

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



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4	SYNOPSIS:
5	Under existing law, each corporation, including
6	a foreign corporation authorized to transact business
7	in this state, is required to provide an annual report
8	to the Secretary of State.
9	This bill would repeal the statute requiring
L 0	corporations to provide an annual report to the
L1	Secretary of State.
12	Under existing law, a corporation is required to
. 3	maintain certain records, including the annual report
L 4	that is provided to the Secretary of State.
L 5	This bill would remove this requirement.
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L 8	A BILL
. 9	TO BE ENTITLED
20	AN ACT
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22	Relating to corporations; to amend Section 10A-1-7.12,
23	Section 10A-2A-1.40, as last amended by Act 2023-503, 2023
24	Regular Session, and Sections 10A-2A-1.41 and 10A-2A-16.01,
25	Code of Alabama 1975, and repeal Section 10A-2A-16.11, Code of
26	Alabama 1975, to remove the requirement that corporations file

28 reference to an annual report.

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an annual report with the Secretary of State and remove any



29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 30 Section 1. Section 10A-1-7.12, Section 10A-2A-1.40, as 31 last amended by Act 2023-503, 2023 Regular Session, and 32 Sections 10A-2A-1.41 and 10A-2A-16.01, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: 33 34 "\$10A-1-7.12 35 The Secretary of State may commence a proceeding under 36 Section 10A-1-7.13 to revoke the registration of a foreign entity authorized to transact business in this state if: 37 (1) the foreign entity does not deliver its annual 38 report, if required by law, to the Secretary of State within 39 180 days after it is due; 40 (2) (1) the foreign entity does not pay within 180 days 41 42 after they are due any applicable privilege or corporation 43 share tax, qualification fee or admission tax, or interest or penalties imposed by this title or other law; 44 45 (3) (2) the foreign entity is without a registered agent 46 or registered office in this state for 60 days or more; 47 (4) (3) the foreign entity does not file a statement of 48 change of registered agent or registered office with the 49 Secretary of State under Section 10A-1-5.32 within 60 days of 50 the change or its registered agent does not file a change of 51 name or change of address of the registered office with the 52 Secretary of State under Section 10A-1-5.33 within 60 days of 53 the change; 54 (5) (4) an organizer, governing person, or agent of the foreign entity signed a document he or she knew was false in 55 56 any material respect with intent that the document be



57 delivered to the Secretary of State for filing; or

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

"\$10A-2A-1.40

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

- (1) AUTHORIZED STOCK means the stock of all classes and series a corporation or foreign corporation is authorized to issue.
- (2) BENEFICIAL STOCKHOLDER means a person who owns the beneficial interest in stock, which is either a record stockholder or a person on whose behalf shares of stock are 73 registered in the name of an intermediary or nominee.
 - (3) CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION means the certificate of incorporation described in Section 10A-2A-2.02, all amendments to the certificate of incorporation, and any other documents permitted or required to be delivered for filing by a corporation with the Secretary of State under this chapter or Chapter 1 that modify, amend, supplement, restate, or replace the certificate of incorporation. After an amendment of the certificate of incorporation or any other document filed under this chapter or Chapter 1 that restates the certificate of incorporation in its entirety, the certificate of incorporation shall not include any prior documents. When

- 85 used with respect to a corporation incorporated and existing 86 on December 31, 2019, under a predecessor law of this state, 87 the term "certificate of incorporation" means articles of 88 incorporation, charter, or similar incorporating document, and all amendments and restatements to the certificate of 89 90 incorporation, charter, or similar incorporating document. 91 When used with respect to a foreign corporation, a nonprofit 92 corporation, or a foreign nonprofit corporation, the 93 "certificate of incorporation" of such an entity means the document of such entity that is equivalent to the certificate 94 95 of incorporation of a corporation. The term "certificate of incorporation" as used in this chapter is synonymous to the 96 97 term "certificate of formation" used in Chapter 1.
- 98 (4) CORPORATION, except in the phrase foreign 99 corporation, means an entity incorporated or existing under 100 this chapter.
- 101 (5) DELIVER or DELIVERY means any method of delivery
 102 used in conventional commercial practice, including delivery
 103 by hand, mail, commercial delivery, and, if authorized in
 104 accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, by electronic
 105 transmission.
- (6) DISTRIBUTION means a direct or indirect transfer of cash or other property (except a corporation's own stock) or incurrence of indebtedness by a corporation to or for the benefit of its stockholders in respect of any of its stock. A distribution may be in the form of a payment of a dividend; a purchase, redemption, or other acquisition of stock; a distribution of indebtedness; a distribution in liquidation;

and date determined in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 1.



113 or otherwise.

- 114 (7) DOCUMENT means a writing as defined in Chapter 1.
- 115 (8) EFFECTIVE DATE, when referring to a document 116 accepted for filing by the Secretary of State, means the time
- 118 (9) ELECTRONIC MAIL means an electronic transmission
 119 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

 can be sent or delivered.
- 127 (11) ELIGIBLE ENTITY means an unincorporated entity,
 128 foreign unincorporated entity, nonprofit corporation, or
 129 foreign nonprofit corporation.
- 130 (12) ELIGIBLE INTERESTS means interests or memberships.
- 131 (13) EMPLOYEE includes an officer, but not a director.
- 132 A director may accept duties that make the director also an employee.
- 134 (14) ENTITY includes corporation; foreign corporation;
 135 nonprofit corporation; foreign nonprofit corporation; estate;
 136 trust; unincorporated entity; foreign unincorporated entity;
 137 and state, United States, and foreign government.
- 138 (15) EXPENSES means reasonable expenses of any kind 139 that are incurred in connection with a matter.
- 140 (16) FILING ENTITY means an unincorporated entity,



- 141 other than a limited liability partnership, that is of a type
- 142 that is created by filing a public organic record or is
- 143 required to file a public organic record that evidences its
- 144 creation.
- 145 (17) FOREIGN CORPORATION means a corporation
- incorporated under a law other than the law of this state
- 147 which would be a corporation if incorporated under the law of
- 148 this state.
- 149 (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
- 152 the law of this state.
- 153 (19) GOVERNING STATUTE means the statute governing the
- internal affairs of a corporation, foreign corporation,
- 155 nonprofit corporation, foreign nonprofit corporation,
- 156 unincorporated entity, or foreign unincorporated entity.
- 157 (20) GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISION includes authority,
- 158 county, district, and municipality.
- 159 (21) INCLUDES and INCLUDING denote a partial definition
- or a nonexclusive list.
- 161 (22) INTEREST means either or both of the following
- rights under the governing statute governing an unincorporated
- 163 entity:
- (i) the right to receive distributions from the entity
- 165 either in the ordinary course or upon liquidation; or
- 166 (ii) the right to receive notice or vote on issues
- 167 involving its internal affairs, other than as an agent,
- 168 assignee, proxy, or person responsible for managing its



- 169 business and affairs.
- 170 (23) INTEREST HOLDER means a person who holds of record
- 171 an interest.
- 172 (24) KNOWLEDGE is determined as follows:
- 173 (a) A person knows a fact when the person:
- 174 (1) has actual knowledge of it; or
- 175 (2) is deemed to know it under law other than this
- 176 chapter.
- 177 (b) A person has notice of a fact when the person:
- 178 (1) knows of it;
- 179 (2) receives notification of it in accordance with
- 180 Section 10A-2A-1.41;
- 181 (3) has reason to know the fact from all of the facts
- 182 known to the person at the time in question; or
- 183 (4) is deemed to have notice of the fact under
- 184 subsection (d).
- 185 (c) A person notifies another of a fact by taking steps
- 186 reasonably required to inform the other person in ordinary
- 187 course in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, whether or not
- 188 the other person knows the fact.
- 189 (d) A person is deemed to have notice of a
- 190 corporation's:
- 191 (1) matters included in the certificate of
- incorporation upon filing;
- 193 (2) dissolution, 90 days after a certificate of
- 194 dissolution under Section 10A-2A-14.03 becomes effective;
- 195 (3) conversion, merger, or interest exchange under
- 196 Article 9 or Article 11, 90 days after a statement of



- 197 conversion, or statement of merger or interest exchange 198 becomes effective:
- 199 (4) conversion or merger under Article 8 of Chapter 1,
 200 90 days after a statement of conversion or statement of merger
 201 becomes effective; and
- 202 (5) revocation of dissolution and reinstatement, 90
 203 days after certificate of revocation of dissolution and
 204 reinstatement under Section 10A-2A-14.04 becomes effective.
- 205 (e) A stockholder's knowledge, notice, or receipt of a
 206 notification of a fact relating to the corporation is not
 207 knowledge, notice, or receipt of a notification of a fact by
 208 the corporation solely by reason of the stockholder's capacity
 209 as a stockholder.
- 210 (f) The date and time of the effectiveness of a notice 211 delivered in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, is 212 determined by Section 10A-2A-1.41.
- 213 (25) MEANS denotes an exhaustive definition.
- 214 (26) MEMBERSHIP means the rights of a member in a 215 nonprofit corporation or foreign nonprofit corporation.
- 216 (27) ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS means the public organic 217 record and private organizational documents of a corporation, 218 foreign corporation, or eligible entity.
- 220 principal office (in or out of this state) so designated in

 221 the annual report where the including, in the case of a

 222 foreign corporation, the address of its principal executive

 223 offices of a corporation or foreign corporation are

 224 located office in the state or other jurisdiction under whose



225 law it is incorporated.

- bylaws of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation, or (ii) the rules, regardless of whether in writing, that govern the internal affairs of an unincorporated entity or foreign unincorporated entity, are binding on all its interest holders, and are not part of its public organic record, if any. Where private organizational documents have been amended or restated, the term means the private organizational 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.



- 253 (33) RECORD STOCKHOLDER means (i) the person in whose
 254 name shares of stock are registered in the records of the
 255 corporation, or (ii) the person identified as the beneficial
 256 owner of stock in a beneficial ownership certificate pursuant
 257 to Section 10A-2A-7.23 on file with the corporation to the
 258 extent of the rights granted by such certificate.
- 259 (34) SECRETARY means the corporate officer to whom the 260 board of directors has delegated responsibility under Section 261 10A-2A-8.40(c) to maintain the minutes of the meetings of the 262 board of directors and of the stockholders and for 263 authenticating records of the corporation.
- 264 (35) STOCK EXCHANGE means a transaction pursuant to Section 10A-2A-11.03.
- 266 (36) STOCKHOLDER means a record stockholder.

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- 267 (37) STOCK means the units into which the proprietary
 268 interests in a corporation or foreign corporation are divided.
- 269 (38) TYPE OF ENTITY means a generic form of entity: (i)
 270 recognized at common law; or (ii) formed under a governing
 271 statute, regardless of whether some entities formed under that
 272 law are subject to provisions of that law that create
 273 different categories of the form of entity.
 - (39) UNINCORPORATED ENTITY means an organization or artificial legal person that either has a separate legal existence or has the power to acquire an estate in real property in its own name and that is not any of the following: a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, foreign nonprofit corporation, a series of a limited liability company or of another type of entity, an estate, a trust, a



- state, United States, or foreign government. The term includes a general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, business trust, joint stock association, and
- 285 (40) UNITED STATES includes any district, authority,
 286 bureau, commission, department, and any other agency of the
 287 United States.

unincorporated nonprofit association.

- 288 (41) UNRESTRICTED VOTING TRUST BENEFICIAL OWNER means,
 289 with respect to any stockholder rights, a voting trust
 290 beneficial owner whose entitlement to exercise the stockholder
 291 right in question is not inconsistent with the voting trust
 292 agreement.
- 293 (42) VOTING GROUP means all stock of one or more
 294 classes or series that under the certificate of incorporation
 295 or this chapter are entitled to vote and be counted together
 296 collectively on a matter at a meeting of stockholders. All
 297 stock entitled by the certificate of incorporation or this
 298 chapter to vote generally on the matter is for that purpose a
 299 single voting group.
- 300 (43) VOTING POWER means the current power to vote in 301 the election of directors.
- 302 (44) VOTING TRUST BENEFICIAL OWNER means an owner of a
 303 beneficial interest in stock of the corporation held in a
 304 voting trust established pursuant to Section 10A-2A-7.30(a)."
- 305 "\$10A-2A-1.41

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



in a notice or other communication under this chapter must be in English.

- (b) A notice or other communication may be given by any method of delivery, except that notice or other communication by electronic transmission must be in accordance with this section. If the methods of delivery are impracticable, a notice or other communication from the corporation may be given by means of a broad non-exclusionary distribution to the public (which may include a newspaper of general circulation in the area where published; radio, television, or other form of public broadcast communication; or other methods of distribution that the corporation has previously identified to its stockholders).
- (c) A notice or other communication to a corporation or to a foreign corporation registered to transact business in this state may be delivered to the corporation's registered agent at its registered office or to the secretary at the corporation's principal office shown in its most recent annual report or, in the case of a foreign corporation that has not yet delivered an annual report, in its foreign registration under Chapter 1.
- (d) A notice or other communications from the corporation to a stockholder may be delivered by electronic mail to the electronic mail address for that stockholder required to be included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d), unless that stockholder has previously notified the corporation in writing that the stockholder objects to receiving notices and other

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communications by electronic mail. Any notice or communication may be delivered by another form of electronic transmission if consented to by the stockholder or if authorized by subsection (j). Any notice or other communication from the corporation to any other person may be delivered by electronic transmission if consented to by the recipient or if authorized by subsection (j). Any consent given under this subsection or subsection (j) may be revoked with respect to future notices or communications by the person who consented by written 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 given by electronic transmissions have not been delivered to the electronic mail address or other electronic transmission address to which the notice or other communication was directed, and (ii) the notice of non-delivery becomes known to the secretary or an assistant secretary or to the transfer agent, or another person responsible for the giving of notices or other communications for the corporation; provided, however, the inadvertent failure to recognize the notice of non-delivery as a cessation of authority to provide a stockholder with notice by electronic mail or other electronic transmission shall not invalidate any meeting or other action.
 - (f) Unless otherwise agreed between the sender and the



recipient, a notice or other communication by electronic transmission is received when:

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- (1) it enters an information processing system directed to (i) in the case of a stockholder, the electronic mail address for the stockholder required to be included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d) or other electronic transmission address at which the stockholder has consented to receive notice or other communications by electronic transmission, or (ii) in the case of any other recipient, the electronic transmission address at which the recipient has consented to receive notice or other communications by electronic transmission; and
- 377 (2) it is in a form capable of being processed by that system.
- 379 (g) Receipt of an electronic acknowledgement from an
 380 information processing system described in subsection (f)(1)
 381 establishes that an electronic transmission was received but,
 382 by itself, does not establish that the content sent
 383 corresponds to the content received.
- 384 (h) An electronic transmission is received under this 385 section even if no person is aware of its receipt.
- 386 (i) A notice or other communication, if in a
 387 comprehensible form or manner, is effective at the earliest of
 388 the following:
- 389 (1) if in a physical form, the earliest of when it is 390 actually received, or when it is left at:
- 391 (i) a stockholder's address included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d);



393	(ii) a director's residence or usual place of business;
394	or
395	(iii) the corporation's principal office;
396	(2) if mailed by United States mail postage prepaid and
397	addressed to a stockholder at the stockholder's address
398	included in the record of stockholders maintained pursuant to
399	Section 10A-2A-16.01(d), upon deposit in the mail;
400	(3) if mailed by United States mail postage prepaid and
401	addressed to a recipient other than a stockholder at the
402	address included in the corporation's records, the earliest of
403	when it is actually received, or:
404	(i) if sent by registered or certified mail, return
405	receipt requested, the date shown on the return receipt signed
406	by or on behalf of the addressee; or
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- 407 (ii) five days after it is deposited in the United 408 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;
- 414 (5) if an electronic transmission, when it is received 415 as provided in subsection (f); and
- 416 (6) if oral, when communicated.
- (j) A notice or other communication may be in the form
 of an electronic transmission that cannot be directly
 reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated
 process used in conventional commercial practice only if (i)



the electronic transmission is otherwise retrievable in perceivable form, and (ii) the sender and the recipient have consented in writing to the use of such form of electronic

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transmission.

- 425 (k) If this chapter prescribes requirements for notices 426 or other communications in particular circumstances, those 427 requirements govern. If the certificate of incorporation or 428 bylaws prescribe requirements for notices or other 429 communications, not inconsistent with this section or other provisions of this chapter, those requirements govern. The 430 431 certificate of incorporation or bylaws may authorize or require delivery of notices of meetings of directors by 432 433 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
 U.S.C. §§_7001 et seq., the provisions of this chapter shall
 control to the maximum extent permitted by Section 102(a)(2)
 of that federal act.
- 440 (m) Whenever a notice or communication would otherwise 441 be required to be given under this chapter to a stockholder, 442 the notice or communication need not be given if the 443 corporation is not permitted to deliver the notice or 444 communication by electronic transmission pursuant to 445 subsections (d) and (e) and:
- (1) notices and communications to stockholders of two
 consecutive annual meetings, and all notices and
 communications of meetings during the period between those two



449	consecutive	annual	meetings,	have	been	sent	to	that
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450 stockholder at that stockholder's address included in the

- 451 record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section
- 452 10A-2A-16.01(d) and have been returned undeliverable or could
- 453 not be delivered; or
- 454 (2) all, but not less than two, distributions to
- 455 stockholders during a 12-month period, or two consecutive
- 456 distributions to stockholders during a period of more than 12
- 457 months, have been sent to that stockholder at that
- 458 stockholder's address included in the record of stockholders
- 459 maintained pursuant to Section 10A-2A-16.01(d) and have been
- 460 returned undeliverable or could not be delivered; or
- 461 (3) no address has been provided to the corporation by
- or on behalf of a stockholder and the corporation has not
- 463 otherwise obtained an address for that stockholder it believes
- 464 to be reliable.
- 465 In addition, if any stockholder to which this
- 466 subsection (m) applies delivers to the corporation a written
- 467 notice or communication setting forth that stockholder's
- 468 then-current address, the requirement that notice and
- 469 communication be given to that stockholder shall be
- 470 reinstated.
- 471 (n) Whenever a notice or communication is required to
- 472 be given, under this chapter or the certificate of
- 473 incorporation or bylaws of any corporation, to any person with
- 474 whom notice to or communication with is unlawful, the giving
- 475 of the notice or communication to that person shall not be
- 476 required and there shall be no duty to apply to any



477 governmental authority or agency for a license or permit to 478 give the notice or communication to that person. Any action or 479 meeting which shall be taken or held without notice or 480 communication to the person with whom notice to or 481 communication with is unlawful shall have the same force and 482 effect as if the notice or communication had been duly given. In the event that the action taken by the corporation is such 483 484 as to require the filing of a certificate or other filing 485 instrument under any other sections of this chapter, the certificate or other filing instrument shall state, if that is 486 487 the fact and if notice or communication is required, that notice or communication was given to all persons entitled to 488 489 receive notice or communication except those persons with whom notice to or communication with is unlawful." 490 491 "\$10A-2A-16.01 (a) A corporation shall maintain the following records: 492 493 (1) its certificate of incorporation as currently in 494 effect; 495 (2) any notices to stockholders referred to in Section 496 10A-2A-1.20(c)(5) specifying facts on which a filed document 497

- is dependent if those facts are not included in the certificate of incorporation or otherwise available as specified in Section 10A-2A-1.20(c)(5);
 - (3) its bylaws as currently in effect;

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- 501 (4) all written communications within the past three 502 years to stockholders generally;
- (5) minutes of all meetings of, and records of all 503 504 actions taken without a meeting by, its stockholders, its

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- 505 board of directors, and board committees established under 506 Section 10A-2A-8.25; and
- 507 (6) a list of the names and business addresses of its
 508 current directors and officers; and

- (7) its most recent annual report delivered to the Secretary of State under Section 10A-2A-16.11.
- (b) A corporation shall maintain all annual financial statements prepared for the corporation for its last three fiscal years (or any shorter period of existence) and any audit or other reports with respect to those financial statements.
- (c) A corporation shall maintain accounting records in a form that permits preparation of its financial statements.
- (d) A corporation shall maintain a record of its current stockholders in alphabetical order by class or series of stock showing the address of each stockholder to which notices and other communications from the corporation are to be sent, and which shall include the number and class or series of stock held by each stockholder. In addition, if a stockholder has provided an electronic mail address to the corporation or has consented to receive notices or other communications by electronic mail or other electronic transmission, the record of stockholders shall include the electronic mail or other electronic transmission address of the stockholder if notices or other communications are being delivered by the corporation to the stockholder at that electronic mail or other electronic transmission address pursuant to Section 10A-2A-1.41(d). An electronic mail address



of a stockholder shall be deemed to be provided by a						
stockholder if it is contained in a communication to the						
corporation by or on behalf of the stockholder, unless the						
communication expressly indicates that the electronic mail						
address may not be used to deliver notices or other						
communications.						
(e) A corporation shall maintain the records specified						
in this section in a manner so that they may be made available						
for inspection within a reasonable time."						
Section 2. Section 10-2A-16.11 of the Code of Alabama						
1975, requiring each corporation, including foreign						
corporations authorized to transact business in this state, to						
file an annual report with the Secretary of State, is						
repealed.						
Section 3. This act shall become effective on October						

548 1, 2024.