Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
OPERATING AGREEMENT		
Mechanics		
Centralization of key provisions in operating agreement	Centralization - §§ 105 - 107 Contain three key provisions dealing with the operating agreement: § 105 – scope, function & limitations; § 106 – effect on LLC and its members; and § 107 – effect on third parties and relationship to records.	No – There are provisions related to the operating agreement scattered throughout the statute.
Specific statement of operating agreement's relationship to the statutory rules?	Yes - § 105(b) - "Default rules" in the Act govern matters not addressed by the operating agreement.	No – The statute does not contain a specific statement regarding operating agreement's relationship to the statutory default rules.
Express authorization of operating agreement in SMLLCs?	Yes - § 102(13) – Definition states it is an agreement among all the members, including a sole member.	Yes - § 7-16-2(23) – definition states it is an agreement of the members, including a sole member
Oral v. written	Either - § 102(13) – Broad definition that states regardless of its name, the operating agreement is an agreement among all the members, whether oral, implied, or in a record.	Either - § 7-16-2(23)
Amendment	Yes – Unanimous consent of members required to amend operating agreement under 407(b)(4)(B) [member-managed] and 407(c)(3)(B) [manager-managed].	§ 7-16-21 – An affirmative vote of members entitled to vote, representing a majority of the capital values of all membership interests that have not been assigned
Power to grant rights to third parties	Yes - § 107(a) — Operating agreement may permit non-members to have veto rights over amendments to the operating agreement (e.g. lenders, non-member managers).	Unclear – The statute is silent.
Binding on dissociated members and transferees	Yes - § 107(b) – Provides that dissociated member and transferee rights are subject to changes in the operating agreement that occur after the transfer, provided the changes do not impose a new liability on the dissociated member or transferee.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
Binding on LLC irrespective of LLC being a party	Yes - § 106(a) – LLC is bound by the operating agreement even if it has not manifested assent to the operating agreement	Unclear – The statute is silent.
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE		
Management "templates"		
 Provided 	Yes - § 407 – Provides default rules for two types of management structure: member-managed and manager-managed.	Yes — § 7-16-14: unless the articles of organization or a written operating agreement provide for management by or under the authority of managers, the LLC shall be managed by the members Default rules for members: § 7-16-14 Default rules for managers: §§ 7-16-15 to 7-16-20
 Required 	No - § 407(b) & (c) - Default rules are subject to the operating agreement under § 105 (see comments to § 407).	No - § 7-16-15 – Default rules are subject to the articles of organization or a written operating agreement.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

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Voting/consent	§ 407 - provides centralized list of matters requiring member consent for member-managed and manager-managed LLCs. Default rules are: Majority consent of members or managers required for matters within the ordinary course of business; unanimous consent of members required for matters outside ordinary course of business and to amend the operating agreement. See § 407(b)(3)-(4); § 407(c)(1),(3); § 1023(a); § 1033(a); § 1043(a); § 1053(a) (default rule is unanimous consent for mergers, interest exchanges, conversions and domestications).	§ 7-16-19 – Provides that managers shall act by majority vote for a manager-managed LLC. § 7-16-21 – Provides list of matters requiring members' affirmative votes. Unanimous consent of members is required to 1) terminate a member's obligation to make a capital contribution; 2) make an interim distribution; and 3) grant membership status to an assignee of an interest in the LLC. (See §§ 7-16-25(d), 7-16-28, 7-16-36.)
GOVERNANCE DUTIES		
Definition and structure		
■ Loyalty	§ 409(b) & (i)(1) – Members in a member managed LLC and managers in a manager managed LLC owe to the <i>LLC and members</i> fiduciary duty of loyalty: account for LLC property, refrain from self-dealing and competition and appropriation of a company opportunity.	§§ 7-16-17(e) to 7-16-18(b) – Members in a member-managed LLC and managers in a manager-managed LLC owe the LLC the duty of loyalty: to refrain from self-dealing, account for the LLC, etc.
■ Care	§ 409(c) & (i)(1) – Members in a member managed LLC and Managers in a manager managed LLC owe to LLC and the members a duty of care: refrain from grossly negligent or reckless conduct, intentional misconduct, and knowing violation of law.	§§ 7-16-17(a) to 7-16-18(b)(2) – The manager must act "with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would use under the circumstances, and in the manner the manager reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the limited liability company."
 Contractual duty of good faith and fair dealing 	§ 409(d) & (i)(3) – Members and managers shall discharge duties and obligations consistently with the contractual obligation of good faith and fair dealing. This duty cannot be eliminated; but the operating agreement may prescribe the standards by which performance is to be measured, if not manifestly unreasonable.	§ 7-16-17 – Members and managers must act in good faith. There is no limiting the personal liability for a member or manager whose acts or omissions are not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law.
Operating agreement power to limit, eliminate loyalty, care and good faith and fair dealing	§ 105(c)(6), (d)(3) – If not "manifestly unreasonable" [defined in (e)], the operating agreement may: (1) restrict or eliminate aspects of the duty of loyalty stated in § 409(b) & (i)(1); (2) alter duty of care except to authorize intentional misconduct or conduct involving bad faith, willful or intentional misconduct, or a knowing violation of law; (3) eliminate or alter other fiduciary duties not codified in the Act; and (4) prescribe standards to measure performance of the obligation of good faith under § 409(d).	§ 7-16-18 – The articles of organization or operating agreement may eliminate or limit the personal liability of a manager to the LLC or its members for monetary damages for breach of any duty, but <i>cannot</i> eliminate or limit liability for: (1) breach of manager's duty of loyalty; (2) acts or omissions not in good faith; (3) wrongful distributions; and (4) transactions from which the manager received an improper benefit.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
Operating agreement power to limit or eliminate liability for breach of duties	Yes - § 105(c)(7) – except for conduct involving bad faith, willful or intentional misconduct, a knowing violation of law.	Yes - § 7-16-18 The articles of organization or operating agreement may eliminate or limit the personal liability of a manager to the LLC or to its members for monetary damages for breach of duty, but it cannot eliminate or limit the liability of a manager for breach of duty of loyalty, acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct, etc.
AGENCY POWER OF MEMBERS		
Authority to bind LLC determined by agency law not status	Yes - § 301 Member is not an agent of the LLC solely by being a member; authority of member or managers to bind LLC is determined by other law (especially agency law).	No - § 7-16-20 — Rhode Island uses a statutory apparent authority scheme for its LLC act.
Statement of authority	Permitted – § 302 – Statements of authority pertaining to position may be filed in the Secretary of State's office (and in the case of real estate in the office where real estate records are kept) to provide notice that only certain members or managers have authority to conduct business on behalf of the LLC.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
Statement of denial	Permitted - § 303 – Operates as a restrictive amendment to a statement of authority.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
MEMBERSHIP		
Definition	§ 102(11) – "Member" is defined as a person who has become a member of the LLC or was a member when the company became subject to the act, and has not dissociated.	§ 7-16-2(20) – "Member" is defined as a person with an ownership interest in a limited liability company with the rights and obligations specified under this chapter.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
FEATURE Becoming a member	**Substitute of the substitute	RHODE ISLAND § 7-16-5 – One or more persons may form a LLC and become members by delivering executed articles of organization to the Secretary of State for filing. § 7-16-36 – The members of the LLC must unanimously consent to granting assignee membership status. § 7-16-38 – Articles of organization or operating agreement may also state how a person becomes a member of the LLC. There is no single section to describe all the ways in which a person becomes a member; rather, this information is scattered throughout the statute.
	If a transferee becomes a member, the transferee is liable for the member's contribution obligations and for claw back of improper distributions made to the member. See § 502(h).	
FINANCES		
Acceptable forms of contributions	§ 402 – Property, services performed other benefits, or any agreement to provide same.	§ 7-16-2(5) – "capital contribution" means any cash, property, services rendered, or a promissory note or other binding obligation to contribute cash or property.
Allocation of distributions	§ 404 – Default rule is that distributions before dissolution must be in equal shares among members and dissociated members, except to comply with transferee obligations and charging orders. § 405 – No distribution allowed if company would be (1) unable to pay debts; or (2) if total assets would be less than total liabilities, plus any amount needed to satisfy preferential rights.	§ 7-16-27 – Default rule is that distribution shall be allocated to each member based on the member's capital value. § 7-16-31 – No distribution is permitted if the LLC would be (1) unable to pay debts; or (2) if total assets would be less than total liabilities, plus any amount needed to satisfy preferential rights.
Express provisions for capital accounts and profit and loss allocations	No – ULLCA follows both RUPA (1997) (Last Amended 2013) and ULPA (2001) (Last Amended 2013) by omitting the default rule for allocation of losses. Distribution rules are sufficient to determine tax allocation of losses.	§ 7-16-26 – Allocation of losses is determined based on member's capital value.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

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Liability for contributions	§ 403 – A person's obligation is not excused by death, disability, or other inability to perform; creditors may enforce this obligation. If a person does not make a required non-cash contribution, the person is obligated at option of the company to contribute money value. An obligation may be compromised by unanimous consent of members.	§ 7-16-25 – A person's obligation is not excused by death, disability, or other reason; creditors may enforce the obligation. If a person does not make a required non-cash contribution, then the person is obligated at the LLC's option to contribute the money value of that contribution. An obligation may be compromised only by unanimous consent of members.
Limitations on distributions	§ 405 – Alternative tests (1) not able to pay the debts as they become due in the ordinary course of business; or (2) total assets less than total liabilities.	Same - § 7-16-31 — Test is either (1) unable to pay debts as they become due in the ordinary course of business; or (2) total assets less than total liabilities, plus any amount needed to satisfy preferential rights.
Liability for improper distributions	§ 406 – Two types of liability specified: (1) personal liability of the members/managers who consent to an improper distribution; and (2) liability to return the excess by recipients who knew the distribution was improper. Two year statute of limitations to bring action for recovery of excess.	Same - § 7-16-32 — There is personal liability of members/managers who assent to an improper distribution; contribution to the liable individual(s) from each other member or manager who could have been liable and from each member who received a distribution knowing it was made in violation of the law.
Right to transfer financial interest	Yes - § 502 – Reflects the "pick your partner" principle and delimits the rights of transferees; a member can transfer only his/her financial interest, not management or governance rights. Transfer of certificates evidencing the interest is permitted. A transferee has no right to information except an accounting after dissolution.	Yes - § 7-16-35 – Also uses the "pick your partner" principle to delimit the right of the assignee; a member can transfer his/her financial interest, but not management or governance powers.
DISSOCIATION & DISSOLUTION	N	
Dissociation	§ 601 – The default rule gives a member the power to dissociate; but if the dissociation is wrongful, the member is liable for damages and is still liable for any unpaid contributions or other debts owed to the LLC. § 602 set forth the causes of disassociation.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
Effect of Dissociation	§ 603 – The member's right to participate in the management and conduct of the business terminates. The former member is a mere transferee and has only the right to receive distributions. The dissociation does not trigger any distributions; but the former member does receive a proportionate share of future distributions.	Unclear – The statute is silent.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

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FEATURE Dissolution	ULLCA (2006)(2013) § 701 – Lists the causes of dissolution, including	RHODE ISLAND § 7-16-39 – Lists the causes of dissolution
Dissolution		§ 7-16-39 – Lists the causes of dissolution
	court ordered dissolution (see below);	\$ 7 16 40 Domnits judicial dissolution
	88 702 707	§ 7-16-40 – Permits judicial dissolution
	§§ 702-707 – winding up and disposition of assets.	\$ 7.16.45 winding yo
	66 200 210	§ 7-16-45 – winding up
	§§ 708-710 – authorizes the Secretary of State to	971641
	administratively dissolve an LLC for failure:	§ 7-16-41 – Authorizes Secretary of State to
	(1)	administratively dissolve an LLC for failure to
	(1) to pay taxes of fees owed to the SOS;	file its annual report, failure to pay taxes or fees
	(2) 6-month delinquency in filing an annual	owed to the SoS, failure to appoint and maintain
	report; or	a resident agent in the state for 30 days, etc.
	(3) failure to have a registered agent for 60	0.7.16.40.79
	consecutive days.	§ 7-16-43: There is a right of reinstatement
		within 10 years if deficiencies are cured.
	There is a right of reinstatement within two years if	
	the deficiencies are cured.	
		T
Court Ordered Dissociation	§ 602(6) – On application by the LLC or a member	Unclear – The statute is silent.
(Expulsion)	to expel a member because the member:	
	(1) has engaged or is engaging in wrongful conduct	
	that has adversely and materially affected the	
	LLC's activities;	
	(2) has committed willfully or persistently a	
	material breach of the operating agreement or a	
	duty or obligation under § 409; or	
	(3) has engaged or is engaging in conduct which	
	makes it not reasonably practical to carry on the	
	activities of the LLC with the person as a	
	member.	
	This provision is a default rule that can be varied or	
	eliminated.	
Court Ordered Dissolution	§ 701(4) – On application by a member that:	§ 7-16-40 – On application by or on behalf of a
		member, the superior court may decree
	(1) the conduct of all or substantially all the LLC's	dissolution of an LLC when it is "not
	activities is unlawful;	reasonably practicable to carry on the business
	(2) it is not reasonably practicable to carry on the	in conformity with the articles of organization
	LLC's activities in conformity with the	or operating agreement."
	certificate of organization and the operating	
	agreement; or	
	(3) the managers or those members in control of	
	the LLC have acted, are acting, or will act in a	
	manner that is illegal, or fraudulent or in a	
	manner that is oppressive and was, or will be	
	directly harmful to the applicant.	
	This right cannot be modified or eliminated by the	
	operating agreement. Remedies other than	
	dissolution authorized	

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FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
Express authorization for	Yes to both – Express distinction between	No express authorization for direct lawsuits.
direct and derivative	direct/derivative lawsuits; § 801 allows a member	
provisions	to bring a direct action for injuries to that member	§ 7-16-56 – Provides express authorization for a
	and § 802-06 allows a member to bring a derivative	derivative action to enforce the right of an LLC.
	action to enforce the right of an LLC.	
MANDATED DISCLOSURE OF		1.5-111
Certificate/articles of	§ 201(b) – Certificate of organization must state the	§ 7-16-6 – Articles of organization must state:
organization	LLC's (1) name, (2) address of the company's principal office, and (3) the name and in-state address of the company's registered agent.	 LLC's name; address of company's principal office; name and address of its resident agent in the state; name and address of a person authorized to sign and who does sign the articles of organization; whether, under the articles of organization and any written operating agreement, the LLC is intended to be treated as a partnership, a corporation, or disregarded as an entity separate from its members for purposes of federal income tax; whether the LLC is member-managed or manager-managed (with name and address of each manager)
Annual reports	§ 212(a) – Annual report must state:	§ 7-16-66 – Annual report must state:
	 (1) name of the LLC; (2) name and street and mailing address of its registered agent in this state; (3) street and mailing addresses of its principal office; (4) if the company is member managed, name of at least one member; (5) if company is manager managed, the name of at least one manager; and (6) in the case of a foreign company, its jurisdiction of formation and any alternate name adopted under 906(a). 	 (1) name and address of LLC's principal office; (2) state or other jurisdiction under the laws of which it is formed; (3) name and address of LLC's registered agent; (4) mailing address of LLC and name/title of person to whom the mail should be addressed; (5) character of the business in which the LLC is engaged in the state; (6) any additional information required by SoS; (7) name and address of the LLC's managers.

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

Access to records \$ 410 - Separate provision for member-managed and manager-managed LLCs. In a member-managed LLC members may inspect and copy any records maintained by the company that are material to the member's rights and duties under the operating agreement under the following conditions: 1) member gives reasonable notice (response due not later than 10 days after receipt of the demand); 2) member inspects records during office hours; and 3) member inspects records during office hours; and members of exercise of duties and rights. 1) members provise of records at a reasonable location specified by the company. Without demand, the company must furnish to members any information material to members' exercise of duties and rights. In a manager-managed LLC, managers have the information rights of members have information rights of members and member. The LLC has 10 days to accept, reject or limit the requested access. Dissociated members have rights to information rights. A transferee is not entitled to any information rights. Under § 105(c)(8) an operating agreement may impose reasonable restrictions on access and use of information obtained under § 410 and may specify appropriate remedies, including liquidated damages, for breach of any restrictions. CREDITORS RIGHTS AGAINST MEMBERS/CHARGING ORDERS Exclusive remedy Ves - § 803(h) – Toranging order is the exclusive remedy for a judgment creditor of a member/transferee to obtain a member/transfereal in the subject of the	FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
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Dissociated members have rights to information relating to the time the former member was a member. A transferee is not entitled to any information rights. Under § 105(c)(8) an operating agreement may impose reasonable restrictions on access and use of information obtained under § 410 and may specify appropriate remedies, including liquidated damages, for breach of any restrictions. CREDITORS RIGHTS AGAINST MEMBERS/CHARGING ORDERS Exclusive remedy Yes - § 503(h) - Charging order is the exclusive remedy for a judgment creditor of a member/transferee to obtain a member/transferee's financial rights to distributions from the LLC. A secured creditor retains UCC Article 9 remedies. Foreclosure Authorized Yes - § 503(c) - Court may foreclose the charging order/lien and order the sale of the transferable Vinclear - § 7-16-37 - Rhode Island's LLC statute does permit charging orders for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of members, but does not state if this is the exclusive remedy for judgment creditors of member		rights related to the member's interest as a member. The LLC has 10 days to accept, reject or limit the	records, at the member's own expense, upon
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	Authorized	order/lien and order the sale of the transferable	Unclear – The statute is silent.

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Effect of foreclosure at sale	§ 503(c) – Purchaser of a foreclosed interest only obtains financial rights and does not become a member, except in the case of a foreclosure of a charging order lien against the sole member of an LLC. See § 503(f).	Unclear – The statute is silent.
Redemption rights	Yes - § 503(d) & (e) – Before foreclosure, the member or transferee whose interest is subject to the charging order may satisfy the judgment; or the LLC or a member not subject to the charging order may pay the judgment creditor the full amount due.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
	ication, Merger, Interest Exchange, Conversion	
Provided for	Yes - Article 10 provides for mergers, conversions, interest exchanges, and domestications. An LLC can merge or convert into another type of entity and other types of entities can merge or convert into an LLC. An LLC can exchange interests with another entity. An LLC can domesticate in another state and a foreign LLC can domesticate in the enacting state.	Yes § 7-16-59 - A domestic or foreign LLC may merge or consolidate with or into one or more domestic of foreign LLCs, LPs, or corporations. One or more LPs or corporations may also merge/consolidate with or into any domestic or foreign LLCs.
Vote required	Unanimous consent – Subject to the operating agreement, § 407(b)(4)(A) for member-managed LLCs and § 407(c)(3)(A) for manager-managed LLCs requires the consent of all members to approve an Article 10 transaction.	§ 7-16-21(b)(3) – Majority vote required to approve LLC merger/consolidation.
Appraisal (Dissenters') rights	No express provision because unanimous consent is required for Article 10 transactions; but § 1007 preserves appraisal rights authorized by other law for other entities that are parties to transaction and also authorizes enforcement of contractual appraisal rights in an LLC's operating agreement or the Plan.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS		
Organization and navigation	Drafted in organized manner to provide ease of navigation; succinct provisions, avoids "over-corporatization."	
Formation	§ 201- A LLC is formed when the certificate of organization is effective and at least one person has become a member.	§ 7-16-5 – A LLC is formed when the Secretary of State accepts the articles of organization for filing and issues the certificate of organization. One or more persons must deliver the executed articles of organization to the Secretary of State.
Permissible purpose	§ 108 – LLC is not restricted to for-profit business activities, but may engage in "any lawful purpose, regardless of whether for profit." This expands the availability of LLCs to family vacation homes and organizations whose activities might be classified as non-profit.	§ 7-16-3 – LLC is a company that has the purpose of "engaging in any lawful business unless a more limited purpose is set forth in the articles of organization."

Limited Liability Company Act (2006)(Harmonized 2013) v. Rhode Island Liability Company Act, § 7-16-1 to § 7-16-76

FEATURE	ULLCA (2006)(2013)	RHODE ISLAND
Choice of law – internal	§ 104 – Law of this state governs internal affairs of	§ 7-16-2(16) – Laws of this state govern the
affairs doctrine recognized	an LLC formed in this state and cannot be altered under § 105(c)(1).	formation and existence of a domestic LLC.
		§ 7-16-2(14) – Laws of the state of formation
	§ 901 – Law of the state of formation governs	govern a foreign LLC.
	internal affairs and liability shield (including the internal series shield) of a foreign LLC.	
Scope of liability shield	§ 304 – No status liability for members and	Unclear – The statute is silent.
	managers, including after dissolution; formality	
	failure is not a piercing element.	
Freedom of contract	No express provision but principles inherent	No express provision.
	throughout. The Act contains a basic set of internal affairs default rules, most of which can be altered	
	by the operating agreement.	
Name requirements and other	§§ 112-20 and 201-212 contain state- of-the-art	§ 7-16-2(11) – Permits electronic
filing requirements;	filing provisions that will accommodate electronic	delivery/filing.
registered agents	filing of documents, if and when authorized by the	9.7.16.9 Eiling and an annual
	enacting state; and also modernized registered agent provisions.	§ 7-16-8 – Filing requirements, generally
Statute of Frauds not	No – Common law statute of frauds applies.	Unclear – The statute is silent.
applicable to operating		
agreement		
Indemnification	§ 408 – No indemnification for breach of distribution limitations or breach of management	§ 7-16-4(11) – The statute authorizes advance of expenses and fees to any member, manager,
	duties and responsibilities. Specific authorization	agent, or employee.
	for advance of fees and expenses.	agoni, or empreyeer
Foreign LLCs – modern	Article 9 – Specific provisions relating to foreign	§§ 7-16-48 through 7-16-55 – The statute has
language re:	LLCs.	many provisions specific to foreign LLCs.
Acts not constituting doing	§ 905 – Lists specific activities that do not	Unclear – The statute is silent.
business in state	constitute transacting business in this state.	
Consequences of doing	§ 902(b) – An unregistered foreign LLC that	Same – § 7-16-54 – An unregistered foreign
business without having	transacts business in the state may not maintain an	LLC that transacts business in the state may not
proper certificate of authority	action or court proceeding.	maintain an action or court proceeding.