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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1770**

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 5, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 64.2-701 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Uniform Trust Code; definitions.

Patron—Martinez

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 64.2-701 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 64.2-701. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Action," with respect to an act of a trustee, includes a failure to act.

"Appointive property" means the property or property interest subject to a power of appointment.

"Ascertainable standard" means a standard relating to an individual's health, education, support, or maintenance within the meaning of § 2041(b)(1)(A) or 2514(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and any applicable regulations.

"Authorized fiduciary" means (i) a trustee or other fiduciary, other than a settlor, that has discretion to distribute or direct a trustee to distribute part or all of the income or principal of the first trust to one or more current beneficiaries and that is not (a) a current beneficiary of the first trust or a beneficiary to which the net income or principal of the first trust would be distributed if the first trust were terminated, (b) a trustee of the first trust that may be removed and replaced by a current beneficiary who has the power to remove the existing trustee of the first trust and designate as successor trustee a person that may be a related or subordinate party, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 672(c), with respect to such current beneficiary, or (c) an individual trustee whose legal obligation to support a beneficiary may be satisfied by distributions of income and principal of the first trust; (ii) a special fiduciary appointed under § 64.2-779.6; or (iii) a special-needs fiduciary under § 64.2-779.10.

"Beneficiary" means a person that (i) has a present or future, vested or contingent, beneficial interest in a trust; (ii) holds a power of appointment over trust property; or (iii) is an identified charitable organization that will or may receive distributions under the terms of the trust.

"Charitable interest" means an interest in a trust that (i) is held by an identified charitable organization and makes the organization a qualified beneficiary; (ii) benefits only charitable organizations and, if the interest were held by an identified charitable organization, would make the organization a qualified beneficiary; or (iii) is held solely for charitable purposes and, if the interest were held by an identified charitable organization, would make the organization a qualified beneficiary.

"Charitable organization" means (i) a person, other than an individual, organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes or (ii) a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, to the extent that it holds funds exclusively for a charitable purpose.

"Charitable purpose" means the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion, the promotion of health, a municipal or other governmental purpose, or another purpose the achievement of which is beneficial to the community.

"Charitable trust" means a trust, or portion of a trust, created for a charitable purpose described in § 64.2-723.

"Conservator" means a person appointed by the court to administer the estate of an adult individual.

"Court" means the court of the Commonwealth having jurisdiction in matters related to trusts.

"Current beneficiary" means a beneficiary that on the date the beneficiary's qualification is determined is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal. "Current beneficiary" includes the holder of a presently exercisable general power of appointment but does not include a person that is a beneficiary only because the person holds any other power of appointment.

"Decanting power" means the power of an authorized fiduciary under the Uniform Trust Decanting Act (§ 64.2-779.1 et seq.) to distribute property of a first trust to one or more second trusts or to modify the terms of the first trust.

"Directed trustee" means a trustee that is subject to a trust director's power of direction.

"Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

"Environmental law" means a federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance relating to protection of the environment.

"Expanded distributive discretion" means a discretionary power of distribution that is not limited to an

59 ascertainable standard or a reasonably definite standard.

60 "First trust" means a trust over which an authorized fiduciary may exercise the decanting power.

61 "First-trust instrument" means the trust instrument for a first trust.

62 "General power of appointment" means a power of appointment exercisable in favor of a powerholder, the  
63 powerholder's estate, a creditor of the powerholder, or a creditor of the powerholder's estate.

64 "Guardian" means a person appointed by the court to make decisions regarding the support, care,  
65 education, health, and welfare of a minor or adult individual. The term does not include a guardian ad litem.

66 "Guardian of the estate" means a person appointed by the court to administer the estate of a minor.

67 "Interests of the beneficiaries" means the beneficial interests provided in the terms of the trust.

68 "Jurisdiction," with respect to a geographic area, includes a state or country.

69 "Person" means an individual; estate; business or nonprofit entity; government; governmental subdivision,  
70 agency, or instrumentality; public corporation; or other legal entity.

71 "Powerholder" means a person in which a donor creates a power of appointment.

72 "Power of appointment" means a power that enables a powerholder acting in a nonfiduciary capacity to  
73 designate a recipient of an ownership interest in or another power of appointment over the appointive  
74 property. "Power of appointment" does not include a power of attorney.

75 "Power of direction" means a power over a trust granted to a person by the terms of the trust to the extent  
76 the power is exercisable while the person is not serving as a trustee. The term includes a power over the  
77 investment, management, or distribution of trust property or other matters of trust administration. The term  
78 excludes the powers described in subsection A of § 64.2-779.28.

79 "Power of withdrawal" means a presently exercisable general power of appointment other than a power  
80 exercisable by a trustee that is limited by an ascertainable standard, or that is exercisable by another person  
81 only upon consent of the trustee or a person holding an adverse interest.

82 "Presently exercisable power of appointment" means a power of appointment exercisable by the  
83 powerholder at the relevant time. "Presently exercisable power of appointment" includes a power of  
84 appointment exercisable only after the occurrence of a specified event, the satisfaction of an ascertainable  
85 standard, or the passage of a specified time, only after (i) the occurrence of the specified event, (ii) the  
86 satisfaction of the ascertainable standard, or (iii) the passage of the specified time. "Presently exercisable  
87 power of appointment" does not include a power exercisable only at the powerholder's death.

88 "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real or personal, legal or  
89 equitable, or any interest therein.

90 "Qualified beneficiary" means a beneficiary who, on the date the beneficiary's qualification is determined,  
91 (i) is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal; (ii) would be a distributee or  
92 permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the interests of the distributees described in clause (i)  
93 terminated on that date without causing the trust to terminate; or (iii) would be a distributee or permissible  
94 distributee of trust income or principal if the trust terminated on that date.

95 "Reasonably definite standard" means a clearly measurable standard under which a holder of a power of  
96 distribution is legally accountable within the meaning of § 674(b)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
97 1986 and any applicable regulations.

98 "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or  
99 other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

100 "Revocable," as applied to a trust, means revocable by the settlor without the consent of the trustee or a  
101 person holding an adverse interest.

102 "Second trust" means (i) a first trust after modification, including a restatement of the first trust, under the  
103 Uniform Trust Decanting Act (§ 64.2-779.1 et seq.) or (ii) a trust to which a distribution of property from a  
104 first trust is or may be made under the Uniform Trust Decanting Act (§ 64.2-779.1 et seq.).

105 "Second-trust instrument" means the trust instrument for a second trust.

106 "Settlor," except as otherwise provided in § 64.2-779.22, means a person, including a testator, who creates  
107 or contributes property to a trust. If more than one person creates or contributes property to a trust, each  
108 person is a settlor of the portion of the trust property attributable to that person's contribution except to the  
109 extent another person has the power to revoke or withdraw that portion.

110 "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record, (i) to execute or adopt a tangible  
111 symbol or (ii) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

112 "Spendthrift provision" means a term of a trust that restrains both voluntary and involuntary transfer of a  
113 beneficiary's interest.

114 "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
115 Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The term  
116 includes an Indian tribe or band recognized by federal law or formally acknowledged by a state.

117 "Terms of a trust" means:

118 1. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 2, the manifestation of the settlor's intent regarding a trust's  
119 provisions as (i) expressed in the trust instrument or (ii) established by other evidence that would be

120 admissible in a judicial proceeding; or  
121 2. The trust's provisions as established, determined, or amended by (i) a trustee or trust director in  
122 accordance with applicable law, (ii) court order, or (iii) a nonjudicial settlement agreement under § 64.2-709.  
123 "Trust director" means a person that is granted a power of direction by the terms of a trust to the extent the  
124 power is exercisable while the person is not serving as a trustee. The person is a trust director whether or not  
125 the terms of the trust refer to the person as a trust director and whether or not the person is a beneficiary or  
126 settlor of the trust.  
127 "Trust instrument" means a record ~~executed~~ *signed* by the settlor to create a trust or by any person to  
128 create a second trust that contains some or all of the terms of the trust, including any amendments.  
129 "Trustee" includes an original, additional, and successor trustee and a cotrustee.

**INTRODUCED**

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