

## **Chapter 59B.**

### **Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act.**

#### **§ 59B-1. Short title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act. (2006-226, s. 1.)

#### **§ 59B-2. Definitions.**

In this Chapter:

- (1) "Member" means a person who, under the rules or practices of a nonprofit association, may participate in the selection of persons authorized to manage the affairs of the nonprofit association or in the development of policy of the nonprofit association.
- (2) "Nonprofit association" means an unincorporated organization, other than one created by a trust and other than a limited liability company, consisting of two or more members joined by mutual consent for a common, nonprofit purpose. However, joint tenancy, tenancy in common, or tenancy by the entireties does not by itself establish a nonprofit association, even if the co-owners share use of the property for a nonprofit purpose.
- (3) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- (4) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. (2006-226, s. 1.)

#### **§ 59B-3. Supplementary general principles of law and equity.**

Principles of law and equity supplement this Chapter unless displaced by a particular provision of it. (2006-226, s. 1.)

#### **§ 59B-4. Title to property; choice of law.**

Real and personal property in this State may be acquired, held, encumbered, and transferred by a nonprofit association, whether or not the nonprofit association or a member has any other relationship to this State. (2006-226, s. 1.)

#### **§ 59B-5. Real and personal property; nonprofit association as devisee or beneficiary.**

(a) A nonprofit association is a legal entity separate from its members for the purposes of acquiring, holding, encumbering, and transferring real and personal property.

(b) A nonprofit association, in its name, may acquire, hold, encumber, or transfer an estate or interest in real or personal property.

(c) A nonprofit association may be a beneficiary of a trust or contract or a devisee.

(d) Any judgments and executions against a nonprofit association bind its real and personal property in like manner as if it were incorporated. (2006-226, s. 1; 2011-284, s. 59.)

#### **§ 59B-6. Statement of authority as to real property.**

(a) A nonprofit association may execute and record a statement of authority to transfer an estate or interest in real property in the name of the nonprofit association.

(b) An estate or interest in real property in the name of a nonprofit association may be transferred by a person so authorized in a statement of authority recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county in which a transfer of the property would be recorded.

(c) A statement of authority must be set forth in a document styled "affidavit" that contains all of the following:

- (1) The name of the nonprofit association.
- (2) Reserved for future codification purposes.
- (3) The street address, and the mailing address if different from the street address, of the nonprofit association, and the county in which it is located, or, if the nonprofit association does not have an address in this State, its address out-of-state.
- (4) That the association is an unincorporated nonprofit association.
- (5) The name or office of a person authorized to transfer an estate or interest in real property held in the name of the nonprofit association.
- (6) That the association has duly authorized the member or agent executing the statement to do so.

(d) A statement of authority must be sworn to and subscribed in the same manner as an affidavit by a member or agent who is not the person authorized to transfer the estate or interest.

(e) The register of deeds shall collect a fee for recording a statement of authority in the amount authorized by G.S. 161-10(a)(1). The register of deeds shall index the name of the nonprofit association and the member or agent signing the statement of authority or any subsequent document relating thereto as Grantor and the name of the appointee as Grantee.

(f) An amendment, including a termination, of a statement of authority must meet the requirements for execution and recording of an original statement. Unless terminated earlier, a recorded statement of authority or its most recent amendment expires by operation of law five years after the date of the most recent recording.

(g) If the record title to real property is in the name of a nonprofit association and the statement of authority is recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county in which a transfer of real property would be recorded, the authority of the person or officer named in a statement of authority is conclusive in favor of a person who gives value without notice that the person or officer lacks authority. (2006-226, s. 1.)

#### **§ 59B-7. Liability of members or other persons.**

(a) A nonprofit association is a legal entity separate from its members for the purposes of determining and enforcing rights, duties, and liabilities.

(b) A person is not liable for the contract, tort, or other obligations of a nonprofit association merely because the person is a member, is authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the nonprofit association, or is referred to as a "member" by the nonprofit association.

(c) Reserved for future codification purposes.

(d) A tortious act or omission of a member or other person for which a nonprofit association is liable is not imputed to a person merely because the person is a member of the nonprofit association, is authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the nonprofit association, or is referred to as a "member" by the nonprofit association.

(e) A member of, or a person referred to as a "member" by, a nonprofit association may assert a claim against or on behalf of the nonprofit association. A nonprofit association may assert a claim against a member or a person referred to as a "member" by the nonprofit association. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-8. Capacity to assert and defend; standing.**

(a) A nonprofit association, in its name, may institute, defend, intervene, or participate in a judicial, administrative, or other governmental proceeding or in an arbitration, mediation, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution.

(b) A nonprofit association may assert a claim in its name on behalf of its members or persons referred to as "members" by the nonprofit association if one or more of them have standing to assert a claim in their own right, the interests the nonprofit association seeks to protect are germane to its purposes, and neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of a member or a person referred to as a "member" by the nonprofit association. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-9. Effect of judgment or order.**

A judgment or order against a nonprofit association is not by itself a judgment or order against a member, a person referred to as a "member" by the nonprofit association, or a person authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the nonprofit association. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-10. Disposition of personal property of inactive nonprofit association.**

If a nonprofit association has been inactive for three years or longer, or a different period specified in a document of the nonprofit association, a person in possession or control of personal property of the nonprofit association may transfer custody of the property:

- (1) If a document of the nonprofit association or document of gift specifies a person to whom transfer is to be made under these circumstances, to that person; or
- (2) If no person is so specified, to a nonprofit association, nonprofit corporation, or other nonprofit entity pursuing broadly similar purposes, or to a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-11. Appointment of agent to receive service of process.**

(a) A nonprofit association may file in the office of the Secretary of State a statement appointing an agent authorized to receive service of process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served on a nonprofit association.

(b) A statement appointing an agent must set forth all of the following:

- (1) The name of the nonprofit association.
- (2) Reserved for future codification purposes.
- (3) The street address, and the mailing address if different from the street address, of the nonprofit association, and the county in which it is located, or, if the nonprofit association does not have an address in this State, its address out-of-state.

(4) The name of the person in this State authorized to receive service of process and the person's address, including the street address, in this State.

(c) A statement appointing an agent must be signed and acknowledged by a person authorized to manage the affairs of a nonprofit association. The statement must also be signed and acknowledged by the person appointed agent, who thereby accepts the appointment. The appointed agent may resign by filing a resignation in the office of the Secretary of State and giving written notice to the nonprofit association at its last known address.

(d) The sole duty of the appointed agent to the nonprofit association is to forward to the nonprofit association at its last known address any notice, process, or demand that is served on the appointed agent.

(e) The Secretary of State is not an agent for service of any process, notice, or demand on any nonprofit association.

(f) The Secretary of State shall collect the following fees when the documents described in this subsection are delivered to the Secretary of State for filing:

	Document	Fee
(1)	Statement appointing an agent to receive service of process	\$5.00
(2)	Amendment of statement appointing an agent	5.00
(3)	Cancellation of statement appointing an agent	5.00
(4)	Agent's statement of resignation	No fee

(g) An amendment to or cancellation of a statement appointing an agent to receive service of process must meet the requirements for execution of an original statement. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-12. Claim not abated by change.**

A claim for relief against a nonprofit association does not abate merely because of a change in its members or persons authorized to manage the affairs of the nonprofit association. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-13. Venue.**

For purposes of venue, a nonprofit association is a resident of a county in which it has an office or maintains a place of operation or, if on due inquiry no office or place of operation can be found, in which any officer resides. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-14. Uniformity of application and construction.**

This Chapter shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this Chapter among states enacting it. (2006-226, s. 1.)

**§ 59B-15. Effect as to conveyances by trustees; prior deeds validated.**

(a) Nothing in this Chapter changes the law with reference to the holding and conveyance of land by the trustees of churches under Chapter 61 of the General Statutes where the land is conveyed to and held by the trustees.

(b) All deeds executed before January 1, 2007, in conformity with former G.S. 39-24 and former G.S. 39-25 are declared to be sufficient to pass title to real estate. (1939, c. 133, ss. 3, 4; 2006-226, s. 2(b).)