interest exchange 184 185 becomes effective; 186 (4) conversion or merger under Article 8 of Chapter 1, 187 90 days after a statement of conversion or statement of merger becomes effective; and 188 189 (5) revocation of dissolution and reinstatement, 90 190 days after certificate of revocation of dissolution and reinstatement under Section 10A-2A-14.04 becomes effective. 191 192 (e) A stockholder's knowledge, notice, or receipt of a 193 notification of a fact relating to the corporation is not 194 knowledge, notice, or receipt of a notification of a fact by the corporation solely by reason of the stockholder's capacity 195 196 as a stockholder.



(f) The date and time of the effectiveness of a notice delivered in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, is determined by Section 10A-2A-1.41.

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(25) MEANS denotes an exhaustive definition.

201 (26) MEMBERSHIP means the rights of a member in a202 nonprofit corporation or foreign nonprofit corporation.

203 (27) ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS means the public organic
 204 record and private organizational documents of a corporation,
 205 foreign corporation, or eligible entity.

(28) PRINCIPAL OFFICE means the office (in or out of this state) so designated in the annual report where the principal executive offices of <u>a the</u> corporation or foreign corporation are located.

(29) PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS means (i) the 210 211 bylaws of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit 212 corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation, or (ii) the 213 rules, regardless of whether in writing, that govern the 214 internal affairs of an unincorporated entity or foreign 215 unincorporated entity, are binding on all its interest 216 holders, and are not part of its public organic record, if 217 any. Where private organizational documents have been amended 218 or restated, the term means the private organizational 219 documents as last amended or restated.

(30) PROCEEDING includes any civil suit and criminal,
 administrative, and investigatory action.

(31) PUBLIC ORGANIC RECORD means (i) the certificate of incorporation of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation, or (ii) the



document, if any, the filing of which is required to create an unincorporated entity or foreign unincorporated entity, or which creates the unincorporated entity or foreign unincorporated entity and is required to be filed. Where a public organic record has been amended or restated, the term means the public organic record as last amended or restated.

(32) RECORD DATE means the date fixed for determining the identity of the corporation's stockholders and their stockholdings for purposes of this chapter. Unless another time is specified when the record date is fixed, the determination shall be made as of the close of business at the principal office of the corporation on the date so fixed.

(33) RECORD STOCKHOLDER means (i) the person in whose name shares of stock are registered in the records of the corporation, or (ii) the person identified as the beneficial owner of stock in a beneficial ownership certificate pursuant to Section 10A-2A-7.23 on file with the corporation to the extent of the rights granted by such certificate.

(34) SECRETARY means the corporate officer to whom the board of directors has delegated responsibility under Section 10A-2A-8.40(c) to maintain the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors and of the stockholders and for authenticating records of the corporation.

248 (35) STOCK EXCHANGE means a transaction pursuant to 249 Section 10A-2A-11.03.

250 (36) STOCKHOLDER means a record stockholder.

(37) STOCK means the units into which the proprietary
 interests in a corporation or foreign corporation are divided.



(38) TYPE OF ENTITY means a generic form of entity: (i) recognized at common law; or (ii) formed under a governing statute, regardless of whether some entities formed under that law are subject to provisions of that law that create different categories of the form of entity.

258 (39) UNINCORPORATED ENTITY means an organization or 259 artificial legal person that either has a separate legal 260 existence or has the power to acquire an estate in real 261 property in its own name and that is not any of the following: 262 a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, 263 foreign nonprofit corporation, a series of a limited liability company or of another type of entity, an estate, a trust, a 264 265 state, United States, or foreign government. The term includes 266 a general partnership, limited liability company, limited 267 partnership, business trust, joint stock association, and 268 unincorporated nonprofit association.

(40) UNITED STATES includes any district, authority,
bureau, commission, department, and any other agency of the
United States.

(41) UNRESTRICTED VOTING TRUST BENEFICIAL OWNER means, with respect to any stockholder rights, a voting trust beneficial owner whose entitlement to exercise the stockholder right in question is not inconsistent with the voting trust agreement.

(42) VOTING GROUP means all stock of one or more classes or series that under the certificate of incorporation or this chapter are entitled to vote and be counted together collectively on a matter at a meeting of stockholders. All



stock entitled by the certificate of incorporation or this chapter to vote generally on the matter is for that purpose a single voting group.

(43) VOTING POWER means the current power to vote inthe election of directors.

(44) VOTING TRUST BENEFICIAL OWNER means an owner of a
 beneficial interest in stock of the corporation held in a
 voting trust established pursuant to Section 10A-2A-7.30(a)."
 "\$10A-2A-1.41

(a) A notice under this chapter must be in writing unless oral notice is reasonable in the circumstances. Unless otherwise agreed between the sender and the recipient, words in a notice or other communication under this chapter must be in English.

295 (b) A notice or other communication may be given by any 296 method of delivery, except that notice or other communication 297 by electronic transmission must be in accordance with this 298 section. If the methods of delivery are impracticable, a 299 notice or other communication from the corporation may be 300 given by means of a broad non-exclusionary distribution to the 301 public (which may include a newspaper of general circulation 302 in the area where published; radio, television, or other form 303 of public broadcast communication; or other methods of 304 distribution that the corporation has previously identified to 305 its stockholders).

306 (c) A notice or other communication to a corporation or 307 to a foreign corporation registered to transact business in 308 this state may be delivered to the corporation's registered

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309 agent at its registered office or to the secretary at the 310 corporation's principal office shown in its most recent annual 311 report or, in the case of a foreign corporation that has not 312 yet delivered an annual report, in its foreign registration 313 under Chapter 1.

314 (d) A notice or other communications from the 315 corporation to a stockholder may be delivered by electronic 316 mail to the electronic mail address for that stockholder required to be included in the record of stockholders 317 maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d), unless that 318 319 stockholder has previously notified the corporation in writing that the stockholder objects to receiving notices and other 320 321 communications by electronic mail. Any notice or communication 322 may be delivered by another form of electronic transmission if 323 consented to by the stockholder or if authorized by subsection 324 (j). Any notice or other communication from the corporation to 325 any other person may be delivered by electronic transmission 326 if consented to by the recipient or if authorized by 327 subsection (j). Any consent given under this subsection or 328 subsection (j) may be revoked with respect to future notices 329 or communications by the person who consented by written 330 notice to the person to whom the consent was delivered.

(e) A notice or other communication may no longer be delivered to an electronic mail address or other electronic transmission address pursuant to subsection (d) if (i) the corporation receives notice from the information processing system into which the notice or other communication was entered that two consecutive notices or other communications



337 given by electronic transmissions have not been delivered to 338 the electronic mail address or other electronic transmission 339 address to which the notice or other communication was 340 directed, and (ii) the notice of non-delivery becomes known to 341 the secretary or an assistant secretary or to the transfer 342 agent, or another person responsible for the giving of notices or other communications for the corporation; provided, 343 344 however, the inadvertent failure to recognize the notice of 345 non-delivery as a cessation of authority to provide a stockholder with notice by electronic mail or other electronic 346 347 transmission shall not invalidate any meeting or other action.

348 (f) Unless otherwise agreed between the sender and the 349 recipient, a notice or other communication by electronic 350 transmission is received when:

351 (1) it enters an information processing system directed to (i) in the case of a stockholder, the electronic mail 352 353 address for the stockholder required to be included in the 354 record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 355 10A-2A-16.01(d) or other electronic transmission address at 356 which the stockholder has consented to receive notice or other 357 communications by electronic transmission, or (ii) in the case 358 of any other recipient, the electronic transmission address at 359 which the recipient has consented to receive notice or other 360 communications by electronic transmission; and

361 (2) it is in a form capable of being processed by that362 system.

363 (g) Receipt of an electronic acknowledgement from an 364 information processing system described in subsection (f)(1)



establishes that an electronic transmission was received but, 365 366 by itself, does not establish that the content sent 367 corresponds to the content received. 368 (h) An electronic transmission is received under this 369 section even if no person is aware of its receipt. 370 (i) A notice or other communication, if in a 371 comprehensible form or manner, is effective at the earliest of 372 the following: (1) if in a physical form, the earliest of when it is 373 actually received, or when it is left at: 374 375 (i) a stockholder's address included in the record of 376 stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d); 377 (ii) a director's residence or usual place of business; 378 or 379 (iii) the corporation's principal office; (2) if mailed by United States mail postage prepaid and 380 addressed to a stockholder at the stockholder's address 381 382 included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to 383 Section 10A-2A-16.01(d), upon deposit in the mail; 384 (3) if mailed by United States mail postage prepaid and 385 addressed to a recipient other than a stockholder at the 386 address included in the corporation's records, the earliest of 387 when it is actually received, or: 388 (i) if sent by registered or certified mail, return 389 receipt requested, the date shown on the return receipt signed 390 by or on behalf of the addressee; or (ii) five days after it is deposited in the United 391 392 States mail;



(4) if sent by a nationally recognized commercial carrier that issues a receipt or other confirmation of delivery, the earliest of when it is actually received or the date shown on the receipt or other confirmation of delivery issued by the commercial carrier;

398 (5) if an electronic transmission, when it is received 399 as provided in subsection (f); and

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(6) if oral, when communicated.

401 (j) A notice or other communication may be in the form of an electronic transmission that cannot be directly 402 403 reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated process used in conventional commercial practice only if (i) 404 405 the electronic transmission is otherwise retrievable in 406 perceivable form, and (ii) the sender and the recipient have 407 consented in writing to the use of such form of electronic transmission. 408

409 (k) If this chapter prescribes requirements for notices 410 or other communications in particular circumstances, those 411 requirements govern. If the certificate of incorporation or 412 bylaws prescribe requirements for notices or other 413 communications, not inconsistent with this section or other 414 provisions of this chapter, those requirements govern. The 415 certificate of incorporation or bylaws may authorize or 416 require delivery of notices of meetings of directors by 417 electronic transmission.

(1) In the event that any provisions of this chapter
are deemed to modify, limit, or supersede the federal
Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15

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421 U.S.C. §§_7001 et seq., the provisions of this chapter shall 422 control to the maximum extent permitted by Section 102(a)(2) 423 of that federal act.

(m) Whenever a notice or communication would otherwise be required to be given under this chapter to a stockholder, the notice or communication need not be given if the corporation is not permitted to deliver the notice or communication by electronic transmission pursuant to subsections (d) and (e) and:

(1) notices and communications to stockholders of two 430 431 consecutive annual meetings, and all notices and 432 communications of meetings during the period between those two 433 consecutive annual meetings, have been sent to that stockholder at that stockholder's address included in the 434 435 record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d) and have been returned undeliverable or could 436 437 not be delivered; or

(2) all, but not less than two, distributions to stockholders during a 12-month period, or two consecutive distributions to stockholders during a period of more than 12 months, have been sent to that stockholder at that stockholder's address included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d) and have been returned undeliverable or could not be delivered; or

(3) no address has been provided to the corporation by or on behalf of a stockholder and the corporation has not otherwise obtained an address for that stockholder it believes to be reliable.



In addition, if any stockholder to which this subsection (m) applies delivers to the corporation a written notice or communication setting forth that stockholder's then-current address, the requirement that notice and communication be given to that stockholder shall be reinstated.

455 (n) Whenever a notice or communication is required to 456 be given, under this chapter or the certificate of 457 incorporation or bylaws of any corporation, to any person with whom notice to or communication with is unlawful, the giving 458 459 of the notice or communication to that person shall not be 460 required and there shall be no duty to apply to any 461 governmental authority or agency for a license or permit to 462 give the notice or communication to that person. Any action or 463 meeting which shall be taken or held without notice or 464 communication to the person with whom notice to or 465 communication with is unlawful shall have the same force and 466 effect as if the notice or communication had been duly given. 467 In the event that the action taken by the corporation is such 468 as to require the filing of a certificate or other filing 469 instrument under any other sections of this chapter, the 470 certificate or other filing instrument shall state, if that is 471 the fact and if notice or communication is required, that 472 notice or communication was given to all persons entitled to 473 receive notice or communication except those persons with whom notice to or communication with is unlawful." 474

475 "\$10A-2A-16.01

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(a) A corporation shall maintain the following records:

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477 (1) its certificate of incorporation as currently in 478 effect: 479 (2) any notices to stockholders referred to in Section 480 10A-2A-1.20(c)(5) specifying facts on which a filed document 481 is dependent if those facts are not included in the 482 certificate of incorporation or otherwise available as 483 specified in Section 10A-2A-1.20(c)(5); 484 (3) its bylaws as currently in effect; 485 (4) all written communications within the past three years to stockholders generally; 486 487 (5) minutes of all meetings of, and records of all actions taken without a meeting by, its stockholders, its 488 489 board of directors, and board committees established under 490 Section 10A-2A-8.25; and 491 (6) a list of the names and business addresses of its current directors and officers; and 492 (7) its most recent annual report delivered to the 493 494 Secretary of State under Section 10A-2A-16.11. 495 (b) A corporation shall maintain all annual financial 496 statements prepared for the corporation for its last three 497 fiscal years (or any shorter period of existence) and any 498 audit or other reports with respect to those financial 499 statements. 500 (c) A corporation shall maintain accounting records in 501 a form that permits preparation of its financial statements. 502 (d) A corporation shall maintain a record of its

503 current stockholders in alphabetical order by class or series 504 of stock showing the address of each stockholder to which



505 notices and other communications from the corporation are to 506 be sent, and which shall include the number and class or 507 series of stock held by each stockholder. In addition, if a 508 stockholder has provided an electronic mail address to the 509 corporation or has consented to receive notices or other 510 communications by electronic mail or other electronic 511 transmission, the record of stockholders shall include the 512 electronic mail or other electronic transmission address of 513 the stockholder if notices or other communications are being 514 delivered by the corporation to the stockholder at that 515 electronic mail or other electronic transmission address pursuant to Section 10A-2A-1.41(d). An electronic mail address 516 517 of a stockholder shall be deemed to be provided by a 518 stockholder if it is contained in a communication to the 519 corporation by or on behalf of the stockholder, unless the 520 communication expressly indicates that the electronic mail 521 address may not be used to deliver notices or other 522 communications.

523 (e) A corporation shall maintain the records specified 524 in this section in a manner so that they may be made available 525 for inspection within a reasonable time."

526 Section 2. Section 10A-2A-16.11 of the Code of Alabama 527 1975, requiring each corporation, including foreign 528 corporations authorized to transact business in this state, to 529 file an annual report with the Secretary of State, is 530 repealed.

531 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 532 1, 2024.



533 534 535 Senate

Read for the first time and referred06-Mar-24 536 to the Senate committee on Fiscal 537 Responsibility and Economic 538 539 Development 540 Read for the second time and placed19-Mar-24 541 542 on the calendar: 543 1 amendment 544 545 Read for the third time and passed04-Apr-24 546 as amended Yeas 30 547 548 Nays O Abstains 0 549 550 551 552 Patrick Harris, 553 Secretary. 554