302A.166 DEFECTIVE CORPORATE ACTS AND SHARES; RATIFICATION.

Subdivision 1. **Effect of ratification or validation.** Subject to subdivision 7, a defective corporate act or putative share is not void or voidable solely as a result of a failure of authorization if the defective corporate act or putative share is ratified under this section or validated by a court in a proceeding brought under section 302A.167.

Subd. 2. **Board approval; generally.** (a) In order to ratify one or more defective corporate acts under this section other than ratifying an election of the first board under subdivision 3, the board must adopt resolutions stating:

(1) the defective corporate act or acts to be ratified;

(2) the date of each defective corporate act or acts;

(3) if the defective corporate act or acts involved the issuance of putative shares, the number and type of putative shares issued and the date or dates upon which the putative shares were purported to have been issued;

(4) the nature of the failure of authorization in respect of each defective corporate act to be ratified; and

(5) that the board approves ratification of the defective corporate act or acts.

(b) The resolutions also may provide that, at any time before the validation effective time in respect of a defective corporate act set forth in the resolutions, notwithstanding the approval of the ratification of the defective corporate act by shareholders, the board may abandon the ratification of the defective corporate act without further action of the shareholders.

(c) The quorum and voting requirements that apply to the board's ratification of any defective corporate act must be the quorum and voting requirements applicable to the type of defective corporate act proposed to be ratified at the time the board adopts the resolutions ratifying the defective corporate act. If the articles or bylaws, any plan or agreement to which the corporation was a party, or any provision of this chapter, in each case as in effect as of the time of the defective corporate act, require a larger number or portion of directors or of specified directors for a quorum to be present or to approve the defective corporate act, the larger number or portion of the directors or the specified directors must be required for a quorum to be present or to adopt the resolutions to ratify the defective corporate act, as applicable; except that the presence or approval of a director elected, appointed, or nominated by holders of any class or series of which no shares are outstanding at the time the board adopts the resolutions ratifying the defective corporate act, or by any person that is no longer a shareholder at the time the board adopts the resolutions ratifying the defective corporate act, is not required.

Subd. 3. **Board approval; election of first board.** To ratify a defective corporate act in respect of the election of the first board under section 302A.201, subdivision 1, a majority of the persons who, at the time the resolutions required by this subdivision are adopted, are exercising the powers of directors under claim and color of an election or appointment as such may adopt resolutions stating:

(1) the name of the person or persons who first took action in the name of the corporation as the first board;

(2) the earlier of the date on which the persons first took the action or were purported to have been elected as the first board; and

(3) that the ratification of the election of the person or persons as the first board is approved.

Subd. 4. **Shareholder approval; when required.** A defective corporate act ratified under subdivision 2 must be submitted to shareholders for approval under subdivision 5, unless:

(1)(i) no other provision of this chapter, and no provision of the articles or bylaws, or of any plan or agreement to which the corporation is a party, requires shareholder approval of the defective corporate act to be ratified, either at the time of the defective corporate act or at the time the board adopts the resolutions ratifying the defective corporate act under subdivision 2, and (ii) the defective corporate act did not result from a failure to comply with section 302A.673; or

(2) as of the adoption of the resolutions of the board under subdivision 2, there are no valid shares outstanding and entitled to vote thereon, regardless of whether there then exist any putative shares.

Subd. 5. **Shareholder approval; process.** (a) If the ratification of a defective corporate act must be submitted to shareholders for approval under subdivision 4, notice of the meeting must be given in the manner set forth in section 302A.435 to each holder of valid shares and putative shares, whether voting or nonvoting.

(b) The notice under this subdivision must be given as follows:

(1) in the case of a defective corporate act that did not involve the establishment of a record date for notice of or voting at any meeting of shareholders, for written action of shareholders in lieu of a meeting, or for any other purpose, to the shareholders of valid shares and putative shares, whether voting or nonvoting, as of the time of the defective corporate act, other than holders whose identities or addresses cannot be determined from the corporation's records; or

(2) in the case of a defective corporate act that involved the establishment of a record date for notice of or voting at any meeting of shareholders, for written action of shareholders in lieu of a meeting, or for any other purpose, to the shareholders of valid shares and putative shares, whether voting or nonvoting, as of the record date for notice of or voting at the meeting, the record date for written action, or the record date for the other action, as the case may be, other than holders whose identities or addresses cannot be determined from the corporation's records.

(c) The notice must contain a copy of the resolutions adopted by the board under subdivision 2 or the information required by subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (5). The notice must include a statement that any claim that the defective corporate act or putative shares ratified under this section is void or voidable due to the failure of authorization, or that a court should declare in the court's discretion that a ratification in accordance with this section is not effective or is effective only on certain conditions, must be brought within 120 days from the applicable validation effective time.

(d) At the meeting, the quorum and voting requirements that apply to ratification of the defective corporate act must be the same quorum and voting requirements that apply to the type of defective corporate act proposed to be ratified at the time of the approval of the ratification, except that:

(1) if the articles or bylaws, a plan or agreement to which the corporation was a party, or a provision under this chapter in effect as of the time of the defective corporate act requires a larger number or portion of shares or of any class or series thereof or of specified shareholders for a quorum to be present or to approve the defective corporate act, the presence or approval of the larger number or portion of stock or of the class or series thereof or of the specified shareholders must be required for a quorum to be present or to approve the ratification of the defective corporate act, as applicable; except that the presence or approval of shares of any class or series of which no shares are outstanding at the time of the approval of the ratification, or of any person that is no longer a shareholder at the time of the approval of the ratification, is not required; and

(2) the approval by shareholders of the ratification of a director's election requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of shares present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of the director in the manner set forth in section 302A.215, except that, if the articles or bylaws then in effect or in effect at the time of the defective election require or required a larger number or portion of shares or of any class or series thereof or of specified shareholders to elect the director, the affirmative vote of the larger number or portion of shares or of any class or series thereof or of the specified shareholders must be required to ratify the election of the director; except that the presence or approval of shares of any class or series of which no shares are outstanding at the time of the approval of the ratification, or of any person that is no longer a shareholder at the time of the approval of the ratification, is not required.

(e) Putative shares, measured as of the adoption by the board of resolutions under subdivision 2 and without giving effect to any ratification that becomes effective after the adoption, are neither entitled to vote nor counted for quorum purposes in a vote to ratify a defective corporate act.

Subd. 6. **Certificate of validation.** (a) If a defective corporate act ratified under this section requires under any other section of this chapter a certificate to be filed with the secretary of state, and either (1) the certificate requires any change to give effect to the defective corporate act in accordance with this section, including a change to the date and time of the effectiveness of the certificate, or (2) a certificate was not previously filed with respect to the defective corporate act, the corporation must file with the secretary of state a certificate of validation with respect to the defective corporate act in lieu of filing the certificate otherwise required by this chapter.

(b) A separate certificate of validation is required for each defective corporate act that requires the filing of a certificate of validation under this section, except that (1) two or more defective corporate acts may be included in a single certificate of validation if the corporation filed with the secretary of state, or to comply with this chapter would have filed with the secretary of state, a single certificate under another provision of this chapter to effect the acts, and (2) two or more overissues of shares, or of any class or series of shares, may be included in a single certificate of validation; provided that the increase in the number of authorized shares, or of each class or series, set forth in the certificate of validation is effective on the date of the first overissue.

(c) The certificate of validation must set forth:

(1) that the corporation has ratified one or more defective corporate acts that would have required filing with the secretary of state of a certificate under this chapter;

(2) that each defective corporate act has been ratified in accordance with this section; and

(3) the following information:

(i) if a certificate was previously filed with the secretary of state under this chapter with respect to the defective corporate act and the certificate requires any change to give effect to the defective corporate act in accordance with this section, including a change to the date and time of the effectiveness of the certificate, the certificate of validation must set forth:

(A) the name, title, and filing date of the certificate previously filed and any certificate of correction to the certificate previously filed;

(B) a statement that a certificate containing all of the information that must be included under the applicable section or sections of this chapter to give effect to the defective corporate act is attached as an exhibit to the certificate of validation; and

(C) the date and time that the certificate is deemed effective pursuant to this section; or

(ii) if a certificate was not previously filed with the secretary of state under this chapter in respect of the defective corporate act and the defective corporate act ratified pursuant to this section would have required under any other section of this chapter the filing with the secretary of state of a certificate, the certificate of validation shall set forth:

(A) a statement that a certificate containing all of the information required to be included under the applicable section or sections of this chapter to give effect to the defective corporate act is attached as an exhibit to the certificate of validation; and

(B) the date and time that the certificate shall be deemed to have become effective pursuant to this section.

(d) A certificate attached to a certificate of validation need not be separately executed and acknowledged and need not include a statement required by another section under this chapter that the instrument has been approved and adopted in accordance with the provisions of the other section under this chapter.

Subd. 7. **Retroactive effect.** From and after the validation effective time, unless otherwise determined in an action brought pursuant to section 302A.167, subject to subdivision 5, paragraph (e):

(1) each defective corporate act ratified in accordance with this section is no longer deemed void or voidable as a result of the failure of authorization described in the resolutions adopted under subdivision 2, effective retroactively from the time of the defective corporate act; and

(2) each share or fraction of a share of putative shares issued or purportedly issued pursuant to the defective corporate act is no longer deemed void or voidable, and is deemed to be an identical outstanding share or fraction of an outstanding share as of the time the share or fraction of a share was purportedly issued.

Subd. 8. **Postratification notice.** (a) Except as provided under paragraph (b), with respect to each defective corporate act ratified by the board under subdivision 2 or 3, prompt notice of the ratification must be given to all shareholders of valid shares and putative shares, whether voting or nonvoting, as of the date the board adopts the resolutions approving the defective corporate act, or as of a date within 60 days after the date of adoption, as established by the board. The notice must be sent to the address of the holder as the address appears or most recently appeared, as appropriate, on the corporation's records. The notice must be given to the shareholders of valid shares and putative shares, whether voting or nonvoting, as of the time of the defective corporate act, other than holders whose identities or addresses cannot be determined from the records of the corporation. The notice must contain a copy of the resolutions adopted under subdivision 2 or the information specified under subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (5), or subdivision 3, clauses (1) to (3), as applicable, and a statement that any claim that the defective corporate act or putative shares ratified under this section is void or voidable due to the failure of authorization, or that a court should declare in the court's discretion that a ratification in accordance with this section is not effective or is effective only on certain conditions, must be brought within 120 days from the latter of the validation effective time or the time at which the notice required by this subdivision is given.

(b) Notice is not required if notice of the ratification of the defective corporate act is given in accordance with subdivision 5 and, in the case of a corporation that has a class of shares listed on a national securities exchange, the notice required by this subdivision and subdivision 5 may be deemed given if disclosed in a document publicly filed by the corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to section 13, 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, United States Code, title 15, section

78a, et seq., and rules and regulations promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent United States securities laws, rules, or regulations.

(c) If a defective corporate act has been approved by shareholders acting pursuant to section 302A.441, the notice required by this subdivision may be included in a notice required under section 302A.441, subdivision 3. If the notice is given under section 302A.441, the notice must be sent to the shareholders entitled to the notice under section 302A.441, subdivision 3, and to all holders of valid shares and putative shares to whom notice is required under this subdivision if the defective corporate act had been approved at a meeting and the record date for determining the shareholders entitled to notice of the meeting had been the date for determining the shareholders entitled to notice under paragraph (a) other than any shareholder who approved the written action in lieu of a meeting under section 302A.441 or any holder of putative shares who otherwise consented thereto in writing.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision and subdivision 5 only, notice to holders of putative shares, and notice to holders of valid shares and putative shares as of the time of the defective corporate act, is treated as notice to holders of valid shares for purposes of sections 302A.435 and 302A.441.

History: *2025 c 11 s 12*