

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Judiciary Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 59-08 and chapters 59-09,
2 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, 59-19, and 59-20 of the North
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to adoption of the uniform trust code and charitable trusts; to
4 amend and reenact section 3-02-05, subsection 24 of section 10-33-21, section 10-33-105,
5 subsection 7 of section 23-20.3-03.1, sections 23-21.1-03, 30.1-18-03, 30.1-20-13, 30.1-29-17,
6 30.1-32-03, 30.1-34-02, 38-10-12, and 38-13-01, and subsection 2 of section 59-08-01 of the
7 North Dakota Century Code, relating to trusts; to repeal chapters 30.1-32, 30.1-33, 30.1-34,
8 59-01, 59-02, 59-03, 59-04, and 59-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to trusts; and
9 to provide for retroactive application.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 3-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **3-02-05. General authority limited.** An authority expressed in general terms, however
14 broad, does not authorize an agent:

- 15 1. ~~To~~ to act in ~~his~~ the agent's own name unless ~~it~~ doing so is the usual course of
16 business to ~~do so~~;
- 17 2. ~~To~~ define the scope of ~~his~~ the agent's agency; or
- 18 3. ~~To~~ to do any act ~~which~~ that a trustee is forbidden to do ~~by the provisions of~~
19 sections 59-01-09 to 59-01-19, inclusive under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11,
20 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 24 of section 10-33-21 of the North Dakota
22 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 23 24. Except when the trust instrument prescribes otherwise, a corporation may invest
24 trust property or its proceeds in accordance with ~~sections 59-02-08.1 through~~

1 ~~59-02-08-11~~ chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16,
2 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-33-105 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **10-33-105. Distribution of assets.**

- 6 1. In performing the duties under section 10-33-100, the board, or the officers acting
7 under the direction of the board, shall distribute the assets of the corporation in the
8 following order of priority:
- 9 a. Distribution of assets received and held for a special use or purpose under
10 subsection 2;
 - 11 b. Payment of costs and expenses of the dissolution proceedings, including
12 attorney's fees and disbursements;
 - 13 c. Payment of debts, obligations, and liabilities of the corporation;
 - 14 d. Distribution of assets pursuant to articles or bylaws of the dissolving
15 corporation or the rules or canons of another organization under subsection 3;
16 and
 - 17 e. Distribution of remaining assets under subsection 4.
- 18 2. Assets of the corporation may not be diverted from the uses and purposes for
19 which the assets have been received and held or from the uses and purposes
20 expressed or intended by the original donor.
- 21 3. When the articles or bylaws of the dissolving corporation, or the rules or canons of
22 another organization by which the dissolving corporation is bound, provide for a
23 particular distribution of the assets of the dissolving corporation, the assets must
24 be distributed accordingly.
- 25 4. The distribution of assets held for or devoted to a charitable or public use or
26 purpose is subject to section ~~59-02-22~~ 59-20-01.

27 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 23-20.3-03.1 of the North Dakota
28 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 29 7. Before agreeing to any institutional controls or responsibility exemptions, the
30 department may require insurance coverage or other financial assurance for any
31 additional environmental monitoring or remediation that may become necessary on

1 the property after the site-specific responsibility exemptions and institutional
2 controls are established, and must require such insurance coverage or other
3 financial assurance when the projected cost of an active monitoring or remediation
4 program exceeds five hundred thousand dollars. The department may enter a joint
5 agreement with affected political subdivisions, state or federal agencies, property
6 owners, lenders, the administrator of the petroleum tank release compensation
7 fund, or any responsible or potentially responsible party concerning payment for or
8 funding of any insurance coverage or other financial assurance for any additional
9 environmental monitoring or remediation that may become necessary on
10 contaminated or affected properties. Such agreements do not waive the liability
11 limitations that apply by law to the state, to state agencies, or to political
12 subdivisions, except up to the amounts, and subject to the terms, conditions, and
13 limitations, of any insurance policy or any financial assurance fund created by the
14 joint agreement of the parties under this subsection. Any financial assurance fund
15 must comply with chapters ~~59-01, 59-02, 59-03, and 59-04~~, 59-09, 59-10, 59-11,
16 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 and be managed for
17 the benefit of the affected persons or community, but liability of the fund may not
18 exceed the amount deposited with the fund.

19 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-21.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **23-21.1-03. Creation of perpetual care fund.**

22 1. Any organization subject to this chapter which is organized or commences
23 business in this state and desires to operate as a perpetual care cemetery, before
24 selling or disposing of any interment space or lots, shall establish a minimum
25 perpetual care and maintenance guarantee fund of twenty-five thousand dollars in
26 cash, except that the minimum perpetual care and maintenance guarantee fund for
27 organizations in operation on July 1, 1963, must be five thousand dollars. The
28 perpetual care and maintenance guarantee fund must be permanently set aside in
29 trust to be administered under the jurisdiction of the district court of the county
30 wherein the cemetery is located. The district court shall have jurisdiction over the
31 approval of trustees, reports and accounting of trustees, amount of surety bond

1 required, and investment of funds as provided by ~~chapter 59-04~~ chapters 59-09,
2 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 relating
3 to the administration of trust estates. Only the income from such fund may be
4 used for the care and maintenance of the cemetery for which it was established.
5 All such organizations shall submit at least annually, to the district court, such
6 reports as are required. The clerks of each of the district courts shall transmit
7 copies of all reports, and rules and regulations enacted by the organization, to the
8 state department of health and the commissioner of financial institutions.

9 2. To continue to operate as a perpetual care cemetery, any such organization shall
10 set aside and deposit in the perpetual care fund not less than the following
11 amounts for lots of interment space thereafter sold or disposed of:

12 ~~1.~~ a. A minimum of twenty percent of the gross selling price with a minimum of
13 twenty dollars for each adult space, whichever is the greater.

14 ~~2.~~ b. A minimum of twenty percent of the gross selling price for each child's space
15 with a minimum of five dollars for each space up to forty-two inches [1006.8
16 millimeters] in length or ten dollars for each space up to sixty inches [1524
17 millimeters] in length, whichever is the greater.

18 ~~3.~~ c. A minimum of twenty percent of the gross selling price with a minimum of one
19 hundred dollars for each space or crypt in a mausoleum, whichever is the
20 greater, except a mausoleum located in a cemetery covered by a perpetual
21 care fund which consists of at least twenty percent of the proceeds received
22 by the cemetery from the sale of cemetery lots, in which event, the perpetual
23 care fund for the public or community mausoleum itself shall contain a
24 minimum of twenty percent of the cost of the construction of such public or
25 community mausoleum.

26 ~~4.~~ d. A minimum of twenty percent of the gross selling price with a minimum of ten
27 dollars for each inurnment niche in a columbarium, except a columbarium
28 located in a cemetery covered by a perpetual care fund which consists of at
29 least twenty percent of the proceeds received by the cemetery from the sale
30 of cemetery lots, in which event, the perpetual care fund for the public or

1 community columbarium itself shall contain a minimum of twenty percent of
2 the cost of the construction of such public or community columbarium.

3 ~~5.~~ e. A minimum of twenty percent of the gross selling price with a minimum of one
4 hundred dollars, whichever is the greater, for each interment space in crypt
5 gardens or any other structure or device by whatever name, established or
6 constructed wholly or partially above the natural surface of the ground, for the
7 interment of any dead human body.

8 3. There is no required perpetual care fund deposit on spaces provided without
9 charge for paupers and infants.

10 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-18-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **30.1-18-03. (3-703) General duties - Relation and liability to persons interested in**
13 **estate - Standing to sue.**

14 1. A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall observe the standards of care
15 applicable to trustees ~~as described by section 30.1-34-02.~~ A personal
16 representative is under a duty to settle and distribute the estate of the decedent in
17 accordance with the terms of any probated and effective will and this title, and as
18 expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with the best interests of the estate.
19 The personal representative shall use the authority conferred upon the personal
20 representative by this title, the terms of the will, if any, and any order in
21 proceedings to which the personal representative is party for the best interests of
22 successors to the estate.

23 2. A personal representative may not be surcharged for acts of administration or
24 distribution if the conduct in question was authorized at the time. Subject to other
25 obligations of administration, an informally probated will authorizes a personal
26 representative to administer and distribute the estate according to its terms. An
27 order of appointment of a personal representative, whether issued in informal or
28 formal proceedings, authorizes the personal representative to distribute apparently
29 intestate assets to the heirs of the decedent if, at the time of distribution, the
30 personal representative is not aware of a pending testacy proceeding, a
31 proceeding to vacate an order entered in an earlier testacy proceeding, a formal

1 proceeding questioning the personal representative's appointment or fitness to
2 continue, or a supervised administration proceeding. This section does not affect
3 the duty of the personal representative to administer and distribute the estate in
4 accordance with the rights of claimants whose claims have been allowed, the
5 surviving spouse, any minor and dependent children, and any pretermitted child of
6 the decedent as described in this title.

7 3. Except as to proceedings which do not survive the death of the decedent, a
8 personal representative of a decedent domiciled in this state at the decedent's
9 death has the same standing to sue and be sued in the courts of this state and the
10 courts of any other jurisdiction as the decedent had immediately prior to death.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-20-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **30.1-20-13. (3-913) Distributions to trustee.**

- 14 1. Before distributing to a trustee, the personal representative may require that the
15 trust be registered if the state in which it is to be administered provides for
16 registration and that the trustee inform the beneficiaries ~~as provided in section~~
17 ~~30.1-34-03.~~
- 18 2. If the trust instrument does not excuse the trustee from giving bond, the personal
19 representative may petition the appropriate court to require that the trustee post
20 bond if the personal representative apprehends that distribution might jeopardize
21 the interests of persons who are not able to protect themselves, and the personal
22 representative may withhold distribution until the court has acted.
- 23 3. No inference of negligence on the part of the personal representative shall be
24 drawn from the personal representative's failure to exercise the authority conferred
25 by subsections 1 and 2.

26 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-29-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **30.1-29-17. (5-417) General duty of conservator.** In the exercise of conservator's
29 powers, a conservator is to act as a fiduciary and shall observe the standards of care
30 applicable to trustees ~~as described by section 30.1-34-02.~~

1 deliver a valid oil, gas, coal, or other mineral lease covering said lands or estate or interest
2 therein. If a trust is in existence and there is a trustee serving under the trust, the trustee
3 appointed by the court under this section must be the same trustee or trustees as are serving
4 under the existing trust. All proceedings must substantially comply with that provided for the
5 administration of trusts in chapters ~~30.1-33, 30.1-34, and 59-04~~ 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12,
6 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19.

7 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 38-13-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **38-13-01. Appointment of trustee to execute mineral lease and other documents**
10 **if owner or claimant is absent - Administration of trust.** If any undivided mineral, leasehold,
11 or royalty interest in land is claimed or owned by a person whose place of residence and
12 whereabouts is unknown, and cannot reasonably be ascertained, the district court of the county
13 in which the said land or a portion thereof is situated has the power to declare a trust in the
14 interest of such owner or claimant and appoint a trustee therefor. Upon satisfactory proof made
15 by the petitioner that a diligent but unsuccessful effort to locate such owner or claimant has
16 been made and that it will be in the best interest of all owners of interests in said lands, the
17 court shall authorize such trustee to execute and deliver an oil, gas, or other mineral lease, an
18 assignment of leasehold interest, a ratification, division orders or other related documents or
19 instruments on such terms and conditions as the court may approve. All proceedings must
20 substantially comply with that provided for the administration of trusts in chapters ~~30.1-33,~~
21 ~~30.1-34, and 59-04~~ 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and
22 59-19.

23 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 59-08-01 is amended and
24 reenacted as follows:

25 2. "Self-settled special needs trust" means a trust created by an individual with a
26 disability after August 10, 1993, which qualifies under 42 U.S.C. ~~1396p(d)(4)(A)~~
27 1396p(d)(4).

28 **SECTION 14.** A new section to chapter 59-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
29 created and enacted as follows:

1 **Conflicts with other chapters.** If any provision of this chapter conflicts with chapter
2 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, or 59-19, the provision of
3 this chapter takes precedence.

4 **SECTION 15.** Chapter 59-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
5 as follows:

6 **59-09-01. (101) Short title.** Chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15,
7 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 may be cited as the North Dakota Uniform Trust Code.

8 **59-09-02. (102) Scope.**

- 9 1. Except as provided in subsection 2, chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13,
10 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 apply to express trusts, whether
11 charitable or noncharitable and testamentary or inter vivos, and to trusts created
12 pursuant to a statute or a judgment or decree that requires the trust to be
13 administered in the manner of an express trust.
- 14 2. Chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18,
15 and 59-19 do not apply to:
- 16 a. A trust that is part of an employee benefit arrangement or an individual
17 retirement account.
- 18 b. A trust account established under a qualified tuition savings program pursuant
19 to section 6-09-38.
- 20 c. Trust accounts maintained on behalf of clients or customers by licensed
21 service professionals, including trust accounts maintained by attorneys
22 pursuant to the North Dakota Rules of Professional Conduct and by real
23 estate brokers pursuant to chapter 43-23.
- 24 d. An endowment care fund established by a cemetery authority pursuant to
25 chapter 23-21.
- 26 e. Funds maintained by public bodies as defined by chapter 1-07 or other
27 governmental unit entities.
- 28 f. Trust funds held for a single business transaction or an escrow arrangement.
- 29 g. Trusts created by a depository agreement with a financial institution.
- 30 h. An account maintained under the North Dakota Uniform Transfers to Minors
31 Act as contained in chapter 47-24.1.

- 1 i. A fund maintained pursuant to court order in conjunction with a bankruptcy
2 proceeding or a business liquidation.
- 3 j. A voting trust described in chapter 10-19.1.
- 4 k. Funds maintained to manage proceeds from class actions.
- 5 l. A trust created solely to secure the performance of an obligation.
- 6 m. A trust created on behalf of a resident of a residential facility.
- 7 n. A trust managed by a nonprofit association for disabled individuals under 42
8 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4), as in effect on the effective date of chapters 59-09,
9 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 and
10 under the rules adopted by the department of human services.
- 11 o. A resulting or constructive trust.

12 **59-09-03. (103) Definitions.** Any term not specifically defined in this section has the
13 meaning provided in title 30.1. Unless the context otherwise requires, in chapters 59-09, 59-10,
14 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19:

- 15 1. "Action", with respect to an act of a trustee, includes a failure to act.
- 16 2. "Ascertainable standard" means a standard relating to an individual's health,
17 education, support, or maintenance within the meaning of section 2041(b)(1)(A) or
18 2514(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 19 3. "Beneficiary" means a person that:
- 20 a. Has a present or future beneficial interest in a trust, vested or contingent;
21 including the owner of an interest by assignment or transfer; or
- 22 b. In a capacity other than that of a trustee, holds a power of appointment over
23 trust property.
- 24 4. "Charitable trust" means a trust, or portion of a trust, created for a charitable
25 purpose described in subsection 1 of section 59-12-05.
- 26 5. "Conservator" is as defined in section 30.1-01-06.
- 27 6. "Distributee" means any person who receives property of a trust from a trustee,
28 other than as a creditor or purchaser.
- 29 7. "Environmental law" means a federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or
30 ordinance relating to protection of the environment.
- 31 8. "Guardian" is as defined in section 30.1-01-06.

- 1 9. "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or
2 corresponding future provisions of federal tax law.
- 3 10. "Interests of the beneficiaries" means the beneficial interests provided in the terms
4 of the trust.
- 5 11. "Jurisdiction", with respect to a geographic area, includes a state or country.
- 6 12. "Permissible distributee" means a beneficiary who is currently eligible to receive
7 distributions of trust income or principal, whether the distribution is mandatory or
8 discretionary.
- 9 13. "Power of withdrawal" means a presently excisable general power of appointment
10 other than a power:
- 11 a. Exercisable by a trustee and limited by an ascertainable standard; or
12 b. Exercisable by another person only upon consent of the trustee or a person
13 holding an adverse interest.
- 14 14. "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real or
15 personal, legal or equitable, or any interest therein.
- 16 15. "Qualified beneficiary":
- 17 a. Means a beneficiary who, on the date the beneficiary's qualification is
18 determined:
- 19 (1) Is a permissible distributee of trust income or principal;
20 (2) Would be a permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the
21 interests of the distributees described in paragraph 1 terminated on that
22 date without causing the trust to terminate; or
23 (3) Would be a permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the
24 trust terminated on that date.
- 25 b. Does not include a contingent distributee or a contingent permissible
26 distributee of trust income or principal whose interest in the trust is not
27 reasonably expected to vest.
- 28 16. "Record" means information that is enshrined on a tangible medium or which is
29 stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- 30 17. "Revocable", as applied to a trust, means revocable by the settlor without the
31 consent of the trustee or a person holding an adverse interest.

- 1 18. "Settlor" means a person, including a testator, that creates, or contributes property
2 to a trust and if more than one person creates or contributes property to a trust,
3 each person is a settlor of the portion of the trust property attributable to that
4 person's contribution except to the extent another person has the power to revoke
5 or withdraw that portion.
- 6 19. "Signed" means:
- 7 a. That the signature of a person, which may be a facsimile affixed, engraved,
8 printed, placed, stamped with indelible ink, transmitted by a facsimile
9 telecommunication or electronically, or in any other manner reproduced on
10 the record, is place on a record or instrument with the present intention to
11 authenticate the record or instrument.
- 12 b. With respect to a record or instrument required by this chapter to be filed with
13 the clerk of court, that:
- 14 (1) The record or instrument has been signed by a person authorized to do
15 so by this chapter or by the trust instrument; and
- 16 (2) The signature and the record or instrument are communicated by a
17 method or medium acceptable to the clerk of court.
- 18 20. "Special needs trust" means special needs trust as defined in section 59-08-01.
- 19 21. "Spendthrift provision" means a term of a trust which restrains either the voluntary
20 or involuntary or both the voluntary and involuntary transfer of a beneficiary's
21 interest and does not include or prevent a disclaimer of an interest of a beneficiary.
- 22 22. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
23 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to
24 the jurisdiction of the United States.
- 25 23. "Terms of a trust" means the manifestation of the settlor's intent regarding a trust's
26 provisions as expressed in the trust instrument or as may be established by other
27 evidence that would be admissible in a judicial proceeding.
- 28 24. "Trust instrument" means a record signed by the settlor that contains terms of the
29 trust, including any amendments to the record and any modifications permitted by
30 court order or by binding nonjudicial settlement agreement.

1 25. "Trustee" includes an original, additional, and successor trustee, and a cotrustee,
2 whether or not appointed or confirmed by a court.

3 **59-09-04. (104) Knowledge.**

4 1. Subject to subsection 2, a person has knowledge of a fact if the person has actual
5 knowledge of a fact; has received a notice or notification of a fact; or from all the
6 facts and circumstances known to the person at the time in question, has reason to
7 know a fact.

8 2. An organization that conducts activities through employees has notice or
9 knowledge of a fact involving a trust only from the time the information was
10 received by an employee having responsibility to act for the trust, or would have
11 been brought to the employee's attention if the organization had exercised
12 reasonable diligence. An organization exercises reasonable diligence if the
13 organization maintains reasonable routines for communicating significant
14 information to the employee having responsibility to act for the trust and there is
15 reasonable compliance with the routines. Reasonable diligence does not require
16 an employee of the organization to communicate information unless the
17 communication is part of the individual's regular duties or the individual knows a
18 matter involving the trust would be materially affected by the information.

19 **59-09-05. (105) Default and mandatory rules.**

20 1. Except as otherwise provided in the terms of the trust, this title governs the duties
21 and powers of a trustee, relations among trustees, and the rights and interests of a
22 beneficiary.

23 2. The terms of a trust prevail over any provision of this title except:

24 a. The requirements for creating a trust;

25 b. The duty of a trustee to act in good faith and in accordance with the purposes
26 of the trust;

27 c. The requirement that a trust and its terms be for the benefit of its
28 beneficiaries, and that the trust have a purpose that is lawful and possible to
29 achieve;

30 d. The power of the court to modify or terminate a trust under sections 59-12-10,
31 59-12-11, 59-12-12, 59-12-13, 59-12-14, 59-12-15, and 59-12-16;

- 1 e. The effect of a spendthrift provision and the rights of certain creditors and
2 assignees to reach a trust as provided in chapter 59-13;
3 f. The power of the court under section 59-15-02 to require, dispense with, or
4 modify or terminate a bond;
5 g. The power of the court under subsection 2 of section 59-15-08 to adjust a
6 trustee's compensation specified in the terms of the trust which is
7 unreasonably low or high;
8 h. The effect of an exculpatory term under section 59-18-08;
9 i. The rights under sections 59-18-10, 59-18-11, 59-18-12, and 59-18-13 of a
10 person other than a trustee or beneficiary;
11 j. Periods of limitation for commencing a judicial proceeding;
12 k. The power of the court to take such action and exercise such jurisdiction as
13 may be necessary in the interests of justice; and
14 l. The subject matter jurisdiction of the court and venue for commencing a
15 proceeding as provided in section 59-10-04.

16 **59-09-06. (106) Common law of trusts - Principles of equity.** The common law of
17 trusts and principles of equity supplement chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14,
18 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19, except to the extent modified by chapters 59-09, 59-10,
19 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 or another statute of this
20 state.

21 **59-09-07. (107) Governing law.** The meaning and effect of the terms of a trust are
22 determined by the law of the jurisdiction designated in the terms or, in the absence of a
23 controlling designation in the terms of the trust, the law of the jurisdiction having the most
24 significant relationship to the matter at issue.

25 **59-09-08. (108) Principal place of administration.**

26 1. Without precluding other means for establishing a sufficient connection with the
27 designated jurisdiction, terms of a trust designating the principal place of
28 administration are valid and controlling if a trustee's principal place of business is
29 located in or a trustee is a resident of the designated jurisdiction, or all or part of
30 the administration occurs in the designated jurisdiction.

- 1 2. A trustee is under a continuing duty to administer the trust at a place appropriate to
2 its purposes, its administration, and the interests of the beneficiaries.
- 3 3. Without precluding the right of the court to order, approve, or disapprove a
4 transfer, the trustee, in furtherance of the duty prescribed by subsection 2, may
5 transfer the trust's principal place of administration to another state or to a
6 jurisdiction outside of the United States.
- 7 4. The trustee shall notify the qualified beneficiaries of a proposed transfer of a trust's
8 principal place of administration or a proposed transfer of some or all of the trust
9 property to a successor trustee not less than sixty days before initiating the
10 transfer. The notice of proposed transfer must include the name of the jurisdiction
11 to which the principal place of administration is to be transferred; the address and
12 telephone number at the new location at which the trustee can be contacted; an
13 explanation of the reasons for the proposed transfer; the date on which the
14 proposed transfer is anticipated to occur; and the date, not less than sixty days
15 after the giving of the notice, by which the qualified beneficiary must notify the
16 trustee of an objection to the proposed transfer.
- 17 5. The authority of a trustee under this section to transfer a trust's principal place of
18 administration or a proposed transfer of some or all of the trust property to a
19 successor trustee terminates if a majority of the qualified beneficiaries notify the
20 trustee of an objection to the proposed transfer on or before the date specified in
21 the notice.
- 22 6. In connection with a transfer of the trust's principal place of administration, the
23 trustee may transfer some or all of the trust property to a successor trustee
24 designated in the terms of the trust or appointed pursuant to section 59-15-04.

25 **59-09-09. (109) Methods and waiver of notice.**

- 26 1. Notice to a person under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14,
27 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 or the sending of a document to a person
28 under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17,
29 59-18, and 59-19 must be accomplished in a manner reasonably suitable under
30 the circumstances and likely to result in receipt of the notice or document.
- 31 Permissible methods of notice or for sending a document include first-class mail,

- 1 personal delivery, delivery to the person's last-known place of residence or place
2 of business, or a properly directed electronic message.
- 3 2. Notice otherwise required under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13,
4 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 or a document otherwise required to
5 be sent under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16,
6 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 does not need to be provided to a person whose identity
7 or location is unknown to and not reasonably ascertainable by the trustee.
- 8 3. Notice under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16,
9 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 or the sending of a document under chapters 59-09,
10 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 may be
11 waived by the person to be notified or sent the document.
- 12 4. Notice of a judicial proceeding must be given as provided in the applicable North
13 Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure or as provided under section 30.1-03-01.

14 **59-09-10. (110) Others treated as qualified beneficiaries.**

- 15 1. A charitable organization expressly designated to receive distributions under the
16 terms of a charitable trust has the rights of a qualified beneficiary under chapters
17 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 if
18 the charitable organization, on the date the charitable organization's qualification is
19 being determined:
- 20 a. Is a permissible distributee of trust income or principal;
21 b. Would be a permissible distributee of trust income or principal upon the
22 termination of the interests of other distributees or permissible distributees
23 then receiving or eligible to receive distributions; or
24 c. Would be a permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the trust
25 terminated on that date.
- 26 2. A person appointed to enforce a trust created for the care of an animal or another
27 noncharitable purpose as provided in section 59-12-08 or 59-12-09 has the rights
28 of a qualified beneficiary under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14,
29 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19.
- 30 3. The attorney general of this state has the rights of a qualified beneficiary with
31 respect to a charitable trust having its principal place of administration in this state.

1 **59-09-11. (111) Nonjudicial settlement agreements.**

- 2 1. For purposes of this section, "interested persons" means a trustee and persons
3 whose consent would be required in order to achieve a binding settlement were
4 the settlement to be approved by the court.
- 5 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, interested persons may enter into a
6 binding nonjudicial settlement agreement with respect to any matter involving a
7 trust.
- 8 3. A nonjudicial settlement agreement is valid only to the extent it does not violate a
9 material purpose of the trust and includes terms and conditions that could be
10 properly approved by the court under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13,
11 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 or other applicable law. A
12 spendthrift provision in the terms of a trust is presumed to constitute a material
13 purpose of the trust.
- 14 4. Matters that may be resolved by a nonjudicial settlement agreement include the
15 interpretation or construction of the terms of the trust, the approval of a trustee's
16 report or accounting, direction to a trustee to refrain from performing a particular
17 act or the grant to a trustee of any necessary or desirable power, the resignation or
18 appointment of a trustee and the determination of a trustee's compensation,
19 transfer of a trust's principal place of administration, liability of a trustee for an
20 action relating to the trust, the extent or waiver of bond of a trustee, and the criteria
21 for distribution to a beneficiary where the trustee is given discretion.
- 22 5. Any interested person may request the court to approve a nonjudicial settlement
23 agreement to determine whether the representation as provided in chapter 59-11
24 was adequate and to determine whether the agreement contains terms and
25 conditions the court could have properly approved.

26 **59-09-12. (112) Rules of construction.** The rules of construction that apply to the
27 interpretation of and disposition of property by will or other governing instrument provided for
28 under chapter 30.1-09.1 also apply as appropriate to the interpretation of the terms of a trust
29 and the disposition of the trust property.

30 **SECTION 16.** Chapter 59-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
31 as follows:

1 **59-10-01. (201) Role of court in administration of trust.**

- 2 1. The court may intervene in the administration of a trust to the extent its jurisdiction
3 is invoked by an interested person or as provided by law.
4 2. A trust is not subject to continuing judicial supervision unless ordered by the court.
5 3. A judicial proceeding involving a trust may relate to any matter involving the trust's
6 administration, including a request for instructions and an action to declare rights.

7 **59-10-02. (202) Jurisdiction over trustee and beneficiary.**

- 8 1. By accepting the trusteeship of a trust having its principal place of administration in
9 this state or by moving the principal place of administration to this state, the trustee
10 submits personally to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state regarding any
11 matter involving the trust.
12 2. With respect to their interests in the trust, the beneficiaries of a trust having its
13 principal place of administration in this state are subject to the jurisdiction of the
14 courts of this state regarding any matter involving the trust. By accepting a
15 distribution from the trust, the recipient submits personally to the jurisdiction of the
16 courts of this state regarding any matter involving the trust.
17 3. This section does not preclude other methods of obtaining jurisdiction over a
18 trustee, beneficiary, or other person receiving property from the trust.

19 **59-10-03. Reserved.**

20 **59-10-04. (204) Venue.**

- 21 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, venue for a judicial proceeding
22 involving a trust is in the county of this state in which the trust's principal place of
23 administration is or will be located and, if the trust is created by will and the estate
24 is not yet closed, in the county in which the decedent's estate is being
25 administered.
26 2. If a trust has no trustee, venue for a judicial proceeding for the appointment of a
27 trustee is in a county of this state in which a beneficiary resides, in a county in
28 which any trust property is located, and if the trust is created by will, in the county
29 in which the decedent's estate was or is being administered.

30 **SECTION 17.** Chapter 59-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
31 as follows:

1 **59-11-01. (301) Representation - Basic effect.**

- 2 1. Notice to a person who may represent and bind another person under this chapter
3 has the same effect as if notice were given directly to the other person. Notice of a
4 hearing on any petition for a judicial hearing must be given as provided in the
5 North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 6 2. The consent of a person who may represent and bind another person under this
7 chapter is binding on the person represented unless the person represented
8 objects to the representation to the trustee or representative before the consent
9 would otherwise have become effective.
- 10 3. Except as otherwise provided in sections 59-12-11 and 59-14-02, a person who
11 under this chapter may represent a settlor who lacks capacity may receive notice
12 and give a binding consent on the settlor's behalf.
- 13 4. A settlor may not represent and bind a beneficiary under this chapter with respect
14 to the termination or modification of a trust under subsection 1 of section 59-12-11.

15 **59-11-02. (302) Representation by holder of general power of appointment.** The
16 holder of a presently exercisable general power of appointment and the persons represented
17 with respect to the particular question or dispute may represent and bind persons whose
18 interests, as permissible appointees, takers in default, or otherwise, are subject to the power.
19 The term "presently exercisable general power of appointment" includes a testamentary
20 general power of appointment having no conditions precedent to its exercise other than the
21 death of the holder, the validity of the holder's last will and testament, and the inclusion of a
22 provision in the will sufficient to exercise this power.

23 **59-11-03. (303) Representation by fiduciaries and parents.** To the extent there is
24 no conflict of interest between the representative and the person represented or among those
25 being represented with respect to a particular question or dispute:

- 26 1. A conservator may represent and bind the estate that the conservator controls to
27 the extent of the powers and authority conferred upon conservators generally or by
28 court order.
- 29 2. A guardian may represent and bind the ward if a conservator of the ward's estate
30 has not been appointed to the extent of the powers and authority conferred upon
31 guardians generally or by court order.

- 1 3. An agent under a power of attorney or having other written authority to act with
2 respect to the particular question or dispute may represent and bind the principal.
- 3 4. A trustee may represent and bind the beneficiaries of the trust.
- 4 5. A personal representative of a decedent's estate may represent and bind persons
5 interested in the estate.
- 6 6. A parent may represent and bind the parent's minor or unborn child if a
7 conservator or guardian for the child has not been appointed. If a disagreement
8 arises between parents seeking to represent the same minor child:
- 9 a. The parent who is a beneficiary of the trust that is the subject of the
10 representation is entitled to represent the minor child;
- 11 b. If both parents are beneficiaries of the trust that is the subject of the
12 representation, the parent who is a lineal descendant of the settlor is entitled
13 to represent the minor child;
- 14 c. If neither parent is a beneficiary of the trust that is the subject of the
15 representation, the parent who is a lineal descendant of the settlor is entitled
16 to represent the minor child; and
- 17 d. If neither parent is a beneficiary or a lineal descendant of the settlor of the
18 trust that is the subject of the representation, a guardian ad litem must be
19 appointed to represent the minor child.
- 20 7. A person may represent and bind that person's unborn issue.

21 **59-11-04. (304) Representation by person having substantially identical interest.**

22 Unless otherwise represented, a minor, incapacitated or unborn individual, or a person whose
23 identity or location is unknown and not reasonably ascertainable, may be represented by and
24 bound by another having a substantially identical interest with respect to the particular question
25 or dispute, but only to the extent there is no conflict of interest between the representative and
26 the person represented with respect to the particular question or dispute.

27 **59-11-05. (305) Appointment of representative.**

28 1. If the court determines that an interest is not represented under this chapter, or
29 that the otherwise available representation might be inadequate, the court may
30 appoint a representative to receive notice, give consent, and otherwise represent,
31 bind, and act on behalf of a minor, incapacitated or unborn individual, or a person

- 1 whose identity or location is unknown and not reasonably ascertainable. A
2 representative may be appointed to represent several persons or interests.
3 2. A representative may act on behalf of the individual represented with respect to
4 any matter arising under chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15,
5 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19, whether or not a judicial proceeding concerning
6 the trust is pending.
7 3. In making decisions, a representative may consider general benefit accruing to the
8 living members of the individual's family.

9 **SECTION 18.** Chapter 59-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
10 as follows:

11 **59-12-01. (401) Methods of creating trust.** A trust may be created by transfer of
12 property to another person as trustee during the settlor's lifetime or by will or other disposition
13 taking effect upon the settlor's death, declaration by the owner of property that the owner holds
14 identifiable property as trustee, or exercise of a power of appointment in favor of a trustee.

15 **59-12-02. (402) Requirements for creation.**

- 16 1. A trust is created only if the settlor has capacity to create a trust, the settlor
17 indicates an intention to create the trust, the trust has a definite beneficiary or is a
18 charitable trust, a trust for the care of an animal, as provided in section 59-12-08,
19 or a trust for a noncharitable purpose, as provided in section 59-12-09; the trustee
20 has duties to perform; and the same person is not the sole trustee and sole
21 beneficiary.
22 2. A beneficiary is definite if the beneficiary can be ascertained now or in the future,
23 subject to any applicable rule against perpetuities.
24 3. A power in a trustee to select a beneficiary from an indefinite class is valid. If the
25 power is not exercised within a reasonable time, the power fails and the property
26 subject to the power passes to the persons who would have taken the property
27 had the power not been conferred.

28 **59-12-03. (403) Trusts created in other jurisdictions.** A trust not created by will is
29 validly created if its creation complies with the law of the jurisdiction in which the trust
30 instrument was executed, or the law of the jurisdiction in which at the time of creation the settlor

1 was domiciled, had a place of abode, or was a national; a trustee was domiciled or had a place
2 of business; or any trust property was located.

3 **59-12-04. (404) Trust purposes.** A trust may be created only to the extent its
4 purposes are lawful and possible to achieve. A trust and its terms must be for the benefit of its
5 beneficiaries.

6 **59-12-05. (405) Charitable purposes - Enforcement.**

- 7 1. A charitable trust may be created for the relief of poverty, the advancement of
8 education or religion, the promotion of health, governmental or municipal
9 purposes, or other purposes the achievement of which is beneficial to the
10 community.
- 11 2. If the terms of a charitable trust do not indicate a particular charitable purpose or
12 beneficiary, the court may select one or more charitable purposes or beneficiaries.
13 The selection must be consistent with the settlor's intention to the extent it can be
14 ascertained.
- 15 3. The settlor of a charitable trust or the attorney general, among others, may
16 maintain a proceeding to enforce the trust.
- 17 4. Chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18,
18 and 59-19 do not impair the rights and powers of the attorney general with respect
19 to any trust.
- 20 5. In all cases of charitable trusts, the attorney general and the state's attorney of the
21 county in which the trust is located are interested persons with respect to the trust
22 estate.

23 **59-12-06. (406) Creation of trust induced by fraud, duress, or undue influence.** A
24 trust is void or subject to reformation by the court to the extent its creation was induced by
25 fraud, duress, or undue influence.

26 **59-12-07. (407) Evidence of oral trust.** Except as required by section 47-11-02 or a
27 statute other than chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17,
28 59-18, and 59-19, a trust need not be evidenced by a trust instrument, but the creation of an
29 oral trust and its terms, or an amendment or revocation of an oral trust, may be established
30 only by clear and convincing evidence.

31 **59-12-08. (408) Trust for care of animal.**

- 1 1. A trust may be created to provide for the care of an animal alive during the settlor's
2 lifetime. The trust terminates upon the death of the animal or, if the trust was
3 created to provide for the care of more than one animal alive during the settlor's
4 lifetime, upon the death of the last surviving animal.
- 5 2. A trust authorized by this section may be enforced by a person appointed in the
6 terms of the trust or, if no person is so appointed, by a person appointed by the
7 court. A person having an interest in the welfare of the animal may request the
8 court to appoint a person to enforce the trust or to remove a person appointed.
- 9 3. Property of a trust authorized by this section may be applied only to its intended
10 use, except to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property
11 exceeds the amount required for the intended use. Except as otherwise provided
12 in the terms of the trust, property not required for the intended use must be
13 distributed to the settlor, if then living, otherwise to the settlor's successors in
14 interest.

15 **59-12-09. (409) Noncharitable trust without ascertainable beneficiary.** Except as
16 otherwise provided in section 59-12-08 or by another statute, the following rules apply:

- 17 1. A trust may be created for a noncharitable purpose without a definite or definitely
18 ascertainable beneficiary or for a noncharitable but otherwise valid purpose to be
19 selected by the trustee.
- 20 2. A trust authorized by this section may be enforced by a person appointed in the
21 terms of the trust or, if no person is so appointed, by a person appointed by the
22 court.
- 23 3. Property of a trust authorized by this section may be applied only to its intended
24 use, except to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property
25 exceeds the amount required for the intended use. Except as otherwise provided
26 in the terms of the trust, property not required for the intended use must be
27 distributed to the settlor, if then living, otherwise to the settlor's successors in
28 interest.

29 **59-12-10. (410) Modification or termination of trust - Proceedings for approval or**
30 **disapproval.**

1 1. In addition to the methods of termination prescribed by sections 59-12-11,
2 59-12-12, 59-12-13, and 59-12-14, a trust terminates to the extent the trust is
3 revoked or expires pursuant to its terms, no purpose of the trust remains to be
4 achieved, or the purposes of the trust have become unlawful or impossible to
5 achieve.

6 2. A proceeding to approve or disapprove a proposed modification or termination
7 under sections 59-12-11, 59-12-12, 59-12-13, 59-12-14, 59-12-15, and 59-12-16,
8 or trust combination or division under section 59-12-17, may be commenced by a
9 trustee or beneficiary. The settlor of a charitable trust may maintain a proceeding
10 to modify the trust under section 59-12-13.

11 **59-12-11. (411) Modification or termination of noncharitable irrevocable trust by**
12 **consent.**

13 1. A noncharitable irrevocable trust may be terminated upon consent of all of the
14 beneficiaries if the court concludes that continuance of the trust is not necessary to
15 achieve any material purpose of the trust. A noncharitable irrevocable trust may
16 be modified upon consent of all of the beneficiaries if the court concludes that
17 modification is not inconsistent with a material purpose of the trust.

18 2. Upon termination of a trust under subsection 1, the trustee shall distribute the trust
19 property as agreed by the beneficiaries.

20 3. If not all of the beneficiaries consent to a proposed modification or termination of
21 the trust under subsection 1, the modification or termination may be approved by
22 the court if the court is satisfied that if all of the beneficiaries had consented, the
23 trust could have been modified or terminated under this section and the interests of
24 a beneficiary who does not consent will be adequately protected.

25 **59-12-12. (412) Modification or termination because of unanticipated**
26 **circumstances or inability to administer trust effectively.**

27 1. Upon petition by the trustee, the attorney general, or an interested party other than
28 the settlor, the court may modify the administrative or dispositive terms of a trust or
29 terminate the trust if, because of circumstances not anticipated by the settlor,
30 modification or termination will further the purposes of the trust. To the extent

1 practicable, the modification must be made in accordance with the settlor's
2 probable intention.

3 2. The court may modify the administrative terms of a trust if continuation of the trust
4 on its existing terms would be impracticable or wasteful or impair the trust's
5 administration.

6 3. Upon termination of a trust under this section, the trustee shall distribute the trust
7 property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

8 **59-12-13. (413) Cy pres.**

9 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if a particular charitable purpose
10 becomes unlawful, impracticable, impossible to achieve, or wasteful, the trust does
11 not fail, in whole or in part; the trust property does not revert to the settlor or the
12 settlor's successors in interest; and the court may apply cy pres to modify or
13 terminate the trust by directing that the trust property be applied or distributed, in
14 whole or in part, in a manner consistent with the settlor's charitable purposes.

15 2. A provision in the terms of a charitable trust that would result in distribution of the
16 trust property to a noncharitable beneficiary prevails over the power of the court
17 under subsection 1 to apply cy pres to modify or terminate the trust.

18 **59-12-14. (414) Modification or termination of uneconomic trust.**

19 1. After notice to the qualified beneficiaries, the trustee of a trust consisting of trust
20 property having a total value less than one hundred thousand dollars may
21 terminate the trust if the trustee concludes that the value of the trust property is
22 insufficient to justify the cost of administration.

23 2. The court may modify or terminate a trust or remove the trustee and appoint a
24 different trustee if the court determines that the value of the trust property is
25 insufficient to justify the cost of administration.

26 3. Upon termination of a trust under this section, the trustee shall distribute the trust
27 property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

28 4. This section does not apply to an easement for conservation or preservation.

29 **59-12-15. (415) Reformation to correct mistakes.** The court may reform the terms of
30 a trust, even if unambiguous, to conform the terms to the settlor's intention if it is proved by

1 clear and convincing evidence that both the settlor's intent and the terms of the trust were
2 affected by a mistake of fact or law, whether in expression or inducement.

3 **59-12-16. (416) Modification to achieve settlor's tax objectives.** To achieve the
4 settlor's tax objectives, the court may modify the terms of a trust in a manner that is not contrary
5 to the settlor's probable intention. The court may provide that the modification has retroactive
6 effect.

7 **59-12-17. (417) Combination and division of trusts.** After notice to the qualified
8 beneficiaries, a trustee may combine two or more trusts into a single trust or divide a trust into
9 two or more separate trusts, if the result does not impair rights of any beneficiary or adversely
10 affect achievement of the purposes of the trust. The terms of each new trust created by a
11 division under this section do not have to be identical if the interest of each beneficiary is
12 substantially the same under the terms of the trust prior to its division and the combined terms
13 of all trusts after the division. Two or more trusts may be combined into a single trust if the
14 interests of each beneficiary in the trust resulting from the combination are substantially the
15 same as the combined interests of the beneficiary in the trusts prior to the combination. The
16 trustee shall determine the terms controlling any trust after its combination as authorized by this
17 section.

18 **59-12-18. Requisites of trust relating to real property.** A trust in relation to real
19 property is not valid unless the trust is created or declared:

- 20 1. By a written instrument, subscribed by the trustee or by the trustee's agent thereto
21 authorized in writing;
22 2. By the instrument under which the trustee claims the estate affected; or
23 3. By operation of law.

24 **SECTION 19.** Chapter 59-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
25 as follows:

26 **59-13-01. (501) Rights of beneficiary's creditor or assignee.** To the extent a
27 beneficiary's interest is not subject to a spendthrift provision, the court may authorize a creditor
28 or assignee of the beneficiary to reach the beneficiary's interest by attachment of present or
29 future distributions to or for the benefit of the beneficiary or other means. The court may limit
30 the award to such relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

31 **59-13-02. (502) Spendthrift provision.**

- 1 1. A spendthrift provision is valid if it restrains either the voluntary or involuntary
2 transfer or both the voluntary and involuntary transfer of a beneficiary's interest.
- 3 2. A term of a trust providing that the interest of a beneficiary is held subject to a
4 "spendthrift trust", or words of similar import, is sufficient to restrain both voluntary
5 and involuntary transfer of the beneficiary's interest.
- 6 3. A beneficiary may not transfer an interest in a trust in violation of a valid spendthrift
7 provision and, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a creditor or assignee
8 of the beneficiary may not reach the interest or a distribution by the trustee before
9 its receipt by the beneficiary.

10 **59-13-03. (503) Exceptions to spendthrift provision.**

- 11 1. In this section, "child" includes any person for whom an order or judgment for child
12 support has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 13 2. A spendthrift provision is unenforceable against:
 - 14 a. A beneficiary's child, spouse, or former spouse who has a judgment or court
15 order against the beneficiary for support or maintenance;
 - 16 b. A judgment creditor who has provided services for the protection of a
17 beneficiary's interest in the trust; and
 - 18 c. A claim of this state or the United States to the extent a statute of this state or
19 federal law so provides.
- 20 3. The exceptions contained in subsection 2 do not apply to a self-settled special
21 needs trust or a third-party special needs trust under chapter 59-08 nor to any trust
22 that meets the qualifications of 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d).
- 23 4. A claimant against which a spendthrift provision cannot be enforced may obtain
24 from a court an order attaching present or future distributions to or for the benefit of
25 the beneficiary. The court may limit the award to such relief as is appropriate
26 under the circumstances. If there is more than one permissible distributee, the
27 court may grant such relief as is equitable.

28 **59-13-04. (504) Discretionary trusts - Effect of standard.**

- 29 1. In this section, "child" includes any person for whom an order or judgment for child
30 support has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

- 1 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, whether or not a trust contains a
2 spendthrift provision, a creditor of a beneficiary may not compel a distribution that
3 is subject to the trustee's discretion, even if the discretion is expressed in the form
4 of a standard of distribution, or the trustee has abused the discretion.
- 5 3. To the extent a trustee has not complied with a standard of distribution or has
6 abused a discretion, a distribution may be ordered by the court to satisfy a
7 judgment or court order against the beneficiary for support or maintenance of the
8 beneficiary's child, spouse, or former spouse and the court shall direct the trustee
9 to pay the child, spouse, or former spouse such amount as is equitable under the
10 circumstances but not more than the amount the trustee would have been required
11 to distribute to or for the benefit of the beneficiary had the trustee complied with the
12 standard or not abused the discretion.
- 13 4. This section does not limit the right of a beneficiary to maintain a judicial
14 proceeding against a trustee for an abuse of discretion or failure to comply with a
15 standard for distribution.
- 16 5. If the trustee's or cotrustee's discretion to make distributions for the trustee's or
17 cotrustee's own benefit is limited by an ascertainable standard, a creditor may not
18 reach or compel distribution of the beneficial interest except to the extent the
19 interest would be subject to the creditor's claim if the beneficiary was not acting as
20 trustee or cotrustee.

21 **59-13-05. (505) Creditor's claim against settlor.**

- 22 1. The following rules apply whether or not the terms of a trust contain a spendthrift
23 provision. During the lifetime of the settlor, the property of a revocable trust is
24 subject to claims of the settlor's creditors to the extent that the property would be
25 subject to creditors' claims if the property had not been placed in the trust. With
26 respect to an irrevocable trust, other than a special needs trust, a creditor or
27 assignee of the settlor may reach the maximum amount that can be distributed to
28 or for the settlor's benefit. If a trust has more than one settlor, the amount the
29 creditor or assignee of a particular settlor may reach may not exceed the settlor's
30 interest in the portion of the trust attributable to that settlor's contribution. After the
31 death of a settlor, and subject to the settlor's right to direct the source from which

1 liabilities will be paid, the property of a trust that was revocable immediately before
2 the settlor's death is subject to claims of the settlor's creditors, costs of
3 administration of the settlor's estate, the expenses of the settlor's funeral and
4 disposal of remains, and statutory allowances to a surviving spouse and children to
5 the extent the settlor's probate estate is inadequate to satisfy those claims, costs,
6 expenses, and allowances. For purposes of this section, "statutory allowances"
7 includes any homestead exception under chapter 47-18 and the allowances
8 included in title 30.1.

9 2. For purposes of this section during the period the power may be exercised, the
10 holder of a power of withdrawal is treated in the same manner as the settlor of a
11 revocable trust to the extent of the property subject to the power and, upon the
12 lapse, release, or waiver of the power, the holder is treated as the settlor of the
13 trust only to the extent the value of the property affected by the lapse, release, or
14 waiver exceeds the greater of the amount specified in section 2041(b)(2) or
15 2514(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or section 2503(b) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding future provisions of federal tax law.

17 **59-13-06. (506) Overdue distribution.**

18 1. In this section, "mandatory distribution" means a distribution of income or principal
19 which the trustee is required to make to a beneficiary under the terms of the trust,
20 including a distribution upon termination of the trust. The term does not include a
21 distribution subject to the exercise of the trustee's discretion even if:

- 22 a. The discretion is expressed in the form of a standard of distribution; or
23 b. The terms of the trust authorizing a distribution couple language of discretion
24 with language of direction.

25 2. Whether or not a trust contains a spendthrift provision, a creditor or assignee of a
26 beneficiary may reach a mandatory distribution of income or principal, including a
27 distribution upon termination of the trust, if the trustee has not made the
28 distribution to the beneficiary within a reasonable time after the designated
29 distribution date.

30 **59-13-07. (507) Personal obligations of trustee.** Trust property is not subject to
31 personal obligations of the trustee, even if the trustee becomes insolvent or bankrupt.

1 **SECTION 20.** Chapter 59-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
2 as follows:

3 **59-14-01. (601) Capacity of settlor of revocable trust.** The capacity required to
4 create, amend, revoke, or add property to a revocable trust, or to direct the actions of the
5 trustee of a revocable trust, is the same as that required to make a will.

6 **59-14-02. (602) Revocation or amendment of revocable trust.**

- 7 1. Unless the terms of a trust expressly provide that the trust is irrevocable, the settlor
8 may revoke or amend the trust. This subsection does not apply to a trust created
9 under an instrument executed before the effective date of this section.
- 10 2. If a revocable trust is created or funded by more than one settlor to the extent the
11 trust consists of community property, the trust may be revoked by either spouse
12 acting alone but may be amended only by joint action of both spouses; to the
13 extent the trust consists of property other than community property, each settlor
14 may revoke or amend the trust with regard to the portion of the trust property
15 attributable to that settlor's contribution; and upon the revocation or amendment of
16 the trust by fewer than all of the settlors, the trustee shall promptly notify the other
17 settlers of the revocation or amendment.
- 18 3. The settlor may revoke or amend a revocable trust by substantial compliance with
19 a method provided in the terms of the trust or, if the terms of the trust do not
20 provide a method or the method provided in the terms is not expressly made
21 exclusive, by a later will or codicil that expressly refers to the trust or any other
22 method manifesting clear and convincing evidence of the settlor's intent.
- 23 4. Upon revocation of a revocable trust, the trustee shall deliver the trust property as
24 the settlor directs.
- 25 5. A settlor's powers with respect to revocation, amendment, or distribution of trust
26 property may be exercised by an agent under a power of attorney only to the
27 extent expressly authorized by the terms of the trust or the power, exercised in
28 writing and delivered to the trustee.
- 29 6. A conservator of the settlor or, if no conservator has been appointed, a guardian of
30 the settlor may exercise a settlor's powers with respect to revocation, amendment,

1 or distribution of trust property only with the approval of the court supervising the
2 conservatorship or guardianship.

3 7. A trustee who does not know that a trust has been revoked or amended is not
4 liable to the settlor or settlor's successors in interest for distributions made and
5 other actions taken on the assumption that the trust had not been amended or
6 revoked.

7 **59-14-03. (603) Settlor's powers - Powers of withdrawal.**

8 1. While a trust is revocable, rights of the beneficiaries are subject to the control of,
9 and the duties of the trustee are owed exclusively to, the settlor.

10 2. During the period the power may be exercised, the holder of a power of withdrawal
11 has the rights of a settlor of a revocable trust under this section to the extent of the
12 property subject to the power.

13 **59-14-04. (604) Limitation on action contesting validity of revocable trust -**

14 **Distribution of trust property.**

15 1. A person shall commence a judicial proceeding to contest the validity of a trust that
16 was revocable immediately before the settlor's death within the earlier of three
17 years after the settlor's death or one hundred twenty days after the trustee sent the
18 person a copy of the trust instrument and a notice informing the person of the
19 trust's existence, of the trustee's name and address, and of the time allowed for
20 commencing a proceeding.

21 2. Upon the death of the settlor of a trust that was revocable immediately before the
22 settlor's death, the trustee may proceed to distribute the trust property in
23 accordance with the terms of the trust. The trustee is not subject to liability for
24 doing so unless the trustee knows of a pending judicial proceeding contesting the
25 validity of the trust or a potential contestant has notified the trustee of a possible
26 judicial proceeding to contest the trust and a judicial proceeding is commenced
27 within sixty days after the contestant sent the notification.

28 3. A beneficiary of a trust that is determined to have been invalid is liable to return
29 any distribution received.

30 4. This section does not impose a duty upon the trustee to give notice under this
31 section unless the notice is expressly required in the trust agreement.

1 **SECTION 21.** Chapter 59-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
2 as follows:

3 **59-15-01. (701) Accepting or declining trusteeship.**

- 4 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a person designated as trustee
5 accepts the trusteeship by substantially complying with a method of acceptance
6 provided in the terms of the trust or, if the terms of the trust do not provide a
7 method or the method provided in the terms is not expressly made exclusive, by
8 accepting delivery of the trust property, exercising powers or performing duties as
9 trustee, or otherwise indicating acceptance of the trusteeship.
- 10 2. A person designated as trustee who has not yet accepted the trusteeship may
11 decline the trusteeship. A designated trustee who does not accept the trusteeship
12 within a reasonable time after knowing of the designation is deemed to have
13 declined the trusteeship.
- 14 3. A person designated as trustee, without accepting the trusteeship, may act to
15 preserve the trust property if, within a reasonable time after acting, the person
16 sends a declination of the trusteeship to the settlor or, if the settlor is dead or lacks
17 capacity, to a qualified beneficiary and inspect or investigate trust property to
18 determine potential liability under environmental or other law or for any other
19 purpose.

20 **59-15-02. (702) Trustee's bond.**

- 21 1. A trustee shall give bond to secure performance of the trustee's duties only if the
22 court finds that a bond is needed to protect the interests of the beneficiaries or is
23 required by the terms of the trust and the court has not dispensed with the
24 requirement.
- 25 2. The court may specify the amount of a bond, its liabilities, and whether sureties are
26 necessary. The court may modify or terminate a bond at any time.
- 27 3. A bank or trust company qualified to act as a trustee in this state need not give
28 bond, even if required by the terms of the trust.

29 **59-15-03. (703) Cotrustees.**

- 30 1. Cotrustees who are unable to reach a unanimous decision may act by majority
31 decision.

- 1 2. If a vacancy occurs in a cotrusteeship, the remaining cotrustees may act for the
2 trust.
- 3 3. A cotrustee must participate in the performance of a trustee's function unless the
4 cotrustee is unavailable to perform the function because of absence, illness,
5 disqualification under other law, or other temporary incapacity or the cotrustee has
6 properly delegated the performance of the function to another trustee.
- 7 4. If a cotrustee is unavailable to perform duties because of absence, illness,
8 disqualification under other law, or other temporary incapacity, and prompt action
9 is necessary to achieve the purposes of the trust or to avoid injury to the trust
10 property, the remaining cotrustee or a majority of the remaining cotrustees may act
11 for the trust.
- 12 5. A trustee may delegate to a cotrustee the performance of any function other than a
13 function that the terms of the trust expressly require to be performed by the
14 trustees jointly. Unless a delegation was irrevocable, a trustee may revoke a
15 delegation previously made.
- 16 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, a trustee who does not join in an
17 action of another trustee is not liable for the action.
- 18 7. Each trustee shall exercise reasonable care to prevent a cotrustee from
19 committing a serious breach of trust and compel a cotrustee to redress a serious
20 breach of trust.
- 21 8. A dissenting trustee who joins in an action at the direction of the majority of the
22 trustees and who notified any cotrustee of the dissent at or before the time of the
23 action is not liable for the action unless the action is a serious breach of trust.
- 24 **59-15-04. (704) Vacancy in trusteeship - Appointment of successor.**
- 25 1. A vacancy in a trusteeship occurs if a person designated as trustee declines the
26 trusteeship, a person designated as trustee cannot be identified, cannot be
27 located, or does not exist, a trustee resigns, a trustee is disqualified or removed, a
28 trustee dies, or a guardian or conservator is appointed for an individual serving as
29 trustee.

- 1 2. If one or more cotrustees remain in office, a vacancy in a trusteeship need not be
2 filled. A vacancy in a trusteeship must be filled if the trust has no remaining
3 trustee.
- 4 3. A vacancy in a trusteeship of a noncharitable trust which is required to be filled
5 must be filled in the following order of priority. First, the vacancy must be filled by
6 a person designated in the terms of the trust or appointed under the terms of the
7 trust to act as successor trustee. Second, the vacancy must be filled by a person
8 appointed by unanimous agreement of the qualified beneficiaries. Finally, the
9 vacancy must be filled by a person appointed by the court.
- 10 4. A vacancy in a trusteeship of a charitable trust which is required to be filled must
11 be filled in the following order of priority. First, the vacancy must be filled by a
12 person designated in the terms of the trust or appointed under the terms of the
13 trust to act as successor trustee. Second, the vacancy must be filled by a person
14 selected by the charitable organizations expressly designated to receive
15 distributions under the terms of the trust if the attorney general concurs in the
16 selection. Finally, the vacancy must be filled by a person appointed by the court.
- 17 5. Whether or not a vacancy in a trusteeship exists or is required to be filled, the court
18 may appoint an additional trustee or special fudiciary whenever the court considers
19 the appointment necessary for the administration of the trust.

20 **59-15-05. (705) Resignation of trustee.**

- 21 1. A trustee may resign:
- 22 a. Upon at least thirty days' notice to the settlor, if living, to all cotrustees, and
23 the qualified beneficiaries, except those qualified beneficiaries under a
24 revocable trust that the settlor has the capacity to revoke; or
- 25 b. With the approval of the court.
- 26 2. In approving a resignation, the court may issue orders and impose conditions
27 reasonably necessary for the protection of the trust property.
- 28 3. Any liability of a resigning trustee or of any sureties on the trustee's bond for acts
29 or omissions of the trustee is not discharged or affected by the trustee's
30 resignation.

31 **59-15-06. (706) Removal of trustee.**

- 1 1. The settlor, a cotrustee, or a beneficiary may request the court to remove a
2 trustee, or a trustee may be removed by the court on its own initiative.
- 3 2. The court may remove a trustee if the trustee has committed a serious breach of
4 trust; if lack of cooperation among cotrustees substantially impairs the
5 administration of the trust; if because of unfitness, unwillingness, or persistent
6 failure of the trustee to administer the trust effectively, the court determines that
7 removal of the trustee best serves the interests of the beneficiaries; or if there has
8 been a substantial change of circumstances or removal is requested by all of the
9 qualified beneficiaries, the court finds that removal of the trustee best serves the
10 interests of all of the beneficiaries and is not inconsistent with a material purpose
11 of the trust, and a suitable cotrustee or successor trustee is available.
- 12 3. Pending a final decision on a request to remove a trustee, or in lieu of or in
13 addition to removing a trustee, the court may order such appropriate relief under
14 subsection 2 of section 59-18-01 as may be necessary to protect the trust property
15 or the interests of the beneficiaries.

16 **59-15-07. (707) Delivery of property by former trustee.**

- 17 1. Unless a cotrustee remains in office or the court otherwise orders, and until the
18 trust property is delivered to a successor trustee or other person entitled to it, a
19 trustee who has resigned or been removed has the duties of a trustee and the
20 powers necessary to protect the trust property.
- 21 2. A trustee who has resigned or been removed shall proceed expeditiously to deliver
22 the trust property within the trustee's possession to the cotrustee, successor
23 trustee, or other person entitled to the property.
- 24 3. Title to all trust property must be owned by and vested in any successor trustee
25 without any conveyance, transfer, or assignment by the prior trustee.

26 **59-15-08. (708) Compensation of trustee.**

- 27 1. If the terms of a trust do not specify the trustee's compensation, a trustee is
28 entitled to compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances.
- 29 2. If the terms of a trust specify the trustee's compensation, the trustee is entitled to
30 be compensated as specified, but the court may allow more or less compensation
31 if the duties of the trustee are substantially different from those contemplated when

1 the trust was created or the compensation specified by the terms of the trust would
2 be unreasonably low or high.

3 **59-15-09. (709) Reimbursement of expenses.**

4 1. A trustee is entitled to be reimbursed out of the trust property, with interest as
5 appropriate, for expenses that were properly incurred in the administration of the
6 trust and, to the extent necessary to prevent unjust enrichment of the trust,
7 expenses that were not properly incurred in the administration of the trust.

8 2. An advance by the trustee of money for the protection of the trust gives rise to a
9 lien against trust property to secure reimbursement with reasonable interest. The
10 lien under this subsection does not apply to a common or collective fund that is
11 exempt under 26 U.S.C. 584.

12 **SECTION 22.** Chapter 59-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
13 as follows:

14 **59-16-01. (801) Duty to administer trust.** Upon acceptance of a trusteeship, the
15 trustee shall administer the trust in good faith, in accordance with its purposes and in
16 accordance with chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17,
17 59-18, and 59-19.

18 **59-16-02. (802) Duty of loyalty.**

19 1. A trustee shall administer the trust solely in the interests of the beneficiaries.

20 2. Subject to the rights of persons dealing with or assisting the trustee as provided in
21 section 59-18-12, a sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the
22 investment or management of trust property entered into by the trustee for the
23 trustee's own personal account or which is otherwise affected by a conflict
24 between the trustee's fiduciary and personal interests is voidable by a beneficiary
25 affected by the transaction unless the transaction was authorized by the terms of
26 the trust; the transaction was approved by the court; the beneficiary did not
27 commence a judicial proceeding within the time allowed by section 59-18-05; the
28 beneficiary consented to the trustee's conduct, ratified the transaction, or released
29 the trustee in compliance with section 59-18-09; or the transaction involves a
30 contract entered into or claim acquired by the trustee before the person became or
31 contemplated becoming trustee.

- 1 3. A sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the investment or
2 management of trust property is presumed to be affected by a conflict between
3 personal and fiduciary interests if it is entered into by the trustee with the trustee's
4 spouse; the trustee's descendants, siblings, parents, or their spouses; an agent or
5 attorney of the trustee; or a corporation or other person or enterprise in which the
6 trustee, or a person that owns a significant interest in the trustee, has an interest
7 that might affect the trustee's best judgment.
- 8 4. A transaction between a trustee and a beneficiary that does not concern trust
9 property but that occurs during the existence of the trust or while the trustee
10 retains significant influence over the beneficiary and from which the trustee obtains
11 an advantage is voidable by the beneficiary unless the trustee establishes that the
12 transaction was fair to the beneficiary.
- 13 5. A transaction not concerning trust property in which the trustee engages in the
14 trustee's individual capacity involves a conflict between personal and fiduciary
15 interests if the transaction concerns an opportunity properly belonging to the trust.
- 16 6. An investment by a trustee in securities of an investment company or investment
17 trust to which the trustee, or its affiliate, provides services in a capacity other than
18 as trustee is not presumed to be affected by a conflict between personal and
19 fiduciary interests if the investment complies with the prudent investor rule of
20 chapter 59-17. In addition to its compensation for acting as trustee, the trustee
21 may be compensated by the investment company or investment trust for providing
22 those services out of fees charged to the trust. If the trustee receives
23 compensation from the investment company or investment trust for providing
24 investment advisory or investment management services, the trustee at least
25 annually shall notify the persons entitled under section 59-16-13 to receive a copy
26 of the trustee's annual report of the rate and method by which that compensation
27 was determined.
- 28 7. In voting shares of stock or in exercising powers of control over similar interests in
29 other forms of enterprise, the trustee shall act in the best interests of the
30 beneficiaries. If the trust is the sole owner of a corporation or other form of

1 enterprise, the trustee shall elect or appoint directors or other managers who will
2 manage the corporation or enterprise in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

3 8. If fair to the beneficiaries, an agreement between a trustee and a beneficiary
4 relating to the appointment or compensation of the trustee; payment of reasonable
5 compensation to the trustee; a transaction between a trust and another trust,
6 decedent's estate, or conservatorship of which the trustee is a fiduciary or in which
7 a beneficiary has an interest; a deposit of trust money in a regulated financial
8 service institution operated by the trustee; or an advance by the trustee of money
9 for the protection of the trust is not precluded by this section.

10 9. The court may appoint a special fiduciary to make a decision with respect to any
11 proposed transaction that might violate this section if entered into by the trustee.

12 **59-16-03. (803) Impartiality.** If a trust has two or more beneficiaries, the trustee shall
13 act impartially in investing, managing, and distributing the trust property, giving due regard to
14 the beneficiaries' respective interests.

15 **59-16-04. (804) Prudent administration.** A trustee shall administer the trust as a
16 prudent person would by considering the purposes, terms, distributional requirements, and
17 other circumstances of the trust. In satisfying this standard, the trustee shall exercise
18 reasonable care, skill, and caution.

19 **59-16-05. (805) Costs of administration.** In administering a trust, the trustee may
20 incur only costs that are reasonable in relation to the trust property, the purposes of the trust,
21 and the skills of the trustee.

22 **59-16-06. (806) Trustee's skills.** A trustee who has special skills or expertise, or is
23 named trustee in reliance upon the trustee's representation that the trustee has special skills or
24 expertise, shall use those special skills or expertise.

25 **59-16-07. (807) Delegation by trustee.**

26 1. A trustee may delegate duties and powers that a prudent trustee of comparable
27 skills could properly delegate under the circumstances. The trustee shall exercise
28 reasonable care, skill, and caution in selecting an agent; establishing the scope
29 and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes and terms of the trust;
30 and periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's
31 performance and compliance with the terms of the delegation.

- 1 2. In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the trust to exercise
2 reasonable care to comply with the terms of the delegation.
- 3 3. A trustee who complies with subsection 1 is not liable to the beneficiaries or to the
4 trust for an action of the agent to whom the function was delegated.
- 5 4. By accepting a delegation of powers or duties from the trustee of a trust that is
6 subject to the law of this state, an agent submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of
7 this state.

8 **59-16-08. (808) Powers to direct.**

- 9 1. While a trust is revocable, the trustee may follow a direction of the settlor that is
10 contrary to the terms of the trust.
- 11 2. If the terms of a trust confer upon a person other than the settlor of a revocable
12 trust power to direct certain actions of the trustee, the trustee shall act in
13 accordance with an exercise of the power unless the attempted exercise is
14 manifestly contrary to the terms of the trust or the trustee knows the attempted
15 exercise would constitute a serious breach of a fiduciary duty that the person
16 holding the power owes to the beneficiaries of the trust.
- 17 3. The terms of a trust may confer upon a trustee or other person a power to direct
18 the modification or termination of the trust.
- 19 4. A person, other than a beneficiary, who holds a power to direct is presumptively a
20 fiduciary who, as such, is required to act in good faith with regard to the purposes
21 of the trust and the interests of the beneficiaries. The holder of a power to direct is
22 liable for any loss that results from breach of fiduciary duty.

23 **59-16-09. (809) Control and protection of trust property.** A trustee shall take
24 reasonable steps to take control of and protect the trust property.

25 **59-16-10. (810) Recordkeeping and identification of trust property.**

- 26 1. A trustee shall keep adequate records of the administration of the trust.
- 27 2. A trustee shall keep trust property separate from the trustee's own property.
- 28 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a trustee, other than a trustee
29 granted trust or fiduciary powers from a federal or state authority, shall cause the
30 trust property to be designated so that the interest of the trust, to the extent

1 feasible, appears in records maintained by a party other than a trustee or
2 beneficiary.

3 4. If the trustee maintains records clearly indicating the respective interests, a trustee
4 may invest as a whole the property of two or more separate trusts.

5 **59-16-11. (811) Enforcement and defense of claims.** A trustee shall take reasonable
6 steps to enforce claims of the trust and to defend claims against the trust.

7 **59-16-12. (812) Collecting trust property.** A trustee shall take reasonable steps to
8 compel a former trustee or other person to deliver trust property to the trustee and to redress a
9 breach of trust known to the trustee to have been committed by a former trustee or other
10 fiduciary.

11 **59-16-13. (813) Duty to inform and report.**

12 1. A trustee shall keep the qualified beneficiaries of the trust reasonably informed
13 about the administration of the trust and of the material facts necessary for them to
14 protect their interests. Unless unreasonable under the circumstances, a trustee
15 shall promptly respond to a beneficiary's request for information related to the
16 administration of the trust.

17 2. A trustee upon written request shall promptly furnish a copy of the trust instrument:
18 a. To a qualified beneficiary of a revocable trust; and
19 b. To a beneficiary of a trust that is not revocable.

20 3. A trustee within sixty days after accepting a trusteeship shall notify the qualified
21 beneficiaries of the acceptance and of the trustee's name, address, and telephone
22 number.

23 4. A trustee within sixty days after the date the trustee acquires knowledge of the
24 creation of an irrevocable trust, or the date the trustee acquires knowledge that a
25 formerly revocable trust has become irrevocable, whether by the death of the
26 settlor or otherwise, shall notify the qualified beneficiaries of the trust's existence,
27 of the identity of the settlor or settlors, of the right to request a copy of the trust
28 instrument, and of the right to a trustee's report as provided in subsection 6.

29 5. A trustee shall notify the qualified beneficiaries in advance of any change in the
30 method or rate of the trustee's compensation.

- 1 6. A trustee shall send to the distributees or permissible distributees of trust income
2 or principal, and to other qualified or nonqualified beneficiaries who request it, at
3 least annually and at the termination of the trust, a report of the trust property,
4 liabilities, receipts, and disbursements, including the source and amount of the
5 trustee's compensation, a listing of the trust assets and, if feasible, their respective
6 market values. Upon a vacancy in a trusteeship, unless a cotrustee remains in
7 office, a report must be sent to the qualified beneficiaries by the former trustee. A
8 personal representative, conservator, or guardian may send the qualified
9 beneficiaries a report on behalf of a deceased or incapacitated trustee.
- 10 7. A beneficiary may waive the right to a trustee's report or other information
11 otherwise required to be furnished under this section. A beneficiary, with respect
12 to future reports and other information, may withdraw a waiver previously given.
- 13 8. The duties of a trustee specified in this section are not subject to section 59-14-03.
- 14 9. Subsections 3 and 4 do not apply to a trustee that accepts a trusteeship before
15 August 1, 2007, to an irrevocable trust created before August 1, 2007, or to a
16 revocable trust that becomes irrevocable before August 1, 2007.

17 **59-16-14. (814) Discretionary powers - Tax savings.**

- 18 1. Notwithstanding the breadth of discretion granted to a trustee in the terms of the
19 trust, including the use of such terms as "absolute", "sole", or "uncontrolled", the
20 trustee shall exercise a discretionary power in good faith and in accordance with
21 the purposes of the trust.
- 22 2. Subject to subsection 4, and unless the terms of the trust expressly indicate that a
23 rule in this subsection does not apply:
- 24 a. A person other than a settlor who is a beneficiary and trustee of a trust that
25 confers on the trustee a power to make discretionary distributions to or for the
26 trustee's personal benefit may exercise the power only in accordance with an
27 ascertainable standard; and
- 28 b. A trustee may not exercise a power to make discretionary distributions to
29 satisfy a legal obligation of support that the trustee personally owes another
30 person.

1 3. A power whose exercise is limited or prohibited by subsection 2 may be exercised
2 by a majority of the remaining trustees whose exercise of the power is not so
3 limited or prohibited. If the power of all trustees is so limited or prohibited, the
4 court may appoint a special fiduciary with authority to exercise the power.

5 4. Subsection 2 does not apply to:

6 a. A power held by the settlor's spouse who is the trustee of a trust for which a
7 marital deduction, as defined in section 2056(b)(5) or 2523(e) of the Internal
8 Revenue Code was previously allowed;

9 b. Any trust during any period that the trust may be revoked or amended by its
10 settlor; or

11 c. A trust if contributions to the trust qualify for the annual exclusion under
12 section 2503(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

13 **59-16-15. (815) General powers of trustee.** A trustee, without authorization by the
14 court, may exercise powers conferred by the terms of the trust and, except as limited by the
15 terms of the trust, all powers over the trust property which an unmarried owner, who is not an
16 incapacitated person, has over individually owned property, any other powers appropriate to
17 achieve the proper investment, management, and distribution of the trust property, and any
18 other powers conferred by chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16,
19 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19. The exercise of a power is subject to the fiduciary duties prescribed
20 by this chapter.

21 **59-16-16. (816) Specific powers of trustee.** Without limiting the authority conferred
22 by section 59-16-15, a trustee may:

23 1. Collect trust property and accept or reject additions to the trust property from a
24 settlor or any other person.

25 2. Acquire or sell property, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale.

26 3. Exchange, partition, or otherwise change the character of trust property.

27 4. Deposit or invest trust money in a regulated financial institution, including one
28 operated by the trustee or an affiliate of the trustee.

29 5. Borrow money, with or without security from any financial institution, including a
30 financial institution that is serving as a trustee or one of its affiliates, and mortgage

- 1 or pledge trust property for a period within or extending beyond the duration of the
2 trust.
- 3 6. With respect to an interest in a proprietorship, partnership, limited liability
4 company, business trust, corporation, or other form of business or enterprise,
5 continue the business or other enterprise and take any action that may be taken by
6 shareholders, members, or property owners, including merging, dissolving, or
7 otherwise changing the form of business organization or contributing additional
8 capital.
- 9 7. With respect to stocks or other securities, exercise the rights of an absolute owner,
10 including the right to vote, or give proxies to vote, with or without power of
11 substitution, or enter into or continue a voting trust agreement; hold a security in
12 the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the trust so that title
13 may pass by delivery; pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or
14 accruing against the securities, and sell or exercise stock subscription or
15 conversion rights; and deposit the securities with a depository or other regulated
16 financial service institution.
- 17 8. With respect to an interest in real property, construct or make ordinary or
18 extraordinary repairs to, alterations to, or improvements in, buildings or other
19 structures, demolish improvements, raze existing or erect new party walls or
20 buildings, subdivide or develop land, dedicate land to public use or grant public or
21 private easements, and make or vacate plats and adjust boundaries.
- 22 9. Enter into a lease for any purpose as lessor or lessee, including a lease or other
23 arrangement for exploration and removal of natural resources, with or without the
24 option to purchase or renew, for a period within or extending beyond the duration
25 of the trust.
- 26 10. Grant an option involving a sale, lease, or other disposition of trust property or
27 acquire an option for the acquisition of property, including an option exercisable
28 beyond the duration of the trust, and exercise an option so acquired.
- 29 11. Insure the property of the trust against damage or loss and insure the trustee, the
30 trustee's agents, and beneficiaries against liability.

- 1 12. Abandon, distribute, or decline to administer property of no value or of insufficient
2 value to justify its collection or continued administration.
- 3 13. With respect to possible liability for violation of environmental law, inspect or
4 investigate property the trustee holds or has been asked to hold, or property
5 owned or operated by an organization in which the trustee holds or has been
6 asked to hold an interest for the purpose of determining the application of
7 environmental law with respect to the property; take action to prevent, abate, or
8 otherwise remedy any actual or potential violation of any environmental law
9 affecting property held directly or indirectly by the trustee, whether taken before or
10 after the assertion of a claim or the initiation of governmental enforcement; decline
11 to accept property into trust or disclaim any power with respect to property that is
12 or may be burdened with liability for violation of environmental law; compromise
13 claims against the trust which may be asserted for an alleged violation of
14 environmental law; and pay the expense of any inspection, review, abatement, or
15 remedial action to comply with environmental law.
- 16 14. Pay or contest any claim, settle a claim by or against the trust, and release, in
17 whole or in part, a claim belonging to the trust.
- 18 15. Pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the trustee and of employees and
19 agents of the trust, and other expenses incurred in the administration of the trust.
- 20 16. Exercise elections with respect to federal, state, and local taxes.
- 21 17. Select a mode of payment under any employee benefit or retirement plan, annuity,
22 or life insurance payable to the trustee, exercise rights thereunder, including
23 exercise of the right to indemnification for expenses and against liabilities, and take
24 appropriate action to collect the proceeds.
- 25 18. Make loans out of trust property, including loans to a beneficiary on terms and
26 conditions the trustee considers to be fair and reasonable under the
27 circumstances, and the trustee has a lien on future distributions for repayment of
28 those loans.
- 29 19. Pledge trust property to guarantee loans made by others to the beneficiary.
- 30 20. Appoint a trustee to act in another jurisdiction with respect to trust property located
31 in the other jurisdiction, confer upon the appointed trustee all of the powers and

- 1 duties of the appointing trustee, require that the appointed trustee furnish security,
2 and remove any trustee so appointed.
- 3 21. Pay an amount distributable to a beneficiary who is under a legal disability or who
4 the trustee reasonably believes is incapacitated, by paying it directly to the
5 beneficiary or applying it for the beneficiary's benefit, or by paying it to the
6 beneficiary's conservator or, if the beneficiary does not have a conservator, the
7 beneficiary's guardian; paying it to the beneficiary's custodian under chapter
8 47-24.1 and for that purpose, creating a custodianship or custodial trust; if the
9 trustee does not know of a conservator, guardian, custodian, or custodial trustee,
10 paying it to an adult relative or other person having legal or physical care or
11 custody of the beneficiary, to be expended on the beneficiary's behalf; or
12 managing it as a separate fund on the beneficiary's behalf, subject to the
13 beneficiary's continuing right to withdraw the distribution.
- 14 22. On distribution of trust property or the division or termination of a trust, make
15 distributions in divided or undivided interests, allocate particular assets in
16 proportionate or disproportionate shares, value the trust property for those
17 purposes, and adjust for resulting differences in valuation.
- 18 23. Resolve a dispute concerning the interpretation of the trust of the trust's
19 administration by mediation, arbitration, or other procedure for alternative dispute
20 resolution.
- 21 24. Prosecute or defend an action, claim, or judicial proceeding in any jurisdiction to
22 protect trust property and the trustee in the performance of the trustee's duties.
- 23 25. Sign and deliver contracts and other instruments that are useful to achieve or
24 facilitate the exercise of the trustee's powers.
- 25 26. Purchase and pay from trust principal the premiums on life insurance.
- 26 27. Allocate items of income or expense to either trust income or principal, as provided
27 by law, including creation of reserves out of income for depreciation, obsolescence
28 or amortization, or for depletion in mineral or timber properties.
- 29 28. a. With respect to the administration of trust assets as one or more trusts to:

- 1 (1) Receive and administer additional property as part of the trust estate or
2 as a separate trust having terms identical to the terms of the existing
3 trust;
- 4 (2) Sever any trust estate on a fractional basis, before or after a trust is
5 funded, into two or more separate trusts for any reason;
- 6 (3) Segregate by allocation to a separate account or trust a specific
7 amount or gift made from any trust to reflect a partial disclaimer, to
8 reflect or result in differences in federal tax attributes, to satisfy any
9 federal tax requirements or elections, or to reduce potential generation,
10 skipping transfer tax liability, in a manner consistent with the rules
11 governing disclaimers, such federal tax attributes, such requirements or
12 elections, or any applicable tax rules or regulations, and any income
13 earned on a segregated amount or gift after segregation occurs passes
14 to the designated taker of such amount or gift; and
- 15 (4) Consolidate two or more trusts having substantially similar terms into a
16 single trust.
- 17 b. In managing, investing, administering, and distributing the trust property of
18 any separate account or trust and in making applicable tax elections, consider
19 the differences in federal tax attributes and all other factors the trustee
20 believes pertinent and may make disproportionate distributions from the
21 separate trusts created. A separate account or trust created by severance or
22 segregation must be treated as a separate trust for all purposes from and
23 after the date on which the severance or segregation is effective. The trustee
24 shall hold such separate account or trust on terms and conditions that are
25 substantially equivalent to the terms of the trust from which it was severed or
26 segregated so that the aggregate interests of each beneficiary in the several
27 trusts are substantially equivalent to the beneficiary's interests in the trust
28 before severance or segregation; provided, however, that any terms of the
29 trust before severance that would affect qualification of the trust for any
30 federal tax deduction, exclusion, election, exemption, or other special federal
31 tax status must remain identical in each of the separate trusts created.

- 1 29. Employ persons, including attorneys, auditors, investment advisors or agents, to
2 advise or assist the trustee in the performance of administrative duties. A trustee
3 may act based on the recommendations of professionals without independently
4 investigating the recommendations.
- 5 30. Deal with the personal representative, trustee, or other representative of any other
6 trust or estate in which a beneficiary of the trust estate has an interest,
7 notwithstanding the fact that the trustee is a personal representative, trustee, or
8 other representative of the other trust or estate.
- 9 31. On termination of the trust, exercise the powers appropriate to wind up the
10 administration of the trust and distribute the trust property to the persons entitled to
11 the property.

12 **59-16-17. (817) Distribution upon termination.**

- 13 1. Upon termination or partial termination of a trust, the trustee may send to the
14 beneficiaries, and the attorney general in the case of a charitable trust, a proposal
15 for distribution. The right of any beneficiary, or the attorney general in the case of
16 a charitable trust, to object to the proposed distribution terminates if the
17 beneficiary, or the attorney general in the case of a charitable trust, does not notify
18 the trustee of an objection within thirty days after the proposal was sent, but only if
19 the proposal informed the beneficiary, or the attorney general in the case of a
20 charitable trust, of the right to object and of the time allowed for objection.
- 21 2. Upon the occurrence of an event terminating or partially terminating a trust, the
22 trustee shall proceed expeditiously to distribute the trust property to the persons
23 entitled to it, subject to the right of the trustee to retain a reasonable reserve for the
24 payment of debts, expenses, and taxes.
- 25 3. A release by a beneficiary of a trustee from liability for breach of trust is invalid to
26 the extent it was induced by improper conduct of the trustee or the beneficiary, at
27 the time of the release, did not know of the beneficiary's rights or of the material
28 facts relating to the breach.

29 **SECTION 23.** Chapter 59-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
30 as follows:

31 **59-17-01. Prudent investor rule.**

1 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a trustee who invests and manages
2 trust assets owes a duty to the beneficiaries of the trust to comply with the prudent
3 investor rule set forth in sections 59-16-02, 59-16-03, 59-16-05, 59-16-06, and
4 59-16-07 and in this chapter.

5 2. The prudent investor rule, a default rule, may be expanded, restricted, eliminated,
6 or otherwise altered by the provisions of a trust. A trustee is not liable to a
7 beneficiary to the extent that the trustee acted in reasonable reliance on the
8 provisions of the trust.

9 **59-17-02. Standard of care - Portfolio strategy - Risk and return objectives.**

10 1. A trustee shall invest and manage trust assets as a prudent investor would, by
11 considering the purposes, terms distribution requirements, and other
12 circumstances of the trust. In satisfying this standard, the trustee shall exercise
13 reasonable care, skill, and caution.

14 2. A trustee's investment and management decisions respecting individual assets
15 must be evaluated not in isolation but in the context of the trust portfolio as a whole
16 and as a part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return objectives
17 reasonably suited to the trust.

18 3. Among circumstances a trustee shall consider in investing and managing trust
19 assets are any of the following that are relevant to the trust or its beneficiaries:

20 a. General economic conditions;

21 b. The possible effect of inflation or deflation;

22 c. The expected tax consequences of investment decisions or strategies;

23 d. The role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall trust
24 portfolio, which may include financial assets, interests in closely held
25 enterprises, tangible and intangible personal property, and real property;

26 e. The expected total return from income and the appreciation of capital;

27 f. Other resources of the beneficiaries;

28 g. Needs for liquidity, regularity of income, and preservation or appreciation of
29 capital; and

30 h. An asset's special relationship or special value, if any, to the purposes of the
31 trust or to one or more of the beneficiaries.

1 4. A trustee shall make a reasonable effort to verify facts relevant to the investment
2 and management of trust assets.

3 5. A trustee may invest in any kind of property or type of investment consistent with
4 the standards of this title.

5 **59-17-03. Diversification.** A trustee shall diversify the investments of the trust unless
6 the trustee reasonably determines that, because of special circumstances, the purposes of the
7 trust are better served without diversifying.

8 **59-17-04. Duties at inception of trusteeship.** Within a reasonable time after
9 accepting a trusteeship or receiving trust assets, a trustee shall review the trust assets and
10 make and implement decisions concerning the retention and disposition of assets, in order to
11 bring the trust portfolio into compliance with the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and
12 other circumstances of the trust and with the requirements of this chapter.

13 **59-17-05. Reviewing compliance.** Compliance with the prudent investor rule is
14 determined in light of the facts and circumstances existing at the time of a trustee's decision or
15 action and not by hindsight.

16 **59-17-06. Language invoking standard.** The following terms or comparable
17 language in the provisions of a trust, unless otherwise limited or modified, authorizes any
18 investment or strategy permitted under sections 59-16-02, 59-16-03, 59-16-05, 59-16-06, and
19 59-16-07 and under this chapter: "investments permissible by law for investment of trust
20 funds", "legal investments", "authorized investments", "using the judgment and care under the
21 circumstances then prevailing that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in
22 the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the
23 permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income as well as the probable
24 safety of their capital", "prudent man rule", "prudent trustee rule", "prudent person rule", and
25 "prudent investor rule".

26 **SECTION 24.** Chapter 59-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
27 as follows:

28 **59-18-01. (1001) Remedies for breach of trust.**

29 1. A violation by a trustee of a duty the trustee owes to a beneficiary is a breach of
30 trust.

1 2. To remedy a breach of trust that has occurred or may occur, the court may compel
2 the trustee to perform the trustee's duties; enjoin the trustee from committing a
3 breach of trust; compel the trustee to redress a breach of trust by paying money,
4 restoring property, or other means; order a trustee to account; appoint a special
5 fiduciary to take possession of the trust property and administer the trust; suspend
6 the trustee; remove the trustee as provided in section 59-15-06; reduce or deny
7 compensation to the trustee; subject to section 59-18-12, void an act of the trustee,
8 impose a lien or a constructive trust on trust property, or trace trust property
9 wrongfully disposed of and recover the property or its proceeds; or order any other
10 appropriate relief.

11 **59-18-02. (1002) Damages for breach of trust.**

12 1. A trustee who commits a breach of trust is liable to the beneficiaries affected for
13 the greater of the amount required to restore the value of the trust property and
14 trust distributions to what they would have been had the breach not occurred or the
15 profit the trustee made by reason of the breach.

16 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if more than one trustee is liable
17 to the beneficiaries for a breach of trust, a trustee is entitled to contribution from
18 the other trustee or trustees. A trustee is not entitled to contribution if the trustee
19 was substantially more at fault than another trustee or if the trustee committed the
20 breach of trust in bad faith or with reckless indifference to the purposes of the trust
21 or the interests of the beneficiaries. A trustee who received a benefit from the
22 breach of trust is not entitled to contribution from another trustee to the extent of
23 the benefit received.

24 **59-18-03. (1003) Damages in absence of breach.** Absent a breach of trust, a trustee
25 is not liable to a beneficiary for a loss or depreciation in the value of trust property or for not
26 having made a profit.

27 **59-18-04. Reserved.**

28 **59-18-05. (1005) Limitation of action against trustee.**

29 1. A beneficiary may not commence a proceeding against a trustee for breach of trust
30 more than one year after the date the beneficiary or a representative of the
31 beneficiary was sent a report that adequately disclosed the existence of a potential

1 claim for breach of trust and informed the beneficiary in the report or in a separate
2 notice accompanying the report of the time allowed for commencing a proceeding.

3 2. A report adequately discloses the existence of a potential claim for breach of trust
4 if it provides sufficient information so that the beneficiary or representative knows
5 of the potential claim or should have inquired into its existence.

6 3. If subsection 1 does not apply, a judicial proceeding by a beneficiary against a
7 trustee for breach of trust must be commenced within five years after whichever
8 occurs first: the removal, resignation, or death of the trustee; the termination of the
9 beneficiary's interest in the trust; or the termination of the trust.

10 **59-18-06. (1006) Reliance on trust instrument.** A trustee who acts in reasonable
11 reliance on the terms of the trust as expressed in the trust instrument is not liable to a
12 beneficiary for a breach of trust to the extent the breach resulted from the reliance.

13 **59-18-07. (1007) Event affecting administration or distribution.** If the happening of
14 an event, including marriage, divorce, performance of educational requirements, or death,
15 affects the administration or distribution of a trust, a trustee who has exercised reasonable care
16 to ascertain the happening of the event is not liable for a loss resulting from the trustee's lack of
17 knowledge.

18 **59-18-08. (1008) Exculpation of trustee.**

19 1. A term of a trust relieving a trustee of liability for breach of trust is unenforceable to
20 the extent that the term relieves the trustee of liability for breach of trust committed
21 in bad faith or with reckless indifference to the purposes of the trust or was
22 inserted as the result of an abuse by the trustee of a fiduciary or confidential
23 relationship to the settlor.

24 2. Unless the settlor was represented by an attorney not employed by the trustee with
25 respect to the trust containing the exculpatory term, an exculpatory term drafted or
26 caused to be drafted by the trustee is invalid as an abuse of a fiduciary or
27 confidential relationship unless the trustee proves that the exculpatory term is fair
28 under the circumstances and that its existence and contents were adequately
29 communicated to the settlor.

30 **59-18-09. (1009) Beneficiary's consent, release, or ratification.** A trustee is not
31 liable to a beneficiary for breach of trust if the beneficiary consented to the conduct constituting

1 the breach, released the trustee from liability for the breach, or ratified the transaction
2 constituting the breach, unless the consent, release, or ratification of the beneficiary was
3 induced by improper conduct of the trustee or at the time of the consent, release, or ratification,
4 the beneficiary lacked capacity or did not know of the beneficiary's rights or of the material facts
5 relating to the breach.

6 **59-18-10. (1010) Limitation on personal liability of trustee.**

- 7 1. Except as otherwise provided in the contract, a trustee is not personally liable on a
8 contract properly entered into in the trustee's fiduciary capacity in the course of
9 administering the trust if the trustee in the contract disclosed the fiduciary capacity.
10 The addition of the phrase "trustee" or "as trustee" or a similar designation to the
11 signature of a trustee on a written contract is considered prima facie evidence of a
12 disclosure of a fiduciary capacity.
- 13 2. A trustee is personally liable for torts committed in the course of administering a
14 trust or for obligations arising from ownership or control of trust property, including
15 liability for violation of environmental law, only if the trustee is personally at fault.
- 16 3. A claim based on a contract entered into by a trustee in the trustee's fiduciary
17 capacity, on an obligation arising from ownership or control of trust property, or on
18 a tort committed in the course of administering a trust, may be asserted in a
19 judicial proceeding against the trustee in the trustee's fiduciary capacity, whether
20 or not the trustee is personally liable for the claim.
- 21 4. Whenever a trust instrument reserves to the settlor, or vests in an advisory or
22 investment committee, or in any other person, including one or more cotrustees to
23 the exclusion of the trustee or to the exclusion of one or more of several trustees,
24 authority to direct the making or retention of any investment, the excluded trustee
25 or trustees are not liable, either individually or as a fiduciary, for any loss resulting
26 from the making or retention of any investment pursuant to such direction.
- 27 5. In the absence of actual knowledge or information that would cause a reasonable
28 trustee to inquire further, a trustee may not be held liable for failure to take
29 necessary steps to compel the redress of any breach of trust or fiduciary duty by
30 any predecessor personal representative, trustee, or other fiduciary. This section

1 may not be construed to limit the fiduciary liability of any trustee for the acts or
2 omissions of the trustee with respect to the trust estate.

3 **59-18-11. (1011) Interest as general partner.**

4 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 or unless personal liability is
5 imposed in the contract, a trustee who holds an interest as a general partner in a
6 general or limited partnership is not personally liable on a contract entered into by
7 the partnership after the trust's acquisition of the interest if the fiduciary capacity
8 was disclosed:

9 a. In the contract;

10 b. In a registration of the partnership as a limited liability partnership filed
11 pursuant to chapter 45-22 in which the trustee is listed as a managing
12 partner; or

13 c. In a certificate of limited liability limited partnership filed pursuant to chapter
14 45-23 in which the trustee is listed as a general partner.

15 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a trustee who holds an interest as a
16 general partner is not personally liable for torts committed by the partnership or for
17 obligations arising from ownership or control of the interest unless the trustee is
18 personally at fault.

19 3. The immunity provided by this section does not apply if an interest in the
20 partnership is held by the trustee in a capacity other than that of trustee or is held
21 by the trustee's spouse or one or more of the trustee's descendants, siblings, or
22 parents, or the spouse of any of them.

23 4. If the trustee of a revocable trust holds an interest as a general partner, the settlor
24 is personally liable for contracts and other obligations of the partnership as if the
25 settlor were a general partner.

26 **59-18-12. (1012) Protection of person dealing with trustee.**

27 1. A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith assists a trustee, or who in
28 good faith and for value deals with a trustee, without knowledge that the trustee is
29 exceeding or improperly exercising the trustee's powers, is protected from liability
30 as if the trustee properly exercised the power.

- 1 2. A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith deals with a trustee is not
2 required to inquire into the extent of the trustee's powers or the propriety of their
3 exercise.
- 4 3. A person who in good faith delivers assets to a trustee need not ensure their
5 proper application.
- 6 4. A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith assists a former trustee, or
7 who in good faith and for value deals with a former trustee, without knowledge that
8 the trusteeship has terminated, is protected from liability as if the former trustee
9 were still a trustee.
- 10 5. Comparable protective provisions of other laws relating to commercial transactions
11 or transfer of securities by fiduciaries prevail over the protection provided by this
12 section.

13 **59-18-13. (1013) Certification of trust.**

- 14 1. Unless otherwise required by chapter 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14,
15 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, or 59-19, the trustee may furnish to the person a
16 certification of trust containing information that includes that the trust exists and the
17 effective date of the trust instrument, the name of the trust, if a name is given, the
18 identity of each settlor, the identity and address of the currently acting trustee, the
19 applicable powers of the trustee, which may make reference to the powers set
20 forth in chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17,
21 59-18, and 59-19, the revocability or irrevocability of the trust and the identity of
22 any person holding a power to revoke the trust, and the authority of cotrustees to
23 sign or otherwise authenticate and whether all or less than all are required in order
24 to exercise powers of the trustee.
- 25 2. A certification of trust may be signed or otherwise authenticated by any trustee.
- 26 3. A certification of trust must state that the trust has not been revoked, modified, or
27 amended in any manner that would cause the representations contained in the
28 certification of trust to be incorrect.
- 29 4. A certification of trust need not contain the dispositive terms of a trust.
- 30 5. A recipient of a certification of trust may require the trustee to furnish copies of
31 those excerpts from the original trust instrument and later amendments which

1 designate the trustee and confer upon the trustee the power to act in the pending
2 transaction.

3 6. A person who acts in reliance upon a certification of trust without knowledge that
4 the representations contained therein are incorrect is not liable to any person for
5 so acting and may assume without inquiry the existence of the facts contained in
6 the certification. Knowledge of the terms of the trust may not be inferred solely
7 from the fact that a copy of all or part of the trust instrument is held by the person
8 relying upon the certification.

9 7. A person who in good faith enters into a transaction in reliance upon a certification
10 of trust may enforce the transaction against the trust property as if the
11 representations contained in the certification were correct.

12 8. A person making a demand for the trust instrument in addition to a certification of
13 trust or excerpts is liable for damages if the court determines that the person did
14 not act in good faith in demanding the trust instrument.

15 9. This section does not limit the right of a person to obtain a copy of the trust
16 instrument in a judicial proceeding concerning the trust.

17 **SECTION 25.** Chapter 59-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
18 as follows:

19 **59-19-01. (1102) Electronic records and signatures.** The provisions of chapters
20 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 governing the
21 legal effect, validity, or enforceability of electronic records or electronic signatures, and of
22 contracts formed or performed with the use of such records or signatures, conform to the
23 requirements of section 102 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act
24 [15 U.S.C. 7002] and supersede, modify, and limit the requirements of the Electronic
25 Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

26 **59-19-02. (1106) Application to existing relationships.**

27 1. Except as otherwise provided in chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13,
28 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19, effective August 1, 2007, these
29 chapters:

30 a. Apply to all trusts created after July 31, 2007; and

- 1 b. Apply to all judicial proceedings concerning trusts which are commenced after
2 July 31, 2007.
- 3 2. Except as otherwise provided in chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13,
4 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19, from August 1, 2007, through
5 July 31, 2009:
- 6 a. A trust created before August 1, 2007, may elect to be subject to chapters
7 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and
8 59-19; however, that trust must be in compliance with those chapters by
9 August 1, 2009;
- 10 b. Any rule of construction or presumption provided in chapters 59-09, 59-10,
11 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19 applies to
12 trust instruments executed before August 1, 2009, unless there is a clear
13 indication of a contrary intent in the terms of the trust;
- 14 c. Chapters 59-09, 59-10, 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17,
15 59-18, and 59-19 do not apply to judicial proceedings concerning trusts which
16 are commenced before that date unless the court finds that application of a
17 particular provision of these chapters would not substantially interfere with the
18 effective conduct of the judicial proceedings or prejudice the rights of the
19 parties, in which case the particular provision of these chapters applies and
20 the superseded law does not apply; and
- 21 d. An act done before August 1, 2009, is not affected by chapters 59-09, 59-10,
22 59-11, 59-12, 59-13, 59-14, 59-15, 59-16, 59-17, 59-18, and 59-19.
- 23 3. If a right is acquired, extinguished, or barred upon the expiration of a prescribed
24 period that has commenced to run under any other statute before August 1, 2007,
25 for those trusts that are subject to subsection 1, or before August 1, 2009, for
26 those trusts that are subject to subsection 2, that statute continues to apply to the
27 right even if it has been repealed or superseded.

28 **SECTION 26.** Chapter 59-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
29 as follows:

30 **59-20-01. Private foundations - Charitable trusts - Split-interest trusts.**

- 1 1. Any will or trust instrument creating a trust that is a "private foundation", as defined
2 in section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or a "charitable trust", as
3 defined in section 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or a
4 "split-interest trust", as defined in section 4947(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code
5 of 1954, and any other instrument governing the trustee of any such trust, or the
6 use, retention, or disposition of any of the income or property of such trust, may be
7 deemed to have incorporated within the will, trust instrument, or other governing
8 instrument, with the same effect as though such language were included in the will,
9 trust instrument, or other governing instrument, the following provisions with
10 respect to the trust and the trustee thereof, and, except as the contrary is provided
11 in subsection 2, such provisions govern the administration and distribution of any
12 such trust, irrespective of any provisions of any applicable will, trust instrument, or
13 other governing instrument, statute, or law of this state to the contrary:
- 14 a. The trustee shall distribute for each taxable year of the trust amounts at least
15 sufficient to avoid liability for the tax imposed by section 4942(a) of the
16 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as now enacted or as hereafter amended.
- 17 b. The trustee may not engage in any act of "self-dealing", as defined in
18 section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, which would give rise
19 to any liability for the tax imposed by section 4941(a) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1954.
- 21 c. The trustee may not retain any "excess business holdings", as defined in
22 section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, which would give rise
23 to any liability for the tax imposed by section 4943(a) of the Internal Revenue
24 Code of 1954.
- 25 d. The trustee may not make any investments that would jeopardize the carrying
26 out of any of the exempt purposes of the trust, within the meaning of section
27 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, so as to give rise to any liability
28 for the tax imposed by section 4944(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
- 29 e. The trustee may not make any "taxable expenditure", as defined in
30 section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, which would give rise

1 to any liability for the tax imposed by section 4945(a) of the Internal Revenue
2 Code of 1954.

3 2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the extent that a court of competent jurisdiction
4 determines that application would be contrary to the terms of the will, trust
5 instrument, or other governing instrument described in subsection 1 and that such
6 will, trust instrument, or other governing instrument may not be changed to
7 conform to subsection 1.

8 3. As used in this section, "trustee" means a corporation, individual, or other legal
9 entity acting as an original, added, or successor trustee of a testamentary or
10 inter vivos trust estate. Any reference to a particular section of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1954 includes, as now enacted or as hereafter amended, such
12 section and any provision of federal law as is or may hereafter be applicable,
13 cognate to such section.

14 4. This section does not impair the rights and powers of the attorney general or the
15 courts of this state with respect to any trust.

16 **SECTION 27. REPEAL.** Chapters 30.1-32, 30.1-33, 30.1-34, 59-01, 59-02, 59-03,
17 59-04, and 59-05 of the North Dakota Century Code are repealed.