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HOUSE BILL NO. 133

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 3, 2026

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-291.7, 54.1-2982, 54.1-2983, 54.1-2984, 59.1-481, 64.2-100, 64.2-403, 64.2-404, 64.2-407, and 64.2-450 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 64.2 an article numbered 7, consisting of sections numbered 64.2-459 through 64.2-468, relating to electronic execution of estate planning documents; Uniform Electronic Wills Act.*

 Patron—Simon

 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-291.7, 54.1-2982, 54.1-2983, 54.1-2984, 59.1-481, 64.2-100, 64.2-403, 64.2-404, 64.2-407, and 64.2-450 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 64.2 an article numbered 7, consisting of sections numbered 64.2-459 through 64.2-468, as follows:

§ 32.1-291.7. Refusal to make anatomical gift; effect of refusal.

A. An individual may refuse to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part by:

1. A record signed by:

a. The individual; or

b. Subject to subsection B, another individual acting at the direction of the individual if the individual is physically unable to sign;

2. The individual's will, whether or not the will is admitted to probate or invalidated after the individual's death; or

3. Any form of communication made by the individual during the individual's terminal illness or injury addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness.

B. A record signed pursuant to subdivision A 1 b shall:

1. Be *either (i) witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the individual or (ii) acknowledged before a notary public;* and

2. State that it has been signed and *either witnessed or notarized* as provided in subdivision 1.

C. An individual who has made a refusal may amend or revoke the refusal:

1. In the manner provided in subsection A for making a refusal;

2. By subsequently making an anatomical gift pursuant to § 32.1-291.5 that is inconsistent with the refusal; or

3. By destroying or canceling the record evidencing the refusal, or the portion of the record used to make the refusal, with the intent to revoke the refusal.

D. Except as otherwise provided in subsection H of § 32.1-291.8, in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the individual set forth in the refusal, an individual's unrevoked refusal to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part bars all other persons from making an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part.

§ 54.1-2982. Definitions.

As used in this article:

"Advance directive" means (i) a ~~witnessed written document~~ *writing or other record*, voluntarily executed by the declarant in accordance with the requirements of § 54.1-2983 or (ii) a witnessed oral statement, made by the declarant subsequent to the time he is diagnosed as suffering from a terminal condition and in accordance with the provisions of § 54.1-2983.

"Agent" means an adult appointed by the declarant under an advance directive, executed or made in accordance with the provisions of § 54.1-2983, to make health care decisions for him. The declarant may also appoint an adult to make, after the declarant's death, an anatomical gift of all or any part of his body pursuant to Article 2 (§ 32.1-291.1 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 32.1.

"Attending physician" means the primary physician who has responsibility for the health care of the patient.

"Capacity reviewer" means a licensed physician or clinical psychologist who is qualified by training or experience to assess whether a person is capable or incapable of making an informed decision.

"Declarant" means an adult who makes an advance directive, as defined in this article, while capable of making and communicating an informed decision.

"Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order" means a written physician's order issued pursuant to § 54.1-2987.1 to withhold cardiopulmonary resuscitation from a particular patient in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.

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59 For purposes of this article, cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall include cardiac compression, endotracheal
60 intubation and other advanced airway management, artificial ventilation, and defibrillation and related
61 procedures. As the terms "advance directive" and "Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order" are used in this article,
62 a Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order is not and shall not be construed as an advance directive.

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

65 "Health care" means the furnishing of services to any individual for the purpose of preventing, alleviating,
66 curing, or healing human illness, injury or physical disability, including but not limited to, medications;
67 surgery; blood transfusions; chemotherapy; radiation therapy; admission to a hospital, nursing home, assisted
68 living facility, or other health care facility; psychiatric or other mental health treatment; and life-prolonging
69 procedures and palliative care.

70 "Health care provider" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 8.01-581.1.

71 "Incapable of making an informed decision" means the inability of an adult patient, because of mental
72 illness, intellectual disability, or any other mental or physical disorder that precludes communication or
73 impairs judgment, to make an informed decision about providing, continuing, withholding or withdrawing a
74 specific health care treatment or course of treatment because he is unable to understand the nature, extent or
75 probable consequences of the proposed health care decision, or to make a rational evaluation of the risks and
76 benefits of alternatives to that decision. For purposes of this article, persons who are deaf, dysphasic or have
77 other communication disorders, who are otherwise mentally competent and able to communicate by means
78 other than speech, shall not be considered incapable of making an informed decision.

79 "Life-prolonging procedure" means any medical procedure, treatment or intervention which (i) utilizes
80 mechanical or other artificial means to sustain, restore or supplant a spontaneous vital function, or is
81 otherwise of such a nature as to afford a patient no reasonable expectation of recovery from a terminal
82 condition and (ii) when applied to a patient in a terminal condition, would serve only to prolong the dying
83 process. The term includes artificially administered hydration and nutrition. However, nothing in this act shall
84 prohibit the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to
85 provide comfort care or to alleviate pain, including the administration of pain relieving medications in excess
86 of recommended dosages in accordance with §§ 54.1-2971.01 and 54.1-3408.1. For purposes of
87 §§ 54.1-2988, 54.1-2989, and 54.1-2991, the term also shall include cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

88 *"Notary public" has the same meaning as provided in § 47.1-2 and includes an "electronic notary public"*
89 *and "electronic notary" as defined in § 47.1-2.*

90 "Patient care consulting committee" means a committee duly organized by a facility licensed to provide
91 health care under Title 32.1 or Title 37.2, or a hospital or nursing home as defined in § 32.1-123 owned or
92 operated by an agency of the Commonwealth that is exempt from licensure pursuant to § 32.1-124, to consult
93 on health care issues only as authorized in this article. Each patient care consulting committee shall consist of
94 five individuals, including at least one physician, one person licensed or holding a multistate licensure
95 privilege under Chapter 30 (§ 54.1-3000 et seq.) to practice professional nursing, and one individual
96 responsible for the provision of social services to patients of the facility. At least one committee member
97 shall have experience in clinical ethics and at least two committee members shall have no employment or
98 contractual relationship with the facility or any involvement in the management, operations, or governance of
99 the facility, other than serving on the patient care consulting committee. A patient care consulting committee
100 may be organized as a subcommittee of a standing ethics or other committee established by the facility or
101 may be a separate and distinct committee. Four members of the patient care consulting committee shall
102 constitute a quorum of the patient care consulting committee.

103 "Persistent vegetative state" means a condition caused by injury, disease or illness in which a patient has
104 suffered a loss of consciousness, with no behavioral evidence of self-awareness or awareness of surroundings
105 in a learned manner, other than reflex activity of muscles and nerves for low level conditioned response, and
106 from which, to a reasonable degree of medical probability, there can be no recovery.

107 "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia or in the
108 jurisdiction where the health care is to be rendered or withheld.

109 "Qualified advance directive facilitator" means a person who has successfully completed a training
110 program approved by the Department of Health for providing assistance in completing and executing a
111 written advance directive, including successful demonstration of competence in assisting a person in
112 completing and executing a valid advance directive and successful passage of a written examination.

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

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

117 "Terminal condition" means a condition caused by injury, disease or illness from which, to a reasonable
118 degree of medical probability a patient cannot recover and (i) the patient's death is imminent or (ii) the patient
119 is in a persistent vegetative state.

120 "Witness" means any person over the age of 18, including a spouse or blood relative of the declarant.

121 Employees of health care facilities and physician's offices, who act in good faith, shall be permitted to serve
122 as witnesses for purposes of this article.

123 **§ 54.1-2983. Procedure for making advance directive; notice to physician.**

124 Any adult capable of making an informed decision may, at any time, make a ~~written~~ *an* advance directive
125 *in a writing or other record* to address any or all forms of health care in the event the declarant is later
126 determined to be incapable of making an informed decision. ~~A written~~ *Such* advance directive shall be (i) *a*
127 *writing* signed by the declarant in the presence of two subscribing witnesses ~~and~~ *or* (ii) *a writing or other*
128 *record signed by the declarant and acknowledged before a notary public. Such advance directive may* (i) (a)
129 specify the health care the declarant does or does not authorize; (ii) (b) appoint an agent to make health care
130 decisions for the declarant; and (iii) (c) specify an anatomical gift, after the declarant's death, of all of the
131 declarant's body or an organ, tissue, or eye donation pursuant to Article 2 (§ 32.1-291.1 et seq.) of Chapter 8
132 of Title 32.1. ~~A written~~ *An advance directive in a writing or other record* may be submitted to the Advance
133 Health Care Directive Registry, pursuant to Article 9 (§ 54.1-2994 et seq.). *An individual may create a*
134 *certified paper copy of an advance directive that the declarant signed by attaching or logically associating*
135 *an electronic sound, symbol, or process by affirming that the paper copy of such advance directive is a*
136 *complete, true, and accurate copy of such advance directive.*

137 Further, any adult capable of making an informed decision who has been diagnosed by his attending
138 physician as being in a terminal condition may make an oral advance directive (i) (1) directing the specific
139 health care the declarant does or does not authorize in the event the declarant is incapable of making an
140 informed decision; and (ii) (2) appointing an agent to make health care decisions for the declarant under the
141 circumstances stated in the advance directive if the declarant should be determined to be incapable of making
142 an informed decision. An oral advance directive shall be made in the presence of the attending physician and
143 two witnesses.

144 An advance directive may authorize an agent to take any lawful actions necessary to carry out the
145 declarant's decisions, including, but not limited to, granting releases of liability to medical providers,
146 releasing medical records, and making decisions regarding who may visit the patient.

147 It shall be the responsibility of the declarant to provide for notification to his attending physician that an
148 advance directive has been made. If an advance directive has been submitted to the Advance Health Care
149 Directive Registry pursuant to Article 9 (§ 54.1-2994 et seq.), it shall be the responsibility of the declarant to
150 provide his attending physician, legal representative, or other person with the information necessary to access
151 the advance directive. In the event the declarant is comatose, incapacitated or otherwise mentally or
152 physically incapable of communication, any other person may notify the physician of the existence of an
153 advance directive and, if applicable, the fact that it has been submitted to the Advance Health Care Directive
154 Registry. An attending physician who is so notified shall promptly make the advance directive or a copy of
155 the advance directive, if ~~written~~ *in a writing or other record*, or the fact of the advance directive, if oral, a
156 part of the declarant's medical records.

157 In the event that any portion of an advance directive is invalid or illegal, such invalidity or illegality shall
158 not affect the remaining provisions of the advance directive.

159 **§ 54.1-2984. Suggested form of written advance directives.**

160 An advance directive executed pursuant to this article may, but need not, be in the following form:

161 **ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE**

162 I, _____, willingly and voluntarily make known my wishes in the event that I am incapable of
163 making an informed decision, as follows:

164 I understand that my advance directive may include the selection of an agent as well as set forth my
165 choices regarding health care. The term "health care" means the furnishing of services to any individual for
166 the purpose of preventing, alleviating, curing, or healing human illness, injury or physical disability,
167 including but not limited to, medications; surgery; blood transfusions; chemotherapy; radiation therapy;
168 admission to a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, or other health care facility; psychiatric or
169 other mental health treatment; and life-prolonging procedures and palliative care.

170 The phrase "incapable of making an informed decision" means unable to understand the nature, extent and
171 probable consequences of a proposed health care decision or unable to make a rational evaluation of the risks
172 and benefits of a proposed health care decision as compared with the risks and benefits of alternatives to that
173 decision, or unable to communicate such understanding in any way.

174 The determination that I am incapable of making an informed decision shall be made by my attending
175 physician and a capacity reviewer, if certification by a capacity reviewer is required by law, after a personal
176 examination of me and shall be certified in writing. Such certification shall be required before health care is
177 provided, continued, withheld or withdrawn, before any named agent shall be granted authority to make
178 health care decisions on my behalf, and before, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, health care is
179 provided, continued, withheld or withdrawn and every 180 days thereafter while the need for health care
180 continues.

181 If, at any time, I am determined to be incapable of making an informed decision, I shall be notified, to the
182 extent I am capable of receiving such notice, that such determination has been made before health care is

183 provided, continued, withheld, or withdrawn. Such notice shall also be provided, as soon as practical, to my
184 named agent or person authorized by § 54.1-2986 to make health care decisions on my behalf. If I am later
185 determined to be capable of making an informed decision by a physician, in writing, upon personal
186 examination, any further health care decisions will require my informed consent.

187 (SELECT ANY OR ALL OF THE OPTIONS BELOW.)

188 OPTION I: APPOINTMENT OF AGENT (CROSS THROUGH OPTIONS I AND II BELOW IF YOU
189 DO NOT WANT TO APPOINT AN AGENT TO MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR YOU.)

190 I hereby appoint _____ (primary agent), of _____ (address and telephone
191 number), as my agent to make health care decisions on my behalf as authorized in this document. If
192 _____ (primary agent) is not reasonably available or is unable or unwilling to act as my agent,
193 then I appoint _____ (successor agent), of _____ (address and telephone number), to
194 serve in that capacity.

195 I hereby grant to my agent, named above, full power and authority to make health care decisions on my
196 behalf as described below whenever I have been determined to be incapable of making an informed decision.
197 My agent's authority hereunder is effective as long as I am incapable of making an informed decision.

198 In exercising the power to make health care decisions on my behalf, my agent shall follow my desires and
199 preferences as stated in this document or as otherwise known to my agent. My agent shall be guided by my
200 medical diagnosis and prognosis and any information provided by my physicians as to the intrusiveness, pain,
201 risks, and side effects associated with treatment or nontreatment. My agent shall not make any decision
202 regarding my health care which he knows, or upon reasonable inquiry ought to know, is contrary to my
203 religious beliefs or my basic values, whether expressed orally or in writing. If my agent cannot determine
204 what health care choice I would have made on my own behalf, then my agent shall make a choice for me
205 based upon what he believes to be in my best interests.

206 OPTION II: POWERS OF MY AGENT (CROSS THROUGH ANY LANGUAGE YOU DO NOT
207 WANT AND ADD ANY LANGUAGE YOU DO WANT.)

208 The powers of my agent shall include the following:

209 A. To consent to or refuse or withdraw consent to any type of health care, treatment, surgical procedure,
210 diagnostic procedure, medication and the use of mechanical or other procedures that affect any bodily
211 function, including, but not limited to, artificial respiration, artificially administered nutrition and hydration,
212 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. This authorization specifically includes the power to consent to the
213 administration of dosages of pain-relieving medication in excess of recommended dosages in an amount
214 sufficient to relieve pain, even if such medication carries the risk of addiction or of inadvertently hastening
215 my death;

216 B. To request, receive, and review any information, verbal or written, regarding my physical or mental
217 health, including but not limited to, medical and hospital records, and to consent to the disclosure of this
218 information;

219 C. To employ and discharge my health care providers;

220 D. To authorize my admission to or discharge (including transfer to another facility) from any hospital,
221 hospice, nursing home, assisted living facility or other medical care facility. If I have authorized admission to
222 a health care facility for treatment of mental illness, that authority is stated elsewhere in this advance
223 directive;

224 E. To authorize my admission to a health care facility for the treatment of mental illness for no more than
225 10 calendar days provided I do not protest the admission and a physician on the staff of or designated by the
226 proposed admitting facility examines me and states in writing that I have a mental illness and I am incapable
227 of making an informed decision about my admission, and that I need treatment in the facility; and to
228 authorize my discharge (including transfer to another facility) from the facility;

229 F. To authorize my admission to a health care facility for the treatment of mental illness for no more than
230 10 calendar days, even over my protest, if a physician on the staff of or designated by the proposed admitting
231 facility examines me and states in writing that I have a mental illness and I am incapable of making an
232 informed decision about my admission, and that I need treatment in the facility; and to authorize my
233 discharge (including transfer to another facility) from the facility. [My physician or licensed clinical
234 psychologist hereby attests that I am capable of making an informed decision and that I understand the
235 consequences of this provision of my advance directive: _____];

236 G. To authorize the specific types of health care identified in this advance directive [specify cross-
237 reference to other sections of directive] even over my protest. [My physician or licensed clinical psychologist
238 hereby attests that I am capable of making an informed decision and that I understand the consequences of
239 this provision of my advance directive: _____];

240 H. To continue to serve as my agent even in the event that I protest the agent's authority after I have been
241 determined to be incapable of making an informed decision;

242 I. To authorize my participation in any health care study approved by an institutional review board or
243 research review committee according to applicable federal or state law that offers the prospect of direct

244 therapeutic benefit to me;

245 J. To authorize my participation in any health care study approved by an institutional review board or
246 research review committee pursuant to applicable federal or state law that aims to increase scientific
247 understanding of any condition that I may have or otherwise to promote human well-being, even though it
248 offers no prospect of direct benefit to me;

249 K. To make decisions regarding visitation during any time that I am admitted to any health care facility,
250 consistent with the following directions: _____; and

251 L. To take any lawful actions that may be necessary to carry out these decisions, including the granting of
252 releases of liability to medical providers. Further, my agent shall not be liable for the costs of health care
253 pursuant to his authorization, based solely on that authorization.

254 **OPTION III: HEALTH CARE INSTRUCTIONS**
255 **(CROSS THROUGH PARAGRAPHS A AND/OR B IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO GIVE**
256 **ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH CARE.)**

257 A. I specifically direct that I receive the following health care if it is medically appropriate under the
258 circumstances as determined by my attending physician: _____.

259 B. I specifically direct that the following health care not be provided to me under the following
260 circumstances (you may specify that certain health care not be provided under any circumstances):
261 _____.

262 **OPTION IV: END OF LIFE INSTRUCTIONS**
263 **(CROSS THROUGH THIS OPTION IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT**
264 **YOUR HEALTH CARE IF YOU HAVE A TERMINAL CONDITION.)**

265 If at any time my attending physician should determine that I have a terminal condition where the
266 application of life-prolonging procedures - including artificial respiration, cardiopulmonary resuscitation,
267 artificially administered nutrition, and artificially administered hydration - would serve only to artificially
268 prolong the dying process, I direct that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to
269 die naturally with only the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed
270 necessary to provide me with comfort care or to alleviate pain.

271 **OPTION: LIFE-PROLONGING PROCEDURES DURING PREGNANCY.** (If you wish to provide
272 additional instructions or modifications to instructions you have already given regarding life-prolonging
273 procedures that will apply if you are pregnant at the time your attending physician determines that you have a
274 terminal condition, you may do so here.)

275 If I am pregnant when my attending physician determines that I have a terminal condition, my decision
276 concerning life-prolonging procedures shall be modified as follows:

277 _____
278 _____
279 _____
280 _____;

281 **OPTION: OTHER DIRECTIONS ABOUT LIFE-PROLONGING PROCEDURES.** (If you wish to
282 provide your own directions, or if you wish to add to the directions you have given above, you may do so
283 here. If you wish to give specific instructions regarding certain life-prolonging procedures, such as artificial
284 respiration, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, artificially administered nutrition, and artificially administered
285 hydration, this is where you should write them.) I direct that:

286 _____
287 _____
288 _____
289 _____;

290 **OPTION: My other instructions regarding my care if I have a terminal condition are as follows:**

291 _____
292 _____
293 _____
294 _____;

295 In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of such life-prolonging procedures, it is
296 my intention that this advance directive shall be honored by my family and physician as the final expression
297 of my legal right to refuse health care and acceptance of the consequences of such refusal.

298 **OPTION V: APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENT TO MAKE AN ANATOMICAL GIFT OR ORGAN,**
299 **TISSUE OR EYE DONATION (CROSS THROUGH IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO APPOINT AN AGENT**
300 **TO MAKE AN ANATOMICAL GIFT OR ANY ORGAN, TISSUE OR EYE DONATION FOR YOU.)**

301 Upon my death, I direct that an anatomical gift of all of my body or certain organ, tissue or eye donations
302 may be made pursuant to Article 2 (§ 32.1-289.2 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 32.1 and in accordance with
303 my directions, if any. I hereby appoint _____ as my agent, of _____ (address and
304 telephone number), to make any such anatomical gift or organ, tissue or eye donation following my death. I
305 further direct that: _____ (declarant's directions concerning anatomical gift or organ, tissue or

306 eye donation).

307 This advance directive shall not terminate in the event of my disability.

308 **AFFIRMATION AND RIGHT TO REVOKE:** By signing below, I indicate that I am emotionally and
 309 mentally capable of making this advance directive and that I understand the purpose and effect of this
 310 document. I understand I may revoke all or any part of this document at any time (i) with a signed, dated
 311 writing; (ii) by physical cancellation or destruction of this advance directive by myself or by directing
 312 someone else to destroy it in my presence; or (iii) by my oral expression of intent to revoke.

313 a _____
 314 b (Date) _____ (Signature of Declarant) _____

315 Date: _____
 316 Signature of Declarant: _____

317 The declarant signed the foregoing advance directive in my presence.
 318 (Witness) _____
 319 (Witness) _____

320 [OR]
 321 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
 322 AT-LARGE

323 The foregoing advance directive was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20__, by
 324 _____.

325 Notary Public: _____
 326 Notary Registration Number: _____

327 My commission expires: _____

328 **§ 59.1-481. Scope.**

329 ~~(a)~~ A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~(b)~~ B, this chapter applies to electronic records and

330 electronic signatures relating to a transaction.

331 ~~(b)~~ B. This chapter does not apply to a transaction to the extent it is governed by:
 332 ~~(1)~~ 1. A law governing the creation and execution of wills, codicils, or testamentary trusts, *including*
 333 *Article 7 (§ 64.2-459 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 64.2;* and

334 ~~(2)~~ 2. Title 8.1A except § 8.1A-306, Title 8.3A, Title 8.4, Title 8.4A, Title 8.5A, Title 8.7, Title 8.8A,
 335 Title 8.9A, Title 8.10, and Title 8.11.

336 ~~(c)~~ C. This chapter applies to an electronic record or electronic signature otherwise excluded from the
 337 application of this chapter under subsection ~~(b)~~ B to the extent it is governed by law other than those specified
 338 in subsection ~~(b)~~ B.

339 ~~(d)~~ D. A transaction subject to this chapter is also subject to other applicable substantive law.

340 **§ 64.2-100. Definitions.**

341 As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

342 "Bona fide purchaser" means a purchaser of property for value who has acted in the transaction in good
 343 faith. Notice of a seller's marital status, or notice of the existence of a premarital or marital agreement, does
 344 not affect the status of a bona fide purchaser. A "purchaser" is one who acquires property by sale, lease,
 345 discount, negotiation, mortgage, pledge, or lien or who otherwise deals with property in a voluntary
 346 transaction, other than a gift. A purchaser gives "value" for property acquired in return for a binding
 347 commitment to extend credit to the transferor or another as security for or in total or partial satisfaction of a
 348 pre-existing claim, or in return for any other consideration sufficient to support a simple contract.

349 "Fiduciary" includes a guardian, committee, trustee, executor, conservator, or personal representative.

350 "Personal representative" includes the executor under a will or the administrator of the estate of a
 351 decedent, the administrator of such estate with the will annexed, the administrator of such estate
 352 unadministered by a former representative, whether there is a will or not, any person who is under the order
 353 of a circuit court to take into his possession the estate of a decedent for administration, and every other
 354 curator of a decedent's estate, for or against whom suits may be brought for causes of action that accrued to or
 355 against the decedent.

356 "Trustee" means a trustee under a probated will or an inter vivos trust instrument.

357 "Will" includes any testament, codicil, exercise of a power of appointment by will or by a writing in the
 358 nature of a will, or any other testamentary disposition, *including an electronic will within the meaning of*
 359 *Article 7 (§ 64.2-459 et seq.) of Chapter 4.*

360 **§ 64.2-403. Execution of wills; requirements.**

361 A. No will shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by the testator, or by some other person in the
 362 testator's presence and by his direction, in such a manner as to make it manifest that the name is intended as a
 363 signature.

364 B. A will wholly in the testator's handwriting is valid without further requirements, provided that the fact
 365 that a will is wholly in the testator's handwriting and signed by the testator is proved by at least two
 366 disinterested witnesses.

367 C. A will not wholly in the testator's handwriting is not valid unless the signature of the testator is made,

368 or the will is acknowledged by the testator, in the presence of at least two competent witnesses who are
369 present at the same time and who subscribe the will in the presence of the testator. No form of attestation of
370 the witnesses shall be necessary.

371 *D. No will executed electronically shall be valid unless it is an electronic will within the meaning of*
372 *Article 7 (§ 64.2-459 et seq.). For the purposes of this subsection, "electronic" means the same as that term is*
373 *defined in § 64.2-459.*

374 **§ 64.2-404. Writings intended as wills.**

375 A. Although a document, ~~or~~ a writing added upon a document, *or a record* was not executed in
376 compliance with § 64.2-403 *or 64.2-462, as applicable*, the document ~~or~~, writing, *or record* shall be treated
377 as if it had been executed in compliance with § 64.2-403 *or 64.2-462, as applicable*, if the proponent of the
378 document ~~or~~, writing, *or record* establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the decedent intended the
379 document ~~or~~, writing, *or record* to constitute (i) the decedent's will, (ii) a partial or complete revocation of the
380 will, (iii) an addition to or an alteration of the will, or (iv) a partial or complete revival of ~~his~~ *the decedent's*
381 *formerly revoked will or of a formerly revoked portion of the will. For the purposes of this subsection,*
382 *"record" means the same as that term is defined in § 64.2-459.*

383 B. The remedy granted by this section (i) may not be used to excuse compliance with any requirement for
384 a testator's signature, except in circumstances where two persons mistakenly sign each other's will, or a
385 person signs the self-proving certificate to a will instead of signing the will itself and (ii) is available only in
386 proceedings brought in a circuit court under the appropriate provisions of this title, filed within one year from
387 the decedent's date of death and in which all interested persons are made parties.

388 **§ 64.2-407. Validity of other wills.**

389 Notwithstanding the provisions of § 64.2-403, ~~the~~ a will of a person domiciled out of the Commonwealth
390 at the time of his death shall be valid as to personal property *and real property* in the Commonwealth if the
391 will is executed ~~according to the law of the state or country in which the person was so domiciled in~~
392 *compliance with the law of the jurisdiction where the testator is (i) physically located when the will is*
393 *executed or (ii) domiciled or resides when the will is executed or when the testator dies. This section shall not*
394 *apply to a will executed electronically, which shall be governed by § 64.2-461. For purposes of this section,*
395 *"electronic" means the same as that term is defined in § 64.2-459.*

396 **§ 64.2-450. Probate of copy of will proved outside the Commonwealth; authenticated copy.**

397 When a will relative to an estate within the Commonwealth has been proved in another jurisdiction, an
398 authenticated copy of the will and the certificate of probate of the will may be offered for probate in the
399 Commonwealth, and there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the will was duly executed and admitted to
400 probate ~~as a will of personal estate~~ in the jurisdiction of the testator's domicile and the circuit court, or the
401 clerk of such court, where it is offered shall admit such copy to probate as a will of personal estate *and real*
402 *estate* in the Commonwealth. ~~If such copy indicates that the will was admitted to probate in a court of another~~
403 ~~jurisdiction and was so executed as to be a valid will of real estate in the Commonwealth by the law of the~~
404 ~~Commonwealth, such copy may be admitted to probate as a will of real estate.~~ An authenticated copy of any
405 will ~~which that~~ has been self-proved under the laws of another state shall, when offered with its authenticated
406 certificate of probate, be admitted to probate as a will of personal estate and real estate.

407 *Article 7.*

408 *Uniform Electronic Wills Act.*

409 **§ 64.2-459. Definitions.**

410 *For the purposes of this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

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

413 *"Electronic presence" means the relationship of two or more individuals in different locations*
414 *communicating in real time to the same extent as if the individuals were physically present in the same*
415 *location.*

416 *"Electronic will" means a will executed electronically in compliance with § 64.2-462.*

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

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

421 *"State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin*
422 *Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. "State" includes*
423 *a federally recognized Indian tribe.*

424 **§ 64.2-460. Law applicable to electronic will; principles of equity.**

425 *An electronic will is a will for all purposes of the laws of the Commonwealth. The laws of the*
426 *Commonwealth applicable to wills and principles of equity apply to an electronic will, except as modified by*
427 *this article.*

428 **§ 64.2-461. Choice of law regarding execution.**

429 *Notwithstanding the provisions of § 64.2-403, a will executed electronically but not in compliance with*

430 § 64.2-462 is an electronic will under this chapter as to personal property and real property in the
431 Commonwealth if executed in compliance with the law of the jurisdiction where the testator is (i) physically
432 located when the testator signs the will or (ii) domiciled or resides when the testator signs the will or when
433 the testator dies.

434 **§ 64.2-462. Execution of electronic will.**

435 A. Except as provided in § 64.2-463, an electronic will shall be:

436 1. A record that is readable as text at the time of signing;

437 2. Signed by the testator or by some other person in the testator's physical presence and at the testator's
438 direction;

439 3. Signed in the physical or electronic presence of the testator by at least two competent witnesses, each of
440 whom is a resident of a state and physically located in a state at the time of signing, after witnessing the
441 testator's signature under subdivision 2 or the testator's acknowledgement of the signing of the will under
442 subdivision 2 or the acknowledgement of the will, and each of whom is in the physical or electronic presence
443 of the other; and

444 4. Acknowledged by the testator and the attesting witnesses before and in the physical or electronic
445 presence of an electronic notary public, as defined in § 47.1-2, or other individual authorized by law to
446 notarize records electronically, in the manner set forth in § 64.2-465.

447 B. The intent of a testator pursuant to subdivision B 1 of § 64.2-464 be the testator's electronic will may
448 be established by extrinsic evidence.

449 **§ 64.2-463. Harmless error.**

450 The provisions of § 64.2-404 shall apply to an electronic will.

451 **§ 64.2-464. Revocation.**

452 A. An electronic will may revoke all or part of a previous will.

453 B. All or part of an electronic will is revoked by:

454 1. A subsequent will that revokes all or part of the electronic will expressly or by inconsistency; or

455 2. A physical act, as it is established by a preponderance of the evidence that the testator, with the intent
456 of revoking all or part of the will, performed the act or directed another individual who performed the act in
457 the testator's presence.

458 **§ 64.2-465. Electronic will attested and made self-proved at time of execution.**

459 An electronic will shall be made self-proved at the time of its execution by either the acknowledgment
460 thereof by the testator and the affidavits of the attesting witnesses or the acknowledgment thereof by the
461 testator and the attesting witnesses, each (i) made before an electronic notary public, as defined in § 47.1-2,
462 or other individual authorized by law to notarize records electronically and (ii) (a) evidenced by the
463 electronic notary public's electronic notarial certificate, as defined in § 47.1-2, or such other individual's
464 electronic notarial certificate attached, annexed to, or logically associated with the electronic will and (b)
465 bearing the electronic notary public's electronic notary seal, as defined in § 47.1-2, or such other individual's
466 electronic notary seal. The electronic notarial certificate shall be substantially as follows in form and
467 content:

468 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

469 CITY/COUNTY OF _____

470 Before me, the undersigned electronic notary public, or other individual authorized by law to notarize
471 records electronically, on this day appeared _____, _____, and _____, known
472 to me to be the testator and the witnesses, respectively, whose names are signed to the attached or foregoing
473 instrument and, all of these persons being by me first duly sworn, _____, the testator, declared to
474 me and to the witnesses in my physical or electronic presence that said instrument is his last will and
475 testament and that he had willingly signed or directed another to sign the same for him in his physical
476 presence and executed it in the physical or electronic presence of said witnesses as his free and voluntary act
477 for the purposes therein expressed; that said witnesses stated before me that the foregoing will was executed
478 and acknowledged by the testator as his last will and testament in the physical or electronic presence of said
479 witnesses who, in his physical or electronic presence and at his request, and in the physical or electronic
480 presence of each other, did sign their names thereto as attesting witnesses on the day of the date of said will;
481 that the testator, at the time of the execution of said will, was over the age of 18 years and of sound and
482 disposing mind and memory; and that each of said witnesses is a resident of a state and was physically
483 located in a state at the time they signed their names to said will.

484 In the case of an electronic will made self-proved by the acknowledgment of the testator and the affidavits
485 of the attesting witnesses, the signatures of the testator and the attesting witnesses and the jurat of the
486 electronic notary public or other individual authorized by law to notarize records electronically shall be
487 substantially as follows in form and content:

488 Testator: _____

489 Witness: _____

490 Witness: _____

491 Signed, sworn, and acknowledged before me by _____, the testator, and signed and

492 sworn before me by _____ and _____, witnesses, this _____
 493 day of _____, A.D., _____.

494 SIGNED _____

495 Electronic Notary Public

496 Or

497 [Official Capacity of Other Individual

498 Authorized by Law to Notarize Records Electronically]

499 In the case of an electronic will made self-proved by the acknowledgment of the testator and the attesting
 500 witnesses, the jurat of the electronic notary public or other individual authorized by law to notarize records
 501 electronically shall be substantially as follows in form and content:

502 Sworn and acknowledged before me by _____, the testator, and _____ and
 503 _____, witnesses, this ____ day of _____, A.D., _____.

504 SIGNED _____

505 Electronic Notary Public

506 Or

507 [Official Capacity of Other Individual

508 Authorized by Law to Notarize Records Electronically]

509 The affidavits of any such witnesses taken as provided by this section shall be accepted by the court as if
 510 they had been taken ore tenus before such court, notwithstanding that the officer did not attach or affix his
 511 official seal thereto. Any codicil that is self-proved under the provisions of this section that, by its terms,
 512 expressly confirms, ratifies, and republishes a will except as altered by the codicil shall have the effect of
 513 self-proving the will whether or not the will was so executed originally.

514 **§ 64.2-466. Certification of paper copy; probate.**

515 A. The testator may create a certified paper copy of an electronic will at any time, and any other
 516 individual may create a certified paper copy of an electronic will after the death of the testator, in either case
 517 by affirming under oath that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, such paper copy of the electronic will is
 518 a complete, true, and accurate copy of the electronic will. A certified paper copy of an electronic will shall be
 519 in writing, signed and dated by the person making the certification, with such signature made by executing or
 520 adopting a tangible symbol, as opposed to an electronic symbol or process, and shall include a paper copy of
 521 any electronic notarial certificate and any self-proved affidavit made with respect to the electronic will.

522 B. A certified paper copy of an electronic will made in accordance with subsection A may be offered for
 523 probate in the circuit court having jurisdiction under § 64.2-443, and the circuit court and the clerk of such
 524 court, or any duly qualified deputy of such clerk, may admit to probate such certified paper copy in the same
 525 manner and with like effect as other wills, provided that a certified paper copy of an electronic will created
 526 after the death of the testator shall be offered for probate within 60 days of its creation. At the time a certified
 527 copy of an electronic will is offered for probate, the circuit court or the clerk of such court shall require the
 528 proponent to take an oath in writing before the court or clerk, as the case may be, that, to the best of the
 529 proponent's knowledge and belief, such certified paper copy has not been admitted to probate by any other
 530 court or clerk in the Commonwealth. A certified paper copy of an electronic will that has been admitted to
 531 probate shall constitute the will for all purposes of this title.

532 **§ 64.2-467. Uniformity of application and construction.**

533 In applying and construing this article, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of
 534 the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

535 **§ 64.2-468. Transitional provision.**

536 This article applies to an electronic will of a decedent who dies on or after July 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED

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