

STATE OF NEW YORK

1891

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. LUPARDO, THIELE, SANTABARBARA, STECK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. McDONOUGH, B. MILLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the business corporation law, in relation to providing for expanded ownership in design professional corporations by employee stock ownership plans and non-licensed employees

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (b-1) of section
2 1503 of the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the
3 laws of 2011, are amended to read as follows:

4 (i) greater than seventy-five percent of the outstanding shares of
5 stock of the corporation are owned by design professionals and an ESOP
6 (or ESOPs) with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting
7 trustees and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee
8 members being design professionals,

9 (ii) an ESOP, either in part or in its entirety, shall not constitute
10 part of the greater than seventy-five percent owned by design profes-
11 sionals unless greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting
12 trustees and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee
13 members are design professionals,

14 § 2. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (b) of section 1507 of
15 the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the laws of
16 2011, are amended to read as follows:

17 (i) greater than seventy-five percent of the outstanding shares of
18 stock of the corporation are owned by design professionals and an ESOP
19 (or ESOPs) with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting
20 trustees and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee
21 members being design professionals,

22 (ii) an ESOP, either in part or in its entirety, shall not constitute
23 part of the greater than seventy-five percent owned by design profes-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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sionals unless greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting trustees and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee members are design professionals,

§ 3. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of section 1514 of the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(i) greater than seventy-five percent of the outstanding shares of stock of the corporation are and were owned by design professionals and an ESOP (or ESOPs) with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting trustees and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee members being design professionals,

§ 4. Paragraph (a) of section 1505 of the business corporation law, as amended by chapter 550 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(a) (i) Each shareholder, employee or agent of a professional service corporation and a design professional service corporation shall be personally and fully liable and accountable for any negligent or wrongful act or misconduct committed by him or by any person under his direct supervision and control while rendering professional services on behalf of such corporation.

(ii) An employee stock ownership plan owning greater than twenty-five percent of the outstanding shares of a design professional service corporation organized under paragraph (b-1) of section fifteen hundred three of this article shall be under the supervision of the regents of the university of the state of New York and be subject to disciplinary proceedings and penalties, and its authority to hold shares of such corporation shall be subject to suspension, revocation or annulment for cause, in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided with respect to individuals and their licenses, certificates, and registrations in title eight of the education law relating to the applicable profession.

§ 5. Subparagraphs (v) and (vi) of paragraph (b-1) of section 1503 of the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the laws of 2011, are amended and a new subparagraph (vii) is added to read as follows:

(v) the president, the chairperson of the board of directors and the chief executive officer or officers are design professionals, ~~[and]~~

(vi) the single largest shareholder is either a design professional or an ESOP with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting trustees being design professionals and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee members being design professionals~~[-].~~
and

(vii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less than five percent of the outstanding shares of stock of the corporation shall be owned by design professionals.

§ 6. Subparagraphs (v) and (vi) of paragraph (b) of section 1507 of the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the laws of 2011, are amended and a new subparagraph (vii) is added to read as follows:

(v) the president, the chairperson of the board of directors and the chief executive officer or officers are design professionals, ~~[and]~~

(vi) the single largest shareholder is either a design professional or an ESOP with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's voting trustees being design professionals and greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's committee members being design professionals~~[-].~~
and

1 (vii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less than five
2 percent of the outstanding shares of stock of the corporation shall be
3 owned by design professionals.

4 § 7. Subparagraphs (iv) and (v) of paragraph (b) of section 1514 of
5 the business corporation law, as added by chapter 550 of the laws of
6 2011, are amended and a new subparagraph (vi) is added to read as
7 follows:

8 (iv) the president, the chairperson of the board of directors and the
9 chief executive officer or officers are and were design professionals,
10 [~~and~~]

11 (v) the single largest shareholder is and was either a design profes-
12 sional or an ESOP with greater than seventy-five percent of the plan's
13 voting trustees being design professionals and greater than seventy-five
14 percent of the plan's committee members being design professionals[~~+~~].

15 and

16 (vi) notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less than five
17 percent of the outstanding shares of stock of the corporation are and
18 were owned by design professionals.

19 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately.