

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): August 20, 2026



**MERITAGE HOMES CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Maryland

(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

001-09977

(Commission File  
Number)

86-0611231

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

18655 North Claret Drive, Suite 400, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

(Address of Principal Executive Offices, including Zip Code)

(480) 515-8100

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class          | Trading Symbol(s) | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Common Stock \$.01 par value | MTH               | New York Stock Exchange                   |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

☐

ITEM 5.03 AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR BYLAWS; CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR.

On August 20, 2026, the Board of Directors of Meritage Homes Corporation (the "Company") adopted amendments to the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws ("Bylaws") to reduce the ownership threshold required to call a special meeting of stockholders from at least 50% to at least 25% of the Company's common stock. The amendment is in response to the approval by the Company's stockholders at the 2026 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Proposal No. 4 titled "Advisory Vote to Approve Reduction in Ownership Threshold to Call a Special Meeting of Stockholders to 25%."

In addition, the Board of Directors adopted amendments to the Company's Bylaws to establish a mandatory retirement age of 75 years old for its directors, such that no person shall be elected or reelected as a director after reaching 75 years of age.

A copy of the Amended and Restated Bylaws, marked to show the adopted changes, is filed with this Form 8-K as Exhibit 3.1.

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(d) Exhibits

| Exhibit Number | Description                                                                    |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1            | <a href="#">Meritage Homes Corporation Amended and Restated Bylaws</a>         |
| 104            | The cover page from this Current Report on Form 8-K, formatted in Inline XBRL. |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: August 25, 2026

MERITAGE HOMES CORPORATION

/s/ Malissia Clinton  
By: Malissia Clinton  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF  
MERITAGE HOMES CORPORATION**

**A Maryland corporation**

**ARTICLE I**

**STOCKHOLDERS**

**Section 1 Annual Meetings.**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation shall be held on such date within the month of May (or such other date within each calendar year) as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Not less than ten nor more than 90 days' written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of each annual meeting shall be given in the manner provided in Section 1 of Article IX hereof. The business to be transacted at the annual meetings shall include the election of directors and any other business within the power of the Corporation. No business shall be conducted at any annual meeting except in accordance with Section 12 of this Article.

**Section 2 Special Meetings Called by the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors.**

At any time in the interval between annual meetings, special meetings of stockholders may be called by the Chief Executive Officer or by the Board of Directors. Not less than ten days' nor more than 90 days' written notice stating the place, day and hour of such meeting and the matters proposed to be acted on thereat shall be given in the manner provided in Section 1 of Article IX. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except that specified in the notice or brought before the meeting by or under the direction of the Board of Directors (or the Chief Executive Officer).

**Section 3 Special Meeting Called by Stockholders.**

Upon the request in writing delivered to the Secretary by the stockholders entitled to cast at least ~~50%~~**25%** of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to call a special meeting of the stockholders. Such request shall state the purpose of such meeting and the matters proposed to be acted on thereat, but no such meeting shall be required to be called for the election of directors except under the circumstances set forth in Section 10 of Article I or Sections 7(b) or 7(c) of Article II of these Bylaws. The Secretary shall inform such stockholders of the reasonably estimated costs of preparing and mailing the notice of the meeting, and upon payment to the Corporation of such costs, the Secretary shall give not less than ten nor more than 90 days' notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting in the manner provided in Section 1 of Article IX. No business shall be conducted at any special meeting except that specified in the notice or brought before the meeting by or under the

direction of the Board of Directors (or the Chief Executive Officer). A stockholder's request to the Secretary shall set forth as to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before the special meeting (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the special meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the special meeting, (ii) the name and address of the stockholder proposing such business, (iii) the class and number of shares of the Corporation which are beneficially owned by the stockholder, and (iv) any material interest of the stockholder in such business.

#### **Section 4 Place of Meetings.**

All meetings of stockholders shall be held at the principal executive offices of the Corporation or at such other place within the United States as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors and designated in the notice.

#### **Section 5 Quorum.**

At any meeting of stockholders the presence in person or by proxy of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the chairman (or other presiding officer) of the meeting, or the stockholders present in person or by proxy acting by majority vote, may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, but not for a period exceeding 120 days after the record date, until a quorum shall attend. The stockholders present in person or by proxy at a duly organized meeting may continue to conduct business, notwithstanding withdrawal of enough stockholders to leave less than a quorum.

#### **Section 6 Adjourned Meetings.**

A meeting of stockholders convened on the date for which it was called (or one adjourned to achieve a quorum as above provided in Section 5 of this Article) may be adjourned from time to time by the chairman (or other presiding officer) of the meeting, or by the stockholders present in person or by proxy acting by majority vote, without further notice except by announcement at the meeting, to a date not more than 120 days after the record date, and any business may be transacted at any adjourned meeting which could have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.

#### **Section 7 Voting.**

At any meeting of stockholders duly called and at which a quorum is present, a majority of the votes cast shall be sufficient to authorize action upon all matters which may properly come before the meeting, including the election of directors, unless more than a majority of votes cast is required by statute or by the Charter or these Bylaws. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at any meeting of stockholders at which directors are to be elected if the number of director candidates nominated for election at such meeting exceeds the number of directors to be elected due to a stockholder nomination of a

candidate for election in a notice submitted in accordance with Article I, Section 12 or Article I, Section 14 of these Bylaws unless, on or before the seventh business day prior to the date that the Corporation files with the Securities and Exchange Commission its definitive proxy statement relating to such meeting (regardless of whether thereafter revised or supplemented), such notice of nomination has been (a) withdrawn in writing to the Secretary of the Corporation, (b) determined by the Board of Directors (or a committee thereof) pursuant to the Bylaws, or, if challenged in court, by a final court order, not to be a valid and effective notice of nomination, or (c) determined by the Board of Directors (or a committee thereof) not to create a bona fide election contest.

Each share of stock may be voted for as many individuals as there are directors to be elected and for whose election the share is entitled to be voted. For the purpose of determining the number of votes cast, abstentions shall be excluded unless otherwise required by statute or by the Charter or these Bylaws. The Board of Directors may fix the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote in the manner provided in Article VIII, Section 3 of these Bylaws. Unless otherwise provided in the Charter, each outstanding share of stock, regardless of class, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of stockholders.

Any stockholder directly or indirectly soliciting proxies from other stockholders must use a proxy card color other than white, which shall be reserved for the exclusive use by the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 8 Proxies.**

A stockholder may vote the shares owned of record either in person or by proxy (i) executed in writing and signed by the stockholder or by duly authorized attorney-in-fact or (ii) by transmitting or authorizing a telegram, cablegram, datagram, electronic letter (e-mail) or other electronic or telephonic transmission by the stockholder or by any authorized attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after 11 months from its date, unless otherwise provided in the proxy. In the case of stock held of record by more than one person, any co-owner or co-fiduciary may execute the proxy without the joinder of the co-owner(s) or co-fiduciary (ies), unless the Secretary of the Corporation is notified in writing by any co-owner or co-fiduciary that the joinder of more than one is to be required. At all meetings of stockholders, the proxies shall be filed with and verified by the Secretary of the Corporation, or, if the meeting shall so decide, by the Secretary of the meeting.

#### **Section 9 Order of Business.**

At all meetings of stockholders, any stockholder present and entitled to vote in person or by proxy shall be entitled to require, by written request to the chairman of the meeting, that the order of business shall be as follows:

- (1) Organization.

(2) Proof of notice of meeting or of waivers thereof. (The certificate of the Secretary of the Corporation, or the affidavit of any other person who mailed or published the notice or caused the same to be mailed or published, shall be proof of service of notice.)

(3) Submission by Secretary of the Corporation to the chairman (or other presiding officer) of the meeting of a list of the stockholders entitled to vote, present in person or by proxy.

(4) A reading of unapproved minutes of preceding meetings of stockholders and action thereon.

(5) Reports.

(6) If an annual meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose, the election of directors.

(7) Unfinished business.

(8) New business.

(9) Adjournment.

#### **Section 10 Removal of Directors.**

At any special meeting of the stockholders called in the manner provided for by this Article, the stockholders, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast for the election of directors, may remove any director or directors from office, with cause, and may elect a successor or successors to fill any resulting vacancies for the remainder of the term.

#### **Section 11 Informal Action by Stockholders.**

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of stockholders may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth such action is signed by all the stockholders entitled to vote thereon and such consent is filed with the records of stockholders' meetings.

#### **Section 12 Advance Notice of Stockholder Nominees for Director and Other Stockholder Proposals.**

(a) Annual Meetings of Stockholders. (1) Nominations of individuals for election to the Board of Directors and proposals of other business to be considered at an annual meeting of stockholders by the stockholders may only be made (i) pursuant to the Corporation's notice of meeting, (ii) by or at the direction of the Board of Directors or (iii) by any stockholder of the

Corporation who was a stockholder of record at the record date set by the Board of Directors for the purpose of determining stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting, at the time of giving of notice by the stockholder as provided for in this Article I, Section 12(a) and at the time of the annual meeting (and any postponement or adjournment thereof), who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each individual so nominated or on any such other business and who has complied with this Article I, Section 12(a).

(2) For any nomination or other business to be properly brought before an annual meeting by a stockholder pursuant to clause (iii) of paragraph (a)(1) of this Article I, Section 12, the stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in writing to the secretary of the Corporation and any such other business must otherwise be a proper matter for action by the stockholders. To be timely, a stockholder's notice shall set forth all information and representations required under this Article I, Section 12 and shall be delivered to the secretary at the principal executive office of the Corporation not earlier than the 150<sup>th</sup> day nor later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to the first anniversary of the date of the proxy statement (as defined in Section 12(c)(4) of this Article I) for the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, however, that in the event that the date of the annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from the first anniversary of the date of the preceding year's annual meeting, in order for notice by the stockholder to be timely, such notice must be so delivered not earlier than the 150<sup>th</sup> day prior to the date of such annual meeting and not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the later of the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to the date of such annual meeting, as originally convened, or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. The postponement or adjournment of an annual meeting (or the public announcement thereof) shall not commence a new time period (or extend any time period) for the giving of a stockholder's notice as described above.

(3) Such stockholder's notice shall set forth:

(i) as to each individual whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or reelection as a director (each, a "Proposed Nominee"), all information relating to the Proposed Nominee that would be required to be disclosed in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the election of the Proposed Nominee as a director in an election contest (even if an election contest is not involved), or would otherwise be required in connection with such solicitation, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A (or any successor provision) under the Exchange Act (as defined in Article I, Section 14);

(ii) as to any other business that the stockholder proposes to bring before the meeting, (A) a description of such business (including the text of any proposal), the stockholder's reasons for proposing such business at the meeting and any material interest in such business of such stockholder or any Stockholder Associated Person (as defined below), individually or in the aggregate, including any anticipated benefit to the stockholder or the Stockholder Associated Person therefrom and (B) any other information relating to such item of business that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filing required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies in support of the business proposed to be

brought before the meeting pursuant to Regulation 14A (or any successor provision) of the Exchange Act;

(iii) as to the stockholder giving the notice, any Proposed Nominee and any Stockholder Associated Person,

(A) the class, series and number of all shares of stock or other securities of the Corporation (collectively, the “Company Securities”), if any, which are owned (beneficially or of record) by such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person, the date on which each such Company Security was acquired and the investment intent of such acquisition, and any short interest (including any opportunity to profit or share in any benefit from any decrease in the price of such stock or other security) in any Company Securities of any such person;

(B) the nominee holder for, and number of, any Company Securities owned beneficially but not of record by such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person; and

(C) whether and the extent to which such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person, directly or indirectly (through brokers, nominees or otherwise), is subject to or during the previous six months has engaged in any hedging, derivative or other transaction or series of transactions or entered into any other agreement, arrangement or understanding (including any short interest, any borrowing or lending of securities or any proxy or voting agreement), the effect or intent of which is to (I) manage risk or benefit of changes in the price of Company Securities for such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person or (II) increase or decrease the voting power of such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person in the Corporation disproportionately to such person’s economic interest in the Company Securities;

(iv) as to the stockholder giving the notice, any Stockholder Associated Person with an interest or ownership referred to in clauses (ii) or (iii) of this paragraph (3) of this Article I, Section 12(a) and any Proposed Nominee,

(A) the name and address of such stockholder, as they appear on the Corporation’s stock ledger, and the current name and address, if different, of each such Stockholder Associated Person and any Proposed Nominee; and

(B) the investment strategy or objective, if any, of such stockholder and each such Stockholder Associated Person that is not an individual and a copy of the prospectus, offering memorandum or similar document, if any, provided to investors or potential investors in such stockholder and each such Stockholder Associated Person;

(v) the name and address of any person who contacted or was contacted by the stockholder giving the notice or any Stockholder Associated Person about the Proposed Nominee or other business proposal;

(vi) to the extent known by the stockholder giving the notice, the name and address of any other person supporting the nominee for election or reelection as a director or the proposal of other business;

(vii) if the stockholder is proposing one or more Proposed Nominees, a representation that such stockholder, Proposed Nominee or Stockholder Associated Person intends or is part of a group which intends to solicit the holders of shares representing at least 67% of the voting power of shares entitled to vote on the election of directors in support of Proposed Nominees in accordance with Rule 14a-19 of the Exchange Act; and

(viii) all other information regarding the stockholder giving the notice and each Stockholder Associated Person that would be required to be disclosed by the stockholder in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the election of directors in an election contest (even if an election contest is not involved), or would otherwise be required in connection with such a solicitation, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A (or any successor provision) under the Exchange Act.

(4) Such stockholder's notice shall, with respect to any Proposed Nominee, be accompanied by a:

(i) written representation executed by the Proposed Nominee:

(A) that such Proposed Nominee (I) is not, and will not become, a party to any agreement, arrangement or understanding with any person or entity other than the Corporation in connection with service or action as a director that has not been disclosed to the Corporation, (II) consents to be named in a proxy statement as a nominee, (III) consents to serve as a director of the Corporation if elected, (IV) will notify the Corporation simultaneously with the notification to the stockholder of the Proposed Nominee's actual or potential unwillingness or inability to serve as a director and (V) does not need any permission or consent from any third party to serve as a director of the Corporation, if elected, that has not been obtained, including any employer or any other board or governing body on which such Proposed Nominee serves;

(B) attaching copies of any and all requisite permissions or consents; and

(C) attaching a completed Proposed Nominee questionnaire (which questionnaire shall be provided by the Corporation, upon request, to the stockholder providing the notice and shall include all information relating to the Proposed Nominee that would be required to be disclosed in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the election of the Proposed Nominee as a director in an election contest (even if an election contest is not involved), or would otherwise be required in connection with such solicitation, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A (or any successor provision) under the Exchange Act, or would be required pursuant to the rules of any national securities exchange on which any securities of the Corporation are listed or over-the-counter market on which any securities of the Corporation are traded);

(ii) written representation executed by the stockholder that such stockholder will:

(A) comply with Rule 14a-19 promulgated under the Exchange Act in connection with such stockholder's solicitation of proxies in support of any Proposed Nominee;

(B) notify the Corporation as promptly as practicable of any determination by the stockholder to no longer solicit proxies for the election of any Proposed Nominee as a director at the annual meeting;

(C) furnish such other or additional information as the Corporation may request for the purpose of determining whether the requirements of this Article I, Section 12 have been complied with and of evaluating any nomination or other business described in the stockholder's notice; and

(D) appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate any Proposed Nominees or to bring such business before the meeting, as applicable, and acknowledges that if the stockholder does not so appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate such Proposed Nominees or bring such business before the meeting, as applicable, the Corporation need not bring such Proposed Nominee or such business for a vote at such meeting and any proxies or votes cast in favor of the election of any such Proposed Nominee or of any proposal related to such other business need not be counted or considered.

(5) Notwithstanding anything in this subsection (a) of this Article I, Section 12 to the contrary, in the event that the number of directors to be elected to the Board of Directors is increased, and there is no public announcement of such action at least 130 days prior to the first anniversary of the date of the proxy statement (as defined in Section 12(c)(4) of this Article I) for the preceding year's annual meeting, a stockholder's notice required by clause (iii) of paragraph (a)(1) of this Article I, Section 12 shall also be considered timely, but only with respect to nominees for any new positions created by such increase, if it shall be delivered to the secretary at the principal executive office of the Corporation not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the tenth day following the day on which such public announcement is first made by the Corporation.

(6) For purposes of this Article I, Section 12, "Stockholder Associated Person" of any stockholder shall mean (i) any person acting in concert with such stockholder or another Stockholder Associated Person or who is otherwise a participant (as defined in Instruction 3 to Item 4 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act) in the solicitation, (ii) any beneficial owner of shares of stock of the Corporation owned of record or beneficially by such stockholder (other than a stockholder that is a depositary) and (iii) any person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, such stockholder or such Stockholder Associated Person.

(b) Special Meetings of Stockholders. Only such business shall be conducted at a special meeting of stockholders as shall have been brought before the meeting pursuant to the

Corporation's notice of meeting. No stockholder may make a proposal of other business to be considered at a special meeting or, except as contemplated by and in accordance with the next two sentences of this Article I, Section 12(b), nominate an individual for election to the Board of Directors at a special meeting. Nominations of individuals for election to the Board of Directors may be made at a special meeting of stockholders at which directors are to be elected only (1) by or at the direction of the Board of Directors or (2) provided that the special meeting has been called in accordance with Section 3 of this Article I for the purpose of electing directors, by any stockholder of the Corporation who is a stockholder of record at the record date set by the Board of Directors for the purpose of determining stockholders entitled to vote at the special meeting, at the time of giving of notice provided for in this Article I, Section 12 and at the time of the special meeting (and any postponement or adjournment thereof), who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each individual so nominated and who has complied with the notice procedures set forth in this Article I, Section 12. In the event the Corporation calls a special meeting of stockholders for the purpose of electing one or more individuals to the Board of Directors, any stockholder may nominate an individual or individuals (as the case may be) for election as a director as specified in the Corporation's notice of meeting, if the stockholder's notice, containing the information and representations required by paragraphs (a)(3) and (4) of this Article I, Section 12, is delivered to the secretary at the principal executive office of the Corporation not earlier than the 120<sup>th</sup> day prior to such special meeting and not later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the later of the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to such special meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement is first made of the date of the special meeting. The postponement or adjournment of a special meeting (or public announcement thereof) shall not commence a new time period (or extend any time period) for the giving of a stockholder's notice as described above.

(c) General. (1) If any information or representation submitted pursuant to this Article I, Section 12 by any stockholder proposing a nominee for election as a director or any proposal for other business at a meeting of stockholders, including any information or representation from a Proposed Nominee, shall be inaccurate in any material respect, such information or representation may be deemed not to have been provided in accordance with this Article I, Section 12. Any such stockholder shall notify the Corporation of any inaccuracy or change (within two business days of becoming aware of such inaccuracy or change) in any such information or representation. Upon written request by the secretary or the Board of Directors, any such stockholder or Proposed Nominee shall provide, within five business days of delivery of such request (or such other period as may be specified in such request), (i) written verification, satisfactory, in the discretion of the Board of Directors or any authorized officer of the Corporation, to demonstrate the accuracy of any information submitted by the stockholder pursuant to this Article I, Section 12, (ii) a written update of any information (including, if requested by the Corporation, written confirmation by such stockholder that it continues to intend to bring such nomination or other business proposal before the meeting and, if applicable, satisfy the requirements of Rule 14a-19(a)(3)) submitted by the stockholder pursuant to this Article I, Section 12 as of an earlier date and (iii) an updated representation by each Proposed Nominee that such individual will serve as a director of the Corporation if elected. If a stockholder or Proposed Nominee fails to provide such written verification, update or representation within such period, the information as to which such written verification, update

or representation was requested may be deemed not to have been provided in accordance with this Article I, Section 12.

(2) Only such individuals who are nominated in accordance with this Article I, Section 12 shall be eligible for election by stockholders as directors, and only such business shall be conducted at a meeting of stockholders as shall have been brought before the meeting in accordance with this Article I, Section 12. A stockholder proposing a Proposed Nominee shall have no right to (i) nominate a number of Proposed Nominees that exceed the number of directors to be elected at the meeting or (ii) substitute or replace any Proposed Nominee unless such substitute or replacement is nominated in accordance with this Article I, Section 12 (including the timely provision of all information and representations with respect to such substitute or replacement Proposed Nominee in accordance with the deadlines set forth in this Article I, Section 12). If the Corporation provides notice to a stockholder that the number of Proposed Nominees proposed by such stockholder exceeds the number of directors to be elected at a meeting, the stockholder must provide written notice to the Corporation within five business days stating the names of the Proposed Nominees that have been withdrawn so that the number of Proposed Nominees proposed by such stockholder no longer exceeds the number of directors to be elected at a meeting. If any individual who is nominated in accordance with this Article I, Section 12 becomes unwilling or unable to serve on the Board of Directors, then the nomination with respect to such individual shall no longer be valid and no votes may validly be cast for such individual. The chair of the meeting shall have the power to determine whether a nomination or any other business proposed to be brought before the meeting was made or proposed, as the case may be, in accordance with this Article I, Section 12.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article I, Section 12, the Corporation shall disregard any proxy authority granted in favor of, or votes for, director nominees other than the Corporation's nominees if the stockholder or Stockholder Associated Person (each, a "Soliciting Stockholder") soliciting proxies in support of such director nominees abandons the solicitation or does not (i) comply with Rule 14a-19 promulgated under the Exchange Act, including any failure by the Soliciting Stockholder to (A) provide the Corporation with any notices required thereunder in a timely manner or (B) comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-19(a)(2) and Rule 14a-19(a)(3) promulgated under the Exchange Act or (ii) timely provide sufficient evidence in the determination of the Board of Directors sufficient to satisfy the Corporation that such Soliciting Stockholder has met the requirements of Rule 14a-19(a)(3) promulgated under the Exchange Act in accordance with the following sentence. Upon request by the Corporation, such Soliciting Stockholder shall deliver to the Corporation, no later than five business days prior to the applicable meeting, sufficient evidence in the judgment of the Board of Directors that it has met the requirements of Rule 14a-19(a)(3) promulgated under the Exchange Act.

(4) For purposes of this Article I, Section 12, "the date of the proxy statement" shall have the same meaning as "the date of the company's proxy statement released to shareholders" as used in Rule 14a-8(e) promulgated under the Exchange Act, as interpreted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. "Public announcement" shall mean disclosure (i) in a press release reported by the Dow Jones News Service, Associated Press,

Business Wire, PR Newswire or other widely circulated news or wire service or (ii) in a document publicly filed by the Corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act.

(5) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article I, Section 12, a stockholder shall also comply with all applicable requirements of state law and of the Exchange Act with respect to the matters set forth in this Article I, Section 12. Nothing in this Article I, Section 12 shall be deemed to affect any right of a stockholder to request inclusion of a proposal in, or the right of the Corporation to omit a proposal from, any proxy statement filed by the Corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 14a-8 (or any successor provision) under the Exchange Act. Nothing in this Article I, Section 12 shall require disclosure of revocable proxies received by, or routine solicitation contacts made by or on behalf of, the stockholder or Stockholder Associated Person pursuant to a solicitation of proxies after the filing of a definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A by such stockholder or Stockholder Associated Person.

(6) Notwithstanding anything in these Bylaws to the contrary, except as otherwise determined by the chair of the meeting, if the stockholder giving notice as provided for in this Article I, Section 12 does not appear in person or by proxy at such annual or special meeting to present each nominee for election as a director or the proposed business, as applicable, such matter shall not be considered at the meeting.

### **Section 13 (Reserved).**

### **Section 14 Stockholder Nominations Included in the Corporation's Proxy Materials.**

(a) Inclusion of Nominee in Proxy Statement. Subject to the provisions of this Article I, Section 14, if expressly requested in the relevant Nomination Notice (as defined below), the Corporation shall include in its proxy statement for any annual meeting of stockholders:

(i) the name of any person nominated for election (the "*Stockholder Nominee*") by any Eligible Holder (as defined below) or group of up to 20 Eligible Holders that has (individually and collectively, in the case of a group) satisfied all applicable conditions and complied with all applicable procedures set forth in this Article I, Section 14 (such Eligible Holder or group being a "*Nominating Stockholder*");

(ii) disclosure about the Stockholder Nominee and the Nominating Stockholder required under the rules of the SEC or other applicable law to be included in the proxy statement;

(iii) any statement included by the Nominating Stockholder in the Nomination Notice for inclusion in the proxy statement in support of the stockholder Nominee's election to the Board of Directors (subject, without limitation, to Article I, Section 14(f)(ii)), if such statement does not exceed 500 words; and

(iv) any other information that the Corporation or the Board of Directors determines, in their discretion, to include in the proxy statement relating to the nomination of the Stockholder Nominee, including, without limitation, any statement in opposition to the nomination and any of the information provided pursuant to this Article I, Section 14.

(b) Inclusion of Nominee on Ballot and Form of Proxy. The name of any Stockholder Nominee included in the proxy statement pursuant to Article I, Section 14(a) for an annual meeting of stockholders shall be included on any ballot relating to the election of directors distributed at such annual meeting and shall be set forth on a form of proxy (or other format through which the Corporation permits proxies to be submitted) distributed by the Corporation in connection with election of directors at such annual meeting so as to permit shareholders to vote on the election of such Stockholder Nominee.

(c) Maximum Number of Nominees.

(i) The Corporation shall not be required to include in the proxy statement for an annual meeting of stockholders more Stockholder Nominees than that number of directors constituting 20% of the total number of directors of the Corporation on the last day on which a Nomination Notice may be submitted pursuant to this Article I, Section 14(e) (rounded to the nearest whole number) (the “*Maximum Number*”). Notwithstanding, and in addition to, the above provision concerning the Maximum Number of Stockholder Nominees, the Corporation shall not be required to include in the proxy statement for an annual meeting of stockholders more Stockholder Nominees than the number of directors constituting 20% of the class up for election at such annual meeting (rounded to the nearest whole number). The Maximum Number for a particular annual meeting shall be reduced, to zero if necessary, by (x) Stockholder Nominees who are subsequently withdrawn or that the Board of Directors itself decides to nominate for election at such annual meeting and (y) the number of incumbent directors who had been Stockholder Nominees at any of the preceding four annual meetings and whose reelection at the upcoming annual meeting is being recommended by the Board of Directors. The Maximum Number for a particular annual meeting shall also be reduced by the number of director candidates for which the Corporation shall have received one or more valid notices that a stockholder (other than the Nominating Stockholder) intends to nominate director candidates at such annual meeting of stockholders pursuant to Article I, Section 12. In the event that one or more vacancies for any reason occurs on the Board of Directors after the deadline set forth in Article I, Section 14(e) below but before the date of the annual meeting and the Board of Directors resolves to reduce the size of the board in connection therewith, the Maximum Number shall be calculated based on the number of directors in office as so reduced.

(ii) If the number of Stockholder Nominees pursuant to this Article I, Section 14 for any annual meeting of stockholders exceeds the Maximum Number then, the Stockholder Nominees will be included in the order of the size (from largest to smallest) of ownership of shares of the Corporation’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “*Common Stock*”), of the Nominating Stockholders as of the last day on which a Nomination Notice may be submitted pursuant to Article I, Section 14(e), up to the Maximum Number. If, after the deadline for

submitting a Nomination Notice as set forth in Article I, Section 14(e), a Nominating Stockholder becomes ineligible or withdraws its nomination or a Stockholder Nominee becomes unwilling to serve on the Board of Directors, whether before or after the mailing of definitive proxy statement, then the nomination shall be disregarded, and the Corporation (x) shall not be required to include in its proxy statement or on any ballot or form of proxy the disregarded Stockholder Nominee or any successor or replacement nominee proposed by the Nominating Stockholder or by any other Nominating Stockholder and (y) may otherwise communicate to its stockholders, including without limitation by amending or supplementing its proxy statement or ballot or form of proxy, that the Stockholder Nominee will not be included as a Stockholders Nominee in the proxy statement or on any ballot or form of proxy and will not be voted on at the annual meeting.

(d) Eligibility of Nominating Stockholder.

(i) An “*Eligible Holder*” is a person who has either (x) been a record holder of the shares of Common Stock used to satisfy the eligibility requirements in this Article, I, Section 14(d) continuously for the relevant three-year period or (y) provides to the Secretary of the Corporation, within the time period referred to in Article I, Section 14(e), evidence of continuous ownership of such shares for such three-year period from one or more securities intermediaries in a form that the Board of Directors, acting in good faith, determines would be deemed acceptable for purposes of a shareholder proposal under Rule 14a-8(b)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “*Exchange Act*”) (or any successor rule).

(ii) An Eligible Holder or group not in excess of 20 Eligible Holders may submit a nomination in accordance with this Article I, Section 14 only if the person or group (in the aggregate) has continuously been a holder of full voting rights and a net long position in at least the Minimum Number (as defined below) of shares of the Common Stock throughout the three-year period preceding and including the date of submission of the Nomination Notice, and continues to hold full voting rights and a net long position in at least the Minimum Number through the date of the annual meeting.

(iii) The “*Minimum Number*” of shares of the Common Stock means 3% of the number of outstanding shares of Common Stock as of the most recent date for which such amount is given in any filing by the Corporation with the SEC prior to the submission of the Nomination Notice.

(iv) For purposes of this Article I, Section 14, a person or group’s “net long position” shall be determined in accordance with Rule 14e-4 under the Exchange Act (or any successor rule), provided that (x) the reference in Rule 14e-4 to “the date that a tender offer is first publicly announced or otherwise made known by the bidder to holders of the security to be acquired” shall be the date of submission of the Nomination Notice and the reference to the “highest tender offer price or stated amount of the consideration offered for the subject security” shall refer to the closing sales price of the Common Stock on such date of submission (or, if such date is not a trading day, the immediately preceding trading day) and (y) to the extent not

covered by such definition, the net long position shall be reduced by any shares of Common Stock subject to any “put equivalent position” (as defined in Rule 16a-1(h) under the Exchange Act (or any successor rule)) or that the Board of Directors determines that the person or group does not, or will not, have the right to vote (or direct the voting of) at the annual meeting. An Eligible Holder’s ownership of shares of Common Stock shall be deemed to continue during any period in which the Eligible Holder has loaned such shares of Common Stock, provided that the Eligible Holder has the power to recall such loaned shares of Common Stock on no more than three business days’ notice and has recalled such loaned shares of Common Stock as of the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting and through the date of the annual meeting.

(v) No person shall be permitted to be in more than one group constituting a Nominating Stockholder, and if any person appears as a member of more than one group, it shall be deemed to be a member of the group that has the largest net long position as reflected in the Nomination Notice.

(e) Nomination Notice. To nominate a Stockholder Nominee, the Nominating Stockholder must timely submit to the Secretary of the Corporation at the principal executive office of the Corporation written notice that the Nominating Stockholder expressly elects at the time of providing such notice to have its Stockholder Nominee included in the Corporation’s proxy statement pursuant to this Article I, Section 14 together with all of the following information and documents (collectively, the “*Nomination Notice*”).

(i) A Schedule 14N (or any successor form) relating to the Stockholder Nominee, completed and filed with the SEC by the Nominating Stockholder as applicable, in accordance with SEC rules;

(ii) A written notice, in a form deemed satisfactory by the Board of Directors, acting in good faith, of the nomination of such Stockholder Nominee that includes the following additional information, agreements, representations and warranties by the Nominating Stockholder (including each group member):

(1) the information required with respect to the nomination of directors pursuant to Article I, Section 12 of these Bylaws;

(2) the details of any relationship that existed within the past three years and that would have been described pursuant to Item 6(e) of Schedule 14N (or any successor item) if it existed on the date of submission of the Schedule 14N;

(3) a representation and warranty that the Nominating Stockholder did not acquire, and is not holding, securities of the Corporation for the purpose or with the effect of influencing or changing control of the Corporation;

(4) a representation and warranty that the Stockholder Nominee's candidacy or, if elected, Board membership would not violate applicable state or federal law or the rules of any stock exchange on which the Corporation's securities are traded;

(5) a representation and warranty that the Stockholder Nominee:

- meets the audit committee independence requirements under the rules of any stock exchange on which the Corporation's securities are traded;
- would be a "non-employee director" for the purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act (or any successor rule);
- would be an "outside director" for the purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any successor provision);
- is not and has not been: subject to any order of the type specified in Rule 506(d) of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; or subject to any event specified in Item 401(f) of Regulation S-K (or any successor rule), without reference to whether the event is material to an evaluation of the ability or integrity of the Stockholder Nominee or whether the event occurred in the ten-year time period referenced in such Item; and
- is not employed by or affiliated with a competitor of the Corporation;

(6) a representation and warranty that the Nominating Stockholder satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth in Article I, Section 14(d) and has provided evidence of ownership to the extent required by Article I, Section 14(d)(i);

(7) a representation and warranty that the Nominating Stockholder intends to continue to satisfy the eligibility requirements described in Article I, Section 14(d) through the date of the annual meeting;

(8) details of any position of the Stockholder Nominee as an officer or director of any competitor of the Corporation within the three years preceding the submission of the Nomination Notice;

(9) a representation and warranty that the Nominating Stockholder: has not nominated and will not nominate for election to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting any person other than the Stockholder Nominee being nominated pursuant to this Article I, Section 14; and has not engaged and will not engage in a "solicitation" within the meaning of Rule 14a-1(l) (without reference to the exception in Article I, Section 14a-1(l)(2)(iv)) (or any successor rules) of the Exchange Act with respect to the annual meeting, other than with respect to the Stockholder Nominee;

(10) a representation that the Nominating Stockholder will not use any proxy card other than the Corporation's proxy card in soliciting stockholders in connection with the matters to be voted on at the meeting at which the election is held;

(11) if desired, a statement for inclusion in the proxy statement in support of the Stockholder Nominee's election to the Board of Directors, provided that such statement shall not exceed 500 words; and

(12) in the case of a nomination by a group, the designation by all group members of one group member that is authorized to act on behalf of all group members with respect to matters relating to the nomination.

(iii) an executed agreement, in a form deemed satisfactory by the Board of Directors, acting in good faith, pursuant to which the Nominating Stockholder (including each group member) agrees:

(1) to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in connection with the nomination and election;

(2) to assume all liability stemming from an action, suit or proceeding concerning any actual or alleged legal or regulatory violation arising out of any communication by the Nominating Stockholder with the Corporation, its stockholders or any other person in connection with the nomination or election of directors, including, without limitation, the Nomination Notice;

(3) to indemnify and hold harmless (jointly with all other group members, in the case of a group member) the Corporation and each of its directors, officers and employees individually against any liability, loss, damages, expenses or other costs (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with any threatened or pending action, suit or proceeding, whether legal, administrative or investigative, against the Corporation or any of its directors, officers or employees arising out of or relating to a failure or alleged failure of the Nominating Stockholder to comply with, or any breach or alleged breach of, its obligations, agreements or representations under this Article I, Section 14;

(4) to file with Securities and Exchange Commission any solicitation or communication materials provided to the Corporation's stockholders relating to the annual meeting at which the Stockholder Nominee will be nominated, regardless of whether any such filing is required under the Securities and Exchange Commission's proxy rules or whether any exemption from filing is available to such solicitation or other communication under such proxy rules;

(5) to provide facts, statements and other information in all communications with the Corporation or its stockholders that are or will be true and correct in all material respects and do not and will not omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make

the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and

(6) in the event that any information included in the Nomination Notice, or any other communications by the Nominating Stockholder (including with respect to any group member), with the Corporation, its stockholders or any other person in connection with the nomination or election ceases to be true and accurate in all material respects (or due to a subsequent development omits a material fact necessary to make the statements made not misleading), or that the Nominating Stockholder (including any group member) has failed to continue to satisfy the eligibility requirements described in Article I, Section 14(d), to promptly (and in any event within 48 hours of discovering such misstatement or omission) notify the Corporation and any other recipient of such communication of the misstatement or omission in such previously provided information and of the information that is required to correct the misstatement or omission.

(iv) an executed agreement, in a form deemed satisfactory by the Board of Directors, acting in good faith, by the Stockholder Nominee:

(1) to provide to the Corporation such other information, including completion of the Corporation's director questionnaire, as it may reasonably request;

(2) that the Stockholder Nominee has read and agrees, if elected, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, to adhere to applicable law and exchange listing standards, all of the Corporation's corporate governance, conflict of interest, confidentiality and stock ownership and trading policies and guidelines, and any other policies and guidelines applicable to directors, including, but not limited to, the Corporation's Corporate Governance Principles and Practices and Code of Ethics; and

(3) that the Stockholder Nominee is not and will not become a party to any compensatory, payment or other financial agreement, arrangement or understanding with any person or entity in connection with service or action as a director of the Corporation, or any agreement, arrangement or understanding with any person or entity as to how the Stockholder Nominee would vote or act on any issue or question as a director, in each case that has not been disclosed to the Corporation.

The information and documents required by this Article I, Section 14(e) shall be (x) provided with respect to and executed by each group member, in the case of information applicable to group members; and (y) provided with respect to the persons specified in Instruction 1 to Item 6(c) and (d) of Schedule 14N (or any successor item) in the case of a Nominating Stockholder or group member that is an entity. The Nomination Notice shall be deemed submitted on the date on which all of the information and documents referred to in this Article I, Section 14(e) (other than such information and documents contemplated to be provided after the date the Nomination Notice is provided) have been provided to the Secretary of the Corporation. To be timely, such Nomination Notice must be delivered to or mailed and received by the Secretary at the principal

executive office of the Corporation within the time periods set forth in Article I, Section 12 of these Bylaws.

(f) Exceptions.

(i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Article I, Section 14, the Corporation may omit from its proxy statement any Stockholder Nominee, and such nomination shall be disregarded and no vote on such Stockholder Nominee will occur, notwithstanding that proxies in respect of such vote may have been received by the Corporation, if:

(1) the Corporation receives a notice pursuant to Article I, Section 12 of these Bylaws that a stockholder intends to nominate a candidate for director at the annual meeting or the Nominating Stockholder does not expressly elect at the time of providing notice to have its Stockholder Nominee included in the Corporation's proxy materials pursuant to this Article I, Section 14;

(2) the Nominating Stockholder or the designated lead group member, as applicable, or any qualified representative thereof, does not appear at the meeting of stockholders to present the nomination submitted pursuant to this Article I, Section 14;

(3) the Board of Directors, acting in good faith, determines that such Stockholder Nominee's nomination or election to the Board of Directors would result in the Corporation violating or failing to be in compliance with any applicable law, rule or regulation to which the Corporation is subject, including any rules or regulations of any stock exchange on which the Corporation's securities are traded;

(4) the Stockholder Nominee was nominated for election to the Board of Directors pursuant to this Article I, Section 14 at one of the Corporation's two preceding annual meetings of stockholders and received a vote of less than 25% of the shares of Common Stock entitled to vote for such Stockholder Nominee;

(5) the Corporation is notified, or the Board of Directors acting in good faith determines, that a Nominating Stockholder has failed to continue to satisfy the eligibility requirements described in Article I, Section 14(d), any of the representations and warranties made in the Nomination Notice ceases to be true and accurate in all material respects (or omits a material fact necessary to make the statements made not misleading), the Stockholder Nominee becomes unwilling or unable to serve on the Board of Directors or any material violation or breach occurs of the obligations, agreements, representations or warranties of the Nominating Stockholder or the Stockholder Nominee under this Article I, Section 14;

(6) The Stockholder Nominee does not meet the affirmative criteria specified in the Nomination Notice as set forth in Article I, Section 14(e)(ii)(5); or

(7) the Stockholder Nominee is or becomes party to any compensatory, payment or other financial agreement, arrangement or understanding with any person or entity other than the Corporation, or is receiving or will receive any such compensation or other payment from any person or entity other than the Corporation, in each case in connection with service as a director of the Corporation.

(ii) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Article I, Section 14, the Corporation may omit from its proxy statement, or may supplement or correct, any information, including all or any portion of the statement in support of the Stockholder Nominee included in the Nomination Notice, if the Board of Directors in good faith determines that:

(1) such information is not true in all material respects or omits a material statement necessary to make the statements made not misleading;

(2) such information directly or indirectly impugns the character, integrity or personal reputation of, or directly or indirectly makes charges concerning improper, illegal or immoral conduct or associations, without factual foundation, with respect to, any person; or

(3) the inclusion of such information in the proxy statement would otherwise violate the SEC proxy rules or any other applicable law, rule or regulation.

(g) The Board of Directors of the Corporation (and any other body authorized by the Board of Directors) shall have the power and authority to interpret this Article I, Section 14 and make any and all determinations necessary or advisable to apply this Article I, Section 14 to any persons, facts or circumstances, including the power to determine (i) whether a person or group of persons qualifies as an Eligible Holder, (ii) whether outstanding shares of the Corporation's common stock are "owned" for purposes of meeting the ownership requirements of this Article I, Section 14, (iii) whether a notice meets the requirements of a Nomination Notice, (iv) whether a person satisfies the requirements to be a Stockholder Nominee, (v) whether the inclusion of information set forth in Article I, Section 14(a) in the Corporation's proxy statement is consistent with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and listing standards, and (vi) whether any all requirements of Article I, Section 14 have been satisfied. Any such interpretation or determination adopted in good faith by the Board of Directors (or any person or body authorized by the Board of Directors) shall be conclusive and binding on all persons, including the Corporation and all record and beneficial owners of shares of Common Stock of the Corporation.

#### **Section 15 Control Share Acquisition Act.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter of the Corporation or these Bylaws, Title 3, Subtitle 7 of the Maryland General Corporation Law (or any successor statute) shall not apply to any acquisition by any person of shares of stock of the Corporation. This Section 15 may be repealed, in whole or in part, at any time, whether before or after an acquisition of

control shares and, upon such repeal, may, to the extent provided by any successor bylaw, apply to any prior or subsequent control share acquisition.

## **ARTICLE II DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1 Powers.**

The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed under the direction of its Board of Directors. All powers of the Corporation may be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors except as conferred on or reserved to the stockholders by law, by the Charter or by these Bylaws. A director need not be a stockholder. The Board of Directors shall keep minutes of its meetings and full and fair accounts of its transactions.

### **Section 2 Number; Term of Office; Removal; Retirement.**

The number of directors of the Corporation may be increased or decreased from time to time by vote of a majority of the entire Board of Directors to a number not less than five and not greater than twelve. Each director shall be elected to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies. A director may be removed from office as provided in Article I, Section 10 of these Bylaws. No person shall be elected or reelected a director after reaching 75 years of age.

### **Section 3 Annual Meeting; Regular Meetings.**

As soon as practicable after each annual meeting of stockholders, the Board of Directors shall meet for the purpose of organization and the transaction of other business. No notice of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors need be given if it is held immediately following the annual meeting of stockholders and at the same place. Other regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such times and at such places, within or without the State of Maryland, as shall be designated in the notice for such meeting by the party making the call. All annual and regular meetings shall be general meetings, and any business may be transacted thereat.

### **Section 4 Special Meetings.**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chief Executive Officer, or by two or more directors, or by a majority of the members of the executive committee if one be constituted.

### **Section 5 Quorum; Voting.**

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at every meeting of the Board of Directors; but, if at any meeting there be less than a

quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, but not for a period exceeding ten days at any one time or 60 days in all, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall attend. At any such adjourned meeting at which a quorum shall be present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.

Except as hereinafter provided or as otherwise provided by the Charter or by law, directors shall act by a vote of a majority of those members in attendance at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

#### **Section 6 Notice of Meetings.**

Except as provided in Section 3 of this Article, notice of the time and place of every regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given to each director in the manner provided in Section 2 of Article IX hereof. Subsequent to each Board meeting, and as soon as practicable thereafter, each director shall be furnished with a copy of the minutes of said meeting. At least 24 hours notice shall be given of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The purpose of any meeting of the Board of Directors need not be stated in the notice.

#### **Section 7 Vacancies.**

(a) If the office of a director becomes vacant for any reason, including increase in the size of the Board, such vacancy may be filled by the Board by a vote of a majority of directors then in office, although such majority is less than a quorum.

(b) If the vacancy occurs as a result of the removal of a director by the stockholders, the stockholders may elect a successor at the meeting at which the removal occurs. Failing such election, the vacancy may be filled by the Board in the manner and by the vote provided for in subsection (a) above.

(c) If the entire Board of Directors shall become vacant, any stockholder may call a special meeting in the same manner that the Chief Executive Officer may call such meeting, and directors for the unexpired term may be elected at such special meeting in the manner provided for their election at annual meetings.

(d) A director appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

#### **Section 8 Rules and Regulations.**

The Board of Directors may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the affairs of the Corporation as it may deem proper and not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Maryland or these Bylaws or the Charter.

## **Section 9 Committees.**

The Board of Directors may appoint from among its members an executive committee, an audit committee, an executive compensation committee, a nominating/governance committee and any other committees the Board deems appropriate. Each committee shall be composed of two or more directors. A majority of the members of any committee so appointed shall be independent directors to the extent required by applicable rules or policies of any governmental authority, securities exchange or other similar facility. The Board of Directors may delegate to any committee any of the powers of the Board of Directors except those powers specifically denied by law. However, if the Board of Directors has given general authorization for the issuance of stock, a committee of the board, in accordance with a general formula or method specified by the Board of Directors by resolution or by adoption of a stock option plan, may fix the terms of stock subject to classification or reclassification and the terms on which any stock may be issued.

Notice of committee meetings shall be given in the same manner as notice for special meetings of the Board of Directors.

One-third (1/3), but not less than two (2), of the members of any committee shall be present in person at any meeting of such committee in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at such meeting, and the act of a majority present shall be the act of such committee. The Board of Directors may designate a chairman of any committee and such chairman or any two members of any committee may fix the time and place of its meetings unless the Board shall otherwise provide. In the absence or disqualification of any member of any such committee, the members thereof present at any meeting and not disqualified from voting, whether or not they constitute a quorum, may unanimously appoint another director to act at the meeting in the place of such absent or disqualified members; provided, however, that in the event of the absence or disqualification of an independent director, such appointee shall be an independent director.

Each committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings and shall report the same to the Board of Directors at a succeeding meeting, and any action by the committees shall be subject to revision and alteration by the Board of Directors, provided that no rights of third persons shall be affected by any such revision or alteration. Action of a committee without a meeting may be taken by unanimous consent as provided in Section 12 of this Article II.

Subject to the provisions hereof, the Board of Directors shall have the power at any time to change the membership of any committee, to fill all vacancies, to designate alternate members to replace any absent or disqualified member, or to dissolve any such committee.

## **Section 10 Compensation.**

The directors may receive a stated salary for their services, and/or a fixed sum and expenses of attendance may be allowed for attendance at each regular meeting, special meeting

or committee meeting. The stated salary and attendance fee, if any, shall be determined by resolution of the Board; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as precluding a director from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor.

**Section 11 Place of Meetings.**

Regular or special meetings of the Board may be held within or without the State of Maryland, as the Board may from time to time determine. The time and place of meeting may be fixed by the party making the call.

**Section 12 Informal Action by the Directors.**

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board or a committee of the Board may be taken without a meeting if unanimous consent which sets forth the action is given in writing or by electronic transmission by each member of the Board or committee, as applicable, and filed in paper or electronic form with the minutes or proceedings of the Board or committee.

**Section 13 Telephone Conference.**

Members of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof may participate in a meeting of the Board or such committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS**

**Section 1 In General.**

The officers of the Corporation shall include a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and may include a Chair of the Board, a Vice Chair of the Board, a Chief Executive Officer, one or more Vice Presidents, a Chief Operating Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, a General Counsel, one or more Assistant Secretaries and one or more Assistant Treasurers. In addition, the Board of Directors may from time to time elect such other officers with such powers and duties as it shall deem necessary or appropriate. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors, except that the Chief Executive Officer or President may from time to time appoint one or more Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers or other officers. Each officer shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualifies or until his or her death, or his or her resignation or removal in the manner hereinafter provided. Any two or

more offices except President (or Chief Executive Officer) and Vice President may be held by the same person. Election of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights between the Corporation and such officer or agent.

**Section 2 Vacancies.**

A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors for the balance of the term.

**Section 3 Chair of the Board.**

The Board of Directors may designate from among its members a Chair of the Board, who shall not, solely by reason of these Bylaws, be an officer of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may designate the Chair of the Board as an executive or non-executive chair. The Chair of the Board shall keep in close touch with the administration of the affairs of the Corporation and shall advise and counsel the Chief Executive Officer on matters pertaining to the business and affairs of the Corporation. The Chair of the Board shall preside over the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Board shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by these Bylaws or the Board of Directors.

**Section 4 Chief Executive Officer.**

The Board of Directors may designate a Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer shall have general responsibility for implementation of the policies of the Corporation, as determined by the Board of Directors, and for the management of the business and affairs of the Corporation. He or she may execute any deed, mortgage, bond, contract or other instrument, except in cases where the execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Corporation or shall be required by law to be otherwise executed; and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chief Executive Officer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

**Section 5 Chief Operating Officer.**

The Board of Directors may designate a Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Operating Officer shall have the responsibilities and duties as determined by the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer.

**Section 6 Chief Financial Officer.**

The Board of Directors may designate a Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall have the responsibilities and duties as determined by the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Section 7 President.**

In the absence of a Chief Executive Officer, the President shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Corporation. In the absence of a designation of a President by the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer shall be the President. He or she may execute any deed, mortgage, bond, contract or other instrument, except in cases where the execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Corporation or shall be required by law to be otherwise executed; and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

#### **Section 8 Vice Presidents.**

In the absence of the President or in the event of a vacancy in such office, the Vice President (or in the event there be more than one Vice President, the Vice Presidents in the order designated at the time of their election or, in the absence of any designation, then in the order of their election) shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President; and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to such vice president by the Chief Executive Officer, the President or the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may designate one or more Vice Presidents as Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President, or Vice President for particular areas of responsibility.

#### **Section 9 General Counsel.**

The Board of Directors may designate a General Counsel. The General Counsel shall be responsible for oversight of outside counsel and for the Company's compliance with applicable legal requirements. The General Counsel shall also have the responsibilities and duties as determined by the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Section 10 Secretary.**

The Secretary shall (a) keep the minutes of the proceedings of the stockholders, the Board of Directors and committees of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the Corporation; (d) keep a register of the address of each stockholder which shall be furnished to the secretary by such stockholder; (e) have general charge of the stock transfer books of the Corporation; and (f) in general perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Chief Executive Officer, the President or the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 11 Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds and securities of the Corporation, shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, shall deposit all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors and in general perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Chief Executive Officer, the President or the Board of Directors. In the absence of a designation of a Treasurer by the Board of Directors, the Chief Financial Officer shall be the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and Board of Directors, at the regular meetings of the Board of Directors or whenever it may so require, an account of all his or her transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation.

#### **Section 12 Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers.**

The Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers, in general, shall perform such duties as shall be assigned to them by the Secretary or Treasurer, respectively, or by the Chief Executive Officer, the President or the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 13 Compensation.**

The compensation of the officers shall be fixed from time to time by or under the authority of the Board of Directors and no officer shall be prevented from receiving such compensation by reason of the fact that he or she is also a director.

### **ARTICLE IV RESIGNATION**

Any director or officer may resign from office at any time. Such resignation shall be made in writing and shall take effect from the time of its receipt by the Corporation, unless some time be fixed in the resignation, and then from that date. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be required to make it effective.

### **ARTICLE V COMMERCIAL PAPER, ETC.**

All bills, notes, checks, drafts and commercial paper of all kinds to be executed by the Corporation as maker, acceptor, endorser or otherwise, and all assignments and transfers of stock, contracts, or deeds, mortgages, loan agreements and indentures, bonds, letters of credit, real property acquisition agreements, or other written obligations of the Corporation, and all negotiable instruments, shall be made in the name of the Corporation and may be signed by any one or more of the following officers as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate, i.e., the Chief Executive Officer, any Executive Vice President, any Vice President, or the

Treasurer, or by such other person or persons as the Board of Directors or Executive Committee may from time to time designate.

## **ARTICLE VI FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall cover such period of 12 months as the Board of Directors may determine. In the absence of any such determination, the accounts of the Corporation shall be kept on a calendar year basis.

## **ARTICLE VII SEAL**

The seal of the Corporation shall be in the form of two concentric circles inscribed with the name of the Corporation and the year and State in which it is incorporated. The Secretary or Treasurer, or any Assistant Secretary or Assistant Treasurer, shall have the right and power to attest to the corporate seal. In lieu of affixing the corporate seal to any document, it shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of any law, rule or regulation relating to a corporate seal to affix the word “(SEAL)” adjacent to the signature of the person authorized to sign the document on behalf of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE VIII STOCK**

### **Section 1 Issue.**

Each stockholder shall be entitled to a certificate or certificates which shall represent and certify the number and class of shares of stock owned in the Corporation. Each certificate shall be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or any Executive Vice President, and countersigned by the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary or the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer, and sealed with the seal of the Corporation. The signatures of the Corporation’s officers and its corporate seal appearing on stock certificates may be facsimiles if each such certificate is authenticated by the manual signature of an officer of a duly authorized transfer agent. Stock certificates shall be in such form not inconsistent with law or with the Charter, as shall be approved by the Board of Directors. In case any officer of the Corporation who has signed any certificate ceases to be an officer of the Corporation, whether by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, before such certificate is issued, then the certificate may nevertheless be issued by the Corporation with the same effect as if the officer had not ceased to be such officer as of the date of such issuance.

## **Section 2 Transfers.**

The Board of Directors shall have power and authority to make all such rules and regulations as the Board may deem expedient concerning the issue, transfer and registration of stock certificates. The Board of Directors may appoint one or more transfer agents and/or registrars for its outstanding stock, and their duties may be combined. No transfer of stock shall be recognized or binding upon the Corporation until recorded on the books of the Corporation, or, as the case may be, of its transfer agent and/or of its registrar, upon surrender and cancellation of a certificate or certificates for a like number of shares.

## **Section 3 Record Dates for Dividends and Stockholders' Meeting.**

The Board of Directors may fix a date not exceeding 90 days preceding the date of any meeting of stockholders, any dividend payment date or any date for the allotment of rights, as a record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at such meeting, or entitled to receive such dividends or rights, as the case may be, and only stockholders of record on such date shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at such meeting or to receive such dividends or rights, as the case may be. In the case of a meeting of stockholders, the record date shall be not less than ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **Section 4 New Certificates.**

In case any certificate of stock is lost, stolen, mutilated or destroyed, the Board of Directors may authorize the issue of a new certificate in place thereof upon indemnity to the Corporation against loss and upon such other terms and conditions as it may deem advisable. The Board of Directors may delegate such power to any officer or officers of the Corporation or to any transfer agent or registrar of the Corporation; but the Board of Directors, such officer or officers or such transfer agent or registrar may, in their discretion, refuse to issue such new certificate save upon the order of some court having jurisdiction in the premises.

## **ARTICLE IX NOTICE**

### **Section 1 Notice to Stockholders.**

Whenever by law or these Bylaws notice is required to be given to any stockholder, such notice shall be in writing and may be given to each stockholder (i) by leaving the same at his or her residence or usual place of business, (ii) by mailing it, postage prepaid, and addressed to such stockholder's address as it appears on the books of the Corporation or its transfer agent or (iii) by transmitting it to the stockholder by electronic mail to any electronic mail address of the stockholder or by any other electronic means. Such leaving, mailing or transmitting of notice shall be deemed the time of giving such notice.

## **Section 2 Notice to Directors and Officers.**

Whenever by law or these Bylaws notice is required to be given to any director or officer, such notice may be given in any one of the following ways: by personal notice to such director or officer, by telephone communication with such director or officer personally, by telecopy, by telegram, by email or similar electronic transmission, cablegram or radiogram, or by leaving the notice at his residence or usual place of business, or by mail.

## **Section 3 Waiver of Notice.**

Notice to any stockholder or director of the time, place and/or purpose of any meeting of stockholders or directors required by these Bylaws may be dispensed with if such stockholder shall either attend in person or by proxy, or if such director shall attend in person, or if such absent stockholder or director shall, in writing filed with the records of the meeting either before or after the holding thereof, waive such notice.

# **ARTICLE X**

## **VOTING OF STOCK IN OTHER CORPORATIONS**

Any stock in other corporations, which may from time to time be held by the Corporation, may be represented and voted at any meeting of stockholders of such other corporations by the Chief Executive Officer, an Executive Vice President or a Vice President by proxy or proxies appointed by the Chief Executive Officer, any Executive Vice President or otherwise pursuant to authorization hereunto given by a resolution of the Board of Directors adopted by a vote of a majority of the directors.

# **ARTICLE XI**

## **INDEMNIFICATION**

## **Section 1 Directors and Officers, Third Party Actions.**

The Corporation shall indemnify any director or officer of the Corporation who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed actions, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Corporation) by reason of the fact that he is or was serving as an authorized representative of the Corporation (which, for the purposes of this Article, shall mean service, at the Corporation's request, as a director, officer, partner, trustee, manager, member, employee or agent of another corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise or employee benefit plan) against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and

expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding unless it is proved that the act or omission of the director was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding and: (a) was committed in bad faith; or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; or (c) the director actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services, or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe his act or omission was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order or settlement shall not create a presumption that, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that his act or omission was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by conviction, or a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, or an entry of an order of probation prior to judgment, creates a rebuttable presumption that the director did not meet that standard of conduct set forth in the immediately preceding sentence.

## **Section 2 Directors and Officers Actions by or in the Right of the Corporation.**

The Corporation shall indemnify any director or officer of the Corporation who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was an authorized representative of the Corporation, to the same extent set forth in Section 1 of this Article, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the Corporation, unless and only to the extent that a Court of appropriate jurisdiction determines upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity.

## **Section 3 Indemnification for Successful Defenses.**

To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding of the type referred to in Section 1 or 2 of this Article or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified by the Corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith. Such a person who is not a director or officer of the Corporation may, at the discretion of the Corporation, be indemnified by the Corporation in any other circumstances to any extent if the Corporation would be required by Section 1 or 2 of this Article to indemnify such person in such circumstances to such extent if he were or had been a director or officer of the Corporation.

## **Section 4 Procedure.**

Indemnification under Section 1 or 2 of this Article may be made in a specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the authorized representative is required or proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Sections 1 or 2 of this Article. Such determination shall be made:

(a) By the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors not, at the time, parties to the action, suit or proceeding (“*disinterested directors*”), or if such a quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of a committee of the Board consisting solely of two or more disinterested directors designated to act in the matter by a majority vote of the full Board (which may include directors who are parties to the action, suit or proceeding); or

(b) By special legal counsel selected by the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board by vote as set forth in (a) above, or if the requisite quorum of the full Board cannot be obtained and the committee cannot be established, by a majority vote of the full Board (which may include directors who are parties to the action, suit or proceeding); or

(c) By the stockholders.

#### **Section 5 Advancing Expenses.**

Expenses (including attorneys fees) incurred by a director or officer of the Corporation in connection with any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding of the type referred to in Section 1 or 2 of this Article shall be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding, upon receipt of (i) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the Corporation as required by Section 1 of this Article or by law; and (ii) a written undertaking by or on behalf of a director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation as required in this Article or authorized by law. Such expenses incurred by an employee or agent who is not a director or officer of the Corporation may be paid by the Corporation in advance when authorized by the Board of Directors upon receipt of a similar undertaking. The repayment obligation represented by an undertaking pursuant to this Section need not be secured and may be accepted without reference to financial ability to make the repayment.

#### **Section 6 Scope of Article.**

Each person who shall act as an authorized representative of the Corporation shall be deemed to be doing so in reliance upon such rights of indemnification as are provided in this Article. The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, statute or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office or position, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be an authorized representative of the Corporation and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

### **ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS**

The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of these Bylaws and to make new Bylaws; provided, however, that the stockholders may alter or repeal any provision of these Bylaws and adopt new Bylaws if any such alteration, repeal or adoption is approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

## **ARTICLE XIII RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER OF SHARES**

### **Section 1 Definitions.**

As used in this Article XIII, the following capitalized terms have the following meanings when used herein with initial capital letters (and any references to any portions of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T shall include any successor provisions):

- (a) “*4.9-percent Transaction*” means any Transfer described in clause (i) or (ii) of Section 2 of this Article XIII.
- (b) “*4.9-percent Stockholder*” means a Person who owns 4.9% or more of the Corporation’s then outstanding Common Stock, whether directly or indirectly, and including shares such Person would be deemed to constructively own or which otherwise would be aggregated with shares owned by such Person pursuant to Section 382 of the Code, or any successor provision or replacement provision and the Treasury Regulations thereunder.
- (c) “*Agent*” has the meaning set forth in Section 5 of this Article XIII.
- (d) “*Board of Directors*” or “*Board*” means the board of directors of the Corporation.
- (e) “*Common Stock*” means any interest in the Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Corporation that would be treated as “stock” of the Corporation pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(f)(18).
- (f) “*Code*” means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, and the rulings issued thereunder.
- (g) “*Corporation Security*” or “*Corporation Securities*” means (i) shares of Common Stock, (ii) shares of preferred stock issued by the Corporation (other than preferred stock described in Section 1504(a)(4) of the Code), (iii) warrants, rights, or options (including options within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(h)(4)(v)) to purchase Securities of the Corporation, and (iv) any Stock.

(h) “*Effective Date*” means the date the Board of Directors approved the effectiveness of the Article XIII.

(i) “*Excess Securities*” has the meaning given such term in Section 4 of this Article XIII.

(j) “*Expiration Date*” means the earlier of (i) the repeal of Section 382 of the Code or any successor statute if the Board of Directors determines that this Article XIII is no longer necessary for the preservation of Tax Benefits, (ii) the beginning of a taxable year of the Corporation to which the Board of Directors determines that no Tax Benefits may be carried forward or (iii) such date as the Board of Directors shall fix in accordance with Section 12 of this Article XIII.

(k) “*Percentage Stock Ownership*” means the percentage Stock Ownership interest of any Person or group (as the context may require) for purposes of Section 382 of the Code as determined in accordance with the Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(g), (h), (j) and (k) or any successor provision.

(l) “*Person*” means any individual, firm, corporation or other legal entity, including a group of persons treated as an entity pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.382-3(a)(1)(i); and includes any successor (by merger or otherwise) of such entity.

(m) “*Prohibited Distributions*” means any and all dividends or other distributions paid by the Corporation with respect to any Excess Securities received by a Purported Transferee.

(n) “*Prohibited Transfer*” means any Transfer or purported Transfer of Corporation Securities to the extent that such Transfer is prohibited and/or void under this Article XIII.

(o) “*Public Group*” has the meaning set forth in Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(f)(13).

(p) “*Purported Transferee*” has the meaning set forth in Section 4 of this Article XIII.

(q) “*Securities*” and “*Security*” each has the meaning set forth in Section 7 of this Article XIII.

(r) “*Stock*” means any interest that would be treated as “stock” of the Corporation pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(f)(18).

(s) “*Stock Ownership*” means any direct or indirect ownership of Stock, including any ownership by virtue of application of constructive ownership rules, with such direct, indirect, and constructive ownership determined under the provisions of Section 382 of the Code and the regulations thereunder.

(t) “*Tax Benefits*” means the net operating loss carry forwards, capital loss carry forwards, general business credit carry forwards, alternative minimum tax credit carry forwards and foreign tax credit carry forwards, as well as any loss or deduction attributable to a “net unrealized built in loss” of the Corporation or any direct or indirect subsidiary thereof, within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code.

(u) “*Transfer*” means, any direct or indirect sale, transfer, assignment, conveyance, pledge or other disposition or other action taken by a person, other than the Corporation, that alters the Percentage Stock Ownership of any Person. A Transfer also shall include the creation or grant of an option (including an option within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(h)(4)(v)). For the avoidance of doubt, a Transfer shall not include the creation or grant of an option by the Corporation, nor shall a Transfer include the issuance of Stock by the Corporation.

(v) “*Transferee*” means any Person to whom Corporation Securities are Transferred.

(w) “*Treasury Regulations*” means the regulations, including temporary regulations or any successor regulations promulgated under the Code, as amended from time to time.

## **Section 2 Transfer and Ownership Restrictions.**

In order to preserve the Tax Benefits, from and after the Effective Date of this Article XIII any attempted Transfer of Corporation Securities prior to the Expiration Date and any attempted Transfer of Corporation Securities pursuant to an agreement entered into prior to the Expiration Date, shall be prohibited and void ab initio to the extent that, as a result of such Transfer (or any series of Transfers of which such Transfer is a part), either (i) any Person or Persons would become a 4.9-percent Stockholder or (ii) the Percentage Stock Ownership in the Corporation of any 4.9-percent Stockholder would be increased.

## **Section 3 Exceptions.**

(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Transfers to a Public Group (including a new Public Group created under Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(j)(3)(i)) shall be permitted.

(b) The restrictions set forth in Section 2 of this Article XIII shall not apply to an attempted Transfer that is a 4.9-percent Transaction if the transferor or the Transferee obtains the written approval of the Board of Directors or a duly authorized committee thereof. As a condition to granting its approval pursuant to this Section 3 of Article XIII, the Board of Directors, may, in its discretion, require (at the expense of the transferor and/or transferee) an opinion of counsel selected by the Board of Directors that the Transfer shall not result in the application of any Section 382 of the Code limitation on the use of the Tax Benefits; provided

that the Board may grant such approval notwithstanding the effect of such approval on the Tax Benefits if it determines that the approval is in the best interests of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may impose any conditions that it deems reasonable and appropriate in connection with such approval, including, without limitation, restrictions on the ability of any Transferee to Transfer Stock acquired through a Transfer. Approvals of the Board of Directors hereunder may be given prospectively or retroactively. The Board of Directors, to the fullest extent permitted by law, may exercise the authority granted by this Article XIII through duly authorized officers or agents of the Corporation. Nothing in this Section 3 of this Article XIII shall be construed to limit or restrict the Board of Directors in the exercise of its fiduciary duties under applicable law.

#### **Section 4 Excess Securities.**

(a) No employee or agent of the Corporation shall record any Prohibited Transfer, and the purported transferee of such a Prohibited Transfer (the “*Purported Transferee*”) shall not be recognized as a stockholder of the Corporation for any purpose whatsoever in respect of the Corporation Securities which are the subject of the Prohibited Transfer (the “*Excess Securities*”). Until the Excess Securities are acquired by another person in a Transfer that is not a Prohibited Transfer, the Purported Transferee shall not be entitled with respect to such Excess Securities to any rights of stockholders of the Corporation, including, without limitation, the right to vote such Excess Securities and to receive dividends or distributions, whether liquidating or otherwise, in respect thereof, if any, and the Excess Securities shall be deemed to remain with the transferor unless and until the Excess Securities are transferred to the Agent pursuant to Section 5 of this Article XIII or until an approval is obtained under Section 3 of this Article XIII. After the Excess Securities have been acquired in a Transfer that is not a Prohibited Transfer, the Corporation Securities shall cease to be Excess Securities. For this purpose, any Transfer of Excess Securities not in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4 or 5 of this Article XIII shall also be a Prohibited Transfer.

(b) The Corporation may require as a condition to the registration of the Transfer of any Corporation Securities or the payment of any distribution on any Corporation Securities that the proposed Transferee or payee furnish to the Corporation all information reasonably requested by the Corporation with respect to its direct or indirect ownership interests in such Corporation Securities. The Corporation may make such arrangements or issue such instructions to its stock transfer agent as may be determined by the Board of Directors to be necessary or advisable to implement this Article XIII, including, without limitation, authorizing such transfer agent to require an affidavit from a Purported Transferee regarding such Person’s actual and constructive ownership of stock and other evidence that a Transfer will not be prohibited by this Article XIII as a condition to registering any transfer.

#### **Section 5 Transfer to Agent.**

If the Board of Directors determines that a Transfer of Corporation Securities constitutes a Prohibited Transfer then, upon written demand by the Corporation sent within thirty days of the date on which the Board of Directors determines that the attempted Transfer would result in

Excess Securities, the Purported Transferee shall transfer or cause to be transferred any certificate or other evidence of ownership of the Excess Securities within the Purported Transferee's possession or control, together with any Prohibited Distributions, to an agent designated by the Board of Directors (the "*Agent*"). The Agent shall thereupon sell to a buyer or buyers, which may include the Corporation, the Excess Securities transferred to it in one or more arm's-length transactions (on the public securities market on which such Excess Securities are traded, if possible, or otherwise privately); provided, however, that any such sale must not constitute a Prohibited Transfer and provided, further, that the Agent shall effect such sale or sales in an orderly fashion and shall not be required to effect any such sale within any specific time frame if, in the Agent's discretion, such sale or sales would disrupt the market for the Corporation Securities or otherwise would adversely affect the value of the Corporation Securities. If the Purported Transferee has resold the Excess Securities before receiving the Corporation's demand to surrender Excess Securities to the Agent, the Purported Transferee shall be deemed to have sold the Excess Securities for the Agent, and shall be required to transfer to the Agent any Prohibited Distributions and proceeds of such sale, except to the extent that the Corporation grants written permission to the Purported Transferee to retain a portion of such sales proceeds not exceeding the amount that the Purported Transferee would have received from the Agent pursuant to Section 6 of this Article XIII if the Agent rather than the Purported Transferee had resold the Excess Securities.

#### **Section 6 Application of Proceeds and Prohibited Distributions.**

The Agent shall apply any proceeds of a sale by it of Excess Securities and, if the Purported Transferee has previously resold the Excess Securities, any amounts received by it from a Purported Transferee, together, in either case, with any Prohibited Distributions, as follows: (a) first, such amounts shall be paid to the Agent to the extent necessary to cover its costs and expenses incurred in connection with its duties hereunder; (b) second, any remaining amounts shall be paid to the Purported Transferee, up to the amount paid by the Purported Transferee for the Excess Securities (or the fair market value at the time of the Transfer, in the event the purported Transfer of the Excess Securities was, in whole or in part, a gift, inheritance or similar Transfer) which amount shall be determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors; and (c) third, any remaining amounts shall be paid to one or more organizations qualifying under section 501(c)(3) of the Code (or any comparable successor provision) selected by the Board of Directors. The Purported Transferee of Excess Securities shall have no claim, cause of action or any other recourse whatsoever against any transferor of Excess Securities. The Purported Transferee's sole right with respect to such shares shall be limited to the amount payable to the Purported Transferee pursuant to this Section 6 of Article XIII. In no event shall the proceeds of any sale of Excess Securities pursuant to this Section 6 of Article XIII inure to the benefit of the Corporation or the Agent, except to the extent used to cover costs and expenses incurred by Agent in performing its duties hereunder.

#### **Section 7 Modification of Remedies for Certain Indirect Transfers.**

In the event of any Transfer which does not involve a transfer of securities of the Corporation within the meaning of Maryland law ("*Securities*," and individually, a "*Security*")

but which would cause a 4.9-percent Stockholder to violate a restriction on Transfers provided for in this Article XIII, the application of Sections 5 and 6 of this Article XIII shall be modified as described in this Section 7 of this Article XIII. In such case, no such 4.9-percent Stockholder shall be required to dispose of any interest that is not a Security, but such 4.9-percent Stockholder and/or any Person whose ownership of Securities is attributed to such 4.9-percent Stockholder shall be deemed to have disposed of and shall be required to dispose of sufficient Securities (which Securities shall be disposed of in the inverse order in which they were acquired) to cause such 4.9-percent Stockholder, following such disposition, not to be in violation of this Article XIII. Such disposition shall be deemed to occur simultaneously with the Transfer giving rise to the application of this provision, and such number of Securities that are deemed to be disposed of shall be considered Excess Securities and shall be disposed of through the Agent as provided in Sections 5 and 6 of this Article XIII, except that the maximum aggregate amount payable either to such 4.9-percent Stockholder, or to such other Person that was the direct holder of such Excess Securities, in connection with such sale shall be the fair market value of such Excess Securities at the time of the purported Transfer. All expenses incurred by the Agent in disposing of such Excess Stock shall be paid out of any amounts due such 4.9-percent Stockholder or such other Person. The purpose of this Section 7 of Article XIII is to extend the restrictions in Section 2 and 5 of this Article XIII to situations in which there is a 4.9-percent Transaction without a direct Transfer of Securities, and this Section 7 of Article XIII, along with the other provisions of this Article XIII, shall be interpreted to produce the same results, with differences as the context requires, as a direct Transfer of Corporation Securities.

#### **Section 8 Legal Proceedings; Prompt Enforcement.**

If the Purported Transferee fails to surrender the Excess Securities or the proceeds of a sale thereof to the Agent within thirty days from the date on which the Corporation makes a written demand pursuant to Section 5 of this Article XIII (whether or not made within the time specified in Section 5 of this Article XIII), then the Corporation shall promptly take all cost effective actions which it believes are appropriate to enforce the provisions hereof, including the institution of legal proceedings to compel the surrender. Nothing in this Section 8 of Article XIII shall (i) be deemed inconsistent with any Transfer of the Excess Securities provided in this Article XIII being void ab initio, (ii) preclude the Corporation in its discretion from immediately bringing legal proceedings without a prior demand or (iii) cause any failure of the Corporation to act within the time periods set forth in Section 5 of this Article XIII to constitute a waiver or loss of any right of the Corporation under this Article XIII. The Board of Directors may authorize such additional actions as it deems advisable to give effect to the provisions of this Article XIII.

#### **Section 9 Liability.**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, any stockholder subject to the provisions of this Article XIII who knowingly violates the provisions of this Article XIII and any Persons controlling, controlled by or under common control with such stockholder shall be jointly and severally liable to the Corporation for, and shall indemnify and hold the Corporation harmless against, any and all damages suffered as a result of such violation, including but not limited to

damages resulting from a reduction in, or elimination of, the Corporation's ability to utilize its Tax Benefits, and attorneys' and auditors' fees incurred in connection with such violation.

#### **Section 10 Obligation to Provide Information.**

As a condition to the registration of the Transfer of any Stock, any Person who is a beneficial, legal or record holder of Stock, and any proposed Transferee and any Person controlling, controlled by or under common control with the proposed Transferee, shall provide such information as the Corporation may request from time to time in order to determine compliance with this Article XIII or the status of the Tax Benefits of the Corporation.

#### **Section 11 Legends.**

The Board of Directors may require that any certificates issued by the Corporation evidencing ownership of shares of Stock that are subject to the restrictions on transfer and ownership contained in this Article XIII bear the following legend:

“THE AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF THE CORPORATION, AS AMENDED (THE “BYLAWS”), CONTAINS RESTRICTIONS PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER (AS DEFINED IN THE BYLAWS) OF COMMON STOCK OF THE CORPORATION (INCLUDING THE CREATION OR GRANT OF CERTAIN OPTIONS, RIGHTS AND WARRANTS) WITHOUT THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION (THE “BOARD OF DIRECTORS”) IF SUCH TRANSFER AFFECTS THE PERCENTAGE OF STOCK OF THE CORPORATION (WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 382 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (THE “CODE”) AND THE TREASURY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER), THAT IS TREATED AS OWNED BY A FIVE PERCENT SHAREHOLDER UNDER THE CODE AND SUCH REGULATIONS. IF THE TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS ARE VIOLATED, THEN THE TRANSFER WILL BE VOID AB INITIO AND THE PURPORTED TRANSFEREE OF THE STOCK WILL BE REQUIRED TO TRANSFER EXCESS SECURITIES (AS DEFINED IN THE BYLAWS) TO THE CORPORATION'S AGENT. IN THE EVENT OF A TRANSFER WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE SECURITIES OF THE CORPORATION WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE GENERAL CORPORATION LAW OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND (“SECURITIES”) BUT WHICH WOULD VIOLATE THE TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, THE PURPORTED TRANSFEREE (OR THE RECORD OWNER) OF THE SECURITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO TRANSFER SUFFICIENT SECURITIES PURSUANT TO THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CORPORATION'S BYLAWS TO CAUSE THE FIVE PERCENT STOCKHOLDER TO NO LONGER BE IN VIOLATION OF THE TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS. THE CORPORATION WILL FURNISH WITHOUT CHARGE TO THE HOLDER OF RECORD OF THIS CERTIFICATE A COPY OF THE BYLAWS, CONTAINING THE ABOVE REFERENCED TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE CORPORATION AT ITS PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.”

The Board of Directors may also require that any certificates issued by the Corporation evidencing ownership of shares of Stock that are subject to conditions imposed by the Board of Directors under Section 3 of this Article XIII also bear a conspicuous legend referencing the applicable restrictions.

#### **Section 12 Authority of Board of Directors.**

(a) The Board of Directors shall have the power to determine all matters necessary for assessing compliance with this Article XIII, including, without limitation, (i) the identification of 4.9- percent Stockholders, (ii) whether a Transfer is a 4.9-percent Transaction or a Prohibited Transfer, (iii) the Percentage Stock Ownership in the Corporation of any 4.9-percent Stockholder, (iv) whether an instrument constitutes a Corporation Security, (v) the amount (or fair market value) due to a Purported Transferee pursuant to Section 6 of this Article XIII, and (vi) any other matters which the Board of Directors determines to be relevant; and the good faith determination of the Board of Directors on such matters shall be conclusive and binding for all the purposes of this Article XIII. In addition, the Board of Directors may, to the extent permitted by law, from time to time establish, modify, amend or rescind bylaws, regulations and procedures of the Corporation not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article XIII for purposes of determining whether any Transfer of Corporation Securities would jeopardize the Corporation's ability to preserve and use the Tax Benefits and for the orderly application, administration and implementation of this Article XIII.

(b) Nothing contained in this Article XIII shall limit the authority of the Board of Directors to take such other action to the extent permitted by law as it deems necessary or advisable to protect the Corporation and its stockholders in preserving the Tax Benefits. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in the event of a change in law making one or more of the following actions necessary or desirable, the Board of Directors may, by adopting a written resolution, (i) accelerate or extend the Expiration Date, (ii) modify the ownership interest percentage in the Corporation or the Persons or groups covered by this Article XIII, (iii) modify the definitions of any terms set forth in this Article XIII or (iv) modify the terms of this Article XIII as appropriate, in each case, in order to prevent an ownership change for purposes of Section 382 of the Code as a result of any changes in applicable Treasury Regulations or otherwise; provided, however, that the Board of Directors shall not cause there to be such acceleration, extension or modification unless it determines, by adopting a written resolution, that such action is reasonably necessary or advisable to preserve the Tax Benefits or that the continuation of these restrictions is no longer reasonably necessary for the preservation of the Tax Benefits. Stockholders of the Corporation shall be notified of such determination through a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission or such other method of notice as the Secretary of the Corporation shall deem appropriate.

(c) In the case of an ambiguity in the application of any of the provisions of this Article XIII, including any definition used herein, the Board of Directors shall have the power to determine the application of such provisions with respect to any situation based on its reasonable belief, understanding or knowledge of the circumstances. In the event this Article XIII requires an action by the Board of Directors but fails to provide specific guidance with respect to such

action, the Board of Directors shall have the power to determine the action to be taken so long as such action is not contrary to the provisions of this Article XIII. All such actions, calculations, interpretations and determinations which are done or made by the Board of Directors in good faith shall be conclusive and binding on the Corporation, the Agent, and all other parties for all other purposes of this Article XIII. The Board of Directors may delegate all or any portion of its duties and powers under this Article XIII to a committee of the Board of Directors as it deems necessary or advisable and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, may exercise the authority granted by this Article XIII through duly authorized officers or agents of the Corporation. Nothing in this Article XIII shall be construed to limit or restrict the Board of Directors in the exercise of its fiduciary duties under applicable law.

#### **Section 13 Reliance.**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Corporation and the members of the Board of Directors shall be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the information, opinions, reports or statements of the chief executive officer, the chief financial officer, the chief accounting officer or the corporate controller of the Corporation and the Corporation's legal counsel, independent auditors, transfer agent, investment bankers or other employees and agents in making the determinations and findings contemplated by this Article XIII. The members of the Board of Directors shall not be responsible for any good faith errors made in connection therewith. For purposes of determining the existence and identity of, and the amount of any Corporation Securities owned by any stockholder, the Corporation is entitled to rely on the existence and absence of filings of Schedule 13D or 13G under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (or similar filings), as of any date, subject to its actual knowledge of the ownership of Corporation Securities.

#### **Section 14 Benefits of this Article XIII.**

Nothing in this Article XIII shall be construed to give to any Person other than the Corporation or the Agent any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under this Article XIII. This Article XIII shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Corporation and the Agent.

#### **Section 15 Severability.**

The purpose of this Article XIII is to facilitate the Corporation's ability to maintain or preserve its Tax Benefits. If any provision of this Article XIII or the application of any such provision to any Person or under any circumstance shall be held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Article XIII.

#### **Section 16 Waiver.**

With regard to any power, remedy or right provided herein or otherwise available to the Corporation or the Agent under this Article XIII, (i) no waiver will be effective unless expressly

contained in a writing signed by the waiving party; and (ii) no alteration, modification or impairment will be implied by reason of any previous waiver, extension of time, delay or omission in exercise, or other indulgence.

As amended and restated August 24, 2026