## **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**REGULAR SESSION, 1996** 

## ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 4669

(By Delegate & Beane Loyle, Walters)
and Penkins)

Passed March 9 1996
In Effect July 1 1996 Passage

#### **ENROLLED**

### H. B. 4669

(BY DELEGATES BEANE, DOYLE, WALTERS AND JENKINS)

[Passed March 9, 1996; in effect July 1, 1996.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section one hundred five, article one, chapter forty-six of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; to amend and reenact section five hundred twelve, article two of said chapter; to amend and reenact article five of said chapter; and to amend and reenact sections one hundred three, one hundred four, one hundred five, one hundred six, three hundred four and three hundred five, article nine of said chapter, all relating to letters of credit generally; general provisions; applicable law; sales; payment by buyer before inspection; short title; definitions; scope of provisions; formal requirements; consideration; issuance, amendment, cancellation and duration of letters of credit; rights and obligations of confirmer, nominated person and adviser; rights and obligations of issuer; forged or fraudulent document; warranties; remedies; transfer of letter of credit; transfer by operation of law; assignment of proceeds; statute of limitations; choice of law and forum; subrogation rights of issuer, applicant and nominated person; effective date; applicability; savings provisions; secured transactions; perfection of security interests in multiple state transactions; excluded transactions; definitions and index of definitions; expanded definitions; perfecting security interest in written letter of credit; when possession of collateral perfects security interest; and conforming amendments.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section one hundred five, article one, chapter forty-six of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted; that section five hundred twelve, article two of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that article five of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that sections one hundred three, one hundred four, one hundred five, one hundred six, three hundred four and three hundred five, article nine of said chapter be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

## §46-1-105. Territorial application of this chapter; parties' power to choose applicable law.

- 1 (1) Except as provided hereafter in this section, when a 2 transaction bears a reasonable relation to this state and also
  - transaction bears a reasonable relation to this state and also to another state or nation the parties may agree that the
- 4 law either of this state or of such other state or nation shall
- 5 govern their rights and duties. Failing such agreement this
- 6 chapter applies to transactions bearing an appropriate
- 7 relation to this state.
- 8 (2) Where one of the following provisions of this
- 9 chapter specifies the applicable law, that provision governs
- 10 and a contrary agreement is effective only to the extent
- permitted by the law (including the conflict of laws rules)
- 12 so specified:
- Sections 2A-105 and 2A-106, applicability of the article on leases.
- 15 Section 2-402, rights of creditors against sold goods.
- Section 4-102, applicability of the article on bank
- 17 desposits and collections.
- Section 5-116, letters of credit.
- 19 Section 8-106, applicability of the article on invest-
- 20 ment securities.
- Section 9-103, perfection provisions of the article on
- 22 secured transactions.

#### ARTICLE 2. SALES.

#### §46-2-512. Payment by buyer before inspection.

- (1) Where the contract requires payment before in-2 spection nonconformity of the goods does not excuse the
- 3 buyer from so making payment unless:
- 4 (a) The nonconformity appears without inspection; or
- 5 (b) Despite tender of the required documents the circumstances would justify injunction against honor under
- this chapter (section 5-109(b)).
- 8 (2) Payment pursuant to subsection (1) does not con-
- stitute an acceptance of goods or impair the buyer's right
- to inspect or any of his remedies.

#### ARTICLE 5. LETTERS OF CREDIT.

#### §46-5-101. Short title.

- This article may be cited as "Uniform Commercial
- Code-Letters of Credit".

#### **§46-5-102.** Definitions.

- 1 (a) In this article:
- (1) "Adviser" means a person who, at the request of the 3 issuer, a confirmer, or another adviser, notifies or requests
- another adviser to notify the beneficiary that a letter of
- credit has been issued, confirmed, or amended; 5
- 6 (2) "Applicant" means a person at whose request or for
- 7 whose account a letter of credit is issued. The term includes a person who requests an issuer to issue a letter of
- credit on behalf of another if the person making the re-
- 10 quest undertakes an obligation to reimburse the issuer;
- (3) "Beneficiary" means a person who under the terms 11
- of a letter of credit is entitled to have its complying pre-12
- 13 sentation honored. The term includes a person to whom
- 14 drawing rights have been transferred under a transferable
- letter of credit; 15
- 16 (4) "Confirmer" means a nominated person who un-

- dertakes, at the request or with the consent of the issuer, to honor a presentation under a letter of credit issued by another:
- 20 (5) "Dishonor" of a letter of credit means failure time-21 ly to honor or to take an interim action, such as accep-22 tance of a draft, that may be required by the letter of cred-23 it;
- 2.4 (6) "Document" means a draft or other demand, docu-25 ment of title, investment security, certificate, invoice, or 26 other record, statement, or representation of fact, law, right, 27 or opinion (i) which is presented in a written or other 28 medium permitted by the letter of credit or, unless prohib-29 ited by the letter of credit, by the standard practice re-30 ferred to in section 5-108(e) and (ii) which is capable of 31 being examined for compliance with the terms and condi-32 tions of the letter of credit. A document may not be oral;
- 33 (7) "Good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct or transaction concerned;
- 35 (8) "Honor" of a letter of credit means performance of 36 the issuer's undertaking in the letter of credit to pay or 37 deliver an item of value. Unless the letter of credit other-38 wise provides, "honor" occurs
  - (i) Upon payment,

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- 40 (ii) if the letter of credit provides for acceptance, upon acceptance of a draft and, at maturity, its payment, or
- 42 (iii) if the letter of credit provides for incurring a de-43 ferred obligation, upon incurring the obligation and, at 44 maturity, its performance.
  - (9) "Issuer" means a bank or other person that issues a letter of credit, but does not include an individual who makes an engagement for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 49 (10) "Letter of credit" means a definite undertaking 50 that satisfies the requirements of section-104 by an issuer 51 to a beneficiary at the request or for the account of an

- 52 applicant or, in the case of a financial institution, to itself 53 or for its own account, to honor a documentary presenta-54 tion by payment or delivery of an item of value;
- 55 (11) "Nominated person" means a person whom the 56 issuer (i) designates or authorizes to pay, accept, negotiate, 57 or otherwise give value under a letter of credit and (ii) 58 undertakes by agreement or custom and practice to reim-59 burse:
- 60 (12) "Presentation" means delivery of a document to 61 an issuer or nominated person for honor or giving of 62 value under a letter of credit:
  - (13) "Presenter" means a person making a presentation as or on behalf of a beneficiary or nominated person;
  - (14) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium, or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form; and
- 68 (15) "Successor of a beneficiary" means a person who 69 succeeds to substantially all of the rights of a beneficiary 70 by operation of law, including a corporation with or into 71 which the beneficiary has been merged or consolidated, an 72 administrator, executor, personal representative, trustee in 73 bankruptcy, debtor in possession, liquidator, and receiver.
- 74 (b) Definitions in other articles applying to this article and the sections in which they appear are:
- 76 "Accept" or "Acceptance" Section 3-409.
- 77 "Value" Sections 3-303, 4-211.
- 78 (c) Article 1 contains certain additional general defini-79 tions and principles of construction and interpretation 80 applicable throughout this article.

#### §46-5-103. Scope.

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- 1 (a) This article applies to letters of credit and to certain 2 rights and obligations arising out of transactions involving 3 letters of credit.
- 4 (b) The statement of a rule in this article does not by

- itself require, imply, or negate application of the same or a
- 6 different rule to a situation not provided for, or to a per-7
- son not specified, in this article.
- 8 (c) With the exception of this subsection, subsections
- 9 (a) and (d), sections 5-102(a)(9) and (10), 5-106(d), and
- 5-114(d), and except to the extent prohibited in sections 10
- 1-102(3) and 5-117(d), the effect of this article may be 11
- 12 varied by agreement or by a provision stated or incorpo-13 rated by reference in an undertaking. A term in an agree-
- 14 ment or undertaking generally excusing liability or gener-
- 15 ally limiting remedies for failure to perform obligations is
- not sufficient to vary obligations prescribed by this article. 16
- 17 (d) Rights and obligations of an issuer to a beneficiary
- 18 or a nominated person under a letter of credit are inde-
- 19 pendent of the existence, performance, or nonperfor-20
- mance of a contract or arrangement out of which the letter 21 of credit arises or which underlies it, including contracts or
- 22 arrangements between the issuer and the applicant and
- 23 between the applicant and the beneficiary.

#### §46-5-104. Formal requirements.

- A letter of credit, confirmation, advice, transfer, 1
- amendment, or cancellation may be issued in any form
- that is a record and is authenticated (i) by a signature or
- (ii) in accordance with the agreement of the parties or the
- standard practice referred to in section 5-108(e).

#### §46-5-105. Consideration.

- Consideration is not required to issue, amend, transfer,
- or cancel a letter of credit, advice, or confirmation.

#### §46-5-106. Issuance, amendment, cancellation, and duration.

- (a) A letter of credit is issued and becomes enforce-1
- able according to its terms against the issuer when the
- issuer sends or otherwise transmits it to the person request-
- ed to advise or to the beneficiary. A letter of credit is
- 5 revocable only if it so provides.
- 6 (b) After a letter of credit is issued, rights and obliga-

- tions of a beneficiary, applicant, confirmer, and issuer are not affected by an amendment or cancellation to which that person has not consented except to the extent the letter of credit provides that it is revocable or that the issuer may amend or cancel the letter of credit without that consent.
- 13 (c) If there is no stated expiration date or other provi-14 sion that determines its duration, a letter of credit expires 15 one year after its stated date of issuance or, if none is stat-16 ed, after the date on which it is issued.
- 17 (d) A letter of credit that states that it is perpetual expires five years after its stated date of issuance, or if none is stated, after the date on which it is issued.

#### §46-5-107. Confirmer, nominated person and adviser.

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- (a) A confirmer is directly obligated on a letter of credit and has the rights and obligations of an issuer to the extent of its confirmation. The confirmer also has rights against and obligations to the issuer as if the issuer were an applicant and the confirmer had issued the letter of credit at the request and for the account of the issuer.
- (b) A nominated person who is not a confirmer is not obligated to honor or otherwise give value for a presentation.
- 10 (c) A person requested to advise may decline to act as 11 an adviser. An adviser that is not a confirmer is not obligated to honor or give value for a presentation. An advis-12 13 er undertakes to the issuer and to the beneficiary accurately to advise the terms of the letter of credit, confirmation, 15 amendment, or advice received by that person and under-16 takes to the beneficiary to check the apparent authenticity of the request to advise. Even if the advice is inaccurate, 17 18 the letter of credit, confirmation, or amendment is en-19 forceable as issued.
- 20 (d) A person who notifies a transferee beneficiary of 21 the terms of a letter of credit, confirmation, amendment, or 22 advice has the rights and obligations of an adviser under

- subsection (c). The terms in the notice to the transferee
- beneficiary may differ from the terms in any notice to the 24
- 25 transferor beneficiary to the extent permitted by the letter
- 26 of credit, confirmation, amendment, or advice received by
- 27 the person who so notifies.

#### §46-5-108. Issuer's rights and obligations.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 5-109, an issuer shall honor a presentation that, as determined by the 3 standard practice referred to in subsection (e), appears on its face strictly to comply with the terms and conditions of the letter of credit. Except as otherwise provided in sec-
- tion 5-113 and unless otherwise agreed with the applicant, 7 an issuer shall dishonor a presentation that does not ap
  - pear so to comply.
- 9 (b) An issuer has a reasonable time after presentation, 10 but not beyond the end of the seventh business day of the issuer after the day of its receipt of documents: 11
- 12 (1) To honor,

- 13 (2) If the letter of credit provides for honor to be 14 completed more than seven business days after presenta-15 tion, to accept a draft or incur a deferred obligation, or
- 16 (3) To give notice to the presenter of discrepancies in the presentation.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), an 18 19 issuer is precluded from asserting as a basis for dishonor 20 any discrepancy if timely notice is not given, or any dis-21 crepancy not stated in the notice if timely notice is given.
- 2.2. (d) Failure to give the notice specified in subsection (b) or to mention fraud, forgery, or expiration in the no-23 tice does not preclude the issuer from asserting as a basis 25 for dishonor fraud or forgery as described in section 5-109(a) or expiration of the letter of credit before pre-26 27 sentation.
- 2.8 (e) An issuer shall observe standard practice of finan-29 cial institutions that regularly issue letters of credit. Deter-

- mination of the issuer's observance of the standard practice is a matter of interpretation for the court. The court shall offer the parties a reasonable opportunity to present evidence of the standard practice.
  - (f) An issuer is not responsible for:

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- 35 (1) The performance or nonperformance of the un-36 derlying contract, arrangement, or transaction;
- 37 (2) An act or omission of others; or
- 38 (3) Observance or knowledge of the usage of a partic-39 ular trade other than the standard practice referred to in 40 subsection (e).
  - (g) If an undertaking constituting a letter of credit under section 5-102(a)(10) contains nondocumentary conditions, an issuer shall disregard the nondocumentary conditions and treat them as if they were not stated.
  - (h) An issuer that has dishonored a presentation shall return the documents or hold them at the disposal of, and send advice to that effect to, the presenter.
- 48 (i) An issuer that has honored a presentation as per-49 mitted or required by this article:
- 50 (1) Is entitled to be reimbursed by the applicant in 51 immediately available funds not later than the date of its 52 payment of funds;
- 53 (2) Takes the documents free of claims of the benefi-54 ciary or presenter;
- 55 (3) Is precluded from asserting a right of recourse on a draft under sections 3-414 and 3-415;
  - (4) Except as otherwise provided in sections 5-110 and 5-117, is precluded from restitution of money paid or other value given by mistake to the extent the mistake concerns discrepancies in the documents or tender which are apparent on the face of the presentation; and
- 62 (5) Is discharged to the extent of its performance 63 under the letter of credit unless the issuer honored a pre-

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sentation in which a required signature of a beneficiary was forged.

#### §46-5-109. Fraud and forgery.

- 1 (a) If a presentation is made that appears on its face 2 strictly to comply with the terms and conditions of the 3 letter of credit, but a required document is forged or mate-4 rially fraudulent, or honor of the presentation would facil-5 itate a material fraud by the beneficiary on the issuer or 6 applicant:
- 7 (1) The issuer shall honor the presentation, if honor is demanded by (i) A nominated person who has given value in good faith and without notice of forgery or material fraud, (ii) a confirmer who has honored its confirmation 10 in good faith, (iii) a holder in due course of a draft drawn under the letter of credit which was taken after acceptance 13 by the issuer or nominated person, or (iv) an assignee of the issuer's or nominated person's deferred obligation that 14 15 was taken for value and without notice of forgery or mate-16 rial fraud after the obligation was incurred by the issuer or 17 nominated person; and
- 18 (2) The issuer, acting in good faith, may honor or 19 dishonor the presentation in any other case.
  - (b) If an applicant claims that a required document is forged or materially fraudulent or that honor of the presentation would facilitate a material fraud by the beneficiary on the issuer or applicant, a court of competent jurisdiction may temporarily or permanently enjoin the issuer from honoring a presentation or grant similar relief against the issuer or other persons only if the court finds that:
- 28 (1) The relief is not prohibited under the law applica-29 ble to an accepted draft or deferred obligation incurred by 30 the issuer;
- 31 (2) A beneficiary, issuer, or nominated person who 32 may be adversely affected is adequately protected against 33 loss that it may suffer because the relief is granted;

- 34 (3) All of the conditions to entitle a person to the 35 relief under the law of this state have been met; and
- 36 (4) On the basis of the information submitted to the 37 court, the applicant is more likely than not to succeed 38 under its claim of forgery or material fraud and the person demanding honor does not qualify for protection 40 under subsection (a)(1).

#### §46-5-110. Warranties.

- 1 (a) If its presentation is honored, the beneficiary war-2 rants:
- 3 (1) To the issuer, any other person to whom presenta-4 tion is made, and the applicant that there is no fraud or 5 forgery of the kind described in section 5-109(a); and
- 6 (2) To the applicant that the drawing does not violate 7 any agreement between the applicant and beneficiary or 8 any other agreement intended by them to be augmented 9 by the letter of credit.
- 10 (b) The warranties in subsection (a) are in addition to warranties arising under articles 3, 4, 7, and 8 because of the presentation or transfer of documents covered by any of those articles.

#### §46-5-111. Remedies.

1 (a) If an issuer wrongfully dishonors or repudiates its obligation to pay money under a letter of credit before presentation, the beneficiary, successor, or nominated 4 person presenting on its own behalf may recover from the 5 issuer the amount that is the subject of the dishonor or repudiation. If the issuer's obligation under the letter of credit is not for the payment of money, the claimant may obtain specific performance or, at the claimant's election, recover an amount equal to the value of performance 9 from the issuer. In either case, the claimant may also 10 11 recover incidental but not consequential damages. The 12 claimant is not obligated to take action to avoid damages that might be due from the issuer under this subsection. 13 If, although not obligated to do so, the claimant avoids

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- damages, the claimant's recovery from the issuer must be reduced by the amount of damages avoided. The issuer has the burden of proving the amount of damages avoided. In the case of repudiation the claimant need not present any document.
  - (b) If an issuer wrongfully dishonors a draft or demand presented under a letter of credit or honors a draft or demand in breach of its obligation to the applicant, the applicant may recover damages resulting from the breach, including incidental but not consequential damages, less any amount saved as a result of the breach.
  - (c) If an adviser or nominated person other than a confirmer breaches an obligation under this article or an issuer breaches an obligation not covered in subsection (a) or (b), a person to whom the obligation is owed may recover damages resulting from the breach, including incidental but not consequential damages, less any amount saved as a result of the breach. To the extent of the confirmation, a confirmer has the liability of an issuer specified in this subsection and subsections (a) and (b).
  - (d) An issuer, nominated person, or adviser who is found liable under subsections (a), (b), or (c) shall pay interest on the amount owed thereunder from the date of wrongful dishonor or other appropriate date.
  - (e) Reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses of litigation must be awarded to the prevailing party in an action in which a remedy is sought under this article.
- 42 (f) Damages that would otherwise be payable by a 43 party for breach of an obligation under this article may be 44 liquidated by agreement or undertaking, but only in an 45 amount or by a formula that is reasonable in light of the 46 harm anticipated.

#### §46-5-112. Transfer of letter of credit.

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 5-113, 2 unless a letter of credit provides that it is transferable, the 3 right of a beneficiary to draw or otherwise demand perfor-4 mance under a letter of credit may not be transferred.

- 5 (b) Even if a letter of credit provides that it is transfer-6 able, the issuer may refuse to recognize or carry out a 7 transfer if:
  - (1) The transfer would violate applicable law; or
- 9 (2) The transferor or transferee has failed to comply 10 with any requirement stated in the letter of credit or any 11 other requirement relating to transfer imposed by the issuer which is within the standard practice referred to in 12 section 5-108(e) or is otherwise reasonable under the 13 14 circumstances.

#### §46-5-113. Transfer by operation of law.

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- (a) A successor of a beneficiary may consent to 1 2 amendments, sign and present documents, and receive payment or other items of value in the name of the beneficiary without disclosing its status as a successor.
- (b) A successor of a beneficiary may consent to amendments, sign and present documents, and receive payment or other items of value in its own name as the disclosed successor of the beneficiary. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e), an issuer shall recognize a disclosed successor of a beneficiary as beneficiary in full 10 · substitution for its predecessor upon compliance with the 11 12 requirements for recognition by the issuer of a transfer of 13 drawing rights by operation of law under the standard 14 practice referred to in section 5-108(e) or, in the absence 15 of such a practice, compliance with other reasonable pro-16 cedures sufficient to protect the issuer.
  - (c) An issuer is not obliged to determine whether a purported successor is a successor of a beneficiary or whether the signature of a purported successor is genuine or authorized.
    - (d) Honor of a purported successor's apparently complying presentation under subsections (a) or (b) has the consequences specified in section 5-108(i) even if the purported successor is not the successor of a beneficiary. Documents signed in the name of the beneficiary or of a

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- 26 disclosed successor by a person who is neither the benefi-27 ciary nor the successor of the beneficiary are forged doc-
- 28 uments for the purposes of section 5-109.
- 29 (e) An issuer whose rights of reimbursement are not 30 covered by subsection (d) or substantially similar law and 31 any confirmer or nominated person may decline to recog-
- 32 nize a presentation under subsection (b).
- 33 (f) A beneficiary whose name is changed after the 34 issuance of a letter of credit has the same rights and obli-
- 35 gations as a successor of a beneficiary under this section.

#### §46-5-114. Assignment of proceeds.

- (a) In this section, "proceeds of a letter of credit" means the cash, check, accepted draft, or other item of value paid or delivered upon honor or giving of value by the issuer or any nominated person under the letter of credit. The term does not include a beneficiary's drawing rights or documents presented by the beneficiary.
- 7 (b) A beneficiary may assign its right to part or all of the proceeds of a letter of credit. The beneficiary may do so before presentation as a present assignment of its right 10 to receive proceeds contingent upon its compliance with 11 the terms and conditions of the letter of credit.
- 12 (c) An issuer or nominated person need not recognize 13 an assignment of proceeds of a letter of credit until it 14 consents to the assignment.
- (d) An issuer or nominated person has no obligation 16 to give or withhold its consent to an assignment of pro-17 ceeds of a letter of credit, but consent may not be unreasonably withheld if the assignee possesses and exhibits the 19 letter of credit and presentation of the letter of credit is a condition to honor.
- 21 (e) Rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated 22 person are independent of the beneficiary's assignment of 23 the proceeds of a letter of credit and are superior to the 24 assignee's right to the proceeds.

25 (f) Neither the rights recognized by this section be-26 tween an assignee and an issuer, transferee beneficiary, or 27 nominated person nor the issuer's or nominated person's 28 payment of proceeds to an assignee or a third person affect the rights between the assignee and any person 29 30 other than the issuer, transferee beneficiary, or nominated 31 person. The mode of creating and perfecting a security 32 interest in or granting an assignment of a beneficiary's 33 rights to proceeds is governed by Article 9 or other law. 34 Against persons other than the issuer, transferee beneficia-35 ry, or nominated person, the rights and obligations arising 36 upon the creation of a security interest or other assign-37 ment of a beneficiary's right to proceeds and its perfection 38 are governed by Article 9 or other law.

#### §46-5-115. Statute of limitations.

An action to enforce a right or obligation arising under this article must be commenced within one year after the expiration date of the relevant letter of credit or one year after the cause of action accrues, whichever occurs later. A cause of action accrues when the breach occurs, regardless of the aggrieved party's lack of knowledge of the breach.

#### §46-5-116. Choice of law and forum.

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- (a) The liability of an issuer, nominated person, or adviser for action or omission is governed by the law of the jurisdiction chosen by an agreement in the form of a record signed or otherwise authenticated by the affected parties in the manner provided in section 5-104 or by a provision in the person's letter of credit, confirmation, or other undertaking. The jurisdiction whose law is chosen need not bear any relation to the transaction.
- 9 (b) Unless subsection (a) applies, the liability of an 10 issuer, nominated person, or adviser for action or omission 11 is governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the 12 person is located. The person is considered to be located 13 at the address indicated in the person's undertaking. If 14 more than one address is indicated, the person is consid-

- 15 ered to be located at the address from which the person's
- 16 undertaking was issued. For the purpose of jurisdiction,
- 17 choice of law, and recognition of interbranch letters of
- 18 credit, but not enforcement of a judgment, all branches of
- 19 a bank are considered separate juridical entities and a
- 20 bank is considered to be located at the place where its
- 21 relevant branch is considered to be located under this
- 22 subsection.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
- 24 liability of an issuer, nominated person, or adviser is gov-
- 25 erned by any rules of custom or practice, such as the uni-
- 26 form customs and practice for documentary credits, to
- 27 which the letter of credit, confirmation, or other undertak-
- 28 ing is expressly made subject. If (i) this article would
- 29 govern the liability of an issuer, nominated person, or
- 30 adviser under subsection (a) or (b), (ii) the relevant under-
- 31 taking incorporates rules of custom or practice, and (iii)
- 32 there is conflict between this article and those rules as
- 33 applied to that undertaking, those rules govern except to
- the extent of any conflict with the nonvariable provisions
- 35 specified in section 5-103(c).
- 36 (d) If there is conflict between this article and articles
- 37 3, 4, 4A, or 9, this article governs.
- 38 (e) The forum for settling disputes arising out of an
- 39 undertaking within this article may be chosen in the man-
- 40 ner and with the binding effect that governing law may be
- 41 chosen in accordance with subsection (a).

## §46-5-117. Subrogation of issuer, applicant, and nominated person.

- 1 (a) An issuer that honors a beneficiary's presentation is
- 2 subrogated to the rights of the beneficiary to the same 3 extent as if the issuer were a secondary obligor of the
- 3 extent as if the issuer were a secondary obligor of the 4 underlying obligation owed to the beneficiary and of the
- 5 applicant to the same extent as if the issuer were the sec-
- 6 ondary obligor of the underlying obligation owed to the
- 7 applicant.
- 8 (b) An applicant that reimburses an issuer is subrogat-

- ed to the rights of the issuer against any beneficiary, presenter, or nominated person to the same extent as if the 10 11 applicant were the secondary obligor of the obligations owed to the issuer and has the rights of subrogation of the 12
- 13 issuer to the rights of the beneficiary stated in subsection 14
- 15 (c) A nominated person who pays or gives value 16 against a draft or demand presented under a letter of cred-17 it is subrogated to the rights of:
- 18 (1) The issuer against the applicant to the same extent 19 as if the nominated person were a secondary obligor of 20 the obligation owed to the issuer by the applicant;
- 21 (2) The beneficiary to the same extent as if the nomi-22 nated person were a secondary obligor of the underlying 23 obligation owed to the beneficiary; and
- 24 (3) The applicant to same extent as if the nominated person were a secondary obligor of the underlying obligation owed to the applicant.
- 2.7 (d) Notwithstanding any agreement or term to the 28 contrary, the rights of subrogation stated in subsections (a) 29 and (b) do not arise until the issuer honors the letter of
- 30 credit or otherwise pays and the rights in subsection (c) do
- 31 not arise until the nominated person pays or otherwise
- gives value. Until then, the issuer, nominated person, and
- 33 the applicant do not derive under this section present or
- 34 prospective rights forming the basis of a claim, defense, or
- 35 excuse.

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#### **§46-5-118.** Effective date.

- The reenactment of this article shall become effective
- on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred
- ninety-six.

#### §46-5-119. Applicability.

- 1 This article applies to a letter of credit that is issued on
- 2 or after the effective date of the reenactment of this article. This article does not apply to a transaction, event, obliga-

- tion, or duty arising out of or associated with a letter of
- credit that was issued before the first day of July, one
- thousand nine hundred ninety-six.

#### §46-5-120. Savings clause.

- A transaction arising out of or associated with a letter
- of credit that was issued before the effective date of the
- reenactment of this article in the year one thousand nine
- hundred ninety-six and the rights, obligations, and inter-
- 5 ests flowing from that transaction are governed by any
- statute or other law amended by the reenactment of this
- article as if the amendment had not occurred and may be
- terminated, completed, consummated, or enforced under
- that statute or other law.

#### ARTICLE 9. SECURED TRANSACTIONS; SALES OF ACCOUNTS AND CHATTEL PAPER.

#### §46-9-103. Perfection of security interests in multiple state transactions.

- 1 (1) Documents, instruments, letters of credit, and ordi-2 nary goods. —
- 3 (a) This subsection applies to documents, instruments,
- 4 rights to proceeds of written letters of credit, and goods other than those covered by a certificate of title described
- in subsection (2) of this section, mobile goods described
- 7 in subsection (3), and minerals described in subsection (5)
- 8 of this section.
- 9 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, perfection and the effect of perfection or nonperfection of
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- a security interest in collateral are governed by the law of 11
- 12 the jurisdiction where the collateral is when the last event
- 13 occurs on which is based the assertion that the security
- 14 interest is perfected or unperfected.
- 15 (c) If the parties to a transaction creating a purchase
- money security interest in goods in one jurisdiction un-16
- 17 derstand at the time that the security interest attaches that
- 18 the goods will be kept in another jurisdiction, then the law
- of the other jurisdiction governs the perfection and the 19

- effect of perfection or nonperfection of the security interest from the time it attaches until thirty days after the debtor receives possession of the goods and thereafter if the goods are taken to the other jurisdiction before the end of the thirty-day period.
  - (d) When collateral is brought into and kept in this state while subject to a security interest perfected under the law of the jurisdiction from which the collateral was removed, the security interest remains perfected, but if action is required by Part 3 of this article to perfect the security interest:
  - (i) If the action is not taken before the expiration of the period of perfection in the other jurisdiction or the end of four months after the collateral is brought into this state, whichever period first expires, the security interest becomes unperfected at the end of that period and is thereafter deemed to have been unperfected as against a person who became a purchaser after removal;
  - (ii) If the action is taken before the expiration of the period specified in paragraph (i) of this subdivision, the security interest continues perfected thereafter;
    - (iii) For the purpose of priority over a buyer of consumer goods (subsection (2) of section 9-307), the period of the effectiveness of a filing in the jurisdiction from which the collateral is removed is governed by the rules with respect to perfection in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this subdivision.

#### (2) Certificate of title. —

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- (a) This subsection applies to goods covered by a certificate of title issued under a statute of this state or of another jurisdiction under the law of which indication of a security interest on the certificate is required as a condition of perfection.
- 53 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, 54 perfection and the effect of perfection or nonperfection of 55 the security interest are governed by the law (including the

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- conflict of laws rules) of the jurisdiction issuing the certificate until four months after the goods are removed from that jurisdiction and thereafter until the goods are registered in another jurisdiction, but in any event not beyond surrender of the certificate. After the expiration of that period, the goods are not covered by the certificate of title within the meaning of this section.
  - (c) Except with respect to the rights of a buyer described in the next paragraph, a security interest, perfected in another jurisdiction otherwise than by notation on a certificate of title, in goods brought into this state and thereafter covered by a certificate of title issued by this state is subject to the rules stated in subdivision (d) subsection (1) of this section.
  - (d) If goods are brought into this state while a security interest therein is perfected in any manner under the law of the jurisdiction from which the goods are removed and a certificate of title is issued by this state and the certificate does not show that the goods are subject to the security interest or that they may be subject to security interests not shown on the certificate, the security interest is subordinate to the rights of a buyer of the goods who is not in the business of selling goods of that kind to the extent that he gives value and receives delivery of the goods after issuance of the certificate and without knowledge of the security interest.
  - (3) Accounts, general intangibles and mobile goods.—
- 83 (a) This subsection applies to accounts (other than an 84 account described in subsection (5) of this section on 85 minerals) and general intangibles (other than uncerti-86 ficated securities) and to goods which are mobile and 87 which are of a type normally used in more than one juris-88 diction, such as motor vehicles, trailers, rolling stock, air-89 planes, shipping containers, road building and construc-90 tion machinery and commercial harvesting machinery and 91 the like, if the goods are equipment or are inventory 92 leased or held for lease by the debtor to others, and are 93 not covered by a certificate of title described in subsection 94 (2) of this section.

- (b) The law (including the conflict of laws rules) of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located governs the perfection and the effect of perfection or nonperfection of the security interest.
  - (c) If, however, the debtor is located in a jurisdiction which is not a part of the United States, and which does not provide for perfection of the security interest by filing or recording in that jurisdiction, the law of the jurisdiction in the United States in which the debtor has its major executive office in the United States governs the perfection and the effect of perfection or nonperfection of the security interest through filing. In the alternative, if the debtor is located in a jurisdiction which is not a part of the United States or Canada and the collateral is accounts or general intangibles for money due or to become due, the security interest may be perfected by notification to the account debtor. As used in this paragraph, "United States" includes its territories and possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- (d) A debtor shall be deemed located at his place of business if he has one, at his chief executive office if he has more than one place of business, otherwise at his residence. If, however, the debtor is a foreign air carrier under the federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, it shall be deemed located at the designated office of the agent upon whom service of process may be made on behalf of the foreign air carrier.
- (e) A security interest perfected under the law of the jurisdiction of the location of the debtor is perfected until the expiration of four months after a change of the debtor's location to another jurisdiction, or until perfection would have ceased by the law of the first jurisdiction, whichever period first expires. Unless perfected in the new jurisdiction before the end of that period, it becomes unperfected thereafter and is deemed to have been unperfected as against a person who became a purchaser after the change.
- (4) Chattel paper. —

The rules stated for goods in subsection (1) of this section apply to a possessory security interest in chattel paper. The rules stated for accounts in subsection (3) of this section apply to a nonpossessory security interest in chattel paper, but the security interest may not be perfected by notification to the account debtor.

#### (5) Minerals. —

Perfection and the effect of perfection or nonperfection of a security interest which is created by a debtor who has an interest in minerals or the like (including oil and gas) before extraction and which attaches thereto as extracted, or which attaches to an account resulting from the sale thereof at the wellhead or minehead are governed by the law (including the conflict of laws rules) of the jurisdiction wherein the wellhead or minehead is located.

#### (6) Investment property. —

- (a) This subsection applies to investment property.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (f) of this section, during the time that a security certificate is located in a jurisdiction, perfection of a security interest, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and the priority of a security interest in the certificated security represented thereby are governed by the local law of that jurisdiction.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (f) of this section, perfection of a security interest, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and the priority of a security interest in an uncertificated security are governed by the local law of the issuer's jurisdiction as specified in section 8-110(d).
  - (d) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (f) of this section, perfection of a security interest, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and the priority of a security interest in a security entitlement or securities account are governed by the local law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction as specified in section 8-110(e).

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- 170 (e) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (f), perfection of a security interest, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and the priority of a security interest in a commodity contract or commodity account are governed by the local law of the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction. The following rules determine a "commodity intermediary's jurisdiction" for purposes of this paragraph:
  - (i) If an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer specifies that it is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction.
  - (ii) If an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer does not specify the governing law as provided in paragraph (i) of this subdivision, but expressly specifies that the commodity account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction.
  - (iii) If an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraphs (i) or (ii) of this subdivision, the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the commodity customer's account.
  - (iv) If an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in subparagraph (i) or (ii) of this subdivision and an account statement does not identify an office serving the commodity customer's account as provided in paragraph (iii) of this subdivision, the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the chief executive office of the commodity intermediary.
  - (f) Perfection of a security interest by filing, automatic perfection of a security interest in investment property granted by a broker or securities intermediary, and automatic perfection of a security interest in a commodity

- 207 contract or commodity account granted by a commodity
- 208 intermediary are governed by the local law of the jurisdic-
- 209 tion in which the debtor is located.

#### §46-9-104. Transactions excluded from article.

- 1 This article does not apply
- 2 (a) to a security interest subject to any statute of the 3 United States such as the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, to the
- 4 extent that such statute governs the rights of parties to and
- 5 third parties affected by transactions in particular types of
- 6 property; or
- 7 (b) to a landlord's lien; or
- 8 (c) to a lien given by statute or other rule of law for
- 9 services or materials except as provided in section 9-310
- 10 on priority of such liens; or
- 11 (d) to a transfer of a claim for wages, salary or other 12 compensation of an employee; or
- 13 (e) to a transfer by a government or governmental subdivision or agency; or
- 15 (f) to a sale of accounts or chattel paper as part of a
- 16 sale of the business out of which they arose, or an assign-
- ment of accounts or chattel paper which is for the purpose
- of collection only, or a transfer of a right to payment under a contract to an assignee who is also to do the per-
- 20 formance under the contract or a transfer of a single ac-
- 21 count to an assignee in whole or partial satisfaction of a
- 22 preexisting indebtedness; or
- 23 (g) to a transfer of an interest in or claim in or under
- 24 any policy of insurance, except as provided with respect to
- 25 proceeds (section 9-306) and priorities in proceeds (sec-
- 26 tion 9-312); or
- 27 (h) to a right represented by a judgment (other than a
- 28 judgment taken on a right to payment which was collater-
- 29 al); or
- 30 (i) to any right of setoff; or

- 31 (j) except to the extent that provision is made for fix-32 tures in section 9-313, to the creation or transfer of an 33 interest in or lien on real estate, including a lease or rents 34 thereunder; or
- 35 (k) to a transfer in whole or in part of any claim aris-36 ing out of tort; or
- 37 (1) to a transfer of an interest in any deposit account 38 (subsection (1) of section 9-105), except as provided with 39 respect to proceeds (section 9-306) and priorities in pro-40 ceeds (section 9-312); or
- 41 (m) to a transfer of an interest in a letter of credit 42 other than the rights to proceeds of written letter of credit.

#### §46-9-105. Definitions and index of definitions.

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- (1) In this article unless the context otherwise requires:
- 2 (a) "Account debtor" means the person who is obligated on an account, chattel paper or general intangible;
  - (b) "Chattel paper" means a writing or writings which evidence both a monetary obligation and a security interest in or a lease of specific goods, but a charter or other contract involving the use or hire of a vessel is not chattel paper. When a transaction is evidenced both by such a security agreement or a lease and by an instrument or a series of instruments, the group of writings taken together constitutes chattel paper;
- 12 (c) "Collateral" means the property subject to a securi-13 ty interest, and includes accounts, and chattel paper which 14 have been sold;
- 15 (d) "Debtor" means the person who owes payment or 16 other performance of the obligation secured, whether or 17 not he owns or has rights in the collateral, and includes the seller of accounts, or chattel paper. Where the debtor and 18 the owner of the collateral are not the same person, the 19 20 term "debtor" means the owner of the collateral in any provision of the article dealing with the collateral, the 21 22 obligor in any provision dealing with the obligation, and 23 may include both where the context so requires;

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- 24 (e) "Deposit account" means a demand, time, savings, 25 passbook or like account maintained with a bank, savings 26 and loan association, credit union or like organization, 27 other than an account evidenced by a certificate of deposit:
- 29 (f) "Document" means document of title as defined in 30 the general definitions of article 1 (section 1-201), and a 31 receipt of the kind described in subsection (2) of section 32 7-201;
- 33 (g) "Encumbrance" includes real estate mortgages and 34 other liens on real estate and all other rights in real estate 35 that are not ownership interests;
- 36 (h) "Goods" includes all things which are moveable at 37 the time the security interest attaches or which are fix-38 tures (section 9-313), but does not include money, documents, instruments, investment property, commodity con-39 40 tracts, accounts, chattel paper, general intangibles, or min-41 erals or the like (including oil and gas) before extraction. 42 "Goods" also includes standing timber which is to be cut 43 and removed under a conveyance or contract for sale, the 44 unborn young of animals, and growing crops;
  - (i) "Instrument" means a negotiable instrument (defined in section 3-104), or any other writing which evidences a right to the payment of money and is not itself a security agreement or lease and is of a type which is in ordinary course of business transferred by delivery with any necessary endorsement or assignment including, but not limited to all certificated certificates of deposit. The term does not include investment property;
  - (j)"Mortgage" means a consensual interest created by a real estate mortgage, a trust deed on real estate, or the like;
- (k) An advance is made "pursuant to commitment" if the secured party has bound himself to make it, whether or not a subsequent event of default or other event not within his control has relieved or may relieve him from his obligation;

60 (1) "Security agreement" means an agreement which 61 creates or provides for a security interest;

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- (m) "Secured party" means a lender, seller or other person in whose favor there is a security interest, including a person to whom accounts or chattel paper have been sold. When the holders of obligations issued under an indenture of trust, equipment trust agreement or the like are represented by a trustee or other person, the representative is the secured party;
- 69 (n) "Transmitting utility" means any person primarily 70 engaged in the railroad, street railway or trolley bus busi-71 ness, the electric or electronics communications transmis-72 sion business, the transmission of goods by pipeline, or the 73 transmission or the production and transmission of elec-74 tricity, steam, gas or water, or the provision of sewer ser-75 vice.
  - (2) Other definitions applying to this article and the sections in which they appear are:

78	"Account".	Section 9-106.
79	"Attach".	Section 9-203.
80	"Commodity contract".	Section 9-115.
81	"Commodity customer".	Section 9-115.
82	"Commodity intermediary".	Section 9-115.
83	"Construction mortgage".	Section 9-313(1).
84	"Consumer goods".	Section 9-109(1).
85	"Control".	Section 9-115.
86	"Equipment".	Section 9-109(2).
87	"Farm products".	Section 9-109(3).
88	"Fixture".	Section 9-313(1).
89	"Fixture filing".	Section 9-313(1).
90	"General intangibles".	Section 9-106.

91	"Inventory".	Section 9-109(4).
92	"Investment property".	Section 9-115.
93	"Lien creditor".	Section 9-301(3).
94	"Proceeds".	Section 9-306(1).
95	"Purchase money security interes	est".Section 9-107.
96	"United States".	Section 9-103.
97 98	(3) The following definitions it this article:	n other articles apply to
99	"Broker".	Section 8-102.
100	"Certificated security".	Section 8-102.
101	"Check".	Section 3-104.
102	"Clearing corporation".	Section 8-102.
103	"Contract for sale".	Section 2-106.
104	"Control".	Section 8-106.
105	"Delivery".	Section 8-301.
106	"Entitlement holder".	Section 8-102.
107	"Financial asset".	Section 8-102.
108	"Holder in due course".	Section 3-302.
109	"Letter of credit".	Section 5-102.
110	"Note".	Section 3-104.
111	"Proceeds of a letter of credit".	Section 5-114(a).
112	"Sale".	Section 2-106.
113	"Securities intermediary".	Section 8-102.
114	"Security".	Section 8-102.
115	"Security certificate".	Section 8-102.
116	"Security entitlement".	Section 8-102.
117	"Uncertificated security".	Section 8-102.

- 118 (4) In addition, article 1 contains general definitions and
- 119 principles of construction and interpretation applicable
- 120 throughout this article.

#### §46-9-106. Definitions: "Account"; "general intangibles".

- 1 "Account" means any right to payment for goods sold
- or leased or for services rendered which is not evidenced by an instrument or chattel paper, whether or not it has
- 4 been earned by performance. "General intangibles"
- 5 means any personal property (including things in action)
- 6 other than goods, accounts, chattel paper, documents,
- 7 instruments, investment property, rights to proceeds of
- 8 written letters of credit and money. All rights to payment
- 9 earned or unearned under a charter or other contract in-
- volving the use or hire of a vessel and all rights incident to
- 11 the charter or contract are accounts.

# §46-9-304. Perfection of security interest in instruments, documents, proceeds of a written letter of credit, and goods covered by documents; perfection by permissive filing; temporary perfection without filing or transfer of possession.

- 1 (1) A security interest in chattel paper or negotiable
  2 documents may be perfected by filing. A security interest
  3 in the rights to proceeds of a written letter of credit can be
  4 perfected only by the secured party's taking possession of
  5 the letter of credit. A security interest in money or instru6 ments (other than instruments which constitute part of
  7 chattel paper) can be perfected only by the secured party's
  8 taking possession, except as provided in subsections (4)
  9 and (5) of this section and subsections (2) and (3) of sec10 tion 9-306 on proceeds.
- 11 (2) During the period that goods are in the possession 12 of the issuer of a negotiable document therefor, a security 13 interest in the goods is perfected by perfecting a security 14 interest in the document, and any security interest in the 15 goods otherwise perfected during such period is subject 16 thereto.
- 17 (3) A security interest in goods in the possession of a

- 18 bailee other than one who has issued a negotiable docu-
- 19 ment therefor is perfected by issuance of a document in
- 20 the name of the secured party or by the bailee's receipt of
- 21 notification of the secured party's interest or by filing as to
- the goods.

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- 23 (4) A security interest in instruments, certificated secu-24 rities or negotiable documents is perfected without filing 25 or the taking of possession for a period of twenty-one 26 days from the time it attaches to the extent that it arises for 27 new value given under a written security agreement.
  - (5) A security interest remains perfected for a period of twenty-one days without filing where a secured party having a perfected security interest in an instrument, a certificated security, a negotiable document or goods in possession of a bailee other than one who has issued a negotiable document therefor:
- 34 (a) Makes available to the debtor the goods or docu-35 ments representing the goods for the purpose of ultimate 36 sale or exchange or for the purpose of loading, unloading, 37 storing, shipping, transshipping, manufacturing, process-38 ing or otherwise dealing with them in a manner prelimi-39 nary to their sale or exchange, but priority between con-40 flicting security interests in the goods is subject to subsec-41 tion (3) of section 9-312; or
- 42 (b) Delivers the instrument or certificated security to 43 the debtor for the purpose of ultimate sale or exchange or 44 of presentation, collection, renewal or registration of trans-45 fer.
- 46 (6) After the twenty-one-day period in subsections (4) 47 and (5) of this section perfection depends upon compli-48 ance with applicable provisions of this article.

## §46-9-305. When possession by secured party perfects security interest without filing.

A security interest in letters of credit and advices of credit (subsection (2) (a) of section 5-116), goods, instruments, (other than certificated securities), money, negotia-

ble documents or chattel paper may be perfected by the 5 secured party's taking possession of the collateral. A secu-6 rity interest in the right to proceeds of a written letter of credit may be perfected by the secured party's proceeds of a written letter of credit may be perfected by the secured party's taking possession of the letter of credit. If such 10 collateral other than goods covered by a negotiable docu-11 ment is held by a bailee, the secured party is deemed to 12 have possession from the time the bailee receives notifica-13 tion of the secured party's interest. A security interest is 14 perfected by possession from the time possession is taken 15 without relation back and continues only so long as pos-16 session is retained, unless otherwise specified in this article. 17 The security interest may be otherwise perfected as pro-18 vided in this article before or after the period of posses-

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sion by the secured party.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that
the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
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Originating in the House.
Takes effect July 1, 1996.
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