

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001

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SENATE BILL 161\*

Short Title: Securities Transfer on Death.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hartsell; Carpenter, Forrester, and Hoyle.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

February 19, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENACT THE UNIFORM TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) SECURITY  
REGISTRATION ACT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES  
COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** The General Statutes are amended by rewriting the title of  
Chapter 41 to read "Estates and Interests in Property", and Chapter 41 of the General  
Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 4.

"The Uniform Transfer on Death (TOD)  
Security Registration Act.

**"§ 41-40. Definitions.**

In this Article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) 'Beneficiary form' means a registration of a security which indicates the present owner of the security and the intention of the owner regarding the person who will become the owner of the security upon the death of the owner.
- (2) 'Devisee' means any person designated in a will to receive a disposition of real or personal property.
- (3) 'Heirs' means those persons, including the surviving spouse, who are entitled under Chapter 29 of the General Statutes or the statutes of intestate succession of other states to take the property of a decedent by intestate succession.
- (4) 'Person' means an individual, a corporation, an organization, or other legal entity.
- (5) 'Personal representative' includes executor, administrator, collector, successor personal representative, special administrator, and persons

1           who perform substantially the same function under the law governing  
2           their status.

3           (6) 'Property' includes both real and personal property or any interest in  
4           real or personal property and means anything that may be the subject  
5           of ownership.

6           (7) 'Register', including its derivatives, means to issue a certificate  
7           showing the ownership of a certificated security or, in the case of an  
8           uncertificated security, to initiate or transfer an account showing  
9           ownership of securities.

10          (8) 'Registering entity' means a person who originates or transfers a  
11          security title by registration and includes a broker maintaining security  
12          accounts for customers and a transfer agent or other person acting for  
13          or as an issuer of securities.

14          (9) 'Security' means a share, participation, or other interest in property, in  
15          a business, or in an obligation of an enterprise or other issuer, and  
16          includes a certificated security, an uncertificated security, a security  
17          account, and a security entitlement as defined in G.S. 25-8-102.

18          (10) 'Security account' means (i) a reinvestment account associated with a  
19          security, a securities account with a broker, a cash balance in a  
20          brokerage account, cash, interest, earnings, or dividends earned or  
21          declared on a security in an account, a reinvestment account, or a  
22          brokerage account, whether or not credited to the account before the  
23          owner's death, or (ii) a cash balance or other property held for or due  
24          to the owner of a security as a replacement for or product of an  
25          account security, whether or not credited to the account before the  
26          owner's death.

27          (11) 'State' includes any state of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
28          the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession  
29          subject to the legislative authority of the United States.

30        **"§ 41-41. Registration in beneficiary form; sole or joint tenancy ownership.**

31        Only individuals whose registration of a security shows sole ownership by one  
32        individual or multiple ownership by two or more individuals with right of survivorship,  
33        rather than as tenants in common, may obtain registration in beneficiary form. Multiple  
34        owners of a security registered in beneficiary form hold as joint tenants with right of  
35        survivorship, as tenants by the entireties, or as owners of community property held in  
36        survivorship form, and not as tenants in common.

37        **"§ 41-42. Registration in beneficiary form; applicable law.**

38        A security may be registered in beneficiary form if the form is authorized by this or  
39        a similar statute of the state of organization of the issuer or registering entity, the  
40        location of the registering entity's principal office, the office of its transfer agent or its  
41        office making the registration, or by this or a similar statute of the law of the state listed  
42        as the owner's address at the time of registration. A registration governed by the law of a  
43        jurisdiction in which this or similar legislation is not in force or was not in force when a

1 registration in beneficiary form was made is nevertheless presumed to be valid and  
2 authorized as a matter of contract law.

3 **"§ 41-43. Origination of registration in beneficiary form.**

4 A security, whether evidenced by certificate or account, is registered in beneficiary  
5 form when the registration includes a designation of a beneficiary to take the ownership  
6 at the death of the owner or the deaths of all multiple owners.

7 **"§ 41-44. Form of registration in beneficiary form.**

8 Registration in beneficiary form may be shown by the words 'transfer on death' or  
9 the abbreviation 'TOD', or by the words 'pay on death' or the abbreviation 'POD', after  
10 the name of the registered owner or owners and before the name of a beneficiary.

11 **"§ 41-45. Effect of registration in beneficiary form.**

12 The designation of a TOD beneficiary on a registration in beneficiary form has no  
13 effect on ownership of the security until the owner's death. A registration of a security  
14 in beneficiary form may be cancelled or changed at any time by the sole owner or all  
15 then-surviving owners, without the consent of the beneficiary.

16 **"§ 41-46. Ownership on death of owner.**

17 On death of a sole owner or the last to die of all multiple owners, ownership of  
18 securities registered in beneficiary form passes to the beneficiary or beneficiaries who  
19 survive all owners. On proof of death of all owners and compliance with any applicable  
20 requirements of the registering entity, a security registered in beneficiary form may be  
21 reregistered in the name of the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survive the death of all  
22 owners. Until division of the security after the death of all owners, multiple  
23 beneficiaries surviving the death of all owners hold their interests as tenants in common.  
24 If no beneficiary survives the death of all owners, the security belongs to the estate of  
25 the deceased sole owner or the estate of the last to die of all multiple owners.

26 **"§ 41-47. Protection of registering entity.**

27 (a) A registering entity is not required to offer or to accept a request for security  
28 registration in beneficiary form. If a registration in beneficiary form is offered by a  
29 registering entity, the owner requesting registration in beneficiary form assents to the  
30 protections given to the registering entity by this Article.

31 (b) By accepting a request for registration of a security in beneficiary form, the  
32 registering entity agrees that the registration will be implemented on death of the  
33 deceased owner as provided in this Article.

34 (c) A registering entity is discharged from all claims to a security by the estate,  
35 creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner if it registers a transfer of a security in  
36 accordance with G.S. 41-46 and does so in good faith reliance (i) on the registration, (ii)  
37 on this Article, and (iii) on information provided to it by affidavit of the personal  
38 representative of the deceased owner, or by the surviving beneficiary or by the surviving  
39 beneficiary's representatives, or other information available to the registering entity. The  
40 protections of this Article do not extend to a reregistration or payment made after a  
41 registering entity has received written notice from any claimant to any interest in the  
42 security objecting to implementation of a registration in beneficiary form. No other  
43 notice or other information available to the registering entity affects its right to  
44 protection under this Article.

1       (d) The protection provided by this Article to the registering entity of a security  
2 does not affect the rights of beneficiaries in disputes between themselves and other  
3 claimants to ownership of the security transferred or its value or proceeds.

4 **"§ 41-48. Nontestamentary transfer on death.**

5       (a) A transfer on death resulting from a registration in beneficiary form is  
6 effective by reason of the contract regarding the registration between the owner and the  
7 registering entity and this Article and is not testamentary.

8       (b) The interest of a deceased owner when there are one or more surviving  
9 owners, remains liable for the debts of the decedent in the same manner as the personal  
10 property included in the decedent's estate, and recovery of that interest shall be made  
11 from the surviving owner or owners when the decedent's estate is insufficient to satisfy  
12 the debts. The interest of a deceased sole owner, or the last to die of several owners,  
13 remains liable for the debts of the decedent in the same manner as the personal property  
14 included in the decedent's estate, and recovery of that interest shall be made from the  
15 TOD beneficiary when the decedent's estate is insufficient to satisfy the debts.

16       (c) This Article does not repeal or modify any provision of law relating to estate  
17 or inheritance taxes.

18 **"§ 41-49. Terms, conditions, and forms for registration.**

19       (a) A registering entity offering to accept registrations in beneficiary form may  
20 establish the terms and conditions under which it will receive requests (i) for  
21 registrations in beneficiary form, and (ii) for implementation of registrations in  
22 beneficiary form, including requests for cancellation of previously registered TOD  
23 beneficiary designations and requests for reregistration to effect a change of beneficiary.  
24 The terms and conditions established may provide for proving death, avoiding or  
25 resolving any problems concerning fractional shares, and designating primary or  
26 contingent beneficiaries. Forms of identifying beneficiaries who are to take on one or  
27 more contingencies, and rules for providing proofs and assurances needed to satisfy  
28 reasonable concerns by registering entities regarding conditions and identities relevant  
29 to accurate implementation of registrations in beneficiary form, may be contained in a  
30 registering entity's terms and conditions.

31       (b) The following are illustrations of registrations in beneficiary form which a  
32 registering entity may authorize:

33           (1) Sole owner-sole beneficiary: 'John S. Brown TOD (or POD) John S.  
34 Brown, Jr.'

35           (2) Multiple owners-sole beneficiary: 'John S. Brown, Mary B. Brown JT  
36 TEN TOD John S. Brown, Jr.'

37           (3) Multiple owners-primary and secondary (substituted) beneficiaries:  
38 'John S. Brown, Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown, Jr. SUB  
39 BENE Peter O. Brown'.

40 **"§ 41-50. Short title; rules of construction.**

41       (a) This Article shall be known as and may be cited as the 'Uniform TOD  
42 Security Registration Act'.

1       (b) This Article shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purposes  
2 and to make uniform the laws with respect to the subject of this Article among states  
3 enacting it.

4       (c) This Article does not repeal G.S. 41-2.2.

5 **"§ 41-51. Application of Article.**

6 This Article applies to registrations of securities in beneficiary form made before,  
7 on, or after the effective date of this Article, by decedents dying on or after the effective  
8 date of this Article."

9       **SECTION 2.** G.S. 28A-15-10(a) reads as rewritten:

10       (a) When needed to satisfy claims against a decedent's estate, assets may be  
11 acquired by a personal representative or collector from the following sources:

12       (1) Tentative trusts created by the decedent in savings accounts for other  
13 ~~persons;~~ persons.

14       (2) Gifts causa mortis made by the ~~decedent;~~ decedent.

15       (3) Joint deposit accounts with right of survivorship created by decedent  
16 pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 41-2.1 or otherwise; and joint  
17 tenancies with right of survivorship created by decedent in corporate  
18 stocks or other investment securities.

19       (4) An interest in a security passing to a beneficiary pursuant to the  
20 provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 41 of the General Statutes.

21 Such assets shall be acquired solely for the purpose of satisfying such claims, however,  
22 and shall not be available for distribution to heirs or devisees."

23       **SECTION 3.** The Revisor of Statutes shall cause to be printed along with  
24 this act all relevant portions of the Official Commentary to the Uniform TOD Security  
25 Registration Act and all explanatory comments of the drafters of this act as the Revisor  
26 may deem appropriate.

27       **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2001.