

- 1 HB230
- 2 B8EW4Q4-1
- 3 By Representatives Wilcox, Underwood
- 4 RFD: State Government
- 5 First Read: 27-Feb-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
10	corporations to provide an annual report to the
11	Secretary of State.
12	Under existing law, a corporation is required to
13	maintain certain records, including the annual report
14	that is provided to the Secretary of State.
15	This bill would remove this requirement.
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18	A BILL
19	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
27	an annual report with the Secretary of State and remove any
28	reference to an annual report.



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

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any material respect with intent that the document be

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57 delivered to the Secretary of State for filing; or

58 (6)(5) the Secretary of State receives a duly 59 authenticated certificate from the Secretary of State or other 60 official having custody of entity records in the state or 61 country under whose laws the foreign entity is formed or is 62 governed stating that the foreign entity has been terminated." 63 "\$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:

67 (1) AUTHORIZED STOCK means the stock of all classes and
68 series a corporation or foreign corporation is authorized to
69 issue.

70 (2) BENEFICIAL STOCKHOLDER means a person who owns the 71 beneficial interest in stock, which is either a record 72 stockholder or a person on whose behalf shares of stock are 73 registered in the name of an intermediary or nominee.

74 (3) CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION means the certificate 75 of incorporation described in Section 10A-2A-2.02, all 76 amendments to the certificate of incorporation, and any other 77 documents permitted or required to be delivered for filing by 78 a corporation with the Secretary of State under this chapter 79 or Chapter 1 that modify, amend, supplement, restate, or 80 replace the certificate of incorporation. After an amendment 81 of the certificate of incorporation or any other document filed under this chapter or Chapter 1 that restates the 82 certificate of incorporation in its entirety, the certificate 83 84 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;



113 or otherwise.

(7) DOCUMENT means a writing as defined in Chapter 1.
(8) EFFECTIVE DATE, when referring to a document
accepted for filing by the Secretary of State, means the time
and date determined in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 1.

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.

(11) ELIGIBLE ENTITY means an unincorporated entity,
foreign unincorporated entity, nonprofit corporation, or
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
133 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.

138 (15) EXPENSES means reasonable expenses of any kind139 that are incurred in connection with a matter.

140 (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.

145 (17) FOREIGN CORPORATION means a corporation 146 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.

(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.

(19) GOVERNING STATUTE means the statute governing the internal affairs of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, foreign nonprofit corporation, 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 definition160 or a nonexclusive list.

161 (22) INTEREST means either or both of the following 162 rights under the governing statute governing an unincorporated 163 entity:

164 (i) the right to receive distributions from the entity165 either in the ordinary course or upon liquidation; or

(ii) the right to receive notice or vote on issues
involving its internal affairs, other than as an agent,
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 this176 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 facts182 known to the person at the time in question; or

183 (4) is deemed to have notice of the fact under 184 subsection (d).

(c) A person notifies another of a fact by taking steps reasonably required to inform the other person in ordinary course in accordance with Section 10A-2A-1.41, whether or not 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 192 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 under196 Article 9 or Article 11, 90 days after a statement of



197 conversion, or statement of merger or interest exchange 198 becomes effective;

(4) conversion or merger under Article 8 of Chapter 1,
90 days after a statement of conversion or statement of merger
becomes effective; and

(5) revocation of dissolution and reinstatement, 90 days after certificate of revocation of dissolution and reinstatement under Section 10A-2A-14.04 becomes effective.

(e) A stockholder's knowledge, notice, or receipt of a notification of a fact relating to the corporation is not knowledge, notice, or receipt of a notification of a fact by the corporation solely by reason of the stockholder's capacity 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.

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

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

(28) PRINCIPAL OFFICE means the <u>address of its</u> principal office (in or out of this state) so designated in the annual report where the <u>including</u>, in the case of a foreign corporation, the address of its principal executive offices of a corporation or foreign corporation are located office in the state or other jurisdiction under whose



225 law it is incorporated.

226 (29) PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS means (i) the 227 bylaws of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit 228 corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation, or (ii) the 229 rules, regardless of whether in writing, that govern the 230 internal affairs of an unincorporated entity or foreign 231 unincorporated entity, are binding on all its interest 232 holders, and are not part of its public organic record, if 233 any. Where private organizational documents have been amended 234 or restated, the term means the private organizational 235 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 238 239 incorporation of a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit 240 corporation, or foreign nonprofit corporation, or (ii) the 241 document, if any, the filing of which is required to create an 242 unincorporated entity or foreign unincorporated entity, or 243 which creates the unincorporated entity or foreign 244 unincorporated entity and is required to be filed. Where a 245 public organic record has been amended or restated, the term 246 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 265 Section 10A-2A-11.03. 266 (36) STOCKHOLDER means a record stockholder. 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. 274 (39) UNINCORPORATED ENTITY means an organization or 275 artificial legal person that either has a separate legal 276 existence or has the power to acquire an estate in real 277 property in its own name and that is not any of the following: 278 a corporation, foreign corporation, nonprofit corporation, foreign nonprofit corporation, a series of a limited liability 279 280 company or of another type of entity, an estate, a trust, a

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state, United States, or foreign government. The term includes a general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, business trust, joint stock association, and 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.

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

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

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309 in a notice or other communication under this chapter must be 310 in English.

311 (b) A notice or other communication may be given by any 312 method of delivery, except that notice or other communication 313 by electronic transmission must be in accordance with this 314 section. If the methods of delivery are impracticable, a 315 notice or other communication from the corporation may be 316 given by means of a broad non-exclusionary distribution to the 317 public (which may include a newspaper of general circulation in the area where published; radio, television, or other form 318 319 of public broadcast communication; or other methods of distribution that the corporation has previously identified to 320 321 its stockholders).

322 (c) A notice or other communication to a corporation or 323 to a foreign corporation registered to transact business in 324 this state may be delivered to the corporation's registered 325 agent at its registered office or to the secretary at the 326 corporation's principal office shown in its most recent annual 327 report or, in the case of a foreign corporation that has not 328 yet delivered an annual report, in its foreign registration 329 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



337 communications by electronic mail. Any notice or communication 338 may be delivered by another form of electronic transmission if 339 consented to by the stockholder or if authorized by subsection 340 (j). Any notice or other communication from the corporation to 341 any other person may be delivered by electronic transmission 342 if consented to by the recipient or if authorized by 343 subsection (j). Any consent given under this subsection or 344 subsection (j) may be revoked with respect to future notices 345 or communications by the person who consented by written notice to the person to whom the consent was delivered. 346

347 (e) A notice or other communication may no longer be delivered to an electronic mail address or other electronic 348 349 transmission address pursuant to subsection (d) if (i) the 350 corporation receives notice from the information processing 351 system into which the notice or other communication was entered that two consecutive notices or other communications 352 353 given by electronic transmissions have not been delivered to 354 the electronic mail address or other electronic transmission 355 address to which the notice or other communication was 356 directed, and (ii) the notice of non-delivery becomes known to 357 the secretary or an assistant secretary or to the transfer 358 agent, or another person responsible for the giving of notices 359 or other communications for the corporation; provided, 360 however, the inadvertent failure to recognize the notice of 361 non-delivery as a cessation of authority to provide a 362 stockholder with notice by electronic mail or other electronic transmission shall not invalidate any meeting or other action. 363 364 (f) Unless otherwise agreed between the sender and the



365 recipient, a notice or other communication by electronic 366 transmission is received when:

367 (1) it enters an information processing system directed 368 to (i) in the case of a stockholder, the electronic mail 369 address for the stockholder required to be included in the 370 record of stockholders maintained pursuant to Section 371 10A-2A-16.01(d) or other electronic transmission address at 372 which the stockholder has consented to receive notice or other 373 communications by electronic transmission, or (ii) in the case of any other recipient, the electronic transmission address at 374 375 which the recipient has consented to receive notice or other 376 communications by electronic transmission; and

377 (2) it is in a form capable of being processed by that378 system.

(g) Receipt of an electronic acknowledgement from an information processing system described in subsection (f)(1) establishes that an electronic transmission was received but, by itself, does not establish that the content sent corresponds to the content received.

384 (h) An electronic transmission is received under this385 section even if no person is aware of its receipt.

(i) A notice or other communication, if in a comprehensible form or manner, is effective at the earliest of 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 392 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 address included in the corporation's records, the earliest of 402 403 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 407 (ii) five days after it is deposited in the United 408 States mail; 409 (4) if sent by a nationally recognized commercial 410 carrier that issues a receipt or other confirmation of delivery, the earliest of when it is actually received or the 411 412 date shown on the receipt or other confirmation of delivery 413 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. 417 (j) A notice or other communication may be in the form 418 of an electronic transmission that cannot be directly reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated 419 420 process used in conventional commercial practice only if (i)



421 the electronic transmission is otherwise retrievable in 422 perceivable form, and (ii) the sender and the recipient have 423 consented in writing to the use of such form of electronic 424 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.

(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
 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 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

(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

461 (3) no address has been provided to the corporation by 462 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.

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.

(n) Whenever a notice or communication is required to be given, under this chapter or the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of any corporation, to any person with whom notice to or communication with is unlawful, the giving of the notice or communication to that person shall not be 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

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"\$10A-2A-16.01

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(a) A corporation shall maintain the following records: 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 498 certificate of incorporation or otherwise available as 499 specified in Section 10A-2A-1.20(c)(5);

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(3) its bylaws as currently in effect;

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



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

509 (7) its most recent annual report delivered to the 510 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.

516 (c) A corporation shall maintain accounting records in 517 a form that permits preparation of its financial statements.

518 (d) A corporation shall maintain a record of its 519 current stockholders in alphabetical order by class or series of stock showing the address of each stockholder to which 520 521 notices and other communications from the corporation are to 522 be sent, and which shall include the number and class or 523 series of stock held by each stockholder. In addition, if a 524 stockholder has provided an electronic mail address to the 525 corporation or has consented to receive notices or other 526 communications by electronic mail or other electronic 527 transmission, the record of stockholders shall include the 528 electronic mail or other electronic transmission address of the stockholder if notices or other communications are being 529 530 delivered by the corporation to the stockholder at that electronic mail or other electronic transmission address 531 pursuant to Section 10A-2A-1.41(d). An electronic mail address 532



533 of a stockholder shall be deemed to be provided by a 534 stockholder if it is contained in a communication to the 535 corporation by or on behalf of the stockholder, unless the 536 communication expressly indicates that the electronic mail 537 address may not be used to deliver notices or other 538 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."

542 Section 2. Section 10-2A-16.11 of the Code of Alabama 543 1975, requiring each corporation, including foreign 544 corporations authorized to transact business in this state, to 545 file an annual report with the Secretary of State, is 546 repealed.

547 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 548 1, 2024.