

CHAPTER 258
FORMERLY
HOUSE BILL NO. 343

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, TITLE 6 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE CREATION, REGULATION, OPERATION AND DISSOLUTION OF DOMESTIC LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS AND THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF FOREIGN LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend § 17-101, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-101 Definitions.

As used in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

(14) "Partnership agreement" means any agreement, written, oral or implied, of the partners as to the affairs of a limited partnership and the conduct of its business. A partner of a limited partnership or an assignee of a partnership interest is bound by the partnership agreement whether or not the partner or assignee executes the partnership agreement. A limited partnership is not required to execute its partnership agreement. A limited partnership is bound by its partnership agreement whether or not the limited partnership executes the partnership agreement. A partnership agreement is not subject to any statute of frauds (including § 2714 of this title). A partnership agreement may provide rights to any person, including a person who is not a party to the partnership agreement, to the extent set forth therein. A written partnership agreement or another written agreement or writing:

b. Shall not be unenforceable by reason of its not having been signed by a person being admitted as a limited partner or becoming an assignee as provided in paragraph ~~(12)a.~~ (14)a. of this section, or by reason of its having been signed by a representative as provided in this title.

Section 2. Amend § 17-102, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-102 Name set forth in certificate.

The name of each limited partnership as set forth in its certificate of limited partnership:

(3) Must be such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company or registered series of a limited partnership reserved, registered, formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware or qualified to do business or registered as a foreign corporation, foreign limited partnership, foreign statutory trust, foreign partnership or foreign limited liability company in the State of Delaware; provided, however, that a limited partnership may register under any name which is not such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of any domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company, registered series of a limited partnership, or foreign limited partnership reserved, registered, formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with the written

consent of the other corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company, registered series of a limited partnership, or foreign limited partnership, which written consent shall be filed with the Secretary of State; provided further, that, if on July 31, 2011, a limited partnership is registered (with the consent of another limited partnership) under a name which is not such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of such other domestic limited partnership, it shall not be necessary for any such limited partnership to amend its certificate of limited partnership to comply with this subsection;

Section 3. Amend § 17-104, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-104 Registered office; registered agent.

(a) Each limited partnership shall have and maintain in the State of Delaware:

(2) A registered agent for service of process on the limited partnership, having a business office identical with such registered office, which agent may be any of

d. A foreign corporation, a foreign ~~partnership (whether general (including a limited liability partnership) or, a foreign~~ limited partnership (including a foreign limited liability limited partnership)), a foreign limited liability company, or a foreign statutory trust.

(b) A registered agent may change the address of the registered office of the limited partnership(s) for which it is registered agent to another address in the State of Delaware by paying a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(2) of this title and filing with the Secretary of State a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the address at which such registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of the limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent, and further certifying to the new address to which each such registered office will be changed on a given day, and at which new address such registered agent will thereafter maintain the registered office for each of the limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent. Upon the filing of such certificate, ~~the Secretary of State shall furnish to the registered agent a certified copy of the same under the Secretary's hand and seal of office, and thereafter, or until further change of address, as authorized by law, the registered office in the State of Delaware of each of the limited partnerships for which the agent is a registered agent shall be located at the new address of the registered agent thereof as given in the certificate. In the event of a change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a limited partnership, such registered agent shall file with the Secretary of State a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the new name of such registered agent, the name of such registered agent before it was changed, and the address at which such registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of the limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent, and shall pay a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(2) of this title. Upon the filing of such certificate, the Secretary of State shall furnish to the registered agent a certified copy of the certificate under his or her hand and seal of office.~~ A change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a limited partnership as a result of (i) a merger or consolidation of the registered agent, with or into another person which succeeds to its assets and liabilities by operation of law, (ii) the conversion of the registered agent into another person, or (iii) a division of the registered agent in which an identified resulting person succeeds to all of the assets and

liabilities of the registered agent related to its registered agent business pursuant to the plan of division, as set forth in the certificate of division, shall each be deemed a change of name for purposes of this section. Filing a certificate under this section shall be deemed to be an amendment of the certificate of limited partnership of each limited partnership affected thereby and each such limited partnership shall not be required to take any further action with respect thereto, to amend its certificate of limited partnership under § 17-202 of this title. Any registered agent filing a certificate under this section shall promptly, upon such filing, deliver a copy of any such certificate to each limited partnership affected thereby.

(c) The registered agent of 1 or more limited partnerships may resign and appoint a successor registered agent by paying a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(2) of this title and filing a certificate with the Secretary of State stating that it resigns and the name and address of the successor registered agent. There shall be attached to such certificate a statement of each affected limited partnership ratifying and approving such change of registered agent. Upon such filing, the successor registered agent shall become the registered agent of such limited partnerships as have ratified and approved such substitution and the successor registered agent's address, as stated in such certificate, shall become the address of each such limited partnership's registered office in the State of Delaware. ~~The Secretary of State shall then issue a certificate that the successor registered agent has become the registered agent of the limited partnerships so ratifying and approving such change and setting out the names of such limited partnerships.~~ Filing of such certificate of resignation shall be deemed to be an amendment of the certificate of limited partnership of each limited partnership affected thereby and each such limited partnership shall not be required to take any further action with respect thereto to amend its certificate of limited partnership under § 17-202 of this title.

(f) Any registered agent, who at any time serves as registered agent for more than 50 entities (a "commercial registered agent"), whether domestic or foreign, shall satisfy and comply with the following qualifications.

(2) A domestic or foreign corporation, a domestic ~~or foreign~~ partnership (whether general (including a limited liability partnership) or limited (including a limited liability limited partnership)), a foreign limited liability partnership, a domestic or foreign limited liability company, or a domestic or foreign statutory trust serving as a commercial registered agent shall:

Section 4. Amend § 17-113, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-113 Document form, signature and delivery.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, without limiting the manner in which any act or transaction may be documented, or the manner in which a document may be signed or delivered:

(2) Whenever this chapter or the partnership agreement requires or permits a signature, the signature may be a manual, facsimile, conformed or electronic signature. "Electronic signature" means an electronic symbol or process that is attached to, or logically associated with, a document and executed or adopted by a person with an intent to execute, authenticate or adopt the document. A person may execute a document with such person's signature.

Section 5. Amend § 17-212, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by

strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-212 ~~Contractual~~ No statutory appraisal rights.

~~A~~ Unless otherwise provided in a partnership agreement or an agreement of merger or consolidation or a plan of merger or a plan of division ~~may provide that contractual,~~ no appraisal rights shall be available with respect to a partnership interest or another interest in a limited partnership ~~shall be available for any class or group or series of partners or partnership interests, including~~ in connection with any amendment of a partnership agreement, any merger or consolidation in which the limited partnership or a registered series of the limited partnership is a constituent party to the merger or consolidation, any division of the limited partnership, any conversion of the limited partnership to another business form, any conversion of a protected series of the limited partnership to a registered series of such limited partnership, any conversion of a registered series of the limited partnership to a protected series of such limited partnership, any transfer to or domestication or continuance in any jurisdiction by the limited partnership, or the sale of all or substantially all of the limited partnership's assets. The Court of Chancery shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any matter relating to any ~~such~~ appraisal rights provided in a partnership agreement or an agreement of merger or consolidation or a plan of merger or a plan of division.

Section 6. Amend § 17-216, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-216 Transfer or continuance of domestic limited partnerships.

(c) Upon the filing in the office of the Secretary of State of the certificate of transfer or upon the future effective date or time of the certificate of transfer and payment to the Secretary of State of all fees prescribed in this chapter, ~~the Secretary of State shall certify that the limited partnership has filed all documents and paid all fees required by this chapter and thereupon~~ the limited partnership shall cease to exist as a limited partnership of the State of Delaware. ~~Such~~ A copy of the certificate of transfer certified by ~~of~~ the Secretary of State shall be prima facie evidence of the transfer or domestication or continuance by such limited partnership out of the State of Delaware. A copy of the certificate of transfer and domestic continuance certified by the Secretary of State shall be prima facie evidence of such limited partnership's transfer to or domestication or continuance in another jurisdiction and its continuance as a limited partnership in the State of Delaware.

Section 7. Amend § 17-219, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-219 Approval of conversion of a limited partnership.

(f) Upon the filing in the office of the Secretary of State of the certificate of conversion to non-Delaware entity or upon the future effective date or time of the certificate of conversion to non-Delaware entity and payment to the Secretary of State of all fees prescribed in this chapter, ~~the Secretary of State shall certify that the limited partnership has filed all documents and paid all fees required by this chapter, and thereupon~~ the limited partnership shall cease to exist as a limited partnership of the State of Delaware. ~~Such~~ A copy of the certificate of conversion to non-Delaware entity certified by ~~of~~ the Secretary of State shall be prima facie evidence of the conversion by such limited partnership out of the State of Delaware.

Section 8. Amend § 17-220, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-220 Division of a limited partnership.

(h) If a domestic limited partnership divides under this section, the dividing partnership shall file a certificate of division executed by at least 1 general partner of the dividing partnership on behalf of such dividing partnership in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with § 17-204 of this title, and a certificate of limited partnership that complies with § 17-201 of this title for each resulting partnership executed by all general partners of such resulting partnership in accordance with § 17-204 of this title. The certificate of division shall state:

(7) That the plan of division is on file at a place of business of such division partnership as is specified therein, and shall state the address thereof; ~~and~~

(8) That a copy of the plan of division will be furnished by such division partnership as is specified therein, on request and without cost, to any partner of the dividing partnership; and

(9) Any other information the dividing partnership determines to include therein.

Section 9. Amend § 17-221, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-221 Registered series of limited partners, general partners, partnership interests or assets.

(d) In order to form a registered series of a limited partnership, a certificate of registered series must be filed in accordance with this subsection.

(4) A general partner of a registered series who becomes aware that any statement in a certificate of registered series filed with respect to such registered series was false when made, or that any matter described therein has changed making the certificate of registered series false in any material respect or non-compliant with § 17-221(e)(1), shall promptly amend the certificate of registered series.

(e) The name of each registered series as set forth in its certificate of registered series:

(3) Must be such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company or registered series of a limited partnership reserved, registered, formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware or qualified to do business or registered as a foreign corporation, foreign limited partnership, foreign statutory trust, foreign partnership or foreign limited liability company in the State of Delaware; provided, however, that a registered series may register under any name which is not such as to distinguish it upon the records in the office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of any domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company, registered series of a limited partnership, or foreign limited partnership reserved, registered, formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with the written consent of the other corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company, registered series of a limited liability company, registered series of a limited partnership, or foreign limited partnership, which written consent shall be filed with the Secretary of State;

Section 10. Amend § 17-223, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-223 Approval of conversion of a registered series of a domestic limited partnership to a protected series of such domestic limited partnership.

~~(f) Upon the filing in the office of the Secretary of State of the certificate of conversion of registered series to protected series or upon the future effective date or time of the certificate of conversion of registered series to protected series and payment to the Secretary of State of all fees prescribed in this chapter, the Secretary of State shall certify that the registered series has filed all documents and paid all fees required by this chapter. Such~~ A copy of the certificate of conversion of registered series to protected series certified by ~~of~~ the Secretary of State shall be prima facie evidence of the conversion by such registered series to a protected series of such limited partnership.

Section 11. Amend § 17-301, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-301 Admission of limited partners.

(a) In connection with the formation of a limited partnership, a person is admitted as a limited partner of the limited partnership upon the later to occur of:

(1) The formation of the limited partnership; or

(2) The time provided in and upon compliance with the partnership agreement or, if the partnership agreement does not so provide, when the person's admission is reflected in the records of the limited partnership or as otherwise provided in the partnership agreement.

(b) After the formation of a limited partnership, a person is admitted as a limited partner of the limited partnership:

(1) In the case of a person who is not an assignee of a partnership interest, including a person acquiring a partnership interest directly from the limited partnership and a person to be admitted as a limited partner of the limited partnership without acquiring a partnership interest in the limited partnership, at the time provided in and upon compliance with the partnership agreement or, if the partnership agreement does not so provide, upon the consent of all partners ~~and when the person's admission is reflected in the records of~~ or as otherwise provided in the limited partnership agreement;

(2) In the case of an assignee of a partnership interest, as provided in § 17-704(a) of this title ~~and at the time provided in and upon compliance with the partnership agreement or, if the partnership agreement does not so provide, when any such person's permitted admission is reflected in the records of the limited partnership;~~

Section 12. Amend § 17-305, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-305 Access to and confidentiality of information; records.

(c) A limited partnership may maintain its records in other than a ~~written paper~~ paper form, including on, by means of, or in the form of any information storage device, method, or 1 or more electronic networks or databases (including 1 or more distributed electronic networks or databases), if such form is capable of conversion into ~~written paper~~ paper form

within a reasonable time.

Section 13. Amend § 17-904, Chapter 17, Title 6 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 17-904 Name; registered office; registered agent.

(a) A foreign limited partnership may register with the Secretary of State under any name (whether or not it is the name under which it is registered in the jurisdiction of its organization) that includes the words “Limited Partnership” or the abbreviation “L.P.” or the designation “LP” and that could be registered by a domestic limited partnership; provided, however, that a foreign limited partnership may register under any name which is not such as to distinguish it upon the records in the Office of the Secretary of State from the name on such records of any domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company ~~or~~ limited partnership, registered series of a limited liability company or registered series of a limited partnership reserved, registered, formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with the written consent of the other corporation, partnership, statutory trust, limited liability company ~~or~~ limited partnership, registered series of a limited liability company or registered series of a limited partnership, which written consent shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

(b) Each foreign limited partnership shall have and maintain in the State of Delaware:

(2) A registered agent for service of process on the limited partnership, having a business office identical with such registered office, which agent may be any of:

c. A foreign corporation, a foreign ~~partnership (whether general (including a limited liability partnership) or, a foreign~~ limited partnership (including a foreign limited liability limited partnership) (other than the foreign limited partnership itself), a foreign limited liability company or a foreign statutory trust.

(c) A registered agent may change the address of the registered office of the foreign limited partnership(s) for which the agent is registered agent to another address in the State of Delaware by paying a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(7) of this title and filing with the Secretary of State a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the address at which such registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of the foreign limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent, and further certifying to the new address to which each such registered office will be changed on a given day, and at which new address such registered agent will thereafter maintain the registered office for each of the foreign limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent. Upon the filing of such certificate, ~~the Secretary of State shall furnish to the registered agent a certified copy of the same under the Secretary's hand and seal of office, and thereafter, or until further change of address, as authorized by law, the registered office in the State of Delaware of each of the foreign limited partnerships for which the agent is a registered agent shall be located at the new address of the registered agent thereof as given in the certificate. In the event of a change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a foreign limited partnership, such registered agent shall file with the Secretary of State a certificate, executed by such registered agent, setting forth the new name of such registered agent, the name of such registered agent before it was changed and the address at which such registered agent has maintained the registered office for each of the foreign limited partnerships for which it is a registered agent, and shall pay a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(7) of this title. Upon the filing of such certificate, the Secretary of State shall furnish to~~

~~the registered agent a certified copy of the certificate under the Secretary of State's own hand and seal of office.~~ A change of name of any person acting as a registered agent of a foreign limited partnership as a result of (i) a merger or consolidation of the registered agent with or into another person which succeeds to its assets and liabilities by operation of law, (ii) the conversion of the registered agent into another person, or (iii) a division of the registered agent in which an identified resulting person succeeds to all of the assets and liabilities of the registered agent related to its registered agent business pursuant to the plan of division, as set forth in the certificate of division, shall each be deemed a change of name for purposes of this section. Filing a certificate under this section shall be deemed to be an amendment of the application of each foreign limited partnership affected thereby and each such foreign limited partnership shall not be required to take any further action with respect thereto to amend its application under § 17-905 of this title. Any registered agent filing a certificate under this section shall promptly, upon such filing, deliver a copy of any such certificate to each foreign limited partnership affected thereby.

(d) The registered agent of 1 or more foreign limited partnerships may resign and appoint a successor registered agent by paying a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(7) of this title and filing a certificate with the Secretary of State stating that it resigns and the name and address of the successor registered agent. There shall be attached to such certificate a statement of each affected foreign limited partnership ratifying and approving such change of registered agent. Upon such filing, the successor registered agent shall become the registered agent of such foreign limited partnerships as have ratified and approved such substitution and the successor registered agent's address, as stated in such certificate, shall become the address of each such foreign limited partnership's registered office in the State of Delaware. ~~The Secretary of State shall then issue a certificate that the successor registered agent has become the registered agent of the foreign limited partnerships so ratifying and approving such change and setting out the names of such foreign limited partnerships.~~ Filing of such certificate of resignation shall be deemed to be an amendment of the application of each foreign limited partnership affected thereby and each such foreign limited partnership shall not be required to take any further action with respect thereto to amend its application under § 17-905 of this title.

(e) The registered agent of ~~1 or more~~ a foreign limited partnerships, including a foreign limited partnership that has ceased to be registered as a foreign limited partnership in the State of Delaware pursuant to § 17-1109(g) of this title, may resign without appointing a successor registered agent by paying a fee as set forth in § 17-1107(a)(7) of this title and filing a certificate of resignation with the Secretary of State, but such resignation shall not become effective until 30 days after the certificate is filed. The certificate shall contain a statement that written notice of resignation was given to ~~each affected~~ the foreign limited partnership at least 30 days prior to the filing of the certificate by mailing or delivering such notice to the foreign limited partnership at its address last known to the registered agent and shall set forth the date of such notice. The certificate shall include such information last provided to the registered agent pursuant to Section 17-104(g) of this title for a communications contact for the foreign limited partnership. Such information regarding the communications contact shall not be deemed public. A certificate filed pursuant to this subsection must be on the form prescribed by the Secretary of State. After receipt of the notice of the resignation of its registered agent, the foreign limited partnership for which such registered agent was acting shall obtain and

designate a new registered agent to take the place of the registered agent so resigning. If such foreign limited partnership fails to obtain and designate a new registered agent as aforesaid prior to the expiration of the period of 30 days after the filing by the registered agent of the certificate of resignation, such foreign limited partnership shall not be permitted to do business in the State of Delaware and its registration shall be canceled. After the resignation of the registered agent shall have become effective as provided in this section and if no new registered agent shall have been obtained and designated in the time and manner aforesaid, service of legal process against each foreign limited partnership for which the resigned registered agent had been acting shall thereafter be upon the Secretary of State in accordance with § 17-911 of this title.

Section 14. This Act shall become effective upon its enactment into law.

Approved July 16, 2020