

D R A F T

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

**UNIFORM LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
ACT**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS
ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

For Drafting Committee Meeting March 9-11, 2007
With Changes Shown in Strike and Score

WITH PREFATORY AND REPORTERS' NOTES

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By

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS
ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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February 7, 2007

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UNIFORM LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ACT

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UNIFORM LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ACT

Prefatory Note

(1) This Draft attempts to provide an unincorporated and flexible organizational structure buttressed and combined with cooperative principles and values in order to obtain an increased equity investment opportunity necessary for both capital intensive and start-up businesses. It is an alternative to other cooperative and unincorporated structures already available under state laws.

It attempts to provide a flexible breastwork of mandatory and default rules that are grounded in cooperative values and participant governance. Nonetheless, the flexibility in this draft is not necessarily “hard-wired” such that it will in all cases be qualified as a cooperative, for example, under definitions of “cooperative” for various federal law provisions. *See generally* (3), *infra*.

To the extent it is already possible to qualify as a “cooperative” for federal purposes without being organized as a state law cooperative, other flexible forms of business organizations, like the LLC, may be used for cooperative purposes. This Draft, however, provides an efficient default template that encourages planners to utilize tested cooperative principles for a broad range of entities and purposes.

(2) Introduction and Process

(a) Freestanding and Nonexclusive Nature of the Act

The Committee is charged with drafting a Limited Cooperative Association Act. ***The Act is to be a free-standing act separate and apart from current cooperative acts and, therefore, is not a statutory replacement of other law but; rather, another statutory option for organizing cooperatives as a way to encourage economic development.***

It is important to remember that this act does not replace any existing state co-op laws and, therefore, fulfills a different niche in the cooperative economic ecosystem. Thus, some provisions will be different than the more corporate-like framework of existing traditional statutes. It is intended to provide a cooperative structure as an alternative to the LLC; and, in some ways, “investor ~~members~~ participants” are similar to limited partners in a limited partnership. It seeks to provide an alternative which accounts for cooperative principles to a *greater* extent, with *less* room for design abuse than can be engineered in a combination of entities. Nonetheless, though some features of the cooperative association are very similar to the features of other entities and descriptive analogies to other entities may be helpful, it is imperative to understand that the cooperative association is a unique entity with important distinctions from each of the other entities to which it is often compared.

~~The Committee's scope was originally limited to "Agriculture and Agriculture Related" purposes. In effect, neither the Iowa nor Minnesota Acts are limited to agriculture.~~

An overarching question raised by this project, and discussed at the Drafting Committee meetings, is what it means to be a cooperative. Older traditional statutes have found meaning and form by finding the definition of a cooperative in other law or by stating that the cooperative must be operated pursuant to a "cooperative plan," a term that is undefined and without fixed meaning even within the industry. As a practical matter, perhaps, the most important definition of "cooperative" appears under the guise of the definition of operating on a "cooperative basis" found in federal income tax law. A brief illustrative discussion of some of those definitions is contained in the next part of this preliminary note ("Cooperatives: Background Information").

The definitions of these terms have had a modicum of "evolvability" over time, at least on the margin (and concerning select issues). For example, the Service threw in the towel on the issue of whether operating on a cooperative basis required more than 50 percent of the cooperative's business be done with members on a patronage basis. (Rev. Rul. 93-21, 1993-1 C.B. 188, stating that the 50 percent threshold is not necessary). Further a frequently quoted passage from a *dissent* written by Justice Brandeis (and joined by Holmes) stated:

That no one plan of organization is to be labeled as truly co-operative to the exclusion of others was recognized by Congress in connection with co-operative banks and building and loan associations [citation omitted]. With the expansion of agricultural co-operatives it has been recognized repeatedly.

Frost v. Corporation Comm. (Oklahoma), 278 U.S. 515 (1929) (Brandeis, J., dissenting, Westlaw p. 14).

Brandeis, as of 1929, also stated:

And experts in the Department of Agriculture, charged with disseminating information to farmers and legislatures, have warned against any crystallization of the co-operative plan, so as to exclude any type of co-operation.

The genesis of the project was the enactment of the "Wyoming Processing Cooperative Law" in 2001 and the "Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act" in 2003. The Province of Saskatchewan enacted an Act for similar purposes that predated the Wyoming law but that act took a significantly different approach. Tennessee, Iowa and Wisconsin have enacted statues based on the Minnesota Act. Similar legislation was introduced in Vermont and Missouri but not passed. Nebraska has been studying an act and it may be introduced in 2007.

The Committee's scope was originally limited to "Agriculture and Agriculture Related"

purposes. In effect, neither the Iowa nor Minnesota Acts are limited to agriculture.

(b) Cooperative Values

The Committee has carefully considered traditional cooperative values and has made every reasonable attempt to integrate them into this draft as either mandates or default rules. This represents a more explicit design than current state cooperative law. The attention to cooperative values was necessary because the project expressly contemplates the addition of investor members (beyond nonvoting preferred stock as has long been available to cooperatives under existing state law).

The addition of investor members, however, is one of extent and not kind. As explained later in this preliminary note, one cooperative value is democratic member control. This, at base, means that those *using* the cooperative control it. Member control remains an important part of this draft even though it allows for investor members. There has long been, however; even if ignored, an economic trade-off in cooperatives between equity and control and this act and those state laws on which it is based attempts to recognize and quantify this trade-off.

All businesses, including cooperatives, continually monitor and balance equity structure; which unavoidably includes both long-term debt and equity. Creditors, too, exert control over decisions. Express covenants and “deemed insecure” clauses represent control by the creditor, no matter of the identity of the creditor (e.g., secondary market standards and requirements in some co-op sectors). Further, even under Capper-Volstead, preferred equity capital may demand a high fixed rate of return as long as all patron members have “one vote.” This act is an attempt to reduce fixed costs associated with debt and preferred equity for purposes of economic development.

There are several formulations of “cooperative principles.” As a matter of general consensus they include voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and, concern for community. This draft contains specific provisions that contemplate these values.

One of the fulcrums regarding cooperative values in this draft is Section 104, captioned “Nature of Limited Cooperative Association.” It addresses the values of voluntary membership, member economic participation, and autonomy and independence. Again, autonomy must be placed within the practical context of long-term debt and equity. Voluntary membership remains voluntary in the sense that this act requires consent. Open membership has been compromised under similar existing law and remains so here in order to allow (but not require) the formation of “closed” cooperatives. Closed cooperative structure is necessary for patron members to share the increased value of their equity and to provide member liquidity. These features make a business formed in general conformance with other cooperative values more attractive.

Section 904, captioned “Allocations of Profits and Losses,” expressly provides for the values of member economic participation; education, training and information; and cooperation among cooperatives. One of the trade-off concerns “democratic member control.” Sections 411(a), 412, 414, 704 and 716(a) all concern this trade-off.

“Concern for community” is directly addressed in Section 720 which varies the law generally applicable to; for example, corporate directors, to allow the directors of a limited cooperative to consider a number of community constituencies in making decisions.

In sum, this draft expressly considers the important traditional cooperative values and provides reasoned departures from those values only where economically necessary. Its intention is to expand the use of entities recognizing cooperative principles.

Finally, this draft is flexible enough to form a limited cooperative which operates like a traditional cooperative. It is the Committee’s understanding that several such cooperatives have formed under the Minnesota act, one of this act’s predecessors.

(3) Cooperatives: General Background Information

Traditionally, cooperatives have been organized as corporations under State laws specifically enacted to authorize the creation of businesses operated on a cooperative basis. The statutes direct organizers to follow so-called cooperative principles of user-control, user-benefit, and user-ownership. Voting rights are only available to patron-users of the cooperative’s services and earnings are allocated to patrons on the basis of use, rather than on the basis of investment. Member-patrons are the primary source of equity, which is accumulated over time in the form of retained earnings allocated to equity accounts of the patrons on the basis of each patron’s pro rata share of business conducted each year with the cooperative. No market exists for this equity and it is usually only redeemable at face value by the cooperative at the discretion of the cooperative’s board of directors.

The new cooperative acts (Wyoming, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Iowa) on which this project is based are sometimes known as “New Generation Cooperative” (“NGC”) acts though that name has not gained a precise technical meaning and one of the primary reasons for this project is to attempt to gain a measure of uniformity between and among limited cooperative association acts as they are adopted by the states and to provide as well-drafted and considered an act as reasonably possible.

In fact, a new cooperative model gained some popularity, particularly in the Upper Midwest starting in the 1970’s. The features that distinguish *these* “New Generation” cooperatives from traditional cooperatives include: (1) a new equity accumulation program based on substantial upfront investments by patron-members, (2) a tie-in between equity investment and the right and obligation to deliver a fixed quantity of product to the cooperative each year, and (3) a right of patron-members to transfer their equity to another person eligible to become a

patron-member at whatever price is acceptable to both parties. While traditional cooperatives usually seek to maximize membership, New Generation cooperatives are “closed-end” with a limited number of members.

While New Generation cooperatives involve some significant departures from traditional cooperative structure, they have been organized under traditional cooperative statutes. Thus they have limited voting rights to patron-users and allocated earnings to users based on use.

The new cooperative acts on which this project is based are sometimes known as “LLC-Cooperative” laws though that name has not gained a precise technical meaning. The forerunners to this project differ in several important ways from traditional cooperative laws. First, the entities created are unincorporated associations. Thus they have the option, under the Internal Revenue Service check-the-box regulations, to be taxed as partnerships rather than as cooperative associations. Second, up to 85 percent of the voting rights can be vested in non-patron investor members. And third, up to 85 percent of the earnings can be directed to non-patron investor members on the basis of investment. The stated purpose of those laws, as well as this project, is to provide a vehicle for economic development (especially, though by no means exclusively in rural areas).

The new cooperative acts are more flexible than traditional cooperative acts and such flexibility moves away from fail-safe statutory drafting for purposes of qualifying as a “cooperative” under other federal and state laws and regulations. The primary “other laws” are anti-trust law, taxation, securities law, and access to special cooperative loan provisions and institutions like the Farm Credit System.

An example of how other laws relate to the law of cooperatives is the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922. Without the Capper-Volstead Act, the Sherman Act of 1890 would apply to make most farmer marketing contracts with cooperatives *per se* illegal restraints of trade because the contracts fix prices. That is, when farmers market products through cooperatives they agree on prices they will charge and may agree to sell *exclusively* to the cooperative. The Capper-Volstead Act provides limited, but important protection from the Sherman Act. In order for a cooperative to qualify for the protection: (1) only agricultural producers may be voting members; (2) the cooperative must be operated for the mutual benefit of members as producers; (3) no member may have more than one vote *or* dividends on stock may not exceed 8% per year; and (4) the value of products marketed for members must be greater than the value of products marketed for nonmembers. Many traditional state agricultural (and general purpose) cooperative statutes “hard-wire” compliance with Capper-Volstead by, for example, mandating the 8% dividend limit on equity. The LLC-Cooperative statutes, on the other hand, follow the general trend in unincorporated statutes by allowing a cooperative to *decide* whether to qualify for the antitrust protection provided by the Capper-Volstead Act. Thus, the 8% dividend limitation is not mandated by the LLC-Cooperative statutes.

Similarly, the federal income tax law as of 2006 ~~2005~~ delineates requirements that

associations must meet to qualify for taxation under Subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code (patronage refunds not taxable at the cooperative level). The Code further delineates more requirements to qualify for tax treatment under Section 521 (for *farmer* cooperatives with additional tax benefits) as of 2006 ~~2005~~. Qualification for cooperative taxation, however, is inconsistent with tax treatment as a partnership. Thus, the LLC-Cooperative model allows flexibility for the organization to be taxed as a partnership or as a cooperative as the organization itself chooses. The LLC-Cooperative statutes enacted to date are an option to, not a replacement for, existing cooperative laws.

The Drafting Committee was established by the Conference at the 2003 Annual Meeting pursuant to a Study Report and met for the first time December 12-14, 2003. It has met each Spring and Fall since then. The first meeting of the Drafting Committee discussed substantive and general drafting and formatting issues, including the level of detail appropriate for the act and used the “Wyoming Processing Cooperative Law” as a model. The Committee determined that a higher level of detail than that found in the Wyoming law, following the general “look and feel” of general and traditional cooperative acts, was appropriate. Discussion at subsequent Drafting Committee meetings focused on substantive issues within the context of a draft closely following the Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act which integrated some of the substantive discussion from the first meeting.

The Drafting Committee was originally asked to prepare a “Uniform Agricultural and Agricultural Related Cooperatives Act.” However, at the 2006 ~~2005~~ NCCUSL Annual Meeting, the charge was amended to draft a “Uniform Limited Cooperative Association ~~Associations~~ Act.” Thus the scope of the project was arguably expanded from a law targeted at agricultural cooperatives to one available to a wide range of enterprises. The reason for the change in scope sounded in both technical drafting issues and policy. *First*, the Conference struggled for nearly two years to devise a definition of “Agricultural and Agricultural Related” that was precise yet not both over and under inclusive. From that limited perspective the change in scope can be seen as a change in “inclusive/permissive” to “exclusive/prohibited” or, stated another way, from a positive to a negative definition. The foregoing change in approach was to remove ambiguity from the draft. *Second*, it was difficult to articulate a reasoned policy statement concerning why the project should be limited to “agricultural,” no matter how defined. *Finally*, the leading cooperative association laws as they currently exist were not limited to “agricultural” uses even though some notion of “agricultural” remains included in their names. Thus, attempting to limit the application of the project to “agricultural” was inconsistent with existing acts and cast doubt about whether NCCUSL ~~ULC~~ could succeed its overarching organizational mission encouraging uniformity in state laws.

The current draft is the result of efforts by the Committee to move in this direction. The Committee has had only limited opportunity to discuss the specific language of this draft and continues to discuss the appropriateness of exclusions, if any from the draft.

(4) Further Background on Flexibility and Current Non-Law Constraints

In numerous discussions of the Committee, it has been observed that it is important for Limited Cooperative Associations that would be created under the Uniform Limited Cooperative Association Act (the “Act”) to maintain qualification or exemption status available to traditional cooperative organizations. This discussion is intended to focus those issues without being an in-depth research report regarding any of them. It will identify some of the relevant federal statutes and pose an issue under each of them and will provide, as an example, more discussion of the application of Subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code as a prototypical analytical approach undertaken under other federal statutes.

Despite a desire on the part of some people to try to preserve qualification or exemption requirements for purposes of other law (non-state) for Limited Cooperative Associations under the Act, some have suggested that is not likely to happen with organizations organized under the Act. A bit of research suggests there are reasons to believe there exists (to some degree) mitigating conditions that narrow the concerns that associations formed under the Act will be unable to meet the qualification requirements for co-ops under other law.

This part of the Preliminary Note focuses, for illustration, on the question of whether an entity will qualify for a qualification or exemption under statutes based on the quantity of business done by the entity with members and patrons. It does not look at other requirements for qualification or exemption, such as whether the entity is required to allocate and distribute patronage refunds, whether the entity has one member-one vote, whether the entity must be involved in agriculture and its members be agricultural producers, whether patron members are the only ones allowed to vote or whether an entity must be a corporation.

The following five (5) statutes have a quantitative requirement:

(1) 7 U.S.C. § 291 (quantitative requirement in definition of cooperative in Capper-Volstead federal antitrust exemption);

(2) 12 U.S.C. § 1141j(a) (quantitative requirement in definition of cooperative for farm credit purposes);

(3) 12 U.S.C. § 2129 (quantitative requirement in definition of cooperative for borrowing from bank for cooperatives);

(4) 49 U.S.C. § 303(b) (quantitative requirement in definition of cooperative for ICC exemption); and

(5) 12 U.S.C. § 3015 (§105 (a), Pub.L. 95-351, 92 Stat. 499, 506 (August 20, 1978)) (quantitative requirement in definition of cooperative in National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act).

(Taken from *Conway County Farmers Association v. U.S.*, 588 F.2d 592, 1978 U.S. App. LEXIS

7273, 78-2 U.S. Tax Cas. (CCH) P9840, 42 A.F.T.R. 2d (RIA) 6323.)

Generally, each of the listed statutes require the association to conduct a specified quantity of business (usually more than 50%) with members and/or patrons than with non-members to be a “cooperative” for purposes of the statute.

Thus, if a Limited Cooperative Association were structured and operated to meet the required quantitative amount of business with members/patrons, it would meet the qualification. *For this purpose only*, outside investment in the entity is not relevant although such investment may be relevant for voting requirements or other requirements.

From a federal income tax standpoint, the Internal Revenue Service took the position that to be “a corporation operating on a cooperative basis” under Subchapter T (§1381(a)(2)) required the corporation to conduct more business with members and patrons than with non-members. Rev. Rul. 72-602, 1972-2 Cum. Bull. 511. The Service did not prevail on this requirement in three cases: *Conway County Farmers Ass’n v. U.S.*, 588 F.2d 592 (8th Cir. 1978); *Columbus Food & Veg. Coop v. U.S.*, 7 Claims Ct. 561 (1985); *Geauga Landmark, Inc. v. U.S.*, #81-942 (Nor. Dist. Ohio 1985).

As a result, the Service dropped this requirement and has said the “member/patron” portion of a cooperative corporation’s business (and patronage refunds resulting from it) could receive patronage refund treatment under Subchapter T but the net profits/losses from the non-member/patron business would be taxable in the same manner as a non-cooperative corporation.

“Whether a nonexempt cooperative is entitled to the benefits of Subchapter T depends upon the finding that it is ‘operating on a cooperative basis’ under 26 U.S.C. § 1381 (a)(2).” *Geauga Landmark, Inc.*, *supra*. This determination obviously needs to be made on a case by case factual basis.

The point of this is the Cooperative Association ~~Associations~~ Act could hardwire results for certain other law but in doing so it could eliminate the flexibility of the statute. It is likely the ultimate results under other will need to be left to practitioners and users of the Act to craft structures that will obtain the benefits of various other statutes as desired. This may require knowledge and skill and leave a trap for the unwary, but to accomplish one of the primary goals of the Act, this may be necessary. It may ultimately require administrative determinations and rulings for final guidance in specific instances.

(5) Overview of this Draft

This draft draws from other organizational law including the Uniform Limited Partnership Act (2001), limited liability company acts, the Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act, several modern “traditional” cooperative acts (specifically including without limitation: Colorado, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin), and the Model Business Corporation Act.

Even though the draft relies, in part, on general organizational law outside cooperatives, it makes every reasonable attempt to acknowledge the fact that cooperatives are a different kind of organization legally, historically, and functionally and that limited cooperative associations, in turn, add a dimension to traditional cooperatives. Thus, for example, this draft has a strong participant/member focus. Illustratively, the bylaws must be amended by members and not the board of directors which is somewhat unusual even in cooperative law. The specific size and purpose of the cooperatives contemplated by this act, however, support the member focus. Moreover, unlike the trend in corporate law, this draft generally requires supermajority voting of members on fundamental matters.

On the other hand, this draft provides more flexibility for attracting capital from outside the community of users and gives cooperatives the authority to erode producer capital lock-in in its organic rules. Thus, it allows wide latitude for both patron members/participants (*e.g.* producers/users of the cooperative) and investor member/participants, within limitations, to provide for the sharing of net proceeds, surplus, or profit and governance participation between patron and investor member/participants. The constraints on investor member participant participation in this draft are tighter than those found in most, if not all, the “new generation” cooperative statutes. This clearly distinguishes this cooperative draft from limited liability company statutes in an attempt to maintain the “co-op brand.” Over the evolutionary course of this project the default rules have probably moved closer to the look and feel of mid-twentieth century corporate-like cooperatives.

The 2006 Annual Meeting Draft contains substantial and numerous revisions from the 2005 Annual Meeting Draft reflecting Committee decisions at its Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 meetings.

The drafting decisions made and directed at the Spring 2006 meeting are reflected in this Draft and include, most substantially, a revision of the member participant voting provisions, derivative actions, and board of director organization. Other significant decisions made at the Spring meeting concerned the financial rights of members participants.

The February 2006 Draft reflected a number of noteworthy Committee directions. For example the nomenclature changed from “member” to “participant”; from “nonpatron member” to “investor participant”; the term “association” was inserted behind the word “cooperative” wherever appropriate to avoid interpretive confusion and to emphasize that this is a different type of cooperative within the umbrella term; the February 2006 draft also changed the method of voting for purposes of Committee discussion in response to questions raised on the floor of the 2005 Annual Meeting such that fundamental changes require approval of both “classes” of participants; “conversions” were added; another approach to integrate the term “consolidation” has been attempted by the reporters; and, for the first time, the article on “sale of assets” was included; the definitions were completely reworked in light of the substantive changes made by the Committee in its on-going discussion the inconsistent treatment of proxy has been remedied (no proxies are allowed); the “Reporters’ Notes” on participant actions (derivative actions) and

under selected other sections now reflect research conducted by the reporters as requested by the Committee over the past two meetings; and, the “filings” were given substantial attention and editing though they may need continued attention.

The entire draft has ~~twice~~ undergone a heavy Style Committee edit five times since the 2005 Annual Meeting.

~~This is a work still in process. There remain both technical drafting issues and substantive policy ones that may need to be revisited and confirmed. For example this draft repeats the mantra “unless otherwise provided in the organic rules” almost endlessly instead of centralizing “nonwaivable” provisions by reference in a single section as *do* RUPA, ULPA, and ULLCA. The repetition may be helpful to identify nonwaivable provisions for later centralization. The reporters are cognizant that the repetition is troublesome and started to coalesce those references into a list. That effort was jettisoned, only for now, until the shape of the act continues to evolve. That remains a “thing to do” but is beyond discussing the use in each section as the Committee does its work; the overarching task remains unripe though it will quickly ripen. There, too, are probable errors in cross-referencing as the section numbers continue to change though it is hoped less appear in this draft than previous drafts. Nonetheless substantial progress has been made by the Committee since the 2005 Annual Meeting. Finally, the Reporters’ Notes (now relegated to the blackline version of the March 2007 Committee Draft) contain more, rather than fewer questions, as the draft matures to address finer grained issues. These questions should be viewed as evidence of progress and maturity and not a lack of either. Moreover, many of the some questions are retained in the Notes for historical future reference in drafting official Comments even though the Committee has resolved them.~~

~~Please note that James B. Dean joined the project as a new “Associate Reporter” in Fall 2005 and, as noted in the Committee memorandum for the October 2005 meeting, John Stieff is the Committee’s new liaison to the “Style Committee.”~~

1 (3) “Contribution” means a benefit that a person provides to a limited cooperative
2 association ~~in order~~ to become a member participant or in the person’s capacity as a member
3 participant.

4 (4) “Cooperative” means a limited cooperative association or an entity organized under
5 any cooperative law of any jurisdiction.

6 ~~(5) “Cooperative association” means an association organized under this [act].~~

7 ~~(6) “Debtor in bankruptcy” means a person that is the subject of:~~

8 ~~(A) an order for relief under Article 11 of the United States Code or comparable~~
9 ~~order under a successor statute of general application; or~~

10 ~~(B) comparable relief under federal, state, or foreign law governing insolvency.~~

11 ~~(57) “Designated office” means: (A) with respect to a limited cooperative association or~~
12 ~~a foreign cooperative, the office that it is required to designate and maintain under Section~~
13 ~~116(a)(1); or~~

14 ~~(B) with respect to a foreign cooperative its principal office.~~

15 ~~(68) “Distribution” means a transfer of money or other property from a limited~~
16 ~~cooperative association to a member participant because of the member’s participant’s financial~~
17 ~~rights or to a transferee of a member’s participant’s financial rights.~~

18 ~~(79) “Domestic entity” means an entity organized under the laws of this state.~~

19 ~~(810) “Entity” means a person other than an individual, whether domestic or foreign.~~

20 ~~(911) “Financial rights” means the right to participate in allocations and distributions as~~
21 ~~provided in under [Articles] 9 and 11 but does not include rights or obligations under a marketing~~
22 ~~contract governed by [Article] 6.~~

1 (10+2) “Foreign cooperative” means an entity organized in a jurisdiction other than this
2 state under a law similar to this [act].

3 (11+3) “Foreign entity” means an entity that is organized under the laws of a jurisdiction
4 other than this state.

5 (12+4) “Governance rights” means the right to participate in governance of a limited
6 cooperative association as provided in ~~under~~ [Article] 4.

7 (13+5) “Investor member participant” means a person admitted as a member that
8 ~~participant who~~ is not required by the organic rules to conduct patronage business with a the
9 limited cooperative association in order to receive financial rights.

10 (14) “Limited cooperative association” means an association organized under this [act].

11 (15) “Member” means a person that is a patron member or investor member in a limited
12 cooperative association. The term does not include a person that has dissociated as a member.

13 (16) “Member’s interest” means the interest of a patron member or investor member
14 under Section 501.

15 (17) “Members’ meeting” means an annual or special members’ meeting.

16 (18+6) “Organic law” means the statute providing for the creation of an entity or
17 principally governing its internal affairs.

18 (19+7) “Organic rules” means the articles of organization and bylaws of a limited
19 cooperative association.

20 (20) “Organizer” means an individual who signs the articles of organization.

21 (18) “Participant” means a person that is a patron participant or an investor participant in
22 a cooperative association. ~~The term does not include a person that has dissociated as a~~

1 participant.

2 (19) ~~“Participant’s interest” means the interest of a patron participant or an investor~~
3 ~~participant under Section 501.~~

4 (20) ~~“Participants’ meeting” means an annual or special participants’ meeting.~~

5 (21) “Patron” means a person that conducts economic activity with a limited cooperative
6 association which entitles the person to receive financial rights based on patronage.

7 (22) “Patron member participant” means a person admitted as a member participant that
8 is permitted or required to conduct patronage with the limited cooperative association ~~in order~~ to
9 receive financial rights.

10 (23) “Patronage” means business transactions between a limited cooperative association
11 and a person which entitle ~~that entitle~~ the person to receive financial rights based on the value or
12 quantity of business done between the association and ~~with~~ the person.

13 (24) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, cooperative, estate, trust,
14 partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, limited cooperative; association, joint
15 venture, association, public corporation, ~~or~~ government or governmental subdivision, agency, or
16 instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

17 (25) “Principal office” means ~~the office, whether or not in this state, where~~ the principal
18 executive office of a limited cooperative association or a foreign cooperative, whether or not in
19 this state. is located.

20 (26) “Record”, used as a noun, means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium
21 or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

22 (27) “Required information” means the information a limited cooperative association is

1 required to maintain under Section 113.

2 (28) “Sign” means, with the present intent to authenticate a record:

3 (A) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

4 (B) to attach to or logically associate with an electronic symbol, sound, or process
5 to or with a record.

6 (29) “State” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
7 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of
8 the United States.

9 (30) “Transfer” includes an assignment, conveyance, deed, bill of sale, lease, mortgage,
10 security interest, encumbrance, gift, and transfer by operation of law.

11 (31) “Voting group” means any combination of one or more voting members in one or
12 more districts or classes that under the organic rules or this [act] are entitled to vote and can be
13 counted together collectively on a matter at a meeting of shareholders.

14 (3234) “Voting member participant” means a member participant that, under the organic
15 law or organic rules of a cooperative association, has a right to vote on matters subject to vote by
16 members under the organic law or organic rules. participants.

17 (33) “Voting power” means the total current power of members to vote on a particular
18 matter for which a vote may or is to be taken.

19 **Reporters’ Note**

20 The 2007 February 2006 draft has undergone extensive changes. The balance of the Note
21 is for historical purposes.

22
23 As discussed in greater detail in the Reporters’ Note to Section 404, the definitions need
24 tuning. In particular, “patron”, “patron member” and “nonpatron member” are currently under

1 reconsideration by the Drafting Committee. “Financial Interest” is used extensively in Article 4
2 but not defined. The term “financial interest”, as noted in the Reporters’ Note, is also being
3 reconsidered. It performs the same function as “transferable interest” in ULLCA, ULPA (2001),
4 and UPA (1997). Below are two rough definitional suggestions from the Reporters Reporters²
5 for discussion purposes:

- 6
- 7 • “Patron membership interest” means the membership interest providing a patron
8 rights in governance and a transferable interest [financial interest] of the
9 cooperative as a member as established by the [Act]; and
- 10
- 11 • “Transferable interest” means the right to receive distributions to members but
12 does not include the right to receive payments based on a separate marketing
13 contract, if any, between the member and the cooperative.
- 14

15 Note that distributions are distinct from allocations in virtually all organizational statutes.
16 Distributions are actual payments of money or money’s worthwhile allocations are accounting
17 concepts, *e.g.*, the capital accounts of partners in a partnership.

18
19 An observer has suggested that the definition of “patronage” (subsection 21) be revised to
20 read as follows:

21
22 “Patronage” means business transactions between a cooperative
23 and a person which entitle the person to receive financial rights,
24 distributions, or payment from the cooperative based on the value
25 or quantity of such business, done with such person under a pre-
26 existing legal obligation to receive the amount paid, which is
27 determined by reference to the net earnings of the cooperative from
28 all business done with or for such persons.

29
30 All references to “cooperative plan” have been deleted consistent with prior and
31 continuing committee discussion.

32
33 The definition of “domestic cooperative” expressly includes cooperatives formed outside
34 this Act. *See, e.g.*, subsection 109(d). Is it necessary to define “designated office” for purposes
35 of the service of process provision?

36
37 The definition of Bylaws must be read in light of section 305.

38
39 “Financial Rights”: allocation and distribution includes the rights to distributions in
40 liquidation, rights to receive dividends if dividends are a method used to distribute funds, rights
41 to receive patronage allocations and dividends, redemption of retained patronage allocations or
42 per unit retains; rights to receive partnership allocations and distributions. It does not include
43 amounts to which a patron participant would be entitled under a marketing contract.

1 “Governance Rights” include the right to vote, the right to receive notices of participant
2 meetings, the right to participate in meetings of a district or other subdivision of participants, and
3 the right to be represented by delegates from a district or other subdivision of participants.
4

5 Section 102 (3): The comment should include reference to the *Stafford* case, include
6 examples, and, state that some states may limit the definition of “Contribution” by Constitutional
7 provision.
8

9 There was discussion at the last meeting about whether “organic rules” should be
10 expanded. No modification was made here but see Article 5.
11

12 Is “financial rights” used appropriately in subsections (21) and (23)?
13

14 Section 102(5): See Section 103.
15

16 **Reporters’ Note on Notice**

17 At the direction of the Committee prior Section 103 (“Knowledge and Notice”) is deleted
18 in this draft. It is governed by other law.
19

20 Source: Derived from ULPA (2001). The LLC Act Drafting Committee has spent much
21 time reworking and redrafting this Section. During that discussion, as in past meetings of this
22 Drafting Committee, the necessity of including this provision was questioned. This section
23 varies from ULPA (2001) because it does not need to deal with the unique statements under
24 limited partnership law. Therefore it is approximately one-third shorter than its limited
25 partnership analogue.
26

27 The LLC Act Drafting Committee included the following in a recent draft:
28

29 SECTION 103. KNOWLEDGE AND NOTICE.

30 (a) A person knows a fact when any of the following apply:

31 (1) the person is an individual who is consciously
32 aware of the fact;

33 (2) the person is deemed to know the fact under
34 subsection (b) or (e) or other law.

35 (b) A person that is not a member is deemed to know of a
36 limitation on authority to transfer real property as provided in
37 Section 302(4).

38 (c) A person has notice of a fact when any of the following
39 apply:

40 (1) the person has reason to know the fact from all
41 of the facts known to the person at the time in question;

42 (2) the person is deemed to have notice of it under

1 subsection (d) or (e);

2 (d) A person not a member has notice of:

3 (1) another person's dissociation as a member of a
4 member-managed limited liability company, 90 days after a
5 Section 604 statement of dissociation pertaining to the other person
6 becomes effective;

7 (2) another person's ceasing to be a manager of a
8 manager-managed limited liability company, 90 days after a
9 Section 412 statement of manager cessation pertaining to the other
10 person becomes effective;

11 (3) a limited liability company's dissolution, 90
12 days after a Section 710(1) statement of dissolution becomes
13 effective;

14 (4) a limited liability company's termination, 90
15 days after a Section 710(2) statement of termination becomes
16 effective; and

17 (5) a limited liability company's merger,
18 conversion, or domestications, 90 days after an [article 10]
19 statement of merger, conversion, or domestication becomes
20 effective.

21 (e) A limited liability company is deemed to know or have
22 notice of a fact relating to the limited liability company both as
23 provided by other law and when either of the following apply:

24 (1) in a member-managed limited liability company,
25 a member knows or has notice of the fact, except in the case of a
26 fraud on the limited liability company committed by or with the
27 consent of the member;

28 (2) in a manager-managed limited liability
29 company, a manager knows or has notice of the fact, except in the
30 case of a fraud on the limited liability company committed by or
31 with the consent of the manager.

32 (f) In a manager-managed limited liability company, a
33 member's knowledge or notice of a fact relating to the limited
34 liability company is not knowledge of or notice to the limited
35 liability company, except as provided:

36 (1) in subsection (e)(2);

37 (2) in Section 302 (statement of authority); and

38 (3) by law other than this [act].
39

40 **SECTION 103. LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION SUBJECT TO**

41 **AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF [ACT].** A limited cooperative association governed by this

1 [act] is subject to any amendment or repeal of this [act].

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 Apparently some states have constitutional provisions concerning this reservation for
4 corporations (at least). Does this section, therefore, need a legislative note?

5
6 Tenn. Code. Annot. Section 43-38-102 states: "The general assembly has the power to
7 amend or repeal all or part of this chapter at any time and all domestic cooperatives subject to
8 this chapter shall be governed by such amendment in Appeal. See Minn. Stat. Annot. Section
9 308B.101.

10
11 The revised language is taken from UPA (1997) and the MBCA, is present in ULLCA,
12 ULLCA II, ULPAA (2001). Its purpose is to avoid Constitutional Contract Clause issues like
13 those raised in Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward, 17 U.S. (Wheat.) 518 (1819). See,
14 e.g., Starkey v. Alaska Airlines, Inc., 68 Wash.2d 318, 413 P.2d 352 (1966). The Committee
15 specifically voted on leaving this in the draft on reconsideration.
16

17 **SECTION 104. NATURE, ~~PURPOSE,~~ AND ~~DURATION~~ OF LIMITED** 18 **COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

19 (a) ~~The nature of a~~ A limited cooperative association organized under this [act] ~~Act is to~~
20 be an autonomous unincorporated association of persons united voluntarily to meet their mutual
21 interests economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations at a practicable rate of cost through
22 a jointly owned enterprise primarily and democratically controlled by those persons which
23 ~~enterprise that permits combining:~~

24 (1) ownership, financing, ~~control~~ and receipt of benefits by the members for
25 whose interests the association is formed; and based on use by the persons using the association;
26 ~~with~~

27 (2) separate investments in the association by members ~~persons~~ who may receive
28 returns on their investments and a share of control.

1 ~~(b) A cooperative association is an entity distinct from its participants.~~

2 ~~(c) A cooperative association may be organized under this [act] for any lawful purpose,~~
3 ~~regardless of whether or not for profit except [designate prohibited purposes].~~

4 ~~(d) Unless the articles of organization state a term for a cooperative association's~~
5 ~~existence, the cooperative association has a perpetual duration.~~

6 **Reporters' Note**

7 ~~Subsection (a) is new and the balance of the section is unchanged save renumbering.~~

8
9 This section ~~Subsection (a)~~ answers the question that has been repeatedly raised by
10 individual observers, Committee members and Commissioners at the annual meetings in each of
11 the past three years. Its general substance is a nonexclusive amalgamation from this act's
12 provisions, the Michigan Cooperative Act of 1865 (which a secondary source states is
13 prototypical) and the International Co-operative Alliance Statement of Cooperative Identity
14 (1995). It is also generally informed by Committee discussions; Hagen Henry, Guidelines for
15 Cooperative Legislation (2d rev. 2005) (International Labor Organizations); and, various publicly
16 available statements of cooperative principals (and values) from NCBA. This, of course, is not
17 the exclusive place that determines the nature of the entity. For example see Section 501
18 (especially subsections (b) and (c) which are new to the Fall 2006 draft).

19
20 The Comments to this section should contain examples of cooperative principles and
21 values as well as general *types* of secondary sources that describe them. The Committee also
22 suggested the Comments might address "formed by users, primary benefit to user"; similarly
23 situated members treated substantially the same", cooperatives treat people "equitably" not
24 "equally". This section reflects the act's intention to reflect the fundamental cooperative
25 principles including voluntary membership, control by users, members' economic participation,
26 and autonomy and independence. Note, the principles of cooperation among cooperatives, and
27 training and education, are reflected in Section 904(c)(2) and concern for community is reflected
28 in Section 721.

29
30 ~~Subsections (b) and (d) seem well settled as does most of Subsection (c). Indeed, much~~
31 ~~of Subsection (c) has been long accepted by the Committee (see below).~~

32
33 ~~Subsection (c) states "any lawful purpose" which is consistent with the unincorporated~~
34 ~~acts promulgated by the Conference. It is also consistent with the general laws of cooperatives~~
35 ~~which in some states reference or are included in not-for-profit acts. Finally, it is consistent with~~
36 ~~the historical roots of cooperatives as mutual aid societies.~~

1 Subsection (be) also reflects the decision by the Uniform Law Commission at the 2005
2 Annual Meeting to delete any reference to “agricultural or agricultural related” and, instead, list
3 specific purposes for which cooperatives may not be used. The “except” language is similar to
4 the language in Section 3 of RULPA 1976/1985. The Committee may desire to consider
5 inserting “subject to any law of this state governing or regulating business” which is included in
6 ULLCA 1996 (after the words “any lawful purpose”). See Section 1702.

7
8 The Minnesota Cooperative Association Act states:

9
10 “[F]or any other purposes that cooperatives are authorized to
11 perform by law,” Minn. Stat. Ann. § 308B. 201(3).

12
13 Minnesota’s general cooperative law has the following purpose:

14
15 “[F]or the purposes of conducting an agricultural, dairy, marketing,
16 transportation, warehousing, commission, mechanical, mercantile,
17 electrical, heat, light, or power business, or for any other lawful
18 purpose.” Minn. Stat. Ann. § 308A.101(1).

19
20 Even though it appears the general Minnesota Cooperative Act reflects a modern trend; at
21 least some states, maintain different cooperative statutes for different types of cooperatives.

22
23 South Dakota’s general cooperative statute (which was enacted in 1939 and amended in
24 1968 and 1978 states:

25
26 “Cooperatives may be organized under this chapter for any lawful
27 purpose except banking and insurance.” SDCL § 47-15-2.

28
29 The “whether or not for profit” language comes from other unincorporated entity law to
30 avoid problems associated with the word “business” in general partnership law (primarily
31 because of the question whether a not-for-profit or governmental entity was authorized to
32 conduct business and, secondarily, because of questions by estate and family business planners
33 about whether “business” allowed the mere holding of property). Traditional cooperatives may,
34 in many states, organize under not-for-profit or “business” (for-profit general); corporation acts.
35 Cooperative values, however, are probably attuned to a “third-way” that is neither for-profit or
36 “not-for-profit” (mutual benefit of their members). *Perhaps perhaps* that is the meaning of
37 operating at cost under statements of cooperative principles or operating on a “cooperative plan”
38 under statutes using that phrase without further definition.

39
40 **SECTION 105. PURPOSE AND DURATION OF LIMITED COOPERATIVE**
41 **ASSOCIATION.**

1 (a) A limited cooperative association is an entity distinct from its members.

2 (b) A limited cooperative association may be organized under this [act] for any lawful
3 purpose, whether or not for profit, [except] [designated prohibited purposes].

4 (c) Unless the articles of organization state a term for a limited cooperative association's
5 existence, the association has a perpetual duration.

6 **Reporters' Note**

7 Subsections (a) and (c) seem well settled as does most of Subsection (b). Indeed, much
8 of Subsection (b) has been long accepted by the Committee (see below).

9
10 Subsection (b) states "any lawful purpose" which is consistent with the unincorporated
11 acts promulgated by the Conference. It is also consistent with the general laws of cooperatives
12 which in some states reference or are included in not-for-profit acts. Finally, it is consistent with
13 the historical roots of cooperatives as mutual aid societies.

14
15 **SECTION 105 106. POWERS.** A limited cooperative association has the capacity to
16 sue and be sued in its own name and power to do all things necessary or convenient to carry on
17 its activities. An association may,~~including the power to:~~

18 ~~(1) sue and be sued;~~

19 ~~(2) defend an action in its own name; and~~

20 ~~(3) maintain an action against a member participant for harm caused to the cooperative~~
21 ~~association by a violation of a duty to the association or the organic law or organic rules, of the~~
22 ~~association.~~

23 **Reporters' Note**

24 The formulation of powers in this draft is based upon unincorporated law models as
25 opposed to a more detailed listing of powers contained in corporate law. The Committee has
26 discussed this approach for powers only briefly and it is consistent with a general direction to
27 draft as efficiently as possible. Most cooperative acts tend to follow the more detailed (and

1 older) corporate model.

2
3 There was discussion at the October 2005 meeting focusing on two specific instances
4 concerning the remedy of specific performance:

- 5
6 (1) agricultural marketing contracts; and
7 (2) utility co-ops and easements.
8

9 The first item is resolved in the draft's provisions concerning marketing contracts (Article
10 6). The second item is not resolved by this draft following the sense of the Committee's
11 discussion. ULPA (2001) and the current draft of the ULLCA Revision Project have simply
12 stated, *e.g.*, "A limited liability company has the capacity to sue and be sued in its own name and
13 the power to do all things necessary or convenient to carry on its activities."
14

15 **SECTION ~~106~~ 107. GOVERNING LAW.** The law of this state governs:

- 16 (1) the internal affairs of a limited cooperative association; and
17 (2) the relations among the members participants of the an association and between the
18 members participants and the association.

19 **SECTION ~~107~~ 108. SUPPLEMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW.** Unless displaced
20 by particular provisions of this [act], the principles of law and equity supplement this [act].

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 Source: ULLCA II § 107.
23

24 The Committee on Style, consistent with previous Committee discussion but not
25 Committee resolution, recommends deleting this subsection. For purposes of this draft (b) was
26 deleted but "old" (a) remains because of the distinctive approaches to related issues in other
27 unincorporated law (e.g. Delaware and others pure contract approach to LLCs and LPs).
28
29

30 **SECTION ~~108~~ 109. NAME.**

31 (a) In this section, "available" means distinguishable upon the records of the [Secretary
32 of State] from:

1 (1) the name of any entity organized or authorized to transact business in this
2 state;

3 (2) a name reserved or registered under Section 110 ~~109 or 110~~; and

4 (3) a fictitious or assumed name approved for a foreign cooperative authorized to
5 transact business in this state.

6 (b) The name of a limited cooperative association must contain the words “limited
7 cooperative association” or “limited cooperative” or the abbreviation “L.C.A.” or “LCA”.
8 “Limited” may be abbreviated as “Ltd.”. “Cooperative” may be abbreviated as “Co-op” or
9 “Coop”. “Association” may be abbreviated as “Assoc.” or “Assn.”. ~~word “association” or its~~
10 ~~abbreviation and may contain the word “cooperative” or its abbreviation.~~

11 (c) Except as authorized by subsection (d), the name of a limited cooperative association
12 must be available.

13 (d) A limited cooperative association may apply to the [Secretary of State] for
14 authorization to use a name that is not available. The [Secretary of State] shall authorize use of
15 the name ~~applied for~~ if:

16 (1) the name is reserved or registered under Section 110 ~~109 or 110~~ and the user,
17 registrant, or owner of the name consents in a record to the use and applies ~~submits an~~
18 ~~undertaking~~ in a form satisfactory to the [Secretary of State] to change the reserved or registered
19 name to a name that is distinguishable upon the records of the [Secretary of State] from the name
20 applied for; or

21 (2) the applicant delivers to the [Secretary of State] a certified copy of the final
22 judgment of a court establishing the applicant’s right to use the name in this state ~~the name~~

1 applied for.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 This Section has been modified by the Reporters ~~Reporters~~² consistent with extensive
4 comments from the Style Committee.

5
6 The ULLCA draft has the equivalent of (a) and replaces the balance of the language under
7 this draft with the following:

8
9 SECTION 108. NAME.

10 (a) The name of a limited liability company must contain
11 "limited liability company" or "limited company" or the
12 abbreviation "L.L.C.", "LLC", "L.C.", or "LC". "Limited" may be
13 abbreviated as "Ltd.", and "company" may be abbreviated as
14 "Co."

15 [(b) Unless authorized by subsection (c), the name of a
16 limited liability company must be distinguishable in the records of
17 the [Secretary of State] from:

18 (1) the name of each person, other than an
19 individual, incorporated, organized, or authorized to transact
20 business in this state; and

21 (2) each name reserved under Section 109 [or other
22 state laws allowing the reservation or registration of business
23 names, including fictitious name statutes].

24 (c) A limited liability company may apply to the [Secretary
25 of State] for authorization to use a name that does not comply with
26 subsection (b). The [Secretary of State] shall authorize use of the
27 name applied for if, as to each conflicting name:

28 (1) the present user, registrant, or owner of the
29 conflicting name consents in a signed record to the use and submits
30 an undertaking in a form satisfactory to the [Secretary of State] to
31 change the conflicting name to a name that complies with
32 subsection (b) and is distinguishable in the records of the
33 [Secretary of State] from the name applied for; or

34 (2) the applicant delivers to the [Secretary of State]
35 a certified copy of the final judgment of a court of competent
36 jurisdiction establishing the applicant's right to use in this state the
37 name applied for.

38 (d) Subject to Section 805, this section applies to any
39 foreign limited liability company transacting business in this state,
40 having a certificate of authority to transact business in this state, or
41 applying for a certificate of authority.]

1 Should this Act create a new abbreviation “CA or C.A.” It does look like the postal
2 abbreviation for California. Is there another short-hand that isn’t an “abbreviation” covered by
3 the existing language?
4

5 The use of the word “cooperative” under this draft is voluntary but may not be used by
6 organizations that are not cooperatives under Section 111 which has been modified. An issue
7 raised by the prior version of this section and its analogues under existing law was that there is
8 *no* required designation or abbreviation to indicate the entity is a limited liability entity. For this
9 reason the April 2005 draft now requires the use of “association” or its abbreviation. The
10 required use of “association” also distinguishes this unincorporated ~~agricultural~~ cooperative from
11 cooperatives governed by other state law.
12

13 **SECTION ~~109~~ 110. RESERVATION OF NAME.**

14 (a) A person may reserve the exclusive use of the name of a limited cooperative
15 association, including a fictitious name for a foreign cooperative whose name is not available
16 under Section 109 ~~108~~, by delivering an application to the [Secretary of State] for filing. The
17 application must set forth the name and address of the applicant and the name proposed to be
18 reserved. If the [Secretary of State] finds that the name applied for is available under Section
19 109, the name ~~108~~, it must be reserved for the applicant’s exclusive use for a nonrenewable
20 period of 120 days ~~60-day period~~.

21 (b) The owner of a name reserved for a limited cooperative association may transfer the
22 reservation to another person by delivering to the [Secretary of State] a signed notice of the
23 transfer which states the name, street address, and, if different, the mailing address of the
24 transferee. If the owner of a reserved name is an organizer of an association and the name of the
25 association is the same as the reserved name the delivery of articles of organization for filing [by
26 the Secretary of State] is a transfer by the owner of the reserved name to the association.

27 **Reporters’ Note**

1 ~~The current ULLCA II draft has adopted a 120-day period which is the same as ULPA~~
2 ~~and RMBCA (§4.02). As a result the Spring 2007 draft was conformed to be consistent, rather~~
3 ~~than a 60-day period.~~

4
5 ~~“Style” questioned whether “fictitious name” is clear.~~

6
7 ~~**SECTION 110. REGISTERED NAME OF FOREIGN COOPERATIVE.**~~

8 ~~(a) A foreign cooperative may register its name pursuant to Section 109 if the name is~~
9 ~~available under Section 108.~~

10 ~~(b) A foreign cooperative may register its name, or its name with any addition required~~
11 ~~by Section 1305, by delivering to the [Secretary of State] for filing an application:~~

12 ~~(1) setting forth its name, or its alternative name required by Section 1305, the~~
13 ~~state or country and date of its organization, and a brief description of the nature of the affairs in~~
14 ~~which it is engaged; and~~

15 ~~(2) accompanied by a certificate of good standing, or a similar record, from the~~
16 ~~state or country of organization.~~

17 ~~(c) A foreign cooperative whose name is registered under subsection (a) may qualify as a~~
18 ~~foreign cooperative under its name or consent in a record to the use of its name by a cooperative~~
19 ~~association later organized under this [act] or by a foreign cooperative later authorized to transact~~
20 ~~business in this state. The registration of the name terminates when the foreign cooperative~~
21 ~~qualifies, the cooperative association is organized, or consent is given to use of the name by the~~
22 ~~foreign cooperative later authorized to transact business in this state.~~

23 ~~**Reporters’ Note to Former Section 110**~~

24 ~~Former Section 110 relating to name registration by a foreign cooperative has been~~
25 ~~deleted as unnecessary.~~

1 govern relations among and between a limited cooperative association ~~the participants, the~~
2 association's members, and the association's board of directors, ~~and the cooperative association.~~

3 (b) Provisions of this [act] not modified by the phrase "unless the organic rules otherwise
4 provide" or the phrase "unless the articles of organization otherwise provide" is mandatory and
5 may not be varied by the organic rules, except as otherwise expressly permitted in a specific
6 provision. Matters not addressed by this [act] are subject to the organic rules. The organic rules
7 may govern any other matters. ~~Organic rules may not:~~

8 (1) ~~vary a cooperative association's power under Section 105 to sue, be sued, and~~
9 ~~defend in its own name;~~

10 (2) ~~vary the law applicable to an association under Section 106;~~

11 (3) ~~vary the requirements of Section [yet to be determined by Committee];~~

12 (4) ~~vary the information required to be kept under Section 113 or unreasonably~~
13 ~~restrict the right to information under Section 405 or 721, but the organic rules may impose~~
14 ~~reasonable restrictions on the availability and use of information obtained under those sections~~
15 ~~and may define appropriate remedies, including liquidated damages, for a breach of any~~
16 ~~reasonable restriction on use;~~

17 (5) ~~vary the power of a person to dissociate as a participant under Section 1001~~
18 ~~except to require that the notice under paragraph 1001(b)(1) be in a record;~~

19 (6) ~~vary the power of a court to decree dissolution in the circumstances specified~~
20 ~~in Section 1103;~~

21 (7) ~~vary the requirement to wind up an association's business pursuant to~~
22 ~~Sections 1106 and 1107;~~

1 approach versus the unincorporated (or Delaware) approach. On the other hand, to keep this draft
2 “moving” a decision needs to be made as soon as possible.

3
4 ~~In any event subsections (b)(3), (5), (6), and (7) need to be conformed to this Act.~~
5

6 **SECTION 113. REQUIRED INFORMATION.**

7 (a) A limited cooperative association shall maintain in a record at its principal office the
8 following information:

9 (1) a ~~current~~ list showing the full name and last known street address, mailing
10 address, and term of office of each current director and officer;

11 (2) a copy of the initial articles of organization and all amendments to and
12 restatements of the articles, together with a signed copy ~~copies~~ of any powers of attorney under
13 which any articles, amendments, or restatements have ~~restatement has~~ been signed;

14 (3) a copy of the initial bylaws and all amendments to and restatements ~~any~~
15 ~~restatement~~ of the bylaws;

16 (4) a copy of all ~~any~~ filed articles of consolidation or merger;

17 (5) a copy of any financial statement of the association for the six most recent
18 years;

19 (6) a copy of the six most recent annual reports delivered by the association to the
20 [Secretary of State];

21 (7) a copy of the minutes of meetings of members for the three most recent years;
22 ~~participants and~~

23 _____ (8) records of all actions taken by members ~~participants~~ without a meeting for the
24 three most recent years;

1 (98) a ~~current~~ list showing the full name and last known street and mailing
2 addresses of each current member participant, separately identifying the patron members
3 participants, in alphabetical order, and the investor members participants, in alphabetical order;

4 (109) a copy of the federal, state, and local income tax returns and reports of the
5 association, if any, for the six most recent years;

6 (11+0) accounting records maintained by the association in the ordinary course of
7 its operations for the six most recent years;

8 (12+1) a copy of the minutes of directors' meetings for the three most recent
9 years; and

10 (13) records of all actions taken by directors without a meeting for the three most
11 recent years;

12 (14+2) a record stating:

13 (A) the amount of money cash contributed and agreed to be contributed
14 by each member participant;

15 (B) a description and statement of the agreed value of other benefits
16 contributed and agreed to be contributed by each member participant; and

17 (C) the times at which, or events on the happening of which, any
18 additional contribution agreed to be made by each member participant is to be made; and

19 (15+3) for each member, a description and statement of the member's interest or
20 interests or information from which the description and statement can be derived; and a person
21 ~~that is a patron participant or an investor participant, a specification of the interest the person~~
22 ~~owns; and~~

1 participant.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 ~~Would this be better placed in Article 4 or 5?~~

4
5 ~~Is the language following "subject to" necessary. Style suggests deletion.~~

6
7 This language is consistent with the language used in ULPA (2001). The Comment to
8 this Section may include a statement concerning the uniqueness of the cooperative relationship.
9 ~~The language beginning with "subject to" is added for Committee discussion to the February~~
10 ~~2006 draft to make clear that it is not intended to apply to, e.g., marketing contracts which~~
11 ~~implicate article and bylaw provisions governing participation (membership).~~
12

13 **SECTION 115. DUAL CAPACITY.** A person may be both a patron member
14 participant and an investor member participant. A person that is both a patron member
15 participant and an investor member participant has the rights, powers, duties, and obligations
16 provided by this [act] and the organic law in each of those capacities. When the person acts as a
17 patron member participant, the person is subject to the obligations, duties, and restrictions under
18 this [act] and the organic rules governing patron members participants. When the person acts as
19 an investor member participant, the person is subject to the obligations, duties, and restrictions
20 under this [act] and the organic rules governing investor members participants.

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 ~~Would this be better placed in Article 4 or 5?~~
23

24 **SECTION 116. DESIGNATED OFFICE AND AGENT FOR SERVICE OF**
25 **PROCESS.**

26 (a) A limited cooperative association, and a foreign cooperative that has a certificate of
27 authority under Section 1304, shall designate and ~~continuously~~ maintain in this state:

1 (1) an office, which need not be a place of the association's its activity in this
2 state; and

3 (2) an agent for service of process at that office.

4 ~~(b) A foreign cooperative that has a certificate of authority under Section 1304 shall~~
5 ~~designate and continuously maintain in this state an agent for service of process.~~

6 ~~(bc)~~ An agent for service of process of a limited cooperative association or foreign
7 cooperative must be an individual who is a resident of this state or an entity that is ~~other person~~
8 authorized to do business in this state and has ~~with~~ an office in this state.

9 **Legislative Note:** *If the adopting state has adopted, or is concurrently adopting, the Model*
10 *Registered Agent Act (2006), it should conform this section and those following it through the*
11 *end of the article in a manner similar to the conforming amendments that accompany the Model*
12 *Registered Agent Act for ULPA (2001).*

13
14 **Reporters' Note**

15
16 Cross reference: Section 1302.

17
18 Source: Slightly revised from Section 113 ULLCA (2006).

19
20 **Reporters' Note**

21 The Comment might make clear the assumption, ubiquitous in entity law, that a domestic
22 entity is "authorized" to do business in its state of formation.

23
24 The filing of the information is provided under Sections 1304 and 302(a)(3).

25
26 There is a question of nomenclature. This draft uses the vetted NCCUSL language
27 "designated" even though traditional cooperative law and corporate formulation is registered.
28 They "mean" the same thing, functionally. Note that principal office is where the required
29 information must be kept and "principal" and "designated" offices are separate concepts though
30 they may be the same location. Both are defined terms.

31
32 **SECTION 117. CHANGE OF DESIGNATED OFFICE OR AGENT FOR**

1 **SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

2 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 207(e), to change its designated office; or its
3 agent for service of process; or the street address or, if different, the mailing address of its
4 principal office ~~agent for service of process, a limited~~ cooperative association ~~or a foreign~~
5 ~~cooperative~~ shall deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing a statement of change containing:

6 (1) the name of the limited cooperative association ~~or foreign cooperative~~;

7 (2) the street and mailing addresses of its ~~current~~ designated office;

8 (3) if the ~~current~~ designated office is to be changed, the street and mailing
9 addresses of the new designated office;

10 (4) the name ~~and street and mailing addresses~~ of its ~~current~~ agent for service of
11 process; and

12 (5) if the ~~current~~ agent for service of process ~~or an address of the agent~~ is to be
13 changed, the name of the new agent information.

14 (b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 207(e), to change its agent for service of
15 process, the address of its agent for service of process, or the street or mailing address of its
16 principal office, a foreign cooperative shall deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing a
17 statement of change containing:

18 (1) the name of the foreign cooperative;

19 (2) the name and street and mailing addresses of its current agent for service of
20 process;

21 (3) if the current agent for service of process or an address of the agent is to be
22 changed, the new information;

1 process terminates pursuant to this section on the earlier of:

2 (1) the 31st day 30 days after the [Secretary of State] files a the statement of
3 resignation under subsection (b); or :

4 (2) when a record designating a new agent for service of process is delivered to
5 the [Secretary of State] for filing on behalf of the association or cooperative and becomes
6 effective.

7 **SECTION 119. SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

8 (a) An agent for service of process appointed by a limited cooperative association or
9 foreign cooperative is an agent of the ~~cooperative~~ association or foreign cooperative for service
10 of process, notice, or a demand required or permitted by law to be served upon the ~~cooperative~~
11 association or foreign cooperative.

12 (b) If a limited cooperative association or foreign cooperative does not appoint or
13 maintain an agent for service of process in this state or the agent for service of process cannot
14 with reasonable diligence be found at the agent's address on file with the [Secretary of State], the
15 [Secretary of State] is an agent of the ~~cooperative~~ association or foreign cooperative upon which
16 ~~whom~~ process, notice, or a demand may be served.

17 (c) Service of process, notice, or a demand on the [Secretary of State] as agent of a
18 limited cooperative association or foreign cooperative may be made by delivering to the
19 [Secretary of State] two copies of the process, notice, or demand. ~~If process, notice, or demand is~~
20 ~~served on the [Secretary of State], the~~ The [Secretary of State] shall forward one of the copies by
21 registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the ~~cooperative~~ association or foreign
22 cooperative at its principal designated office.

1 (d) Service is effected under subsection (c) on the earliest of:

2 (1) the date the limited cooperative association or foreign cooperative receives
3 the process, notice, or a demand;

4 (2) the date shown on the return receipt, if signed on behalf of the ~~cooperative~~
5 association or foreign cooperative; or

6 (3) five days after the process, notice, or a demand is deposited for delivery by the
7 United States Postal Service, if mailed postpaid and correctly addressed.

8 (e) The [Secretary of State] shall keep a record of each process, notice, and demand
9 served pursuant to this section and record the time of, and the action taken regarding, the service.

10 (f) This section does not affect the right to serve process, notice, or a demand in any
11 other manner provided by law.

12 **Reporters' Note**

13 Source: ULLCA (2006) Section 116; ULPA (2001). Is the term "mail" in section 120 (c)
14 and (d)(3) ambiguous? The Style Committee suggested the change to "with the United States
15 Postal Service" in (c) and (d)(3).

16
17 Subsection(d) is contained in the other NCCUSL products and, therefore, appears here.
18 In at least some states issues of when service is effective are in the law or rules governing
19 procedure. There is a joint NCCUSL-ABA Study Committee on an Omnibus Business Code and
20 it is anticipated that this kind of issue will be within the scope of any project that results from
21 that Study. Thus, it is arguable that change to the existing language in this draft act is beyond the
22 scope of the Uniform Cooperative Association Act Drafting Committee. Finally, there may be a
23 distinction in policy in the operation of Subsection (d) as applied to foreign versus domestic
24 cooperative associations.

1 [ARTICLE] 2

2 FILING AND ANNUAL REPORTS

3
4 SECTION 201. SIGNING OF RECORDS TO BE DELIVERED FOR FILING TO
5 THE [SECRETARY OF STATE].

6 (a) Records delivered to the [Secretary of State] for filing pursuant to this [act] must be
7 signed as follows:

8 (1) The initial articles of organization must be signed by at least one organizer
9 ~~two organizers~~.

10 (2) A statement of cancellation under Section 302(d) must be signed by at least
11 one organizer.

12 (3) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), a record signed on behalf of an
13 existing limited cooperative association must be signed by an officer.

14 (4) A record filed on behalf of a dissolved association must be signed by a person
15 winding up activities under Section 1106 or a person appointed under Section 1106 to wind up
16 those activities.

17 (5) Any other record must be signed by the person on whose behalf the record is
18 delivered to the [Secretary of State].

19 (b) Any record to be signed under this [act] may be signed by an authorized agent.

20 **Reporters' Note**

21 The Reporters, in an earlier draft have revised the section to make it more comprehensive
22 and more closely track the ULLCA II.
23

1
2 **SECTION 202. SIGNING AND FILING OF RECORDS PURSUANT TO**
3 **JUDICIAL ORDER.**

4 (a) If a person required by this [act] to sign or deliver a record to the [Secretary of State]
5 for filing does not do so, the [appropriate court], upon petition of an aggrieved person, may
6 order:

7 (1) the person to sign the record and deliver it to the [Secretary of State] for
8 filing; or

9 (2) the delivery of the unsigned record to the [Secretary of State] for filing ~~to file~~
10 ~~the record unsigned.~~

11 (b) If an aggrieved person under subsection (a) is not the limited cooperative association
12 or foreign cooperative to which the record pertains, the aggrieved person shall make the
13 ~~cooperative~~ association or foreign cooperative a party to the action brought to obtain the order in
14 ~~subsection (a).~~

15 (c) An unsigned record filed pursuant to this section is effective.

16 **SECTION 203. DELIVERY TO AND FILING OF RECORDS BY [SECRETARY**
17 **OF STATE]; EFFECTIVE TIME AND DATE.**

18 (a) A record authorized or required by this [act] to be delivered to the [Secretary of State]
19 for filing ~~under this [act]~~ must be captioned to describe the record's purpose, be in a medium
20 permitted by the [Secretary of State], and be delivered to the [Secretary of State]. If the filing
21 fees have been paid, unless the [Secretary of State] determines ~~determined~~ that a record does not
22 comply with the filing requirements of this [act], the [Secretary of State] shall file the record [and

1 send a copy of the filed record and a receipt for the fees to the person on whose behalf the record
2 was filed].

3 (b) Upon request and payment of the requisite fee, the [Secretary of State] shall send to
4 the requester a certified copy of any record filed by the [Secretary of State] under this [act].

5 (c) Except as otherwise provided in Sections 117 and 204, a record delivered to the
6 [Secretary of State] for filing under this [act] may specify an effective time and a delayed
7 effective date that may include an effective time on that date. Except as otherwise provided in
8 Sections 117 and 204, a record filed by the [Secretary of State] under this [act] is effective:

9 (1) if the record does not specify an effective time and does not specify a delayed
10 effective date, on the date and at the time the record is filed as evidenced by the [Secretary of
11 State's] [endorsement] of the date and time on the record;

12 (2) if the record specifies an effective time but not a delayed effective date, on the
13 date the record is filed at the time specified in the record;

14 (3) if the record specifies a delayed effective date but not an effective time, at
15 12:01 a.m. on the earlier of:

16 (A) the specified date; or

17 (B) the 90th day after the record is filed; or

18 (4) if the record specifies an effective time and a delayed effective date, at the
19 specified time on the earlier of:

20 (A) the specified date; or

21 (B) the 90th day after the record is filed.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 "Style" suggested that "a delayed" be deleted wherever it appears and that the flush
3 language of (c) include the phrase "later than the date of filing." Adoption of the suggestion
4 would add an inconsistency with ULLCA II.
5

6 **SECTION 204. CORRECTING FILED RECORD.**

7 (a) A limited cooperative association or foreign cooperative may deliver to the [Secretary
8 of State] for filing a statement of correction to correct a record previously delivered by the
9 ~~cooperative~~ association or foreign cooperative to the [Secretary of State] and filed by the
10 [Secretary of State] if, at the time of filing, the record contained false or erroneous information or
11 was defectively signed.

12 (b) A statement of correction may not state a delayed effective date and must:

13 (1) describe the record to be corrected, including its filing date, or has ~~contain an~~
14 attached a copy of the record as filed;

15 (2) specify the incorrect information and the reason it is incorrect or the manner
16 in which the signing was defective; and

17 (3) correct the incorrect information or defective signature.

18 (c) When filed by the [Secretary of State], a statement of correction is effective
19 retroactively as of the effective date of the record the statement corrects. However, ~~but~~ the
20 statement is effective when filed as to persons relying on the false or erroneous information or
21 defective signature before its correction and adversely affected by the correction.

22 **Reporters' Note**

23 *See, e.g.,* Section 117(b).
24

1 authorization issued by the [Secretary of State] establishes conclusively that the limited
2 cooperative association or foreign cooperative is in good standing or is authorized to transact
3 business in this state.

4 **Reporters' Note**

5 As of close of the 2006 Annual Meeting, this provision is now inconsistent with final
6 ULLCA II which is the latest pronouncement by the conference on this matter. See below.

7
8 At the Committee's direction:

9
10 (1) The name of the "certificate of existence" in the prior draft has been changed
11 to "certificate of good standing"; and, Subsections (a)(1) through (a)(8) and (b)(1) through (b)(6)
12 have been deleted. The prior draft tracked the current ULLCA Revision Draft and ULPA (2001)
13 to a lesser extent, ULLCA (1995) and the RMBCA. Is this a place for a legislative note? At
14 least one junction box statute confines (c) to the facts stated in the certificate. The Committee
15 adopted this change "subject to future revision". Finally, the Reporters, on their own motion,
16 replaced "request" with "application".

17
18 (2) The Reporters respectfully request information concerning that for which a
19 "certificate of good standing" attests among the various states.

20
21 See Sections 1111 and 1115.

22 23 **SECTION 207. ANNUAL REPORT FOR [SECRETARY OF STATE].**

24 (a) A limited cooperative association or a foreign cooperative authorized to transact
25 business in this state shall deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing an annual report that states:

26 (1) the name of the limited cooperative association or foreign cooperative;

27 (2) the street and mailing addresses of the association's or cooperative's
28 designated office and the name ~~and street and mailing addresses~~ of its agent for service of
29 process ~~in this state~~;

30 (3) ~~in the case of a cooperative association,~~ the street and mailing addresses of its

1 principal office ~~if different from its designated office~~; and

2 (4) in the case of a foreign cooperative, the state or other jurisdiction under whose
3 law the foreign cooperative is formed and any alternative name adopted under Section 1305.

4 (b) Information in an annual report must be current as of the date the annual report is
5 delivered to the [Secretary of State].

6 (c) The first annual report must be delivered to the [Secretary of State] between [January
7 1 and April 1] of the year following the calendar year in which the limited cooperative
8 association was formed or the foreign cooperative was authorized to transact business in this
9 state. An annual report must be delivered to the [Secretary of State] between [January 1 and
10 April 1] of each subsequent calendar year.

11 (d) If an annual report does not contain the information required by ~~in~~ subsection (a), the
12 [Secretary of State] shall promptly notify the reporting limited cooperative association or foreign
13 cooperative and return the report for correction. If the report is corrected to contain the
14 information required by ~~in~~ subsection (a) and delivered to the [Secretary of State] within 30 days
15 after the ~~effective~~ date of the notice from the [Secretary of State], it is timely delivered.

16 (e) If a filed annual report contains an address of the a ~~a~~ designated office, ~~or~~ the name ~~or~~
17 ~~address~~ of the an agent for service of process, or the address of the principal office which differs
18 from the information shown in the records of the [Secretary of State] immediately before the
19 filing, the differing information in the annual report is considered a statement of change under
20 Section 117.

21 (f) If a limited cooperative association fails to deliver ~~file~~ an annual report under this
22 section, the [Secretary of State] may proceed under Section 1111 to administratively dissolve the

1 association.

2 (g) If a foreign cooperative fails to deliver ~~file~~ an annual report under this section, the
3 [Secretary of State] may proceed under Section 1306 to revoke the certificate of authority of the
4 cooperative.

5 **Reporters' Note**

6 There was discussion at the October 2005 meeting concerning whether “if different”
7 should be inserted between street and mailing address. If that is done, should it be a global
8 change?
9

10 Is subsection (d) clear? This Draft leaves the determination of the deemed effective date
11 of notice here, and elsewhere, to other law.
12

13 Would (f) and (g) be better placed in sections 1111 and 1306, respectively?
14

15 **SECTION 208. FILING FEES; ~~RULES AND REGULATIONS; ANNUAL~~**

16 **REPORTS.** The filing fee for records filed under this [article ~~Article~~] by ~~with~~ the [Secretary of
17 State] is governed by [insert appropriate citation to this state's ~~the~~ general business corporation
18 act,] ~~[the limited liability company act, or] [the general cooperative act] of this state.~~

19 *Legislative Note: If the adopting state has a centralized statute providing a unified fee structure*
20 *the bracketed language should be deleted ~~deleted~~ and replaced with a cross-reference to the*
21 *appropriate unified schedule.*
22

23 **Reporters' Note**

24 Consideration should be given to bracketing this section. Three bracketed references are
25 suggested as a source of fees. There are others, e.g., the limited partnership act, not-for-profit
26 corporation act, etc.
27

28 The base source for much of this Article as originally drafted was ULPA (2001) which is
29 the latest pronouncement of the Conference on these matters.

1 [ARTICLE] 3

2 FORMATION AND ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

3
4 **Reporters' Note**

5 ~~Article 2 of the 2005 Annual Meeting Draft has been bifurcated into Art. 2A "Formation~~
6 ~~and Articles of Organization" and Art. 2. Article 2A is now Article 3.~~

7
8 ~~"Old" Section 203 "Amendment or Restatement of Articles of Organization" has been~~
9 ~~moved to Art. 13 as "new" Section 1309.~~

10
11 **SECTION 301. ORGANIZERS.** A limited cooperative association must be organized
12 by one ~~two~~ or more organizers who are individuals.

13 **Reporters' Note**

14 This section needs to be read in conjunction with Section 401 which requires the
15 existence of participants before the association may conduct business. ULLCA (2006) resolved
16 this dilemma in a different manner.

17
18 The issues raised in Section 301 have been discussed at length by the Committee and it
19 was decided at the Fall 2006 meeting to require only one organizer. The balance of this Note is
20 for historical purposes only.

21
22 The Committee directed the Reporters to delete subsection (b) in the prior draft that
23 required the organizers to "intend" in "good faith" to become members (now participants) in the
24 cooperative.

25
26 The Committee also directed that this draft should provide that only one organizer was
27 necessary for a wholly-owned subsidiary of an existing cooperative. Several unexplored issues
28 arose when the Reporters attempted to draft the language to effectuate that purpose. *First:* At
29 what point is "wholly-owned" measured? At the moment of formation? Is it an ongoing
30 requirement? *Second:* Was the Committee direction really intended to address the minimum
31 number of participants rather than the minimum number of organizers? For these and other
32 reasons the Reporters retained the two organizer requirement.

33
34 Another issue raised in conjunction with this Section is whether the formation of "shelf"
35 cooperatives *should* be allowed. "Shelf" entities are those entities formed by promoters, or

1 others, for possible future use without a specific current need for the entity. The tentative
2 conclusion of the Committee was not to allow for shelf cooperatives because they are
3 inconsistent with the member focus of cooperatives. For the same reason, two organizers are
4 required under this draft.

5
6 The Committee recognizes that the execution of that tentative conclusion is difficult and
7 raises other issues including the number of members necessary to avoid dissolution. This draft
8 requires only a single member for the latter purposes, in part, because of the current use of
9 wholly owned subsidiaries of cooperatives which are themselves cooperatives and because
10 requiring more than a single member increases the risk of inadvertent dissolution. On the other
11 hand, like under partnership law, it is difficult to conceive of a “cooperative” without more than
12 one member.

13
14 The Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act allows for “one or more organizers... [who]
15 need not be members.” The Colorado Cooperative Act too, allows for one or more
16 “incorporators.”
17

18 **SECTION 302. FORMATION OF LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION;**
19 **ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION.**

20 (a) To form a limited cooperative association, the organizers of the association must
21 deliver articles of organization to the [Secretary of State] for filing. The articles must state:

22 (1) the name of the association;

23 (2) the purposes for which the association is formed;

24 (3) the street and mailing addresses of the association’s initial designated office
25 and the name and street and mailing addresses of the association’s initial agent for service of
26 process;

27 (4) the name and street and mailing addresses of each organizer; and

28 (5) the term for which the association is to exist if other than perpetual.

29 (b) Subject to Section 112(b), articles ~~Articles~~ of organization may contain any other
30 provisions ~~information~~ in addition to those ~~that~~ required by subsection (a).

1 (c) A limited cooperative association is formed ~~after on the date when~~ articles of
2 organization that substantially comply with subsection (a) are delivered to the [Secretary of State]
3 are filed, and become effective under section 203(c):

4 (1) ~~the [Secretary of State] files the articles of organization; or~~

5 (2) ~~if the filed articles of organization state a delayed effective date, the arrival of~~
6 ~~the delayed effective date.~~

7 (d) If the articles state a delayed effective date, a limited cooperative association is not
8 formed if, before the articles take effect, an one organizer who signed the initial articles of
9 organization signs and delivers to the [Secretary of State] for filing a statement of cancellation.

10 **Reporters' Note**

11 Paragraph (a)(6) has been removed because it provided that the number and manner of
12 electing the BOD could be relegated to the bylaws which changed the voting quantum necessary
13 for amendment and was therefore "cut." There was a question from the floor at the 2006 Annual
14 Meeting about it.

15
16 The December 2006 draft modified the sections to which the following was germane.
17 The Committee on Style suggested deletion of "for filing" in subsection (a). It has been retained
18 because of a need to direct the Secretary of State as to what to do with the delivered document.
19 That Committee also suggested deletion of "initial" in paragraph (a)(3). It was left in to avoid
20 any implication that, despite other provisions in the act, that any change in the designated office
21 would require an amendment to the articles of organization.
22

23 **SECTION 303. ORGANIZATION OF LIMITED COOPERATIVE** 24 **ASSOCIATION.**

25 (a) After ~~the effective date of the articles of organization of a~~ limited cooperative
26 association is formed under Section 302:

27 (1) if initial directors are named in the articles of organization, the initial directors

1 shall hold an organizational meeting to adopt initial bylaws; and carry on any other business
2 brought before the directors at the meeting; or

3 (2) if initial directors are not named in the articles of organization, the organizers
4 shall designate the initial directors and call a meeting of the initial directors to adopt initial
5 bylaws and carry on any other business necessary or proper to complete the organization of the
6 association.

7 (b) Initial directors need not be members ~~participants~~.

8 (c) An initial director serves until a successor is elected and qualified at a special or
9 annual members' meeting ~~of participants~~ or the director is removed, resigns, is declared
10 incompetent by a court with jurisdiction, or dies.

11 **Reporters' Note**

12 The Comment needs to explain that the failure to adopt bylaws does not necessarily
13 negatively affect the organization or existence of the LCA if the necessary records are otherwise
14 in existence.

15
16 ~~Subsection (b) is new. It solves a chicken and egg problem. See Section 707.~~

17
18 The February 2006 draft attempts to avoid the classic circularity problem concerning
19 which comes first: participants or the limited cooperative association. This same issue has been
20 discussed in the context of limited liability companies. There (probably) is no nice theoretical
21 solution to this very practical problem.

22
23 The following suggestion was made in the context of the LLC project by two advisors:

24
25 (1) A limited liability company is formed when a certificate of organization is
26 filed and it has at least one member.

27
28 (2) If a person becomes a member and files a membership acknowledgment (see
29 parenthetical in (3) below) within 60 days from the filing of the certificate of organization the
30 LLC shall be conclusively presumed to have been formed upon the date of the filing of the
31 certificate of organization [or, stated another way, the membership acknowledgment relates back
32 to the date of the filing of the LLC certificate].

1 (3) If a certificate of organization does not name (or state the existence of) an
2 initial member and a membership acknowledgment is not filed within 60 days of the date of its
3 filing the certificate of organization lapses and becomes void.
4

5 Note #1 - This is not meant to be the draft or to be comprehensive (*e.g.* it does not
6 deal with delayed effective date, etc.). It is concept only.
7

8 Note #2 - In an odd sort of way this concept is similar to the security
9 agreement/financing statement dichotomy in UCC Article 9.
10

11 Note #3 - This is not a perfect nor a particularly elegant solution but it may be a
12 solution.
13

14 The advisors made the suggestion because they were apprehensive about unintended
15 consequences of the shelf LLC and the continuing trend line that, over time, makes an LLC less
16 distinguishable from a corporation.
17

18 From their perspective, convergence between some features of LLCs and corporations is
19 inevitable and on balance very beneficial. Nonetheless, they raised concern about the possible
20 long-term confounding effect and possible erosion of the perceived contractual nature of the LLC
21 by the shelf provisions in ULLCA. The contractual basis for the LLC viewed, by these advisors
22 is important in the real estate and estate planning areas and is the underlying rationale for many
23 benefits available for those and other purposes under both LLC and other law.
24

25 The Co-op Association Drafting Committee might want to consider returning to this issue
26 dependent upon the final formulation of the ULLCA project at the 2006 Annual Meeting.
27

28 **SECTION 304. BYLAWS.**

29 (a) Bylaws must be in a record and, if not stated in the articles of organization, must
30 include:

31 (1) a statement of the capital structure of the limited cooperative association,
32 including:

33 (A) the groups, classes, or other types of member participant interests and
34 relative rights, preferences, and restrictions granted to or imposed upon each group, class, or
35 other type of member participant interest; and

1 (B) the rights to share in profits or distributions of the association;

2 (2) a statement of the method for admission of members ~~to admit participants~~;

3 (3) a statement designating voting and other governance rights, including which
4 members participants have voting power and any restriction on the voting power under Sections
5 411 through 413;

6 (4) a statement that member participant interests held by a member participant are
7 not transferable or, if transferable, a statement of the conditions upon which they may be
8 transferred ~~with the approval of the association's board of directors~~;

9 (5) a statement concerning the manner in which profits and losses are allocated
10 ~~apportioned~~ and distributions are made among patron members participants and, if investor
11 members participants are authorized, the manner in which profits and losses are allocated
12 ~~apportioned~~ and how distributions are made ~~as~~ between patron members participants and investor
13 members participants; and

14 (6) a statement of the number and terms of directors or the method by which the
15 number and terms are determined.

16 (b) Subject to Section 112(b) and the articles of organization, bylaws ~~Bylaws~~ may contain
17 any other provision for managing and regulating the affairs of the association, ~~which is not~~
18 ~~inconsistent with organic law or the articles of organization~~.

19 (c) In addition to amendments permitted under [Article] 14, the initial board of directors
20 of a limited cooperative association may amend the bylaws by a majority vote of the directors at
21 any time before the admission of members participants.

22 **Reporters' Note**

1 If there are no formal bylaws or the bylaws do not contain certain provisions, the act will
2 supply many of the material terms and other governing rules.
3

4 Section 304 goes beyond what is typically considered capital structure in the corporate
5 setting. The Drafting Committee considered alternatives but because this Act is membership
6 based; because the articles and bylaws together constitute the agreement in traditional
7 cooperative and in other unincorporated entities; and, on the other hand, because it desired the
8 greater formality typical in cooperatives, this draft includes greater detail.
9

10 Subsection (c) has been added at the direction of the Committee. It could also be added
11 to the amendment provisions in Article 14 but was placed here as part of the organizational
12 process.

1 [ARTICLE] 4

2 MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS

3
4 SECTION 401. MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS. To begin business, a limited
5 cooperative association must have at least [two] ~~or more~~ patron members participants unless the
6 sole member participant is a cooperative.

7 **Reporters’ Note**

8 Other law or the organic rules govern such things as whether husband and wife or tenants
9 in common are counted as one or multiple members.

10
11 There was Committee discussion as to whether it should be made clear that this section is
12 not intended to preclude common ownership of a patron participant and the Committee requested
13 the Reporters to consider the matter. Because the Act does not preclude common ownership the
14 Reporters recommend this question be left to the organic rules. Other law, including community
15 property law, may affect the operation of this Section. Moreover, it is not the intention of this
16 Section to affect ~~effect~~ provisions of tax laws.
17

18 SECTION 402. BECOMING A MEMBER PARTICIPANT. A person becomes a
19 member participant:

- 20 (1) as provided in the organic rules;
21 (2) as the result of merger or consolidation under [Article] 15; or
22 (3) with the consent of all the members participants.

23 **Reporters’ Note**

24 This section has engendered a great deal of discussion. The Reporters were directed to
25 delete the provision admitting participants after the dissociation of the last remaining participant
26 and this draft reflects that direction. The Reporters were also directed either to delete “with the
27 consent of all remaining members” or to add thereto “if the organic rules are silent”. Upon
28 further review the Reporters have done neither pending further direction of the Committee
29 because: (1) this act requires the admission of participants to be in a record and “if silence” raises

1 both circularity issues and sleeping theoretical issues and (2) all the participants almost certainly
2 have the right to amend the organic rules to admit anyone they want. This approach is consistent
3 with unincorporated law and vests ultimate authority in the participants which seems inherently
4 consistent with cooperative principles. It is *exactly* the same language that appears in Section
5 401 of ULLCA II, Sections 401 and 501 of ULPA (2001). See Minnesota Cooperative
6 Associations Act §308B.601 and §308B.241. The former states that the articles or bylaws may
7 set the terms. The latter states the board, however, may amend the bylaws but requires notice of
8 the change to be sent to all members. Other provisions state the bylaws may also be amended by
9 the members.

10
11
12 **SECTION 403. NO RIGHT OR POWER AS MEMBER PARTICIPANT TO BIND**
13 **LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.** A member participant does not have the right
14 or power as a member participant to act for or bind the limited cooperative association.

15 **Reporters' Note**

16 Source: ULPA (2001).
17

18 **SECTION 404. NO LIABILITY AS MEMBER PARTICIPANT FOR LIMITED**
19 **COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION OBLIGATIONS.** Unless the articles of organization
20 otherwise provide;:

21 (a) an obligation of a limited cooperative association, whether arising in contract, tort, or
22 otherwise, is not the obligation of a member; and participant. ~~A~~

23 (b) a member participant is not personally liable, by way of contribution or otherwise, for
24 an obligation of the association solely by reason of being a member participant.

25 **Reporters' Note**

26 Source: ULPA (2001). There has been some discussion about modifying the ULPA
27 (2001) language to include the word “personal” in an attempt to make the provision clearer but it
28 is not certain it does so and there is a cost associated with changing the language from one Act to
29 another if the intent is the same. The phrase directly or indirectly has been deleted in accordance
30 with Committee direction. The same issue arose in the context of ULLCA (2006).

1 The Comment to this Section needs to explain it does not apply to contractual guarantees
2 and unfulfilled contribution obligation. Those are separate personal obligations apart from an
3 obligation of a cooperative.
4

5 **SECTION 405. RIGHT OF MEMBER PARTICIPANT AND FORMER MEMBER**
6 **PARTICIPANT TO INFORMATION.**

7 (a) Within 10 business days of receipt by a limited cooperative association of a demand
8 made in a record, the association shall permit a member participant to ~~may~~ obtain, inspect, and
9 copy required information under Section 113(1) through ~~(87)~~ during regular business hours in the
10 association's principal office. A member participant need not have any particular purpose for
11 seeking the information. The association ~~is shall not be~~ required to provide the same information
12 under Section 113(2) through ~~(87)~~ to the same member participant more than once during a six-
13 month period.

14 (b) On demand made in a record received by the limited cooperative association, a
15 member participant may obtain, inspect, and copy required information under Section 113~~(9)~~,
16 ~~(10), (12), (13), and (16) (8) through (13)~~ if:

17 (1) the member participant seeks the information in good faith and for a proper
18 purpose reasonably related to the member's participant's interest as a member participant;

19 (2) the demand includes a description with reasonable particularity of the
20 information sought and the purpose for seeking the information;

21 (3) the information sought is directly connected to the member's participant's
22 purpose; and

23 (4) the demand is ~~just and~~ reasonable.

1 (c) Within 10 business days after receiving a demand pursuant to subsection (b), the
2 limited cooperative association shall inform in a record the member participant that made the
3 demand:

4 (1) if the association agrees to provide the demanded information:

5 (A) the ~~what~~ information the association will provide in response to the
6 demand; and

7 (B) a reasonable time and place at which the association will provide the
8 information; or

9 (2) if the association declines to provide any demanded information, the
10 association's reasons for declining.

11 (d) Subject to subsection (f), a person dissociated as a member participant may obtain,
12 inspect, and copy ~~any required~~ information under subsection (a) or (b) ~~Section 113~~:

13 (1) by delivering a demand in a record to the limited cooperative association in the
14 same manner and subject to the same conditions applicable to as required of a member
15 participant under subsection (b);

16 (2) if the information pertains to the period during which the person was a
17 member participant in the association; and

18 (3) if the person seeks the information in good faith.

19 (e) A limited cooperative association shall respond to a demand made pursuant to
20 subsection (d) in the same manner as provided in subsection (c).

21 (f) Within 10 business days of receipt by a limited cooperative association of a demand
22 made by a member in a record, but not more often than once in a six-month period, the

1 association shall deliver to the member a record stating the information with respect to the
2 member required by Section 113(15).

3 (gf) If a member participant dies or is adjudged incompetent, Section 1003 applies.

4 (hg) A limited cooperative association may impose reasonable restrictions, including
5 nondisclosure restrictions, on the use of information obtained under this section. In a dispute
6 concerning the reasonableness of a restriction under this subsection, the association has the
7 burden of proving reasonableness.

8 (ih) A limited cooperative association may charge a person that makes a demand under
9 this section reasonable costs of copying, limited to the costs of labor and material.

10 (ji) A person who may obtain information under this Section may obtain the information
11 ~~participant or person dissociated as a participant may exercise the rights under this section~~
12 through an attorney or other agent. A restriction imposed on the person under subsection (hg) or
13 by the organic rules ~~on a participant or person dissociated as a participant also~~ applies to the
14 attorney or other agent.

15 (kj) The rights stated in this section do not extend to a person as transferee, ~~but may be~~
16 ~~exercised by the legal representative of an individual under legal disability who is a participant or~~
17 ~~person dissociated as a participant.~~

18 (l) The organic rules may require a limited cooperative association to provide more
19 information than required by this Section and may establish conditions and procedures for
20 providing information pursuant to this subsection.

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 Subsection (k) needs a comment to make clear that a transferee who becomes a member

1 is a member and no longer a transferee.

2
3 The Comments will also include an explanation for subsection (a) that the “same
4 information” does not include new information about the same subject. Nonetheless the
5 subsection assumes an obligation of good faith for both the member requesting the information
6 and the association. Thus, if the nature of the requested information changes daily this Section
7 should not be read to mean the daily changes rise to the level of new information.

8
9 The Comments will also reflect that the Section is not intended to require, produce or
10 maintain information not required and maintained in a format consistent with Section 113 (the
11 LCA does not require the “creation” of information).

12
13 This section was substantially redrafted for the February 2006 draft. It picks up the
14 cause/no cause concept and references the redrafted Section 114. It is generally consistent with
15 the RMBCA and The Model Nonprofit Corporation Act.

16
17 This draft does not, however, include any “right to go to court”. Neither, however, does
18 the Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act nor ULPA (2001). Likewise the Reporters have not
19 been able to find such a provision in either ULLCA (1995) or in the current revision for ULLCA.
20 On the other hand, the Tennessee Act, the Model Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the MBCA all
21 contain court-ordered provisions. The Tennessee Act provides as follows:

22
23 43-38-532. Enforcement of right to inspect and copy records.

24 (a) If a cooperative does not allow a member who complies
25 with § 43-38-530(a) to inspect and copy any records required by
26 that subsection to be available for inspection, a court in the county
27 where the cooperative’s principal executive office, or, if none in
28 this state, its registered office, is located may summarily order
29 inspection and copying of the records demanded at the
30 cooperative’s expense upon application of the member.

31 (b) If the court orders inspection and copying of the records
32 demanded, it shall also order the cooperative to pay the member’s
33 costs, including reasonable counsel fees, incurred to obtain the
34 order, if the member proves that the cooperative refused inspection
35 without a reasonable basis for doubt about the right of the member
36 to inspect the records demanded.

37
38 The Nonprofit Corporation Act section states:

39
40 Section 16.04. Court-Ordered Inspection.

41 (a) If a corporation does not allow a member who complies
42 with section 16.02(a) to inspect and copy any records required by
43 that subsection to be available for inspection, the [name or describe

1 court] in the county where the corporation’s principal office (or, if
2 none in this state, its registered office) is located may summarily
3 order inspection and copying of the records demanded at the
4 corporation’s expense upon application of the member.

5 (b) If a corporation does not within a reasonable time allow
6 a member to inspect and copy any other record, the member who
7 complies with subsections 16.02(b) and (c) may apply to the [name
8 or describe court] in the county where the corporation’s principal
9 office (or, if none in this state, its registered office) is located for
10 an order to permit inspection and copying of the records demanded.
11 The court shall dispose of an application under this subsection on
12 an expedited basis.

13 (c) If the court orders inspection and copying of the records
14 demanded, it shall also order the corporation to pay the member’s
15 costs (including reasonable counsel fees) incurred to obtain the
16 order unless the corporation proves that it refused inspection in
17 good faith because it had a reasonable basis for doubt about the
18 right of the member to inspect the records demanded.

19 (d) If the court orders inspection and copying of the records
20 demanded, it may impose reasonable restrictions on the use or
21 distribution of the records by the demanding member.

22
23 Section 16.05. Limitations on Use of Membership List

24 Without consent of the board, a membership list or any part
25 thereof may not be obtained or used by any person for any purpose
26 unrelated to a member’s interest as a member. Without limiting
27 the generality of the foregoing, without the consent of the board a
28 membership list or any part thereof may not be:

- 29 (1) used to solicit money or property unless such money or
30 property will be used solely to solicit the votes of the members in
31 an election to be held by the corporation;
- 32 (2) used for any commercial purpose; or
- 33 (3) sold to or purchased by any person.

34
35 The Comments will include a discussion of nondisclosure. Finally, this section cannot be
36 reduced or eliminated by the organic rules. *See* Section 112.

37
38 (B) Committee may wish to revisit the issue of a “Statement of Interest.” The Minnesota
39 Cooperative Associations Act mandates each member is entitled a “Statement of Membership
40 Interest.”

41
42 308B.611. Nature of a membership interest and statement of
43 interest owned

Subd. 2. Statement of membership interest. At the request of any member, the cooperative shall state in writing the particular membership interest owned by that member as of the date the cooperative makes the statement. The statement must describe the member's rights to vote, if any, to share in profits and losses, and to share in distributions, restrictions on assignments of financial rights under section 308B.605, subdivision 3, or voting rights under section 308B.555 then in effect, as well as any assignment of member's rights then in effect other than a security interest.

SECTION 406. ANNUAL MEMBERS' ~~PARTICIPANTS'~~ MEETINGS.

(a) Members ~~The participants of a cooperative association~~ shall meet annually as provided in the organic rules or at the direction of the limited cooperative association's board of directors not inconsistent with the organic rules.

(b) Annual members' ~~participants'~~ meetings may be held inside or outside of this state at the place stated in the organic rules or by the limited cooperative association's board of directors not inconsistent with the organic rules.

(c) ~~Unless the~~ The organic rules otherwise may provide, members may ~~for participants to~~ attend ~~meetings~~ or conduct annual members' ~~participants'~~ meetings through ~~the use of~~ any means of communication if all members ~~participants~~ attending the meeting can communicate with each other during the meeting.

(d) A limited cooperative association's board of directors shall report, or cause to be reported, at the association's annual members' ~~participants'~~ meeting the association's business and financial condition as of the close of the most recent fiscal year.

(e) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a limited cooperative association's board of directors shall designate the presiding officer of the association's annual members'

1 participants' meeting.

2 (f) Failure to hold an annual meeting pursuant to subsection (a) does not affect the
3 validity of any limited cooperative association action.

4 **Reporters' Note**

5 Subsection (f) is new in the December 2006 draft. It was added by the Reporters and
6 follows RMBCA § 7.01.

7
8 This act follows cooperative law and corporate law in providing an annual meeting. This
9 provision should not be variable by the organic rules.

10
11 This section expands the MBCA provision to address issues, *e.g.* meeting chair and
12 financial reports, typically addressed in general cooperative law. Note that there is no time
13 period following the close of the fiscal year in which the meeting must necessarily be held.
14 Annual meetings are not required under general partnership law (*e.g.* UPA (1997)), limited
15 partnership law (*e.g.* ULPA (2001)) or limited liability company law (*e.g.* ULLCA). Best
16 practice would be to coordinate the dates of the meetings in the organic rules.

17
18 ~~Although in the MBCA, could subsection (a) be deleted without harm?~~

19
20 ~~Finally, this section mandates annual meetings. Should there be a provision for "regular"~~
21 ~~non-annual meetings that do not need to comply with the special meeting notice provisions.~~
22

23 **SECTION 407. SPECIAL MEMBERS' PARTICIPANTS' MEETINGS.**

24 (a) Special members' participants' meetings must be called:

25 (1) as provided in the organic rules;

26 (2) by a majority vote of the board of directors on a proposal stating the purpose
27 of the meeting;

28 (3) by demand in a record signed by members participants holding at least 20 ~~10~~
29 percent of the votes of any class or group entitled to be cast on the matter that is the purpose of
30 the meeting stated in the demand; or

1 (4) by demand in a record signed by members ~~participants~~ holding at least 10
2 percent of all votes entitled to be cast on the matter that is the purpose of the meeting stated in
3 the demand.

4 (b) Any voting member may withdraw its demand under subsection (a)(3) or (a)(4)
5 before receipt by the limited cooperative association of demands sufficient to require a special
6 members' participants' meeting.

7 (c) A special members' participants' meeting may be held inside or outside this state at
8 the place stated in the organic rules or by the limited cooperative association's board of directors
9 in accordance with the organic rules.

10 (d) ~~Unless the~~ The organic rules otherwise may provide, members may ~~for participants to~~
11 attend ~~meetings~~ or conduct special members' participants' meetings through ~~the use of~~ any
12 means of communication if all members participants attending the meeting can communicate
13 with each other during the meeting.

14 (e) Only affairs within the purpose or purposes stated pursuant to the notice of a special
15 members' meeting ~~Section 408(c)~~ may be conducted at the ~~a special participants'~~ meeting.

16 (f) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, the presiding officer of a special
17 members' participants' meeting shall be designated by the limited cooperative association's
18 board of directors.

19 **Reporters' Note**

20 Discussion at the February 2006 meeting reached a consensus that this Section is not
21 subject to variation by the organic rules and answered the issues in the following paragraph to
22 this note.

23
24 To the Reporters' knowledge, the only current question that needs to be addressed is

1 whether subsections (a)(2)-(4) can be varied organically. For what it's its worth the Reporters
2 would generally suggest "yes" except one Reporter would require (a)(4) be mandatory; (d)
3 "should" (!?) be mandatory.
4

5 The MBCA allows the 10 percent minimum for demand to be varied upward to 25
6 percent if provided in the articles of incorporation.
7

8 Old section 308 (which followed this section has been deleted as redundant). The matter
9 was discussed by the Committee and it seemed ambivalent. Thus, the Reporters believed they
10 had Committee permission to use their discretion.
11

12 Neither this draft nor the general cooperative statutes consulted provide for any type of
13 "fiduciary duties" for representatives of districts even though agency principles could apply. The
14 Committee has not yet discussed this issue though it has discussed whether members, generally,
15 have fiduciary duties. There exists strong sentiment on the Committee that members, solely by
16 reason of being members, should not have fiduciary duties. A finer issue is whether members
17 owe (or should owe) the cooperative or other members a duty of good faith or fair dealing.
18

19 For the notice required of district meetings *see* Section 408(d).
20
21

22 **SECTION 408. NOTICE OF MEMBERS' PARTICIPANTS' MEETINGS.**

23 (a) A limited cooperative association shall notify each member participant of the time,
24 date, and place of a members' any annual or special participants' meeting [at least not less than
25 15 and not nor more than 60] days before the meeting.

26 (b) Unless the articles of organization otherwise provide, notice of an annual members'
27 participants' meeting need not include [a description of] the purpose or purposes of the meeting.

28 (c) Notice of a special members' participants' meeting must include [a description of] the
29 purpose or purposes of the meeting as contained in the demand under Section 407(a)(3) or (a)(4)
30 or as voted upon by the limited cooperative association's board of directors under Section
31 407(a)(2).
32

Reporters' Note

1 This section is mandatory except (b). Is this correct? The “unless provided by this [act]”
2 has been removed the only possible place that might be relevant is in mergers and in that context
3 it should be revisited. A question was raised at the 2005 Annual Meeting about the “description”
4 language. The Committee needs to decide whether (or not) to leave it in.
5

6 The Committee has discussed the bracketed 15 day notice and the long-end has been
7 added for discussion purposes. It is tentative.
8

9 Old subsection (d) has been moved.
10

11 **SECTION 409. WAIVER OF MEMBERS’ PARTICIPANTS’ MEETING**

12 **NOTICE.**

13 (a) A member participant may waive notice of a members’ participants’ meeting before,
14 during, or after the meeting.

15 (b) A member’s participant’s participation in a members’ participants’ meeting is a
16 waiver of notice of that meeting unless the member participant objects to the meeting at the
17 beginning of the meeting or promptly upon the member’s its arrival at the meeting and does not
18 thereafter vote for or assent to action taken at the meeting.

19 **SECTION 410. QUORUM OF MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS.** Unless the organic
20 rules otherwise provide, the voting power of those members participants present at a members’
21 ~~an annual or special participants’~~ meeting constitutes a quorum.

22 **Reporters’ Note**

23 The Comment will explain what “vote for” means in section 409 (b) (*See Tennessee*
24 *Processing Cooperative Act*).

25 This section states a default rule.
26

27
28 The interaction of Sections 409 and 410 means that a member objecting to a meeting
29 under Section 409 is present for purposes of the quorum under 410. The quorum is low. The
30 quorum requirement could, of course, be bifurcated by the number of the cooperative’s members.

1 Is “voting power” a confusing term?
2

3 **SECTION 411. VOTING BY PATRON MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS.**

4 (a) Unless the organic rules ~~otherwise~~ provide for a greater quantum, each patron
5 member participant has one vote. The organic rules may allocate voting power among patron
6 members participants as provided in Section 412.

7 (b) The organic rules may provide for the allocation of patron member participant voting
8 power by districts, class, or classes or any combination of them ~~district or class~~.

9 **Reporters’ Note**

10 See definition of “voting group.”
11

12 Old subsections (b) and (c) have been moved (consolidated) in another section dealing
13 with delegate voting.
14

15 This section needs to be revisited and discussed within the matrix of rights and powers.
16 As drafted the equity investors have fewer rights and less initial negotiating power than do
17 lenders who regularly require veto authority over a variety of matters. This goes to the heart of
18 the ability of this organization to reduce its cost of capital by seeking such investors. One
19 solution present in current cooperative association acts is permitting the patrons to have a
20 minority position.
21

22 As drafted, this act is the worst of both worlds for investors and patron members
23 attempting to reduce their cost of capital and formulate a viable economic organization. The
24 Committee needs to return to the idea of (a) reducing the patron majority block (making the
25 organization have the look and feel of an LLC); or, probably more viably, (b) at least providing
26 for true class voting providing the investors the ability to block/veto (like lenders) but not
27 dominate affirmative action. If the voting scheme more closely followed corporate-like class
28 voting it would also, at least conceptually, make the investors and this act look more like limited
29 partners in a limited partnership. The place within the act to place any such provisions would be
30 in subsection (b). It might also be drafted as an alternative though that compromise is probably
31 less than satisfying to the Committee. The class voting was suggested by a Commissioner on the
32 floor of the 2005 Annual Meeting.
33

34 Subsection (b) has been reformulated and redrafted. The general meeting notice
35 provisions should be equally applicable to (b)(2).

1 The quantum of voting reserved to patron members under subsection (b) is controversial
2 because it is a departure from the general law of cooperatives. It has been controversial in
3 Committee discussion. It is also one of the primary changes that allows for greater flexibility for
4 capital formation. Other “new generation” cooperative laws are far less restrictive than this draft.
5 For example, Minnesota substitutes fifteen (15) percent for the two bracketed alternatives and the
6 “majority” floor.

7
8 This section is mandatory.
9

10 SECTION 412. DETERMINATION OF VOTING POWER OF PATRON

11 **MEMBER PARTICIPANT.** The organic rules may allocate voting power among patron
12 members participants on the basis of one or a combination of:

13 (1) one member, one vote ~~actual, estimated, or potential patronage or any combination~~
14 ~~thereof;~~

15 (2) use or patronage; ~~equity allocated or held by a patron participant in the cooperative~~
16 ~~association; [or]~~

17 (3) equity; or

18 (4) if a patron member is a cooperative, the number of its patron members.

19 ~~[(3) if the patron participant is a cooperative, the number of patron participants of the~~
20 ~~participant cooperative; or]~~

21 ~~[(3)] [(4)] any combination of paragraphs (1)[,] [and] (2)[, and (3)].]~~

22 Reporters’ Note

23 This Section is meant to be permissive rather than restrictive.

24
25 Old subsection (b) has been consolidated to the new delegate section (412).
26

27 A question has been raised concerning (a)(2). It was suggested that “equity investments
28 by patron members must reflect an established patronage obligation”. The definition of patron
29 participant in the 2006 Annual Meeting Draft (Subsection 102(22)) addresses this question and

1 assures that the financial rights of all patron participants are based on patronage. Thus, the
2 financial allocation provisions assure that patron participants have a patronage obligation.

3
4 However, voting allocated under subsection two will or may reflect, in some way,
5 cumulative patronage not restricted to patronage on a current basis. It also provides a measure of
6 flexibility.
7

8 **SECTION 413. VOTING BY INVESTOR MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS.** If the
9 organic rules provide for investor members participants, each investor member participant has
10 one vote, unless ~~except as otherwise provided by the organic rules~~ otherwise provide. The
11 organic rules may provide for the allocation of investor member voting power by class, ~~or~~
12 classes, or any combination of classes.

13 **SECTION 414. VOTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS.**
14 If a limited cooperative association has both patron and investor members participants:

15 (a) (1) the total aggregate voting power of all patron members participants may not be
16 less than two-thirds of the entire voting power entitled to vote; and

17 (2) action on any matter is approved only:

18 (A) upon the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all members participants
19 voting at the meeting unless more than a majority is required by [Articles] 14 through 16 or in the
20 organic rules; and

21 (B) at least one-half of the votes cast by patron members participants are in the
22 affirmative, but the organic rules may require ~~provide for~~ a larger affirmative vote by patron
23 members; and participants.

24 (b) the organic rules may provide for the quantum of the affirmative vote that must be
25 cast by investor members to approve the matter voted on.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 Old subsection (b) stated: “(b) The collective voting power of nonpatron members is
3 subject to section 312(c).” The cross-reference is now 411(b). It is deleted here as surplusage.
4

5
6 **SECTION 415. MANNER OF VOTING.**

7 (a) At a members' participants² meeting:

8 (1) proxy voting by members participants is prohibited, and

9 (b) Delegate (2) ~~delegate~~ voting based on geographical district, or class, or classes is not
10 voting by proxy under this section.

11 (c) The organic rules may provide for voting on some, none, or all questions by secret
12 ballot delivered by mail or voting by other means on some or all questions that are subject to vote
13 by members participants.

14 **Reporters' Note**

15 Subsection (b) is new to the 2006 Annual Meeting Draft. The Committee expressly
16 assumed the availability of electronic voting when deciding that proxy voting is prohibited and
17 this subsection is broad enough to allow it.
18

19 The Committee changed USPS to “mail”. The Reporters added “or other means”
20 consistent with Committee discussion concerning voting by facsimile, etc.
21

22 The Committee needs to decide whether this is mandatory or default. The Reporters
23 believe it should be default.
24

25 In some states proxy voting is not available and in others it is allowed. Perhaps most
26 traditionally, cooperative law often provides for mail ballots.
27

28 Corporate law generally provides for proxy voting. The Uniform Limited Partnership
29 Act (2001) provides for proxy voting (section 118). Any voting by proxy, however, seems to
30 dilute the deliberative function of a required meeting and is at odds with traditional co-op values
31 even though currently allowed by a significant number of states.
32

33 This issue was raised directly on the floor of the 2005 Annual Meeting: (a) a strong

1 opinion was expressed that no proxies be allowed for patron participants but the same
2 Commissioner was ambivalent as to investor participants; (b) the issue was obfuscated by the
3 question of whether an agent exercising the vote of an entity was a “proxy”. The Reporters
4 agreed to look at the question and informally report to the Drafting Committee in 2006.
5

6 **SECTION 416. ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING.**

7 (a) Unless the organic rules require that action be taken only at a members’ participants²
8 meeting, any action that may be taken by the members participants may be taken without a
9 meeting if each member participant entitled to vote on the action consents in a record to the
10 action ~~in a record~~.

11 (b) A member may withdraw in a record consent ~~Consent~~ under subsection (a) ~~may be~~
12 ~~withdrawn by a participant in a record~~ at any time before the limited cooperative association
13 receives a consent from each member participant entitled to vote.

14 ~~(c) The consent record of any action may specify the effective date or time of the action.~~

15 **Reporters’ Note**

16 This Section is not subject to modification by the organic rules. Thus unanimity is
17 required.

18
19 The Colorado LLC Act and the Delaware for profit corporation act, for example, allow
20 action without a meeting to be taken without unanimous consent.

21
22 This Section states the general rule of unincorporated law and at least some traditional co-
23 op statutes and has been discussed by the Committee.
24

25 **SECTION 417. DISTRICTS AND DELEGATES; CLASSES OF MEMBERS**

26 **PARTICIPANTS.**

27 (a) ~~(†)~~ The organic rules may provide for the formation of geographic districts of patron
28 members participants and may provide:

1 (1A) for the conduct of patron member ~~participant~~ meetings by districts
2 and the election of directors at the meetings; or

3 (2B) that districts may elect district delegates to represent and vote for the
4 district in members' ~~participants'~~ meetings.

5 (b2) A delegate elected under subsection (a)(2) has one vote unless voting power is
6 otherwise allocated under Section 412 ~~411~~.

7 (cb) (†) The organic rules may provide for the establishment of classes of members,
8 ~~participants~~ and: (A) the preferences, rights, and limitations of the classes; and:

9 (1B) (i) the conduct of members' ~~participants'~~ meetings by classes and the election
10 of directors at the meetings; or

11 (2ii) that classes may elect class delegates to represent and vote for the class in
12 members' ~~participants'~~ meetings.

13 (d2) A delegate elected under subsection (c)(23) has one vote unless the organic rules
14 provide for aggregate or representative voting based on the member ~~participant~~ voting under ~~the~~
15 ~~provisions of Sections 411 through Section 411 or 413.~~

16 Reporters' Note

17 As a matter of drafting this draft attempts to pull together “delegate voting” all in one
18 place. The substance of the section is derived from old sections 308(d), 411(b) and (c), and
19 414(b). A more detailed effort is set forth below:

20 (a) The organic rules may provide:

21 (1) for the formation of districts, units, groups, or classes of
22 participants;

23 (2) that districts, units, groups, or classes of participants
24 may elect district, unit, group or class delegates to represent and
25 vote for the district, unit, group or class in annual and special
26 meetings of participants and elect directors;
27

1 (3) that the delegates may vote on matters at the
2 participants' meetings in the same manner as a participant.
3 (b) Delegates may only exercise the voting rights on a basis and
4 with the number of votes as prescribed in the organic rules.
5 (c) If the approval of a certain portion of the participants is
6 required for adoption of amendments, dissolution, merger,
7 consolidation, or the sale of assets, the votes of delegates shall be
8 counted as votes by the participants represented by the delegate.
9 (d) Except as provided in this Section or in the organic rules, a
10 delegate selected under subsection (a) has one vote subject to
11 subsection (c).
12 (e) The organic rules may provide additional voting power be
13 allocated to each district, group, or class or delegate for the
14 aggregate of the number of patron participants in each district,
15 group, or class as provided under Section 414.
16 (f) If the cooperative association has formed districts, units, groups,
17 or classes of participants that elect delegates, then all provisions of
18 this [Article] relating to meetings of participants shall be construed
19 to apply to the delegates and not to the participants except those
20 provisions shall remain applicable to participants with respect to
21 participants at meetings of the districts, units, groups, or classes of
22 participants.

1 [ARTICLE] 5

2 MEMBER PARTICIPANT INTEREST

3
4 **SECTION 501. MEMBER PARTICIPANT INTEREST.**

5 (a) A member's ~~participant's~~ interest:

6 (1) is personal property;

7 (2) consists of:

8 (A) governance rights;

9 (B) financial rights; and

10 (C) the right or obligation, if any, to do business with the limited
11 cooperative association; and

12 (3) may be in certificated or uncertificated form.

13 (b) ~~A participant's interest is a contractual relationship with the cooperative association.~~

14 ~~Subject to organic law and the organic rules, the contract includes:~~

15 (1) ~~the articles of organization;~~

16 (2) ~~the bylaws;~~

17 (3) ~~the participant agreement, if any, by which a participant becomes a~~
18 ~~participant; and~~

19 (4) ~~any other agreements in a record defining a part of the relationship of a~~
20 ~~participant to the association.~~

21 (c) ~~If appropriate under the circumstances, the contractual relationship may include~~
22 ~~marketing contracts and other agreements.~~

1 **Reporters' Note**

2
3 This Section needs a strong comment ... might look to the Uniform Business Trust Act
4 that is the subject of another current drafting committee.

5
6 ~~2006 Annual Meeting Draft:~~

7
8 ~~Subsection (b) is new and reflects Committee comment at the February 2006 meeting.~~
9 ~~There is a body of cooperative common law that establishes that the basis of the relationship~~
10 ~~between a cooperative and its members (and in that context, but not as drafted, between~~
11 ~~members). This is an attempt to codify existing cooperative law. Speculatively this would seem~~
12 ~~to support the cooperative principle that a cooperative is for the mutual benefit of its members~~
13 ~~and may well reflect that the anthropological roots of cooperative law pre-date modern corporate~~
14 ~~law (as well as the idea from Economics that all organizations can be reduced to a nexus of~~
15 ~~contracts). The Drafting Committee has not yet reviewed this language. Subsection (b)(5) is~~
16 ~~intended to include, e.g., proprietary leases in a housing cooperative.~~

17
18 The Comment to this section needs to distinguish the participant agreement from a
19 control agreement.

20
21 Prior Drafts:

22
23 The first sentence of this Section was deleted at direction of the Committee. The
24 Committee instructed the Reporters to attempt to provide more clarity concerning the bundle of
25 rights a member possessed not only in this Section but throughout this Article. The balance of
26 the changes in this Section are an attempt to provide such clarity.

27
28 The purpose of this Section is to identify the universe of rights of a participant as
29 contemplated under the Act. Note that these rights may not be exclusive to a participant, even
30 though the participant has them. For example, a nonparticipant may have the ability (“right”) to
31 pull up to a co-op gas pump and purchase gas (thus, do business with the cooperative
32 association). On the other hand, some cooperative associations contemplated by this act may
33 restrict the use of co-op services only to participants (e.g. grocery purchasing cooperatives).
34 Further, some cooperative associations may obligate members to deliver a specified volume of
35 production. This Section does not address the rights of non-participants.

36
37 Confusion, if any, results from starting “backwards”. Some cooperative associations
38 deem “membership” automatically if you use their services (e.g. telephones). The latter is more
39 appropriately viewed as a membership qualification and admission provision rather than as the
40 rights of a member. That is, once a member (participant), the individual has some combination
41 of the rights delineated in Subsection (a)(b) or (c).

42
43 Another related issue, that is probably a confounding variable but very important, is the

1 (using normative nomenclature) “non-member patron”. This Section does not govern non-
2 members. At base, non-member patrons are a species of third-party contracts whose contract
3 rights may be delineated in the organic rules. Does there need to be something addressing this
4 species of users in the organic rule article?
5

6 **SECTION 502. PATRON AND INVESTOR MEMBER INTERESTS**

7 ~~**PARTICIPANT INTEREST.**~~ Unless the organic rules establish investor member participant
8 interests, member participant interests must be patron member participant interests.

9 **Reporters’ Note**

10 The February 2006 Draft deleted a substantial amount of language from this Section as
11 surplusage given the provisions found elsewhere, including new definitions under Article 1. The
12 2006 Annual Meeting Draft reflects the comments from the Style Committee.
13

14 Previous Note:

15
16 Note that the draft gives ~~give~~ the organic rules broad flexibility to vest power in the
17 board. One of the hallmarks of the act is flexibility but is this “too much”? Suggestions on how
18 to make the language in (a) and (b) more parallel would be appreciated.
19

20 The draft of this section is conceptually consistent with the Minnesota Cooperative
21 Associations Act. It differs, however, in that the Minnesota Act contains subsections governing
22 the form of the board of resolution and a subsection detailing, without limitation, the kinds of
23 rights and preferences different classes might possess (*e.g.* cumulative distributions, distribution
24 preferences, and voting rights).
25

26 If an agricultural cooperative governed by this draft had not provided for nonpatron
27 interests, but after formation decided to do so, it would be required to amend either its articles or
28 bylaws to so provide. This draft requires a two-thirds member vote for bylaw amendments
29 dealing with members’ relative rights and preferences and all article amendments require two-
30 thirds vote (of those votes present at the members meeting).
31

32 In order to understand Article 4 it is necessary to reference Article 8 (“Contributions,
33 Allocations and Distributions”). It may be necessary to add a definition (Section 102) for
34 financial rights to clarify the intent of Articles 4 and 8. *See*, Section 404, Reporters’ Note.
35

36 **SECTION 503. TRANSFERABILITY OF MEMBER PARTICIPANT INTEREST.**

1 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, member participant interests other than
2 financial rights are not transferable. The terms of the restriction on transferability must be:

3 (1) set forth in the organic rules and the member participant records of the
4 association; and

5 (2) conspicuously noted on any certificates evidencing a member's participant's
6 interest.

7 (b) Unless the transfer is restricted or prohibited by the organic rules, a member
8 participant may transfer its financial rights in the limited cooperative association.

9 (c) A transferee of a member's participant's financial rights, to the extent transferred, has
10 the right to share in the allocation of profits or losses and to receive the distributions to the
11 member participant transferring the interest.

12 (d) A transferee of a member's participant's financial rights does not become a member
13 participant upon transfer of the rights unless the transferee is admitted as a member participant by
14 the limited cooperative association.

15 (e) A limited cooperative association need not give effect to a transfer under this section
16 until the association has notice of the transfer.

17 (f) A transfer of a member's participant's financial rights in violation of a restriction or
18 prohibition on transfer contained in the organic rules is void.

19 **Reporters' Note**

20 2006 Annual Meeting Draft:

21
22 Subsection (e) has been much discussed by the Committee and a decision was made
23 (without reaching consensus) to retain (e) in the draft. The Comments will reflect that "notice"
24 under (e) is determined by other law (including common law).

1 Prior Draft:

2
3 Prior subsection (d) repeated a concept dealt with in another Section in the draft but
4 stated it in different terms. It's deletion avoids interpretive mischief.

5
6 This Section (and article) is based on unincorporated organizational law. For purposes of
7 the 2005 Annual Meeting it remains unchanged; however, that should not be interpreted as a
8 Drafting Committee decision to confirm this language. There was much concern expressed
9 about the intent, operation, and drafting of this Article. As stated in the Reporter's Notes to other
10 sections the confusion is definitionally rooted. At least to some extent, any ambiguity in the
11 current draft reflects overlapping use of the terms in the industry.

12
13 Most broadly the solution rests in the following concepts: value given, allocated, or paid
14 based on:

15
16 (i) the use of the cooperative (*e.g.*, in a supply co-op the amount paid by a person
17 for petroleum products during the year) relative to the financial performance of the cooperative;

18
19 (ii) the delivery of products sold to (*e.g.*, marketing cooperatives) or services
20 rendered (*e.g.*, worker cooperatives) to or on behalf of the cooperative;

21
22 (iii) an allocation and/or distribution based on membership or investment in the
23 cooperative.

24
25 Even under existing traditional law there is a great deal of flexibility given cooperatives
26 to fashion these payments. For example: entering into a marketing contract (direct payment) with
27 a producer might require that producer to be a member of the cooperative (and membership may
28 require an investment – nominal or otherwise) and that any member may receive a year-end
29 allocation based on the value of product delivered under the contract (and any other additional
30 product accepted outside the contract) relative to the performance of the cooperative. Further,
31 under current corporate based statutes, “investors” might purchase preferred stock and, subject to
32 legal capital constraints, be guaranteed a return.

33
34 On the other hand, the cooperative may not require membership for entering into ~~to~~ a
35 marketing contract but under its contractual terms promise participation in a defined financial
36 pool based on the value of the product at time of delivery.

37
38 Given these scenarios, a reasonable interpretation is that there can be *patron members*
39 (the producer with the marketing contract requiring membership); *nonpatron members*
40 (analogous to the preferred shareholder); and, *nonmember patrons* (the producer with the
41 marketing contract that does not require membership but whom receives a *contractual* payment
42 based on “business done”).
43

1 Under the current draft “membership” is not transferable. Thus the member cannot
2 transfer her/his voting rights. If a marketing contract *requires* membership as a condition
3 precedent then, as a practical matter the contract could not be assigned. (Note, however, that
4 payments *on account* of the contract would be subject to other law). If, however, the marketing
5 contract does *not* require membership; the assignability of the contract or the delegation of its
6 performance would be governed by contract law outside this draft (personal contract?, anti-
7 assignment clauses?, *etc.*).
8

9 Of course, the contract itself could state it is assignable with or without consent of the
10 cooperative. Likewise, the articles could allow transfer of the membership interest with or
11 without consent of the cooperative.
12

13 So the financial interest of the membership is highly contextual on the organic documents
14 and the “deal”. Nonetheless, there is a dichotomy between the membership interest and the
15 marketing contract and it seems in the typical the financial interest of the member would *not*
16 include right to payment under the marketing contract because that would be governed by
17 contract law.
18

19 The right *of a member as a member* to receive an allocation based on patronage (or
20 otherwise) under the default rule, however, would be a financial right.
21

22 Other uniform unincorporated acts use the term “transferable interest” which might cause
23 less confusion.
24

25 **SECTION 504. SECURITY INTEREST AND SET-OFF.**

26 (a) Subject to subsection (b), a member participant or transferee may grant a security
27 interest only in financial rights in a limited cooperative association. The granting of a security
28 interest in financial rights is not a transfer for purposes of Section 503. The limitation contained
29 in this subsection does not apply to a member’s participant’s interest that may be transferred in
30 its entirety under the organic rules.

31 (b) The organic rules may restrict or eliminate the granting of a security interest in
32 financial rights and may permit a security interest to be granted in governance rights. The
33 limitation of subsection (a) ~~this section~~ to financial rights does not apply in the case of a

1 member's participant's interest that is not subject to a restriction or prohibition on transfer under
2 the organic rules.

3 (c) A limited cooperative association has a continued perfected security interest in the
4 financial rights of a member participant to secure payment of any indebtedness or other
5 obligation of the member participant to the association. Notwithstanding [Sections [308 and 309
6 of UCC Article 9], the security interest has priority over all other perfected security interests.
7 The association may enforce its security interest by set-off against the member's financial rights
8 in any distributions from the association. Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a member
9 participant may not compel the an association to offset financial rights against any indebtedness
10 or obligation owed to the association.

11 **Reporters' Note**

12 The Comment should note that Section 504(c) does not prevent subordination agreements
13 or assignments of proceeds.

14
15 The 2006 Annual Meeting Draft reflects the general direction and intent of the Drafting
16 Committee but the Drafting Committee has not yet vetted the language.

17
18 The Committee discussed, among other issues, two questions: (1) May the organic rules
19 legally limit the effect of granting a security interest under other law; (2) May the organic rules
20 legally limit a participant from granting a security interest under other law.

21 22 23 **SECTION 505. CHARGING ORDERS FOR A JUDGMENT CREDITOR OF** 24 **MEMBER PARTICIPANT OR TRANSFEREE.**

25 (a) On application by a judgment creditor of a member participant or transferee, a court
26 may enter a charging order against the financial rights of the judgment debtor for the unsatisfied
27 amount of the judgment. A charging order issued under this subsection ~~(a)~~ constitutes a lien on

1 the judgment debtor's financial rights and requires the limited cooperative association to pay
2 over to the creditor ~~person to which creditor~~ or receiver, to the extent necessary to satisfy the
3 judgment, any distribution that would otherwise be paid to the judgment debtor.

4 (b) To the extent necessary to effectuate the collection of distributions pursuant to a the
5 charging order under subsection (a), the court may:

6 (1) appoint a receiver of the share of the distributions due or to become due to the
7 judgment debtor in respect of the judgment debtor's financial rights, with the power to make all
8 inquiries the judgment debtor might have made; and

9 (2) make all other orders that the circumstances of the case may require to give
10 effect to the charging order.

11 (c) Upon a showing that distributions under a charging order will not pay the judgment
12 debt within a reasonable time, the court may foreclose the lien and order the sale of the financial
13 rights. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale obtains only the financial rights that are subject to
14 the charging order, does not thereby become a member participant, and is subject to Section 503.

15 (d) At any time before a sale pursuant to a foreclosure, a member ~~the participant~~ or
16 transferee whose financial rights are subject to a the charging order under subsection (a) may
17 extinguish the charging order by satisfying the judgment and filing a certified copy of the
18 satisfaction with the court that issued the charging order.

19 (e) At any time before foreclosure, the limited cooperative association or one or more
20 members participants whose financial rights are not subject to the charging order may pay to the
21 judgment creditor the full amount due under the judgment and thereby succeed to the rights of
22 the judgment creditor, including the charging order. Unless the organic rules otherwise provide,

1 the ~~cooperative~~ association may act under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision only with the consent of all
2 members ~~participants~~ whose financial rights are not subject to the charging order.

3 (f) This [act] does not deprive any member ~~participant~~ or transferee of the benefit of any
4 exemption laws applicable to the member's ~~participant's~~ or transferee's financial rights.

5 (g) This section provides the exclusive remedy by which persons seeking to enforce a
6 judgment against a member ~~participant~~ or transferee; may, in the capacity of judgment creditor,
7 satisfy the judgment out of the judgment debtor's financial rights.

8 (h) The limitations of this section to financial rights do not apply to the extent that the
9 organic rules provide for the transfer of the member's ~~participant's~~ interest in addition to
10 financial rights.

11 **Reporters' Note**

12 This Section, except for subsection (h) is from ULLCA II (slight revision in (d)... added
13 the "sale" language) and reflects the final changes adopted to it by the Conference. It is the best
14 treatment of the rights of judgment creditors that has been found by the Reporters.

15
16 The original Section was derived with minor modification from ULPA (2001). The
17 charging order provision was the subject of much discussion in conjunction with the
18 Conference's ULLCA drafting project. There is an ever growing body of literature (but only a
19 few cases) addressing charging orders of member's interests when the member is in bankruptcy.
20 The Reporters will be happy to discuss those cases if so requested.

21 The distinction between participants' financial interest and contractual rights under a
22 marketing contract (in those marketing cooperatives which choose to have market contracts) is
23 made in the definition of financial rights.

24
25 At the risk of being more confusing than helpful: The case where membership is required
26 in order to enter into a marketing contract is probably the most difficult case. If the cooperative
27 chooses to make membership transferable (a derivation from the default rule) it needs to carefully
28 define the "entitlement". For example, it might desire a consent right for the transfer of the
29 membership interest based on proven ability to produce; its articles might more clearly delimit
30 that membership is a necessary but not sufficient precondition for actually entering the contract.
31

1 Nonetheless: If the membership interest *entitles* the member to enter into a contract and
2 the membership interest and the underlying contract are freely transferable; THEN those rights
3 and the value of those rights would be subject to sale at foreclosure. Payments made under an
4 existing contract, however, would be contract rights not financial rights not subject to this
5 Section and would be governed by that law.
6

7 Any other amounts allocated to a member *as a member* or any return of contributed
8 capital would also be subject to this Section (when paid in a charging order without foreclosure).
9

10 The assumption in the foregoing illustration:

11 (i) will occur only in marketing cooperatives that enter into marketing contracts;
12 and
13

14 (ii) will occur only where the cooperative has made a decision to deviate from the
15 default rule of nontransferability of membership interests (caveat: the bankruptcy courts are
16 currently struggling with this issue as a matter of LLC law).
17
18

19 In sum, it is highly contextual and most confusion will not be caused by the act under the
20 default rules because the cooperative has the ability to formulate the rules that frame the context.

1 [ARTICLE] 6

2 ~~AGRICULTURAL~~ MARKETING CONTRACTS

3
4 SECTION 601. AUTHORITY. In this [article], “marketing contract” means a contract
5 between a limited cooperative association and another person; that need not be a patron member:
6 participant,

7 (1) requiring the other person to sell, or deliver for sale or marketing on the person’s
8 behalf, a specified part of the person’s products, commodities, or goods ~~agricultural product or~~
9 ~~specified commodity~~ exclusively to or through the association or any facilities furnished by the
10 association; or

11 (2) authorizing ~~authorize~~ the association to act for the person in any manner with respect
12 to the products, commodities, or goods. ~~product or commodity~~.

13 **Reporters’ Note**

14 This language is adapted from *Or. Rev. Stat.* § 62.355 (ag & procurement). *See, West’s*
15 *Ann. Cal. Food & Agric. Code* §§ 54261-266; 17 *Ohio Rev. Code* §1729.67.

16
17 Historically, the language of this article has been confined to agricultural marketing
18 contracts. In prior drafts the language of this Section expanded the concept to all kinds of
19 marketing contracts and added supply (procurement) cooperatives to the provisions of the article.
20 In this draft the language has been returned to the more traditional confined form because the
21 remainder of the section needs to be reworked if this section is expanded. Before that is done
22 questions the Committee should address are: (1) Should the types of contracts envisioned by this
23 Section be available to all kinds of cooperatives organized under this statute? (2) If so, in
24 connection with discussion of the breadth of the act, consideration should be given to whether the
25 language is broad enough to cover the activities of housing cooperatives or worker owned
26 cooperatives?
27

28 SECTION 602. MARKETING CONTRACTS.

1 (a) If a marketing contract provides for the sale of products, commodities, or goods an
2 agricultural product or commodity to a limited cooperative association, the sale transfers title
3 absolutely to the association upon delivery or at any other specific time expressly provided by the
4 contract, ~~the sale transfers title absolutely to the association at that time.~~

5 (b) A marketing contract may:

6 (1) authorize a limited ~~the~~ cooperative association to grant a security interest in
7 the products, commodities, or goods ~~product or commodity~~ delivered; and

8 (2) allow the association to sell the products, commodities, or goods ~~product or~~
9 ~~commodity~~ delivered, and pay or distribute the sales price on a pooled or other basis ~~to the other~~
10 ~~person~~ after deducting:

11 (A) ~~selling costs, processing costs, overhead, and other costs and~~
12 ~~expenses, and other charges as provided by agreement. ; and~~

13 (B) ~~reserves for the purposes set forth in Section 904(c).~~

14 **Reporters' Note**

15 Limited Cooperative Associations have the power to contract like any other person. The
16 ABA advisor suggested that issues like contract warranties for, e.g., the purity of commodities
17 have become increasingly important. The association obviously has the power and right to
18 demand such warranties consistent with its business needs. The Comments to this Section
19 should probably explain the point that no express statutory "authorization" to contractually
20 require such warranties is necessary.

21
22 The permissive language "may" in subsection (a) is important as described in the
23 following notes.

24
25 The topics covered in this Section are common to all statutes but the language is novel
26 based upon discussion at the last Committee meeting. It is important because cooperatives need
27 to clearly ascertain whether the contract is a "buy-sell" or "agency" contract not only as a matter
28 of state law but also because of issues raised by pending federal income taxation litigation under
29 the taxation of cooperatives. The tax issues become more complex if a cooperative under this

1 draft is taxed as a partnership. Moreover, there is at least one financial accounting issue which
2 turns on the type of contract.

3
4 Many of the current statutes stress “title” which in other contexts has been ceded to UCC
5 law so, at least arguably, language in the older statutes may be anachronistic though Committee
6 discussion observed the importance of “insurable title” to the cooperative. The Committee has
7 not vetted this particular language and the Reporters have little confidence that this language is
8 yet “dialed-in” appropriately. If the act authorizes contracts for purposes other than marketing,
9 additional provisions or a separate section dealing with the other types of contracts may be
10 advisable and should be discussed.

11
12 The Committee on Style suggested the deletion of the last clause in subsection (a). In
13 doing so is there a question left as to the time when title passes? Believing the last clause was
14 not germane to the section, the Reporters have removed it.

15
16 **SECTION 603. DURATION OF MARKETING CONTRACT.** The initial duration
17 of a marketing contract may not exceed 10 years, but the contract may be made self-renewing for
18 additional periods not exceeding five years each. Unless the contract ~~otherwise~~ provides for
19 another manner or time for termination, either party may terminate the contract by giving notice
20 in a record at least 90 days before the end of the current term.

21 **Reporters’ Note**

22 The substance of this Section is common to many cooperative statutes. The Style
23 Committee has requested the Drafting Committee to vet this section at its Fall 2006 meeting.
24 The last sentence was added in response to comments from the Style Committee.

25 26 **SECTION 604. REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT.**

27 (a) A marketing contract or the organic rules may establish the right to injunctive relief,
28 specific performance, and liquidated damages and shall be enforceable in accordance with the
29 terms of the contract or the organic rules. ~~a specific or readily calculable sum of money as~~
30 ~~liquidated damages to be paid to the cooperative association by the other contracting person upon~~

1 a breach of the contract. The damages may be a percentage of the value of a specified amount
2 per unit of the product, commodity, goods, or services involved in the breach or another amount
3 that is fixed or readily calculable under the contract.

4 (b) The remedies in subsection (a) shall not be construed as penalties and are in addition
5 to any other available remedies. A cooperative association shall be entitled to an injunction to
6 prevent a threatened or continuing breach of a marketing contract or other contract described in
7 this [article] and a judgment for specific performance of the contract. Pending adjudication of
8 the action, the association may seek a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction.

9 **Reporters' Note**

10 Source: *See generally* Minnesota Cooperatives Associations Act, Oregon Cooperative
11 Corporations Act.

12
13 Spring 2007: This Section was discussed at length and drafted at the December 2006
14 meeting.

15
16 A number of State statutes provide significantly more detail regarding the possible
17 remedies available for a breach of contract and clearly specify that recovery of attorneys fees is to
18 be obtained if the cooperative is successful in pursuing the breach of contract claim.

19 20 21 **~~SECTION 605. INDUCING BREACH OF MARKETING OR PURCHASE~~**

22 **~~CONTRACTS.~~** The remedies provided by [citation to the applicable statutory provisions] apply
23 to cooperative associations.

24 **Reporters' Note**

25 In any event this section will need a legislative note and need, probably, to be bracketed
26 though the general topic of the section is common.

27
28 A former section 505 was entitled "Contract Interference and False Reports." A version
29 of section 505 that now appears as section 605 in this draft had appeared at section 1803 of the
30 February 2006 draft for ease of its discussion with related provisions. Dependent on the

1 ~~resolution of the policy (and legislative enactment) discussion the Committee is invited to decide~~
2 ~~exactly where this provision should appear in the act.~~

1 [ARTICLE] 7

2 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

3
4 SECTION 701. EXISTENCE AND POWERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

5 (a) Unless the number of members ~~participants~~ is fewer than three, a limited cooperative
6 association must have a board of directors consisting of three or more individuals. If there are
7 fewer than three members ~~participants~~, the number of directors may not be less than the number
8 of members ~~participants~~.

9 (b) The affairs of a limited ~~the~~ cooperative association must be managed by, or under the
10 direction of, the association’s board of directors and the board may adopt policies and procedures
11 not in conflict with the organic rules or this [act].

12 (c) An individual does not have agency authority on behalf of a limited cooperative
13 association solely by being a director.

14 **Reporters’ Note**

15 The language used in subsection 701(a) is modeled on section 62.280(2) of the Oregon
16 Cooperative Corporation Act. Some statutes, for example, the California Nonprofit Association
17 Act, require ~~requires~~ a minimum of three directors. This subsection allows the articles to
18 establish the number of directors at a number greater than three in all cases. The subsection does
19 not limit the number of directors to the number of participants where there are fewer than three
20 participants .

21
22 The flexibility afforded to deviate below three directors recognizes the industry practice
23 of having wholly owned cooperative subsidiaries of a cooperative. In those circumstances the
24 Committee saw little necessity of having more than one director. Further, if there are two
25 participants the Committee decided that it would be ill-advised to require a minimum of three
26 directors. Thus, subsection 701(a) provides the participants great flexibility, but not unfettered
27 flexibility, in organizing their own board governance structure.
28
29

1 (2) one-fifth of the total number of directors if there are five or more directors.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 Subsection (c) reflects the consensus of the Committee. The phrase “unless otherwise...”
4 in subsection (e) was added by the Reporters before the Fall 2006 meeting. The word
5 “representative” in a prior draft has been replaced by the word “designee” in an attempt to cause
6 less confusion concerning to whom the director owes allegiance under this Act. There was no
7 prohibition that officers may not serve as directors and subject to discussion at the November
8 2004 meeting subsection (d) [formerly(c)] has been added. Note that the number of nonmember
9 directors is severely restricted and reflects a cooperative policy that is different than corporate
10 policy and at odds with the general thrust of federal securities laws for publicly traded
11 corporations.

12
13 An observer has suggested that the Committee should discuss the advisability of being
14 more explicit (perhaps by using separate Sections) about how directors may be elected solely by
15 patron participants if there are only patron participants and about how directors are elected if the
16 cooperative has both patron and investor participants utilizing classification of directors and
17 giving similar consideration to removal in section 707.
18

19 **SECTION 704. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.**

20 (a) Unless the organic rules require a greater number, a majority ~~At least two-thirds~~ of the
21 board of directors of a limited cooperative association must be elected exclusively by patron
22 members ~~participants~~.

23 (b) If a limited cooperative association has investor members, and unless the organic rules
24 otherwise provide, the investor members shall elect the directors who are not exclusively elected
25 by patron members under subsection (a).

26 (cb) Subject to subsection (a), the organic rules ~~articles of organization~~ may provide for
27 the election of all or a specified number of directors by one or more districts or classes of
28 members ~~participants~~.

29 (de) Subject to subsection (a), the ~~The~~ organic rules may provide for the nomination or

1 election of directors by districts or classes, directly or by district delegates.

2 (e) If a class of members consists of a single member, the organic rules may provide for
3 the member to appoint a director or directors.

4 ~~(fd)~~ Unless the organic rules otherwise provide ~~provided in the articles of organization,~~
5 cumulative voting for directors of a limited cooperative association is prohibited.

6 ~~(ge)~~ Except as otherwise provided by the organic rules, subsection (e), or ~~in~~ Sections 417
7 and 709, member participant directors of a limited cooperative association must be elected at an
8 annual members' participants' meeting.

9 ~~(f)~~ Unless the organic rules ~~provide for a different method of selection,~~ ~~nonparticipant~~
10 ~~directors of a cooperative association must be elected in the same manner as participant directors.~~

11 **Reporters' Note**

12 The Comments need to explain that classes is intended to be broader than the patron-
13 investor member distinction but includes the patron-investor distinction.

14
15 Subsection (c) was new in the April 2005 draft and has been revised pursuant to
16 discussions ~~discussion~~ at that meeting. Corporate statutes typically no longer define “cumulative
17 voting.” The Minnesota Cooperative Associations ~~Association~~ Act allows the organic rules to
18 provide for cumulative voting.

19
20 Subsection (d) may be prohibited by state constitution in some states. The Comments
21 will illustrate both the advantages and disadvantages of cumulative voting.

22
23 Observers to the Drafting Committee suggested that the act specifically acknowledge the
24 use of an appointment process for nonparticipant directors. These directors are used to provide
25 special expertise on cooperative boards. The Comments will make clear that it is intended that
26 subsection (f) includes such selection and appointment schemes.

27 28 **SECTION 705. TERM OF DIRECTOR.**

29 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, and, ~~in the case of initial directors,~~

1 subject to Section 303(c), the term of a director of a limited cooperative association expires at the
2 annual members' participants' meeting following the director's election or appointment. The
3 term of a director may not exceed three years.

4 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a director may be reelected for
5 subsequent terms.

6 (c) A director continues to serve until a successor director is elected or appointed and
7 qualified or the director is removed, resigns, ceases to qualify as a director under the organic
8 rules, is declared incompetent by a court with jurisdiction, or dies.

9 **Reporters' Note**

10 Cross-reference: Section 704(c).

11 This Section is intended to be broad enough to allow the organic rules to provide for
12 staggered terms.

13 If a successor is not elected upon the expiration of his or her term (e.g., the annual
14 meeting is not held), the director previously in the position would continue to serve under the
15 operation of this section. This section coordinates with section 709 ("Vacancy on Board").
16
17
18
19

20 **SECTION 706. RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR.**

21 (a) A director may resign at any time by giving notice in a record to the limited
22 cooperative association.

23 (b) Unless the notice states a later effective date, a resignation is effective when notice is
24 received by the limited cooperative association.

25 **Reporters' Note**

26 A distinction between the "power" to resign and the "right" to resign contained in prior
27 drafts has been removed as causing more substantive confusion than is necessary despite the
28 concept being consistent with ULLCA. "May" consistent with style has been utilized instead.

1
2 **SECTION 707. REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR.** Unless the organic rules otherwise

3 provide:

4 (1a) members may remove one or more directors with or without cause. ~~Unless the~~
5 ~~organic rules otherwise provide for removal without cause, a director may be removed only for~~
6 ~~cause.~~

7 (2b) A member participant or members participants holding at least 10 percent of the
8 total aggregate voting power entitled to be voted in the election of the director ~~of a cooperative~~
9 ~~association, or one-third or more of the board of directors of the association,~~ may petition the
10 board of directors for the removal of a director by a signed record submitted to the officer of the
11 limited cooperative association charged with keeping its records. ~~Unless the organic rules~~
12 ~~provide for removal without cause, the record must state the alleged cause for removal.~~

13 (3c) Upon receipt of a petition for removal of a director:

14 (A) ; a limited cooperative association's board of directors shall call a special
15 members' board meeting to be held within 90 days after receipt of the petition by the association;
16 and determine whether the director should be removed.

17 (B) the board of directors shall mail or otherwise transmit or deliver in a record to
18 the members entitled to vote on the removal notice of the meeting that complies with Section
19 408.

20 (4d) A director against whom a petition has been submitted: ~~(1)~~ must be informed in a
21 record of the petition within a reasonable time before the members' board meeting at which the
22 members consider ~~board considers~~ the petition. ; and

1 ~~(2) is entitled to an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by~~
2 ~~representation and to present witnesses.~~

3 ~~(e) A participant who signs a petition for removal of a director is entitled to an~~
4 ~~opportunity at the hearing on the petition to be heard in person or by representation and to~~
5 ~~present witnesses in the same manner as provided the director in subsection (d)(2).~~

6 ~~(5f) A director is may be removed if the votes in favor of removal is equal to or greater~~
7 ~~than the votes required to elect the director. by a majority vote of the directors who are not the~~
8 ~~subject of the removal petition.~~

9 ~~(g) If all or a majority of the directors are the subject of removal petitions, the removal~~
10 ~~for cause must be determined:~~

11 ~~(1) by a nonparticipant director appointed pursuant to the organic rules; or~~

12 ~~(2) if the organic rules do not provide for the appointment of a nonparticipant~~
13 ~~director, by a committee appointed under Section 717 composed of individuals who are not~~
14 ~~directors or by independent legal counsel retained by the cooperative association.~~

15 ~~(h) By submitting a signed record to the cooperative association requesting~~
16 ~~reinstatement, a director removed for cause under subsection (g) may require a special~~
17 ~~participants' meeting to be called by the remaining directors to determine whether the director~~
18 ~~requesting reinstatement should be reinstated as director. The director requesting reinstatement~~
19 ~~and any participant who signed the petition for removal must have the same opportunities to be~~
20 ~~heard and present witnesses at the special participants' meeting as are provided in subsections (d)~~
21 ~~and (e). The director may be reinstated only by the same affirmative vote required for and in the~~
22 ~~same manner as the director's election.~~

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 This Section has been redrafted to reflect the decision of the Committee at the Fall 2006
3 meeting. Prior to this draft there was removal for cause only. The Comment will explain that the
4 organic rules have maximum latitude concerning removal.
5

6 Subsections (a) through (h) have been revised. They generally follow the procedure
7 established in West's California Code Annot. section 54150 (it is unclear whether California
8 requires "for cause" removal only because its statute uses the term "charge" rather than petition)
9 and Colorado Revised Statute section 7-56-404 (Colorado includes that the meeting must be held
10 within 90 days of receipt of the petition). The Comment will explain that the with/without cause
11 is not a binary choice but that the organic rules may define cause or state the reason for removal.
12 The Comments should also cross-reference 709 and indicate there can be an appointment to fill
13 the vacancy and that reinstatement may be at a special meeting.
14

15 "Cause" is not defined in the act but is a well-worn, if somewhat imprecise, idea.
16

17 **SECTION 708. SUSPENSION OF DIRECTOR BY BOARD.**

18 (a) A limited cooperative association's board of directors may suspend a director of the
19 association if, considering the director's course of conduct and the inadequacy of other available
20 remedies, immediate suspension is necessary for the best interests of the association and the
21 director is engaging, or has engaged, in:

- 22 (1) fraudulent conduct with respect to the association or its members participants;
23 (2) gross abuse of the position of the director; ~~or~~
24 (3) intentional or reckless infliction of harm on the association; or :
25 (4) any other behavior, act or omission as provided by the organic rules.

26 ~~(b) After suspension, a director may be removed pursuant to Section 707.~~

27 ~~(be)~~ A suspension is effective for 30 ~~thirty~~ days unless the board of directors calls a
28 special meeting for removal of the director pursuant to Section 707(3), (4), and (5) a petition for
29 removal is submitted before the end of the 30-day ~~30-day~~ period pursuant to Section 707(b). The

1 organic rules may not vary those requirements.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 Subsection (b) has been revised to reflect the changes in Section 707.

4
5 The Reporters were requested at the November 2004 meeting to draft different judicial
6 removal of director alternative that would be the equivalent of “changing the locks” on
7 cooperative management and were instructed at the April 2005 meeting to delete judicial
8 removal. The absence of judicial removal is inconsistent with other cooperative statutes,
9 ULLCA, and RULPA. The reason for the deletion of judicial removal is to avoid the time and
10 expense of going to court which is consistent with the *values* of cooperatives but not necessarily
11 the cooperative statutes. Below is an example of a very short judicial removal proceeding
12 provision. For purposes of discussion: (i) There is room for “control group” (oligarchy) abuse
13 and majoritarian tyranny if judicial removal is not allowed; but, (ii) because of possible abuse
14 through minority threat if it is allowed in the organic rules (assuming it is not statutorily allowed
15 or required), would a court find a way to nonetheless remove a director. Should the act do
16 something more affirmative?

17
18 **REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS BY JUDICIAL PROCEEDING.**

19 (a) On application by the cooperative the [appropriate court] may remove a
20 director if considering the director’s course of conduct and the inadequacy of other available
21 remedies removal is in the best interest of the cooperative and the director engaged in:

- 22 (1) fraudulent conduct with respect to the cooperative or its participants ;
23 (2) gross abuse of the position of director; or
24 (3) intentional infliction of harm on the cooperative.

25 (b) This section does not limit the equitable powers of the court to order other
26 relief.

27
28 An observer has requested the Committee consider adding a new subsection (a)(4)
29 addressing “conviction of a felony.” The Committee consensus seemed to be that the activity
30 had to be somehow related to the board and the association. The Reporters identified possible
31 mischief with the way it is drafted and with blanket felony language, however, believe the
32 addition of the word “reckless” in (“x”) solves the issue.
33

34 **SECTION 709. VACANCY ON BOARD.**

35 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a vacancy on the board of directors of a
36 limited cooperative association must be filled within a reasonable time:

- 37 (1) by majority vote of the remaining directors until the next annual members’

1 ~~participants'~~ meeting or a special members' ~~participants'~~ meeting called to fill the vacancy for
2 ~~that purpose~~; and

3 (2) for the unexpired term by members ~~participants~~ at the next annual members'
4 ~~participants'~~ meeting or a special members' ~~participants'~~ meeting called to fill the vacancy for
5 ~~that purpose~~.

6 (b) Unless otherwise provided in the organic rules, if the vacating director was elected or
7 appointed by a class of members ~~participants~~ or a district:

8 (1) the appointed director must be of that class or district; and

9 (2) the election of the director for the unexpired term must be conducted in the
10 same manner as would the election for that position without a vacancy.

11 (c) If a member appointed a vacating director under Section 704(e), the organic rules may
12 provide for that member to appoint a director to fill the vacancy.

13 **SECTION 710. COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS.** Unless the organic rules
14 otherwise provide, the board of directors of a limited cooperative association may fix the
15 remuneration of directors and of nondirector committee members ~~participants~~ appointed under
16 Section 717(a).

17 **Reporters' Note**

18 Source: MBCA section 8.11. In effect this is an "opt-out" statute, *i.e.*, unless the organic
19 rules prohibit. It could also be drafted as an opt-in, *i.e.*, the organic rules would need to allow the
20 directors to set their own remuneration. One question concerns whether the term "remuneration"
21 is the best word choice. It is intended to be a broad term including both director's fees and
22 expenses. Obviously this has become an important topic in publicly traded corporations. The
23 fiduciary duties applicable to other board decisions are generally applicable here, too. Unlike
24 many corporate acts this act does not give express power to make loans to insiders. An example
25 of an alternative provision discussed by the Committee is found in Or. Rev. Stat. Section 62.300
26 and is set forth below:

1 62.300 Compensation and benefits to directors, officers and
2 employees. (1) Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, only the
3 members of the cooperative may establish compensation or other
4 benefits for a director, not available generally to officers and
5 employees, for services as a director.

6 (2) Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, no director shall hold
7 during the term as director any position in the cooperative on
8 regular salary.

9 (3) Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, the board may provide,
10 for prior or future services of any officer or employee, reasonable
11 compensation, pension or other benefits to such officer or employee
12 and pension or other benefits to a member of the family of the officer
13 or employee. No officer or employee who is a director may take part
14 in any vote on the compensation of the officer or employee for
15 services rendered or to be rendered the cooperative.
16

17 **SECTION 711. MEETINGS.**

18 (a) The board of directors of a limited cooperative association shall meet at least annually
19 and may hold meetings inside or outside this state.

20 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a limited cooperative association's board
21 of directors may permit directors to attend ~~board meetings~~ or conduct board meetings through the
22 use of any means of communication, if all directors attending the meeting can communicate with
23 each other during the meeting.

24 **Reporters' Note**

25 The purpose of this section is to provide maximum meeting flexibility. Deletion of
26 simultaneously was to remove the implication that everyone needed to be permitted to speak and
27 hear each other at the same time as opposed to being able to speak and hear one person at a time.
28

29 **SECTION 712. ACTION WITHOUT MEETING.**

30 (a) Unless prohibited by the organic rules, any action that may be taken by the board of
31 directors of a limited cooperative association may be taken without a meeting if each director

1 consents in a record to the action.

2 (b) Consent under subsection (a) may be withdrawn by a director in a record at any time
3 before the limited cooperative association receives records of consent from all directors.

4 (c) A record of consent for any action under subsection (a) may specify the effective date
5 or time of the action.

6 **Reporters' Note**

7 The definition of record is in Section 102 and includes electronic media.
8

9 **SECTION 713. MEETINGS AND NOTICE.**

10 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a limited cooperative association's board
11 of directors may establish a time, date, and place for regular board meetings and notice of the
12 time, date, place, or purpose of those meetings is not required.

13 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, notice of the time, date, and place of a
14 special meeting of a limited cooperative association's board of directors must be given to all
15 directors at least three days before the meeting. The notice must contain a statement of the
16 purpose of the special meeting, and the meeting is limited to the matters contained in the
17 statement.

18 **Reporters' Note**

19 Subsection (b) was more closely conformed to RMBCA Section 8.22 (b). At its April
20 (2005) drafting meeting, however, the Committee decided to require the notice to state the
21 purpose of the meeting.
22

23 Best practices might suggest that at least some reminder of a regular meeting and a
24 proposed agenda be given directors prior to the meeting. This draft does not require any such
25 notice because (i) any additional requirements subvert certainty of action taken at meetings; and,
26 (ii) it conforms to the purpose of this act to provide a flexible entity to meet the unique needs of

1 different groups organized under it.
2

3 Section 714(a) requires a waiver for the notice in 713(b) to be in a record. This is new
4 following the April (2005) drafting meeting. How well does this work if the meeting is by
5 telephone or other nontraditional means?
6

7 The Reporters were directed at the February 2004 Committee meeting to move the
8 following subsection to a Reporters' Note as a matter of economy.
9

- 10 (d) A director who is present at a meeting of the
11 board of directors when action is taken shall be
12 deemed to have assented to the action taken unless:
13 (1) the director objects at the beginning of
14 the meeting or promptly upon the directors arrival at
15 the meeting and does not thereafter vote for or
16 assent to action taken at the meeting;
17 (2) the directors assent or abstention from
18 the action is made in a record
19 (A) in the minutes of the meeting; or
20 (B) the director
21 (i) does not vote for or assent
22 to the action taken at the meeting; and
23 (ii) delivers notice in a record
24 to the presiding officer of the meeting before
25 adjournment or to the cooperative immediately after
26 adjournment of the meeting.
27

28 **SECTION 714. WAIVER OF NOTICE OF MEETING.**

29 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a director of a limited cooperative
30 association may waive any required notice of a meeting of the association's board of directors in
31 a record before, during, or after the meeting.

32 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a director's participation in a meeting is a
33 waiver of notice of that meeting unless:

34 (1) the director objects to the meeting at the beginning of the meeting or promptly
35 upon the director's arrival at the meeting and does not thereafter vote in favor of ~~the action~~ or

1 otherwise assent ~~assents~~ to the action taken at the meeting; or

2 (2) the director promptly objects upon the introduction of any matter for which
3 proper notice has not been given and does not thereafter vote in favor of ~~the action~~ or otherwise
4 assent to the action taken on the matter.

5 **Reporters' Note**

6 This Section is typical of corporate-like statutes. There has been strong minority dissent
7 in the Committee concerning "and does not thereafter vote for or...". The confusion caused by
8 "vote for" had been addressed by the Reporters before the Fall 2006 meeting by changing the
9 language to follow the MBCA. Subsection (b)(2) is also new.

10 On the floor a question was presented about what happens if a director attends a special
11 meeting, thereby waiving notice, and a matter is brought up that was not included in the notice.
12 Has the director waived the right to object to the consideration of that matter at the meeting? It
13 was represented to the floor that the Committee would look at the issue. An additional question
14 from the floor was whether the language made it more beneficial for a member to attend and vote
15 against a proposition rather than object to the meeting and remain silent.

16
17 Finally, what should be the effect on the quorum of a director attending the meeting
18 without waiving notice affirmatively? *See* Reporters' Note to § 715.
19

20 **SECTION 715. QUORUM.**

21 (a) Unless the articles of organization otherwise provide, a majority of the fixed number
22 of directors on a limited cooperative association's board of directors constitutes a quorum for the
23 management of the affairs of the association.

24 (b) If a quorum of the board of directors of a limited cooperative association is present at
25 the beginning of a meeting, any action taken by the directors present is valid even if withdrawal
26 of directors originally present results in the number of directors being less than the number
27 required for a quorum.

28 (c) A director present at a meeting but objecting to notice under Section 714**(b)(1) or (2)**

1 shall not be counted toward a quorum.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 Fall 2006: Subsection (c) is new and addresses a long-standing issue within the
4 Committee.
5

6 **SECTION 716. VOTING.**

7 (a) Each director of a limited cooperative association has one vote for purposes of
8 decisions made by the board of directors of the association.

9 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide and subject to Sections 715, 1402(1)(A),
10 1503(a)(1), 1508(a), and 1603(1), the affirmative vote of the majority of directors present at a
11 meeting is the act of the board of directors.

12 **Reporters' Note**

13 The sense of the drafting committee is that one-director/one-vote is mandatory and cannot
14 be varied by the organic rules. A prior draft allowed weighted voting and would have moved a
15 cooperative under this act closer to a manager-managed LLC in form. Such flexibility, however,
16 creates both drafting and conceptual operational concerns concerning the voting restrictions
17 protecting patron participants. It is also inconsistent with traditional cooperative law and may be
18 seen as a tool to abuse traditional cooperative values.
19

20 **SECTION 717. COMMITTEES.**

21 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a limited cooperative association's board
22 of directors may create one or more committees and appoint one or more individuals to serve on
23 a committee.

24 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, an individual appointed to serve on a
25 committee of a limited cooperative association need not be a director or member participant of
26 the association. A non-director serving on a committee has the same rights, duties, and

1 obligations as a director serving on a committee.

2 (c) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, each committee of a limited cooperative
3 association may exercise the powers delegated by the association’s board of directors, but a
4 committee may not:

5 (1) approve allocations or distributions except according to a formula or method
6 prescribed by the board of directors;

7 (2) approve or propose to members ~~participants~~ action requiring approval of
8 members ~~participants~~; or

9 (3) fill vacancies on the board of directors or any of its committees.

10 **Reporters’ Note**

11 Special litigation committee, audit committee; Minnesota allows non-directors to be
12 members of a committee. This draft allows nonparticipants to serve on committees. *See* section
13 707(g). This is an important policy decision.

14 This draft does not expressly allow executive committees but many cooperative statutes
15 do so. Nothing herein intentionally prohibits establishing an executive committee. Because this
16 draft does not expressly contain reference to an executive committee it does not put a prohibition
17 on nondirectors serving thereon.
18

19
20 Subsection (c)(1): The Reporters were directed by the Committee to replace the word
21 “distribution” with “allocation”. For discussion purposes both terms remain in this draft. It
22 seems the approval of distributions would be the kind of decision that should be made by the
23 entire board just as the allocation is such a decision.
24

25 There was an interesting discussion concerning cooperative practice and tradition as it
26 relates to nondirector members [now participants] observing board meetings. The comments to
27 this section will reference that issue. In part it appears both the historical roots of some
28 cooperatives in the nonprofit sector and, perhaps, other regulatory law for cooperatives
29 performing regulated functions might be the source of this tradition. This draft implicitly allows
30 the board to “close” board meetings and other law (*e.g.* employment law) might, in effect, require
31 the board to do so.
32
33

1 Interest”) and 722 (“Other Considerations of Directors”) has been discussed extensively by the
2 Committee. Together these sections form the core of fiduciary duties in this entity.
3

4 The approach taken to Sections 718 and 719 recognizes that (1) states take fundamentally
5 different approaches to fiduciary duties within unincorporated organizations of the same kind; (2)
6 there is variety among the states in their approach within corporate statutes; and (3) there is
7 variety among the states in their approach in cooperative laws. The existing cooperative statutes
8 appear to most closely follow corporate fiduciary duty formulations. The range of enactment
9 dates of existing traditional cooperative statutes, however, makes it difficult to assess whether the
10 lack of uniformity is a matter of current policy or a matter of lack of recent review.
11

12 The Minnesota Cooperatives Associations Act (a non-corporate cooperative act) cleaves
13 closely to the corporate model. This draft act, too, establishes an unincorporated cooperative.
14 Although an unincorporated entity, the board of directors function more analogously to the
15 corporate board than the managers in a manager-managed LLC or general partners in a limited
16 partnership (and, indeed, the flexibility of the LLC allows the operating agreement to establish a
17 corporate-like board). Finally, the Committee considered the traditional operation of a
18 cooperative, member expectation, and advice that the insurance industry was comfortable with
19 the standards, liability and indemnification provided by the current formulation of the standards
20 in existing cooperative law.
21

22 Unfortunately, the wide variety among the states makes uniformity difficult to achieve
23 and creates adoption difficulty. For these reasons the Committee has adopted a “junction box”
24 approach similar to the type adopted in META. These sections need a legislative note but that
25 note has not yet been drafted pending further discussion on the approach taken.
26

27 This approach makes the draft significantly shorter than including detailed provisions.
28 Moreover, it allows the fiduciary duty of cooperatives to keep pace with statutory changes made
29 in the law that applies to existing cooperatives.
30

31 The Minnesota Act’s “conduct” section uses the phrase, “ordinarily prudent person in a
32 like position would exercise under similar circumstances” without including the MBCA’s
33 modification “would reasonably believe appropriate.”
34

35 **SECTION 719. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The law applicable to conflicts of
36 interest between a director of an entity organized under ~~the~~ [insert cross-reference to this State’s
37 State Cooperative Corporation Act] [insert cross-reference to this State’s State Nonprofit
38 Corporation Act of this State] [insert cross-reference to this State’s Nonprofit Cooperative Act]

1 [insert cross-reference to this State’s General Business Corporation Act of this State] governs
2 conflicts of interest between a limited cooperative association and a director or member
3 participant of a committee of the board of directors of a cooperative association and the
4 association.

5 **Legislative Note:** *See the legislative note following Section 718.*

6 **Reporters’ Note**

7 See the Reporters’ Note to Section 718.

8
9 A comment was made on the floor that as drafted there is no guidance which could result
10 in mischief in the enactment process especially in states that do not have provisions in other laws
11 to which reference could be made.
12

13 **SECTION 720. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF DIRECTORS.** Unless the articles
14 of organization otherwise provide, in considering the best interests of a limited ~~the~~ cooperative
15 association, a director of the association in discharging the duties of director, in conjunction with
16 considering the long and short term interest of the association and its patron members,
17 ~~participants~~ may considers:

18 _____ (1) ~~consider~~ the interest of employees, customers, and suppliers of the association;

19 _____ (2); the interest of the community in which the association operates; and

20 _____ (3) other cooperative principles and values that ~~can~~ appropriately can be applied in the
21 context of the decision.

22 **Reporters’ Note**

23 The Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act, like this draft, does not limit this provision
24 to mergers; but Oregon’s Cooperative Corporation Act does. The Tennessee Processing
25 Cooperative Law does not contain this provision. The language suggests that the original source
26 of this provision is from corporate “anti-takeover acts” in various states (e.g. Pennsylvania). The

1 Committee also noted that this is consistent with traditional cooperative values. It may be
2 another, though incomplete, way of communicating the idea of a “cooperative plan” which is
3 used in state law largely without definition in traditional cooperative statutes (the term
4 “cooperative plan” is not used in this draft).
5
6

7 **SECTION 721. RIGHT OF DIRECTOR OR COMMITTEE MEMBER TO**

8 **INFORMATION.** A director of a limited cooperative association or a member of a committee
9 appointed under Section 717 may obtain, inspect, and copy all information regarding the state of
10 activities and financial condition of the association and other information regarding the activities
11 of the association reasonably related to the performance of the director’s duties as director or the
12 committee member’s duties as a member of the committee, but not for any other purpose or in
13 any manner that would violate any duty to the association.

14 **Reporters’ Note**

15 Should this “right” be extended to non-board committee members under 717?
16

17 Similar provisions are found in most entity laws. It limits the use of the information, as
18 well as a director’s ~~directors~~ access, to the director acting as director. Duties would include
19 confidentiality, professional privilege, etc.
20

21 **SECTION 722. APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORITY OF OFFICERS.**

22 (a) A limited cooperative association has the officers: ~~offices~~

23 (1) provided in the organic rules; or

24 (2) if not provided in the organic rules, established by the association’s board of
25 directors consistent with the organic rules.

26 (b) The organic rules may designate or, if the rules do not designate, the board of
27 directors of the limited cooperative association shall designate, one of the association’s officers

1 for preparing all records required by Section 113 and for the authentication of records.

2 (c) Unless ~~otherwise provided~~ by the organic rules otherwise provide, the board of
3 directors shall appoint the officers of the limited cooperative association.

4 (d) Officers of a limited cooperative association have the authority and obligation to
5 perform the duties the organic rules prescribe or as the association's board of directors
6 determines is consistent with the organic rules.

7 (e) The election or appointment of an officer of a limited cooperative association does
8 not of itself create a contract between the association and the officer.

9 (f) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, an individual may simultaneously hold
10 more than one office in a limited ~~the~~ cooperative association.

11 **Reporters' Note**

12 As drafted this act allows the organic rules to provide that participants elect officers.
13 However, Section 723 gives the authority to remove those officers.

14
15 Almost all current cooperative acts follow pre-1984 business corporation law either
16 requiring or expressly permitting named offices. This draft does not do so. Rather, it is
17 consistent with the flexibility of the law of unincorporated organizations and provides the
18 flexibility present in many cooperative statutes in a more (word) efficient way. Thus it is closer
19 to post-1984 business corporation law than the existing cooperative statutes based on pre-1984
20 corporate law. It also follows unincorporated law in the flexibility it provides. Nonetheless,
21 because directors are not agents because of director status, the cooperative (through its board)
22 will be required to have agents. The language of this draft requires at least one of these agents to
23 be designated an officer under subsection (b).
24

25 **SECTION 723. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.**

26 (a) The board of directors of a limited cooperative association may remove an officer at
27 any time with or without cause.

28 (b) An officer of a limited cooperative association may resign at any time by giving

1 notice in a record to the association. Unless the notice specifies a later time, the resignation is
2 effective when the notice is given.

3 **Reporters' Note**

4 Note that this draft contains no provision directly addressing the standard of conduct of
5 officers. This is, at the least, not unusual in the world of general cooperative statutes. Thus, this
6 draft leaves much of the law governing officers to contract and agency principles.

7
8 There is a distinction between the power to remove an officer and the right to do so. This
9 section is intended to give complete discretion to the board of directors to remove officers (the
10 power). The exercise of that power; however, may very well lead to a damage claim by the
11 officer if, for example, the officer has a separate employment contract. The exercise of the power
12 could also violate other law (*e.g.* Title VII of the Civil Rights Act).

13
14 There was “power” language in Subsection (a) in a prior draft which raised the power-
15 right dichotomy similar to the one raised in Section 706. As a matter of style, it has been urged
16 to delete such language and replace it with the word “may”. The suggestion was heeded here but
17 not elsewhere.

1 [ARTICLE] 8

2 INDEMNIFICATION

3
4 SECTION 801. INDEMNIFICATION.

5 (a) Indemnification of any individual who has incurred liability or is a party, or is
6 threatened to be made a party, to litigation because of the performance of a duty to, or activity on
7 behalf of, a limited cooperative association is governed by [insert cross-reference to this State’s
8 State Cooperative Corporation Act] [insert cross-reference to this State’s State Nonprofit
9 Cooperative Act] [insert cross-reference to this State’s General Business Corporation Act of this
10 State].

11 (b) A limited cooperative association may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of
12 any individual against liability asserted against or incurred by the individual to the same extent
13 and subject to the same conditions as provided by [insert cross-reference to this State’s State
14 Cooperative Corporation Act] [insert cross-reference to this State’s State Nonprofit Cooperative
15 Act] [insert cross-reference to this State’s General Business Corporation Act of this State].

16 **Reporters’ Note**

17 Subsection (b) is new to the Fall 2006 draft.

18
19 The topic of indemnification has been discussed at length by the Committee and it
20 compared corporate, unincorporated, and cooperative statutes as well as agency law. It
21 concluded that any formulation not referencing other law in adopting states would lead to lack of
22 uniformity not only in substance but also as a matter of style. Moreover, because states have an
23 existing body of law reflecting unique policy decisions there was strong opinion that any other
24 formulation might inhibit enactability. Finally, every other alternative added *pages* to the text of
25 the Draft.

26 Note, however, the comment from the floor in the Reporters’ Note to Section 719.

1 [ARTICLE] 9

2 CONTRIBUTIONS, ALLOCATIONS, AND DISTRIBUTIONS

3
4 SECTION 901. MEMBERS' PARTICIPANTS' CONTRIBUTIONS. The organic
5 rules may establish the amount, manner, or method of determining any member participant
6 contribution requirements for members participants or may authorize the board of directors of a
7 limited cooperative association to establish the manner and terms of any contributions by
8 members for participants.

9 Reporters' Note

10 A prior draft expressly contained a provision requiring the organic rules to set forth
11 "accounting procedures". The Committee directed it be taken out (and therefore made
12 permissive) because of possible confusion. The comment to this section needs to point out that
13 using a corporate-like structure without "checking-the-box" to be taxed as a corporation under
14 the current tax scheme may cause unintended consequences and is a relatively sophisticated
15 technique that is already bedeviling under LLC law.

16
17 This draft contemplates but does not mandate capital accounts based on decisions made
18 by the Conference and individual states in other unincorporated acts.

19
20 This draft does not *expressly* provide for stock or use the corporate capital accounting
21 model which allows the board of directors, for example, to establish par value. This draft
22 follows unincorporated law which is far more general, and less detailed than corporate law. The
23 draft does contemplate that the organic rules may establish a more corporate-like capital
24 structure. See Section 304(a)(1). Thus, this draft more closely follows the unincorporated
25 organizational model and is, therefore, more contractually or agreement based. This hasn't
26 seemed to cause any reported problems in the use of LLCs. Paradoxically, the entity
27 contemplated by this draft is more flexible upon formation but gives the board of directors less
28 power to establish new classes or voting interests than in a business corporation. This mix is
29 consistent with stronger member control.

30
31 Does a comment to this section need to discuss equity certificates and, if so, suggestions?
32

1 entered into before formation of the association is irrevocable for six months unless all parties to
2 the agreement consent to the revocation.

3 (b) A person's obligation to make a contribution under subsection (a) is not excused by
4 the person's death, disability, or other inability to perform personally.

5 (c) If a person does not make a required contribution to ~~the~~ a limited cooperative
6 association under an ~~the~~ agreement described in subsection (a):

7 (1) the person is obligated, at the option of the association, once formed, to
8 contribute money equal to the value of that part of the contribution that has not been made, and
9 the obligation may be enforced as a debt to the association; or

10 (2) the association, once formed, may rescind the agreement if the debt remains
11 unpaid more than 20 days after the association demands payment from the person, and upon
12 rescision the person shall have no further rights or obligations with respect to the association.

13 (d) An ~~The~~ agreement to make a contribution may vary the requirements of this section.

14 **Reporters' Note**

15
16 Subsections (b) and (c) are new to the 2006 Annual Meeting Draft. It is an amalgamation
17 of various entity laws.

18
19 Query: Should the contribution agreement be able to vary the terms of this Section?
20

21 Source: Oregon Cooperative Corporation Act; conceptually similar to the Minnesota
22 Cooperative Associations Act, the MBCA and ULPA (2001).
23

24 **SECTION 904. ALLOCATIONS OF PROFITS AND LOSSES.**

25 (a) The organic rules must provide that profits of a ~~the~~ limited cooperative association be
26 allocated among members ~~participants~~ and, if the organic rules permit, to an unallocated account.

1 Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, losses of the association must be allocated in the
2 same proportion as profits.

3 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, all the profits and losses must be
4 allocated to patron ~~members~~ participants.

5 (c) If ~~the~~ a limited cooperative association has investor ~~members~~ participants, the organic
6 rules may not reduce the allocation percentage of profits allocated to patron ~~members~~ participants
7 to less than 50 percent of profits except: from patronage.

8 (1) sums paid or due on contracts for the delivery to the association by patron
9 members of products, goods, or services, if any, are not considered amounts allocated to patron
10 members under this subsection; and

11 (2) sums paid, due, or allocated to investor members as a stated fixed return on
12 equity are not considered amounts allocated to investor members for purposes of this subsection.

13 (d) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, in determining ~~order to determine~~ the
14 amount of profits of a limited cooperative association, the association's board of directors may
15 deduct and set aside a part of the revenue, whether or not allocated to ~~members~~ participants, after
16 accounting for other expenses to create or accumulate:

17 (1) ~~create or accumulate~~ a capital reserve; and

18 (2) ~~create or accumulate~~ reserves for specific purposes, including expansion and
19 replacement of capital assets, education, training, and information concerning principles of
20 cooperation, community responsibility, and development.

21 (e) Subject to subsection (f) and the organic rules, the board of directors of a limited
22 cooperative association shall further allocate the amounts determined pursuant to subsections (a),

1 ~~and~~ (b), and (c):

2 (1) to ~~the~~ patron members ~~participants~~ in the ratio of each member's ~~participant's~~
3 patronage to the total patronage of all patron members ~~participants~~ during the period; and

4 (2) to ~~the~~ investor members ~~participants~~, if any, in the ratio of each investor
5 member's ~~participant's~~ contributions to the total contributions of all investor members
6 participants.

7 (f) For purposes of allocation of profits and losses of a limited cooperative association
8 to members ~~patron~~ ~~participants~~, the organic rules may establish allocation units or methods based
9 on separate classes of members, or for patron members on class, function, division, district,
10 department, allocation units, pooling arrangements, members' ~~participants'~~ contributions, or
11 other equitable methods.

12 **Reporters' Note**

13
14 The language in subsection (c) is new as directed at the Spring 2006 meeting. The
15 Comments to this Section should make clear that "due" in subsections (c)(1) and (2) means and
16 is intended to require for these purposes only, an imputation of price. The Comments also need
17 to make clear that the new language in (f) specifically authorizes classes of members beyond the
18 investor-patron dichotomy.

19
20 ~~After February 2006 meeting:~~

21
22 ~~This Section was discussed at length at the February 2006 Drafting Meeting and the~~
23 ~~Reporters were directed to attempt to revise the Section in accordance with their sense of the~~
24 ~~Committee. The only two revisions on which there was little or no direct discussion are adding~~
25 ~~the language following "capital assets" in subsection (c)(2) and deleting "initial" in subsection~~
26 ~~(d)(2). Language similar to that found in the added language in (c)(2) is common in cooperative~~
27 ~~statutes. The addition is meant to be aspirational and is wholly consistent with many comments~~
28 ~~at the February 2006 meeting.~~

29
30 Subsection (a): This act adds a concept of allocations based on a measurement of patron
31 profits that is not present in existing new generation (aka LLC-Cooperative) statutes. It does so
32 to add flexibility for payments and closely cleaves to the cooperative value of "service or

1 products at cost.” See § 905 which does not mandate tests for distributions based on the patron
2 participant/investor participant distinction.
3

4 This act is designed to be flexible in operation giving cooperative associations the ability
5 to design a cooperative organizational structure most appropriate to achieve the entity’s goals.
6 Thus, the act contemplates that organizations under this act could be designed to simulate in
7 operative structures other entities organized under existing corporate, unincorporated, or unique
8 cooperative acts.
9

10 Under general regulatory, accounting, and tax law in existence at the promulgation of this
11 act there are at least five allocative models [C corp; C corp with S or T (and or § 521) (with the
12 additional options of qualified and nonqualified written notices of allocation); partnership].
13

14 The term “allocation” is frequently associated with unincorporated accounting and
15 taxation but, as used in this state organizational law, is not constrained to such use. For example,
16 an entity organized under this act that desires pure corporate accounting would “allocate” profit
17 or loss to either patron participant “corporate stock” capital accounts or investor “corporate
18 stock” capital accounts in accordance with its provisions. [Think “electric.”]
19

20 ~~Subsection (b) is technical and must be read closely with the definitions. It is meant to~~
21 ~~require separate netting on the patronage and nonpatronage sides if there are investor~~
22 ~~participants. Note there are other ways that participants may receive money from a cooperative~~
23 ~~(just like in other organizations: leases, loans, services for pay, etc.). The Comment will include~~
24 ~~illustrations discussed at the February 2006 meeting.~~
25

26 **Preliminary Illustrations**

27

28 The following illustrations are no longer completely correct given the changes to
29 subsection (b) in December 2006. They continue, however, to be generally instructive. The
30 Comments will contain simple illustrations, but not these illustrations.
31

32 **Introduction.** The suggested change in the language from “net proceeds, savings,
33 margins and profits” to “profits and losses” is more than just wordsmithing. It dances around a
34 fundamental substantive issue and suggests another issue in need of discussion. The Comment
35 needs to explain that the term is not intended to imply the association is “for profit” or to
36 mandate the terminology used for purposes other than state law.
37

38 **Substantive Issue.** The substantive issue has been described in previous Committee
39 meetings as “agency v. sale” arrangements. “Net proceeds” draws attention to this distinction
40 and the distinction has importance for measuring the “50 percent” floor for allocations to investor
41 participants in this section.
42

43 **Ex 1.** Assume a “typical” producer cooperative. The members deliver product to

1 the co-op and get paid a market price. There is a product sale. At the end of the
2 year the books are closed and the price paid to producers for product is subtracted
3 (as “cost of goods sold” in the books of the cooperative association) to help
4 determine “profit.”
5

6 Thus, if gross revenue were \$1,600 and the only “expenses” were the costs of the
7 product to the co-op association (assume \$1,000) and administrative expenses of
8 \$100; the “profit” would be \$500. If the organic documents allocate 50% to
9 patron participants and 50% to investor participants each group would receive
10 \$250. The patron participants therefore received the market price for the product
11 \$1,000 plus a profit allocation of \$250 for a total of \$1250. The investor
12 participants would be allocated \$250. This is the “sale” method.
13

14 **Ex 2.** Now assume an agency method (according to AICPA Audit Guidelines
15 2002, this method is used most frequently for specialty produce). Here, there is
16 no market price contract between the co-op association and the producer. Rather
17 the association acts as an agent for the producer. The association sells the product
18 (gross revenue) for \$1,600 (as in Ex. 1). However, there is no “cost of goods
19 sold” because the co-op association did not contract for the product with the
20 producer. Thus the only expense was an administrative expense of \$100.
21 Assuming the same 50-50 split as in Ex. 1 the investor participants and the patron
22 participants would be allocated \$750.
23

24 **Ex 3.** A value added pasta production facility will cost \$2,000,000 to construct.
25 To become a patron participant requires a 5 year delivery contract and an
26 investment of \$10,000 under the organic rules. Forty producers become patron
27 members (and their aggregate investment, therefore, is \$400,000 or 20% of the
28 necessary investment). A commercial pasta maker agrees to contribute \$600,000
29 (30% of the necessary investment) and supply manufacturing management for 5
30 years. In order to get the remaining \$1,000,000 from traditional lending sources
31 the pasta maker agrees to execute a \$300,000 stand-by letter of credit.
32

- 33 (a) One “50-50” allocation split of a first year “profit” of \$100,000 (after
34 paying the producers \$200,000 for under their delivery contracts)
35 would be \$50,000 to investor participants and \$50,000 to patron
36 participants. The patron participants also receive \$200,000 under
37 contract for a total of \$250,000.
38
- 39 (b) In what category is the \$400,000 patron “investment”? *Maybe* each patron
40 participant is in dual capacity. Thus, the \$400,000 investment could be
41 categorized as each patron participant also being an investor participant to the
42 extent of the up-front investment. If so the results:
43

- 1 (1) Patron participants as patron participants contribute \$50,000 (on
- 2 patronage basis).
- 3 (2) Patron participants own 40% of the investor participant interests so
- 4 they receive \$20,000 in that capacity.
- 5 (3) Patron participants receive \$200,000 under their contracts.
- 6 (4) As a result participants whom are patrons receive \$270,000.
- 7 (5) Nonpatron investor participants receive \$30,000.
- 8

9 **Ex 4.** Assume the same facts as in Example 3, (a) except it is an agency (net proceeds)

10 arrangement. This means the patron participants will not receive the \$200,000 under the

11 delivery contract. Thus, “profit” is \$100,000 plus \$200,000. This \$300,000 would be

12 allocated 50-50. Investor participants and patron participants would be allocated

13 \$150,000 each (assuming patron “investment” is not investor participation, see Es. 3(b)).

14

15 **Ex 5.** Assume the same facts as in example 4 except pasta maker contracts to manage the

16 manufacturing plant for \$200,000 annually. So XYZ again has \$100,000 profit split 50-

17 50 but the pasta maker receives \$200,000 under the management contract (rather than the

18 producers receiving that amount for their product as in example 3(a)). Patron participants

19 would be allocated \$50,000. Investor participants would be allocated \$50,000 but also

20 receive a \$200,000 management fee for a total of \$250,000 (but see Ex. 3(b)).

21

22 The results in examples 3 through 5 would meet the 50-50 test provided by the organic

23 rules but the results vary as follows:

24

25 - Ex. 3(a): Investor participants (IP) \$50,000; patron participants (PP) \$250,000.

26

27 - Ex. 3(b): Non dual capacity IPs, \$30,000; PP (but including their dual IP-PP capacity),

28 \$270,000.

29

30 - Ex. 4: IP, \$150,000; PP, \$150,000.

31

32 - Ex. 5: IP, \$250,000; PP, \$50,000.

33

34 The range for IPs is from \$30,000 to \$250,000; for PPs from \$50,000 to \$270,000 even though

35 each variation meets the hypothetical 50-50 split. Please note that the numbers are “out of thin

36 air.” They can easily be manipulated (using the “sale” method) to illustrate situations where

37 almost all the risk of loss, and little upside gain, accrues to investor participants. Now compare

38 another variation as set forth in Example 6, below.

39

40 **Ex. 6.** Same facts as in example 5, but the \$200,000 value on the management contract

41 is categorized as patronage service. “Profit” is \$300,000. Assuming the \$400,000 patron

42 participation contribution is not IP and, further, “agency” accounting: the PPs would

43 receive 50% of the \$300,000 profit which is \$150,000.

1
2 However, both IPs as service PPs (\$200,000 of “worker” product) would share the
3 \$150,000 equally on a patronage basis. So IPs (as PPs) would be allocated \$75,000 and
4 PPs would be allocated \$75,000. The other \$150,000 would be allocated to IPs as IPs.
5 Thus IPs in their dual role would receive \$225,000 and “producer” PPs would be
6 allocated \$75,000 (even though the “value” of the product on a “contract” basis is
7 \$200,000).

8
9 This is flexible but not without boundary. It is also an issue that does not seem to have
10 been focused on in the existing Acts.
11

12 SECTION 905. DISTRIBUTIONS.

13 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide and subject to Section 907, the board of
14 directors may authorize, and the association may make, distributions to members ~~participants~~.

15 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, distributions to members ~~participants~~ may
16 be made in the form of cash, capital credits, allocated patronage equities, revolving fund
17 certificates, the limited cooperative association’s own or other securities, or any other form.

18 Reporters’ Note

19 A Commissioner, not on this Committee, has very serious reservations about subsection
20 (b). He suggests that the act is certainly flexible enough to allow these items but, if listed in the
21 text, they must be defined. Note that the MBCA also contains undefined terms. Listing without
22 definition makes the terms “evolvable” and, paradoxically, may make the act more user friendly.
23

24 This section “works” because of the existence of Section 904.
25

26 SECTION 906. REDEMPTION OF EQUITY. ~~Subject to Section 907 and unless~~
27 Unless the organic rules ~~articles of organization~~ otherwise provide and subject to Section 907, a
28 limited cooperative association:

- 29 (1) may redeem a patron member’s ~~participant’s~~ equity; and
30 (2) may not redeem an investor member’s ~~participant’s~~ equity.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 How is the redemption price determined? This draft is silent and does not address the
3 value of good will or appreciating assets: a significant gap. At least two Commissioners raised
4 this and the related “book-up” idea at the 2005 annual meeting. As a result, is a valuation
5 procedure advisable? Is equity too broad a term? Would it be better to add according “to a plan”
6 and have the comment specifically address revolving equity?
7

8 This Section may be needless repetition of other authority for distributions under this
9 draft but, on the other hand, it may make the draft more user-friendly for those cooperatives
10 which contemplate “stock” or certificated interests. It is important to note that this Section is
11 permissive at the discretion of the cooperative and does not give any member a put right.
12

13 **SECTION 907. LIMITATIONS ON DISTRIBUTIONS.**

14 (a) A limited cooperative association may not make a distribution if, after the
15 distribution:

16 (1) the association would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the
17 ordinary course of the association’s activities; or

18 (2) the association’s assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities.

19 (b) A limited cooperative association may base a determination that a distribution is not
20 prohibited under subsection (a) on financial statements prepared on the basis of accounting
21 practices and principles that are reasonable in the circumstances or on a fair valuation or other
22 methods method that are is reasonable in the circumstances.

23 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), the effect of a distribution allowed
24 under subsection (b) is measured:

25 (1) in the case of distribution by purchase, redemption, or other acquisitions of
26 financial rights in the limited cooperative association, as of the date money or other property is
27 transferred or debt is incurred by the association; and

1 (2) in all other cases, as of the date:

2 (A) the distribution is authorized, if the payment occurs within 120 days
3 after that date; or

4 (B) the payment is made, if payment occurs more than 120 days after the
5 distribution is authorized.

6 (d) If indebtedness is issued as a distribution, each payment of principal or interest on the
7 indebtedness is treated as a distribution, the effect of which is measured on the date the payment
8 is made.

9 **Reporters' Note**

10 Source: ULPAs (2001).

11
12 Cross-reference Section 906.

13
14 This Section also raises another issue specific to this draft: Who is liable? Under typical
15 unincorporated law it is possible to require members to return a proportionate amount of an
16 unlawful distribution. It is one of the few bright-line areas for director liability under corporate
17 law.

18
19 An accounting question about subsection (a)(2) was raised at the 2005 Annual meeting.
20 The basic premise was: "I thought assets by accounting convention always equaled liabilities;
21 therefore, what does (a)(2) mean?" It was promised an answer would be provided, at least, in the
22 Final Comments. The quick answer is that the basic accounting equation is "assets equals
23 liabilities plus owners equity." Even though owners equity is a liability upon liquidation it is not
24 a fixed amount because owners are the residual claimants. The subsection basically means that
25 no distributions are allowed if a negative owners' equity account is necessary to balance the
26 books.

27
28 A question was also raised at the 2005 Annual meeting about subsection (d). The
29 Reporters' have discussed the matter and suggest that the Committee determine whether this
30 matter should be revisited.

31
32 The interrelationship with "redemption" is an important one to note.
33

1 (b) The financial rights in paragraph (a)(2) do not include any financial rights or
2 additional or greater financial rights contingent on the value of a contribution solely because of a
3 greater or lesser value of that contribution whether or not the financial rights are calculated on the
4 basis of patronage.
5

6 The securities provision in prior drafts appeared as Section 1701 and that section has been
7 deleted. The prior Reporters' Note ~~Notes~~ follows:
8

9 The language of the statutes vary greatly by state. Many
10 state laws contain exemptions from securities regulation either in
11 the law governing cooperatives or in their securities acts. To avoid
12 the necessity of each state renegotiating both the policy and
13 nonuniform statutory language during the adoption of this Act this
14 draft simply applies those existing exemptions by reference. *See*
15 *generally*, Reporters' Note to Section 909 of this draft.
16

17 The language has been modified from prior drafts in
18 response to concerns expressed on the floor at the 2005 annual
19 meeting that the former language could have broader implications
20 than intended.
21

22 The Uniform Securities Act (2002) contains a limited
23 exemption at USA § 201(8). It is limited to "nonprofit
24 membership cooperatives" and, even there, does *not* apply to "a
25 member's or owner's interest, retention certificate, or like security
26 sold to persons other than bona fide members of the cooperative."
27 Comment 8 to Section 201 states:
28

29 "The 1956 Act... had instead provided: 'insert any
30 desired exemption for cooperatives.' The Reporter
31 for the 1956 Act had found such sharp variation
32 among the 18 states that then had adopted a
33 cooperative exemption that 'no common pattern can
34 be found.' Louis Loss, Commentary on the
35 Uniform Securities Act 118 (1976).
36

37 The Committee suggests it unlikely to achieve further
38 uniformity than that proposed by the USA (2002) and that states
39 have already made policy decisions that are unlikely to change
40 based upon anything stated in this limited purpose unincorporated
41 cooperative act. A strong legislative note should be drafted.
42

1 [ARTICLE] 10

2 DISSOCIATION

3
4 SECTION 1001. MEMBER'S PARTICIPANT'S DISSOCIATION.

5 (a) A person has the power to dissociate as a member participant at any time, rightfully or
6 wrongfully, by express will.

7 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a member's person's dissociation from a
8 limited cooperative association is wrongful only if the dissociation:

9 (1) breaches ~~it is in breach of~~ an express provision of the organic rules; or

10 (2) it occurs before the termination of the limited cooperative association and:

11 (A) ~~the person withdraws as a participant by express will; or~~

12 (AB) the person is expelled as a member participant under subsection
13 paragraph (db)(3) or (b)(4);

14 (BC) in the case of a person that is not an individual, trust other than a
15 business trust, or estate, the person is expelled or otherwise dissociated as a member participant
16 because it willfully dissolved or terminated.

17 (c) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a person that wrongfully dissociates as a
18 member participant is liable to the limited cooperative association for damages caused by the
19 dissociation. The liability is in addition to any other debt, obligation, or liability of the member
20 participant to the cooperative association.

21 (d) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a member participant is dissociated from
22 the limited a association as a member when participant upon the occurrence of any of the

1 following occurs:

2 (1) the association's receipt of ~~association receives~~ notice in a record of the
3 member's participant's express will to dissociate as a member participant, except that, if the
4 member specifies in the notice ~~person specified~~ a withdrawal date later than the date the
5 association had notice ~~and the notice contains a later date~~, on that later date;

6 (2) an event stated in the organic rules as causing the member's participant's
7 dissociation as a member participant;

8 (3) the member's expulsion ~~participant is expelled~~ as a member participant
9 pursuant to the organic rules;

10 (4) the member's participant's expulsion as a member participant by the
11 association's board of directors if:

12 (A) it is unlawful to carry on the association's activities with the
13 member participant as a member participant;

14 (B) there has been a transfer of all the member's participant's financial
15 rights in the association, other than:

16 (i) a creation or perfection for security purposes; or

17 (ii) a charging order in effect under Section 505 which has not been
18 foreclosed;

19 ~~(C) the participant is a corporation or cooperative, and, within 90 days~~
20 ~~after the association notifies the corporation or cooperative that it will be expelled as a member~~
21 ~~because the person has filed a certificate of dissolution or the equivalent, its charter has been~~
22 ~~revoked, or its right to conduct business has been suspended by the jurisdiction of formation, the~~

1 ~~certificate of dissolution has not been revoked or its charter reinstated or its right to conduct~~
2 ~~business in the state has been reinstated;~~

3 (C~~D~~) the member participant is a limited liability company, association,
4 or partnership and it has been dissolved and its business is being wound up;

5 (D) the member is a corporation or cooperative and:

6 (i) the:

7 (1) member has filed a certificate of dissolution or the
8 equivalent; or

9 (2) jurisdiction of formation has revoked the association's
10 charter or right to conduct business;

11 (ii) the association notifies the member that it will be expelled as a
12 member for a reason described in subparagraph (i); and

13 (iii) within 90 days after the date of the notice under subparagraph

14 (B):

15 (1) the member does not revoked its certificate of
16 dissolution or the equivalent; or

17 (2) the jurisdiction of formation does not reinstate the
18 association's charter or right to conduct business;

19 (5) in the case of a member participant who is an individual:

20 (A) the individual's death ~~individual dies~~;

21 (B) the appointment of a guardian or general conservator for the individual
22 ~~is appointed; or~~

1 (C) ~~there is~~ a judicial determination that the individual has otherwise
2 become incapable of performing the individual's duties as a participant under this [act] or the
3 organic rules;

4 (6) in the case of a member participant that is a trust or is acting as a member by
5 virtue of being a trustee of a trust, distribution of the trust's entire financial rights in the
6 association, but not solely by reason of the substitution of a successor trustee;

7 (7) in the case of a member participant that is an estate, distribution of the estate's
8 entire financial interest in the association, but not merely by the substitution of a successor
9 personal representative;

10 (8) termination of a member participant that is not an individual, partnership,
11 limited liability company, cooperative corporation, trust, or estate; or

12 (9) the association's participation in a consolidation or merger; if, under the plan
13 of merger as approved under [Article] 15, the member participant ceases to be a member
14 participant.

15 Reporters' Note

16 Planners should carefully consider whether all these events would trigger any equity
17 redemption.

18
19 Section 1001(a) through (c) is new. It is taken from ULLCA II (§ 601) and helps resolve
20 a longstanding criticism of old section 1001(a).

21
22 (The Comment needs to explain large versus small group dynamics; partnerships include
23 all kinds of partnerships. Note: "Notice" is governed by other law under this draft (see
24 subsection (d)(1).) The Comments to (d)(5) should cross-reference section _____.
25

26 Source: Closely derived from ULPA (2001) § 601. Subsection (d)(5) follows ULPA in
27 that it does not state incompetency as an event of dissociation but see Section 1003 which can be
28 read inconsistently. The Comments to this Section need to explain the difference between

1 subsection (d)(5) and (d)(7). An individual is dissociated upon death under (d)(5) and her estate
2 has the powers conferred by Section 1003. Subsection (d)(7) applies where the (an) estate is
3 carrying on business and becomes a participant by admission. Example: An individual who was
4 not a participant of the cooperative association dies. Her estate anticipates carrying on farming
5 business for three years before it closes. The estate could become a member of the cooperative
6 association pursuant to the organic rules of the cooperative association for admission of
7 participants. The issue raised by incompetency needs yet to be vetted. See section 1003 which
8 as currently drafted is inconsistent with subsection (d)(8). Subsection (d)(4)(C) has been revised
9 and the language is now different than ULP A (2001).

10
11 Subsection 1001(d)(4)(B) has been changed to refer to subsection 505 which is the
12 security interest exception for transfers.

13
14 Section 1001(d) contemplates expulsion by the organic rules but there is no default rule
15 for expulsion. Former subsection (b)(5) read:

16
17 (5) on application by the cooperative, the person's expulsion as a
18 member by judicial order because:

19 (A) the person engaged in wrongful conduct that adversely
20 and materially affected the cooperative's activities;

21 (B) the person willfully or persistently committed a
22 material breach of the organic rules or [this act]; or

23 (C) the person engaged in conduct relating to the
24 cooperative's activities which makes it not reasonably practicable
25 to carry on the activities with the person as member.
26

27 This Article was discussed in detail at the October 2005 Committee meeting. Changes
28 have been made in accordance with decisions made by the Committee. The Committee directed
29 the Reporter to give more examination to whether subsection (b)(4)(B) should be altered or
30 removed depending on the meaning of "financial rights." With more detail having been provided
31 in the definition of "financial rights" in Section 102, the Reporters respectfully request to revisit
32 this subsection.
33

34 The Reporters also suggest the Committee should revisit this Article in conjunction with
35 further examination of the composition and election of the Board and the division of financial
36 results among participants. The Reporters believe these three areas are what can differentiate a
37 cooperative association under this act from all other types of organizations. Various observers
38 have raised questions and have made suggestions and requests in these three areas. These areas
39 are the ones in which conflicts between traditional cooperative associations with a focus on
40 member service and investor capital with a focus on financial returns from investment need to be
41 balanced. Questions that have been raised regularly for consideration are: (i) Should there be
42 different rules in the act for small versus large cooperative associations in these areas? (ii)
43 Should there be different rules in the act for investor participants and patron participants? (iii) Is

1 it sufficient to leave these areas to the organic rules or should the act provide some guidance by
2 default rules or otherwise? At the February 2006 meeting the Committee directed the Reporters
3 to address these issues in the Comments.
4

5 The Comments to this Section will make clear that the term “partnership” includes
6 general partnership, limited partnership, or limited liability partnership.
7

8 SECTION 1002. EFFECT OF DISSOCIATION AS MEMBER PARTICIPANT.

9 (a) Upon a member’s ~~person’s~~ dissociation as a ~~participant~~:

10 (1) subject to Section 1003, the person has no further rights as a member
11 ~~participant~~; and

12 (2) subject to Section 1003 and [Article] 15, any financial rights owned by the
13 person in the person’s capacity as a member participant immediately before dissociation are
14 owned by the person as a transferee who is not admitted as a member participant after
15 dissociation.

16 (b) A person’s dissociation as a member participant does not of itself discharge the
17 person from any debt, obligation, or liability to the limited cooperative association which the
18 person incurred under the organic rules, by contract or by other means while a member
19 ~~participant~~.

20 Reporters’ Note

21 Source: ULPA (2001) § 602. The ULPA (2001) counterpart includes a subsection that
22 refers only to specifically cross-referenced obligations of good faith and fair dealing and that
23 subsection has been deleted under this draft. “[O]r other members” was also deleted in (b),
24 which is consistent, because under this act there is no specific participant to participant duty
25 (similar to the basic resolution of duties to limited partners but in ULPA there is a sliding scale
26 where a limited partner undertakes management obligations). The Comment to this section will
27 include both reference and discussion of the four possible sources of financial return of a
28 participant: (1) under a production (or other) contract; (2) patronage distributions; (3) patronage
29 retains; (4) return on invested capital. Subsection (b) is important in the context of obligations

1 under a marketing contract.

2
3 The Committee has suggested that dissociation needs to be explained in the context of a
4 marketing agreement, at least in the Comments.

5
6 At the October 2005 Committee meeting it was determined that so long as it is permitted
7 by other state law, a person acting under a durable power of attorney could continue to act for a
8 participant without a change to this act.

9
10 The Comments will provide illustrations for subsection (b).
11

12 **SECTION 1003. POWER OF ESTATE OF MEMBER PARTICIPANT.** Unless the
13 organic rules otherwise provide, if a member participant dies or is adjudged incompetent, the
14 member's participant's personal representative or other legal representative may exercise the
15 rights of a transferee and the member's participant's financial rights as provided in Section 503
16 and, for purposes of settling the estate of the deceased member participant, may exercise the
17 informational rights of a current member participant under Section 405.

18 **Reporters' Note**

19 Source: ULPAs (2001) § 704. See Reporters' Note to section 1001 concerning the absence
20 of incompetency as a cause of dissociation by a participant. The Committee suggests that the
21 guardian of an incompetent will be treated for all purposes the same as an estate through the law
22 of guardianship but that issue should be left to other law. Other law will also channel obligations
23 between those that must be personally performed and those that may be "assigned". It might be
24 advisable for the Comment to suggest this issue (and a related one concerning nonadjudicated
25 durable powers) be contemplated by the organic rules and the terms of the marketing contract, if
26 any. Whether incompetency effects the contract will depend, in some instances, on the
27 classification of the contractual duty as delegable.

28
29 Note: This does not prevent an estate from becoming a member.
30

31 The estate itself, however, may be admitted as a participant. The case of an *inter vivos*
32 trust is left to other law and is dependent on whether the participant's interest is held under that
33 other law to be transferred.

1 [ARTICLE] 11

2 DISSOLUTION

3
4 SECTION 1101. DISSOLUTION. A limited cooperative association may be
5 dissolved:

- 6 (1) nonjudicially under Section 1102;
7 (2) judicially under Section 1103; or
8 (3) administratively under Section 1111.

9 SECTION 1102. NONJUDICIAL DISSOLUTION. Except as otherwise provided in
10 ~~Sections~~ ~~Section~~ 1103 and 1111, a limited cooperative association is dissolved and its activities
11 must be wound up only upon:

12 (1) the occurrence ~~happening~~ of an event or the coming of a time specified in the articles
13 of organization;

14 (2) the action of the association's organizers, board of directors, or member participants
15 under Section 1104 or 1105;

16 (3) the passage of 90 days after the dissociation of a member participant, resulting in the
17 association having fewer than two members participants, at least one of whom is a patron
18 member participant, unless the association:

19 (A) has a sole member participant that is a cooperative; or

20 (B) before the end of the 90 days, admits at least one member participant in
21 accordance with the ~~association's~~ organic rules and has at least two members, at least one of
22 which is a patron member. ~~one patron participant and at least two participants.~~

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 Source: ULPA (2001) § 801. It has been modified because cooperatives do not bifurcate
3 membership between general and limited partners even though under this draft patron and
4 nonpatron participants are authorized. Subsection (3) of this Section has been modified pursuant
5 to action taken by the Committee. The third phrase in (3) was removed as duplicating what is
6 now (3)(A). There is a bit of a trapdoor here. Except in this section, this draft does not provide
7 there must be two participants except to begin business under Section 401. Comments to
8 previous Sections may need to make it clear that, except for a cooperative association that is a
9 wholly owned subsidiary of a cooperative, a cooperative must have two members. This Section
10 errs on the side of continuity of life.
11

12 **SECTION 1103. JUDICIAL DISSOLUTION.** The [appropriate court] may dissolve a
13 limited cooperative association or order any action that under the circumstances is appropriate
14 and equitable:

15 (1) in a proceeding initiated by the [Attorney General], if it is established that:

16 (A) the association obtained its articles of organization through fraud; or

17 (B) the association has continued to exceed or abuse the authority conferred upon
18 it by law;

19 (2) in a proceeding initiated by a member participant, if it is established that:

20 (A) the directors are deadlocked in the management of the association's affairs,
21 the members participants are unable to break the deadlock, and irreparable injury to the
22 association is occurring or is threatened because of the deadlock;

23 (B) the directors or those in control of the association have acted, are acting, or
24 most likely will act in a manner that is illegal, oppressive, or fraudulent;

25 (C) the members participants are deadlocked in voting power and have failed to
26 elect successors to directors whose terms have expired for two consecutive periods during which

1 annual members' ~~participants~~² meetings were held or were to be held; or

2 (D) the assets of the association are being misapplied or wasted.

3 **Reporters' Note**

4 Before the Fall 2006 meeting the Reporters deleted subsection (3) as duplicative of
5 subsection 1106(c).

6
7 As emphasized by the following paragraph, mere holders of financial rights have no
8 standing to attempt to dissolve the entity. That is important under both unincorporated law (*see*
9 ULPA) and corporate law.

10
11 This section on judicial dissolution is derived from the MBCA but conceptually tracks the
12 current LLC draft being considered by the Conference. Substantively, note: (1) Subsection (2) no
13 longer authorizes transferees to bring an action to dissolve the cooperative (in addition to
14 members); (2) Subsection (2)(A) does not include the MBCA phrase, "or the business and affairs
15 of the [cooperative] can no longer be conducted to the advantage of the ... [members] generally"
16 (but is consistent with the directors ability to consider other constituencies under Article 6); and,
17 (3) the MBCA provides for an action for dissolution by a creditor of the corporation (here the
18 cooperative) if the claim has been reduced to judgment and the entity is insolvent (perhaps that is
19 best left to bankruptcy law).

20
21 After discussion at the April 2005 Committee meeting "or a transferee of a member" was
22 deleted from Section 1003(2). It was pointed out that it gave transferees greater power than they
23 have under almost all unincorporated law, that there was no similar provision in traditional
24 cooperative law, and that it gave transferees the power to unreasonably interfere with the
25 operation of the cooperative by filing suit.

26
27 Arguably the broadest provisions in the entire draft for individual participant rights are
28 subsections (2)(B) and (2)(D). The language has the same effect as provided by Section 801(6)
29 (ii) of UPA (1997) for at-will partnerships. ULPA Section 802 is much shorter and more
30 restrictive:

31
32 On application by a partner the [appropriate court] may order a
33 dissolution of a limited partnership if it is not reasonably
34 practicable to carry on the activities of the limited partnership in
35 conformity with the partnership agreement.

36
37 This section also adds the phrase "or order any action which under the circumstances is
38 appropriate and equitable" to the flush language thereby expressly authorizing the court to,
39 illustratively, appoint provisional directors or force a buy-out of interests. This follows what
40 appears to be a trend in both statutory and case law of corporations.

1 Subsection (2)(B) states a different (and lower) standard for judicial dissolution than for
2 the removal of a director under Section 707 which includes “grossly abusive” and “intentionally
3 harmful.”
4

5
6 **SECTION 1104. VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION BEFORE COMMENCEMENT**

7 **OF ACTIVITY.** A majority of the organizers or initial directors of a limited cooperative
8 association that has not yet begun business activity or the conduct of its affairs may dissolve the
9 cooperative association.

10 **Reporters’ Note**

11 ~~This Section subscribes to the initial approach of avoiding the term “business.” Other~~
12 ~~provisions now use that term and the Committee has discussed the issue elsewhere. As an aside,~~
13 ~~should “business” be a defined term?~~
14

15 **SECTION 1105. VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION BY THE BOARD AND**
16 **MEMBERS. PARTICIPANTS.**

17 (a) Except as provided in Section 1104, in ~~in~~ order for a limited cooperative association
18 to voluntarily dissolve:

19 (1) a resolution to dissolve must be approved by a majority vote of the board of
20 directors unless a greater vote is required by the organic rules;

21 (2) the board of directors must call a special members’ participants² meeting to
22 consider the resolution₂ to be held within 90 days after adoption of the resolution ~~required by~~
23 ~~paragraph (1);~~ and

24 (3) the board of directors must mail or otherwise transmit or deliver to each
25 member participant in a record that complies with Section 408:

26 (A) the resolution required by paragraph (1);

1 (B) a recommendation that the members participants vote in favor of the
2 resolution or, if the board determines that because of conflict of interest or other special
3 circumstances, ~~that~~ it should not make ~~such~~ a favorable recommendation, the basis of that
4 determination; and

5 (C) notice of the members' participants' meeting, in the same manner as
6 notice of a special members' participants' meeting is given.

7 (b4) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a resolution to dissolve must be
8 approved by at least a two-thirds vote of all the participants voting power of all members present
9 at a special member's ~~the~~ meeting.

10 ~~(5) If~~ However, if the limited cooperative association has ~~there are~~ investor members,
11 participants at least one-half of the affirmative votes cast by patron members participants must be
12 in the affirmative, but the organic rules may require ~~provide for~~ a larger affirmative vote by
13 patron members participants.

14 Reporters' Note

15 This Section is new to the February 2006 draft having been formerly reserved. It follows
16 logically from the articles concerning amendments to organic rules and conversion, merger or
17 consolidation. When drafting subsection (b) the Reporters encountered several voting scenarios
18 not yet considered by the Committee and adjusted the language as they deemed appropriate. It is
19 imperative the Committee review the voting requirements here and elsewhere.
20

21 SECTION 1106. WINDING UP.

22 (a) A limited cooperative association continues after dissolution only for purposes of
23 winding up its activities.

24 (b) In winding up a limited cooperative association's ~~its~~ activities, the board of directors

1 shall cause ~~the a cooperative~~ association to:

2 (1) discharge its liabilities, settle and close its activities, and marshal and
3 distribute its assets;

4 (2) preserve the ~~cooperative~~ association or its property as a going concern for no
5 more than a reasonable time;

6 (3) prosecute and defend actions and proceedings;

7 (4) transfer association property;

8 (5) settle disputes by mediation or arbitration; and

9 (6) perform other necessary acts.

10 (c) Upon application of a limited cooperative association, any member participant, or a
11 holder of financial rights, the [appropriate court] may order judicial supervision of the winding
12 up of the association, including the appointment of a person to wind up the dissolved
13 association's activities, if:

14 (1) after a reasonable time, the association has not executed winding up; or

15 (2) the applicant establishes other good cause.

16 (d) A limited cooperative association shall promptly deliver to the [Secretary of State] for
17 filing an amendment to the articles of organization to reflect the appointment of a person to wind
18 up the association's activities.

19 **Reporters' Note**

20 Before the Fall 2006 meeting old (b)(2) dealing with filing a statement of dissolution was
21 deleted because the rest of the list is mandatory. Comments need to cross-reference 1114 and
22 1115.

23
24 Should creditors have standing to seek judicial supervision?

1 Consider adding Comment explaining board remains in control of the association and has
2 the duty to wind-up through appointments of agents (etc) and that (c) is the safety valve.
3 Compare UPA (1997).
4

5 **SECTION 1107. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN WINDING UP LIMITED**
6 **COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

7 (a) In winding up a limited cooperative association’s business, the association must apply
8 its assets to discharge its obligations to creditors, including members ~~participants~~ who are
9 creditors. Any remaining assets must be applied to pay in money the net amount distributable to
10 members ~~participants~~ in accordance with their right to distributions under subsection (b).

11 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, each member ~~participant~~ is entitled to a
12 distribution from the limited cooperative association of any remaining assets in the proportion of
13 the member’s ~~participant’s~~ financial interests to the total financial interests of the members
14 ~~participants of the association~~ after all other obligations are satisfied. For purposes of this
15 subsection (~~b~~), unless the organic rules otherwise provide, “financial interests” means the
16 amounts recorded in the names of members ~~participants~~ in the records of the association
17 ~~cooperative~~ at the time the distribution is made, including amounts paid to become a member
18 ~~participant~~, amounts allocated but not distributed to members ~~participants~~, and amounts of
19 distributions authorized but not yet paid to members ~~participants~~.

20 **Reporters’ Note**

21 Best practice would provide detail in the organic rules. The Comment should include
22 (“In winding up, if any of the cooperative association’s assets are insubstantial in value and
23 cannot be readily converted to cash, those assets may be abandoned or donated to a charitable
24 organization selected by the persons supervising the winding up.”)
25

26 The Committee tentatively decided to delete the phrase “unless otherwise provided by the

1 organic rules” in subsection (b). The import of that deletion should be revisited. The Reporters
2 did not delete the phrase because it is at odds with the ubiquitous practice of giving liquidation
3 preferences to preferred stock under traditional cooperative law; is necessary if there are to be
4 any special allocations under the economic realities test for purposes of partnership income
5 taxation, and; is clearly allowed in corporate law.
6

7 The Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act is silent as to liquidating distributions in its
8 dissolution provisions. Section 308B.721 of the Minnesota law, however, generally governs
9 distributions and allocations and it states: “The bylaws shall prescribe...”.

10 ULPA (2001) § 812 states:

11 (a) In winding up a limited partnership’s activities, the assets of the
12 limited partnership, including the contributions required by this
13 Section, must be applied to satisfy the limited partnerships
14 obligations to creditors, including, to the extent permitted by law,
15 partners that are creditors.
16

17 (b) Any surplus remaining after the limited partnership complies
18 with subsection (a) must be paid in cash as a distribution.
19

20 ***

21 In turn, ULPA Section 503 states:

22 A distribution by a limited partnership must be shared among
23 partners on the basis of the value, as stated in the required records
24 when the limited partnership decides to make the distribution, of
25 the contributions the limited partnership has received from each
26 partner.
27

28 At the October 2005 Committee meeting it was mentioned that subsection (b) would be
29 limited to a seven year look-back rule in electric cooperative law. The Comments might suggest
30 that this kind of provision is contemplated by the phrase, “unless the organic rules otherwise
31 provide.” The Reporters would like a bit more guidance on how to use this information.
32
33
34

35 **SECTION 1108. KNOWN CLAIMS AGAINST DISSOLVED LIMITED**
36 **COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

37 (a) Subject to subsection (d), a dissolved limited cooperative association may dispose of
38 the known claims against it by following the procedure in subsection (b).

1 (b) A dissolved limited cooperative association may notify its known claimants of the
2 dissolution in a record. The notice must:

3 (1) specify the information required to be included in a claim;

4 (2) provide an address to which the claim must be sent;

5 (3) state the deadline for receipt of the claim, which may not be less than 120
6 days after the date the notice is received by the claimant; and

7 (4) state that the claim will be barred if not received by the deadline.

8 (c) A claim against a dissolved limited cooperative association is barred if the
9 requirements of subsection (b) are met, and:

10 (1) the association is not notified of the claimant's claim, in a record, by the
11 specified deadline; ~~or~~

12 (2) in the case of a claim that is timely received but rejected by the dissolved
13 association, the claimant does not commence an action to enforce the claim against the
14 association within 90 days after receipt of the notice of the rejection; or

15 (3) in the case of a claim that is timely received but is neither accepted nor
16 rejected by the association within 120 days after the deadline for receipt of claims, the claimant
17 does not commence an action to enforce the claim against the association within 90 days after the
18 120 day period.

19 (d) This section does not apply to a claim based on an event occurring after the date of
20 dissolution or a liability that is contingent on that date.

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 Subsection (c)(3) is new to the 2006 Fall draft. It fills a hole.

1 The substance of this section and that of the remainder of this article is contained in both
2 corporate and LLC law. The base model for the drafting of these provisions was ULLCA (2006).

3
4 Subsection (c)(1) has been revised pursuant to Committee direction in the October 2005
5 meeting. A suggestion/question concerning the flush language of (b) was also made at that
6 meeting but no revision has yet been made because it raises the deletion of the article about
7 notice and notification.
8

9 **SECTION 1109. OTHER CLAIMS AGAINST DISSOLVED LIMITED**
10 **COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

11 (a) A dissolved limited cooperative association may publish notice of its dissolution and
12 request persons having claims against the ~~cooperative~~ association to present them in accordance
13 with the notice.

14 (b) A notice under subsection (a) must:

15 (1) be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the
16 [county] in which the dissolved limited cooperative association's principal office is located or, if
17 the association does not have a principal office it has none in this state, in the [county] in which
18 the ~~cooperative~~ association's designated office is or was last located;

19 (2) describe the information required to be contained in a claim and provide an
20 address to which the claim is to be sent; and

21 (3) state that a claim against the association is barred unless an action to enforce
22 the claim is commenced within three years after publication of the notice.

23 (c) If a dissolved limited cooperative association publishes a notice in accordance with
24 subsection (b), the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant
25 commences an action to enforce the claim against the dissolved association within three years

1 after the publication date of the notice:

2 (1) a claimant that is entitled to but did not receive notice in a record under
3 Section 1108; and

4 (2) a claimant whose claim is contingent or based on an event occurring after the
5 effective date of dissolution.

6 (d) A claim not barred under this section may be enforced:

7 (1) against the dissolved limited cooperative association, to the extent of its
8 undistributed assets; or

9 (2) if the association's assets have been distributed in connection with winding up
10 the association's activities, against a member participant or holder of financial rights to the extent
11 of that person's proportionate share of the claim or the association's assets distributed to the
12 person participant or holder of financial rights in connection with the winding up, whichever is
13 less, to the extent the person's total liability for all claims under this subsection does not exceed
14 the total amount of assets distributed to the person as part of the winding up of the association.

15 **Reporters' Note**

16 This Section is based on ULPA (2001) § 807 and ULLCA § 808. It is similar to MBCA §
17 14.07 and Re-ULLCA § 704.

18
19 Former paragraph (c)(2) was removed because the situation is now covered in new
20 subsection 1108(c) which provides for the validity of the claim if not acted on by the association.

21 22 23 **SECTION 1110. COURT PROCEEDING.**

24 (a) A dissolved limited cooperative association that has published a notice under Section
25 1109 may file an application with the court in the [county] where the ~~association's~~ principal

1 office is located for a determination of the amount and form of security to be provided for
2 payment of claims that are contingent or have not been made known to the ~~dissolved~~ association
3 or that are based on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution but that, based on
4 the facts known to the ~~dissolved~~ association, are reasonably estimated to arise after the effective
5 date of dissolution.

6 (b) Within 10 days after filing an application pursuant to subsection (a), a dissolved
7 limited cooperative association shall give notice of the proceeding to each known claimant
8 holding a contingent claim.

9 (c) The court may appoint a representative in any proceeding brought under this section
10 to represent all claimants whose identities are unknown. The reasonable fees and expenses of the
11 representative, including all reasonable expert witness fees, shall be paid by the dissolved limited
12 cooperative association.

13 (d) Provision by the dissolved limited cooperative association for security in the amount
14 and the form ordered by the court satisfies the ~~dissolved~~ association's obligations with respect to
15 claims that are contingent, have not been made known to the ~~dissolved~~ association, or are based
16 on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution, and such claims may not be enforced
17 against a member participant who received a distribution.

18 **Reporters' Note**

19 This Section is new to the February 2006 draft. It was discussed at the October 2005
20 meeting. Is "representative" the correct word choice in subsection (c)? The Associate Reporter
21 spent an inordinate amount of time looking at this issue. "Guardian ad litem" is not correct but
22 there seems to be no general known term that fits.
23

1 **SECTION 1111. ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION.**

2 (a) The [Secretary of State] may dissolve a limited cooperative association
3 administratively if the association does not:

4 (1) within 60 days after the due date pay any fee, tax, or penalty due to the
5 [Secretary of State] under this [act] or other law; or

6 (2) deliver its annual report to the [Secretary of State] as required by Section 207.

7 (b) If the [Secretary of State] determines that a ground exists for administratively
8 dissolving a limited cooperative association, the [Secretary of State] shall file a record of the
9 determination and serve the association with a copy of the record.

10 (c) If, within 60 days after service of a copy of the [Secretary of State's] determination
11 that a ground exists for dissolving a limited cooperative association, the association does not
12 correct each ground for dissolution or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the [Secretary
13 of State] that each uncorrected ground determined by the [Secretary of State] does not exist, the
14 [Secretary of State] shall administratively dissolve the association by preparing, signing, and
15 filing a declaration of dissolution that states the grounds for dissolution. The [Secretary of State]
16 shall serve the association with a copy of the declaration.

17 (d) A limited cooperative association administratively dissolved continues its existence
18 but may carry on only activities necessary to wind up its activities and liquidate its assets under
19 Section 1106 and to give ~~the~~ notice to claimants under provided in Sections 1108 and 1109.

20 (e) The administrative dissolution of a limited cooperative association does not terminate
21 the authority of its agent for service of process.

22 **Reporters' Note**

1 Source: ULLCA (2006); ULPA (2001).

2
3 The 60 day period mirrors RMBCA section 14.20 and ULLCA (2006) Section 705 .
4 This section combines ULPA (2001) sections 809 and 810.

5
6 Style Committee suggested changing “serve” to “mail.” The effect of “serve” is to mail
7 under the service of process provisions and “serve” is consistent with ULLCA (2006).
8

9 **SECTION 1112. REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE**
10 **DISSOLUTION.**

11 (a) A limited cooperative association that has been administratively dissolved may apply
12 to the [Secretary of State] for reinstatement within two years after the effective date of
13 dissolution. The application must be delivered to the [Secretary of State] for filing and state:

14 (1) the name of the association and the effective date of its administrative
15 dissolution;

16 (2) that the grounds for dissolution either did not exist or have been eliminated;
17 and

18 (3) that the association’s name satisfies the requirements of Section 109 ~~108~~.

19 (b) If the [Secretary of State] determines that an application contains the information
20 required by subsection (a) and that the information is correct, the [Secretary of State] shall:

21 (1) prepare a declaration of reinstatement that states this determination;

22 (2) sign and file the original of the declaration ~~of reinstatement~~; and

23 (3) serve the limited cooperative association with a copy of the declaration.

24 (c) When reinstatement under this section becomes effective, it relates back to and takes
25 effect as of the effective date of the administrative dissolution, and the limited cooperative

1 association may resume or continue its activities as if the administrative dissolution had never
2 occurred.

3 **Reporters' Note**

4 Source: ULPA, ULLCA, generally follows the MBCA.

5
6 The Comments need to explain the effect on third parties. It is intended, in that regard,
7 to be completely consistent with corporate and unincorporated law.

8
9 Subsection (d) was deleted in the Fall 2006 Draft because it repealed, word for word,
10 Section 1113(a) and is better placed there.
11

12 **SECTION 1113. DENIAL OF REINSTATEMENT; APPEAL.**

13 (a) If the [Secretary of State] denies a limited cooperative association's application for
14 reinstatement following administrative dissolution, the [Secretary of State] shall prepare, sign,
15 and file a notice that explains the reason or reasons for denial and serve the association with a
16 copy of the notice.

17 (b) Within 30 days after service of a notice of denial of reinstatement by the [Secretary of
18 State] under subsection (a) ~~Section 1112~~, a limited cooperative association may appeal the denial
19 by petitioning the [appropriate court] to set aside the dissolution. The petition must be served on
20 the [Secretary of State] and contain a copy of the [Secretary of State's] declaration of dissolution,
21 the ~~cooperative~~ association's application for reinstatement, and the [Secretary of State's] notice
22 of denial.

23 (c) ~~Upon receipt of a petition under subsection (a), the~~ The court may ~~summarily~~ order
24 the [Secretary of State] to reinstate the dissolved cooperative association or may take other action
25 the court considers appropriate.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 The 30 days in subsection (b) is the same as ULLCA (2006) Section 707(b). It is also
3 consistent with MBCA Section 14.23.
4

5 **SECTION 1114. STATEMENT OF DISSOLUTION.**

6 (a) A limited cooperative association that has dissolved or is about to dissolve may
7 deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing a statement of dissolution that states:

8 (1) the name of the association;

9 (2) the date the association dissolved or will dissolve; and

10 (3) any other information the association considers ~~deems~~ relevant.

11 (b) A person has notice of a limited cooperative association's dissolution on the later of:

12 (1) 90 days after a statement of dissolution is filed; or

13 (2) the effective date stated in the statement of dissolution, ~~whichever is later.~~

14 **Reporters' Note**

15 Source: ULLCA, RUPA.

16
17 This Section and this Note, should be read in conjunction with Section 1115 and its Note.
18 The Reporters added this Section on their own motion for discussion at the February 2006
19 meeting because the prior draft and note were inconsistent and, worse, affirmatively confusing.
20 The discussion at the meeting reached an unenthusiastic consensus to adopt it for the draft. Both
21 this Section and Section 1115 are elective filings. ULLCA (2001) has an elective statement of
22 termination but not of dissolution.
23

24 Under modern corporate law (*e.g.*, MBCA) the articles of dissolution are mandatory in
25 that the articles are "the only filing required for voluntary dissolution." Official Comment,
26 MBCA §14.03. "Required," however, is misleading because if a corporation were voluntarily
27 dissolved but articles were not filed the secretary of state would (eventually) administratively
28 dissolve the corporation.
29

30 Further, the comments to that Section state:
31

1 The act of filing the articles of dissolution makes the decision to
2 dissolve the corporation a matter of public record and establishes
3 the time when the corporation must begin the process of winding
4 up and cease carrying on its business except to the extent necessary
5 to wind up.
6

7 The limited partnership scheme is different because the certificate of limited partnership
8 is not a governing document but purely a notice one (like the articles of organization in most
9 LLC Acts). As such, the appropriate way to give notice is in an amendment to the certificate
10 itself. Such an amendment is required under ULPA when a third party is appointed to wind-up
11 the partnership. Where a third party is not appointed, a fair reading of Section 202, at least
12 allows an amendment upon dissolution. Section 202 states:
13

14 (c) A general partner that knows that any information in a filed
15 certificate of limited partnership was false when the certificate was
16 filed or has become false due to changed circumstances shall
17 promptly:

18 (1) cause the certificate to be amended; or

19 (2) if appropriate, deliver to the [Secretary of State] for
20 filing a statement of change pursuant to Section 115 or a statement
21 of correction pursuant to Section 207.
22

23 The problem is this: the certificate is not required to state that it is “not dissolved.” Thus, it is
24 not required to file a notice document upon dissolution under ULPA though a certificate “may
25 also contain any other matters...”.
26
27

28 **SECTION 1115. STATEMENT OF TERMINATION.**

29 (a) A dissolved limited cooperative association that has completed winding up may
30 deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing a statement of termination that states:

31 (1) the name of the association; ~~and~~

32 (2) the date of filing of its initial articles of organization; and ;

33 (3) the association is terminated.

34 (b) The filing of a statement of termination does not itself terminate the limited
35 cooperative association.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 This is consistent with the MBCA but in the MBCA the statement of dissolution is
3 required. In ULPA (2001), there is no statement of dissolution, rather the certificate is amended.
4 Under ULPA (2001) these are basically notice filings. There is a very real question concerning
5 the legal effect of the statement of termination.
6

7 This Section was formerly numbered Section 207. Subsection (b) is new to the February
8 2006 draft.
9

10 There was discussion at the 2004 annual meeting suggesting that the statement of
11 termination was a throwback to older versions of the MBCA and that this Act should follow the
12 current MBCA provisions for filing the articles of dissolution. Because this is an unincorporated
13 entity, however, it (now at least) follows ULPA (2001). No filing is required under this
14 provision nor in this article requiring a filing for dissolution or winding-up. This statement is
15 simply an elective statement that may be filed. The November 2004 draft more closely followed
16 ULLCA (1996).
17

18 Termination is a very different creature than dissolution. Upon termination the entity,
19 and its liability shield, ends.
20

21 Several questions should be addressed by the Committee:
22

23 (1) a prior draft included a third item in the list providing for the addition of any
24 other information;
25

26 (2) the placement of this Section (and Section 1114) here rather than in Article 2;
27 and, most importantly
28

29 (3) the effect of filing such a statement. For example, ULPA (2001) expressly
30 provides (Section 103) for the effect of its filing (*e.g.*, constructive notice? ULPA says it is after
31 it has been filed for 90 days). *See* Section 1114. The latter is an issue in at least two practical
32 contexts. The first is opinion letter drafting and the experience with statements of authority
33 under RUPA. The second is whether its filing would have any bearing on the “certificate of good
34 standing” and require the secretary of state to search its records.

1 [ARTICLE] 12}

2 ACTIONS BY MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS

3
4 Reporters' Preliminary Note to Article 12

5 **This entire article is bracketed and a legislative note is to be added advising**
6 **adopting jurisdictions that the substantive topic of this article, as well as direct actions, are**
7 **contained in some states' civil procedure law.**
8

9 (1) Placement of Derivative Sections. The Reporters were requested to conduct
10 preliminary research regarding the comparative placement of derivative action within state
11 statutory schemes. According to a secondary source approximately eleven states place rules on
12 derivative proceedings in their rules of civil procedure. In corporate law about 30 states place
13 their derivative "rules" in the corporate statute (16 of those states adopted the MBCA
14 provisions). Maryland does not, apparently, deal with derivative actions by statute. The balance,
15 according to the source, have some combination or expressly cross-reference the civil procedure
16 rules.
17

18 (2) Additional Background-Direct v. Derivative. Case law about the distinction is almost
19 entirely from corporate law though some law is now developing under LLC statutes. Professor
20 Kleinberger gave a CLE presentation about derivative actions in the context of LLCs at the
21 Spring 2005 meeting of the ABA Business Section. Therein he provided several observations
22 that apply to this project:
23

24 (a) Analysis of the operation of the rules must take into account the closely-held
25 versus public ownership distinction;

26 (b) Courts follow three general approaches ("direct harm," "special injury," "duty
27 owed/rights infringed"); and,

28 (c) The ALI Principles of Corporate governance suggest there be no distinction
29 between direct and derivative actions in closely-held corporations.
30

31 In the LLC context he suggested that courts follow the "direct harm" approach
32 supplemental by a "purpose and effect" exception in closely-held LLCs where the majority is
33 using the entity to abuse a particular minority owner. Both ULPA (2001) and "Re-ULLCA"
34 adopt the "direct harm" approach.
35

36 (3) Court Approval for Discontinuance. The Reporters were also requested to conduct
37 preliminary research concerning court approval of discontinuance or settlement of derivative
38 proceedings. The MBCA and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure require such approval.
39 Section 7.45 of the RMBCA reads as follows:

1 A derivative proceeding may not be discontinued or settled without
2 the court's approval. If the court determines that a proposed
3 discontinuance or settlement will substantially affect the interests
4 of the corporation's shareholders or a class of shareholders, the
5 court shall direct that notice be given to the shareholders affected.
6

7 The Conference products do not address court supervision of settlement (ULLCA, Re-
8 ULLCA current draft, ULPA, UPA). It was decided by the Committee at its Spring 2006
9 meeting to include court approval of settlements. See Section 1205.
10

11 (4) It is anticipated that much of this Article will be bracketed and/or the subject of a
12 legislative note because several states' provisions on derivative proceedings, generally, are
13 contained in the statute or rules governing civil procedure. For example, a secondary source lists
14 the following states as including derivative proceedings in the state's rules of civil procedure:
15 Alabama, District of Columbia, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio,
16 Oklahoma, South Dakota, and South Carolina. According to the same secondary source, other
17 states' ~~states~~ *corporate* acts sometimes reference their rules of civil procedure, *see, e.g.*,
18 California, New York, Illinois.
19

20 ~~SECTION 1201. DIRECT ACTION BY PARTICIPANT.~~

21 ~~(a) Subject to subsection (b), a participant may maintain a direct action against a~~
22 ~~cooperative association, an officer, or a director, to enforce the rights and otherwise protect the~~
23 ~~interests of the participant, including rights and interests under the organic rules or organic law.~~

24 ~~(b) A participant maintaining a direct action under this section, must plead and prove an~~
25 ~~injury or threatened injury that is not solely the result of an injury suffered or threatened to be~~
26 ~~suffered by the cooperative association.~~

27 **Reporters' Note**

28 Source: ~~§ 1001 ULPA (2001) (modified) and "Re-ULLCA" (May 15, 2005, Draft).~~ The
29 February 2006 Draft deleted a subsection (c) that dealt with an accounting action. The deletion
30 more closely follows LLC and traditional cooperative law than partnership law. The reference to
31 accounting was ripe for deletion because no Committee discussion suggested an accounting
32 action should be expressed as a statutory matter. Does this Draft's "Supplemental Principles"
33 adequately cover this? A prior draft included a direct right to sue another member based on
34 unincorporated entity law (in former section 1101). Directors are included under this section to

1 Source: § 1002 ULPA (2001). Section 1102 modifies the ULPA (2001) formulation by
2 adding the requirement that the member adequately represents the interests of the cooperative; by
3 adding a 90 day time period after demand before suit may be commenced; and by deleting
4 excused demand because of futility. The 90 day period may be excused if the waiting period
5 would result in irreparable harm to the cooperative under subsection 1202(2). These
6 modifications generally follow the law of the Model Business Corporations Act.

7
8 ~~Is 90 days too long?; but see the Reporters' Note following section 1204. Oregon uses 20~~
9 ~~days. See section 1104. This draft does not contain a futility exception. Subsection (1) formerly~~
10 ~~required a writing, the Committee discussed replacing it with record, this draft goes back to the~~
11 ~~language in ULPA (2001). For purposes of comparison, a recent draft in the "Re-ULLCA"~~
12 ~~project includes "futility" (as does ULPA) and is silent as to the time limit. Neither does it~~
13 ~~include "adequately represents the interests" in the flush language.~~

14
15 ~~The Committee has discussed (briefly) the inclusion of a provision about special litigation~~
16 ~~committees. To date the Committee is satisfied that the flexibility for Committees and other~~
17 ~~appointments elsewhere in the draft adequately address the issue. The Minnesota Cooperative~~
18 ~~Association Act has a specific provision on the topic as does the RMBCA. A recent draft of~~
19 ~~"Re-ULLCA" included such a provision for discussion purposes only. The discussion draft~~
20 ~~follows the corporate formulation but note that it specifically addresses the standard to be used~~
21 ~~for the Committee's business judgment:~~

22
23 ~~Section 905. SPECIAL LITIGATION COMMITTEE.~~

24 ~~(a) When a limited liability company is named as a party in~~
25 ~~a derivative proceeding, the limited liability company may appoint~~
26 ~~a special litigation committee to investigate claims asserted in the~~
27 ~~proceeding and determine whether pursuing the proceeding is in~~
28 ~~the best interests of the limited liability company. If the limited~~
29 ~~liability company appoints a special litigation committee, on~~
30 ~~motion by the committee, made in the name of the limited liability~~
31 ~~company, the court shall stay discovery for the amount of time~~
32 ~~reasonably necessary to permit the committee to make its~~
33 ~~investigation.~~

34 ~~(b) A special litigation committee may be composed of one~~
35 ~~or more persons, who may, but need not be, members. A special~~
36 ~~litigation committee may be appointed:~~

37 ~~(1) in a member-managed limited liability company;~~
38 ~~by the consent of a majority of those members who are not named~~
39 ~~as defendants in the proceeding and, if there are none, by a~~
40 ~~majority of members; and~~

41 ~~(2) in a manager-managed limited liability~~
42 ~~company, by:~~

43 ~~(A) a majority of those managers that are not~~

1 named as defendants in the proceeding; and
2 (B) if there are none, by a majority of
3 members that are not named as defendants in the proceeding; and
4 (C) if there are none, by a majority of the
5 managers.

6 (c) After appropriate investigation, a special litigation
7 committee may determine that it is in the best interests of the
8 limited liability company that the proceeding:

- 9 (1) continue under the control of the plaintiff;
10 (2) continue under the control of the special
11 litigation committee;
12 (3) be settled on terms determined by the special
13 litigation committee; or
14 (4) be dismissed.

15 (d) After making a determination under subsection (c), the
16 special litigation shall file with the court a statement of its
17 determination and its report supporting its determination, giving
18 notice to the plaintiff. The court shall determine whether the
19 special litigation committee conducted its investigation and made
20 its recommendation in good faith and with reasonable care, with
21 the special litigation committee having the burden of proof. If the
22 court finds that the special litigation committee acted in good faith
23 and with reasonable care, the court shall adopt and enforce the
24 determination of the special litigation committee.
25

26 At the direction of the Committee the Reporters referenced the Revised Model Nonprofit
27 Corporation Act: it contains no reference to time periods except the complainant must notify the
28 attorney general within ten days of filing the complaint if it “involves a public benefit
29 corporation or assets held in a charitable trust by a mutual benefit corporation.” Moreover, the
30 Model Nonprofit Act deals with the demand as follows:

31
32 A complaint in a proceeding brought in the right of a corporation
33 must be verified and alleged with particularity the demand made, if
34 any, to obtain action by the directors and either why the
35 complainants could not obtain the action or why they did not make
36 the demand. If a demand for action was made and the
37 corporation’s investigation of the demand is in progress when the
38 proceeding is filed, the court may stay the suit until the
39 investigation is completed.
40

41 MNCA §6.30(c):

42
43 The Nonprofit Corporation Act also provides a threshold standing requirement of the

1 lesser of “five percent or more of the voting power or by fifty members.” Any director also has
2 standing (§6.30(a)).
3
4

5 **SECTION 1202 ~~1203~~. PROPER PLAINTIFF.**

6 (a) A derivative action to enforce a right of a limited cooperative association may be
7 maintained only by a person that is a member participant at the time the action is commenced;
8 and:

9 (1) was a member participant when the conduct giving rise to the action occurred;

10 or

11 (2) whose status as a member participant or transferee of a member
12 participant devolved upon the person by operation of law from a person that was a member
13 participant at the time of the conduct.

14 (b) If the sole plaintiff in a derivative action dies while the action is pending, the court
15 may permit another member participant to be substituted as plaintiff.

16 **Reporters’ Note**

17 Subsection (b) is new to the Fall 2006 draft and follows ULLCA II as approved by the
18 Conference Summer 2006.

19
20 Source: § 1003 ULPA (2001). Query whether the requirement that the person bringing a
21 suit be a member at the time of commencement is advisable or necessary. Most corporate
22 statutes so provide. It is consistent with other conference products. A Comment or Legislative
23 Note should direct states to determine the placement of derivative actions within their own codes.
24 South Dakota’s derivative procedures, for example, appear in it’s code of civil procedure. The
25 South Dakota provision and, some other corporate codes, require that the plaintiff “fairly
26 represents” the interest of the corporation. This draft does as well.
27

28 The words “or transferee of a participant” were added by the Reporters without express
29 direction by the Committee for purposes of discussion only. The status of “participant” does not
30 devolve upon a person by operation of law under the default rules of the 2006 Annual Meeting
31 Draft.

1 The Committee requested alternative suggestions for the occurrence and concurrent
2 ownership requirements. The ALI Principles of Corporate Governance provide more specific
3 guidelines. Section § 7.02(a) (particularly subsection (1)) states:
4

5 (a) A holder [§ 1.22] of an equity security [§ 1.20] has standing to
6 commence and maintain a derivative action if the holder:

7 (1) Acquired the entity security either (A) before the
8 material facts relating to the alleged wrong were publicly disclosed
9 or were known by, or specifically communicated to, the holder, or
10 (B) by devolution of law, directly or indirectly, from a prior holder
11 who acquired the security as described in the preceding Clause (A);

12 (2) Continues to hold the equity security until the time of
13 judgment, unless the failure to do so is the result of corporate
14 action in which the holder did not acquiesce, and either (A) the
15 derivative action was commenced prior to the corporate action
16 terminating the holder's status, or (B) the court finds that the
17 holder is better able to represent the interests of the shareholders
18 than any other holder who has brought suit;

19 (3) Has complied with the demand requirement of § 7.03
20 (Exhaustion of Intracorporate Remedies: The Demand Rule) or
21 was excused by its terms; and

22 (4) Is able to represent fairly and adequately the interests of
23 the shareholders.
24

25 The California Corporate Code is somewhat similar but adds more "procedure." Section
26 800(b)(1) specifically addresses the issue as follows:
27

28 (b) No action may be instituted or maintained in right of any
29 domestic or foreign corporation by any holder of shares of voting
30 trust certificates of the corporation unless both of the following
31 conditions exist:

32 (1) The plaintiff alleges in the complaint that plaintiff was a
33 shareholder, of record or beneficially, or the holder of voting trust
34 certificates at the time of the transaction or any part thereof of
35 which plaintiff complains or that plaintiff's shares or voting trust
36 certificates thereafter devolved upon plaintiff by operation of law
37 from a holder who was a holder at the time of the transaction or
38 any part thereof complained of; provided, that any shareholder who
39 does not meet these requirements may nevertheless be allowed in
40 the discretion of the court to maintain the action on a preliminary
41 showing to and determination by the court, by motion and after a
42 hearing, at which the court shall consider such evidence, by
43 affidavit or testimony, as it deems material, that (i) there is a strong

1 prima facie case in favor of the claim asserted on behalf of the
2 corporation, (ii) no other similar action has been or is likely to be
3 instituted, (iii) the plaintiff acquired the shares before there was
4 disclosure to the public or to the plaintiff of the wrongdoing of
5 which plaintiff complains, (iv) unless the action can be maintained
6 the defendant may retain a gain derived from defendant's willful
7 breach of a fiduciary duty, and (v) the requested relief will not
8 result in unjust enrichment of the corporation or any shareholder of
9 the corporation; and...

10
11 **SECTION ~~1203~~ 1204. PLEADING.** In a derivative action, the complaint must state
12 with particularity:

13 (1) the date and content of the plaintiff's demand and the limited cooperative
14 association's response to the demand;

15 (2) if 90 days have not expired since the demand, how irreparable injury to the
16 association would result by waiting for the expiration of 90 days; or

17 (3) if the association agreed to bring an action demanded under Section 1202(2)
18 ~~1202(3)(a)~~, that the action has not been brought within a reasonable time.

19 **SECTION ~~1204~~ 1205. COURT APPROVAL FOR DISCONTINUANCE OR**
20 **SETTLEMENT.** A derivative action to enforce a right of a limited cooperative association may
21 not be discontinued or settled without the [appropriate court's] approval.

22 **Reporters' Note**

23 Source: RMBCA § 7.45.

24 The RMBCA provision also requires notice be given shareholders under certain
25 circumstances. See Preliminary Note to Article 12, *supra*. The additional corporate language is
26 thought unnecessary.

1 [ARTICLE] 13

2 FOREIGN COOPERATIVES

3
4 SECTION 1301. GOVERNING LAW.

5 (a) The law of the state or other jurisdiction under which a foreign cooperative is
6 organized governs relations among the members ~~participants~~ of the foreign cooperative and
7 between the members ~~participants~~ and the foreign cooperative.

8 (b) A foreign cooperative may not be denied a certificate of authority by reason of any
9 difference between the laws of the jurisdiction under which the foreign cooperative is organized
10 and the law of this state.

11 (c) A certificate of authority does not authorize a foreign cooperative to engage in any
12 activity or exercise any power that a limited cooperative association may not engage in or
13 exercise in this state.

14 Reporters' Note

15 Style has questioned the “in a like manner” phrase. It is consistent with both ULLCA II
16 and RULPA (2001). The Reporters also engaged in an interim “discussion” about use of the
17 term “business” (as opposed to, *e.g.*, “activities”). The Revised Model Nonprofit Corp Act uses
18 “business” and Baarda uses “business” in his treatise (circa 1985) on cooperatives. So do the
19 cooperative acts, *e.g.*, of South Dakota and Colorado. A concern is unintended consequences.
20 Thus, no change appears in this draft.

21
22 This article needs examination by the Committee with respect to whether any type of
23 cooperative organization organized in another state should be permitted to obtain a certificate of
24 authority under this act. “Foreign cooperative” is defined in this draft as a “foreign entity [not a
25 domestic entity] organized under a law *similar* to this [act] in another jurisdiction” [emphasis
26 supplied]. How “similar” is “similar”? A number of states have specialized cooperative statutes,
27 *e.g.*, cooperatives for agriculture, cooperatives for rural power, cooperatives for housing, but do
28 not have a general cooperative statute. If a traditional cooperative formed in a state that permits
29 cooperatives to be organized for many purposes seeks to qualify in a state with only specialized

1 statutes, the cooperative will need to qualify as a for profit or non-profit corporation that does not
2 fit the cooperative “mold.” Should this act offer an alternative? A traditional cooperative could
3 be organized under this act for any purpose except that will be specifically excluded. In this
4 draft, the Reporters have assumed “similar” means a cooperative association of a type formed
5 under a statute that would clearly be seen as “similar” to this act meaning the same kind of
6 statute. This article would currently have limited use by cooperative organizations organized in
7 other states unless organized under an act which is essentially the same as this one, currently
8 Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa, Tennessee and Wisconsin.
9

10 ~~In keeping with the change of terminology from “member” to “participant” throughout~~
11 ~~this draft, the terminology has been changed in this article. Is that appropriate in this article? If~~
12 ~~another state uses “member” could it have an adverse effect on attempting to qualify under this~~
13 ~~act?~~
14

15 **SECTION 1302. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.**

16 (a) A foreign cooperative may apply for a certificate of authority to transact business in
17 this state by delivering an application to the [Secretary of State] for filing. The application must
18 state:

19 (1) the name of the foreign cooperative and, if the name does not comply with
20 Section ~~109~~ 108, an alternative name adopted pursuant to Section 1305;

21 (2) the name of the state or other jurisdiction under whose law the foreign
22 cooperative is organized;

23 (3) the street and mailing addresses of the principal ~~cooperative’s~~ designated
24 office and, if the laws of the jurisdiction under which the foreign cooperative is organized require
25 the foreign cooperative to maintain another ~~an other~~ office in that jurisdiction, the street and
26 mailing addresses of the required office;

27 (4) the name and street and mailing addresses of the foreign cooperative’s initial
28 agent for service of process in this state; ~~and~~

1 (5) the street and mailing addresses of a designated office in this state which may
2 be the addresses of the agent for service of process in this state; and

3 (65) the name and street and mailing addresses of each of the foreign
4 cooperative's current directors and officers.

5 (b) A foreign cooperative shall deliver with a completed application under subsection (a)
6 a certificate of good standing [or existence] or a similar record signed by the [Secretary of State]
7 or other official having custody of the cooperative's publicly filed records in the state or other
8 jurisdiction under whose law the foreign cooperative is organized.

9 **SECTION 1303. ACTIVITIES NOT CONSTITUTING TRANSACTING**
10 **BUSINESS.**

11 (a) Activities of a foreign cooperative which do not constitute transacting business in this
12 state under this [article] include:

13 (1) maintaining, defending, and settling an action or proceeding;

14 (2) holding meetings of the foreign cooperative's members ~~its participants~~ or
15 carrying on any other activity concerning its internal affairs;

16 (3) maintaining accounts in financial institutions;

17 (4) maintaining offices or agencies for the transfer, exchange, and registration of
18 the foreign cooperative's own securities or maintaining trustees or depositories with respect to
19 those securities;

20 (5) selling through independent contractors;

21 (6) soliciting or obtaining orders, whether by mail or electronic means, through
22 employees, agents, or otherwise, if the orders require acceptance outside this state before they

1 become contracts;

2 (7) creating or acquiring indebtedness, mortgages, or security interests in real or
3 personal property;

4 (8) securing or collecting debts or enforcing mortgages or other security interests
5 in property securing the debts, and holding, protecting, and maintaining property so acquired;

6 (9) conducting an isolated transaction that is completed within 30 days and is not
7 one in the course of similar transactions ~~of a like manner~~; and

8 (10) transacting business in interstate commerce.

9 (b) For purposes of this [article], the ownership in this state of income-producing real
10 property or tangible personal property, other than property excluded under subsection (a),
11 constitutes transacting business in this state.

12 (c) This section does not apply in determining the contacts or activities that may subject a
13 foreign cooperative to service of process, taxation, or regulation under any law of this state, other
14 than this [act].

15 **Reporters' Note**

16 Source: ULPA (2001) § 903. The Style Committee has asked whether “of a like manner”
17 in subsection (a)(9) is surplusage.
18

19 **SECTION 1304. FILING OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.** Unless the
20 [Secretary of State] determines that an application for a certificate of authority does not comply
21 with the filing requirements of this [act], the [Secretary of State], upon payment of all filing fees,
22 shall file the application, prepare, sign, and file a certificate of authority to transact business in
23 this state, and send a copy of the filed certificate, together with a receipt for the fees, to the

1 foreign cooperative or its representative.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3
4 Source: ULPA (2001) § 904. "Send" is in other NCCUSL products.
5

6 **SECTION 1305. NONCOMPLYING NAME OF FOREIGN COOPERATIVE.**

7 (a) A foreign cooperative whose name does not comply with Section 109 ~~108~~ may not
8 obtain a certificate of authority until it adopts, for the purpose of transacting business in this
9 state, an alternative name that complies with Section 109 ~~110~~. A foreign cooperative that adopts
10 an alternative name under this subsection and then obtains a certificate of authority with that
11 name need not comply with [fictitious or assumed name statute]. After obtaining a certificate of
12 authority with an alternative name, a foreign cooperative's business in this state must be
13 transacted under that name unless the foreign cooperative is authorized under [fictitious name
14 statute] to transact business in this state under another name.

15 (b) If a foreign cooperative authorized to transact business in this state changes its name
16 to one that does not comply with Section 109 ~~108~~, it may not thereafter transact business in this
17 state until it complies with subsection (a) and obtains an amended certificate of authority.

18 **Reporters' Note**

19
20 Source: ULPA (2001) § 905.
21

22 **SECTION 1306. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY.**

23 (a) A certificate of authority of a foreign cooperative to transact business in this state
24 may be revoked by the [Secretary of State] in the manner provided in subsection ~~subsections~~ (b)
25 ~~and (c)~~ if the foreign cooperative does not:

1 (1) pay, within 60 days after the due date, any fee, tax, or penalty due to the
2 [Secretary of State] under this [act] or law of this state other than this [act];

3 (2) deliver, within 60 days after the due date, its annual report required under
4 Section 207;

5 (3) appoint and maintain an agent for service of process as required by Section
6 116; or

7 (4) deliver for filing a statement of change under Section 117 within 30 days after
8 a change has occurred in the name or address of the agent.

9 (b) To revoke a certificate of authority of a foreign cooperative to transact business in
10 this state, the [Secretary of State] must prepare, sign, and file a notice of revocation and send a
11 copy to the foreign cooperative's registered agent for service of process in this state or, if the
12 foreign cooperative does not appoint and maintain an agent for service of process in this state, to
13 the cooperative's principal ~~designated~~ office. The notice must state:

14 (1) the revocation's effective date, which must be at least 60 days after the date
15 the [Secretary of State] sends the copy; and

16 (2) the foreign cooperative's noncompliance under ~~with~~ subsection (a) which is
17 the reason for the revocation.

18 (c) The authority of a foreign cooperative to transact business in this state ceases on the
19 effective date of the notice of revocation unless before that date the foreign cooperative cures
20 each failure to comply under ~~with~~ subsection (a) stated in the notice. If the foreign cooperative
21 cures the failures, the [Secretary of State] shall so indicate on the filed notice.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2
3 Source: ULPA (2001) § 906.
4
5

6 **SECTION 1307. CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY;**
7 **EFFECT OF FAILURE TO HAVE CERTIFICATE.**

8 (a) To cancel its certificate of authority to transact business in this state, a foreign
9 cooperative must deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing a notice of cancellation. The
10 certificate is canceled when the notice becomes effective under Section 203.

11 (b) A foreign cooperative transacting business in this state may not maintain an action or
12 proceeding in this state unless it has a certificate of authority to transact business in this state.

13 (c) The failure of a foreign cooperative to have a certificate of authority to transact
14 business in this state does not impair the validity of a contract or act of the foreign cooperative or
15 prevent the foreign cooperative from defending an action or proceeding in this state.

16 (d) A member participant of a foreign cooperative is not liable for the obligations of the
17 foreign cooperative solely by reason of the foreign cooperative's having transacted business in
18 this state without a certificate of authority.

19 (e) If a foreign cooperative transacts business in this state without a certificate of
20 authority or cancels its certificate of authority, it appoints the [Secretary of State] as its agent for
21 service of process for action arising out of the transaction of business in this state.

22 **Reporters' Note**

23 Source: ULPA (2001) § 907.
24
25
26

1 [ARTICLE] 14

2 AMENDMENT OF ORGANIC RULES

3
4 Preliminary Reporters' Note to Article 14

5 As in other articles, this draft now attempts a modified "class voting" system. *See e.g.*
6 Section 1405.
7

8 SECTION 1401. AUTHORITY TO AMEND ORGANIC RULES.

9 (a) A limited cooperative association may amend its organic rules under this [article].

10 (b) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a member ~~A participant~~ does not have a
11 vested property right resulting from any provision in the organic rules, including provisions
12 relating to management, control, capital structure, distribution, entitlement, purpose, or duration
13 of the limited cooperative association. ~~This subsection does not apply to contract rights~~
14 ~~independent of the organic rules nor to contract rights that may be [part of] included within or~~
15 ~~evidenced by the organic rules such as those relating to goods or services provided to, or received~~
16 ~~from the cooperative association [in the normal course of [business]] or particular contractual~~
17 ~~rights with respect to obligations concerning [intangibles] [intangible property].~~

18 Reporters' Note

19 Best practices under this act would probably be to keep any marketing contracts outside
20 the organic rules.
21

22 This article attempts to consolidate the amendment and restatement procedures for both
23 the articles of organization and bylaws. This section simply grants a general authority to amend.
24 Subsection (b) is in the MBCA in subsection 10.01(b) and is the analogue of the effect of a
25 change or amendment of underlying law provided in Section 104. *See* Tenn. Proc. Corp. Law
26 §43-38-401 ~~§43-36-401~~. Concerning subsection (b): Do cooperatives sometimes have marketing
27 contract provisions in by-laws? If so, is subsection (b) a problem? It doesn't seem to cause a

1 problem in corporate law even though there may be financial contract rights set forth therein
2 (*e.g.*, preferred dividends). The Committee has yet to address whether this is a default or
3 mandatory provision. This issue is an important one because under the corporate law of most
4 states the directors alone may amend the by-laws. This draft more closely follows LLC law. It is
5 also consistent with the Oregon Cooperative Act (§ 62.135).
6

7 Note, best practice is to have the marketing contract outside your organic rules. *See*
8 section on separate voting groups specially affected by a proposed amendment. Idea: Replace
9 last words of (b) with: “to other obligations.”
10

11 **SECTION 1402. NOTICE AND ACTION ON AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF**
12 **ORGANIZATION OR BYLAWS.** To amend its organic rules:

13 (1) either:

14 (A) a majority of the association’s board of directors, or a greater percentage if
15 required by the ~~association’s~~ organic rules, must approve the proposed amendment; or

16 (B) the board of directors must have received a petition in a record that:

17 (i) proposes an amendment; and

18 (ii) is signed ~~authenticated~~ by at least 10 ~~20~~ percent of the patron members
19 ~~participants~~ or 10 ~~20~~ percent of the investor members ~~participants~~; and

20 (2) the board of directors must call a special members’ meeting ~~of participants~~ to
21 consider the amendment, to be held within 90 days following approval of the proposed
22 amendment by the board or receipt by the board of a petition in accordance with paragraph
23 (1)(B), and must mail or otherwise transmit or deliver in a record to each member ~~participant~~:

24 (A) the proposed amendment, or a summary of the proposed amendment and a
25 statement of the manner in which a copy of the amendment in a record may be reasonably
26 obtained by a member ~~participant~~;

1 (B) a recommendation that the members ~~participants~~ approve the amendment, or
2 if the board determines that because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances, ~~that~~ it
3 should not make a favorable recommendation, the basis for that determination;

4 (C) a statement of any condition of the board's submission of the amendment to
5 the members ~~participants~~; and

6 (D) ~~give~~ notice of the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be
7 considered, which must be given in the same manner as notice for a special members'
8 ~~participants'~~ meeting.

9 **Reporters' Note**

10 This section is consistent with the article on conversion, merger or consolidation.
11 Subsection (2)(D) has been revised because, the annual meeting does not require detailed notice
12 of what is to be considered.
13

14 **SECTION 1403. METHOD OF VOTING ON AMENDMENT OF ORGANIC**

15 **RULES.** Members ~~Participants~~ may vote on a proposed amendment to the organic rules ~~of a~~
16 ~~cooperative association~~ as provided in Section 415.

17 **Reporters' Note**

18 This section is derived from Colorado section 7-55-110. The known inconsistency
19 concerning proxies in a prior draft, the Reporters believe, has been fixed in the February 2006
20 draft with the possible exception of section 113(2) ("power of attorney"). Under this draft
21 proxies are not allowed. That is a major policy decision that the Committee has only tentatively
22 made. The Committee needs to reach resolution of this policy issue.
23

24 **SECTION 1404. CHANGE TO AMENDMENT OF ORGANIC RULES AT** 25 **MEETING.**

26 (a) A substantive change to a proposed amendment of the organic rules may not be made

1 at the members' participants' meeting at which a vote on the amendment occurs.

2 (b) Any change in an the amendment to the organic rules ~~of a cooperative association~~ at a
3 meeting permitted by subsection (a) need not be separately voted upon by the board of directors.

4 (c) A vote to adopt a change to a proposed amendment to the organic rules permitted by
5 subsection (a) must be the same vote required to pass a proposed amendment.

6 **Reporters' Note**

7
8 At the November 2004 meeting the term "germane" was suggested instead of
9 "substantive" in subsection (a). Is subsection (b) clear? This Section received comment from the
10 floor at the 2005 Annual Meeting. A commissioner stated that Robert's Rules of Order should
11 take care of this and queried about "substitute amendments." In response to the latter comment
12 the February 2006 draft broadens the language slightly from "amendment to amendment" to
13 "change."
14

15 **SECTION 1405. ~~RESERVED: VOTING BY DISTRICT, OR CLASS, OR~~** 16 **VOTING GROUP.**

17 (a) In addition to the approval required under Section 1406; if the organic rules provide
18 for voting by district, class, or if there are one ore more identifiable voting groups that a proposed
19 amendment would affect differently from other members with respect to matters identified in
20 Section 1406(c)(1) through (5), approval of the amendment to the organic rules requires the same
21 quantum of votes of the members of that district, class, or voting group as required in Section
22 1406.

23 (b) If members in two or more districts or classes of members entitled to vote separately
24 under subsection (a) and the amendment would affect the members in the districts or classes in
25 the same or a substantially similar way, the districts or classes of members affected must vote as
26 a single voting group unless the organic rules otherwise provide for separate voting.

1 **Reporters' Note**

2 The text of this section has been deleted consistent with the operative effect of
3 Committee direction on other provisions pending final discussion by the Committee. The
4 question that must be finally decided is whether a formal district or class of participants, or a
5 group substantially affected in a material negative way, by an amendment should have a veto
6 power.
7

8 **SECTION 1406. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT.**

9 (a) Subject to Section 1405:

10 (1) unless ~~Unless~~ the organic rules otherwise provide, an amendment to the
11 articles of organization ~~of a cooperative association~~ must be approved by at least a two-thirds of
12 the vote of all participants ~~voting power of all members present~~ at a special members' the
13 meeting called under Section 1402; and :

14 (2) if ~~if~~ the limited cooperative association has investor members, ~~participants~~ at
15 least one-half of the votes cast by patron members ~~are participants~~ must be in the affirmative, but
16 the organic rules may require ~~provide for~~ a larger affirmative vote by patron members
17 participants.

18 (b) Subject to Section 1405 and subsection (c):

19 (1) unless ~~Unless~~ the organic rules otherwise provide, an amendment to the
20 bylaws ~~of a cooperative association~~ must be approved by at least a majority vote of the voting
21 power of all members ~~participants voting present~~ at a special members' the meeting called under
22 Section 1402.

23 (2) If ~~if~~ a limited cooperative association has ~~there are~~ investor members
24 participants at least one-half of the votes cast by patron members ~~participants~~ must be in the

1 affirmative, but the organic rules may require ~~provide~~ for a larger affirmative vote by patron
2 members ~~participants~~.

3 (c) The vote required under subsection (a) is required to amend bylaws if the proposed
4 amendment modifies: An amendment to the bylaws of a cooperative association shall be the
5 same as provided in subsection (a) for any amendment modifying:

6 (1) the equity capital structure of the limited cooperative association, including
7 the rights of the association's members to share in profits or distributions, the relative rights,
8 preferences, and restrictions granted to or imposed upon one or more districts, classes ~~any group~~
9 ~~or class~~ voting groups of similarly situated members; of participants, and the rights of the
10 ~~cooperative association's participants to share in profits or distributions;~~

11 (2) the transferability of members' interests;

12 (3) the manner or method of allocation of profits or losses among members;

13 (4) the quorum for a meeting and rights of voting and governance not including
14 the modification of district boundaries which may, unless otherwise provided in the organic
15 rules, be determined by the board of directors; or

16 (5) unless otherwise provided in the organic rules, the terms for admission of
17 new ~~members.~~ participants;

18 (3) ~~the quorum for a meeting and rights of voting and governance;~~

19 (4) ~~the transferability of participants' interests; or~~

20 (5) ~~the manner or method of allocation of profits or losses among participants.~~

21 (d) Articles of organization may:

22 (1) reduce the quantum of voting power required under subsection (a)(1) to be

1 voted affirmatively for amendment of the articles of organization to not less than a majority vote
2 of members; and

3 (2) delegate amendment of the bylaws in whole or in part to the board of directors,
4 with or without member approval, subject to subsection (e), except for amendments concerning
5 matters described in subsections (c)(1) through (5).

6 (e) Amendments to the bylaws concerning matters described in subsections (e)(1) through
7 (5) must be made by members as provided for in amendments to the articles of incorporation in
8 subsection (a).

9 (f) If the articles of organization delegate amendment of bylaws to the board of directors
10 under subsection (d)(2), the board must provide a description of the amendment to the members
11 in a record within 120 days after the amendment of the bylaws. The description may be provided
12 at the next annual meeting of members if the meeting is held within the 120-day period.

13 **Reporters' Note**

14 The reference to voting power in subsection (a)(1) is intended to pick up district or class
15 voting under Sections 411 and 413.

16
17 Whether this provides a mandatory quantum floor only or whether it is nonvariable needs
18 to be discussed in the context of mandatory v. flexible provisions.

19
20 This section has changed markedly since the 2005 Annual Meeting and now departs from
21 the Minnesota statute and its progeny.

22
23 Many cooperative acts allow the board of directors to amend the bylaws, some do not. It
24 is the tentative general sense of the committee to be protective of members and this draft is
25 consistent with that sense. It would be possible to make (b) a default rule rather than mandatory
26 (*See Colorado Rev. Stat. § 7-56-208*).

27
28 The allocation of provisions between the articles of organization and bylaws, even given
29 the foregoing, is a unique feature of cooperatives. In many ways it seems that the bylaws of
30 some cooperative serve an analogous role of the operating agreement under LLC law, albeit far

1 easier to amend. In order to address the real function of the bylaws in a cooperative association
2 this Section sets forth several actions that require a higher vote quantum no matter whether they
3 are in the bylaws or articles of organization. Whether the effect of changing of district
4 boundaries is included in subsection (b) as drafted needs to be considered (and the effects of
5 gerrymandering in this context are similar to those in other contexts).
6

7 **SECTION 1407. EMERGENCY BYLAWS.**

8 (a) Unless the articles of organization otherwise provide, a limited cooperative
9 association ~~association's board of directors~~ may adopt emergency bylaws that are effective only
10 in the case of an emergency caused by ~~only if a quorum of the board of directors cannot readily~~
11 ~~be assembled because of a catastrophic event.~~ The emergency bylaws, which are subject to
12 amendment or repeal ~~may be amended or repealed~~ by the members, participants and may make
13 all provisions necessary for managing the ~~cooperative~~ association during an the emergency;
14 including:

- 15 (1) ~~procedures for calling a meeting of the board of directors;~~
16 (2) ~~quorum requirements for the meeting; and~~
17 (3) ~~designation of additional or substitute directors.~~

18 (b) Bylaws which ~~The bylaws of a cooperative association that~~ are consistent with ~~the~~
19 emergency bylaws adopted pursuant to subsection (a) remain effective during the emergency.
20 The emergency bylaws are not effective after the emergency ends.

21 (c) Action taken by a limited cooperative association in good faith in accordance with ~~the~~
22 emergency bylaws adopted under subsection (a):

- 23 (1) binds the association; and
24 (2) may not be used to impose liability on a director, officer, employee, or agent

1 of the association.

2 **Reporters' Note**

3 This Section was formerly numbered Section 206.

4
5 Emergency bylaw provisions are common in cooperative law. Similar provisions are not
6 typically found in unincorporated entity law. Corporate law, however, frequently contains such
7 provisions. Indeed, according to the annotated version of the MBCA the corporation law of
8 approximately 40 states contains some provision for emergency bylaws.

9
10 The Committee thought it important, therefore, to mirror existing cooperative law.
11 Subsection (d) needs to be revisited by the Committee as there is some variety in its expression in
12 corporate law.
13

14 **SECTION 1408. RESTATED ARTICLES OR ORGANIZATION.** A limited
15 cooperative association, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members ~~participants~~
16 taken at a meeting for which the purpose is stated in the notice of the meeting, may adopt restated
17 articles of organization that contain the original articles as previously ~~currently~~ amended.
18 Restated articles may contain amendments if the restated articles are adopted in the same manner
19 and with the same vote as required for amendments to the articles under Section 1406(a). Upon
20 filing, restated articles supersede the existing articles and all amendments.

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 This Section provides for a restatement of the Articles of Organization without
23 amendments. For this reason a lower voting requirement is provided. Section 1409 provides for
24 a restatement with amendments.
25

26 **SECTION 1409. AMENDMENT OR RESTATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF**
27 **ORGANIZATION.**

28 (a) To amend its articles of organization, a limited cooperative association must deliver

1 to the [Secretary of State] for filing an amendment of the articles of organization, or restated
2 articles of organization or articles of conversion, merger, or consolidation pursuant to [Article]
3 15] that contain one or more amendments of the articles of organization, stating:

4 (1) the name of the cooperative association;

5 (2) the date of filing of its initial articles of organization; and

6 (3) the changes the amendment makes to the articles of organization as most
7 recently amended or restated.

8 ~~(b) A cooperative association shall promptly deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing
9 an amendment to the articles of organization to reflect the appointment of a person to wind up
10 the association's activities under subsection 1106(c).~~

11 (be) Before the commencement of the initial meeting of the board of directors of a
12 limited cooperative association, an organizer of the association which ~~that~~ knows that ~~any~~
13 information in the filed articles of organization ~~of the association~~ was false when the articles
14 were filed or has become false due to changed circumstances shall promptly:

15 (1) cause the articles to be amended; or

16 (2) if appropriate, deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing an amendment
17 pursuant to Section 203.

18 (cd) Articles of organization may be amended at any time for any ~~other~~ proper purpose as
19 determined by the limited cooperative association.

20 (de) If restated articles of organization are adopted, the restated articles or organization
21 may be delivered to the [Secretary of State] for filing in the same manner as an amendment.

22 (ef) Subject to Section 203, an amendment of the articles of organization or other record

1 containing an amendment of the articles of organization which ~~that~~ has been properly adopted by
2 the members ~~participants~~ is effective when filed by the [Secretary of State].

3 **Reporters' Note**

4 In addition to an amendment to the articles of organization itself, this Section permits
5 amendments to the articles of organization to be reflected by a record of action taken by the
6 participants that contains an amendment.

7

8 Query whether amendments should be effective *inter se* even before being filed under
9 subsection (f). Such a revision would be more consistent with other unincorporated law whose
10 filings, admittedly, are usually for notice only.

1 [ARTICLE] 15

2 CONVERSION, MERGER, AND CONSOLIDATION

3
4 SECTION 1501. DEFINITIONS. In this [article]:

5 (1) “Constituent limited cooperative association” means a limited cooperative
6 association that is a party to a consolidation or merger.

7 (2) “Constituent entity organization” means an entity organization that is party to a
8 consolidation or merger.

9 (3) “Converted entity organization” means the entity organization into which a
10 converting entity organization converts pursuant to Sections 1502 through 1505.

11 (4) “Converting limited cooperative association” means a converting entity organization
12 that is a limited cooperative association.

13 (5) “Converting entity organization” means an entity organization that converts into
14 another entity organization pursuant to Sections 1502 through 1505.

15 (6) “Organization” means an entity.

16 (67) “Organizational documents” means articles of incorporation, bylaws, articles of
17 organization, operating agreements, partnership agreements, or other documents serving a similar
18 function in the creation and governance of an entity organization.

19 (78) “Personal liability” means personal liability for a debt, liability, or other obligation
20 of an entity organization imposed, by operation of law or otherwise, by a person that co-owns or
21 has an interest in the entity organization:

22 (A) by the entity organization’s organic law solely by reason of the person co-

1 owning or having an interest in the entity organization; or

2 (B) by the entity's organization's organizational documents under a provision of
3 the entity's organization's organic law authorizing those documents to make one or more
4 specified persons liable for all or specified parts of the entity's portions of its debts, liabilities,
5 and other obligations ~~of the organization~~ solely by reason of the person co-owning or having an
6 interest in the entity organization.

7 (9) "Surviving entity organization" means an entity organization into which one or more
8 other entities organizations are merged. A surviving entity organization may exist before the
9 merger or be created by the merger.

10 **Reporters' Note**

11 Perhaps the best way to deal with the Model Entity Transactions Act (META) would be
12 to provide a legislative note to accompany this act setting forth the necessary revisions to this act
13 if META is in place. Such a note would also provide rough guidance for states that have a non-
14 model "junction box" type of statute statutes. In the latter regard the final section in this article
15 ("nonexclusivity") may also be helpful.

16
17 Legislative notes accompany META for suggested amendments to plug into other acts
18 (a.k.a. "trailing amendments") when META is adopted in a state. The basic idea of META is
19 that it will replace the existing transactions dispersed throughout the entities as they relate to
20 trans-entity transactions and provide default rules for those entities that do not contemplate a
21 transaction allowed by META (*e.g.* divisions) in their own governing law. Nonetheless, the
22 individual laws (*e.g.* this act) will govern the cooperative association side of any transaction to
23 the extent it addresses it (*e.g.*, the vote quantum for merging a cooperative association will trump
24 any META default rules for the voting provision in META).

25
26 After Committee discussion of this article, perhaps it would want to direct the Reporters
27 to draft the "META" legislative note for review at the next Committee meeting.

28
29 As a preliminary matter this Article allows a cooperative formed under this draft
30 flexibility to combine with the full panoply of other organizations whether domestic or foreign.
31 It does not allow "share exchanges" or divisions but "conversions" are added to the February
32 2006 draft. A separate article exists for the sale of assets. This section is based largely on
33 ULPA (2001) section 1101. The terms "co-owns" and "co-owning" appear in ULPA.

1 Does this article need a definition for “organizational documents”? The language, most
2 especially in (8) needs work.
3

4 **SECTION 1502. CONVERSION.**

5 (a) An entity organization that is not a limited cooperative association may convert to a
6 limited cooperative association and a limited cooperative association may convert to an entity
7 organization that is not a limited cooperative association pursuant to this section, Sections 1503
8 through 1505, and a plan of conversion, if:

9 (1) the other entity’s organization’s organic law authorizes the conversion;

10 (2) the conversion is not prohibited by the law of the jurisdiction that enacted the
11 other entity’s organization’s organic law; and

12 (3) the other entity organization complies with its organic law in effecting the
13 conversion.

14 (b) A plan of conversion must be in a record and must include:

15 (1) the name and form of the entity organization before conversion;

16 (2) the name and form of the entity organization after conversion;

17 (3) the terms and conditions of the conversion, including the manner and basis for
18 converting interests in the converting entity organization into any combination of money,
19 interests in the converted entity organization, and other consideration; and

20 (4) the organizational documents of the converted entity organization.

21 **Reporters’ Note**

22 Source: ULPA (2001) § 1102. This Article cannot govern or change the provisions of
23 another statute that governs an entity into which a cooperative association would be converted or
24 that would be a party to a merger or a consolidation. The term “form” conforms with, *e.g.*,

1 ULPA (2001).
2

3 **SECTION 1503. ACTION ON PLAN OF CONVERSION BY CONVERTING**
4 **LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

5 (a) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, ~~in order~~ for a limited cooperative
6 association to convert to another entity ~~organization~~:

7 (1) a majority of the board of directors, or a greater percentage if required by the
8 ~~association's~~ organic rules, must approve a plan of conversion;

9 (2) the board of directors must call a special members' meeting ~~of participants~~ to
10 consider the plan of conversion, hold the meeting to be held within 90 days following approval of
11 the plan by the board, and ~~must~~ mail or otherwise transmit or deliver in a record to each member
12 participant:

13 (A) the plan, or a summary of the plan and a statement of the manner in
14 which a copy of the plan in a record may be reasonably obtained by a member ~~participant~~;

15 (B) a recommendation that the members ~~participants~~ approve the plan of
16 conversion, or if the board determines that, because of a conflict of interest or other special
17 circumstances; it should not make a favorable recommendation, the basis for that determination;

18 (C) a statement of any condition of the board's submission of the plan of
19 conversion to the members ~~participants~~; and

20 (D) notice of the meeting at which the proposed plan of conversion will
21 be considered, which ~~that~~ must be given in the same manner as notice of a special members'
22 participants' meeting; and

1 (3) the following apply: subject to Sections 411, [and] 414, [and 1504]:

2 (A) unless ~~Unless~~ the organic rules otherwise provide, a plan of conversion
3 ~~of an association~~ must be approved by at least a two-thirds vote of all members ~~participants~~ voting
4 at the meeting.

5 (B) ~~If if~~ the limited cooperative association has ~~there are~~ investor members
6 participants, at least one-half of the ~~affirmative~~ votes cast by patron members ~~participants~~ must be
7 ~~in the affirmative~~, but the organic rules may require ~~provide for~~ a larger affirmative vote by patron
8 members ~~participants~~.

9 (b) If as a result of the conversion any member ~~participant~~ of the converting limited
10 cooperative association will have ~~has~~ personal liability, consent in a record of that member
11 ~~participant~~ must be delivered to the association before delivery of articles of conversion for filing
12 pursuant to Section 1504 ~~1505~~.

13 (c) Subject to subsection (b) and any contractual rights, after a conversion is approved,
14 and at any time before the effective date of the conversion, a converting limited cooperative
15 association may amend a plan of conversion or abandon the planned conversion:

16 (1) as provided in the plan; and

17 (2) except as prohibited by the plan, by the same affirmative vote of the board of
18 directors and of the members ~~participants~~ as required to approve the plan.

19 (d) The voting requirements for districts, classes, or voting groups under Section 1405
20 apply to approval of a conversion under this [article]. ~~Participants may vote on a proposed plan of~~
21 ~~conversion of a cooperative association as provided in Section 415.~~

22 **Reporters' Note**

1 This section is drafted to allow variance by organic rule and is inconsistent with the
2 merger provisions.

3
4 The special “consent” by those being burdened by personal liability is drafted differently
5 in ULPA (2001). It is pulled out into a separate section (§1110) and that section makes clear that
6 the special consent provisions trump any general provisions in the organic rules regarding their
7 amendment. The Committee should discuss this matter.
8

9 ~~**SECTION 1504. VOTING BY CLASS OR DISTRICT.**~~

10 **Reporters’ Note**

11
12 See 1405. The following language is part of the language deleted and raises the question
13 in the notes to Section 1405.

14
15 (a) A group, class, or district of participants must vote as a separate group, class, or
16 district if the plan effects the participants of the group, class, or district:

- 17 (1) the capital structure of the cooperative association, including the relative
18 rights, preferences, and restrictions granted or imposed upon any group or class of participants,
19 and the rights of the association’s participants to share in the profits, surplus, or distributions;
20 (2) the terms for admission of new participants;
21 (3) the quorum for a meeting and rights of voting and governance;
22 (4) the transferability of participants’ interests; or
23 (5) the manner or method of allocation of profits and losses among participants.
24

25 **SECTION 1504 ~~1505~~. FILINGS REQUIRED FOR CONVERSION; EFFECTIVE**
26 **DATE.**

27 (a) After a plan of conversion is approved:

28 (1) a converting limited cooperative association shall deliver to the [Secretary of
29 State] for filing articles of conversion, which must include:

30 (A) a statement that the limited cooperative association has been converted
31 into another entity organization;

32 (B) the name and form of the converted entity organization and the

1 jurisdiction of its governing statute;

2 (C) the date the conversion is effective under the governing statute of the
3 converted entity organization;

4 (D) a statement that the conversion was approved as required by this [act];

5 (E) a statement that the conversion was approved as required by the
6 governing statute of the converted entity organization; and

7 (F) if the converted entity organization is an entity organization organized
8 in a jurisdiction other than this state and is not authorized to transact business in this state, the
9 street and mailing address of an office which the [Secretary of State] may use for purposes of
10 Section 119 1506(e); and

11 (2) if the converting entity organization is not a converting limited cooperative
12 association, the converting entity organization shall deliver to the [Secretary of State] for filing
13 articles of organization, which must include, in addition to the information required by Section
14 302:

15 (A) a statement that the association was converted from another entity
16 organization;

17 (B) the name and form of the converting entity organization and the
18 jurisdiction of its governing statute; and

19 (C) a statement that the conversion was approved in a manner that
20 complied with the converting entity's organization's governing statute.

21 (b) A conversion becomes effective:

22 (1) if the converted entity organization is a limited cooperative association, when

1 the articles of conversion take effect; or

2 (2) if the converted entity organization is not a limited cooperative association, as
3 provided by the governing statute of the converted entity organization.

4 **Reporters' Note**

5 Source: ULPA (2001) §1104.

6
7 Comment needs to include an explanation about the interplay between the different entity
8 statutes.

10 **SECTION 1505 ~~1506~~. EFFECT OF CONVERSION.**

11 (a) An entity organization that has been converted pursuant to this [article] is for all
12 purposes the same entity that existed before the conversion and is not a new entity but, after
13 conversion, is organized under the organic law of the converted entity and is subject to that law
14 and other law as it applies to the converted entity.

15 (b) When a conversion takes effect:

16 (1) all property owned by the converting entity organization remains vested in the
17 converted entity organization;

18 (2) all debts, liabilities, and other obligations of the converting entity organization
19 continue as obligations of the converted entity organization;

20 (3) an action or proceeding pending by or against the converting entity
21 organization may be continued as if the conversion had not occurred;

22 (4) except as prohibited by other law, all of the rights, privileges, immunities,
23 powers, and purposes of the converting entity organization remain vested in the converted entity
24 organization;

1 (5) except as otherwise provided in the plan of conversion, the terms and
2 conditions of the plan of conversion take effect; and

3 (6) except as otherwise agreed, the conversion does not dissolve a converting
4 limited cooperative association for purposes of [Article] 11.

5 (c) A converted entity organization that is an entity organization organized under the laws
6 of a jurisdiction other than this state consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state to
7 enforce any obligation owed by the converting limited cooperative association if before the
8 conversion the converting limited cooperative association was subject to suit in this state on the
9 obligation. A converted entity organization that is an entity organization organized under the laws
10 of a jurisdiction other than this state and not authorized to transact business in this state appoints
11 the [Secretary of State] as its agent for service of process for purposes of enforcing an obligation
12 under this subsection. Service on the [Secretary of State] under this subsection is made in the
13 same manner and with the same consequences as in Section 119(c) and (d).

14 ~~(d) This [act] does not authorize an act prohibited by, and does not affect the application~~
15 ~~or requirements of, law other than this [act].~~

16 **Reporters' Note**

17 Source: ULP A (2001) § 1105. ~~Subsection (d) is from META § 103(b).~~

18 Note that a subsection (d) was deleted for the Spring 2007 draft as duplicative with
19 Section 1702 but additional language was added to subsection (a).

20 Before the Fall 2006 meeting the last phrase of subsection (a) was added in response to
21 Committee questions. It is now no longer “exactly” consistent with other NCCUSL products.
22

23 At the February 2006 Committee meeting, questions were raised about the wording of
24 subsection (a), especially the phrase “for all purposes the same entity that existed before the

1 conversion.” This language is consistent with other NCCUSL products. As of the Spring 2007
2 draft language from META Section 406(a)(1)(B) has been added in an attempt to clarify the point.
3 The entire provision from META is set forth below: META, however, approaches the effect of a
4 conversion in a different way that is reproduced here as an alternative approach to this Section for
5 the Committee’s consideration.
6

7 SECTION 406. EFFECT OF CONVERSION.

8 (a) When a conversion becomes effective:

9 (1) the converted entity is:

10 (A) organized under and subject to the organic
11 law of the converted entity; and

12 (B) the same entity without interruption as the
13 converting entity;

14 (2) all property of the converting entity continues to be
15 vested in the entity without assignment, reversion, or impairment;

16 (3) all liabilities of the converting entity continue as liabilities
17 of the entity;

18 (4) except as provided by law other than this [Act] or the plan
19 of conversion, all of the rights, privileges, immunities, powers, and
20 purposes of the converting entity remain in the converted entity;

21 (5) the name of the converted entity may be substituted for the
22 name of the converting entity in any pending action or proceeding;

23 (6) unless otherwise provided by the organic law of the
24 converting entity, the conversion does not cause the dissolution of the
25 converting entity;

26 (7) if a converted entity is a filing entity, its public organic
27 document is effective and is binding on its interest holders;

28 (8) if the converted entity is a limited liability partnership,
29 its [statement of qualification] is effective simultaneously;

30 (9) the private organic rules of the converted entity that are to
31 be in a record, if any, approved as part of the plan of conversion are
32 effective and are binding on its interest holders; and

33 (10) the interests in the converting entity are converted, and the
34 interest holders of the converting entity are entitled only to the rights
35 provided to them under the plan of conversion [and to any appraisal
36 rights they have under Section 109].

37 (b) Except as otherwise provided in the organic law or organic rules of
38 the converting entity, the conversion does not give rise to any rights that
39 an interest holder, governor, or third party would otherwise have upon a
40 dissolution, liquidation, or winding-up of the converting entity.

41 (c) When a conversion becomes effective, a person that did not have
42 interest holder liability with respect to the converting entity and that
43 becomes subject to interest holder liability with respect to a domestic

1 entity as a result of a conversion has interest holder liability only to the
2 extent provided by the organic law of the entity and only for those liabilities
3 that arise after the conversion becomes effective.

4 (d) When a conversion becomes effective:

5 (1) the conversion does not discharge any interest holder liability
6 under the organic law of a domestic converting entity to the extent the
7 interest holder liability arose before the conversion became effective;

8 (2) a person does not have interest holder liability under the organic
9 law of a domestic converting entity for any liability that arises after the
10 conversion becomes effective;

11 (3) the organic law of a domestic converting entity continues to apply
12 to the release, collection or discharge of any interest holder
13 liability preserved under paragraph (1) as if the conversion had
14 not occurred; and

15 (4) a person has whatever rights of contribution from any
16 other person as are provided by the organic law or organic rules of
17 domestic converting entity with respect to any interest holder liability
18 preserved under paragraph (1) as if the conversion had not occurred.

19 (e) When a conversion becomes effective, a foreign entity that is the
20 converted entity:

21 (1) may be served with process in this state for the collection
22 and enforcement of any of its liabilities; and

23 (2) appoints the [Secretary of State] as its agent for service of
24 process for collecting or enforcing those liabilities.

25 (f) If the converting entity is a qualified foreign entity, the certificate
26 of authority or other foreign qualification of the converting entity is
27 canceled when the conversion becomes effective.
28

29 **SECTION 1506 ~~1507~~. MERGER.**

30 (a) One or more limited cooperative associations may merge with one or more other
31 entities ~~organizations~~ pursuant to this [article] and a plan of merger if:

32 (1) the governing statute of each of the other entities ~~organizations~~ authorizes the
33 merger;

34 (2) the merger is not prohibited by the law of a jurisdiction that enacted any of
35 those governing statutes; and

1 (3) each of the other entities ~~organizations~~ complies with its governing statute in
2 effecting the merger.

3 (b) A plan of merger must be in a record and must include:

4 (1) the name and form of each constituent entity ~~organization~~;

5 (2) the name and form of the surviving entity ~~organization~~ and, if the surviving
6 entity ~~organization~~ is to be created by the merger, a statement to that effect;

7 (3) the terms and conditions of the merger, including the manner and basis for
8 converting the interests in each constituent entity ~~organization~~ into any combination of money,
9 interests in the surviving entity ~~organization~~, and other consideration;

10 (4) if the surviving entity ~~organization~~ is to be created by the merger, the surviving
11 entity's ~~organization's~~ organizational documents;

12 (5) if the surviving entity ~~organization~~ is not to be created by the merger, any
13 amendments to be made by the merger to the surviving entity's ~~organization's~~ organizational
14 documents; and

15 (6) if a member ~~participant~~ of a constituent limited cooperative association will
16 have personal liability with respect to a surviving entity ~~organization~~, the identity of the member
17 ~~participant~~ by descriptive class or other reasonable manner.

18 **SECTION 1507 ~~1508~~. NOTICE AND ACTION ON PLAN OF MERGER BY**
19 **CONSTITUENT LIMITED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.**

20 (a) A plan of merger must be approved by a majority vote of the board of directors of a
21 limited cooperative association or a greater percentage if required by the limited cooperative
22 association's organic rules.

1 (b) The board of directors must call a special members' meeting ~~of participants~~ to
2 consider the plan of merger, hold the meeting to be held within 90 ~~ninety~~ days following approval
3 of the plan by the board, and ~~must~~ mail or otherwise transmit or deliver in a record to each
4 member participant:

5 (1) the plan of merger, or a summary of the plan and a statement of the manner in
6 which a copy of the plan in a record may be reasonably obtained by a member participant;

7 (2) a recommendation that the members participants approve the plan of merger,
8 or if the board determines that ; because of conflict ~~conflicts~~ of interest or other special
9 circumstances ~~that~~ it should not make a favorable recommendation, the basis for that
10 determination ~~decision~~;

11 (3) a statement of any condition of the board's ~~its~~ submission of the plan of merger
12 to the members participants; and

13 (4) notice of the meeting at which the plan of merger will be considered, which
14 must be given in the same manner as notice of a special members' participants' meeting.

15 **SECTION 1508~~1509~~. APPROVAL OR ABANDONMENT OF MERGER BY**
16 **MEMBERS PARTICIPANTS OF CONSTITUENT LIMITED COOPERATIVE**
17 **ASSOCIATION.**

18 (a) For members of a limited cooperative association to approve the merger: Subject to
19 Sections ~~411 and 413:~~

20 (1) unless ~~Unless~~ the organic rules otherwise provide, a plan of merger must be
21 approved by at least a two-thirds vote of all members participants voting at a special members' ~~the~~
22 meeting called under Section 1507.

1 (2) If if a limited cooperative association has ~~there are~~ investor members
2 participants, at least one-half of the affirmative votes cast by patron members participants must be
3 ~~in the~~ affirmative, but the organic rules may require ~~provide for~~ a larger affirmative vote by patron
4 members participants.

5 (b) If as a result of the merger any member participant will have personal liability for an
6 obligation of the association, consent in a record of that member participant must be delivered to
7 the association before delivery of articles of merger for filing pursuant to Section 15091510.

8 (c) Subject to any contractual rights, after a merger is approved, and at any time before the
9 effective date of the merger, a constituent limited cooperative association that is a party to the
10 merger may approve an amendment to the plan of merger or approve abandonment of the planned
11 merger:

12 (1) as provided in the plan; and

13 (2) except as prohibited by the plan, with the same affirmative vote of the board of
14 directors and of the members participants as was required to approve the plan.

15 ~~(d) Participants may vote on a proposed merger of a cooperative association as provided in~~
16 ~~Section 415.~~

17 (d) The voting requirements for districts, classes, or voting groups under Section 1405
18 apply to approval of a merger under this [article].

19 **Reporters' Note**

20
21 A change has been made in (c) for the Fall (2006) meeting concerning when the plan can
22 be abandoned. Is "filing" the appropriate measuring date in subsection (c)? Should it be the
23 "effective date?"

24
25 This Section does not permit a cooperative association to vary the voting requirements in

1 its organic rules. It provides the same approach to voting as in the sections dealing with
2 amendments to its organic rules, conversions and sales of assets. Some cooperatives desire to
3 reduce the member voting requirement to make mergers easier. Non-profit corporate statutes tend
4 to permit any voting requirement the corporation desires. Partnership statutes generally require
5 unanimous approval. If the merger provisions permit a lower voting requirement than is required
6 for amending articles of organization, a cooperative association could avoid the higher
7 requirements for amendments by creating a new company with the desired amendment provisions
8 in its governing documents and merging the association into the new company. The Committee
9 should consider the possible ramifications of the possible different approaches.

10
11 This draft does not permit voting by districts, classes or other groups as is provided for
12 other actions. Should it do so?

13
14 [Prior Section 1509 entitled Merger of Subsidiary has been deleted at the direction of the
15 Committee. This Section provided for the “short form” merger of a wholly owned subsidiary into
16 a parent.]
17

18 **SECTION ~~1509~~1510. FILINGS REQUIRED FOR MERGER; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 (a) After each constituent entity organization has approved a merger, articles of merger
20 must be signed on behalf of each constituent entity organization, by an authorized representative.

21 (b) The articles of merger must include:

22 (1) the name and form of each constituent entity organization and the jurisdiction
23 of its governing statute;

24 (2) the name and form of the surviving entity organization, the jurisdiction of its
25 governing statute, and, if the surviving entity organization is created by the merger, a statement to
26 that effect;

27 (3) the date the merger is effective under the governing statute of the surviving
28 entity organization;

29 (4) if the surviving entity organization is to be created by the merger:

30 (A) if it will be a limited cooperative association, the limited cooperative

1 association's articles of organization; or

2 (B) if it will be an entity organization other than a limited cooperative
3 association, the organizational document that creates the entity organization;

4 (5) if the surviving entity organization preexists the merger, any amendments
5 provided for in the plan of merger for the organizational documents of document that created the
6 entity organization;

7 (6) a statement as to each constituent entity organization that the merger was
8 approved as required by the entity's organization's governing statute;

9 (7) if the surviving entity organization is a foreign entity organization not
10 authorized to transact business in this state, the street and mailing addresses of an office which the
11 [Secretary of State] may use for the purposes of Section [119]; and

12 (8) any additional information required by the governing statute of any constituent
13 entity organization.

14 (c) Each constituent limited cooperative association shall deliver the articles of merger to
15 for filing in the [office of the Secretary of State] for filing.

16 (d) A merger becomes effective under this [article]:

17 (1) if the surviving entity organization is a limited cooperative association, upon
18 the later of:

19 (A) compliance with subsection (c); or

20 (B) subject to Section [203(c)], as specified in the articles of merger; or

21 (2) if the surviving entity organization is not a limited cooperative association, as
22 provided by the governing statute of the surviving entity organization.

1 **SECTION ~~1510-1511~~. EFFECT OF MERGER.**

2 (a) When a merger becomes effective:

3 (1) the surviving entity ~~organization~~ continues or comes into existence;

4 (2) each constituent entity ~~organization~~ that merges into the surviving entity
5 ~~organization~~ ceases to exist as a separate entity;

6 (3) all property owned by each constituent entity ~~organization~~ that ceases to exist
7 vests in the surviving entity ~~organization~~;

8 (4) all debts, liabilities, and other obligations of each constituent entity
9 ~~organization~~ that ceases to exist continue as obligations of the surviving entity ~~organization~~;

10 (5) an action or proceeding pending by or against any constituent entity
11 ~~organization~~ that ceases to exist may be continued as if the merger had not occurred;

12 (6) except as prohibited by other law, all rights, privileges, immunities, powers,
13 and purposes of each constituent entity ~~organization~~ that ceases to exist vest in the surviving entity
14 ~~organization~~;

15 (7) except as otherwise provided in the plan of merger, the terms and conditions of
16 the plan take effect;

17 (8) except as otherwise provided in the plan of merger, if a constituent limited
18 cooperative association ceases to exist, the merger does not dissolve the limited cooperative
19 association for purposes of [Article] 11;

20 (9) if the surviving entity ~~organization~~ is created by the merger:

21 (A) if it is a limited cooperative association, the articles of organization
22 become effective; or

1 (B) if it is an entity organization other than an ~~a cooperative~~ association,
2 the organizational document that creates the entity organization becomes effective; and

3 (10) if the surviving entity organization preexists ~~before~~ the merger, any
4 amendments provided for in the articles of merger for the organizational documents of document
5 ~~that created~~ the surviving entity organization become effective.

6 **Reporters' Note**

7 Source: ULPA (2001). The plan will by necessity address the pre-merger terms of the
8 directors and board officers.
9

10 **SECTION ~~1511~~1512. CONSOLIDATION.**

11 (a) One or more limited cooperative associations may agree call a merger a consolidation
12 ~~to substitute the word "consolidation" for the term "merger"~~ under this [article], if:

13 ~~(1) each organization is a cooperative association or the organic law of the~~
14 ~~constituent organization that is not a cooperative association expressly provides for consolidation;~~
15 ~~and~~

16 ~~(2) the surviving organization is a cooperative association or the organic law of the~~
17 ~~surviving organization expressly provides for consolidation.~~

18 (b) All provisions governing mergers or using the term merger in this [act] apply equally
19 to mergers that the constituent entities organizations choose to call name consolidations under
20 subsection (a).

21 **Reporters' Note**

22 While consolidations were historically the way in which a new entity would be formed as
23 a result of a combination of entities, current statutes have eliminated consolidations. Many use
24 mergers as the means not only for ~~not~~ merging one or more entities into another but also for

1 producing a new entity in the manner consolidations formerly did. Consolidations are no longer
2 included in most modern entity statutes.

3
4 This is the Reporters' second attempt to draft "consolidations" into the draft at the
5 direction of the Committee. The first attempt simply defined "consolidation" in Section 1501.
6 Unfortunately that attempt was, at best, confusing. This attempt still stops short of segregating
7 and repeating all of the sections governing merger.

8
9 ~~The Reporters had told the Committee they intended to present an alternative approach for~~
10 ~~consideration by the Committee at its Fall 2006 meeting. After further study and consideration,~~
11 ~~they have not done so believing the approach taken in this section is preferable to any other~~
12 ~~approaches if consolidations are to be addressed at all. The Committee should again examine~~
13 ~~whether consolidations should be in the act.~~

14
15 **SECTION ~~1512~~~~1513~~. [ARTICLE] NOT EXCLUSIVE.** This [article] does not
16
17 preclude a limited cooperative association from being converted;~~consolidated~~; or merged under
18 law other than this [act].

19 **Reporters' Note**

20 Drafts prior to the February 2006 draft did not provide for conversions. ~~They are not~~
21 ~~included.~~ The merger portions of this Article are based on the merger provisions found in Article
22 11, ULPA (2001). It may be important to discuss the conversion processes here squarely within
23 the context of cooperatives to identify any specific concerns caused by META.

24
25 One change incorporated in this draft is the use of both the terms "merger" and
26 "consolidation". The advisors to this act have urged that the term "consolidation" be used where
27 the surviving entity is a new organization. The Minnesota Cooperative Association Act deals
28 with "consolidations" by definition like a prior draft of this [act]. That approach, at the direction
29 of the Committee, has been reviewed by the Reporters and a different approach is attempted in the
30 February 2006 draft. *See* the Reporters' Note to the previous Section.

1 [ARTICLE] 16

2 DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

3
4 SECTION 1601. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS NOT REQUIRING MEMBER

5 ~~PARTICIPANT~~ APPROVAL. Unless the articles of organization otherwise provide, and if
6 conducted in the usual and regular course of business of a limited cooperative association, no
7 member participant approval under Section 1602 is required for the association to:

8 (1) sell, lease, exchange, license, or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the assets of the
9 association; or

10 (2) mortgage, pledge, dedicate to the repayment of indebtedness, or encumber in any way
11 all or any part of the assets of the association.

12 **Reporters' Note**

13 This Section is new to the February 2006 draft and is similar to the MBCA formulation
14 except the term "ordinary" has replaced "usual and regular" to conform to the language used in
15 other conference products. The Model Business Corporation Act contains two additional
16 subsections which were not included in the text of this draft. They are:

17
18 (3) to transfer any or all of the corporation's assets to one or more
19 corporations or other entities all of the shares or interests which are
20 owned by the corporation; or

21 (4) to distribute assets pro rata to the holders of one or more classes
22 or series of the corporation's shares.

23
24 Subsection (3) of the MBCA allows the transfer of all the assets to wholly owned subsidiaries.
25 The Comments for subsection (4) state that it applies to traditional spin-offs but not split-offs
26 ("non pro rata distribution of shares of a sub to some or all shareholders in exchange for some of
27 their shares") or split-ups (which would be governed by the dissolution provisions rather than the
28 disposition section).

1 consider the proposed disposition, hold the meeting within 90 days following approval of the
2 proposed disposition by the board, and mail or otherwise transmit or deliver in a record to each
3 member participant:

4 (A) the terms of the proposed disposition;

5 (B) a recommendation that the members participants approve the disposition, or if
6 the board determines that because of conflict of interest or other special circumstances; it should
7 not make a favorable recommendation, the basis for that determination;

8 (C) a statement of any condition of the board's submission of the proposed
9 disposition to the members participants; and

10 (D) notice of the meeting at which the proposed disposition will be considered,
11 which must be given in the same manner as notice of a special members' participants' meeting.

12 **Reporters' Note**

13 This Section is consistent with the provisions governing amendment of the organic rules.

14 Should the next draft provide that the vote shall take place at a special participant
15 meeting?
16
17
18
19

20 ~~**SECTION 1604. METHOD OF VOTING.** Participants may vote on a proposed
21 disposition of assets as provided in Section 415.~~

22 ~~**SECTION 16041605. ACTION ON DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.** Subject to Sections
23 411 and 413:~~

24 (a+) Unless the organic rules otherwise provide, a disposition of assets under Section 1602
25 must be approved by at least a two-thirds vote of all members participants voting at a special
26 members' the meeting called under Section 1603.

1 [ARTICLE] 17

2 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

3
4 [SECTION 1701. RELATION TO RESTRAINT OF TRADE AND ANTITRUST

5 LAWS. To the extent a limited cooperative association or activities conducted by a limited
6 cooperative association meet ~~meets~~ the material requirements, if any, for other cooperatives
7 entitled to an exemption from or immunity under the antitrust laws of this state ~~or activities~~
8 ~~conducted by the association in this state~~, the association and its activities are ~~shall be~~ entitled to
9 the exemption or ~~of~~ immunity to which other cooperatives are entitled. Nothing in this section
10 mays ~~shall~~ be construed to create ~~as creating~~ any new exemption or immunity for an association or
11 to affect any exemption or immunity provided to a cooperative organized under any other [act].]

12 *Legislative Note: If a state has a statute providing a specific exemption from or immunity under*
13 *the antitrust laws of the state, the state may prefer to amend those laws to include an exemption*
14 *from or immunity under those laws for cooperative associations organized under this act. If the*
15 *state does not have such a statute this Section should be deleted from the act.*

16
17 **Reporters' Notes**

18 This note and the text of the section is based in large part on language suggested by the
19 LTA Committee of NCFC through an observer who is affiliated with that Committee.

20
21 The intent of this Section is to set forth two related points: (1) cooperative associations
22 organized under the act may be eligible for antitrust and restraint of trade exemptions or
23 immunities, but only if they satisfy the requirements of the relevant statutes granting the
24 exemptions or immunities; the act does not affect the requirements of those statutes; (2) the Act
25 expressly does not create any new exemption or immunity, and does not affect current exemptions
26 or immunities, arising from state or federal antitrust laws.

27
28 Certain states require a cooperative association to be incorporated under that state's
29 specific cooperative statute; as a requirement to receive the benefit of specific state-law antitrust
30 exemptions or immunities. A cooperative association formed under the Act therefore might not
31 receive the benefit of such state-law antitrust exemptions or immunities unless it meets

1 requirements of the specific cooperative statute.
2

3 **SECTION 1702. REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER LAWS.** ~~Cooperative associations,~~
4 ~~and foreign cooperatives authorized to conduct activities in this state, must comply with the laws~~
5 ~~and regulations of this state that are otherwise applicable to the activities conducted by them in~~
6 ~~this state.~~

7 (a) This act does not alter or amend any laws that govern the licensing and regulation of
8 individuals or entities in carrying on specific businesses or professions even if those laws permit
9 the businesses or professions to be conducted in or by a limited cooperative association, any
10 foreign cooperative, or its members.

11 (b) A limited cooperative association may not conduct activities that, under other laws,
12 must be conducted in an entity that meets specific requirements for the internal affairs of that
13 entity unless the organic rules of the limited cooperative association conform to those
14 requirements.

15 **Reporters' Note**

16 See Section 108.

17 A slightly different formulation is in section 1506(d).

18
19 This Section may appear to be unnecessary as a given fact. One Committee member has,
20 however, suggested it be included to make it clear that requirements for various cooperative
21 organizations ~~and other law cooperatives, organizations engaged~~ in particular activities, *e.g.*,
22 housing cooperatives, medical cooperatives, cannot be excluded from particular requirements
23 contained in other laws that relate to those activities by being organized under this act. The
24 Reporters believe there is wisdom in this suggestion. This is somewhat similar to ULLCA (1996)
25 § 1001.
26
27

28 The Comments to this Section might list examples, *e.g.*, professional service firms.

1 **SECTION 1703. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.** In
2 applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote
3 uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

4 **SECTION 1704. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL**
5 **AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT.** This [act] modifies, limits, or supersedes the federal
6 Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001 et seq. [as
7 amended], but this [act] does not modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that act (15 U.S.C.
8 Section 7001(c) as amended) or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in
9 Section 103(b) of that act (15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b) as amended).

10 **SECTION 1705. SAVINGS CLAUSE.** This [act] does not affect an action or
11 proceeding commenced, or right accrued, before [this [act] takes effect].

12 **SECTION ~~1706~~1705. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This [act] takes effect [effective date].

13 ~~**SECTION 1706. SAVINGS CLAUSE.** This [act] does not affect an action or~~
14 ~~proceeding commenced, or right accrued before [this [act] takes effect].~~