WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1986

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 104

(By Senators Sharpe, Gol, et al.)

In Effect July 1, 1986





ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 104

(By Senators Sharpe, Cook, Palumbo, Colombo, Fanning, Burdette,

AND SHAW)

[Passed March 8, 1986; to take effect July 1, 1986.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact article seven, chapter thirty-six of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to enacting the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act; providing for nomination of a custodian; methods of transfer; manner of creating custodial property; care and use of custodial property; powers and liability of custodian; exemptions from liability; removal of custodian; applicability to present gifts; and effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article seven, chapter thirty-six of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 7. UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT.

§36-7-1. Definitions.

- 1 In this article:
- 2 (1) "Adult" means an individual who has attained the 3 age of twenty-one years.
- 4 (2) "Benefit plan" means an employer's plan for the
- 5 benefit of an employee or partner.
- 6 (3) "Broker" means a person lawfully engaged in the
- 7 business of effecting transactions in securities or

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- commodities for the person's own account or for the 9 account of others.
- (4) "Conservator" means a person appointed or 11 qualified by a court to act as general, limited or temporary 12 guardian of a minor's property or a person legally 13 authorized to perform substantially the same functions.
 - (5) "Court" means any circuit court.
- 15 (6) "Custodial property" means (i) any interest in 16 property transferred to a custodian under this article and (ii) the income from and proceeds of that interest in 18 property.
- (7) "Custodian" means a person so designated under 20 section nine or a successor or substitute custodian designated under section eighteen of this article.
- (8) "Financial institution" means a bank, trust company, savings institution or credit union, chartered and 24 supervised under state or federal law.
- (9) "Legal representative" means the personal 26 representative or conservator of an individual.
- (10) "Member of the minor's family" means the minor's 28 parent, stepparent, spouse, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.
- (11) "Minor" means an individual who has not attained 31 32 the age of twenty-one years.
- (12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, 34 organization or other legal entity.
- (13) "Personal representative" means an executor, 36 administrator, successor, personal representative or special administrator of a decedent's estate or a person legally authorized to perform substantially the same functions.
- (14) "State" includes any state of the United States, the 40 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any territory or possession subject to the legislative authority of the United States.
- 43 (15) "Transfer" means a transaction that creates custodial property under section nine of this article. 44
- 45 (16) "Transferor" means a person who makes a transfer 46 under this article.
- (17) "Trust company" means a financial institution, 47 48 corporation or other legal entity authorized to exercise general trust powers.

§36-7-2. Scope and jurisdiction.

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- 1 (a) This article applies to a transfer that refers to this
 2 article in the designation under subsection (a), section nine,
 3 by which the transfer is made if at the time of the transfer,
 4 the transferor, the minor or the custodian is a resident of
 5 this state or the custodial property is located in this state.
 6 The custodianship so created remains subject to this article
 7 despite a subsequent change in residence of a transferor, the
 8 minor or the custodian, or the removal of custodial property
 9 from this state.
 - (b) A person designated as custodian under this article is subject to personal jurisdiction in this state with respect to any matter relating to the custodianship.
- 13 (c) A transfer that purports to be made and which is 14 valid under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, the 15 Uniform Gifts to Minors Act or a substantially similar act of 16 another state is governed by the law of the designated state 17 and may be executed and is enforceable in this state if at the 18 time of the transfer, the transferor, the minor or the 19 custodian is a resident of the designated state or the 20 custodial property is located in the designated state.

§36-7-3. Nomination of custodian.

- 1 (a) A person having the right to designate the recipient of property transferable upon the occurrence of a future 3 event may revocably nominate a custodian to receive the 4 property for a minor beneficiary upon the occurrence of the event by naming the custodian followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act." The 8 nomination may name one or more persons as substitute 9 custodians to whom the property must be transferred, in the 10 order named, if the first nominated custodian dies before 11 the transfer or is unable, declines or is ineligible to serve. 12 The nomination may be made in a will, a trust, a deed, an 13 instrument exercising a power of appointment or in a 14 writing designating a beneficiary of contractual rights 15 which is registered with or delivered to the payor, issuer or 16 other obligor of the contractual rights. 17
 - (b) A custodian nominated under this section must be a person to whom a transfer of property of that kind may be made under subsection (a), section nine of this article.

- 20 (c) The nomination of a custodian under this section
- 21 does not create custodial property until the nominating
- 22 instrument becomes irrevocable or a transfer to the
- 23 nominated custodian is completed under section nine of this
- 24 article. Unless the nomination of a custodian has been
- 25 revoked, upon the occurrence of the future event the
- 26 custodianship becomes effective and the custodian shall
- 27 enforce a transfer of the custodial property pursuant to
- 28 section nine of this article.

§36-7-4. Transfer by gift or exercise of power of appointment.

- 1 A person may make a transfer by irrevocable gift to, or the
- 2 irrevocable exercise of a power of appointment in favor of, a
- 3 custodian for the benefit of a minor pursuant to section nine
- 4 of this article.

§36-7-5. Transfer authorized by will or trust.

- 1 (a) A personal representative or trustee may make an 2 irrevocable transfer pursuant to section nine of this article
- 3 to a custodian for the benefit of a minor as authorized in the4 governing will or trust.
- 5 (b) If the testator or settlor has nominated a custodian 6 under section three of this article to receive the custodial
- 7 property, the transfer must be made to that person.8 (c) If the testator or settlor has not nominated a
- 9 custodian under section three of this article or all persons so
- 10 nominated as custodian die before the transfer or are
- 11 unable, decline or are ineligible to serve, the personal
- 12 representative or the trustee, as the case may be, shall
- 13 designate the custodian from among those eligible to serve
- 14 as custodian for property of that kind under subsection (a),
- 15 section nine of this article.

§36-7-6. Other transfer by fiduciary.

- 1 (a) Subject to subsection (c), a personal representative 2 or trustee may make an irrevocable transfer to another
- 3 adult or trust company as custodian for the benefit of a
- 4 minor pursuant to section nine of this article in the absence
- 5 of a will or under a will or trust that does not contain an
- 6 authorization to do so.
- 7 (b) Subject to subsection (c), a conservator may make an 8 irrevocable transfer to another adult or trust company as

- 9 custodian for the benefit of the minor pursuant to section 10 nine of this article.
- 11 (c) A transfer under subsection (a) or (b) may be made 12 only if (i) the personal representative, trustee or conservator 13 considers the transfer to be in the best interest of the minor,
- 14 (ii) the transfer is not prohibited by or inconsistent with
- 15 provisions of the applicable will, trust agreement or other
- 16 governing instrument and (iii) the transfer is authorized by
- 17 the court if it exceeds ten thousand dollars in value.

§36-7-7. Transfer by obligor.

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- 1 (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, a 2 person not subject to section five or six of this article who 3 holds property of or owes a liquidated debt to a minor not 4 having a conservator may make an irrevocable transfer to a 5 custodian for the benefit of the minor pursuant to section 6 nine of this article.
 - (b) If a person having the right to do so under section three of this article has nominated a custodian under that section to receive the custodial property, the transfer must be made to that person.
- 12 (c) If no custodian has been nominated under section 12 three of this article, or all persons so nominated as 13 custodian die before the transfer or are unable, decline or 14 are ineligible to serve, a transfer under this section may be 15 made to an adult member of the minor's family or to a trust 16 company unless the property exceeds ten thousand dollars 17 in value.

§36-7-8. Receipt for custodial property.

A written acknowledgement of delivery by a custodian constitutes a sufficient receipt and discharge for custodial property transferred to the custodian pursuant to this article.

§36-7-9. Manner of creating custodial property and effecting transfer; designation of initial custodian; control.

- 1 (a) Custodial property is created and a transfer is made 2 whenever:
 - (1) An uncertificated security or a certificated security in registered form is either:
- 5 (i) Registered in the name of the transferor or an adult 6 other than the transferor or a trust company, followed in

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substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers 9 to Minors Act"; or 10

- (ii) Delivered if in certificated form, or any document 11 necessary for the transfer of an uncertificated security is delivered, together with any necessary endorsement to an adult other than the transferor or to a trust company as custodian, accompanied by an instrument in substantially the form set forth in subsection (b).
 - (2) Money is paid or delivered to a broker or financial institution for credit to an account in the name of the transferor or an adult other than the transferor or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act."
 - (3) The ownership of a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract is either:
 - (i) Registered with the issuer in the name of the transferor or an adult other than the transferor or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act"; or
 - (ii) Assigned in a writing delivered to an adult other than the transferor or to a trust company whose name in the assignment is followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act."
 - (4) An irrevocable exercise of a power of appointment or an irrevocable present right to future payment under a contract is the subject of a written notification delivered to the payor, issuer or other obligor that the right is transferred to the transferor or an adult other than the transferor or a trust company, whose name in the notification is followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act."
 - (5) An interest in real property is recorded in the name of the transferor or an adult other than the transferor or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act."
- 48 (6) A certificate of title issued by a department or 49 agency of a state or of the United States which evidences 50 title to tangible personal property is either:

- 51 (i) Issued in the name of the transferor or an adult other 52 than the transferor or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "As custodian for 54 (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers 55 to Minors Act"; or
- (ii) Delivered to an adult other than the transferor or to 57 a trust company, endorsed to that person followed in 58 substance by the words: "As custodian for (name of minor) under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers 60 to Minors Act"; or
- (7) An interest in any property not described in 62 subdivisions (1) through (6) is transferred to an adult other 63 than the transferor or to a trust company by a written 64 instrument in substantially the form set forth in subsection 65 (b).
 - (b) An instrument in the following form satisfies the requirements of paragraph (ii), subdivision (1) and subdivision (7) of subsection (a):

"TRANSFER UNDER THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT

71	I, (name of transferor or name and
72	representative capacity if a fiduciary) hereby transfer to
73	(name of Custodian), as Custodian for
	(name of minor) under the
	West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, the
	following: (Insert a description of the custodial property
77	sufficient to identify it).
	Datade

80 (Signature)

81 (name of custodian) acknowledges receipt 82 of the property described above as custodian for the minor 83 named above under the West Virginia Uniform Transfers to

84 Minors Act. 85 Dated:

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87 (Signature of Custodian)

(c) A transferor shall place the custodian in control of

88 89 the custodial property as soon as practicable.

§36-7-10. Single custodianship.

- A transfer may be made only for one minor, and only one
- 2 person may be the custodian. All custodial property held

- 3 under this article by the same custodian for the benefit of
- 4 the same minor constitutes a single custodianship.

§36-7-11. Validity and effect of transfer.

- 1 (a) The validity of a transfer made in a manner prescribed in this article is not affected by:
- 3 (1) Failure of the transferor to comply with subsection 4 (c), section nine, concerning possession and control;
- 5 (2) Designation of an ineligible custodian, except 6 designation of the transferor in the case of property for 7 which the transferor is ineligible to serve as custodian 8 under subsection (a), section nine; or
- 9 (3) Death or incapacity of a person nominated under 10 section three or designated under section nine as custodian 11 or the disclaimer of the office by that person.
- 12 (b) A transfer made pursuant to section nine is 13 irrevocable, and the custodial property is indefeasibly 14 vested in the minor, but the custodian has all the rights, 15 powers, duties and authority provided in this article and 16 neither the minor nor the minor's legal representative has 17 any right, power, duty or authority with respect to the 18 custodial property except as provided in this article.
- 19 (c) By making a transfer, the transferor incorporates in 20 the disposition all the provisions of this article and grants to 21 the custodian, and to anythird person dealing with a person 22 designated as custodian, the respective powers, rights and 23 immunities provided in this article.

§36-7-12. Care of custodial property.

- 1 (a) A custodian shall:
- 2 (1) Take control of custodial property;
- 3 (2) Register or record title to custodial property if 4 appropriate; and
- 5 (3) Collect, hold, manage, invest and reinvest custodial6 property.
- (b) In dealing with custodial property, a custodian shall
 observe the standard of care that would be observed by a
 prudent person dealing with property of another and is not
- 10 limited by any other statute restricting investments by
- 11 fiduciaries. If a custodian has a special skill or expertise or
- 12 is named custodian on the basis of representations of a
- 13 special skill or expertise, the custodian shall use that skill or
- 14 expertise. However, a custodian, in the custodian's

- discretion and without liability to the minor or the minor's
 estate, may retain any custodial property received from a
 transferor.
- 18 (c) A custodian may invest in or pay premiums on life 19 insurance or endowment policies on (i) the life of the minor 20 only if the minor or the minor's estate is the sole beneficiary, 21 or (ii) the life of another person in whom the minor has an 22 insurable interest only to the extent that the minor, the 23 minor's estate or the custodian in the capacity of custodian, 24 is the irrevocable beneficiary.
- 25 A custodian at all times shall keep custodial 26 property separate and distinct from all other property in a 27 manner sufficient to identify it clearly as custodial property 28 of the minor. Custodial property consisting of an undivided 29 interest is so identified if the minor's interest is held as a 30 tenant in common and is fixed. Custodial property subject 31 to recordation is so identified if it is recorded, and custodial 32 property subject to registration is so identified if it is either 33 registered, or held in an account designated, in the name of 34 the custodian, followed in substance by the words: "As a custodian for (name of minor) under the 36 West Virginia Uniform Transfers to Minors Act."
- 37 (e) A custodian shall keep records of all transactions 38 with respect to custodial property, including information 39 necessary for the preparation of the minor's tax returns, 40 and shall make them available for inspection at reasonable 41 intervals by a parent or legal representative of the minor or 42 by the minor if the minor has attained the age of fourteen 43 years.

§36-7-13. Powers of custodian.

- 1 (a) A custodian, acting in a custodial capacity, has all
- 2 the rights, powers and authority over custodial property
- 3 that unmarried adult owners have over their own property,
- 4 but a custodian may exercise those rights, powers and
- 5 authority in that capacity only.
- 6 (b) This section does not relieve a custodian from 7 liability for breach of section twelve of this article.

§36-7-14. Use of custodial property.

- 1 (a) A custodian may deliver or pay to the minor or
- 2 expend for the minor's benefit so much of the custodial

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- property as the custodian considers advisable for the use 4 and benefit of the minor, without court order and without 5 regard to (i) the duty or ability of the custodian personally 6 or of any other person to support the minor, or (ii) any other income or property of the minor which may be applicable or available for that purpose.
- (b) On petition of an interested person or the minor if 10 the minor has attained the age of fourteen years, the court 11 may order the custodian to deliver or pay to the minor or 12 expend for the minor's benefit so much of the custodial 13 property as the court considers advisable for the use and 14 benefit of the minor.
- (c) A delivery, payment or expenditure under this 16 section is in addition to, not in substitution for, and does not affect any obligation of a person to support the minor.

§36-7-15. Custodian's expenses, compensation and bond.

- (a) A custodian is entitled to reimbursement from custodial property for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of the custodian's duties.
- (b) Except for one who is a transferor under section four 5 of this article, a custodian has a noncumulative election 6 during each calendar year to charge reasonable compensation for services performed during that year.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (f), section eighteen 9 of this article, a custodian need not give a bond.

§36-7-16. Exemption of third person from liability.

A third person in good faith and without court order may act on the instructions of or otherwise deal with any person purporting to make a transfer or purporting to act in the capacity of a custodian and, in the absence of knowledge, is 5 not responsible for determining:

- (1) The validity of the purported custodian's designation;
- (2) The propriety of, or the authority under this article 9 for, any act of the purported custodian;
- 10 (3) The validity or propriety under this article of any instrument or instructions executed or given either by the 11 person purporting to make a transfer or by the purported 12 13 custodian; or
- 14 (4) The propriety of the application of any property of 15 the minor delivered to the purported custodian.

§36-7-17. Liability to third persons.

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- 1 (a) A claim based on (i) a contract entered into by a 2 custodian acting in a custodial capacity, (ii) an obligation 3 arising from the ownership or control of custodial property or (iii) a tort committed during the custodianship, may be asserted against the custodial property by proceeding against the custodian in the custodial capacity, whether or not the custodian or the minor is personally liable therefor.
 - (b) A custodian is not personally liable:
- 9 (1) On a contract properly entered into in the custodial 10 capacity unless the custodian fails to reveal that capacity 11 and to identify the custodianship in the contract; or
- 12 (2) For an obligation arising from control of custodial 13 property or for a tort committed during the custodianship 14 unless the custodian is personally at fault.
- 15 (c) A minor is not personally liable for an obligation 16 arising from ownership of custodial property or for a tort 17 committed during the custodianship unless the minor is 18 personally at fault.

§36-7-18. Renunciation, resignation, death or removal of custodian; designation of successor custodian.

- 1 (a) A person nominated under section three of this article or designated under section nine of this article as custodian may decline to serve by delivering a valid disclaimer to the person who made the nomination or to the transferor or the transferor's legal representative. If the event giving rise to a transfer has not occurred and no substitute custodian able, willing and eligible to serve was nominated under section three of this article, the person who made the nomination may nominate a substitute 10 custodian under section three of this article; otherwise the 11 transferor or the transferor's legal representative shall 12 designate a substitute custodian at the time of the transfer, 13 in either case from among the persons eligible to serve as custodian for that kind of property under subsection (a), 14 15 section nine. The custodian so designated has the rights of a 16 successor custodian.
- 17 (b) A custodian at any time may designate a trust 18 company or an adult other than a transferor under section 19 four as successor custodian by executing and dating an 20 instrument of designation before a subscribing witness

- other than the successor. If the instrument of designation does not contain or is not accompanied by the resignation of the custodian, the designation of the successor does not take effect until the custodian resigns, dies, becomes incapacitated or is removed.
 - (c) A custodian may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the minor if the minor has attained the age of fourteen years and to the successor custodian and by delivering the custodial property to the successor custodian.
 - (d) If a custodian is ineligible, dies or becomes incapacitated without having effectively designated a successor and the minor has attained the age of fourteen years, the minor may designate as successor custodian, in the manner prescribed in subsection (b) of this section an adult member of the minor's family, a conservator of the minor or a trust company. If the minor has not attained the age of fourteen years or fails to act within sixty days after the ineligibility, death or incapacity, the conservator of the minor becomes successor custodian. If the minor has no conservator or the conservator declines to act, the transferor, the legal representative of the transferor or of the custodian, an adult member of the minor's family or any other interested person may petition the court to designate a successor custodian.
 - (e) A custodian who declines to serve under subsection (a) of this section or resigns under subsection (c) of this section or the legal representative of a deceased or incapacitated custodian, as soon as practicable, shall put the custodial property and records in the possession and control of the successor custodian. The successor custodian by action may enforce the obligation to deliver custodial property and records and becomes responsible for each item as received.
 - (f) A transferor, the legal representative of a transferor, an adult member of the minor's family, a guardian of the person of the minor, the conservator of the minor or the minor if the minor has attained the age of fourteen years may petition the court to remove the custodian for cause and to designate a successor custodian other than a transferor under section four or to require the custodian to give appropriate bond.

§36-7-19. Accounting by and determination of liability of custodian.

- 1 (a) A minor who has attained the age of fourteen years,
- 2 the minor's guardian of the person or legal representative,
- 3 an adult member of the minor's family, a transferor or a
- 4 transferor's legal representative may petition the court (i)
- 5 for an accounting by the custodian or the custodian's legal
- 6 representative; or (ii) for a determination of responsibility,
- 7 as between the custodial property and the custodian
- 8 personally, for claims against the custodial property unless
- 9 the responsibility has been adjudicated in an action under
- section seventeen to which the minor or the minor's legalrepresentative was a party.
- 12 (b) A successor custodian may petition the court for an accounting by the predecessor custodian.
- 14 (c) The court, in a proceeding under this article or in any 15 other proceeding, may require or permit the custodian or 16 the custodian's legal representative to account.
- 17 (d) If a custodian is removed under subsection (f),
- 18 section eighteen of this article, the court shall require an
- 19 accounting and order delivery of the custodial property and
- 20 records to the successor custodian and the execution of all
- 21 instruments required for transfer of the custodial property.

§36-7-20. Termination of custodianship.

- The custodian shall transfer in an appropriate manner
- 2 the custodial property to the minor or to the minor's estate
- 3 upon the earlier of:
- 4 (1) The minor's attainment of twenty-one years of age with respect to custodial property transferred under section
- 6 four or five of this article;
- 7 (2) The minor's attainment of majority under the laws of 8 this state other than this article with respect to custodial
- 8 this state other than this article with respect to custodial 9 property transferred under sections six or seven of this
- 9 property transferred under sections six or seven of this 10 article: or
- 10 article; or11 (3) The minor's death.

§36-7-21. Applicability.

- 1 This article applies to a transfer within the scope of
- 2 section two made after its effective date if:
- 3 (1) The transfer purports to have been made under the
- 4 West Virginia Uniform Gifts to Minors Act; or

- 5 (2) The instrument by which the transfer purports to
- 6 have been made uses in substance the designation "as
- 7 custodian under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act" or "as
- 8 custodian under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act" of
- 9 any other state, and the application of this article is
- 10 necessary to validate the transfer.

§36-7-22. Effect on existing custodianships.

- 1 (a) Any transfer of custodial property as now defined in
- 2 this article made before the effective date of this article is
- 3 validated notwithstanding that there was no specific
- 4 authority in the West Virginia Uniform Gifts to Minors Act
- 5 for the coverage of custodial property of that kind or for a
- 6 transfer from that source at the time the transfer was made.
- 7 (b) This article applies to all transfers made before the
- ${\bf 8}$ effective date of this article in a manner and form
- 9 prescribed in the West Virginia Uniform Gifts to Minors
- 10 Act, except insofar as the application impairs
- 11 constitutionally vested rights or extends the duration of
- 12 custodianships in existence on the effective date of this
- 13 article.
- 14 (c) Sections one and twenty with respect to the age of a
- 15 minor for whom custodial property is held under this article
- 16 do not apply to custodial property held in a custodianship
- 17 that terminated because of the minor's attainment of the
- 18 age of eighteen after the ninth day of June, one thousand
- 19 nine hundred seventy-two and before the first day of July,
- 20 one thousand nine hundred eighty-six.

§36-7-23. Uniformity of application and construction.

- 1 This article shall be applied and construed to effectuate
- 2 its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to
- 3 the subject of this article among states enacting it.

§36-7-24. Short title.

- 1 This article may be cited as the "West Virginia Uniform
- 2 Transfers to Minors Act."

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee Chait dan House Committee Originated in the Senate. To take effect July 1, 1986. Clerk of the Senate Clerk of the House of Delegat President of the Senate Speaker House of Delegates The within day of ..

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 3/20/86

Time 10:58 a.m.

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