

DRAFT  
FOR APPROVAL

# UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME AND PRINCIPAL ACT

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS  
ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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MEETING IN ITS ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
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# UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME AND PRINCIPAL ACT

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS  
ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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June 13, 2018

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**UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME AND PRINCIPAL ACT**

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# UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME AND PRINCIPAL ACT

## PREFATORY NOTE

The Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act (2018) is an update of the Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act (1997). Like the 1997 Act, it adapts to changes in the design and use of trusts. Highlights include an expansion of the use of the power to adjust between income and principal in Section 203, the addition of provisions for unitrusts in Article 3, and a simplifying change in governing law for purposes of distinguishing income and principal in Section 104.

### Changes in the Design and Use of Trusts

The 2018 Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act, like previous revisions of the Uniform Principal and Income Act, is intended to reflect and address changes in the design and use of modern trusts. Very long-term trusts are more common, as are totally discretionary trusts – that is, trusts in which income, as well as principal, is distributable to beneficiaries during the term of the trust less as a matter of right and more only in the discretion of the trustee. Even where income distributions are mandatory, including occasions where income distributions are mandated by requirements of tax law (such as the estate tax marital deduction), discretion in the trustee to supplement income distributions by invasions of principal is common.

One result of these developments in the design, use, and role of trusts is to make historical distinctions between income and principal less important as a technical matter in some cases. Discretionary accumulation of income has the effect of treating income as principal to the extent of the accumulation. And discretionary invasion of principal has the effect of treating principal as income to the extent of the invasion. Even so, the difference between income and principal is important to impartial trustees and beneficiaries alike. If nothing else, the history of distinctions between the tree and its fruit and between the herd and the calf have created a dignity and discipline that are relevant in the administration of even a total discretionary modern trust. Thus, the Drafting Committee has chosen to retain the historical distinctions, including the historical technical rules that have evolved through changing legal and practical environments, while still allowing skilled and dedicated trustees the ability to respond and act appropriately in legal and practical environments that inevitably will continue to change.

The basic premise of the current revision is that a trustee that is aware of the current practical environment of trust administration and sensitive to the evolving demands of impartiality should be able to determine standards for adjusting between income and principal that are reasonable in the circumstances, and to update those standards from time to time. Authority to make adjustments between income and principal from year to year, introduced as Section 104 in 1997, is retained, and indeed significantly expanded, as new Section 203. The most important way in which the authority to adjust is expanded is by eliminating the precondition that trust distributions are constricted by the concept of “income” in a way that economic results from year to year could arbitrarily affect. In other words, while the trustee of a more modern trust with greater, if not total, flexibility to make distributions from income and/or principal would actually have been *denied* the flexibility intended by former Section 104, new

1 Section 203 ensures that designing a trust for greater flexibility will not ironically sacrifice the  
2 flexibility of adjustments.

3 That means that the technical structure of the 2018 Act exhibits a certain amount of  
4 apparent redundancy. A trustee that could cope with the constraints of income and principal rules  
5 by merely accumulating income or invading principal now is given the alternative of making an  
6 adjustment under Section 203 instead, either from year to year, as under former Section 104, or  
7 for more than one year, under these expanded rules.

8 This is how the 2018 Act respects, and permits a trustee to respect, the historical dignity  
9 and discipline of the simple notion of “income.” Under Section 203, a trustee of a discretionary  
10 trust can make adjustments, taking into account a nonexclusive list of factors provided in Section  
11 201(e), and still achieve the comfortable outcome of “distributing income.” And when the  
12 interests of beneficiaries under the terms of the trust are still not appropriately served within the  
13 framework of “distributing income” – that is, when no reasonable adjustment would serve those  
14 interests, or when non-pro rata distributions are justified – then invasions of principal are still  
15 appropriate to the extent consistent with the terms of the trust.

16 The more traditional rules for allocating income and principal are retained, with updates,  
17 in Articles 4 through 7. The general substantive rules are in Articles 3 and 4, and the special  
18 temporal rules relating to the beginning and end of interests are moved from Articles 2 and 3 to  
19 Articles 5 and 6, thus placing the substantive rules that are applicable on an ongoing basis ahead  
20 of the temporal rules that are applicable only at certain times. One useful result of these changes  
21 is that the former rules of Sections 401 through 415 and 501 through 503, with which many  
22 fiduciaries no doubt have considerable experience, are retained in this act with the same section  
23 numbers.

24 Article 3 adds the authority for a trustee to convert to or from or change a unitrust. But  
25 the tax-sensitive limitations typically included in unitrust statutes, such as the limitation of the  
26 unitrust rate to a rate from 3 to 5 percent, are now provided only for trusts that qualify for tax  
27 benefits for the protection of which those limitations are needed. The new unitrust rules are  
28 discussed further in the Comments in Article 3.

## 29 **Expansion Beyond Trusts and Estates**

30 Previous Uniform Principal and Income Acts explicitly addressed only trusts and estates,  
31 even though they reflected principles that would apply in other contexts where the benefits of  
32 property are shared by successive legal or beneficial ownership interests. While those contexts do  
33 not necessarily present allocation issues that require the application of specific statutory rules on  
34 a regular basis, Section 103(2) and (3) of the 2018 Act fills a potential gap by making the act  
35 explicitly applicable to “a life estate or other term interest in which the interest of one or more  
36 persons will be succeeded by the interest of one or more other persons” and “another  
37 arrangement or relationship, to the extent a person holds property for the benefit of another  
38 person that may succeed to an interest in the property, if the interest of the successor may be  
39 affected by the allocation of receipts and disbursements between income and principal.”

1 **Governing Law**

2 Finally, new Section 104 provides an important clarification that the income and principal  
3 rules of the state that is the principal place of administration of the trust from time to time will be  
4 the governing law.

5 A “rule of construction” is typically governed by the law of the place where the trust was  
6 created or deemed created. A “rule of administration” is typically governed by the law of the situs  
7 of the trust from time to time, often with appropriate savings provisions for tax benefits, etc. if  
8 the situs is changed. Authorities seem to be divided, however, on which historical category  
9 includes an income and principal act. See Restatement (Second) Of Conflict Of Laws § 268,  
10 Comment h (1971):

11 The question of the allocation of receipts and expenditures to principal or income  
12 presents a different problem. See Restatement of Trusts (Second), §§ 232-241. If a  
13 testator creates a trust to be administered in a state other than that of his domicil, the  
14 question is whether the allocation, as for instance of extraordinary dividends, is to be  
15 determined by the local law of his domicil or the local law of the place of administration.  
16 This could conceivably be treated as a question of administration and governed by the  
17 local law of the place of administration. On the other hand, it can be treated as a question  
18 of the distribution of the trust property and governed by the local law of the testator’s  
19 domicil. For the purposes of the choice of the applicable law, it is generally held that it is  
20 a question of construction and that the local law of the testator’s domicil is applicable.

21 Despite the fact that income and principal allocations often do determine who gets what  
22 and therefore are rules of construction, treating those allocations as governed by the place of  
23 current administration seems to be the most workable approach and seems to be contemplated,  
24 for example, by the change-of-situs examples in the 2003 amendments to the GST tax regulations  
25 (Treasury Reg. §26.2601-1(b)(4)(i)(E), Examples 11 & 12). Perhaps the biggest burden of a rule  
26 of construction is determining the governing law not only *where* the trust was originally created  
27 but also *when* the trust was originally created, a burden that gets greater as longer-term trusts  
28 become more common and existing trusts therefore become older. Previous Uniform Principal  
29 and Income Acts did not include a governing law provision. New Section 104 of the 2018 Act  
30 specifies that the Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act, like a rule of administration, is  
31 governed by the law of the situs, or principal place of administration, of the trust, which is not  
32 necessarily the place where all or most or any of the trust assets are located.

33 This is consistent with Sections 107 and 108 of the Uniform Trust Code and Section 3 of  
34 the Uniform Directed Trust Act. Like those acts, the rule of Section 104 may be superseded by a  
35 provision in the terms of the trust.

36



1                                   **UNIFORM FIDUCIARY INCOME AND PRINCIPAL ACT**

2   **[ARTICLE] 1**

3   **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4                   **SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.** This [act] may be cited as the Uniform Fiduciary  
5 Income and Principal Act.

6   **Comment**

7                   **Name.** The change in the name of this Uniform Act has three purposes and effects.

8                   First, this name will distinguish the Act from its 1931, 1962, and 1997 predecessors and  
9 support an acronym that will not be confused with the Uniform Prudent Investor Act which was  
10 closely associated with the 1997 Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act.

11                   Second, by using the word “Fiduciary,” the name emphasizes that the distinctions  
12 between income and principal are most likely to be relevant in the context of trusts and  
13 decedents’ estates, especially trusts that continue for a long time, perpetually in the case of some  
14 modern trusts. Such trusts present a greater possibility of competing interests between those  
15 entitled to income currently and those who may be entitled to income and/or principal – that is,  
16 entitled to “what’s left” – after the current interests terminate by death or otherwise. The Act is  
17 intended to apply to arrangements other than just trusts and decedents’ estates, such as legal life  
18 estates, where those arrangements share the long-term character and need for balancing of  
19 successive interests that is most commonly associated with trusts. But the primary applications of  
20 the Act will generally be in contexts marked by the role of a fiduciary.

21                   Third, placing income first in the name emphasizes the fact that principal may be “what’s  
22 left” after income is paid out. After income is paid out it is gone and normally cannot be retrieved  
23 (although prior over-distributions can sometimes be taken into account in determining the  
24 amount of future distributions). This in turn highlights the bias toward principal that for practical  
25 reasons has appeared in previous version of the Act and is made even more explicit in this  
26 version.

27                   **SECTION 102. DEFINITIONS.** In this [act]:

28                   (1) “Accounting period” means a calendar year, unless a fiduciary selects another period  
29 of 12 calendar months or approximately 12 calendar months. The term includes a part of a  
30 calendar year or another period of 12 calendar months or approximately 12 calendar months  
31 which begins when an income interest begins or ends when an income interest ends.

1 (2) “Beneficiary” includes:

2 (A) for a trust:

3 (i) a current beneficiary, including a current income beneficiary and a

4 beneficiary that may receive only principal;

5 (ii) a remainder beneficiary; and

6 (iii) any other successor beneficiary;

7 (B) for an estate, an heir[, legatee,] and devisee;

8 (C) for a life estate or term interest, a person that holds a life estate, a term

9 interest, or a remainder or other interest following a life estate or term interest; and

10 (D) for an arrangement or relationship not described in subparagraphs (A) through

11 (C), a person that holds an interest in property subject to the arrangement or relationship or may

12 succeed to an interest in the property.

13 (3) “Court” means [the court in this state having jurisdiction relating to a trust or estate, a

14 life estate or other term interest described in Section 103(2), or an arrangement or relationship

15 described in Section 103(3)].

16 (4) “Current income beneficiary” means a beneficiary to which a fiduciary may distribute

17 net income, whether or not the fiduciary also may distribute principal to the beneficiary.

18 (5) “Distribution” means a payment or transfer by a fiduciary to a beneficiary in the

19 beneficiary’s capacity as a beneficiary, made under the terms of a trust, without consideration

20 other than the beneficiary’s right to receive the payment or transfer under the terms of the trust.

21 “Distribute”, “distributed”, and “distributee” have corresponding meanings.

22 (6) “Estate” means a decedent’s estate. The term includes the property of the decedent as

23 the estate is originally constituted and the property of the estate as it exists at any time during

1 administration.

2 (7) “Fiduciary” includes a trustee,[ trust director determined under [Section 2(9) of the  
3 Uniform Directed Trust Act,]] personal representative, life tenant, holder of a term interest, or  
4 person acting under a delegation from a fiduciary. The term includes a person that holds property  
5 for a successor beneficiary whose interest may be affected by an allocation of receipts and  
6 expenditures between income and principal. If there are two or more co-fiduciaries, the term  
7 includes all co-fiduciaries acting under the terms of a trust and applicable law.

8 (8) “Income” means money or other property a fiduciary receives as current return from  
9 principal. The term includes a part of receipts from a sale, exchange, or liquidation of a principal  
10 asset, to the extent provided in [Article] 4.

11 (9) “Income interest” means the right of a current income beneficiary to receive all or part  
12 of net income, whether the terms of a trust require the net income to be distributed or authorize  
13 the net income to be distributed in the fiduciary’s discretion. The term includes the right of a  
14 current beneficiary to use property held by a fiduciary.

15 (10) “Independent person” means a person that is not:

16 (A) for a trust:

17 (i) [a qualified beneficiary determined under [Uniform Trust Code Section  
18 103(13)]] [a beneficiary that is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal  
19 or would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if either the trust  
20 or the interests of the distributees or permissible distributees of trust income or principal were  
21 terminated, assuming no power of appointment is exercised];

22 (ii) a settlor of the trust; or

23 (iii) an individual whose legal obligation to support a beneficiary may be

1 satisfied by a distribution from the trust;

2 (B) for an estate, a beneficiary;

3 (C) a spouse, parent, brother, sister, or issue of an individual described in  
4 subparagraph (A) or (B);

5 (D) a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity in which  
6 persons described in subparagraphs (A) through (C), in the aggregate, have voting control; or

7 (E) an employee of a person described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

8 (11) “Mandatory income interest” means the right of a current income beneficiary to  
9 receive net income that the terms of a trust require the fiduciary to distribute.

10 (12) “Net income” means the total allocations during an accounting period to income  
11 under the terms of a trust and this [act] minus the disbursements during the period, other than  
12 distributions, allocated to income under the terms of the trust and this [act]. To the extent the  
13 trust is a unitrust under [Article] 3, the term means the unitrust amount determined under  
14 [Article] 3. The term includes an adjustment from principal to income under Section 203 and  
15 does not include an adjustment from income to principal under Section 203.

16 (13) “Person” means an individual, estate, trust, business or nonprofit entity, public  
17 corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal  
18 entity.

19 (14) “Personal representative” means an executor, administrator, successor personal  
20 representative, special administrator, or person that performs substantially the same function with  
21 respect to an estate under the law governing the person’s status.

22 (15) “Principal” means property held in trust for distribution to, production of income for,  
23 or use by a current or successor beneficiary.

1 (16) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored  
2 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

3 (17) “Settlor” means a person, including a testator, that creates or contributes property to  
4 a trust. If more than one person creates or contributes property to a trust, the term includes each  
5 person, to the extent of the trust property attributable to that person’s contribution, except to the  
6 extent another person has the power to revoke or withdraw that part.

7 (18) “Special tax benefit” means:

8 (A) exclusion of a transfer to a trust from gifts described in Section 2503(b) of the  
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2503(b)][, as amended,]  
10 because of the qualification of an income interest in the trust as a present interest in property;

11 (B) status as a qualified subchapter S trust described in Section 1361(d)(3) of the  
12 Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 1361(d)(3)][, as amended,] at  
13 a time the trust holds stock of an S corporation described in Section 1361(a)(1) of the Internal  
14 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 1361(a)(1)][, as amended];

15 (C) an estate or gift tax marital deduction for a transfer to a trust under Section  
16 2056 or 2523 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2056 or  
17 2523][, as amended,] which depends or depended in whole or in part on the right of the settlor’s  
18 spouse to receive the net income of the trust;

19 (D) exemption in whole or in part of a trust from the federal generation-skipping  
20 transfer tax imposed by Section 2601 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26  
21 U.S.C. Section 2601][, as amended,] because the trust was irrevocable on September 25, 1985, if  
22 there is any possibility that:

23 (i) a taxable distribution, as defined in Section 2612(b) of the Internal

1 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2612(b)][, as amended], could be  
2 made from the trust; or

3 (ii) a taxable termination, as defined in Section 2612(a) of the Internal  
4 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2612(a)][, as amended], could occur  
5 with respect to the trust; or

6 (E) an inclusion ratio, as defined in Section 2642(a) of the Internal Revenue Code  
7 of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2642(a)][, as amended], of the trust which is less than  
8 one, if there is any possibility that:

9 (i) a taxable distribution, as defined in Section 2612(b) of the Internal  
10 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2612(b)][, as amended], could be  
11 made from the trust; or

12 (ii) a taxable termination, as defined in Section 2612(a) of the Internal  
13 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 2612(a)][, as amended], could occur  
14 with respect to the trust.

15 (19) “Successive interest” means the interest of a successor beneficiary.

16 (20) “Successor beneficiary” means a person entitled to receive income or principal or to  
17 use property when an income interest or other current interest ends.

18 (21) “Terms of a trust” means:

19 (A) except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the manifestation of the  
20 settlor’s intent regarding a trust’s provisions as:

21 (i) expressed in the trust instrument; or

22 (ii) established by other evidence that would be admissible in a judicial  
23 proceeding;

1 (B) the trust’s provisions as established, determined, or amended by:

2 (i) a trustee or trust director in accordance with applicable law; [or]

3 (ii) court order[; or

4 (iii) a nonjudicial settlement agreement under [Uniform Trust Code

5 Section 111]];

6 (C) for an estate, a will; or

7 (D) for a life estate, term interest, or other arrangement or relationship not

8 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C), the corresponding manifestation of the rights of the  
9 beneficiaries.

10 (22) “Trust”:

11 (A) includes:

12 (i) an express trust, private or charitable, with additions to the trust,  
13 wherever and however created; and

14 (ii) a trust created or determined by judgment or decree under which the  
15 trust is to be administered in the manner of an express trust; and

16 (B) does not include:

17 (i) a constructive trust;

18 (ii) a resulting trust, conservatorship, multi-party account, custodial  
19 arrangement for a minor, business trust, voting trust, security arrangement, liquidation trust, or  
20 trust for the primary purpose of paying debts, dividends, interest, salaries, wages, profits,  
21 pensions, retirement benefits, or employee benefits of any kind; or

22 (iii) an arrangement under which a person is a nominee, escrowee, or agent  
23 for another.

1 (23) “Trustee” means a person, other than a personal representative, that owns or holds  
2 property for the benefit of a beneficiary. The term includes an original, additional, or successor  
3 trustee, whether or not appointed or confirmed by a court.

4 (24) “Will” means any testamentary instrument recognized by applicable law which  
5 makes a legally effective disposition of an individual’s property, effective at the individual’s  
6 death. The term includes a codicil or other amendment to a testamentary instrument.

7 *Legislative Note: Revise paragraph (3) as necessary to refer to the appropriate court having*  
8 *jurisdiction over the matters listed.*

9 *In paragraph (7), refer to Uniform Directed Trust Act Section 2(9) or modify paragraph (7)*  
10 *appropriately if the state has not enacted the Uniform Directed Trust Act.*

11 *In paragraph (10)(A)(i), refer to Uniform Trust Code Section 103(13) or modify paragraph*  
12 *(10)(A)(i) appropriately if the state has not enacted the Uniform Trust Code.*

13 *A state that has enacted Uniform Trust Code Section 103(15) and (20) may replace paragraphs*  
14 *(17) and (23) with cross-references to those provisions.*

15 *In states in which the constitution, or other law, does not permit the phrase “as amended” when*  
16 *federal statutes are incorporated into state law, the phrase should be omitted from paragraph*  
17 *(18).*

18 *A state that has enacted Uniform Trust Code (Last Revised or Amended in 2010) Section*  
19 *103(18), defining “terms of a trust”, or the Uniform Trust Decanting Act (2015) Section 2(28),*  
20 *defining “terms of the trust”, should update those definitions to conform to paragraph (21)(A)*  
21 *and (B). A state that has not enacted Uniform Trust Code Section 111 should replace the*  
22 *bracketed language of paragraph (21)(B)(iii) with a cross reference to the state’s statute*  
23 *governing nonjudicial settlement or should omit paragraph (21)(B)(iii) if the state does not have*  
24 *such a statute.*

## 25 **Comment**

26 **“Accounting period.”** The 2018 Act adds the option of using an accounting period of  
27 “approximately 12 calendar months.” This clarifies that a 52-53-week fiscal year contemplated,  
28 for example, by section 441(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any other reasonable  
29 fiscal year, is not precluded.

30 **“Beneficiary.”** The 2018 Act expands the definition to include arrangements and  
31 relationships other than trusts and estate, such as life estate-remainder arrangements, as provided  
32 in the broader scope of this act set forth in Section 103. The definition is adapted to the context



1 of income and principal allocations.

2           **“Court.”** The 2018 Act defines “court,” to simplify references throughout the act. The  
3 definition is drawn from Section 2(8) of the Uniform Trust Decanting Act and conformed to the  
4 broader scope in Section 103 of this act.

5           **“Current income beneficiary,” “income interest,” and “mandatory income interest.”**  
6 The 2018 Act adds these definitions because of their relevance to the temporal distinctions  
7 between income and principal. There are no definitions for “discretionary income beneficiary” or  
8 “discretionary income interest” because those terms are not used in the Act.

9           **“Distribution,” “distribute,” “distributed,” and “distributee.”** The 2018 Act adds this  
10 definition, which clarifies that these words are used in the limited sense of a payment or transfer  
11 to a beneficiary only in the beneficiary’s capacity as beneficiary with respect to that beneficiary’s  
12 interest in the trust. For example, these words do not include compensation paid to a beneficiary  
13 who is also a fiduciary or employee, rent paid to a beneficiary who leases property to a trust, or  
14 interest paid to a beneficiary who has made a loan or installment sale to a trust.

15           **“Fiduciary.”** The 2018 Act expands this definition to conform to the broader scope in  
16 Section 103.

17           **“Independent person.”** The 2018 Act adds a definition of an “independent person,”  
18 which is used in Sections 203(e)(7), 309(b), and 501(2) with reference to fiduciaries to limit  
19 certain fiduciary discretionary powers to independent fiduciaries. Because an important reason  
20 for these limitations is to protect against unwelcome tax consequences, the definition in large part  
21 reflects, in the negative, the definition of a “related or subordinate” party in section 672(c) of the  
22 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which is incorporated by some tax rules, some safe harbors  
23 acknowledged by the IRS, and some conventions of document drafting. A limited liability  
24 company is added to subparagraph (D). Otherwise, subparagraphs (B) through (E) track section  
25 672(c) as closely as feasible. For example, subparagraph (D) refers simply to “voting control”  
26 rather than the more subjective “significant from the viewpoint of voting control” used in section  
27 672(c)(2), and subparagraph (E) refers simply to “an employee” rather than the more subjective  
28 “subordinate employee” used in reference to a corporation in section 672(c)(2). Subparagraph (C)  
29 refers to a “spouse,” as does section 672(c)(1); in view of the evolution of the law in this area, no  
30 reference has been included to “domestic partners” or similar terms.

31           **“Net income.”** “Net income” continues to be the term generally used in the 2018 Act to  
32 refer to what a current beneficiary must or may receive. This usage is intended to be flexible  
33 enough to cover, for example, even a trust, or a special circumstance related to a trust, that  
34 requires or permits distributions of gross income, because “net income” *is* gross income  
35 (expressed as “the total allocations during an accounting period to income under the terms of a  
36 trust and this [act]”) “minus the disbursements during the period, other than distributions,  
37 allocated to income under the terms of the trust and this [act].” To the extent the terms of a trust  
38 require or permit the distribution of gross income, there will necessarily be no “disbursements ...  
39 allocated to income” – all such disbursement will necessarily be allocated to principal – and thus  
40 the definition will work even in that unusual case. In addition, the 2018 Act expands this

1 definition to explicitly provide that in a unitrust, now provided for in new Article 3, “net income”  
2 *is* the unitrust amount, without deduction for any disbursements.

3       **“Record.”** This addition in the current Act is copied from Section 2(22) of the Uniform  
4 Trust Decanting Act.

5       **“Settlor.”** The 2018 Act adds a definition of “settlor” adapted from Section 103(15) of  
6 the Uniform Trust Code and Section 2(6) of the recent Uniform Directed Trust Act. It includes a  
7 “testator.” Throughout this draft, the term “settlor” will be uniformly used. Because of this  
8 definition, there is generally no reason to add words like “testator,” “donor,” or “transferor.”

9       **“Special tax benefit.”** In exercising various forms of fiduciary discretion under the Act,  
10 there are certain federal tax benefits that it is important to preserve and certain adverse federal  
11 tax consequences that it is important to avoid. (Section 104(c) of the 1997 Act served that  
12 purpose with respect to the power to adjust between income and principal.) There are four kinds  
13 of “special tax benefit” that it is important to preserve under the 2018 Act that are defined in  
14 Section 102(18). One is the qualification of an income interest in a trust for the annual exclusion  
15 from taxable gifts because the income interest is a “present interest” in property under Treasury  
16 Reg. §25.2503-3(b) and therefore is not a “future interest in property” referred to in section  
17 2503(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (subparagraph (A) of this act). Another is the  
18 eligibility of a trust to hold stock of an S corporation under section 1361 as a “qualified  
19 subchapter S trust” (QSST) under section 1361(d) of the Code if all of the income is distributed  
20 to one citizen or resident of the United States under section 1361(d)(3)(B) of the Code  
21 (subparagraph (B)). Another is the eligibility of a transfer to a trust for an estate or gift tax marital  
22 deduction because the settlor’s spouse is entitled to all the net income of the trust under section  
23 2056(b)(5) or (7)(B)(i)(II) or 2523(e) or (f)(2)(B) of the Code (subparagraph (C)). Finally, there is  
24 the total or partial exemption of a trust from generation-skipping transfer tax (GST tax) either  
25 under section 1433(b)(2)(A) of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-514) because the  
26 trust was irrevocable on September 25, 1985 (subparagraph (D)) or under section 2642(a)(2)(A)  
27 of the Code because GST exemption was allocated to the trust (subparagraph (E)). This  
28 definition of a “special tax benefit” is used to determine limits on the power to adjust between  
29 income and principal under Section 203(e)(1) and the new power to convert to or from or change  
30 a unitrust under Section 309(b).

31       **“Successor beneficiary.”** This term is used in the current Act rather than “remainder  
32 beneficiary,” the term in the 1997 Act, in recognition of the fact that modern trusts often last  
33 longer than the life of a single income beneficiary, and therefore the beneficiaries whose future  
34 interests are most often in need of balance and protection are beneficiaries who continue as  
35 income beneficiaries, not who succeed to the “remainder” interest as if the trust terminates. The  
36 term “successor beneficiary” includes remainder beneficiaries.

37       **“Terms of a trust.”** The definition of “terms of a trust” is conformed to Section 2(8) of  
38 the Uniform Directed Trust Act, which is similar to Section 2(28) of the Uniform Trust Decanting  
39 Act and Section 103(18) of the Uniform Trust Code. This replaces Section 102(12) of the current  
40 Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act, which reads: “‘Terms of a trust’ means the  
41 manifestation of the intent of a settlor or decedent with respect to a trust, expressed in a manner

1 that admits of its proof in a judicial proceeding, whether by written or spoken words or by  
2 conduct.” Subparagraphs (C) and (D) are added to conform to the broader scope in Section 103.

3 **SECTION 103. SCOPE.** Except as otherwise provided in the terms of a trust or this  
4 [act], this [act] applies to:

5 (1) a trust or estate;

6 (2) a life estate or other term interest in which the interest of one or more persons will be  
7 succeeded by the interest of one or more other persons; and

8 (3) another arrangement or relationship, to the extent a person holds property for the  
9 benefit of another person that may succeed to an interest in the property, if the interest of the  
10 successor may be affected by the allocation of receipts and disbursements between income and  
11 principal.

12 **SECTION 104. GOVERNING LAW.** Except as otherwise provided in the terms of a  
13 trust or this [act], this [act] applies when this state is the principal place of administration of a  
14 trust or estate or the situs of property not held in a trust or estate. By accepting the trusteeship of  
15 a trust having its principal place of administration in this state or by moving the principal place of  
16 administration of a trust to this state, the trustee submits to the application of this [act] to any  
17 matter within the scope of this [act] involving the trust.

18 **Comment**

19 As explained in the Prefatory Note, new Section 104 of the 2018 Act specifies that the  
20 Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act is governed by the law of the situs, or principal  
21 place of administration, of the trust. This is consistent with Sections 107 and 108 of the Uniform  
22 Trust Code and Section 3 of the Uniform Directed Trust Act. Like those acts, the rule of Section  
23 104 may be superseded by a provision in the terms of the trust.

1 [ARTICLE] 2

2 FIDUCIARY DUTIES AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

3 SECTION 201. FIDUCIARY DUTIES; GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

4 (a) In making an allocation or determination or exercising discretion under this [act], a  
5 fiduciary shall:

6 (1) act reasonably and in good faith, based on what is fair and reasonable to all the  
7 beneficiaries;

8 (2) administer a trust or estate impartially, except to the extent the terms of the  
9 trust manifest an intent that the fiduciary shall or may favor one or more beneficiaries;

10 (3) administer the trust or estate in accordance with the terms of the trust, even if  
11 there is a different provision in this [act]; and

12 (4) administer the trust or estate in accordance with this [act], except to the extent  
13 the terms of the trust provide otherwise or authorize the fiduciary to determine otherwise.

14 (b) A fiduciary's determination under this [act] is presumed to be fair and reasonable to all  
15 the beneficiaries. A fiduciary may exercise a discretionary power of administration given to the  
16 fiduciary by the terms of a trust, and an exercise of the power which produces a result different  
17 from a result required or permitted by this [act] does not create an inference that the fiduciary  
18 abused the fiduciary's discretion.

19 (c) A fiduciary shall:

20 (1) add a receipt to principal, to the extent neither the terms of a trust nor this [act]  
21 allocates the receipt between income and principal; and

22 (2) charge a disbursement to principal, to the extent neither the terms of the trust  
23 nor this [act] allocates the disbursement between income and principal.

1 (d) A fiduciary may exercise the power to adjust under Section 203 or the power to  
2 convert an income trust to a unitrust under Section 303(a)(1), change the percentage or method  
3 used to calculate a unitrust amount under Section 303(a)(2), or convert a unitrust to an income  
4 trust under Section 303(a)(3) if the fiduciary determines the exercise of the power will assist the  
5 fiduciary to administer the trust or estate impartially.

6 (e) Factors the fiduciary must consider in making the determination under subsection (d)  
7 include:

8 (1) the terms of the trust;

9 (2) the nature, distribution standards, and expected duration of the trust;

10 (3) the impact of the allocation rules, including specific adjustments between  
11 income and principal, under [Articles] 4 through 7;

12 (4) the desirability of liquidity and regularity of income;

13 (5) the desirability of the preservation and appreciation of principal;

14 (6) the extent to which an asset is used or may be used by a beneficiary;

15 (7) the increase or decrease in the value of principal assets, reasonably determined  
16 by the fiduciary;

17 (8) whether and to what extent the terms of the trust give the fiduciary power to  
18 accumulate income or invade principal or prohibit the fiduciary from accumulating income or  
19 invading principal;

20 (9) the extent to which the fiduciary has accumulated income or invaded principal  
21 in preceding accounting periods;

22 (10) the effect of current and reasonably expected economic conditions; and

23 (11) the reasonably expected tax consequences of the exercise of the power.

1 **Comment**

2 Subsections (a) through (c) of Section 201 are an update of Section 103 of the previous  
3 Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act (RUPIA).

4 The standard of what is fair and reasonable to all the beneficiaries in subsection (a)(1) is  
5 derived from RUIPIA Section 103(b); it is an objective standard, not dependent on what *seems* to  
6 any beneficiary to be fair and reasonable. A requirement to act “in good faith” is added,  
7 complementing and supporting the exoneration for a fiduciary’s action or inaction in good faith  
8 in Sections 203(c) (relating to the power to adjust between income and principal) and 302(f)  
9 (relating to the new power to convert to or from or change a unitrust) of the 2018 Act.

10 The requirement to administer a trust or estate impartially in subsection (a)(2) is also  
11 derived from RUIPIA Section 103(b), as is the accompanying exception to the extent the terms of  
12 the trust manifest an intent to favor one or more beneficiaries.

13 The terms of the trust may alter the degree or nature of impartiality without abandoning  
14 the duty of impartiality. For example, the terms of the trust may permit or require a current  
15 beneficiary to be preferred to meet needs for support in accordance with an accustomed standard  
16 of living and for medical care, but in making determinations regarding that standard the trustee  
17 owes a duty of impartiality to the current beneficiary and the successor beneficiaries. If such a  
18 preference for support and health is expressed, this act preserves the duty of impartiality in  
19 making discretionary distributions when that standard is satisfied.

20 The fact that an income beneficiary or a remainder beneficiary is also the fiduciary is not  
21 by itself an indication of partiality for that beneficiary.

22 Like previous acts, the 2018 Act contains only default rules. The general supremacy of the  
23 terms of the trust is affirmed in subsection (a)(3), as in RUIPIA Section 103(a)(1). Conversely, the  
24 applicability of the act where not overridden by the terms of the trust is affirmed in subsection  
25 (a)(4), but in a simpler and clearer way than RUIPIA Section 103(a)(3), which stated that “a  
26 fiduciary ... shall administer a trust or estate in accordance with this [Act] *if the terms of the trust*  
27 *or the will do not contain a different provision or do not give the fiduciary a discretionary power*  
28 *of administration.*” The 2018 Act states simply “except to the extent the terms of the trust  
29 provide otherwise or authorize the fiduciary to determine otherwise.”

30 The presumption of fairness and reasonableness of a fiduciary’s determination in the first  
31 sentence of subsection (b) is adapted from the last sentence of RUIPIA Section 103(b). The  
32 reassurance in the following sentence of subsection (b) that a result of a fiduciary’s exercise of  
33 discretion under the terms of the trust that is different from a result under the act does not create a  
34 negative inference is adapted from RUIPIA Section 103(a)(2).

35 The default of adding a receipt, or charging a disbursement, to principal in subsection (c)  
36 is derived from RUIPIA Section 103(a)(4).

1           **Factors.** The factors in subsection (e) that a fiduciary must consider are adapted from  
2 RUPIA Section 104(b), which was written in the context of the power to adjust between income  
3 and principal now found in Section 203. Unlike RUPIA Section 104(b), subsection (e) does not  
4 limit such consideration to those factors “to the extent they are relevant,” because determining  
5 that a factor is not relevant would itself require a degree of consideration. Under subsection (d),  
6 those factors are now also applicable to the new power to convert to or from or change a unitrust  
7 granted by Section 303.

8           The terms of the trust is added as an obvious factor and, indeed, is placed first, in  
9 paragraph (1). Correspondingly, in paragraph (2) the “purpose” of the trust is deleted as a factor,  
10 as is “the intent of the settlor” in RUPIA Section 104(b)(2). Divining or guessing subjective  
11 elements like “purpose” and “intent” are not a reasonable burden to place on a fiduciary, whereas  
12 “terms of the trust” is defined in Section 102(20)(A) to be “the *manifestation* of the settlor’s  
13 intent” in an objective medium.

14           Paragraph (3) adds “the impact of the allocation rules, including specific adjustments  
15 between income and principal, under [Articles] 4 through 7,” an elaboration of the reference to  
16 “the other provisions of the [Act]” in RUPIA Section 104(b)(6). This wording affirms that a main  
17 function of the power to adjust or to convert to a unitrust is to fix or compensate for the results  
18 otherwise obtained under those default rules. And because the filter of the default rules in  
19 Articles 4 through 7 is the meaningful way to view the assets of the trust, the enumeration of a  
20 few characteristics of those assets in RUPIA Section 104(b)(5) is omitted, except for the use of  
21 an asset by a beneficiary, which is retained in paragraph (6).

22           In paragraphs (4) and (5), “the needs for liquidity, regularity of income, and preservation  
23 and appreciation of capital” (as expressed in RUPIA Section 104(b)(4)) is retained, except that  
24 “needs for” is changed to “desirability of” and “capital” is changed to “principal.”

25           Paragraph (7) retains “the increase or decrease in the value of principal assets” from  
26 RUPIA Section 104(b)(6). The volatility of value, as well as the unpredictability of income, can  
27 be an occasion for the “smoothing” the powers to adjust between income and principal and to  
28 convert to or from or change a unitrust are designed to provide.

29           Finally, “the actual and anticipated effect of economic conditions on principal and income  
30 and effects of inflation and deflation” in RUPIA Section 104(b)(8) is simplified to “the effect of  
31 current and reasonably expected economic conditions” in paragraph (10), and “anticipated tax  
32 consequences” in RUPIA Section 104(b)(9) is changed to “reasonably expected tax  
33 consequences” in paragraph (11).

## 34           **SECTION 202. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF EXERCISE OF DISCRETIONARY**

### 35           **POWER.**

36           (a) In this section, “fiduciary decision” means:

37                   (1) a fiduciary’s allocation between income and principal or other determination

1 regarding income and principal required or authorized by the terms of a trust or this [act];

2 (2) the fiduciary's exercise or nonexercise of a discretionary power regarding  
3 income and principal granted by the terms of the trust or this [act], including the power to adjust  
4 under Section 203 or the power to convert an income trust to a unitrust under Section 303(a)(1),  
5 change the percentage or method used to calculate a unitrust amount under Section 303(a)(2), or  
6 convert a unitrust to an income trust under Section 303(a)(3); and

7 (3) the fiduciary's implementation of a decision described in paragraph (1) or (2).

8 (b) The court may not order a fiduciary to change a fiduciary decision, unless the court  
9 determines that the fiduciary decision was an abuse of the fiduciary's discretion.

10 (c) If the court determines that a fiduciary abused the fiduciary's discretion, the court may  
11 order a remedy authorized by law[, including Uniform Trust Code Section 1001]. To place the  
12 beneficiaries in the positions they would have occupied if the discretion had not been abused, the  
13 court may order:

14 (1) the fiduciary to exercise or refrain from exercising the power to adjust under  
15 Section 203;

16 (2) the fiduciary to exercise or refrain from exercising the power to convert an  
17 income trust to a unitrust under Section 303(a)(1), change the percentage or method used to  
18 calculate a unitrust amount under Section 303(a)(2), or convert a unitrust to an income trust  
19 under Section 303(a)(3);

20 (3) the fiduciary to distribute an amount to a beneficiary;

21 (4) a beneficiary to return some or all of a distribution; or

22 (5) the fiduciary to withhold an amount from one or more future distributions to a  
23 beneficiary.



1 (d) On [petition] by a fiduciary for instruction, the court may determine whether a  
2 proposed fiduciary decision will result in an abuse of the fiduciary’s discretion. If the [petition]  
3 describes the proposed decision, contains sufficient information to inform the beneficiary of the  
4 reasons for the proposal and the facts on which the fiduciary relies, and explains how the  
5 beneficiary will be affected by the proposed decision, a beneficiary that opposes the proposed  
6 decision has the burden to establish that it will result in an abuse of the fiduciary’s discretion.

7 *Legislative Note: In subsection (c), refer to Uniform Trust Code Section 1001 or modify*  
8 *subsection (c) appropriately or refer to the corresponding provision of the state’s Trust Code if*  
9 *the state has not enacted the Uniform Trust Code. Modify subsection (d) if the state does not*  
10 *permit a request for instruction in these circumstances.*

#### 11 **Comment**

12 Section 202 is adapted from RUPIA Section 105. Subsection (a) expands the scope of  
13 RUPIA Section 105(b) from the power to adjust to include not only the powers under the new  
14 unitrust provisions (subsection (a)(2)) but also any allocation or other determination regarding  
15 income and principal (subsection (a)(1)) and the implementation of any such allocations,  
16 determinations, or actions (subsection (a)(3)) (collectively called “fiduciary decisions” in the  
17 2018 Act).

18 Subsection (b) retains the general rule of RUPIA Section 105(a) that a court will  
19 intervene only if it determines that the fiduciary decision was an abuse of the fiduciary’s  
20 discretion. The statement that “A fiduciary’s decision is not an abuse of discretion merely  
21 because the court would have exercised the power in a different manner or would not have  
22 exercised the power,” although obviously true, is deleted as unnecessary.

23 Subsection (c) significantly changes the articulation of available remedies, while  
24 acknowledging that the choice of remedy is of course the court’s decision to make. Paragraphs  
25 (1) and (2) add that the court may simply order that the fiduciary exercise or refrain from  
26 exercising the power to adjust or the power to convert to or from or change a unitrust. That  
27 remedy is placed first because it may often be the first choice (but, again, without purporting to  
28 limit the court’s authority). Paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) contain the remedies of ordering a  
29 distribution or withholding from future distributions by a fiduciary or even (placed last) a refund  
30 by a beneficiary.

31 The focus of these selected remedies is to place the beneficiaries overtly – and the trust  
32 implicitly – “in the positions they would have occupied if the discretion had not been abused.”  
33 The remedy in RUPIA Section 105(c)(3) of ordering the fiduciary to use the fiduciary’s own  
34 funds to make a beneficiary whole is deleted – not denied to a court, but deleted as beyond the  
35 scope of a statute dealing primarily with allocations of income and principal. But the fiduciary’s

1 option of obtaining advance directions from the court (in RUIA Section 105(d)) is retained in  
2 subsection (d), if permitted by general state law.

3 **SECTION 203. FIDUCIARY’S POWER TO ADJUST.**

4 (a) Except as otherwise provided in the terms of a trust or this section, a fiduciary,  
5 without court approval, may adjust in a record between income and principal if the fiduciary  
6 determines the exercise of the power to adjust will assist the fiduciary to administer the trust or  
7 estate impartially.

8 (b) This section does not create a duty to exercise or consider the power to adjust under  
9 subsection (a) or to inform a beneficiary about the applicability of this section.

10 (c) A fiduciary that in good faith exercises or fails to exercise the power to adjust under  
11 subsection (a) is not liable to a person affected by the exercise or failure to exercise.

12 (d) In deciding whether and to what extent to exercise the power to adjust under  
13 subsection (a), a fiduciary shall consider all factors the fiduciary considers relevant, including  
14 relevant factors in Section 201(e) and the application of Section 401(i), 408, or 413.

15 (e) A fiduciary may not exercise the power under subsection (a) to make an adjustment or  
16 under Section 408 to make a determination that an allocation is insubstantial:

17 (1) if the adjustment or determination would reduce the amount payable to a  
18 current income beneficiary from a trust that qualifies for a special tax benefit, except to the extent  
19 the adjustment is made to provide for a reasonable apportionment of the total return of the trust  
20 between the current income beneficiary and successor beneficiaries;

21 (2) if the adjustment or determination would change the amount payable to a  
22 beneficiary as a fixed annuity or a fixed fraction of the value of the trust assets under the terms of  
23 the trust;

1 (3) if the adjustment or determination would reduce an amount that is permanently  
2 set aside for a charitable purpose under the terms of the trust, unless both income and principal  
3 are set aside for the charitable purpose;

4 (4) if possessing or exercising the power would cause a person to be treated as the  
5 owner of all or part of the trust for federal income tax purposes;

6 (5) if possessing or exercising the power would cause all or part of the value of  
7 the trust assets to be included in the gross estate of an individual for federal estate tax purposes;

8 (6) if possessing or exercising the power would cause an individual to be treated  
9 as making a gift for federal gift tax purposes;

10 (7) if the fiduciary is not an independent person;

11 (8) if the trust is irrevocable and provides for income to be paid to the settlor and  
12 possessing or exercising the power would cause the adjusted principal or income to be  
13 considered an available resource or available income under a public-benefit program; or

14 (9) if the trust is a unitrust under [Article] 3.

15 (f) If subsection (e)(4), (5), (6), or (7) applies to a fiduciary:

16 (1) a co-fiduciary to which subsection (e)(4) through (7) does not apply may  
17 exercise the power to adjust, unless the exercise of the power by the remaining co-fiduciary or  
18 co-fiduciaries is not permitted by the terms of a trust or applicable law; or

19 (2) if there is no co-fiduciary to which subsection (e)(4) through (7) does not  
20 apply, the fiduciary may appoint a co-fiduciary to which subsection (e)(4) through (7) does not  
21 apply, which may be a special fiduciary with limited powers, and the appointed co-fiduciary may  
22 exercise the power to adjust, unless the appointment of a co-fiduciary or the exercise of the  
23 power by a co-fiduciary is not permitted by the terms of the trust or applicable law.

1 (g) A fiduciary may release or delegate to a co-fiduciary the power to adjust under  
2 subsection (a) if the fiduciary determines that possessing or exercising the power to adjust under  
3 subsection (a) will or may:

4 (1) cause a result described in subsection (e)(1) through (6) or (8); or

5 (2) deprive the trust of a tax benefit or impose a tax burden not described in  
6 subsection (e)(1) through (6).

7 (h) A fiduciary's release or delegation to a co-fiduciary under subsection (g) of the power  
8 to adjust under subsection (a):

9 (1) must be in a record;

10 (2) applies to the entire power to adjust under subsection (a), unless the release or  
11 delegation in the record provides a limitation, which may be a limitation to the power to adjust:

12 (A) from income to principal;

13 (B) from principal to income;

14 (C) for specified property; or

15 (D) in specified circumstances.

16 (3) for a delegation, may be modified by a re-delegation under this subsection by  
17 the co-fiduciary to which the delegation is made; and

18 (4) subject to paragraph (3), is permanent, unless the release or delegation in the  
19 record provides a specified period, including a period measured by the life of an individual or the  
20 lives of more than one individual.

21 (i) Terms of a trust that deny or limit the power to adjust between income and principal do  
22 not affect the application of this section, unless the terms of the trust expressly deny or limit the  
23 power to adjust under subsection (a).

1 (j) The exercise of the power to adjust under subsection (a) in any accounting period may  
2 apply to the current period, the immediately preceding period, and one or more subsequent  
3 periods.

4 (k) A description of the exercise of the power to adjust under subsection (a) must be:

5 (1) included in a report, if any, sent to beneficiaries under [Uniform Trust Code  
6 Section 813(c)]; or

7 (2) communicated at least annually to [the qualified beneficiaries determined  
8 under [Uniform Trust Code Section 103(13)], other than [the Attorney General]][all beneficiaries  
9 that receive or are entitled to receive income from the trust or would be entitled to receive a  
10 distribution of principal if the trust were terminated at the time the notice is sent, assuming no  
11 power of appointment is exercised].

12 *Legislative Note: Modify subsection (f) if the state requires fiduciaries to act unanimously.*

13 *In subsection (k), refer to Uniform Trust Code Sections 813(c) and 103(13) or modify subsection*  
14 *(k) appropriately or refer to the corresponding provision of the state's Trust Code if the state has*  
15 *not enacted the Uniform Trust Code.*

16 **Comment**

17 **Origin, purpose, and scope of the power to adjust.** The power to adjust between  
18 income and principal was added to the 1997 Act as Section 104 (the forerunner of Section 203 of  
19 the 2018 Act) to complement the Uniform Prudent Investor Act that had been approved by the  
20 Uniform Law Commission in 1994. For a discussion of the prudent investor rule, including the  
21 investment considerations involving specific investments and techniques under the rule, see  
22 Restatement of Trusts 3d: Prudent Investor Rule § 227, Comments *i* and *k* through *p*.

23 The purpose of the power to adjust between income and principal was to enable a  
24 fiduciary to select investments using the standards of a prudent investor without having to realize  
25 a particular portion of the portfolio's total return in the form of traditional trust accounting  
26 income such as interest, dividends, and rents. Section 104 authorized a fiduciary to make  
27 adjustments between income and principal if three conditions were met: (1) the fiduciary must be  
28 managing the trust assets under the prudent investor rule; (2) the terms of the trust must express  
29 the income beneficiary's distribution rights in terms of the right to receive "income" in the sense  
30 of traditional trust accounting income; and (3) the fiduciary must be unable to comply with the  
31 duty to administer the trust impartially, based on what is fair and reasonable to all the

1 beneficiaries, without making an adjustment. In deciding whether and to what extent to exercise  
2 the power to adjust, the fiduciary was required to consider the factors described in what is now  
3 Section 201(e), but the fiduciary could not make an adjustment in circumstances described in  
4 what is now Section 203(e).

5 As stated in the Prefatory Note, new Section 203 is significantly expanded over former  
6 Section 104, especially by eliminating the three aforementioned preconditions. Trust distributions  
7 need not be constricted by the concept of “income” in a way that economic results from year to  
8 year could arbitrarily affect. In other words, while the trustee of a more modern trust with greater,  
9 if not total, flexibility to make distributions from income and/or principal would actually have  
10 been *denied* the flexibility intended by former Section 104, new Section 203 ensures that  
11 designing a trust for greater flexibility will not ironically sacrifice the flexibility of adjustments.

12 Section 203 does not empower a fiduciary to increase or decrease the degree of beneficial  
13 enjoyment to which a beneficiary is entitled under the terms of the trust; rather, it authorizes the  
14 fiduciary to make adjustments between income and principal that may be necessary or helpful if  
15 the income component of a portfolio’s total return is too small or too large because of investment  
16 decisions made by the fiduciary under the prudent investor rule. The paramount considerations in  
17 applying Section 203(a), which replace the three preconditions of former Section 104, are the  
18 requirement in Section 201(a)(i) and (2) that “a fiduciary shall . . . act reasonably and in good  
19 faith, based on what is fair and reasonable to all the beneficiaries [and] administer a trust or  
20 estate impartially, except to the extent the terms of the trust manifest an intent that the fiduciary  
21 shall or may favor one or more beneficiaries,” and the precondition in Section 203(a) that “the  
22 fiduciary [determine] the exercise of the power to adjust will assist the fiduciary to administer the  
23 trust or estate impartially.”

24 In other words, the power to adjust between income and principal under former Section  
25 104(a) was available only when, without the power, the fiduciary would have been “unable” to  
26 administer the trust impartially because prudent investment for *total* return was not producing an  
27 appropriate level of traditional trust *income* return to impartially balance the interests of the  
28 beneficiaries. Under new Section 203(a), that standard is relaxed when “the fiduciary determines  
29 the exercise of the power to adjust will *assist* the fiduciary to administer the trust or estate  
30 impartially.” The former standard of impossibility is replaced by a standard of assistance. The  
31 objective of impartiality served by the power to adjust is viewed as incremental, not as a cliff.

32 As further stated in the Prefatory Note, a trustee of a flexible trust that could have coped  
33 with the constraints of income and principal rules by merely accumulating income or invading  
34 principal now is given the alternative of making an adjustment under Section 203 instead. Under  
35 Section 203, a trustee of a discretionary trust can make adjustments, taking into account the  
36 nonexclusive list of factors provided in Section 201(e), and still achieve the comfortable outcome  
37 of “distributing income.” The Drafting Committee understood that, not only would some  
38 fiduciaries prefer the opportunity to continue to respect the formality of “distributing income to  
39 income beneficiaries,” but such a practice would also reassure beneficiaries and reduce some  
40 tendencies toward suspicion and conflict among beneficiaries. And when the interests of  
41 beneficiaries under the terms of the trust are still not appropriately served within the framework  
42 of “distributing income” – that is, when no reasonable adjustment would serve those interests, or

1 when non-pro rata distributions are justified – then invasions of principal, if authorized by the  
2 terms of the trust, may still be necessary.

3 **Factors to consider in exercising the power to adjust.** The factors the fiduciary must  
4 consider in determining whether to exercise the power to adjust between income and principal,  
5 formerly found in Section 104(b) regarding the power to adjust, are now revised and set forth in  
6 Section 201(e), applicable to both the power to adjust between income and principal and the  
7 power to convert to or from or change a unitrust. Section 203(d) refers to Section 201(e) in  
8 reference to the power to adjust. The differences between the factors in former Section 104(b)  
9 and those in new Section 201(e) are discussed in the Comment to Section 201.

10 Section 203(d) also requires that a fiduciary considering an exercise of the power to  
11 adjust consider the potential presence and effect of certain specific circumstances, namely the  
12 clarification of the character of a distribution from an entity under Section 401(i) after making a  
13 distribution to trust beneficiaries on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information, the forgoing  
14 of specific small allocations between income and principal as insubstantial under Section 408,  
15 and the need under Section 413 to compensate a settlor’s spouse when the property in a marital  
16 trust is underproductive.

17 **Duration of an exercise of the power to adjust.** Former Section 104 did not state the  
18 trust accounting periods to which a fiduciary’s exercise of the power to adjust between income  
19 and principal would apply, suggesting that the power would be exercised year-by-year, although  
20 presumably a retrospective exercise in the first part of the following year would work. Section  
21 203(j) explicitly provides that an exercise of the power in 2018, for example, may apply to 2017,  
22 2018, and any subsequent years. This, for example, would permit a fiduciary to take note that a  
23 particular long-term investment was likely to produce little or no accounting income but  
24 significant capital appreciation, and to provide accordingly for ongoing adjustments to occur as  
25 long as those conditions prevailed. While it still may be prudent to review such circumstances  
26 regularly, an announced commitment to a long-term strategy of adjustments might provide  
27 reassuring predictability and enhance the “regularity of income” cited as a factor for  
28 consideration in Section 201(e)(4).

29 **Accountability to beneficiaries and review by the court.** Section 203(k) clarifies that a  
30 description of a fiduciary’s exercise of the power to adjust must be communicated to  
31 beneficiaries, either in the annual report contemplated by Section 813(c) of the Uniform Trust  
32 Code or by less formal communication at least annually.

33 The exercise or nonexercise of the power to adjust is subject to review by the court under  
34 an abuse-of-discretion standard pursuant to Section 202. Certain remedies available to the court  
35 are addressed in Section 202(c) and discussed in the Comment to Section 202.

36 **Limitations on the power to adjust.** Section 203(e) prohibits a trustee from exercising  
37 the power to adjust where the exercise or even possession of the power might produce  
38 unwelcome federal tax results. Many of the tax results new Section 203(e) seeks to avoid are  
39 carryovers from the former Section 104(c): loss of marital deduction (new Sections 203(e)(1) &  
40 102(18)(C), former Section 104(c)(1)), loss of annual gift tax exclusion (203(e)(1) & 102(18)(A),

1 104(c)(2)), loss of annuity trust or unitrust treatment (203(e)(2), 104(c)(3)), charitable deduction  
2 (203(e)(3), 104(c)(4)), grantor trust treatment (203(e)(4), 104(c)(5)), and exposure to estate tax  
3 (203(e)(5), 104(c)(6)). Adverse results that the 2018 Act adds are disqualification of a trust to  
4 hold S corporation stock as a qualified subchapter S trust (QSST) under Section 102(18)(B), loss  
5 of grandfathered or exempt status for generation-skipping transfer tax (GST tax) purposes under  
6 Section 102(18)(D) and (E), and a taxable gift by a beneficiary or fiduciary (Section 203(e)(6)),  
7 as well as jeopardy of exemption for public benefit purposes (Section 203(e)(8)).

8 With respect to the “special tax benefits” defined in Section 201(18), however, the  
9 limitation of Section 203(e)(1) does not apply “to the extent the adjustment is made to provide  
10 for a reasonable apportionment of the total return of the trust between the current income  
11 beneficiary and successor beneficiaries.” This mirrors a safe harbor in Treasury Reg. §1.643(b)-1,  
12 discussed in the Comment to Section 301.

13 In former Section 104(c)(5) and (6), the limitations to avoid grantor trust status and estate  
14 tax exposure were expressed as “if possessing or exercising the power to make an adjustment  
15 causes [the adverse result], and [the adverse result] would not [occur] if the trustee did not  
16 possess the power to make the adjustment.” The second clause is omitted in Section 203(e)(5)  
17 and (6) because if the possessing or exercising the power “causes” the adverse result it  
18 necessarily follows that the adverse result would not occur but for the power.

19 In addition, the estate tax protection is extended to all individuals under new Section  
20 203(e)(5), whereas it was limited to individuals with the power to remove or appoint a trustee  
21 under former Section 104(c)(6). But the limitation applies only to the exposure of “trust assets”  
22 to estate tax, not assets held outside the trust, including assets that have been distributed from the  
23 trust. Therefore, for example, the limitation is not implicated merely because the exercise of the  
24 power to adjust from principal to income might increase a distribution to an income beneficiary  
25 and thereby add to that beneficiary’s estate held outside the trust.

26 Former Section 104(c)(7) and (8) prohibited exercise of the power to adjust “if the trustee  
27 is a beneficiary of the trust or ... the adjustment would benefit the trustee directly or indirectly.”  
28 New Section 203(e)(7) simply requires the fiduciary to be “an independent person,” as defined in  
29 new Section 102(10). Like former Section 104(d), if some but not all co-fiduciaries are restricted  
30 from exercising the power, new Section 203(f)(1) permits a qualified co-fiduciary to exercise the  
31 power, if permitted by the terms of the trust and applicable law. Section 203(f)(2) goes on to  
32 permit the appointment of a co-fiduciary for that purpose, even limited to that purpose.

33 Even in a case where Section 203(e) does not prohibit a trustee from adjusting between  
34 income and principal because certain tax advantages might be jeopardized, the trustee’s  
35 adjustment between income and principal does not necessarily determine or affect the amount of  
36 income that will be subject to federal income tax. Income for federal tax purposes is different  
37 from income for purposes of trust administration. As Treasury Reg. §1.643(b)-1 warns, “[t]rust  
38 provisions that depart fundamentally from traditional principles of income and principal will  
39 generally not be recognized” for income tax purposes.



1 Section 203(e)(10) provides that the power to adjust is not available for a unitrust under  
2 Article 3, where there is even less need for it than in a typical discretionary trust.

3 **Release or delegation of the power to adjust.** Like former Section 104(e), new Section  
4 203(g) permits a fiduciary to release all or part of the power to adjust in circumstances in which  
5 the possession or exercise of the power might deprive the trust of a benefit or impose a burden or  
6 risk. In addition, Section 203 allows delegation of the power in such a case. Section 203(h)  
7 provides that a release or delegation may be limited to income, to principal, or in other ways, or  
8 may apply only for a limited time, which may be measured by a life or lives. If not limited, the  
9 default under Section 203(h) is that the release or delegation is complete and permanent.

10 **Trust terms that limit a power to adjust.** Like former Section 104(e), new Section  
11 203(g) acknowledges that terms of a trust may limit the power to adjust, but only if the limitation  
12 expressly applies to the power to adjust under Section 203(a).

### 13 [ARTICLE] 3

### 14 UNITRUST

#### 15 SECTION 301. DEFINITIONS. In this [article]:

16 (1) “Applicable value” means the amount of the net fair market value of a trust taken into  
17 account under Section 307.

18 (2) “Express unitrust” means a trust for which, under the terms of the trust without regard  
19 to this [article], income or net income must or may be calculated as a unitrust amount.

20 (3) “Income trust” means a trust that is not a unitrust.

21 (4) “Net fair market value of the trust” means the fair market value of the assets of the  
22 trust, less the noncontingent liabilities of the trust.

23 (5) “Unitrust” means a trust for which net income is a unitrust amount. The term includes  
24 an express unitrust.

25 (6) “Unitrust amount” means an amount computed by multiplying a determined value of a  
26 trust by a determined percentage. For a unitrust administered under a unitrust policy, the term  
27 means the applicable value multiplied by the unitrust rate.

28 (7) “Unitrust policy” means a policy described in Sections 305 through 309 and adopted

1 under Section 303.

2 (8) “Unitrust rate” means the rate used to compute the unitrust amount under paragraph  
3 (6) for a unitrust administered under a unitrust policy.

4 **Comment**

5 **Background.** The word “unitrust” can be traced at least to the literature of the mid-  
6 1960s. Lovell, “The Unitrust: A New Concept to Meet an Old Problem,” 105 *Trusts & Estates*  
7 215 (1966); Del Cotto & Joyce, “Taxation of the Trust Annuity: The Unitrust Under the  
8 Constitution and the Internal Revenue Code,” 23 *Tax L. Rev.* 257 (1968). For many estate  
9 planners and charitable giving planners, the first introduction to the word may be in the term  
10 “charitable remainder unitrust” introduced by Congress in section 664, added to the Internal  
11 Revenue Code by the Tax Reform Act of 1969. The word was reprised following the enactment  
12 of section 2702 in Treasury Reg. § 25.2702-3(c), governing “qualified unitrust interests” in  
13 grantor retained unitrusts (“GRUTs”) (which are hardly ever used, if they are used at all).

14 While the precise origin or intent of the word is not totally clear, it appears derived from  
15 the notion that the trust consists of a *unified* fund—“a single fund [in which] there would be no  
16 distinction between income and principal,” only between “receipts” and “payouts.” Lovell, *supra*.  
17 The “unitrust” can be thought of as a trust in which there is a “unity” of interest between the  
18 current income beneficiary and the successor beneficiary, because both desire a higher value of  
19 the trust assets.

20 Thus, in today’s legal usage, a “unitrust” is simply a trust in which the periodic payout to  
21 the current income beneficiary is determined with reference to a percentage of the net value of  
22 the trust assets, determined from time to time, regardless of how much income is produced by the  
23 trust assets or the growth of the trust assets. As the value of the trust assets increases, the unitrust  
24 amount increases. As the value decreases, the unitrust amount decreases.

25 Converting or reforming a trust to a unitrust can provide a partnership among the income  
26 beneficiaries, the remainder beneficiaries, and the trustee that will enable the trustee to invest the  
27 assets for long-term growth to the benefit of all beneficiaries. This will permit the mission of the  
28 trustee and investment team to be more focused. Investment decisions can be based on the needs  
29 and risk tolerances of the beneficiaries, and there is less likelihood of dissension between the  
30 current and future beneficiaries over investment policy. In addition, to the extent that a unitrust  
31 approach obviates discretionary invasions of principal, the trustee is protected against challenges  
32 by the remainder beneficiaries that any discretionary principal distributions were excessive.  
33 Similarly, a unitrust approach eliminates the need to make adjustments between income and  
34 principal under Section 203 and thus avoids or minimizes controversy over whether such  
35 adjustments are proper.

36 By the end of 2016, 36 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado,  
37 Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland,  
38 Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon,

1 Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont,  
2 Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) had enacted statutes, some as  
3 part of their Uniform Principal and Income Act and some separately, permitting a trustee to  
4 convert a trust to a unitrust. Some of those statutes refer to unitrusts as “total return unitrusts” (a  
5 term not used in Article 3).

6 **Response by the Internal Revenue Service.** In February 2001, the Internal Revenue  
7 Service published proposed regulations it described in part as follows: “This document contains  
8 proposed regulations revising the definition of income under section 643(b) of the Internal  
9 Revenue Code to take into account changes in the definition of trust accounting income under  
10 state laws.” The preamble to the proposed regulations noted:

11 These [then current] statutory and regulatory provisions [under section 643] date  
12 back to a time when, under state statutes, dividends and interest were considered income  
13 and were allocated to the income beneficiaries while capital gains were allocated to the  
14 principal of the trust. Changes in the types of available investments and in investment  
15 philosophies have caused states to revise, or to consider revising, these traditional  
16 concepts of income and principal....

17 To ensure that the income beneficiaries are not penalized if a trustee adopts a total  
18 return investment strategy, many states have made, or are considering making, revisions  
19 to the definitions of income and principal. Some state statutes permit the trustee to make  
20 an equitable adjustment between income and principal if necessary to ensure that both the  
21 income beneficiaries and the remainder beneficiaries are treated impartially, based on  
22 what is fair and reasonable to all the beneficiaries. Thus, a receipt of capital gains that  
23 previously would have been allocated to principal may be allocated by the trustee to  
24 income if necessary to treat both parties impartially. Conversely, a receipt of dividends or  
25 interest that previously would have been allocated to income may be allocated by the  
26 trustee to principal if necessary to treat both parties impartially.

27 Other states are proposing legislation that would allow the trustee to pay a unitrust  
28 amount to an income beneficiary in satisfaction of that beneficiary’s right to the income  
29 from the trust. This unitrust amount will be a fixed percentage, sometimes required to be  
30 within a range set by state statute, of the fair market value of the trust assets determined  
31 annually.

32 Questions have arisen concerning how these state statutory changes affect the  
33 definition of income provided in section 643(b) and the other Code provisions that rely on  
34 the section 643(b) definition of income. This definition of income affects trusts including,  
35 but not limited to, ordinary trusts, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, and  
36 qualified subchapter S trusts.

37 In short, amendment of the regulations was proposed to respond to changes in circumstances,  
38 including changes in the pressures on a trustee faced with an obligation to invest for total return  
39 under the prudent investor rule and faced with the remedies of principal-income adjustments  
40 under the Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act and of conversion to a total return unitrust.

1 The final regulations were released on December 30, 2003. Treasury Reg. §1.643(b)-1  
2 states, in part:

3 [A]n allocation of amounts between income and principal pursuant to applicable local  
4 law will be respected if local law provides for a reasonable apportionment between the  
5 income and remainder beneficiaries of the total return of the trust for the year, including  
6 ordinary and tax-exempt income, capital gains, and appreciation. For example, a state  
7 statute providing that income is a unitrust amount of no less than 3% and no more than  
8 5% of the fair market value of the trust assets, whether determined annually or averaged  
9 on a multiple year basis, is a reasonable apportionment of the total return of the trust.

10 **Article 3.** The typical state unitrust statute limits unitrust conversions to the parameters in  
11 the Treasury Regulations – “a unitrust amount of no less than 3% and no more than 5% of the  
12 fair market value of the trust assets, whether determined annually or averaged on a multiple year  
13 basis.” Article 3 borrows heavily from that existing state legislation, but it is broader and more  
14 flexible than the laws of most states. The Drafting Committee decided that state law should not  
15 be limited by specialized federal regulations and have included in Article 3 many more features  
16 and refinements than only a 3-to-5-percent range and the potential for annual averaging, to permit  
17 a unitrust to even better serve the objective of achieving more stability and predictability for  
18 beneficiaries.

19 One such refinement is to provide that the trust distribute a percentage of its market value  
20 determined on the basis of a rolling average of values for periods other than years. Twelve  
21 quarters is an example. This can reduce potential fluctuations in distributions caused by short-  
22 swing movements in the stock market. Although the rate of increase in the unitrust distribution to  
23 the current income beneficiary will lag the performance of the portfolio, the current income  
24 beneficiary will benefit in down years. Another similar refinement designed to reduce risk to all  
25 the beneficiaries is to place a ceiling and/or a floor on the unitrust payout amount, or on the size  
26 of fluctuation of the unitrust amount from year to year or period to period. More fundamental  
27 refinements include a variable unitrust rate itself, perhaps drawn from specified market data, and  
28 different treatment for different types of assets, including the total exclusion of certain assets and  
29 the income therefrom. Sections 305-308 allow all variations of that kind. To afford a trustee the  
30 benefit of the safe harbor in the Treasury regulations in situations where it applies, Section  
31 309(b) limits the parameters in those situations to the parameters specified in that safe harbor.  
32 The situations where Section 309(b) applies, described as situations in which the trust offers a  
33 “special tax benefit,” which is defined in Section 102(18), are built around situations addressed  
34 in the 2003 Treasury Regulations.

35 Because of the broad flexibility Article 3 allows, it is not necessary to provide specific  
36 statutory fixes for specific identified challenges, including computational challenges like the  
37 treatment of accrued but unpaid income and the treatment of property that is personally used and  
38 not invested.

39 In addition to the requirements in Sections 302(b)(2) and 304 for sending notice of a  
40 proposed conversion to or from or change to a unitrust, some state statutes also require the  
41 trustee to send a copy of the state unitrust statute. If the other, somewhat more detailed,

1 requirements of this Article 3 are followed, that seems unnecessary, although any state that  
2 chooses may still add it.

3 Like some state unitrust statutes, Article 3 applies to “express unitrusts,” defined in  
4 Section 301(2) to be “a trust for which, under the terms of the trust without regard to this  
5 [article], income or net income must or may be calculated as a unitrust amount.” This scope of  
6 Article 3 is confirmed in Section 301(5), which includes an express unitrust in the general  
7 definition of a “unitrust,” in Section 301(6), in which the definition of a “unitrust amount”  
8 “includes” the unitrust amount determined under Article 3 but also covers any “amount  
9 computed by multiplying a determined value of a trust by a determined percentage” (as in an  
10 express unitrust), and in Section 302(a)(2), which includes an express unitrust in the application  
11 of Article 3. This definition and scope are carried out in Section 303(a)(2) and (3), which  
12 provides that any unitrust (which includes an express unitrust under Section 301(5)) may be  
13 changed (Section 303(a)(2)) or converted (not only “converted *back*”) to an income trust (Section  
14 303(a)(3)). Thus the Comments to this Article 3, as well as the Comments to Sections 102, 201,  
15 202, and 203, refer to “the power to convert to or from or change a unitrust,” although the act  
16 itself (in Sections 201(d) and 202(a)(2) and (c)(2)) is more formal.

17 As in the case of the power to adjust between income and principal provided in Section  
18 203 and discussed in the Comment to Section 203, Section 302(c) provides that a trust may be  
19 converted to a unitrust regardless of the terms of the trust governing distributions – that is, even  
20 though distributions are not defined or limited by the amount of net income of the trust. This is a  
21 departure from current state laws, but it reflects the overall commitment to flexibility in the 2018  
22 Act that is discussed in the Comment to Section 302. Like the power to adjust, Section 303(b)(1)  
23 makes the power to convert to or from or change a unitrust available when “the fiduciary  
24 determines that the action will *assist* the fiduciary to administer a trust or estate impartially.” As  
25 with the power to adjust, the objective of impartiality served by the unitrust powers is  
26 incremental, not a cliff.

27 **SECTION 302. APPLICATION; DUTIES AND REMEDIES.**

28 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), this [article] applies to:

29 (1) an income trust, unless the terms of the trust expressly prohibit use of this  
30 [article] by a specific reference to this [article] or an explicit expression of intent that net income  
31 not be calculated as a unitrust amount; and

32 (2) an express unitrust, except to the extent the terms of the trust explicitly:

33 (A) prohibit use of this [article] by a specific reference to this [article];

34 (B) prohibit conversion to an income trust; or

35 (C) limit changes to the method of calculating the unitrust amount.

1 (b) This [article] does not apply to a trust described in Section 170(f)(2)(B), 642(c)(5),  
2 664(d), 2702(a)(3)(A)(ii) or (iii), or 2702(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as  
3 amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 170(f)(2)(B), 642(c)(5), 664(d), 2702(a)(3)(A)(ii) or (iii), or  
4 2702(b)][, as amended].

5 (c) An income trust to which this [article] applies under subsection (a)(1) may be  
6 converted to a unitrust under this [article] regardless of the terms of the trust concerning  
7 distributions. Conversion to a unitrust under this [article] does not affect other terms of the trust  
8 concerning distributions of income or principal.

9 (d) This [article] applies to an estate only to the extent a trust is a beneficiary of the estate.  
10 To the extent of the trust’s interest in the estate, the estate may be administered as a unitrust, the  
11 administration of the estate as a unitrust may be discontinued, or the percentage or method used  
12 to calculate the unitrust amount may be changed, in the same manner as for a trust under this  
13 [article].

14 (e) This [article] does not create a duty to take or consider action under this [article] or to  
15 inform a beneficiary about the applicability of this [article].

16 (f) A fiduciary that in good faith takes or fails to take an action under this [article] is not  
17 liable to a person affected by the action or inaction.

18 *Legislative Note: In states in which the constitution, or other law, does not permit the phrase “as*  
19 *amended” when federal statutes are incorporated into state law, the phrase should be omitted.*

20 **Comment**

21 Section 302(a)(2) includes “express unitrusts” within the scope of Article 3. Section  
22 302(b) excludes charitable lead annuity trusts and unitrusts (CLATs and CLUTs), pooled income  
23 funds (PIFs), charitable remainder annuity trusts and unitrusts (CRATs and CRUTs), personal  
24 residence trusts and qualified personal residence trusts (PRTs and QPRTs), and grantor retained  
25 annuity trusts and unitrusts (GRATs and GRUTs).

1 Section 302(c) confirms that conversion of an income trust to a unitrust does not depend  
2 on the terms of the trust concerning distributions. In other words, as explained in the Prefatory  
3 Note in the Comment to Section 203, a unitrust conversion is available even for a trust in which a  
4 trustee may accumulate income or invade principal. This works both ways under Section 302(c).  
5 Discretion over distributions does not disqualify an income trust from converting to a unitrust,  
6 and neither does conversion to a unitrust change the trustee's discretion to accumulate income  
7 (even the unitrust amount, although that may be unusual) or invade principal above the unitrust  
8 amount.

9 Section 302(d) provides that Article 3 applies to a decedent's estate only to the extent a  
10 trust is a beneficiary of the estate. To that extent, the estate, or part of the estate, is treated for all  
11 purposes the same as a trust under Article 3. Thus, there are no other references to estates in  
12 Article 3.

13 Section 302(e) rejects any creation of an affirmative duty to act under Article 3 or to  
14 inform beneficiaries of the actions available under Article 3. And Section 302(f) exonerates a  
15 fiduciary that in good faith acts or fails to act under Article 3.

### 16 SECTION 303. AUTHORITY OF FIDUCIARY.

17 (a) A fiduciary, without court approval, by complying with subsections (b) and (f), may:

18 (1) convert an income trust to a unitrust if the fiduciary adopts in a record a  
19 unitrust policy for the trust providing:

20 (A) that in administering the trust the net income of the trust will be a  
21 unitrust amount rather than net income determined without regard to this [article]; and

22 (B) the percentage and method used to calculate the unitrust amount;

23 (2) change the percentage or method used to calculate a unitrust amount for a  
24 unitrust if the fiduciary adopts in a record a unitrust policy or an amendment or replacement of a  
25 unitrust policy providing changes in the percentage or method used to calculate the unitrust  
26 amount; or

27 (3) convert a unitrust to an income trust if the fiduciary adopts in a record a  
28 determination that, in administering the trust, the net income of the trust will be net income  
29 determined without regard to this [article] rather than a unitrust amount.

1 (b) A fiduciary may take an action under subsection (a) if:

2 (1) the fiduciary determines that the action will assist the fiduciary to administer a  
3 trust impartially;

4 (2) the fiduciary sends a notice, in the manner required by Section 304, describing  
5 and proposing to take the action;

6 (3) the fiduciary sends a copy of the notice under paragraph (2) to each settlor of  
7 the trust that is:

8 (A) if an individual, living; or

9 (B) if not an individual, in existence;

10 (4) at least one member of each class[ of the qualified beneficiaries determined  
11 under [Uniform Trust Code Section 103(13)], other than [the Attorney General],] receiving the  
12 notice under paragraph (2) is:

13 (A) if an individual, legally competent; [or]

14 (B) if not an individual, in existence; [or

15 (C) represented in the manner provided in Section 304(b);] and

16 (5) the fiduciary does not receive, by the date specified in the notice under Section  
17 304[(d)(4)][(c)(4)], an objection in a record to the action proposed under paragraph (2) from a  
18 person to which the notice under paragraph (2) is sent.

19 (c) If a fiduciary receives, not later than the date stated in the notice under Section  
20 304[(d)(4)][(c)(4)], an objection in a record described in Section 304[(d)(3)][(c)(3)] to an action  
21 proposed under subsection (b)(2), the fiduciary or a beneficiary may petition the court to have the  
22 proposed action taken as proposed, taken with modifications, or prevented. A person described in  
23 Section 304(a) may oppose the action proposed under subsection (b)(2) in the proceeding under



1 this subsection, whether or not the person:

2 (1) consented under Section 304[(c)][(b)]; or

3 (2) objected under Section 304[(d)(3)][(c)(3)].

4 (d) If, after sending a notice under subsection (b)(2), a fiduciary decides not to take the  
5 action proposed in the notice, the fiduciary shall notify in a record each person described in  
6 Section 304(a) of the decision not to take the action and the reasons for the decision.

7 (e) If a beneficiary requests in a record that a fiduciary take an action described in  
8 subsection (a) and the fiduciary declines to act or does not act not later than 90 days after  
9 receiving the request, the beneficiary may petition the court to direct the fiduciary to take the  
10 action requested.

11 (f) In deciding whether and how to take an action authorized by subsection (a), or whether  
12 and how to respond to a request by a beneficiary under subsection (e), a fiduciary shall consider  
13 all factors relevant to the trust and the beneficiaries, including relevant factors in Section 201(e).

14 (g) A fiduciary may release or delegate the power to convert an income trust to a unitrust  
15 under subsection (a)(1), change the percentage or method used to calculate a unitrust amount  
16 under subsection (a)(2), or convert a unitrust to an income trust under subsection (a)(3) for a  
17 reason described in Section 203(g) and in the manner described in Section 203(h).

18 **Legislative Note:** *In subsection (b)(4), refer to Uniform Trust Code Section 103(13) or modify*  
19 *subsection (b)(4) appropriately or refer to the corresponding provision of the state's Trust Code*  
20 *if the state has not enacted the Uniform Trust Code. In subsections (b)(5) and (c), use the*  
21 *reference in the first set of brackets if Alternative A of Section 304 is used and use the reference*  
22 *in the second set of brackets if Alternative B of Section 304 is used.*

### 23 **Comment**

24 Section 303 sets forth, in effect, the road map for action under Article 3: the options  
25 under Section 303(a), a determination that impartiality will be assisted under Section 303(b)(1),  
26 notice to beneficiaries under Section 303(b)(2) with a copy to the settlor or settlors under Section  
27 303(b)(3), existence of a competent potential party under Section 303(b)(4), a wait for a

1 prescribed time before acting under Section 303(b)(5), and an opportunity to ask for court  
2 approval under Section 303(c) if there is a timely objection. There is also an opportunity under  
3 Section 303(e) for a beneficiary to seek the help of the court if the beneficiary asks the fiduciary  
4 to act under Article 3 and the fiduciary refuses or fails to act.

5 Although the recipients of the required notice are set forth in detail in Section 304,  
6 settlors are included only here in Section 303(b)(3) and are said only to receive “a copy of the  
7 notice.” This is done to avoid unintentionally making the settlor of an irrevocable trust over  
8 which he or she has relinquished all power a party to a proceeding with a voice in the matter that  
9 could be construed as retained control of the trust. See Section 304[(d)][(c)](4), which requires  
10 the notice to state that everyone who receives the notice “may object to the proposed action.”  
11 This is a departure from the Uniform Trust Decanting Act (UTDA), for example, which includes  
12 the requirement for notice to the settlor in the same list, indeed at the head of the list (Section  
13 7(c)(1)), of all persons entitled to notice. But there may be reasons unique to decanting to give  
14 formal notice to the settlor. Section 19(b)(10) of UTDA, for example, allows a settlor to block a  
15 fiduciary’s decanting proposal if the decanting would reduce the settlor’s power to avoid or  
16 terminate grantor trust status, which typically would not be implicated by a unitrust conversion.

17 Section 303(a)(1)(A) states that in a unitrust “the net income of the trust will be a unitrust  
18 amount rather than net income determined without regard to this [article].” Thus, for example,  
19 because “net income” already reflects the disbursements made from income, there will be no  
20 deductions from the unitrust amount for expenses unless the unitrust policy expressly allows it.

21 Like the power to adjust, the power to convert to or from or change a unitrust is governed  
22 by consideration of the same factors under Sections 303(f) and 201(e), and a fiduciary may  
23 release or delegate the power under Section 303(g).

## 24 **SECTION 304. NOTICE.**

### 25 **Alternative A**

26 (a) A notice required by Section 303(b)(2) must be sent in a manner authorized under  
27 [Uniform Trust Code Section 109] to:

28 (1) the qualified beneficiaries determined under [Uniform Trust Code Section  
29 103(13)], other than [the Attorney General]; [and]

30 (2) [each person acting as trust director of the trust under the Uniform Directed  
31 Trust Act][each person that is granted a power over the trust by the terms of the trust, to the  
32 extent the power is exercisable when the person is not then serving as a trustee:

33 (A) including a:

1 (i) power over the investment, management, or distribution of trust  
2 property or other matters of trust administration; and

3 (ii) power to appoint or remove a trustee or person described in this  
4 paragraph; and

5 (B) excluding a:

6 (i) power of appointment;

7 (ii) power of a beneficiary over the trust, to the extent the exercise  
8 or nonexercise of the power affects the beneficial interest of the beneficiary or another  
9 beneficiary represented by the beneficiary under [Uniform Trust Code Sections 301 through 305]  
10 with respect to the exercise or nonexercise of the power; and

11 (iii) power over the trust if the terms of the trust provide that the  
12 power is held in a nonfiduciary capacity and the power must be held in a nonfiduciary capacity to  
13 achieve a tax objective under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended]]]; and

14 (3) each person that is granted a power to appoint or remove a trustee or person  
15 described in paragraph (2) by the terms of the trust, to the extent the power is exercisable when  
16 the person that exercises the power is not then serving as a trustee or as a person described in  
17 paragraph (2)].

18 (b) The representation provisions of [Uniform Trust Code Article 3] apply to notice under  
19 this section.

20 **Alternative B**

21 (a) A notice required by Section 303(b)(2) must be sent to:

22 (1) all beneficiaries that receive or are entitled to receive income from the trust or  
23 would be entitled to receive a distribution of principal if the trust were terminated at the time the

1 notice is sent, assuming no power of appointment is exercised; [and]

2 (2) [each person acting as trust director of the trust under the Uniform Directed  
3 Trust Act]][each person that is granted a power over the trust by the terms of the trust, to the  
4 extent the power is exercisable when the person is not then serving as a trustee:

5 (A) including a:

6 (i) power over the investment, management, or distribution of trust  
7 property or other matters of trust administration; and

8 (ii) power to appoint or remove a trustee or person described in this  
9 paragraph; and

10 (B) excluding a:

11 (i) power of appointment;

12 (ii) power of a beneficiary over the trust, to the extent the exercise  
13 or nonexercise of the power affects the beneficial interest of the beneficiary; and

14 (iii) power over the trust if the terms of the trust provide that the  
15 power is held in a nonfiduciary capacity and the power must be held in a nonfiduciary capacity to  
16 achieve a tax objective under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended]]];

17 and

18 (3) each person that is granted a power to appoint or remove a trustee or person  
19 described in paragraph (2) by the terms of the trust, to the extent the power is exercisable when  
20 the person that exercises the power is not then serving as a trustee or as a person described in  
21 paragraph (2)].

22 **End of Alternatives**

23 [(c)][(b)] A person may consent in a record at any time to action proposed under Section

1 303(b)(2). The notice need not be sent to a person that consents under this subsection.

2 [(d)][(c)] A notice required by Section 303(b)(2) must include:

3 (1) notice of the action proposed under Section 303(b)(2);

4 (2) for a conversion of an income trust to a unitrust, a copy of the unitrust policy  
5 adopted under Section 303(a)(1);

6 (3) for a change in the percentage or method used to calculate the unitrust amount,  
7 a copy of the unitrust policy or amendment or replacement of the unitrust policy adopted under  
8 Section 303(a)(2);

9 (4) a statement that the person to which the notice is sent may object to the  
10 proposed action by stating in a record the basis for the objection and sending or delivering the  
11 record to the fiduciary;

12 (5) the date by which an objection under paragraph (4) must be received by the  
13 fiduciary, which must be at least 30 days after the date the notice is sent;

14 (6) the date on which the action is proposed to be taken and the date on which the  
15 action is proposed to take effect;

16 (7) the name and contact information of the fiduciary; and

17 (8) the name and contact information of a person that may be contacted for  
18 additional information.

19 **Legislative Note:** Use Alternative A and the designations in the first set of brackets if the state  
20 has enacted the Uniform Trust Code. Use Alternative B and the subsection designations in the  
21 second set of brackets if the state has not enacted the Uniform Trust Code.

22 *In states in which the constitution, or other law, does not permit the phrase “as amended” when*  
23 *federal statutes are incorporated into state law, the phrase should be omitted. Modify subsection*  
24 *(a)(2) to refer to the Uniform Directed Trust Act and include subsection (a)(3) if the state has not*  
25 *enacted the Uniform Directed Trust Act or modify subsection (a)(2) appropriately and omit*  
26 *subsection (a)(3) if the state has not enacted the Uniform Directed Trust Act.*

1 **Comment**

2 Section 304 provides details of the fiduciary’s notice to beneficiaries. Subsection (a) is  
3 offered in two Alternatives, Alternative A for a state that has enacted the Uniform Trust Code  
4 and Alternative B for a state that hasn’t. Alternative A also includes a subsection (b) that affirms  
5 the application of the UTC representation rules. Generally, a detailed notice goes to “qualified  
6 beneficiaries” in the UTC sense, as both current and successor beneficiaries are affect by the  
7 administration of a trust as a unitrust. Subsection (d) (in the UTC case) or (c) (in the non-UTC  
8 case) requires, in paragraphs (7) and (8), the name and contact information of the fiduciary and of  
9 a person that may be contacted for additional information. “Contact information” is left open-  
10 ended, to accommodate any reasonably accessible technology or medium.

11 **SECTION 305. UNITRUST POLICY.**

12 (a) In administering a unitrust under this [article], a fiduciary shall follow a unitrust  
13 policy adopted under Section 303(a)(1) or (2) or amended or replaced under Section 303(a)(2).

14 (b) A unitrust policy must provide:

15 (1) the unitrust rate or the method for determining the unitrust rate under Section  
16 306;

17 (2) the method for determining the applicable value under Section 307; and

18 (3) the rules described in Sections 306 through 309 that apply in the  
19 administration of the unitrust, whether the rules are:

20 (A) mandatory, as provided in Sections 307(a) and 308(a); or

21 (B) optional, as provided in Sections 306, 307(b), 308(b), and 309(a), to  
22 the extent the fiduciary elects to adopt those rules.

23 **Comment**

24 Section 305 provides for a “unitrust policy,” which will include a few mandatory details  
25 spelled out in Sections 306 through 308 and may include many more optional details mentioned  
26 in those sections. It is in these sections where broad flexibility is encountered, including a  
27 unitrust rate under Section 306 that may be less than 3 percent or more than 5 percent and a  
28 period under Section 308 that may be something other than a calendar year. For exceptions to  
29 that flexibility in certain cases, see Section 309 and the Comment thereto.

1           **SECTION 306. UNITRUST RATE.**

2           (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 309(b)(1), a unitrust rate may be:

3                   (1) a fixed unitrust rate; or

4                   (2) a unitrust rate that is determined for each period using:

5                           (A) a market index or other published data; or

6                           (B) a mathematical blend of market indices or other published data over a  
7 stated number of preceding periods.

8           (b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 309(b)(3), a unitrust policy may provide:

9                   (1) a limit on how high the unitrust rate determined under subsection (a)(2) may  
10 rise;

11                   (2) a limit on how low the unitrust rate determined under subsection (a)(2) may  
12 fall;

13                   (3) a limit on how much the unitrust rate determined under subsection (a)(2) may  
14 increase over the unitrust rate for the preceding period or a mathematical blend of unitrust rates  
15 over a stated number of preceding periods;

16                   (4) a limit on how much the unitrust rate determined under subsection (a)(2) may  
17 decrease below the unitrust rate for the preceding period or a mathematical blend of unitrust rates  
18 over a stated number of preceding periods; or

19                   (5) a mathematical blend of any of the unitrust rates determined under paragraphs  
20 (1) through (4) and subsection (a)(2).

21           **SECTION 307. APPLICABLE VALUE.**

22           (a) A unitrust policy must provide the method for determining the fair market value of an  
23 asset for purposes of determining the unitrust amount, including:

1 (1) the frequency of valuing an asset, which need not require a valuation in every  
2 period; and

3 (2) the date for valuing an asset in each period in which the asset is valued.

4 (b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 309(b)(3), a unitrust policy may provide  
5 methods for determining the amount of the fair market value of assets to take into account in  
6 determining the applicable value, including:

7 (1) obtaining an appraisal of an asset for which fair market value is not readily  
8 available;

9 (2) exclusion of specific assets or groups or types of assets;

10 (3) other exceptions or modifications of the treatment of specific assets or groups  
11 or types of assets;

12 (4) identification and treatment of cash or property held for distribution;

13 (5) use of:

14 (A) an average of fair market values over a stated number of preceding  
15 periods; or

16 (B) another mathematical blend of fair market values over a stated number  
17 of preceding periods;

18 (6) a limit on how much the applicable value of all assets, groups of assets, or  
19 individual assets may increase over:

20 (A) the corresponding applicable value for the preceding period; or

21 (B) a mathematical blend of applicable values over a stated number of  
22 preceding periods;

23 (7) a limit on how much the applicable value of all assets, groups of assets, or



1 individual assets may decrease below:

2 (A) the corresponding applicable value for the preceding period; or

3 (B) a mathematical blend of applicable values over a stated number of  
4 preceding periods;

5 (8) the treatment of accrued income and other features of an asset which affect  
6 value; or

7 (9) determining the liabilities of the trust, including treatment of liabilities to  
8 conform with the treatment of assets under paragraphs (1) through (8).

9 **SECTION 308. PERIOD.**

10 (a) A unitrust policy must provide the period used under Sections 306 and 307. Except as  
11 otherwise provided in Section 309(b)(2), the period may be:

12 (1) a calendar year;

13 (2) a 12-month period other than a calendar year;

14 (3) a calendar quarter;

15 (4) a three-month period other than a calendar quarter; or

16 (5) another period.

17 (b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 309(b)(3), a unitrust policy may provide  
18 standards for:

19 (1) using fewer preceding periods under Section 306(a)(2)(B) or (b)(3) or (4) if:

20 (A) the trust was not in existence in a preceding period; or

21 (B) market indices or other published data are not available for a preceding  
22 period;

23 (2) using fewer preceding periods under Section 307(b)(5)(A) or (B), (6)(B), or

1 (7)(B) if:

2 (A) the trust was not in existence in a preceding period; or

3 (B) fair market values are not available for a preceding period; or

4 (3) prorating the unitrust amount on a daily basis for a part of a period in which  
5 the trust or the administration of the trust as a unitrust or the interest of any beneficiary  
6 commences or terminates.

7 **SECTION 309. OTHER RULES; LIMITATIONS.**

8 (a) A unitrust policy may:

9 (1) provide methods and standards for:

10 (A) determining the timing of distributions;

11 (B) making distributions in cash or in kind or partly in cash and partly in  
12 kind; or

13 (C) correcting an underpayment or overpayment to a beneficiary based on  
14 the unitrust amount if there is an error in calculating the unitrust amount;

15 (2) specify sources and the order of sources, including categories of income for  
16 federal income tax purposes, from which distributions of a unitrust amount are paid; or

17 (3) provide other standards and rules the fiduciary determines serve the interests  
18 of the beneficiaries.

19 (b) If a trust qualifies for a special tax benefit or a fiduciary is not an independent person:

20 (1) the unitrust rate established under Section 306 may not be less than three  
21 percent or more than five percent;

22 (2) the only period that may be used under Section 308 is a calendar year under  
23 Section 308(a)(1); and

1 (3) no other provision of Sections 307 and 308 applies, except Sections 307(a)  
2 and (b)(1), (4), (5)(A), and (9) and 308(b)(2)(A) and (3).

### 3 **Comment**

4 Section 309(a) provides that a unitrust policy may include details beyond even the broad  
5 scope of Sections 306 through 308. One specific example, in paragraph (2), is to “specify sources  
6 and the order of sources, including categories of income for federal income tax purposes, from  
7 which distributions of a unitrust amount are paid.” Approximately 25 of the 36 state unitrust  
8 statutes include a default “ordering rule,” although five of those default rules are limited to net  
9 accounting income or ordinary income and leave the ordering of short- and long-term capital  
10 gains, for example, to the fiduciary’s discretion. Although the 2018 Act does not include such an  
11 ordering rule, Section 309(a)(2) makes it clear that the fiduciary may include an ordering rule in a  
12 proposed unitrust policy.

13 Importantly, Section 309(b) addresses trusts that qualify for a “special tax benefit”  
14 defined in Section 102(18) – the annual gift tax exclusion, eligibility of a qualified subchapter S  
15 trust (QSST), an estate or gift tax marital deduction, or exemption from generation-skipping  
16 transfer tax (GST tax) – and trusts with a fiduciary that is not an “independent person.” For those  
17 trusts, much of the expanded flexibility of Article 9 is denied, and, specifically, the unitrust rate  
18 is limited to 3-5 percent and the period used for calculation is limited to a calendar year. This  
19 protects the trust under the following safe harbor in Treasury Reg. §1.643(b)-1 (Dec. 30, 2003)  
20 (emphasis added):

21 [A]n allocation of amounts between income and principal pursuant to applicable local  
22 law will be respected if local law provides for a reasonable apportionment between the  
23 income and remainder beneficiaries of the total return of the trust for the year, including  
24 ordinary and tax-exempt income, capital gains, and appreciation. For example, *a state*  
25 *statute* providing that income is a unitrust amount of *no less than 3% and no more than*  
26 *5% of the fair market value of the trust assets, whether determined annually or averaged*  
27 *on a multiple year basis*, is a reasonable apportionment of the total return of the trust.

28 While two of the “special tax benefits” – the gift tax exclusion and the marital deduction  
29 – are short-term, and there are often alternatives to QSSTs and non-independent trustees, GST  
30 tax exemption is anything but short-term, is unavoidable, and is often crucial in the type of large  
31 long-term or even perpetual trust that is perhaps the most typical candidate for a unitrust  
32 conversion. And although “no less than 3% and no more than 5% of the fair market value of the  
33 trust assets, whether determined annually or averaged on a multiple year basis” is explicitly  
34 offered in the Treasury regulation only as an “example,” it is expressly incorporated into the  
35 regulations for GST-grandfathered trusts (Treasury Reg. §26.2601-1(b)(4)(i)(D)(2) & (E),  
36 *Example 11*), and the GST tax stakes are typically so high that few fiduciaries or beneficiaries  
37 would want to assume the risk. The focus of the regulation is on what the “state statute  
38 provid[es].” Therefore, this safe harbor is respected for such trusts.

39

1 [ARTICLE] 4

2 ALLOCATION OF RECEIPTS

3 [PART] 1

4 RECEIPTS FROM ENTITY

5 SECTION 401. CHARACTER OF RECEIPTS FROM ENTITY.

6 (a) In this section:

7 (1) “Capital distribution” means an entity distribution of money which is a:

8 (A) return of capital; or

9 (B) distribution in total or partial liquidation of the entity.

10 (2) “Entity”:

11 (A) means a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, regulated  
12 investment company, real estate investment trust, common trust fund, or any other organization  
13 or arrangement in which a fiduciary owns or holds an interest, whether or not the entity is a  
14 taxpayer for federal income tax purposes; and

15 (B) does not include:

16 (i) a trust or estate to which Section 402 applies;

17 (ii) a business or other activity to which Section 403 applies which  
18 is not conducted by an entity described in subparagraph (A);

19 (iii) an asset-backed security to which Section 415 applies; or

20 (iv) an instrument or arrangement to which Section 416 applies.

21 (3) “Entity distribution” means a payment or transfer made by an entity to a  
22 person that owns or holds an interest in the entity and made to the person in the person’s capacity  
23 as an owner or holder of the interest.

1 (b) In this section, an attribute or action of an entity includes an attribute or action of any  
2 other entity in which the entity owns or holds an interest, including an interest owned or held  
3 indirectly through another entity.

4 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a fiduciary shall allocate to income:

5 (1) money received in an entity distribution; and

6 (2) tangible personal property of nominal value received from the entity.

7 (d) A fiduciary shall allocate to principal:

8 (1) property received in an entity distribution which is not:

9 (A) money; or

10 (B) tangible personal property of nominal value;

11 (2) money received in an entity distribution in an exchange for part or all of the  
12 fiduciary's interest in the entity, to the extent the entity distribution reduces the fiduciary's  
13 interest in the entity relative to the interests of other persons that own or hold interests in the  
14 entity;

15 (3) money received in an entity distribution that the fiduciary determines or  
16 estimates is a capital distribution; and

17 (4) money received in an entity distribution from an entity that is:

18 (A) a regulated investment company or a real estate investment trust if the  
19 money received is a capital gain dividend for federal income tax purposes; or

20 (B) treated for federal income tax purposes comparably to the treatment  
21 described in subparagraph (A).

22 (e) A fiduciary may determine or estimate that money received in an entity distribution is  
23 a capital distribution:

1 (1) by relying without inquiry or investigation on a characterization of the entity  
2 distribution provided by or on behalf of the entity, unless the fiduciary:

3 (A) determines, on the basis of information known to the fiduciary, that the  
4 characterization is or may be incorrect; or

5 (B) owns or holds more than 50 percent of the voting interest in the entity;

6 (2) by determining or estimating, on the basis of information known to the  
7 fiduciary or provided to the fiduciary by or on behalf of the entity, that the total amount of money  
8 and property received by the fiduciary in the entity distribution or a series of related entity  
9 distributions is or will be greater than 20 percent of the fair market value of the fiduciary's  
10 interest in the entity; or

11 (3) if neither paragraph (1) nor (2) applies, by considering the factors in  
12 subsection (f) and the information known to the fiduciary or provided to the fiduciary by or on  
13 behalf of the entity.

14 (f) In making a determination or estimate under subsection (e)(3), a fiduciary may  
15 consider:

16 (1) a characterization of the entity distribution provided by or on behalf of the  
17 entity;

18 (2) the amount of money or property received in:

19 (A) an entity distribution; or

20 (B) what the fiduciary determines, on the basis of information known to  
21 the fiduciary or provided to the fiduciary by or on behalf of the entity, is or will be a series of  
22 related entity distributions;

23 (3) the size of the amount described in paragraph (2) compared to the amount the

1 fiduciary determines or estimates is, during the current or preceding accounting periods:

2 (A) the entity's operating income;

3 (B) the proceeds of the entity's sale or other disposition of:

4 (i) all or part of the business or other activity conducted by the  
5 entity;

6 (ii) one or more business assets that are not sold to customers in the  
7 ordinary course of the business or other activity conducted by the entity; or

8 (iii) one or more assets other than business assets, unless the  
9 entity's primary activity is to invest in assets to realize gain on the disposition of all or some of  
10 the assets;

11 (C) if the entity's primary activity is to invest in assets to realize gain on  
12 the disposition of all or some of the assets, the gain realized on the disposition;

13 (D) the entity's regular, periodic entity distributions;

14 (E) the amount of money the entity has accumulated;

15 (F) the amount of money the entity has borrowed;

16 (G) the amount of money the entity has received from the sources  
17 described in Sections 407, 410, 411, and 412; and

18 (H) the amount of money the entity has received from a source not  
19 described in this paragraph; and

20 (4) any other factor the fiduciary determines is relevant.

21 (g) If, after applying subsections (c) through (f), a fiduciary determines that a part of an  
22 entity distribution is a capital distribution but is in doubt about the amount of the entity  
23 distribution which is a capital distribution, the fiduciary shall allocate to principal the amount of

1 the entity distribution which is in doubt.

2 (h) If a fiduciary receives additional information about the application of this section to an  
3 entity distribution before the fiduciary has paid part of the entity distribution to a beneficiary, the  
4 fiduciary may consider the additional information before making the payment to the beneficiary  
5 and may change a decision to make the payment to the beneficiary.

6 (i) If a fiduciary receives additional information about the application of this section to an  
7 entity distribution after the fiduciary has paid part of the entity distribution to a beneficiary, the  
8 fiduciary is not required to change or recover the payment to the beneficiary but may consider  
9 that information in determining whether to exercise the power to adjust under Section 203.

#### 10 **Comment**

11 **Entities to which Section 401 applies.** Section 401 is intended to cover distributions  
12 from all types of entities. For example, the reference to partnerships in Section 401(a)(2)(A) is  
13 intended to include all forms of partnerships, including limited partnerships, limited liability  
14 partnerships, and variants that have slightly different names and characteristics from state to  
15 state. And subsection (b) provides that the same is true of a chain or chains of entities, whether  
16 the entities are the same or different and no matter how many tiers the entities represent. This  
17 section does not apply, however, to receipts from an interest in property that a fiduciary owns as a  
18 tenant-in-common with one or more co-owners, nor would it apply to an interest in a joint  
19 venture if, under applicable law, the interest is regarded as that of a tenant-in-common.

20 **Reinvested dividends.** If a fiduciary elects (or continues an election made by a  
21 predecessor) to reinvest dividends in shares of stock of a distributing corporation or fund,  
22 whether evidenced by new certificates or entries on the books of the distributing entity, the new  
23 shares would be principal. Making or continuing such an election would be equivalent to making  
24 an adjustment from income to principal under Section 203. If the fiduciary makes or continues  
25 the election for a reason other than to comply with the standards of Section 203, such as making  
26 an investment without incurring brokerage commissions, the fiduciary has the option of  
27 considering a corresponding transfer of cash from principal to income.

28 **Distribution of property.** The 1962 Act described a number of types of property that  
29 would be principal if distributed by a corporation. This became unwieldy in a section (former  
30 Section 401) that applied to both corporations and all other entities. By stating that the  
31 distribution of any property other than money is generally allocated to principal, subsection (d)(1)  
32 embraces all of the items enumerated in Section 6 of the 1962 Act as well as any other form of  
33 nonmonetary distribution not specifically mentioned in that Act. The exception in subsections  
34 (c)(2) and (d)(1)(b) for “tangible personal property of nominal value” is intended to cover, for



1 example, an item of food sent to owners (and perhaps others such as customers, suppliers, and  
2 employees) at a holiday time. It is not necessarily given in proportion to ownership interests, and  
3 as a practical matter it often needs to be allocated to income, in effect, so it can be conveniently  
4 distributed and enjoyed.

5 With respect to large distributions of cash, the 2018 Act is sensitive to the fact that the  
6 fiduciary might not have enough information to properly categorize the distribution. Subsection  
7 (d)(2) addresses the relatively easy case of a likely non-pro-rata distribution that reduces the  
8 fiduciary’s proportionate interest in the entity – in effect, a redemption. Subsection (d)(4) retains  
9 the special rule for capital gain dividends from a regulated investment company (RIC) or real  
10 estate investment trust (REIT) that was added in 1997.

11 With regard to receipts of money that could be what the act refers to as a “capital  
12 distribution” – a return of capital or a distribution in partial liquidation of the entity – subsections  
13 (d)(3), (e), and (f) provide some help with what the act acknowledges might be only an  
14 “estimate” by the fiduciary. Subsection (e) provides that the fiduciary may first rely on how the  
15 entity describes the distribution, unless the fiduciary possesses information that casts doubt on  
16 that description or the fiduciary is a majority voting owner, in which case the fiduciary may have  
17 a duty to inquire or investigate further. Next, the fiduciary may be satisfied with treating the  
18 distribution as a capital distribution if information the entity provides, together with other  
19 information the fiduciary knows, indicates that the distribution exceeds 20 percent of the fair  
20 market value of the fiduciary’s interest. For this purpose, what the available information indicates  
21 is or will be a series of distributions is aggregated. Finally, under subsection (e)(3), the fiduciary  
22 may make a determination or estimate based on factors in subsection (f) that may help point the  
23 fiduciary to a distribution that is extraordinary enough under the circumstances to be treated as a  
24 capital distribution.

25 Finally, because estimates may be necessary and are expressly contemplated by the act,  
26 subsections (h) and (i) help the fiduciary know how to make distributions on the basis of  
27 incomplete information and, as a last resort, cite the power to adjust between income and  
28 principal in Section 203.

29 **SECTION 402. DISTRIBUTION FROM TRUST OR ESTATE.** A fiduciary shall  
30 allocate to income an amount received as a distribution of income, including a unitrust  
31 distribution under [Article] 3, from a trust or estate in which the fiduciary has an interest, other  
32 than an interest the fiduciary purchased in a trust that is an investment entity, and shall allocate to  
33 principal an amount received as a distribution of principal from such a trust or estate. If a  
34 fiduciary purchases, or receives from a settlor, an interest in a trust that is an investment entity,  
35 Section 401, 415, or 416 applies to a receipt from the trust.

1 **Comment to 1997 Act**

2 **Terms of the distributing trust or estate.** Under this section, a fiduciary is to allocate  
3 receipts in accordance with the terms of the recipient trust or, if there is no provision, in  
4 accordance with this Act. In determining whether a distribution from another trust or an estate is  
5 income or principal, however, the fiduciary should also determine what the terms of the  
6 distributing trust or estate say about the distribution – for example, whether they direct that the  
7 distribution, even though made from the income of the distributing trust or estate, is to be added  
8 to principal of the recipient trust. Such a provision should override the terms of this Act, but if  
9 the terms of the recipient trust contain a provision requiring such a distribution to be allocated to  
10 income, the trustee may have to obtain a judicial resolution of the conflict between the terms of  
11 the two documents.

12 **Investment trusts.** An investment entity to which the second sentence of this section  
13 applies includes a mutual fund, a common trust fund, a business trust, or other entity organized as  
14 a trust for the purpose of receiving capital contributed by investors, investing that capital, and  
15 managing investment assets, including asset-backed security arrangements or similar  
16 arrangements to which Section 415 or 416 applies. See John H. Langbein, *The Secret Life of the*  
17 *Trust: The Trust as an Instrument of Commerce*, 107 *Yale L.J.* 165 (1997).

18 **SECTION 403. BUSINESS OR OTHER ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY**

19 **FIDUCIARY.**

20 (a) This section applies to a business or other activity conducted by a fiduciary if the  
21 fiduciary determines that it is in the interests of the beneficiaries to account separately for the  
22 business or other activity instead of:

23 (1) accounting for the business or other activity as part of the fiduciary’s general  
24 accounting records; or

25 (2) conducting the business or other activity through an entity described in Section  
26 401(a)(2)(A).

27 (b) A fiduciary may account separately under this section for the transactions of a business  
28 or other activity, whether or not assets of the business or other activity are segregated from other  
29 assets held by the fiduciary.

30 (c) A fiduciary that accounts separately under this section for a business or other activity:

1 (1) may determine:

2 (A) the extent to which the net cash receipts of the business or other  
3 activity must be retained for:

4 (i) working capital;

5 (ii) the acquisition or replacement of fixed assets; and

6 (iii) other reasonably foreseeable needs of the business or other  
7 activity; and

8 (B) the extent to which the remaining net cash receipts are accounted for  
9 as principal or income in the fiduciary's general accounting records for the trust;

10 (2) may make a determination under paragraph (1) separately and differently from  
11 the fiduciary's decisions concerning distributions of income or principal; and

12 (3) shall account for the net amount received from the sale of an asset of the  
13 business or other activity, other than a sale in the ordinary course of the business or other activity,  
14 as principal in the fiduciary's general accounting records for the trust, to the extent the fiduciary  
15 determines that the net amount received is no longer required in the conduct of the business or  
16 other activity.

17 (d) Activities for which a fiduciary may account separately under this section include:

18 (1) retail, manufacturing, service, and other traditional business activities;

19 (2) farming;

20 (3) raising and selling livestock and other animals;

21 (4) managing rental properties;

22 (5) extracting minerals, water, and other natural resources;

23 (6) growing and cutting timber;

- 1 (7) an activity to which Section 414, 415, or 416 applies; and  
2 (8) any other business conducted by the fiduciary.

### 3 **Comment**

4 **Purpose and scope.** The provisions in Section 403 are intended to give greater flexibility  
5 to a trustee who operates a business or other activity in proprietorship form rather than, for  
6 example, in a wholly-owned corporation or a single-member limited liability company, and to  
7 facilitate the trustee's ability to decide the extent to which the net receipts from the activity  
8 should be allocated to income, just as the board of directors of a corporation owned entirely by  
9 the trust would decide the amount of the annual dividend to be paid to the trust. It permits a  
10 trustee to account for farming or livestock operations, rental properties, oil and gas properties,  
11 timber operations, activities in derivatives and options, and other business activities as though  
12 they were held and conducted by a separate entity. It is not intended, however, to permit a trustee  
13 to account separately for a traditional securities portfolio to avoid the provisions of this Act that  
14 apply to such securities.

15 Section 403 permits the trustee to account separately for each business or activity for  
16 which the trustee determines separate accounting is appropriate. A trustee may account for these  
17 activities in a "subtrust" or may, for example, continue to use the business and record-keeping  
18 methods employed by a decedent or settlor who had conducted the business. The intent of this  
19 section is to give the trustee broad authority to select business record-keeping methods that best  
20 suit the activity in which the trustee is engaged.

21 If a fiduciary liquidates a sole proprietorship or other activity to which Section 403  
22 applies, the proceeds would be added to principal, even though derived from the liquidation of  
23 accounts receivable, because the proceeds would no longer be needed in the conduct of the  
24 business. If the liquidation occurs during probate or during an income interest's winding up  
25 period, none of the proceeds would be income for purposes of Section 201.

26 **Separate accounts.** A trustee may or may not maintain separate bank accounts for  
27 business activities that are accounted for under Section 403. A trustee, especially a trustee that is  
28 continuing a decedent's or settlor's business practices, may continue the same banking  
29 arrangements that were used during the decedent's lifetime. In either case, the trustee is  
30 authorized to decide to what extent cash is to be retained as part of the business assets and to  
31 what extent it is to be transferred to the trust's general accounts, either as income or principal.

32 **Separate accounting.** Subsection (c)(2) is added to the wording that was used in the  
33 1997 Act to accommodate the concept of "separate accounting" in a trust the only activity of  
34 which (other than making distributions to beneficiaries) is the conduct of a business. It may not  
35 be reasonable to assume that receipts not distributed to beneficiaries have been "retained" for use  
36 in the business, if that permits discretionary distributions to beneficiaries, in effect, to define trust  
37 income. That might be especially awkward if discretionary distributions of either income or  
38 principal or both to multiple beneficiaries are not made pro rata. In such a case, the trustee is  
39 permitted to designate which distributions in effect define trust income, and which distributions

1 are discretionary distributions under the terms of the trust not intended to be a standard or  
2 precedent for defining income.

3 **[PART] 2**

4 **RECEIPTS NOT NORMALLY APPORTIONED**

5 **SECTION 404. PRINCIPAL RECEIPTS.** A fiduciary shall allocate to principal:

6 (1) to the extent not allocated to income under this [act], an asset received from:

7 (A) an individual during the individual's lifetime;

8 (B) an estate;

9 (C) a trust on termination of an income interest; or

10 (D) a payor under a contract naming the fiduciary as beneficiary;

11 (2) subject to this [article], money or other property received from the sale, exchange,  
12 liquidation, or change in form of a principal asset;

13 (3) an amount recovered from a third party to reimburse the fiduciary because of a  
14 disbursement described in Section 502(a) or for other reasons to the extent not based on loss of  
15 income;

16 (4) proceeds of property taken by eminent domain, except that proceeds awarded for loss  
17 of income in an accounting period are income if a current income beneficiary had a mandatory  
18 income interest during the period;

19 (5) net income received in an accounting period during which there is no beneficiary to  
20 which a fiduciary may or must distribute income; and

21 (6) other receipts as provided in [Part] 3.

22 **Comment**

23 **Apportionment.** Part 2, Receipts Not Normally Apportioned, generally addresses  
24 receipts that are either income or income, while Part 3, Receipts Normally Apportioned,  
25 generally addresses receipts that are "apportioned" part to income and part to principal. The act



1 whether for application of the deposit to rent payments, return of the deposit to the tenant, or  
2 allocation to income upon the tenant’s forfeiture – *is* the satisfaction of the fiduciary’s contractual  
3 obligations with respect to that deposit, namely to hold it until an objectively determined event or  
4 time.

5 **SECTION 406. RECEIPT ON OBLIGATION TO BE PAID IN MONEY.**

6 (a) This section does not apply to an obligation to which Section 409, 410, 411, 412, 414,  
7 415, or 416 applies.

8 (b) A fiduciary shall allocate to income, without provision for amortization of premium,  
9 an amount received as interest on an obligation to pay money to the fiduciary, including an  
10 amount received as consideration for prepaying principal.

11 (c) A fiduciary shall allocate to principal an amount received from the sale, redemption, or  
12 other disposition of an obligation to pay money to the fiduciary. A fiduciary shall allocate to  
13 income the increment in value of a bond or other obligation for the payment of money bearing no  
14 stated interest but payable or redeemable at maturity or at a future time at an amount that exceeds  
15 the amount in consideration of which it was issued.

16 **Comment**

17 Section 406 is largely similar to its predecessor, except that Section 406(c) is reworded to  
18 follow New York’s statute (EPTL §11-A-4.6).

19 **SECTION 407. INSURANCE POLICY OR CONTRACT.**

20 (a) This section does not apply to a contract to which Section 409 applies.

21 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), a fiduciary shall allocate to principal  
22 the proceeds of a life insurance policy or other contract received by the fiduciary as beneficiary,  
23 including a contract that insures against damage to, destruction of, or loss of title to an asset. The  
24 fiduciary shall allocate dividends on an insurance policy to income to the extent premiums on the  
25 policy are paid from income and to principal to the extent premiums on the policy are paid from

1 principal.

2 (c) A fiduciary shall allocate to income proceeds of a contract that insures the fiduciary  
3 against loss of:

4 (1) occupancy or other use by a current income beneficiary;

5 (2) income; or

6 (3) subject to Section 403, profits from a business.

7 **[PART] 3**

8 **RECEIPTS NORMALLY APPORTIONED**

9 **SECTION 408. INSUBSTANTIAL ALLOCATIONS NOT REQUIRED.**

10 (a) If a fiduciary determines that an allocation between income and principal required by  
11 Section 409, 410, 411, 412, or 415 is insubstantial, the fiduciary may allocate the entire amount  
12 to principal, unless Section 203(e) applies to the allocation.

13 (b) For subsection (a), a fiduciary may presume an allocation is insubstantial if:

14 (1) the amount of the allocation would increase or decrease net income in an  
15 accounting period, as determined before the allocation, by less than 10 percent; and

16 (2) the asset producing the receipt to be allocated has a fair market value less than  
17 10 percent of the total fair market value of the assets owned or held by the fiduciary at the  
18 beginning of the accounting period.

19 (c) The power to make a determination under subsection (a):

20 (1) may be exercised by a co-fiduciary in the circumstances described in Section  
21 203(f); or

22 (2) may be released or delegated for a reason described in Section 203(g) and in  
23 the manner described in Section 203(h).



1 **Comment**

2 Section 408 is retained from the 1997 Act. In the 1997 Act, paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
3 subsection (b) were joined by the conjunction “or.” The Drafting Committee for the 2018 Act  
4 viewed the resulting test as rather generous and changed the conjunction to “and” to tighten it up  
5 somewhat. As a practical matter, a fiduciary will have to estimate and in a close case is not likely  
6 to know with certainty the results under subsection (b) until after the end of the accounting  
7 period. But if the upper limits escape precision, or are not even viewed as very important because  
8 most allocations viewed as insubstantial are well within the limits, a fiduciary that simply misses  
9 a small amount here and there is protected.

10 Subsection (c) is drawn from the 1997 Act, except that delegation is added to release as  
11 an option under paragraph (2).

12 **SECTION 409. DEFERRED COMPENSATION, ANNUITY, OR SIMILAR**  
13 **PAYMENT.**

14 (a) In this section:

15 (1) “Internal income of a separate fund” means the amount determined under  
16 subsection (b).

17 (2) “Marital trust” means a trust:

18 (A) of which the settlor’s surviving spouse is the only current income  
19 beneficiary and is entitled to a distribution of all the current net income of the trust; and

20 (B) that qualifies for a marital deduction with respect to the settlor’s estate  
21 under Section 2056 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section  
22 2056][, as amended,] because:

23 (i) an election to qualify for a marital deduction under Section  
24 2056(b)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section  
25 2056(b)(7)][, as amended,] has been made; or

26 (ii) the trust qualifies for a marital deduction under Section  
27 2056(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section

1 2056(b)(5)][, as amended].

2 (3) “Payment” means an amount a fiduciary may receive over a fixed number of  
3 years or during the life of one or more individuals because of services rendered or property  
4 transferred to the payor in exchange for future amounts the fiduciary may receive. The term  
5 includes an amount received in money or property from the payor’s general assets or from a  
6 separate fund created by the payor.

7 (4) “Separate fund” includes a private or commercial annuity, an individual  
8 retirement account, and a pension, profit-sharing, stock-bonus, or stock-ownership plan.

9 (b) A fiduciary shall determine the internal income of a separate fund for each accounting  
10 period under the following rules:

11 (1) The fiduciary shall determine the internal income of the separate fund as if the  
12 fund were a trust subject to this [act].

13 (2) If the fiduciary cannot determine the internal income of the separate fund  
14 under paragraph (1), the internal income of the fund is deemed to equal [insert a number at least  
15 three and not more than five] percent of the value of the fund, according to the most recent  
16 statement of value preceding the beginning of the accounting period.

17 (3) If the fiduciary cannot determine the value of the separate fund under  
18 paragraph (2), the value of the fund is deemed to equal the present value of the expected future  
19 payments, as determined under Section 7520 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986[, as  
20 amended][, 26 U.S.C. Section 7520)][, as amended], for the month preceding the beginning of the  
21 accounting period for which the computation is made.

22 (c) A fiduciary shall allocate a payment received from a separate fund during an  
23 accounting period to income, to the extent of the internal income of the fund during the period,

1 and the balance to principal.

2 (d) The fiduciary of a marital trust shall:

3 (1) withdraw from a separate fund the amount the current income beneficiary of  
4 the trust requests the fiduciary to withdraw, not greater than the amount by which the internal  
5 income of the fund during the accounting period exceeds the amount the fiduciary otherwise  
6 receives from the fund during the period;

7 (2) transfer from principal to income the amount the current income beneficiary  
8 requests the fiduciary to transfer, not greater than the amount by which the internal income of the  
9 fund during the period exceeds the amount the fiduciary receives from the fund during the period  
10 after the application of paragraph (1); and

11 (3) distribute to the current income beneficiary as income:

12 (A) the amount of the internal income of the fund received or withdrawn  
13 during the period; and

14 (B) the amount transferred from principal to income under paragraph (2).

15 (e) For a trust, other than a marital trust, of which one or more current income  
16 beneficiaries are entitled to a distribution of all the current net income, the fiduciary shall transfer  
17 from principal to income the amount by which the internal income of a separate fund during the  
18 accounting period exceeds the amount the fiduciary receives from the fund during the period.

19 **Legislative Note:** *In states in which the constitution, or other law, does not permit the phrase “as*  
20 *amended” when federal statutes are incorporated into state law, the phrase should be omitted.*  
21 *The bracketed words in subsection (b)(2) should be replaced with a percentage that fiduciaries*  
22 *may rely on as a “safe harbor.” The 2008 revision to the Uniform Principal and Income Act used*  
23 *the range of three to five percent because the Internal Revenue Service approved the use of that*  
24 *range in the context of unitrusts. See Treasury Reg. Section 1.643(b)-1.*

25 **Comment**

26 Section 409 of the 1997 Act was substantially amended in 2008 in response to concerns

1 expressed by the Internal Revenue Service about the eligibility of a transfer of an individual  
2 retirement account (IRA) or other qualified retirement benefit to a marital trust intended to  
3 qualify for an estate tax marital deduction. See Revenue Procedure 2006-26, 2006-22 Internal  
4 Revenue Bulletin 939.

5 The 2018 Act further revises and simplifies Section 409. Former general subsections (b)  
6 and (c) are omitted, leaving marital trusts as the focus. While it is simplifying to treat all trusts  
7 like marital trusts, the 2018 Act is still sensitive to the differences (as in subsection (e)).

8 Current subsection (b)(1) is similar to the first sentence of former subsection (f) relating  
9 to the determination of the internal income of what is called in both acts a “separate fund” (such  
10 as an IRA), and current subsection (b)(2) and (3) is similar to former subsection (g) relating to  
11 the determination of data to use if the fiduciary cannot determine the internal income or the value  
12 of the separate fund.

13 Former subsection (f) provided:

14 (f) A trustee shall determine the internal income of each separate fund for the  
15 accounting period as if the separate fund were a trust subject to this [act]. Upon request of  
16 the surviving spouse, the trustee shall demand that the person administering the separate  
17 fund distribute the internal income to the trust. The trustee shall allocate a payment from  
18 the separate fund to income to the extent of the internal income of the separate fund and  
19 distribute that amount to the surviving spouse. The trustee shall allocate the balance of  
20 the payment to principal. Upon request of the surviving spouse, the trustee shall allocate  
21 principal to income to the extent the internal income of the separate fund exceeds  
22 payments made from the separate fund to the trust during the accounting period.

23 Subsection (d) of the current act reaches the same result, but clarifies the ordering and  
24 interrelationships of the respective provisions. Subsection (d) prescribes what the fiduciary is  
25 required to do if the settlor’s surviving spouse requests. It does not limit the fiduciary’s discretion  
26 to make withdrawals from the separate fund in excess of what the spouse requests or in excess of  
27 the internal income of the fund.

28 For a trust that is not a marital trust but is required to distribute current income,  
29 subsection (e) requires the fiduciary to transfer principal to income to make up for the amount of  
30 the internal income of an IRA or similar fund that is not withdrawn. But it is silent on whether  
31 the fiduciary should withdraw greater amounts from the fund, leaving that to the fiduciary’s  
32 discretion guided by general fiduciary standards such as the standards set forth in Section 201(a).

33 **SECTION 410. LIQUIDATING ASSET.**

34 (a) In this section, “liquidating asset” means an asset whose value will diminish or  
35 terminate because the asset is expected to produce receipts for a limited time. The term includes a  
36 leasehold, patent, copyright, royalty right, and right to receive payments during a period of more

1 than one year under an arrangement that does not provide for the payment of interest on the  
2 unpaid balance.

3 (b) This section does not apply to a receipt subject to Section 401, 409, 411, 412, 414,  
4 415, 416, or 503.

5 (c) A fiduciary shall allocate:

6 (1) to income:

7 (A) a receipt produced by a liquidating asset, to the extent the receipt does  
8 not exceed [insert a number at least three and not more than five] percent of the value of the  
9 asset; or

10 (B) if the fiduciary cannot determine the value of the asset, 10 percent of  
11 the receipt; and

12 (2) to principal, the balance of the receipt.

13 **Legislative Note:** *The bracketed words in subsection (c)(1)(A) should be replaced with a*  
14 *percentage that fiduciaries may rely on as a “safe harbor.” The 2008 revision to the Uniform*  
15 *Principal and Income Act used the range of three to five percent because the Internal Revenue*  
16 *Service approved the use of that range in the context of unitrusts. See Treasury Reg. Section*  
17 *1.643(b)-1.*

## 18 **Comment**

19 **Prior Acts.** As stated in a Comment to the 1997 Act, Section 11 of the 1962 Act allocated  
20 receipts from “property subject to depletion” to income in an amount “not in excess of 5%” of  
21 the asset’s inventory value. The 1931 Act had a similar 5-percent rule that applied when the  
22 trustee was under a duty to change the form of the investment. The 5-percent rule imposed on a  
23 fiduciary the obligation to pay a fixed annuity to the current income beneficiary until the asset  
24 was exhausted. Under both the 1931 and 1962 Acts, the balance of each year’s receipts was  
25 added to principal.

26 A fixed payment can produce results that appear unfair. The remainder beneficiary  
27 receives all of the receipts from unexpected growth in the asset, e.g., if royalties on a patent or  
28 copyright increase significantly. Conversely, if the receipts diminish more rapidly than expected,  
29 most of the amount received by the trust will be allocated to income and little to principal.  
30 Moreover, if the annual payments remain the same for the life of the asset, the amount allocated  
31 to principal will usually be less than the original inventory value. For these reasons, Section 410

1 of the 1997 Act abandoned the annuity approach of the 5-percent rule, but required that 10  
2 percent of the receipts from a “liquidating asset” be allocated to income and the balance to  
3 principal. The 2018 Act restores an annuity approach, but with a 3-to-5-percent range consistent  
4 with other provisions in the act.

5 **SECTION 411. MINERALS, WATER, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES.**

6 (a) If a fiduciary does not account for a receipt from an interest in minerals, water, or  
7 other natural resources as a business under Section 403, the fiduciary shall allocate the receipt:

8 (1) to income, to the extent received:

9 (A) as delay rental or annual rent on a lease;

10 (B) as a factor for interest or the equivalent of interest under an agreement  
11 creating a production payment; or

12 (C) on account of an interest in water that is renewable;

13 (2) to principal, if received from a production payment, to the extent paragraph

14 (1)(B) does not apply; or

15 (3) between income and principal equitably, to the extent received:

16 (A) on account of an interest in water that is not renewable;

17 (B) as a royalty, shut-in-well payment, take-or-pay payment, or bonus; or

18 (C) from a working interest or any other interest not provided for in

19 paragraph (1), (2), or (3)(A) or (B).

20 (b) This section applies to an interest owned or held by a fiduciary whether or not a settlor  
21 was extracting minerals, water, or other natural resources before the fiduciary owned or held the  
22 interest.

23 (c) An allocation of a receipt under subsection (a)(3) is presumed to be equitable if the  
24 amount allocated to principal is equal to the amount allowed by the United States Internal

1 Revenue Code of 1986[, as amended,] as a deduction for depletion of the interest.

2 (d) If a fiduciary owns or holds an interest in minerals, water, or other natural resources  
3 before [the effective date of this [act]], the fiduciary may allocate receipts from the interest as  
4 provided in this section or in the manner used by the fiduciary before [the effective date of this  
5 [act]]. If the fiduciary acquires an interest in minerals, water, or other natural resources on or  
6 after [the effective date of this [act]], the fiduciary shall allocate receipts from the interest as  
7 provided in this section.

8 *Legislative Note: In states in which the constitution, or other law, does not permit the phrase “as*  
9 *amended” when federal statutes are incorporated into state law, the phrase should be omitted.*

10 **Comment**

11 Section 411 is adapted from the Texas statute (Texas Trust Code Sec. 116.174). It is  
12 similar to Section 411 of the 1997 Act, except that it does not provide for a default 10-percent  
13 allocation to income, but provides that the allocation should be made “equitably,” and then  
14 provides, in subsection (d), that an allocation to principal of the amount allowed by the Internal  
15 Revenue Code as a depletion deduction is presumed to be equitable. For oil and gas percentage  
16 depletion, that percentage has most recently been set at 15 percent. Cost depletion for federal  
17 income tax purposes is also available as a safe harbor. Subsection (d) will protect a fiduciary that  
18 is currently relying on the 10-percent rule.

19 **SECTION 412. TIMBER.**

20 (a) To the extent a fiduciary does not account for receipts from the sale of timber and  
21 related products as a business under Section 403, the fiduciary shall allocate the net receipts:

22 (1) to income, to the extent the amount of timber cut from the land does not  
23 exceed the rate of growth of the timber;

24 (2) to principal, to the extent the amount of timber cut from the land exceeds the  
25 rate of growth of the timber or the net receipts are from the sale of standing timber;

26 (3) between income and principal if the net receipts are from the lease of land  
27 used for growing and cutting timber or from a contract to cut timber from land, by determining

1 the amount of timber cut from the land under the lease or contract and applying the rules in  
2 paragraphs (1) and (2); or  
3 (4) to principal, to the extent advance payments, bonuses, and other payments are  
4 not allocated under paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

5 (b) In determining net receipts to be allocated under subsection (a), a fiduciary shall  
6 deduct and transfer to principal a reasonable amount for depletion.

7 (c) This section applies to land owned or held by a fiduciary whether or not a settlor was  
8 cutting timber from the land before the fiduciary owned or held the property.

9 (d) If a fiduciary owns or holds an interest in land used for growing and cutting timber  
10 before [the effective date of this [act]], the fiduciary may allocate net receipts from the sale of  
11 timber and related products as provided in this section or in the manner used by the fiduciary  
12 before [the effective date of this [act]]. If the fiduciary acquires an interest in land used for  
13 growing and cutting timber on or after [the effective date of this [act]], the fiduciary shall allocate  
14 net receipts from the sale of timber and related products as provided in this section.

15 **Comment to 1997 Act**

16 **Scope of section.** The rules in Section 412 are intended to apply to net receipts from the  
17 sale of trees and by-products from harvesting and processing trees without regard to the kind of  
18 trees that are cut or whether the trees are cut before or after a particular number of years of  
19 growth. The rules apply to the sale of trees that are expected to produce lumber for building  
20 purposes, trees sold as pulpwood, and Christmas and other ornamental trees. Subsection (a)  
21 applies to net receipts from property owned by the trustee and property leased by the trustee. The  
22 Act is not intended to prevent a tenant in possession of the property from using wood that he cuts  
23 on the property for personal, noncommercial purposes, such as a Christmas tree, firewood,  
24 mending old fences or building new fences, or making repairs to structures on the property.

25 Under subsection (a), the amount of net receipts allocated to income depends upon  
26 whether the amount of timber removed is more or less than the rate of growth. The method of  
27 determining the amount of timber removed and the rate of growth is up to the trustee, based on  
28 methods customarily used for the kind of timber involved.





1 The Comment went on to discuss subsection (a) of Section 413, but it said nothing about  
2 subsection (b), although the “principal without regard to the amount of income the asset  
3 produces” provision of subsection (b) clearly affirms the purpose stated in the Comment of  
4 abolishing the “delayed income from the sale proceeds” approach of the 1931 and 1962 Acts.  
5 And the qualifier “[i]n a case not governed by subsection (a)” is consistent with the statement in  
6 the Prefatory Note to the 1997 Act that “[t]he unproductive property rule has been eliminated for  
7 trusts *other than marital deduction trusts*” (emphasis added). But such an affirmation is not  
8 needed for any substantive reason, in light of Section 404(2).

9 Therefore, the 2018 Act omits the former subsection (b).

10 **SECTION 414. DERIVATIVE OR OPTION.**

11 (a) In this section, “derivative” means a contract, instrument, other arrangement, or  
12 combination of contracts, instruments, or other arrangements, the value, rights, and obligations of  
13 which are, in whole or in part, dependent on or derived from an underlying tangible or intangible  
14 asset, group of tangible or intangible assets, index, or occurrence of an event. The term includes  
15 stocks, fixed income securities, and financial instruments and arrangements based on indices,  
16 commodities, interest rates, weather-related events, and credit-default events.

17 (b) To the extent a fiduciary does not account for a transaction in derivatives as a business  
18 under Section 403, the fiduciary shall allocate 10 percent of receipts from the transaction and 10  
19 percent of disbursements made in connection with the transaction to income and the balance to  
20 principal.

21 (c) If a fiduciary grants an option to buy property from a trust, whether or not the trust  
22 owns the property when the option is granted, grants an option that permits another person to sell  
23 property to the trust, or acquires an option to buy property for the trust or an option to sell an  
24 asset owned by the trust, and the fiduciary or other owner of the asset is required to deliver the  
25 asset if the option is exercised, the fiduciary shall allocate the following amounts 10 percent to  
26 income and the balance to principal:

27 (1) an amount received for granting the option;

1 (2) an amount paid to acquire the option; and

2 (3) gain or loss realized on the exercise, exchange, settlement, offset, closing, or

3 expiration of the option.

4 **Comment**

5 Section 414 in the 1997 Act provided that all receipts and disbursements from a  
6 derivative and option must be allocated to principal.

7 In the 2018 Act, the definition of “derivative” is meant to include some of the most  
8 common derivatives today, including: (1) options, which provide one party the right but not the  
9 obligation to buy or sell the underlying asset at a set price, (2) forwards and futures contracts,  
10 which obligate one party to buy or sell the underlying asset at a set price in the future, and (3)  
11 swaps (sometimes referred to as “notional principal contracts”), which obligate both parties to  
12 the arrangement to make payments to the other party based on the change in value of an  
13 underlying asset or the occurrence of an event. The definition is meant to be broad enough to  
14 include less common derivatives like exchange-traded notes (financial instruments traded on an  
15 exchange, the value of which is linked to the return of a hypothetical investment in a specified  
16 market index or strategy), structured or principal-protected notes (financial instruments typically  
17 issued by a financial organization that provide the holder some principal protection along with a  
18 return based on the return of an underlying asset like a stock index), and derivatives that could be  
19 created in the future. The definition does not make a distinction between derivatives that are  
20 privately negotiated arrangements between a party and counterparty and those that are traded on  
21 an exchange or in the over-the-counter market. Although options technically fall within the  
22 definition of derivative, as with the previous law, a specific subsection makes clear that any  
23 amounts paid to or received by the fiduciary in the granting of an option and any gain or loss  
24 upon any realization or expiration event will be allocated to income and principal in the same  
25 manner.

26 The Drafting Committee considered a provision that would have asked the fiduciary, in  
27 allocating receipts or disbursement under a derivative contract to income or principal, to consider  
28 how they would be allocated if the fiduciary had invested directly in the underlying asset that is  
29 the subject of the derivative. For example, if a fiduciary entered into a total return equity swap on  
30 shares of ABC stock, pursuant to which the fiduciary would receive payments from the  
31 counterparty due to any dividends and appreciation on ABC stock, then the fiduciary should  
32 allocate to income that portion of the return that is due to dividends and to principal that portion  
33 of the return that is due to appreciation of ABC stock. That sort of determination, however, works  
34 only for the simplest of derivative arrangements. Derivatives allow parties to take positions in  
35 assets that would not be possible under an established market and to make highly leveraged  
36 investments in assets that would not be permitted under current margin regulations. Furthermore,  
37 derivatives are sometimes combined in such a way that looking through to the underlying asset is  
38 difficult or impossible. For example, a “swaption” is an option that provides the owner the right  
39 to enter into a swap. Because of these complications, the 2018 Act provides a default rule that  
40 provides that all receipts and disbursements in relation to a derivative transaction should be

1 allocated 10 percent to income and 90 percent to principal. No distinction is made if the fiduciary  
2 establishes a long position (generally seeking to profit from an increase in value of the underlying  
3 asset) or short position (seeking to profit from a decrease in value of the underlying asset) with  
4 the derivative.

5 This default allocation for derivatives can be adjusted pursuant to the fiduciary's power to  
6 adjust between income and principal under Section 203. In making that determination, the  
7 fiduciary can consider whether the default rule would not be fair and reasonable, especially in  
8 light of the fact that derivatives can be used to create the equivalent return as another investment,  
9 whose allocation under the Act might be different from the default rule. For example, in a  
10 traditional total return equity swap, one party (Party S, for Short) agrees to make annual  
11 payments over the next 5 years in an amount equal to the sum of the total appreciation in value of  
12 100 shares of XYZ stock during the year, and dividends paid on 100 shares of XYZ stock during  
13 the year. The counterparty (Party L, for Long) agrees to make five annual payments (at the same  
14 time) in an amount equal to the total depreciation in value of 100 shares of XYZ stock during the  
15 year, and a fixed rate of interest multiplied by the value of 100 shares of XYZ stock at the  
16 beginning of each year. The amounts are netted against each other. From an economic standpoint,  
17 Party L is in the same situation it would be if Party L had borrowed funds from Party S and used  
18 those proceeds to buy 100 shares of XYZ shares from Party S, with an agreement to sell the  
19 shares back to Party S at the end of the 5 year period (100-percent-leveraged investment in 100  
20 shares of XYZ shares). Furthermore, the fiduciary should consider whether the derivative is  
21 being used as a way to hedge or manage risk on another investment, and, as such, any receipts or  
22 disbursements on the derivative should be combined with the hedged investment. For example,  
23 an investor may have an investment (ABC stock) and use a derivative to hedge against a decrease  
24 in the investment's value (buy a put option on ABC stock). The fiduciary should consider  
25 whether the cost or return on the put option is properly combined with the cost or return on ABC  
26 stock in applying the default rule hereunder or making any adjustments to income or principal as  
27 to ABC stock. By way of another example, the most common swap arrangement is an interest  
28 rate swap, pursuant to which parties help manage the impact of changes in interest rates on  
29 investments in the portfolio and liabilities associated with loans. In a common interest rate swap  
30 (floating-to-fixed rate), one party agrees to make payments based on a fixed interest rate (for  
31 example, 5 percent) applied to a notional amount (for example, \$1 million) at regular intervals  
32 (for example, quarterly for two years). The counterparty agrees to make interest payments based  
33 on a floating or variable rate of interest (for example, 3 percent above the London Interbank  
34 Offered Rate [LIBOR]) applied to the same notional amount. An interest rate swap like this can  
35 reflect one party's expectation that the payments of a floating interest rate will exceed a specified  
36 fixed interest rate (or vice versa). Importantly, to the extent such party has a loan or other liability  
37 tied to a floating interest rate, the party might be seeking to hedge against the risk of an interest  
38 rate increase by essentially converting the liability to a fixed rate liability. In deciding whether to  
39 use the default rule hereunder or exercise the power to adjust, the fiduciary may decide, if  
40 appropriate, based on the facts and circumstances, to apply the default rule as to the interest rate  
41 swap in isolation or as part of a larger transaction where the swap should be considered in  
42 conjunction with a larger transaction, liability, or investment.



1 **Comment**

2 Section 416 is added to the 2018 Act to provide guidance for financial instruments and  
3 arrangements designed in the future, which could not be anticipated in advance.

4  
5 **[ARTICLE] 5**

6 **ALLOCATION OF DISBURSEMENTS**

7 **SECTION 501. DISBURSEMENT FROM INCOME.** Subject to Section 504, and  
8 except as otherwise provided in Section 601(c)(2) or (3), a fiduciary shall disburse from income:

9 (1) one-half of:

10 (A) the regular compensation of the fiduciary and any person providing  
11 investment advisory, custodial, or other services to the fiduciary, to the extent income is  
12 sufficient; and

13 (B) an expense for an accounting, judicial or nonjudicial proceeding, or  
14 other matter that involves both income and successive interests, to the extent income is  
15 sufficient;

16 (2) the balance of the disbursements described in paragraph (1), to the extent a  
17 fiduciary that is an independent person determines that making those disbursements from income  
18 would be in the interests of the beneficiaries;

19 (3) another ordinary expense incurred in connection with administration,  
20 management, or preservation of property and distribution of income, including interest, an  
21 ordinary repair, regularly recurring tax assessed against principal, and an expense of an  
22 accounting, judicial or nonjudicial proceeding, or other matter that involves primarily an income  
23 interest, to the extent income is sufficient; and

24 (4) a premium on insurance covering loss of a principal asset or income from or

1 use of the asset.

2 **Comment**

3 Although the choice of words and word order have been updated to match more recent  
4 usage, there are few substantive changes in Article 5.

5 The phrase “to the extent income is sufficient” is added at the end of Section 501(1)(A)  
6 and (B) and (3) to acknowledge and provide for illiquid, low-income-producing trusts. And, as  
7 that phrase protects income, paragraph (2) protects principal by allowing more than one-half of  
8 the disbursements described in this section to be paid from income. One reason, for example,  
9 would be that principal is illiquid.

10 **SECTION 502. DISBURSEMENT FROM PRINCIPAL.**

11 (a) Subject to Section 505, and except as otherwise provided in Section 601(c)(2), a  
12 fiduciary shall disburse from principal:

13 (1) the balance of the disbursements described in Section 501(1) after application  
14 of Section 501(2);

15 (2) the fiduciary’s compensation calculated on principal as a fee for acceptance,  
16 distribution, or termination;

17 (3) an expense to prepare for or execute a sale or other disposition of property;

18 (4) a payment on the principal of a trust debt;

19 (5) an expense of an accounting, judicial or nonjudicial proceeding, or other  
20 matter that involves primarily principal, including a proceeding to construe the terms of the trust  
21 or protect property;

22 (6) a premium on insurance, including title insurance, not described in Section  
23 501(4), of which the fiduciary is the owner and beneficiary;

24 (7) an estate or inheritance tax or other tax imposed because of the death of a  
25 decedent, including penalties, apportioned to the trust; and

26 (8) a payment related to environmental matters, including reclamation, assessing

1 environmental conditions, remedying and removing environmental contamination, monitoring  
2 remedial activities and the release of substances, preventing future releases of substances,  
3 collecting amounts from persons liable or potentially liable for the costs of those activities,  
4 penalties imposed under environmental laws or regulations and other payments made to comply  
5 with those laws or regulations, statutory or common law claims by third parties, and defending  
6 claims based on environmental matters.

7 (b) If a principal asset is encumbered with an obligation that requires income from the  
8 asset to be paid directly to a creditor, the fiduciary shall transfer from principal to income an  
9 amount equal to the income paid to the creditor in reduction of the principal balance of the  
10 obligation.

11 **Comment**

12 “The remaining one-half” at the beginning of Section 502(a)(1) in the 1997 Act is  
13 replaced with “the balance” in the 2018 Act. This conforms to the changes to Section 501 that  
14 make it more likely that traditional 50-50 splits will not necessarily be followed.

15 **SECTION 503. TRANSFER FROM INCOME TO PRINCIPAL FOR**  
16 **DEPRECIATION.**

17 (a) In this section, “depreciation” means a reduction in value due to wear, tear, decay,  
18 corrosion, or gradual obsolescence of a tangible asset having a useful life of more than one year.

19 (b) A fiduciary may transfer to principal a reasonable amount of the net cash receipts from  
20 a principal asset that is subject to depreciation, but may not transfer any amount for depreciation:

21 (1) of the part of real property used or available for use by a beneficiary as a  
22 residence;

23 (2) of tangible personal property held or made available for the personal use or  
24 enjoyment of a beneficiary; or



1 (3) under this section, to the extent the fiduciary accounts:

2 (A) under Section 410 for the asset; or

3 (B) under Section 403 for the business or other activity in which the asset  
4 is used.

5 (c) An amount transferred to principal under this section need not be held as a separate  
6 fund.

7 **Comment**

8 “Tangible” is added to the definition of depreciation in subsection (a). The references to  
9 “a residence” and “tangible personal property” in subsection 503(b)(1) are broken up into  
10 paragraphs (1) and (2), for ease of reading, and to avoid implying that the two topics are linked  
11 so that, for example, the tangible personal property described must be household furnishings.

12 **SECTION 504. REIMBURSEMENT OF INCOME FROM PRINCIPAL.**

13 (a) If a fiduciary makes or expects to make an income disbursement described in  
14 subsection (b), the fiduciary may transfer an appropriate amount from principal to income in one  
15 or more accounting periods to reimburse income.

16 (b) To the extent the fiduciary has not been and does not expect to be reimbursed by a  
17 third party, income disbursements to which subsection (a) applies include:

18 (1) an amount chargeable to principal but paid from income because principal is  
19 illiquid;

20 (2) a disbursement made to prepare property for sale, including improvements and  
21 commissions; and

22 (3) a disbursement described in Section 502(a).

23 (c) If an asset whose ownership gives rise to a disbursement becomes subject to a  
24 successive interest after an income interest ends, the fiduciary may continue to transfer amounts  
25 from principal to income under subsection (a).

1 **Comment**

2 Section 504, Transfers from Income to Reimburse Principal, in the 1997 Act is  
3 redesignated Section 505, Reimbursement of Principal from Income, in the 2018 Act. New  
4 Section 504, Reimbursement of Income from Principal, is the mirror image of Section 505, and  
5 now reimbursements in both directions are covered in the same way. Cross-references to these  
6 sections are added at the beginning of Sections 501 and 502. The order of Sections 504 and 505  
7 was selected largely with reference to the corresponding Sections 501 and 502. Section 501 is  
8 “Subject to Section 504,” and Section 502 is “Subject to Section 505.”

9 **SECTION 505. REIMBURSEMENT OF PRINCIPAL FROM INCOME.**

10 (a) If a fiduciary makes or expects to make a principal disbursement described in  
11 subsection (b), the fiduciary may transfer an appropriate amount from income to principal in one  
12 or more accounting periods to reimburse principal or to provide a reserve for future principal  
13 disbursements.

14 (b) To the extent the fiduciary has not been and does not expect to be reimbursed by a  
15 third party, principal disbursements to which subsection (a) applies include:

16 (1) an amount chargeable to income but paid from principal because income is not  
17 sufficient, including the cost of an extraordinary repair;

18 (2) the cost of an improvement to principal, whether a change to an existing asset  
19 or the construction of a new asset, including a special assessment;

20 (3) a disbursement made to prepare property for rental, including tenant  
21 allowances, leasehold improvements, and commissions;

22 (4) a periodic payment on an obligation secured by a principal asset, to the extent  
23 the amount transferred from income to principal for depreciation is less than the periodic  
24 payments; and

25 (5) a disbursement described in Section 502(a).

26 (c) If an asset whose ownership gives rise to a disbursement becomes subject to a

1 successive interest after an income interest ends, the fiduciary may continue to transfer amounts  
2 from income to principal under subsection (a).

3 **SECTION 506. INCOME TAXES.**

4 (a) A tax required to be paid by a fiduciary which is based on receipts allocated to income  
5 must be paid from income.

6 (b) A tax required to be paid by a fiduciary which is based on receipts allocated to  
7 principal must be paid from principal, even if the tax is called an income tax by the taxing  
8 authority.

9 (c) Subject to subsection (d) and Sections 504, 505, and 507, a tax required to be paid by  
10 a fiduciary on a share of an entity's taxable income in an accounting period must be paid from:

11 (1) income and principal proportionately to the allocation between income and  
12 principal of receipts from the entity in the period; and

13 (2) principal to the extent the tax exceeds the receipts from the entity in the  
14 period.

15 (d) After applying subsections (a) through (c), the fiduciary shall adjust income or  
16 principal receipts, to the extent the taxes the fiduciary pays are reduced because of a deduction  
17 for payments made to a beneficiary.

18 **Comment to 2018 Act**

19 **Marital deduction issues.** Any payment of income tax from income could raise issues of  
20 the estate or gift tax marital deduction, especially if the income on which that income tax is paid  
21 is not fully distributed, as in the case of income retained in an entity owned in whole or in part by  
22 the trust. These issues are similar to the issues raised by Revenue Ruling 2006-26 in the context  
23 of defined contribution qualified retirement plans and individual retirement accounts (IRAs). See  
24 Section 409 and the Comment thereto. The Drafting Committee concluded that no change needs  
25 to be made to the Act because it understands that the power in the spouse to cause the trust assets  
26 to be made reasonably productive of income cures any marital deduction issue.

1 **Comment to 2008 Amendments of 1997 Act**

2 **Taxes on Undistributed Entity Taxable Income.** When a trust owns an interest in a  
3 pass-through entity, such as a partnership or S corporation, it must report its share of the entity's  
4 taxable income regardless of how much the entity distributes to the trust. Whether the entity  
5 distributes more or less than the trust's tax on its share of the entity's taxable income, the trust  
6 must pay the taxes and allocate them between income and principal.

7 Subsection (c) requires the trust to pay the taxes on its share of an entity's taxable income  
8 from income or principal receipts to the extent that receipts from the entity are allocable to each.  
9 This assures the trust a source of cash to pay some or all of the taxes on its share of the entity's  
10 taxable income. Subsection (d) recognizes that, except in the case of an Electing Small Business  
11 Trust (ESBT), a trust normally receives a deduction for amounts distributed to a beneficiary.  
12 Accordingly, subsection (d) requires the trust to increase receipts payable to a beneficiary as  
13 determined under subsection (c) to the extent the trust's taxes are reduced by distributing those  
14 receipts to the beneficiary.

15 Because the trust's taxes and amounts distributed to a beneficiary are interrelated, the  
16 trust may be required to apply a formula to determine the correct amount payable to a  
17 beneficiary. This formula should take into account that each time a distribution is made to a  
18 beneficiary, the trust taxes are reduced and amounts distributable to a beneficiary are increased.  
19 The formula assures that after deducting distributions to a beneficiary, the trust has enough to  
20 satisfy its taxes on its share of the entity's taxable income as reduced by distributions to  
21 beneficiaries.

22 **Example (1)** – Trust T receives a Schedule K-1 from Partnership P reflecting taxable  
23 income of \$1 million. Partnership P distributes \$100,000 to T, which allocates the receipts to  
24 income. Both Trust T and income Beneficiary B are in the 35 percent tax bracket.

25 Trust T's tax on \$1 million of taxable income is \$350,000. Under Subsection (c) T's tax must be  
26 paid from income receipts because receipts from the entity are allocated only to income.  
27 Therefore, T must apply the entire \$100,000 of income receipts to pay its tax. In this case,  
28 Beneficiary B receives nothing.

29 **Example (2)** – Trust T receives a Schedule K-1 from Partnership P reflecting taxable  
30 income of \$1 million. Partnership P distributes \$500,000 to T, which allocates the receipts to  
31 income. Both Trust T and income Beneficiary B are in the 35 percent tax bracket.

32 Trust T's tax on \$1 million of taxable income is \$350,000. Under Subsection (c), T's tax must be  
33 paid from income receipts because receipts from P are allocated only to income. Therefore, T  
34 uses \$350,000 of the \$500,000 to pay its taxes and distributes the remaining \$150,000 to B. The  
35 \$150,000 payment to B reduces T's taxes by \$52,500, which it must pay to B. But the \$52,500  
36 further reduces T's taxes by \$18,375, which it also must pay to B. In fact, each time T makes a  
37 distribution to B, its taxes are further reduced, causing another payment to be due B.

1 Alternatively, T can apply the following algebraic formula to determine the amount  
2 payable to B:

$$3 \quad D = (C - R \times K) / (1 - R)$$

4 D = Distribution to income beneficiary

5 C = Cash paid by the entity to the trust

6 R = tax rate on income

7 K = entity's K-1 taxable income

8 Applying the formula to Example (2) above, Trust T must pay \$230,769 to B so that after  
9 deducting the payment, T has exactly enough to pay its tax on the remaining taxable income from  
10 P.

11	Taxable Income per K-1	1,000,000
12	Payment to beneficiary	230,769
13	Trust Taxable Income	\$ 769,231
14	35 percent tax	269,231
15	Partnership Distribution	\$ 500,000
16	Fiduciary's Tax Liability	(269,231)
17	Payable to the Beneficiary	\$ 230,769

18 The "payment to beneficiary" is calculated as  $(C - R \times K) / (1 - R) = (500,000 - 0.35 \times 1,000,000) / (1 -$   
19  $0.35) = (500,000 - 350,000) / (1 - 0.35) = 150,000 / 0.65 = \$230,769$  (where C is the cash distributed  
20 by the entity, R is the trust ordinary tax rate (35%), and K is the entity's K-1 taxable income).

21 In addition, B will report \$230,769 on his or her own personal income tax return, paying  
22 taxes of \$80,769. Because Trust T withheld \$269,231 to pay its taxes and B paid \$80,769 taxes  
23 of its own, B bore the entire \$350,000 tax burden on the \$1 million of entity taxable income,  
24 including the \$500,000 that the entity retained that presumably increased the value of the trust's  
25 investment entity.

26 If a trustee determines that it is appropriate to so, it should consider exercising the  
27 discretion granted in RUIA section 506 to adjust between income and principal. Alternatively,  
28 the trustee may exercise the power to adjust under RUIA section 104 to the extent it is available  
29 and appropriate under the circumstances, including whether a future distribution from the entity  
30 that would be allocated to principal should be reallocated to income because the income  
31 beneficiary already bore the burden of taxes on the reinvested income. In exercising the power,  
32 the trust should consider the impact that future distributions will have on any current  
33 adjustments.

## 34 SECTION 507. ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN INCOME AND PRINCIPAL 35 BECAUSE OF TAXES.

36 (a) A fiduciary may make an adjustment between income and principal to offset the

1 shifting of economic interests or tax benefits between current income beneficiaries and successor  
2 beneficiaries which arises from:

3 (1) an election or decision the fiduciary makes regarding tax matters, other than a  
4 decision to claim an income tax deduction to which subsection (b) applies;

5 (2) an income tax or other tax imposed on the fiduciary or a beneficiary as a result  
6 of a transaction involving the fiduciary or a distribution by the fiduciary; or

7 (3) ownership by the fiduciary of an interest in an entity a part of whose taxable  
8 income, whether or not distributed, is includable in the taxable income of the fiduciary or a  
9 beneficiary.

10 (b) If the amount of an estate tax marital or charitable deduction is reduced because a  
11 fiduciary deducts an amount paid from principal for income tax purposes instead of deducting it  
12 for estate tax purposes, and as a result estate taxes paid from principal are increased and income  
13 taxes paid by a fiduciary or beneficiary are decreased, the fiduciary shall charge each beneficiary  
14 that benefits from the decrease in income tax, to reimburse the principal from which the increase  
15 in estate tax is paid. The total reimbursement must equal the increase in the estate tax, to the  
16 extent the principal used to pay the increase would have qualified for a marital or charitable  
17 deduction but for the payment. The share of the reimbursement for each fiduciary or beneficiary  
18 whose income taxes are reduced must be the same as its share of the total decrease in income tax.

19 (c) A fiduciary that charges a beneficiary under subsection (b) may offset the charge by:

20 (1) obtaining payment from the beneficiary;

21 (2) withholding an amount from future distributions to the beneficiary;

22 (3) another method the fiduciary considers fair and reasonable to all the  
23 beneficiaries; or

1 (4) a combination of the methods described in this subsection.

2 **Comment**

3 Subsection (b) of the 1997 Act required that “each estate, trust, or beneficiary that  
4 benefits from the decrease in income tax shall reimburse the principal from which the increase in  
5 estate tax is paid.” The 2018 Act changes this to “the fiduciary shall charge each beneficiary...”  
6 and adds subsection (c) to provide the fiduciary with options for accomplishing the  
7 “reimbursement” objective. One option, in subsection (c)(1), remains “obtaining payment from  
8 the beneficiary,” but other, possibly more practical, options are also included.

9 **[ARTICLE] 6**

10 **DEATH OF DECEDENT OR TERMINATION OF INCOME INTEREST**

11 **SECTION 601. DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME.**

12 (a) This section applies when:

13 (1) the death of an individual results in the creation of an estate or trust; or

14 (2) an income interest in a trust terminates, whether the trust continues or is  
15 distributed.

16 (b) A fiduciary of an estate or trust with an income interest that terminates shall  
17 determine, under subsection [(g)][(e)] and [Articles] 4, 5, and 7, the amount of net income and  
18 net principal receipts received from property specifically given to a beneficiary. The fiduciary  
19 shall distribute the net income and net principal receipts to the beneficiary that is to receive the  
20 specific property.

21 (c) A fiduciary shall determine the income and net income of an estate or income interest  
22 that terminates, other than the amount of net income determined under subsection (b), under  
23 [Articles] 4, 5, and 7 and by:

24 (1) including in net income all income from property used or sold to discharge  
25 liabilities;

26 (2) paying from income or principal, in the fiduciary’s discretion, fees of

1 attorneys, accountants, and fiduciaries, court costs and other expenses of administration, and  
2 interest on estate and inheritance taxes and other taxes imposed because of the death of a  
3 decedent, but the fiduciary may pay the expenses from income of property passing to a trust for  
4 which the fiduciary claims a federal estate tax marital or charitable deduction only to the extent:

5 (A) the payment of the expenses from income will not cause the reduction  
6 or loss of the deduction; or

7 (B) the fiduciary makes an adjustment under Section 507(b); and

8 (3) paying from principal other disbursements made or incurred in connection  
9 with the settlement of the estate or the winding up of an income interest that terminates,  
10 including, to the extent authorized by the decedent's will, the terms of the trust, or applicable law,  
11 debts, funeral expenses, disposition of remains, family allowances, estate and inheritance taxes,  
12 and other taxes imposed because of the death of the decedent and related penalties that are  
13 apportioned, by the decedent's will, the terms of the trust, or applicable law, to the estate or  
14 income interest that terminates.

15 [(d) If a decedent's will, the terms of a trust, or applicable law provides for the payment  
16 of interest or the equivalent of interest to a beneficiary that receives a pecuniary amount outright,  
17 the fiduciary shall make the payment from net income determined under subsection (c) or from  
18 principal to the extent net income is insufficient.

19 (e) If a beneficiary is to receive a pecuniary amount outright from a trust after an income  
20 interest ends because of an income beneficiary's death, and no payment of interest or the  
21 equivalent of interest is provided for by the terms of the trust or applicable law, the fiduciary  
22 shall pay the interest or the equivalent of interest to which the beneficiary would be entitled  
23 under applicable law if the pecuniary amount were required to be paid under a will.]





1 interest is one that has ended but whose administration is not complete.

2 If two or more people are given the right to receive specified percentages or fractions of  
3 the income from a trust concurrently and one of the concurrent interests ends, e.g., when a  
4 beneficiary dies, the beneficiary's income interest ends but the trust does not. Similarly, when a  
5 trust with only one income beneficiary ends upon the beneficiary's death, the trust instrument  
6 may provide that part or all of the trust assets shall continue in trust for another income  
7 beneficiary. While it is common to think and speak of this (and even to characterize it in a trust  
8 instrument) as a "new" trust, it is a continuation of the original trust for a remainder beneficiary  
9 who has an income interest in the trust assets instead of the right to receive them outright. For  
10 purposes of this Act, this is a successive income interest in the same trust. The fact that a trust  
11 may or may not end when an income interest ends is not significant for purposes of this Act.

12 If the assets that are subject to a terminating income interest pass to another trust because  
13 the income beneficiary exercises a general power of appointment over the trust assets, the  
14 recipient trust would be a new trust; and if they pass to another trust because the beneficiary  
15 exercises a nongeneral power of appointment over the trust assets, the recipient trust might be a  
16 new trust in some States (see 5A Austin W. Scott & William F. Fratcher, *The Law of Trusts*  
17 § 640, at 483 (4th ed. 1989)); but for purposes of this Act a new trust created in these  
18 circumstances is also a successive income interest.

19 **Gift of a pecuniary amount.** Section 201(3) and (4) [now 601(d) through (f)] provide  
20 different rules for an outright gift of a pecuniary amount and a gift in trust of a pecuniary amount;  
21 this is the same approach used in Section 5(b)(2) of the 1962 Act.

22 **Interest on pecuniary amounts.** Section 201(3) [now 601(d) and (e)] provides that the  
23 beneficiary of an outright pecuniary amount is to receive the interest or other amount provided by  
24 applicable law if there is no provision in the will or the terms of the trust. Many States have no  
25 applicable law that provides for interest or some other amount to be paid on an outright  
26 pecuniary gift under an inter vivos trust; this section provides that in such a case the interest or  
27 other amount to be paid shall be the same as the interest or other amount required to be paid on  
28 testamentary pecuniary gifts. This provision is intended to accord gifts under inter vivos  
29 instruments the same treatment as testamentary gifts. The various state authorities that provide  
30 for the amount that a beneficiary of an outright pecuniary amount is entitled to receive are  
31 collected in Richard B. Covey, *Marital Deduction and Credit Shelter Dispositions and the Use of*  
32 *Formula Provisions*, App. B (4th ed. 1997).

33 **Administration expenses and interest on death taxes.** Under Section 201(2)(B) [now  
34 601(c)(2)] a fiduciary may pay administration expenses and interest on death taxes from either  
35 income or principal. An advantage of permitting the fiduciary to choose the source of the  
36 payment is that, if the fiduciary's decision is consistent with the decision to deduct these  
37 expenses for income tax purposes or estate tax purposes, it eliminates the need to adjust between  
38 principal and income that may arise when, for example, an expense that is paid from principal is  
39 deducted for income tax purposes or an expense that is paid from income is deducted for estate  
40 tax purposes.

1           The United States Supreme Court has considered the question of whether an estate tax  
2 marital deduction or charitable deduction should be reduced when administration expenses are  
3 paid from income produced by property passing in trust for a surviving spouse or for charity and  
4 deducted for income tax purposes. The Court rejected the IRS position that administration  
5 expenses properly paid from income under the terms of the trust or state law must reduce the  
6 amount of a marital or charitable transfer, and held that the value of the transferred property is  
7 not reduced for estate tax purposes unless the administration expenses are material in light of the  
8 income the trust corpus could have been expected to generate. *Commissioner v. Estate of Otis C.*  
9 *Hubert*, 117 S. Ct. 1124 (1997). The provision in Section 201(2)(B) [now 601(c)(2)] permits a  
10 fiduciary to pay and deduct administration expenses from income only to the extent that it will  
11 not cause the reduction or loss of an estate tax marital or charitable contributions deduction,  
12 which means that the limit on the amount payable from income will be established eventually by  
13 Treasury Regulations.

14           **SECTION 602. DISTRIBUTION TO SUCCESSOR BENEFICIARY.**

15           (a) Except to the extent [Article] 3 applies for a beneficiary that is a trust, each  
16 beneficiary described in Section [601[(f)][601(d)] is entitled to receive a share of the net income  
17 equal to the beneficiary's fractional interest in undistributed principal assets, using values as of  
18 the distribution date. If a fiduciary makes more than one distribution of assets to beneficiaries to  
19 which this section applies, each beneficiary, including a beneficiary that does not receive part of  
20 the distribution, is entitled, as of each distribution date, to a share of the net income the fiduciary  
21 received after the decedent's death or an income interest's other terminating event or the  
22 preceding distribution by the fiduciary.

23           (b) In determining a beneficiary's share of net income under subsection (a), the following  
24 rules apply:

25                   (1) The beneficiary is entitled to receive a share of the net income equal to the  
26 beneficiary's fractional interest in the undistributed principal assets immediately before the  
27 distribution date.

28                   (2) The beneficiary's fractional interest in the undistributed principal assets under  
29 paragraph (1) must be calculated:

1 (A) on the aggregate value of those assets as of the distribution date  
2 without reducing the value by any unpaid principal obligation; and

3 (B) without regard to:

4 (i) property specifically given to a beneficiary under the decedent's  
5 will or the terms of a trust; and

6 (ii) property required to pay pecuniary amounts not in trust.

7 (3) The distribution date under paragraph (1) may be the date as of which the  
8 fiduciary calculates the value of the assets if that date is reasonably near the date on which the  
9 assets are distributed.

10 (c) If a fiduciary does not distribute under this section all the collected but undistributed  
11 net income to each beneficiary as of a distribution date, the fiduciary shall maintain appropriate  
12 records showing the interest of each beneficiary in the net income.

13 (d) If this section applies to income from an asset, a fiduciary may apply the rules in this  
14 section, to the extent the fiduciary considers it appropriate, to net gain or loss realized from the  
15 disposition of the asset after the decedent's death or an income interest's terminating event or the  
16 preceding distribution by the fiduciary.

17 **Legislative Note:** *If Sections 601(d) and (e) are deleted, use the subsection reference in the*  
18 *second set of brackets in subsection (a).*

19 **Comment to 2018 Act**

20 The predecessor to this section in the 1997 Act concluded "received after the date of  
21 death or terminating event or earlier distribution date but has not distributed as of the current  
22 distribution date." This is changed to "received after the decedent's death or an income interest's  
23 other terminating event or the preceding distribution by the fiduciary." "The preceding  
24 distribution by the fiduciary" will prevent the possible misunderstanding that "earlier distribution  
25 date," in context, refers to a distribution date earlier than "the date of death or terminating event."  
26 So-called "stub income" between the last distribution date and the date of death is addressed in  
27 Section 703(b). The former words "but has not distributed as of the current distribution date" are

1 not needed because Section 602(c) makes it clear that the fiduciary must account for all  
2 undistributed income.

3 Section 602(b)(2)(B) excludes specific bequests in kind and pecuniary bequests from the  
4 calculation of a beneficiary's fractional interest of undistributed principal assets for purposes of  
5 allocating income to that beneficiary. If the beneficiary is entitled to statutory interest on any such  
6 bequest, that interest is not income subject to allocation under this section, and that bequest does  
7 not share in the income earned by the other assets.

8 **Comment to 1997 Act**

9 **Relationship to prior Acts.** Section 202 retains the concept in Section 5(b)(2) of the  
10 1962 Act that the residuary legatees of estates are to receive net income earned during the period  
11 of administration on the basis of their proportionate interests in the undistributed assets when  
12 distributions are made. It changes the basis for determining their proportionate interests by using  
13 asset values as of a date reasonably near the time of distribution instead of inventory values; it  
14 extends the application of these rules to distributions from terminating trusts; and it extends these  
15 rules to gain or loss realized from the disposition of assets during administration.

16 **[ARTICLE] 7**

17 **APPORIONMENT AT BEGINNING AND END OF INCOME INTEREST**

18 **SECTION 701. WHEN RIGHT TO INCOME BEGINS AND ENDS.**

19 (a) An income beneficiary is entitled to net income in accordance with the terms of a trust  
20 from the date an income interest begins. The income interest begins on the date specified in the  
21 terms of the trust or, if no date is specified, on the date an asset becomes subject to:

22 (1) the trust for the current income beneficiary; or

23 (2) a successive interest for a successor beneficiary.

24 (b) An asset becomes subject to a trust under subsection (a)(1):

25 (1) for an asset that is transferred to the trust during the settlor's life, on the date  
26 the asset is transferred;

27 (2) for an asset that becomes subject to the trust because of a decedent's death, on  
28 the date of the decedent's death, even if there is an intervening period of administration of the  
29 decedent's estate; or

1 (3) for an asset that is transferred to a fiduciary by a third party because of a  
2 decedent's death, on the date of a decedent's death.

3 (c) An asset becomes subject to a successive interest under subsection (a)(2) on the day  
4 after the preceding income interest ends, as determined under subsection (d), even if there is an  
5 intervening period of administration to wind up the preceding income interest.

6 (d) An income interest ends on the day before an income beneficiary dies or another  
7 terminating event occurs or on the last day of a period during which there is no beneficiary to  
8 which a fiduciary may or must distribute income.

9 **Comment to 1997 Act**

10 **Period during which there is no beneficiary.** The purpose of the second part of  
11 subsection (d) is to provide that, at the end of a period during which there is no beneficiary to  
12 whom a trustee may distribute income, the trustee must apply the same apportionment rules that  
13 apply when a mandatory income interest ends. This provision would apply, for example, if a  
14 settlor creates a trust for grandchildren before any grandchildren are born. When the first  
15 grandchild is born, the period preceding the date of birth is treated as having ended, followed by  
16 a successive income interest, and the apportionment rules in Sections 702 and 703 apply  
17 accordingly if the terms of the trust do not contain different provisions.

18 **SECTION 702. APPORTIONMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
19 **WHEN DECEDENT DIES OR INCOME INTEREST BEGINS.**

20 (a) A fiduciary shall allocate an income receipt or disbursement, other than a receipt to  
21 which Section 601(b) applies, to principal if its due date occurs before the date on which:

22 (1) for an estate, a decedent dies; or

23 (2) for a trust or successive interest, an income interest begins.

24 (b) If the due date of a periodic income receipt or disbursement occurs on or after the date  
25 on which a decedent dies or an income interest begins, the fiduciary shall allocate the receipt or  
26 disbursement to income.

27 (c) If an income receipt or disbursement is not periodic or has no due date, the fiduciary

1 shall treat it under this section as accruing from day to day. The fiduciary shall allocate to  
2 principal the part of the receipt or disbursement accruing before the date on which a decedent  
3 dies or an income interest begins, and the balance to income.

4 (d) A receipt or disbursement is periodic under subsections (b) and (c) if:

5 (1) it must be paid at regular intervals under an obligation to make payments; or

6 (2) the payor customarily makes payments at regular intervals.

7 (e) An item of income or obligation is due under this section on the date the payor is  
8 required to make a payment. If a payment date is not stated, there is no due date.

9 (f) Distributions to shareholders or other owners from an entity to which Section 401  
10 applies are deemed to be due:

11 (1) on the date fixed by or on behalf of the entity for determining the persons  
12 entitled to receive the distribution;

13 (2) if no date is fixed, on the date of the decision by or on behalf of the entity to  
14 make the distribution; or

15 (3) if no date is fixed and the fiduciary does not know the date of the decision by  
16 or on behalf of the entity to make the distribution, on the date the fiduciary learns of the decision.

17 **Comment**

18 In Section 702(a), the change from “before a decedent dies” and “before an income  
19 interest begins” in Section 302(a) of the 1997 Act to “before the date on which ... a decedent  
20 dies” and “before the date on which ... an income interest begins” makes this provision  
21 consistent with the reference to “the date of a testator’s death” in Section 701(b)(2) and  
22 consistent with the reference to “on or after the date on which a decedent dies” in Section 702(b).  
23 It means that the time of day at which the moment of death occurs is less relevant and therefore  
24 less important to determine. In effect, the decedent’s income interest ends with the day before the  
25 date of death, and the estate’s income interest begins with the date of death. This rule in a  
26 uniform act does not purport to directly address related income tax uncertainties.





1 income”) is payable to that income beneficiary’s estate. Often, a trust instrument will include a  
2 specific disposition of stub income.

3 **[ARTICLE] 8**

4 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

5 **SECTION 801. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.** In  
6 applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote  
7 uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

8 **SECTION 802. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND**  
9 **NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT .** This [act] modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic  
10 Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001 et seq., but does not  
11 modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize  
12 electronic delivery of any of the notices described in Section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section  
13 7003(b).

14 **SECTION 803. APPLICATION TO EXISTING TRUST OR ESTATE.** This [act]  
15 applies to a trust or estate existing on [the effective date of this [act]], except as otherwise  
16 expressly provided in the terms of the trust or this [act].

17 **[SECTION 804. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this [act] or its application to  
18 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
19 applications of this [act] which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
20 and to this end the provisions of this [act] are severable.]

21 *Legislative Note: Include this section only if the state lacks a general severability statute or a*  
22 *decision by the highest court of the state stating a general rule of severability.*

23 **SECTION 805. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

24 (a) . . . .

1 (b) . . . .

2 (c) . . . .

3 **SECTION 806. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This [act] takes effect . . . .