## SENATE FILE NO. SF0022

Unincorporated nonprofit associations-amendments.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation Technology

## A BILL

for

1 ACT relating to corporations, partnerships 2 associations; authorizing decentralized unincorporated 3 nonprofit associations to automatically convert to 4 unincorporated nonprofit associations as specified; 5 conforming language in the Wyoming Decentralized 6 Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act with the Wyoming 7 Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act; requiring assets of decentralized unincorporated nonprofit associations to 8 be distributed as required by federal law when winding up a 9 10 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association; 11 clarifying references to decentralized unincorporated 12 nonprofit associations; amending definitions; repealing obsolete provisions; making conforming amendments; and 13 14 providing for an effective date.

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1 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

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- 3 **Section 1**. W.S. 17-22-106(b), (c) and (d),
- 4 17-32-102(a)(i), (iii)(intro), (A), (C), (vi) through (ix),
- 5 by creating a new paragraph (xiv) and by renumbering (xiv)
- 6 as (xv), 17-32-104(a), (b), (c) (i) and (iii), 17-32-106(a),
- 7 (b) and (c)(ii) through (iv), 17-32-107(b) through (e),
- 8 17-32-108 (b) (i) and (ii), 17-32-109, 17-32-110 (b) (ii),
- 9 17-32-111, 17-32-112, 17-32-113(a)(i), 17-32-114(b)(i)
- 10 through (iii), 17-32-115(a), 17-32-116(a), 17-32-117(a),
- 11 17-32-119, 17-32-120(c), 17-32-121(b)(i), 17-32-122(a)(ii),
- 12 17-32-123(a), (d)(intro), (ii) and (iv), 17-32-124(a) and
- 13 (c), 17-32-125(a) through (d), 17-32-126(a), (b)(i),
- 14 (ii) (A), (B), (D) and (iii), 17-32-127(a) by creating a new
- 15 paragraph (vii), (c)(iii), (v)(B) and (d)(viii) and
- 16 17-32-128 are amended to read:

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18 17-22-106. Liability in tort and contract.

- 20 (b) A person is not liable for a breach of a
- 21 nonprofit association's contract merely solely because the
- 22 person is a member, is authorized to participate in the
- 23 management of the affairs of the nonprofit association or

1 is a person considered as a member by the nonprofit

2 association.

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4 (c) A person is not liable for a tortious act or

5 omission for which a nonprofit association is liable merely

6 solely because the person is a member, is authorized to

7 participate in the management of the affairs of the

8 nonprofit association or is a person considered as a member

9 by the nonprofit association.

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11 (d) A tortious act or omission of a member or other

12 person for which a nonprofit association is liable is not

13 imputed to a person merely solely because the person is a

14 member of the nonprofit association, is authorized to

15 participate in the management of the affairs of the

16 nonprofit association or is a person considered as a member

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17 by the nonprofit association.

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19 **17-32-102.** Definitions.

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21 (a) As used in this act:

1 (i) "Administrator" means a person, whether or 2 not a member, authorized by the members membership of a 3 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association to 4 fulfill administrative or operational tasks at the direction of the membership of the decentralized 5 unincorporated nonprofit association; 6 7 8 (iii) "Decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association" or "nonprofit association" means 9 10 unincorporated nonprofit association that meets the 11 following requirements: 12 13 (A) Consists of at least one hundred (100) members joined by mutual consent under an agreement, that 14 may be in writing or inferred from conduct, for a common 15 16 nonprofit purpose; except as permitted under W.S. 17 <del>17-32-104;</del> 18 19 (C) Is not formed under any other law 20 governing the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's organization or operation. 21

1 (vi) "Established practices" means the practices 2 by a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 3 association without material change during the most recent 4 five (5) years of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's existence, or if the decentralized 5 unincorporated nonprofit association has existed for less 6 7 five (5)years, during the decentralized than 8 unincorporated nonprofit association's entire existence; 9 (vii) "Governing principles" means 10 all 11 agreements and any amendment or restatement of those 12 agreements, including any decentralized unincorporated 13 nonprofit association agreements, consensus formation algorithms, smart contracts or enacted 14 governance proposals, that govern the purpose or operation of a 15 16 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association and the 17 rights and obligations of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's members and administrators, whether 18 19 contained in a record, implied from the decentralized 20 unincorporated nonprofit association's established practices or both; 21

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              (viii) "Member" means a person who, under the
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    governing principles of a decentralized unincorporated
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    nonprofit association, may participate in the selection of
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    the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's
    administrators or the development of the policies and
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    activities of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
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7
    association;
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              (ix) "Membership interest" means a member's
    voting right in a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
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    association determined by the decentralized unincorporated
    nonprofit association's governing principles, including as
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    ascertained from decentralized ledger technology on which
    the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association
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    relies to determine a member's voting right;
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             (xiv) "Distributed ledger protocol" means
    executable software deployed to a distributed ledger
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    including smart contracts or networks of smart contracts;
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             (xiv) (xv) "This act" means W.S.
                                                    17-32-101
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    through \frac{17-32-128}{17-32-129}.
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1 17-32-104. Profits; prohibitions on distributions and
2 dividends; compensation and other permitted payments.
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4 (a) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
5 association may engage in profit-making activities, but
6 profits from any activities shall be used in furtherance

7 of, or set aside for, the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u>

8 nonprofit association's common nonprofit purpose.

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10 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
11 section, a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
12 association may not pay dividends or distribute any part of
13 its income or profits to its members or administrators or
14 persons outside the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
15 association.

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17 (c) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
18 association may:

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20 (i) Pay reasonable compensation or reimburse
21 reasonable expenses to its members, administrators and
22 persons outside the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit
23 association for services rendered, including with respect

(b) An estate or interest in real property in the 21 22 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit name of a association may be transferred by a person so authorized in 23

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- 1 a statement of authority recorded in the office of the
- 2 county clerk in which a transfer of the property will would
- 3 be recorded.

5 (c) A statement of authority shall set forth:

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- 7 (ii) The address in this state, including the
- 8 street address, if any, of the decentralized unincorporated
- 9 nonprofit association. If the decentralized unincorporated
- 10 nonprofit association does not have an address in this
- 11 state, the statement of authority shall include the
- 12 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's
- 13 address out of state;

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- 15 (iii) The name or title of the person authorized
- 16 to transfer an estate or interest in real property held in
- 17 the name of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
- 18 association; and

- 20 (iv) The action, procedure or vote of the
- 21 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association which
- 22 authorizes the person to transfer the real property of the
- 23 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association and

1 which authorizes the person to execute the statement of

2 authority.

4 17-32-107. Liability in tort or contract.

6 (b) A person is not liable for a breach of a
7 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's
8 contract merely because the person is a member,
9 administrator, authorized to participate in the management
10 of the affairs of the decentralized unincorporated
11 nonprofit association or considered as a member by the

12 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association.

(c) A person is not liable for a tortious act or omission for which a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association is liable merely because the person is a member or administrator of the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit association, or is a person authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit association or considered as a member by the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit association.

1 (d) A tortious act or omission of a member, 2 administrator or other person for which a decentralized 3 unincorporated nonprofit association is liable is not 4 imputed to a person merely because the person is a member 5 administrator of the decentralized unincorporated or nonprofit association, or is a person authorized to 6 7 participate in the management of the affairs of the 8 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association or considered as a member by the decentralized unincorporated 9 10 nonprofit association.

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12 (e) A member, administrator, person authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the 13 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association, or 14 15 person considered as a member by the decentralized 16 unincorporated nonprofit association, may assert a claim 17 against the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association. A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 18 19 association may assert a claim against member, 20 administrator, person authorized to participate in the the affairs the 21 management of of decentralized 22 unincorporated nonprofit association or person considered

1 as a member by the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 2 association. 3 4 17-32-108. Capacity to assert and defend; standing. 5 (b) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 6 7 association may assert a claim on behalf of its members if: 8 9 (i) One (1) or more members of the decentralized 10 unincorporated nonprofit association have standing to 11 assert a claim in their own right; 12 13 (ii) The interests the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association seeks to protect are 14 germane to its purposes; and 15 16 17 17-32-109. Effect of judgement or order. 18 19 A judgment or order against a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association is not by itself a judgment or order 20 against a member or administrator of the decentralized 21 22 unincorporated nonprofit association.

nonprofit association.

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1 17-32-110. Appointment of agent to receive service of 2 process. 3 4 (b) A statement appointing an agent shall set forth: 5 (ii) The address in this state, including the 6 street address, if any, of the decentralized unincorporated 7 8 nonprofit association. If the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association does not have an address in this 9 10 state, the statement shall include the decentralized 11 unincorporated nonprofit association's address out 12 state; and 13 14 17-32-111. Summons and complaint; service on whom. 15 16 action or proceeding against a decentralized 17 unincorporated nonprofit association, a summons and complaint shall be served on an agent authorized to receive 18 19 service of process or a person authorized to administer the 20 affairs of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association. If none of them can be served, service may be 21 22 made on a member of the decentralized unincorporated

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2	17-32-112. Claim not abated by change of members,
3	administrators or persons authorized.
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5	A claim for relief against a decentralized unincorporated
6	nonprofit association shall not abate merely because of a
7	change in its members or persons authorized to administer
8	the affairs of the <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit
9	association.
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11	17-32-113. Venue.
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13	(a) For purposes of venue, a decentralized
14	unincorporated nonprofit association is a resident of a
15	county in which:
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17	(i) The <u>decentralized unincorporated</u> nonprofit
18	association has an office; or
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20	17-32-114. Perpetual existence, dissolution,
21	continuation of existence.

1 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit (b) A 2 association may be dissolved by any of the following 3 methods: 4 5 (i) Ιf governing principles the of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association provide 6 7 a time or method for dissolution, by that method; 8 9 (ii) If the governing principles the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association do not 10 provide a method for dissolution, by approval of 11 its 12 members in accordance with W.S. 17-32-120; 13 14 (iii) If membership in the decentralized 15 unincorporated nonprofit association falls below one 16 hundred (100) members and the decentralized unincorporated 17 nonprofit association does not meet the requirements of a Wyoming unincorporated nonprofit association under W.S. 18 19 17-22-101 through 17-22-115. In the event membership in the 20 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association falls below one hundred (100) members and the decentralized 21 22 unincorporated nonprofit association meets the requirements

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of a Wyoming unincorporated nonprofit association under

1 W.S. 17-22-101 through 17-22-115, the entity automatically

2 converts to a Wyoming unincorporated nonprofit association

3 unless the governing principles otherwise specify; another

4 organizational statute and the organization meets the

5 statutory requirements of that organization;

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7 17-32-115. Admission, suspension, dismissal or 8 expulsion of members.

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17-32-126.

10 (a) A person becomes a member of a decentralized 11 unincorporated nonprofit association in accordance with the governing principles of the decentralized unincorporated 12 13 nonprofit association. If there are no applicable governing principles, a person shall be considered a member upon 14 purchase or assumption of ownership of a membership 15 16 interest or other property or instrument that confers a 17 voting right with the nonprofit association and the person shall continue as a member absent until the person's 18 19 suspension, dismissal or expulsion pursuant to subsection 20 (b) of this section, resignation pursuant to W.S. 17-32-116 or the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's 21 22 dissolution and wind-up pursuant to W.S. 17-32-114 and W.S.

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2 17-32-116. Member resignation.

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4 (a) A member may resign as a member of a 5 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association accordance with the governing principles of the 6 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association. 7 Ιf 8 there are no applicable governing principles, a member 9 shall be deemed to have resigned as a member upon the 10 disposal, whether voluntary or involuntary, of all 11 membership interests or other property or instruments that 12 confer upon the person a voting right within the

decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association.

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15 **17-32-117.** Duties of members.

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17 (a) Unless otherwise provided for in the governing
18 principles, a member shall not have any fiduciary duty to a
19 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association or to
20 any other member of the decentralized unincorporated
21 nonprofit association solely by reason of being a member.

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23 **17-32-119.** Member interests transferable.

2 Except as otherwise provided in the decentralized

3 unincorporated nonprofit association's governing

4 principles, a member interest or any right thereunder is

5 freely transferable to another person through conveyance of

6 the membership interest. or other property that confers

7 upon a person a voting right within the nonprofit

8 association.

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10 **17-32-120**. Approval by members.

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- 12 (c) Unless otherwise provided for in the governing
- 13 principles, membership interest in a decentralized
- 14 unincorporated nonprofit association shall be calculated in
- 15 proportion to a member's voting rights within the
- 16 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association.

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- 18 17-32-121. Utilization of distributed ledger
- 19 technology.

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- 21 (b) The governing principles for a decentralized
- 22 unincorporated nonprofit association may:

1 (i) Specify whether any distributed ledger 2 technology utilized or enabled by the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association will be 3 fully 4 immutable or subject to change by the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association and whether any 5 distributed ledger will be fully or partially public or 6 private, including the extent of a member's access to 7 8 information;

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10 17-32-122. Consensus formation algorithms and 11 governance process.

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13 (a) In accordance with its governing principles, a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association may: 14

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(ii) In accordance with any procedure specified 16 17 pursuant to W.S. 17-32-121, modify the consensus mechanism, as well as the requirements, processes and procedures or 18 19 substitute a new consensus mechanism, requirements, 20 processes or procedures that comply with this state's law and the governing principles of the decentralized 21 unincorporated nonprofit association. 22

1 17-32-123. Selection of administrators; rights and 2 duties of administrators. 3 4 (a) Unless otherwise provided for in the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's 5 governing principles, the members of a decentralized 6 7 unincorporated nonprofit association may select the 8 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's administrators in accordance with W.S. 17-32-120. 9 10 11 (d) If in a record, the governing principles of a 12 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association may 13 limit or eliminate the liability of an administrator to the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association or its 14 members for money damages for any action taken, or failure 15 16 to take any action, as an administrator except liability 17 for: 18 19 (ii) An intentional infliction of harm on the 20 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association or its 21 members;

1 (iv) Breach of the duty of loyalty should one

2 exist, unless, following full disclosure of all material

3 facts to the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit

4 association members, the specific act or transaction that

5 would otherwise breach the duty of loyalty is authorized or

6 ratified by approval of the disinterested members pursuant

7 to W.S. 17-32-120;

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## 9 17-32-124. Right to inspect records.

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11 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, on reasonable notice, a member or administrator of 12 a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association shall 13 be entitled to an electronic record of any record 14 15 maintained by the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 16 association regarding the decentralized unincorporated 17 nonprofit association's activities, financial condition and other circumstances, to the extent the information is 18 19 material to a member or administrator's rights and duties 20 under the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit

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association's governing principles or this act.

1 (c) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 2 association may impose reasonable restrictions on access to 3 and use of information that may be provided under this 4 section, including by designating the information confidential and 5 imposing nondisclosure or other safeguarding obligations on the recipient of the 6 7 information. In a dispute concerning the reasonableness of 8 a restriction under this subsection, the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association shall have the burden 9 of proving reasonableness. 10

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12 17-32-125. Indemnification; advancement of expenses.

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(a) Unless otherwise provided in its governing principles, a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association may reimburse a member or administrator for authorized expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association.

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20 (b) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
21 association may indemnify a member or administrator for any
22 debt, obligation or other liability incurred in the course
23 of the member or administrator's activities on behalf of

1 the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association. To

2 be eligible for indemnification, an administrator must have

3 complied with the duties stated in W.S. 17-32-123. If in a

4 record, a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit

5 association's governing principles may broaden or limit

6 this right of indemnification.

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8 (c) If a person is made, or threatened to be made, a party in a proceeding based on that person's conduct in the 9 10 affairs of a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 11 association, that person is entitled, upon written request 12 to the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association, including through decentralized ledger technology, to 13 receive payment of or reimbursement by the decentralized 14 15 unincorporated nonprofit association, of reasonable 16 expenses, including attorney's fees and disbursements, 17 incurred by that person in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding. To be entitled to these payments or 18 19 advances the person making the request shall make a written 20 affirmation that the person has a good faith belief that the criteria for indemnification in subsection (a) of this 21 22 section have been satisfied and that the person will repay the amounts paid or reimbursed if it is determined that the 23

1 criteria for reimbursement have not been satisfied. No

2 payment or reimbursement under this subsection shall be

3 made without prior approval, in a record, of the

4 disinterested members under W.S. 17-32-102.

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6 (d) A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit
7 association may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf

8 of a member or administrator for liability asserted against

9 or incurred by the member or administrator in that

10 capacity, whether or not the decentralized unincorporated

11 nonprofit association would have the power to indemnify or

12 advance expenses to the member or administrator against the

13 same liability under this section.

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15 17-32-126. Winding up; termination.

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17 (a) A dissolved decentralized unincorporated
18 nonprofit association shall wind up its operations and the
19 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association shall
20 continue after dissolution only for the purpose of winding
21 up.

1 (b) In winding up a decentralized unincorporated 2 nonprofit association, the members: 3 4 (i) Shall discharge the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's debts, obligations 5 and other liabilities, settle and close the decentralized 6 7 unincorporated nonprofit association's business and 8 distribute any remaining property: 9 10 (A) As required by state law other than 11 this chapter or federal law requiring assets of an a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association to be 12 13 distributed to another entity or person with similar nonprofit purposes; 14 15 16 (B) In accordance with the decentralized 17 unincorporated nonprofit association's governing 18 principles. In the absence of applicable governing 19 principles, to the current members of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association in proportion to their 20 membership interests; or 21 22

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1 (C) If neither subdivision—subparagraph (A) 2 or (B) of this paragraph applies, in accordance with the 3 law of unclaimed property contained in W.S. 34-24-101 4 through 34-24-140. 5 6 (ii) May: 7 8 (A) Authorize an administrator to wind up the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association in 9 accordance with W.S. 17-32-120. Any administrator so 10 11 authorized shall owe the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association a duty of care in the conduct or 12 13 winding up of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association to refrain from grossly negligent or reckless 14 conduct, willful or intentional misconduct or a knowing 15 violation of the law; 16 17 18 Preserve the (B) decentralized 19 unincorporated nonprofit association's operations 20 property as a going concern for a reasonable time; 21 22 Transfer (D) the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's property; 23

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(iii) If the members of a decentralized 2 3 unincorporated nonprofit association do not appoint an 4 administrator or administrators to wind up the 5 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association, the members shall owe the decentralized unincorporated 6 7 nonprofit association a duty of care in the conduct or 8 winding up of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 9 association's operations to refrain from engaging grossly negligent or reckless conduct, willful or 10 intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law. 11

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13 **17-32-127.** Mergers.

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15 (a) As used in this section:

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(vii) "Charitable purpose" means any purpose of an organization that is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any successor section, or that upon dissolution shall distribute its assets to a public benefit corporation, the United States, a state or a person that is recognized as exempt under

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section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any 1 2 successor section. 3 4 (c) A merger involving a decentralized unincorporated 5 nonprofit association is subject to following the requirements: 6 7 8 (iii) The plan of merger shall be approved by the members of each decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 9 association that is a constituent organization in the 10 merger, subject to W.S. 17-32-120. If a member of a 11 12 decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association that is party to a merger will have personal liability with respect 13 14 an obligation of a constituent or surviving organization, the consent in a record of that member to the 15 16 plan of merger shall also be obtained; 17 18 (v) Following approval of the plan, a merger 19 under this section shall be effective if: 20 21 (B) The surviving organization is а

decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association,

specified in the plan of merger and upon compliance by any

1 constituent organization that is not a decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association with any requirements, 2 3 including any required filings in the office of the 4 secretary of state, of the organization's governing 5 statute; or 6 7 (d) When a merger becomes effective: 8 (viii) The merger shall not affect the personal 9 10 liability, if any, of a member, administrator or manager of 11 a constituent association for a debt, liability or 12 obligation of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit 13 association incurred before the merger is effective; and 14 15 17-32-128. Conversion of entities. 16 17 A decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association may effect a conversion by complying with the applicable 18 19 provisions of W.S. 17-26-101 and any applicable provisions 20 of the decentralized unincorporated nonprofit association's

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governing principles.

23 **Section 2.** W.S. 17-32-102(a)(ii) is repealed.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2026.

(END)