

Companies (Amendment) Bill

Explanatory Memorandum

1. This Bill, which is promoted by the Treasury on behalf of the Financial Supervision Commission, modifies certain provisions of the Companies Act 1931, the Companies Act 1982, the Companies Act 1992, the Limited Liability Companies Act 1996 and the Companies Act 2006. It also makes miscellaneous modifications to the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001 and the Financial Services Act 2008 (the latter modifications are conditional on the enactment of the Financial Services Bill and the Collective Investment Schemes Bill).

2. Part 1 (*clauses 1 to 12*) modifies the Companies Act 1931. The modifications deal with—

- (a) prospectuses;
- (b) statements *in lieu* of prospectus;
- (c) registration of charges;
- (d) takeovers and mergers; and
- (e) public offers.

3. Part 2 (*clauses 13 to 20*) modifies the Companies Act 1982. The modifications deal with accounts and audit.

4. Part 3 (*clauses 21 to 24*) modifies the Companies Act 1992. The modifications deal with—

- (a) financial assistance for the acquisition of shares; and
- (b) treasury shares.

5. Part 4 (*clause 25*) modifies the Limited Liability Companies Act 1996. The modifications deal with winding up.

6. Part 5 (*clauses 26 to 32*) modifies the Companies Act 2006. The modifications deal with—

- (a) treasury shares;
- (b) accounting records and financial statements;
- (c) takeovers and mergers; and
- (d) appeals from decisions of the Registrar.

7. Part 6 (*clauses 33 and 34*) makes miscellaneous modifications to the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001 and the Financial Services Act 2008.

8. Part 7 (*clauses 35 and 36*) provides for—

- (a) the interpretation of certain words and expressions used in the Bill;
- (b) the short title of the Bill; and
- (c) the commencement of the Bill.

8. It is anticipated that the financial effect of the Bill on the Companies Registry will be neutral as it does not place any additional filing requirements on companies and it is not expected to have any significant impact upon the number of companies incorporated in the Island. The potential revenue associated with the registration of companies and filing of documents is not therefore expected to be affected by the Bill.

9. In the view of the member moving the Bill its provisions are compatible with the Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 2001.

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Arrangement of Sections

Section

PART 1

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1931

Prospectuses

1. Amendment of section 35
2. Repeal of section 36
3. Amendment of section 38
4. Insertion of new section 38DA
5. Repeal of the Fourth Schedule etc.

Statements in lieu of prospectus

6. Repeal of section 40 etc.
7. Substitution of section 324A

Registration of charges

8. Amendment of section 79
9. Amendment of section 81
10. Amendment of section 91

Takeovers and mergers

11. Insertion of new section 154A

Public offers

12. Amendment of section 342

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MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1982

Accounts and audit

13. Amendment of section 1
14. Amendment of section 2
15. Amendment of section 3
16. Insertion of new section 3A
17. Amendment of section 6
18. Substitution of section 14
19. Insertion of new sections 17B and 17C
20. Amendment of Schedule 1

PART 3

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1992

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Financial assistance for acquisition of shares

21. Substitution of sections 6 to 8
22. Amendment of section 25
23. Repeal of paragraph 4 of Schedule 6A to the 1931 Act

Treasury shares

24. Insertion of new section 25A

PART 4

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES ACT
1996**

Winding up

25. Amendment of sections 27 and 28

PART 5

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Treasury shares

26. Insertion of new section 58A

Accounting records and financial statements

27. Amendment of section 78
28. Amendment of section 80
29. Insertion of new sections 80 to 80E
30. Amendment of section 82

Takeovers and mergers

31. Insertion of new section 161A

Appeals from decisions of Registrar

32. Insertion of new section 208A

PART 6

MISCELLANEOUS MODIFICATIONS

33. Amendment to Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001
34. Amendments to Financial Services Act 2008

PART 7

SUPPLEMENTARY

35. Interpretation
36. Short title and commencement



A BILL

to amend the law relating to companies; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART 1

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1931

Prospectuses

Amendment of section 35

1. (1) For section 35(1) and (2) of the 1931 Act (and the marginal note referring to that section) substitute—

“Prospectus to contain material information

35. (1) The directors of a company or (in the case of a company yet to be incorporated) the proposed directors shall ensure that any prospectus issued in relation to such company shall—

- (a) contain all material information relating to the offer or invitation which the prospectus contains in it—
 - (i) that the intended recipients would reasonably expect to be included in it in order to enable them to make an informed decision as to whether or not to accept the offer or make the application referred to in it; and
 - (ii) of which the directors or proposed directors (as the case may be) were aware at the time of issue of the prospectus, or of which they would have been aware had they made such enquiries as would have been reasonable in all the circumstances; and
- (b) set out such information fairly and accurately.

(2) In this section, “intended recipients” means those persons who, taking into account the terms of the prospectus and all the circumstances in which the prospectus was issued, might reasonably be expected to accept an offer to acquire shares or debentures contained in the prospectus or to apply to acquire such shares or debentures.”.

(2) In section 35(3) of the 1931 Act, the words “and section thirty-six” are repealed.

(3) Section 35(6) of the 1931 Act is repealed.

Repeal of section 36

2. Section 36 of the 1931 Act is repealed.

Amendment of section 38

3. For section 38(1) of the 1931 Act substitute—

“(1) No prospectus shall be issued by or on behalf of a company or in relation to an intended company unless, on or before the date of its publication, there has been delivered to the Financial Supervision Commission for registration a copy of the prospectus signed by every person who is named in it as a director or proposed director of the company, or by an agent of that person authorised in writing, and having endorsed on it or attached to it any consent to the issue of the prospectus required by section 37 from any person as an expert.”.

Insertion of new section 38DA

4. After section 38D of the 1931 Act insert—

“Directions concerning defective prospectuses

38DA. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may make a direction under subsection (2) if it becomes aware of matters which give it reasonable cause to believe that—

- (a) a statement included in a prospectus is untrue or misleading; or
- (b) a prospectus has been issued in contravention of, or otherwise than in compliance with, a provision of sections 34 to 38.

(2) In the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1) the Financial Supervision Commission may direct the company to amend the prospectus so that—

- (a) it contains no untrue or misleading statement; or
- (b) the contravention or non-compliance referred to in subsection (1)(b) is rectified.

(3) A copy of any direction under subsection (2) shall be placed by the Financial Supervision Commission upon the public file of the company maintained at the Companies Registry.

(4) This section is without prejudice to the other provisions of sections 34 to 38E.”.

Repeal of the Fourth Schedule etc.

5. (1) The Fourth Schedule to the 1931 Act is repealed.
(2) Section 6 of the Companies Act 1968 [XX p.413] is repealed.

Statements in lieu of prospectus

Repeal of section 40 etc.

6. (1) Section 40 of the 1931 Act is repealed.
(2) The Third Schedule and the Fifth Schedule to the 1931 Act are repealed.
(3) In section 27(1) of the 1931 Act the words “and shall, within a period of fourteen days after the said date, deliver to the Financial Supervision Commission for registration a prospectus or a statement in lieu of prospectus in the form and containing the particulars set out in the Third Schedule to this Act” are repealed.

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(4) In section 43(1)(c)(ii) of the 1931 Act for “disclosed in the statement in lieu of prospectus, or in a statement in the prescribed form signed in like manner as a statement in lieu of prospectus and delivered” substitute “disclosed in a statement in the prescribed form signed in the prescribed manner and delivered”.

(5) Section 95(2)(a) of the 1931 Act is repealed.

(6) In the Tenth Schedule to the 1931 Act the item “Prohibition of allotment in certain cases unless statement in lieu of prospectus delivered to Financial Supervision Commission;” is repealed.

Substitution of section 324A

7. (1) Subsection (2) must not come into operation unless the Financial Services Act 2008 has been passed.

(2) For section 324A of the 1931 Act substitute—

“Exemptions from prospectus requirements

324A.(1) The Treasury may by regulations make provision for exemption from, or for the modification of—

- (a) sections 34 to 39 of this Act;
- (b) such other provisions of the Companies Acts 1931 to 2004 as relate to prospectuses,

in respect of such classes of companies or in such circumstances as may be specified in the regulations.

(2) Regulations under this section shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Registration of charges

Amendment of section 79

8. In section 79 of the 1931 Act—

- (a) in subsection (1), after “the instrument, if any, by which the charge is created or evidenced” insert “(or a copy of that instrument certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct copy)”;
- (b) after subsection (2A) insert—

“(2B) A charge comprising property of a company is only a charge to which this section applies if—

(a) the company is beneficially interested in the property or, in the case of future property, is to be beneficially interested in that property; and

(b) the company controls or is otherwise able to charge the legal interest in that property or, in the case of future property, is to control or otherwise to be able to charge that interest.”;

- (c) for subsection (3) substitute—

“(3) Subsection (3AA) applies if—

(a) a charge is created outside the Isle of Man; and

(b) comprises solely property situate outside the Isle of Man.

(3AA) Where this subsection applies, the time within which the particulars and the instrument or copy referred to in subsection (1) are to be

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delivered to the Financial Supervision Commission shall be one month after the relevant date.

- (3AB) In subsection (3AA), the relevant date is that on which, in the ordinary course of post and if dispatched with due diligence, the instrument or copy could have been received in the Isle of Man.”;
- (d) in subsection (4), after “the instrument creating or purporting to create the charge” insert “(or a copy of that instrument certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct copy)”;
- (e) in subsection (7), for “together with the deed containing the charge, or, if there is no such deed, one of the debentures of the series:” substitute “together with the deed containing the charge (or a copy of the deed certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct copy), or, if there is no such deed, one of the debentures of the series (or a copy of the debenture certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct copy):”.

Amendment of section 81

9. In the proviso to section 81(1) of the 1931 Act, for “the date on which the copy of the instrument” substitute “the date on which the instrument or copy”.

Amendment of section 91

10. In section 91 of the 1931 Act—

- (a) at the beginning of subsection (1) insert “Subject to subsection (1A),”;
- (b) after subsection (1) insert—

“(1A) This section only applies to property in the Isle of Man—

- (a) in which the company is beneficially interested or, the case of future property, is to be beneficially interested; and
- (b) in respect of which the company controls or is otherwise able to charge the legal interest in that property or, in the case of future property, is to control or otherwise to be able to charge that interest.”.

Takeovers and mergers

Insertion of new section 154A

11. After section 154 of the 1931 Act insert—

“Takeovers and mergers

Regulations concerning takeovers and mergers

154A.(1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations make provision—

- (a) for or in connection with the regulation of—
- (i) takeover bids;
- (ii) merger transactions; and
- (iii) transactions (not falling within sub-paragraph (i) or (ii)) that have or may have, directly or indirectly, an effect on the ownership or control of companies;
- (b) for or in connection with the regulation of things done in consequence of, or otherwise in relation to, any such bid or transaction;

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(c) about cases where—

- (i) any such bid or transaction is, or has been, contemplated or apprehended; or
- (ii) an announcement is made denying that any such bid or transaction is intended.

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Public offers

Amendment of section 342

12. For section 342(4)(b) of the 1931 Act substitute—

“(b) to existing or former employees of—

- (i) that company;
- (ii) that company’s subsidiary or holding company; or
- (iii) a subsidiary of that company’s holding company;”.

PART 2

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1982

Accounts and audit

Amendment of section 1

13. In section 1(7) of the 1982 Act, the words “(other than a company which is liable to pay Non-Resident Company Duty)” are repealed.

Amendment of section 2

14. In section 2 of the 1982 Act, for subsections (1) and (2) substitute—

“(1) Subject to subsection (2), the directors of every company shall at some date not later than 18 months after the incorporation of the company and subsequently once at least in every calendar year lay before the company in general meeting a profit and loss account or, in the case of a company not trading for profit, an income and expenditure account for the period, in the case of the first account, since the incorporation of the company, and, in any other case, since the preceding account, made up to a date not earlier than the date of the meeting by more than—

- (a) 9 months, in the case of a private company; or
- (b) 6 months, in the case of a public company.

(2) The Financial Supervision Commission, if for any special reason it thinks fit so to do, may—

- (a) in the case of any company, extend the period of 18 months;
- (b) in the case of a private company, extend the period of 9 months with respect to any year; or
- (c) in the case of a public company, extend the period of 6 months with respect to any year.”.

Amendment of section 3

15. In section 3 of the 1982 Act—

- (a) at the start of subsection (1) insert “Subject to section 3A,”;

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(b) after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) If in special circumstances compliance with the provisions of subsection (2) is inconsistent with the requirement to give a true and fair view in accordance with subsection (1), the directors must depart from that provision to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view.

(3B) Particulars of a departure under subsection (3A), the reasons for it and its effect must be given in a note to the accounts.”.

Insertion of new section 3A

16. After section 3 of the 1982 Act insert—

“Additional provisions concerning presentation of accounts

3A. (1) Unless regulations made under subsection (2) require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices which are not consistent with generally accepted accounting principles or practice, in determining how amounts are presented within items within the profit and loss account (or income and expenditure account) and balance sheet the directors of a company must have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or practice.

(2) The Financial Supervision Commission may make regulations which, in such circumstances and for such purposes as are prescribed, require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and which may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, after as well as before the making of the regulations).

(3) Regulations under subsection (2) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.

(4) In this section, “generally accepted accounting principles or practice” means accounting standards and practices recommended by—

- (a) the International Accounting Standards Board (International Financial Reporting Standards);
- (b) the Accounting Standards Board (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) (UK GAAP); or
- (c) the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Government Accounting Standards Board or the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (US GAAP).”.

Amendment of section 6

17. In section 6 of the 1982 Act—

(a) after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) If in special circumstances compliance with the provisions of subsection (3) is inconsistent with the requirement to give a true and fair view in accordance with subsection (1), the directors must depart from that provision to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view.

(3B) Particulars of a departure under subsection (3A), the reasons for it and its effect must be given in a note to the accounts.”;

(b) in subsection (4) for “the said requirements” substitute “the requirements of Schedule 1”;

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(c) after subsection (4) insert—

“(5) Section 3A applies in respect of group accounts in the same way it applies to the accounts of companies.”.

Substitution of section 14

18. (1) For section 14 of the 1982 Act substitute—

“Qualifications of individual for appointment as auditor

14. (1) An individual is qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if the individual is a member of a recognised accountancy body.

(2) An individual is also qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if he or she is authorised by the Financial Supervision Commission under section 14E to be so appointed.

Qualifications of partnership for appointment as auditor

14A. (1) A partnership is qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if all of the partners are so qualified.

(2) A partnership is also qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if—

- (a) at least half in number of the partners are—
 - (i) individuals who are members of recognised accountancy bodies, or are authorised under section 14E;
 - (ii) partnerships which are themselves qualified for appointment as auditor of a company; or
 - (iii) bodies corporate or limited liability companies which are qualified for appointment as auditor of a company;
- (b) at least 50 per cent of the voting rights in the partnership and, if it has a management body, in that body are held by persons specified in paragraph (a); and
- (c) each of the partners who examines or reports on the accounts of the company pursuant to section 15, or who supervises the examination of or report on such accounts, is an individual who is a member of a recognised accountancy body or is authorised under section 14E.

(3) A partnership is also qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if the partnership is authorised by the Financial Supervision Commission under section 14E to be so appointed.

Qualifications of body corporate for appointment as auditor

14B. (1) A body corporate is qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if—

- (a) each of the persons who are responsible to it for examining or reporting on the accounts of the company pursuant to section 15, or for supervising the examination of or report on such accounts, is an individual who is a member of a recognised accountancy body or is authorised under section 14E; and
- (b) the body corporate is controlled by persons or partnerships specified in subsection (3).

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(2) A body corporate is also qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if it is authorised by the Financial Supervision Commission under section 14E to be so appointed.

(3) Subsection (1)(b) refers to—

- (a) individuals who are members of recognised accountancy bodies, or are authorised under section 14E;
- (b) partnerships which are qualified for appointment as auditors of companies, or are authorised under section 14E; and
- (c) bodies corporate or limited liability companies which are themselves qualified for appointment as auditors of companies, or are authorised under section 14E.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1), a body corporate is controlled by persons or partnerships specified in subsection (3) if—

- (a) they constitute at least half in number of the members of the body corporate;
- (b) they hold at least 50 per cent of the voting rights of each class of members;
- (c) at least half in number of the directors are individuals specified in subsection (3)(a); or
- (d) at least 50 per cent of the voting rights in the board of directors, committee or other management body of the body corporate are held by persons or partnerships specified in subsection (3).

Qualifications of limited liability company for appointment as auditor

14C. (1) A limited liability company is qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if—

- (a) each of the persons who are responsible to it for examining or reporting on the accounts of the company pursuant to section 15, or for supervising the examination of or report on such accounts, is an individual who is a member of a recognised accountancy body or is authorised under section 14E; and
- (b) the limited liability company is controlled by persons or partnerships specified in subsection (3).

(2) A limited liability company is also qualified for appointment as auditor of a company if it is authorised by the Financial Supervision Commission under section 14E to be so appointed.

(3) Subsection (1)(b) refers to—

- (a) individuals who are members of recognised accountancy bodies, or are authorised under section 14E;
- (b) partnerships which are qualified for appointment as auditors of companies, or are authorised under section 14E; and
- (c) bodies corporate or limited liability companies which are themselves qualified for appointment as auditors of companies, or are authorised under section 14E.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1), a limited liability company is controlled by persons or partnerships specified in subsection (3) if—

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- (a) they constitute at least half in number of the members of the limited liability company; or
- (b) they hold at least 50 per cent of the voting rights of each class of members.

Disqualification from appointment as auditor

14D. (1) This section applies notwithstanding sections 14 to 14C.

(2) A person is disqualified from appointment as auditor of a company if the person is—

- (a) an officer, secretary or servant of the company;
- (b) a partner or employee of an officer, secretary or servant of the company;
- (c) a person against whom a disqualification order under section 26 of the Companies Act 1992 [c.4] is in force; or
- (d) a person who, on any ground described in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), is disqualified from appointment as auditor of any other body corporate which is—
 - (i) a subsidiary or holding company of the company; or
 - (ii) a subsidiary of the company's holding company,
or who would be so disqualified if that other body corporate were a company.

(3) A partnership is disqualified from appointment as auditor of a company if any of the partners is—

- (a) a person who is disqualified under subsection (2) from such an appointment; or
- (b) the company whose accounts are to be audited, or a holding company or subsidiary of that company, or a subsidiary of any such holding company.

(4) A body corporate is disqualified from appointment as auditor of a company if—

- (a) any of the individuals specified in section 14B(1)(a) in relation to that company, or any of its shareholders or directors, is a person who is disqualified under subsection (2) from such an appointment; or
- (b) the company whose accounts are to be audited, or a holding company or subsidiary of that company, or a subsidiary of any such holding company, holds shares in the body corporate.

(5) A limited liability company is disqualified from appointment as auditor of a company if—

- (a) any of the individuals specified in section 14C(1)(a) in relation to that company, or any of its members, is a person who is disqualified under subsection (2) from such an appointment; or
- (b) the company whose accounts are to be audited, or a holding company or subsidiary of that company, or a subsidiary of any such holding company, is a member of the limited liability company.

(6) If a person or partnership—

- (a) has been appointed as auditor of a company; and

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- (b) during his or her or its term of office becomes, to his or her or its knowledge, disqualified from the appointment,

that person or partnership shall thereupon vacate the office and give notice to the company that by reason of that disqualification he, she or it has done so.

Authorisations by the Financial Supervision Commission

14E. (1) An applicant for authorisation under this section to be appointed as auditor of a company (including a company within the meaning of the Companies Act 2006 [c.13] as well as a company within the meaning of this Act) shall provide such information and documents in support of the application as the Financial Supervision Commission may require.

(2) The Financial Supervision Commission may give or may refuse to give an authorisation under this section.

(3) An authorisation under this section may be given subject to conditions.

(4) Where an authorisation has been given under this section, the Financial Supervision Commission may at any time—

- (a) revoke or suspend the authorisation;
- (b) make that authorisation subject to conditions or further conditions; or
- (c) vary or revoke any condition.

(5) Section 32 of the Financial Services Act 2008 (appeals to the Financial Services Tribunal) shall apply in respect of a decision of the Commission under subsections (2) to (4) as it applies in respect of a decision referred to in that section.

(6) A person or partnership who is authorised to be appointed as auditor of a company under this section shall, when required by the Financial Supervision Commission, provide it with such information and documents as the Financial Supervision Commission thinks necessary for the purpose of enabling or assisting it to discharge its functions under this section.

(7) Failure to comply with a requirement under subsection (6) shall be sufficient grounds for the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (4)(a).

Power of Financial Supervision Commission to amend qualifications

14F. (1) In sections 14 to 14D, “recognised accountancy body” means—

- (a) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales;
- (b) the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland;
- (c) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland;
- (d) the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
- (e) the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy; or
- (f) the Association of Authorised Public Accountants.

(2) Notwithstanding sections 14 to 14D, the Financial Supervision Commission may by order—

- (a) amend the definition of “recognised accountancy body” in subsection (1) by adding, deleting or substituting any body;
- (b) provide that any individual, partnership, body corporate or limited liability company of a class described in the order shall, on such

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conditions as are specified in the order, be qualified for appointment as auditor of a company; or

- (c) amend section 14D(2)(a), (b) or (c) by adding, deleting or substituting persons who are disqualified from such an appointment, or by varying the circumstances in which persons described in that paragraph are disqualified from such an appointment.

(3) An order under subsection (2) shall not come into operation unless it is approved by Tynwald.

Register of auditors

14G. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations (in this section referred to as “register regulations”) provide for the keeping by it, in such circumstances and for such purposes as are prescribed, of registers of—

- (a) persons or bodies who are—
 - (i) qualified for appointment as auditor of companies (including companies within the meaning of the Companies Act 2006 [c.13] as well as companies within the meaning of this Act); and
 - (ii) appointed to act as auditor of such companies; and
- (b) persons or bodies authorised under section 14E.

(2) Register regulations may make provision in respect of any of the following matters—

- (a) when and by whom an application to be entered in a register referred to in subsection (1) must be made;
- (b) the form, content and manner of such an application;
- (c) the payment of such application and periodical fees as are prescribed;
- (d) the circumstances in which an application for registration may be refused or have conditions attached to it;
- (e) the circumstances when registration may be—
 - (i) suspended;
 - (ii) withdrawn; or
 - (iii) made subject to conditions; and
- (f) provisions establishing a tribunal to hear appeals pursuant to subsection (3).

(3) Where register regulations provide for the refusal, suspension or withdrawal of registration or for the imposing of conditions in respect of a registration, the regulations must make provision enabling a person who is aggrieved by a decision to refuse, suspend or withdraw registration or to impose conditions in relation to a registration to appeal, in accordance with rules made under section 8 of the Tribunals Act 2006 [c.1], to an appropriate tribunal.

- (4) Register regulations may require—
 - (a) persons or bodies registered in a register referred to in subsection (1); or
 - (b) companies which appoint a person or body referred to in paragraph (a) as auditor,

to provide such information to the Financial Supervision Commission in such manner and at such times as the regulations prescribe.

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(5) Register regulations may require persons or bodies registered to comply with standards of or to adopt practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).

(6) Register regulations may require persons or bodies registered in a register referred to in subsection (1) to comply with prescribed conditions —

- (a) requiring such persons or bodies and their employees and agents—
 - (i) to hold prescribed qualifications;
 - (ii) to be authorised to practice as an auditor by a recognised accountancy body (within the meaning of section 14F);
- (b) concerning the appropriate level of competence and suitability of the employees and agents of that person or body;
- (c) requiring such persons or bodies to provide the Financial Supervision Commission with the names of persons who are to sign audit reports on their behalf;
- (d) requiring such persons or bodies to confirm to the Financial Supervision Commission that any person who is to sign an audit report on behalf of that person or body—
 - (i) is authorised to practice as an auditor by a recognised accountancy body (within the meaning of section 14F);
 - (ii) is competent to perform that function; and
 - (iii) is duly authorised to perform that function by the person or body;
- (e) requiring such persons or bodies to confirm compliance with any prescribed conditions to the Financial Supervision Commission.

(7) Register regulations may provide for—

- (a) the keeping of registers in electronic form;
- (b) the filing of documents in both paper and electronic form; and
- (c) the inspection of the registers.

(8) Subsections (2) to (7) are without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1).

(9) Regulations under this section shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.

Sections 14 to 14G: supplementary

14H. For the purposes of sections 14 to 14G—

- (a) “limited liability company” means a company established under the Limited Liability Companies Act 1996 [c.19] or a company established outside the Island but whose characteristics correspond to a limited liability company established under that Act;
- (b) a limited liability company is deemed not to be a body corporate;
- (c) the expressions “holding company” and “subsidiary” have the same meaning as in section 1 of the Companies Act 1974 [c.30].”.

Insertion of new sections 17B and 17C

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19. After section 17A of the 1982 Act insert—

“Public oversight

17B. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may make regulations (in this section referred to as “public oversight regulations”) subjecting auditors of companies to prescribed systems of—

- (a) public oversight;
- (b) quality assurance; and
- (c) investigations and penalties.

(2) Public oversight regulations apply in such circumstances and for such purposes as are prescribed.

(3) Public oversight regulations may—

- (a) prescribe criteria which systems referred to in subsection (1) must meet;
- (b) require auditors to comply with prescribed systems to deter, correct and prevent inadequate audits;
- (c) appoint one or more bodies (whether or not based in the Island) to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1);
- (d) make any incidental or consequential provisions which the Financial Supervision Commission considers appropriate.

(4) Public oversight regulations may require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).

(5) Public oversight regulations may require auditors to comply with prescribed conditions requiring auditors—

- (a) to be registered in a register kept by the Financial Supervision Commission in accordance with regulations made under section 14G;
- (b) to enter into contracts with bodies appointed to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1);
- (c) to pay for the services of a body referred to in paragraph (b) insofar as those services relate to the performance of prescribed functions;
- (d) to agree to be bound by the rules and disciplinary procedures of a body referred to in paragraph (b), including rules and disciplinary procedures imposed by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).

(6) Public oversight regulations may require bodies carrying out prescribed functions to provide reports to the Financial Supervision Commission in such circumstances and on such occasions as are prescribed and in respect of such matters as are prescribed.

(7) The Financial Supervision Commission may pay for the services of a body appointed to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1) insofar as—

- (a) those services relate to the performance of prescribed functions; and
- (b) those services have not been paid for by the auditor concerned.

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(8) Subsections (3) to (6) are without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1).

(9) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.

Regulations concerning accounts and audit

17C. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations (in this section referred to as “accounting regulations”) make such provisions as appear to it to be appropriate in connection with the accounting records and accounts of companies to which this Act applies and their audit.

(2) Accounting regulations may make provision as to—

- (a) the keeping of accounting records and accounts;
- (b) the form, preparation, publication and certification of accounts;
- (c) the accounting standards to be complied with when preparing accounts;
- (d) the form, preparation and publication of statements of, and information relating to, the accounts;
- (e) the time at which, and the manner and form in which, the accounts and information relating to them shall be provided to the auditor;
- (f) the qualifications of auditors;
- (g) the jurisdictions in which auditors must or may be based or resident;
- (h) the duties of auditors;
- (i) the practices to be adopted by auditors; and
- (j) the time within which the accounts must be prepared.

(3) Accounting regulations may appoint one or more bodies (whether or not based in the Island) to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsections (1) or (2).

(4) Accounting regulations may require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).

(5) Accounting regulations may add to, modify or repeal provisions of the Companies Acts 1931 to 2004 and may provide for any such provision to have effect subject to such adaptations and modifications as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be appropriate.

(6) Accounting regulations may contain such supplementary, incidental and transitional provisions as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be appropriate.

(7) Subsections (2) to (6) are without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1).

(8) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Amendment of Schedule 1

20. (1) Paragraph 12(1)(h) of Schedule 1 to the 1982 Act is repealed.

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- (2) After paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 to the 1982 Act insert—
- “**14A.**(1) The matters referred to in this paragraph shall be stated by way of note, if not otherwise shown.
- (2) There must be stated—
- (a) any amount set aside or proposed to be set aside to, or withdrawn or proposed to be withdrawn from, reserves;
 - (b) the aggregate amount of dividends paid in the financial year (other than those for which a liability existed at the immediately preceding balance sheet date);
 - (c) the aggregate amount of dividends that the company is liable to pay at the balance sheet date; and
 - (d) the aggregate amount of dividends that are proposed before the date of approval of the accounts, and not otherwise disclosed under paragraph (b) or (c).
- (3) In this paragraph, “balance sheet date” means the date at which the balance sheet was made up.”.
- (3) In paragraph 23(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the 1982 Act, the words “paragraph 12(1)(h),” are repealed.

PART 3

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1992

Financial assistance for acquisition of shares

Substitution of sections 6 to 8

21. For sections 6 to 8 of the 1992 Act substitute—

“Meaning of “financial assistance”

P2006/46/677 and 683(2)

- 6.** (1) In sections 6 to 8A (“the sections”) “financial assistance” means—
- (a) financial assistance given by way of gift;
 - (b) financial assistance given—
 - (i) by way of guarantee, security or indemnity (other than an indemnity in respect of the indemnifier’s own neglect or default); or
 - (ii) by way of release or waiver;
 - (c) financial assistance given—
 - (i) by way of a loan or any other agreement under which any of the obligations of the person giving the assistance are to be fulfilled at a time when in accordance with the agreement any obligation of another party to the agreement remains unfulfilled; or
 - (ii) by way of the novation of, or the assignment of rights arising under, a loan or such other agreement; or
 - (d) any other financial assistance given by a company where—
 - (i) the net assets of the company are reduced to a material extent by the giving of the assistance; or
 - (ii) the company has no net assets.

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(2) “Net assets” here means the aggregate amount of the company’s assets less the aggregate amount of its liabilities (for this purpose, “liabilities” includes any provision (within the meaning of paragraph 27(1)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Companies Act 1982) except to the extent that the provision is taken into account in calculating the value of any asset of the company).

(3) In the sections—

- (a) a reference to a person incurring a liability includes that person changing his or her financial position by making an agreement or arrangement (whether enforceable or unenforceable, and whether made on his or her own account or with any other person) or by any other means; and
- (b) a reference to a company giving financial assistance for the purposes of reducing or discharging a liability incurred by a person for the purpose of the acquisition of shares includes its giving such assistance for the purpose of wholly or partly restoring that person’s financial position to what it was before the acquisition took place.

Assistance for acquisition of shares in public company prohibited

P2006/46/678

7. (1) Where a person is acquiring or proposing to acquire shares in a public company, it is not lawful for that company, or a company that is a subsidiary of that company, to give financial assistance directly or indirectly for the purpose of the acquisition before or at the same time as the acquisition takes place.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit a company from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of shares in it or its holding company if—

- (a) the company’s principal purpose in giving the assistance is not to give it for the purpose of any such acquisition; or
- (b) the giving of the assistance for that purpose is only an incidental part of some larger purpose of the company,

and the assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the company.

(3) Where—

- (a) a person has acquired shares in a company; and
- (b) a liability has been incurred (by that or another person) for the purpose of the acquisition,

it is not lawful for that company, or a company that is a subsidiary of that company, to give financial assistance directly or indirectly for the purpose of reducing or discharging the liability if, at the time the assistance is given, the company in which the shares were acquired is a public company.

(4) Subsection (3) does not prohibit a company from giving financial assistance if—

- (a) the company’s principal purpose in giving the assistance is not to reduce or discharge any liability incurred by a person for the purpose of the acquisition of shares in the company or its holding company; or
- (b) the reduction or discharge of any such liability is only an incidental part of some larger purpose of the company,

and the assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the company.

(5) This section has effect subject to sections 8 and 8A (unconditional and conditional exceptions to prohibition).

Assistance by public company for acquisition of shares in its private holding company prohibited

P2006/46/679

7A. (1) Where a person is acquiring or proposing to acquire shares in a private company, it is not lawful for a public company that is a subsidiary of that company to give financial assistance directly or indirectly for the purpose of the acquisition before or at the same time as the acquisition takes place.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit a company from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of shares in its holding company if—

- (a) the company's principal purpose in giving the assistance is not to give it for the purpose of any such acquisition; or
- (b) the giving of the assistance for that purpose is only an incidental part of some larger purpose of the company,

and the assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the company.

(3) Where—

- (a) a person has acquired shares in a private company; and
- (b) a liability has been incurred (by that or another person) for the purpose of the acquisition,

it is not lawful for a public company that is a subsidiary of that company to give financial assistance directly or indirectly for the purpose of reducing or discharging the liability.

(4) Subsection (3) does not prohibit a company from giving financial assistance if—

- (a) the company's principal purpose in giving the assistance is not to reduce or discharge any liability incurred by a person for the purpose of the acquisition of shares in its holding company; or
- (b) the reduction or discharge of any such liability is only an incidental part of some larger purpose of the company,

and the assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the company.

(5) This section has effect subject to sections 8 and 8A (unconditional and conditional exceptions to prohibition).

Prohibited financial assistance an offence

P2006/46/680

7B. (1) If a company contravenes section 7(1) or (3) or section 7A(1) or (3) (prohibited financial assistance) an offence is committed by—

- (a) the company; and
- (b) every officer of the company who is in default.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to custody for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding £5,000, or to both;
- (b) on conviction on information, to custody for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine, or to both.

Unconditional exceptions

P2006/46/681

- 8.** (1) Neither section 7 nor section 7A prohibits a transaction to which this section applies.
- (2) Those transactions are—
- (a) a distribution of the company's assets by way of—
 - (i) dividend lawfully made; or
 - (ii) distribution in the course of a company's winding up;
 - (b) an allotment of bonus shares;
 - (c) a reduction of capital confirmed by order of the court under section 58 of the Companies Act 1931;
 - (d) a redemption or purchase of shares made in accordance with sections 9 to 25 of this Act or section 46A of the Companies Act 1931;
 - (e) anything done under an order of the court made under section 152 of the Companies Act 1931 (order sanctioning compromise or arrangement with members or creditors);
 - (f) anything done under an arrangement made in pursuance of section 222 of the Companies Act 1931 (liquidator in winding up accepting shares as consideration for sale of company's property);
 - (g) anything done under an arrangement made between a company and its creditors which is binding on the creditors by virtue of section 239 of the Companies Act 1931.

Conditional exceptions

P2006/46/682

- 8A.** (1) Neither section 7 nor section 7A prohibits a transaction to which this section applies—
- (a) if the company giving the assistance is a private company; or
 - (b) if the company giving the assistance is a public company and—
 - (i) the company has net assets that are not reduced by the giving of the assistance; or
 - (ii) to the extent that those assets are so reduced, the assistance is provided out of distributable profits.
- (2) The transactions to which this section applies are—
- (a) where the lending of money is part of the ordinary business of the company, the lending of money in the ordinary course of the company's business;
 - (b) the provision by the company, in good faith in the interests of the company or its holding company, of financial assistance for the purposes of an employees' share scheme;
 - (c) the provision of financial assistance by the company for the purposes of or in connection with anything done by the company (or another company in the same group) for the purpose of enabling or facilitating transactions in shares in the first-mentioned company or its holding company between,

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and involving the acquisition of beneficial ownership of those shares by—

- (i) *bona fide* employees or former employees of that company (or another company in the same group); or
 - (ii) spouses, widows, widowers or minor children or step-children of any such employees or former employees;
 - (d) the making by the company of loans to persons (other than directors) employed in good faith by the company with a view to enabling those persons to acquire fully paid shares in the company or its holding company to be held by them by way of beneficial ownership.
- (3) The references in this section to “net assets” are to the amount by which the aggregate of the company’s assets exceeds the aggregate of its liabilities.
- (4) For this purpose—
- (a) the amount of both assets and liabilities shall be taken to be as stated in the company’s accounting records immediately before the financial assistance is given; and
 - (b) “liabilities” includes any amount retained as reasonably necessary for the purpose of providing for a liability the nature of which is clearly defined and that is either likely to be incurred or certain to be incurred but uncertain as to amount or as to the date on which it will arise.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c) a company is in the same group as another company if it is a holding company or subsidiary of that company or a subsidiary of a holding company of that company.”.

Amendment of section 25

22. In section 25 of the 1992 Act, in the definition of “distributable profits”, for “(within the meaning of section 6(8))” substitute “(within the meaning of section 6)”.

Repeal of paragraph 4 of Schedule 6A to the 1931 Act

23. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 6A to the 1931 Act (and the cross heading relating to it) are repealed.

Treasury shares

Insertion of new section 25A

24. After section 25 of the 1992 Act insert—

“Treasury shares

Power to permit the holding of treasury shares

25A. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations make such provision (including provision by way of modification to the provisions of this Part or to Part II of the Companies Act 1931) as it considers appropriate to permit a company—

- (a) to hold its own shares as treasury shares; and
- (b) to deal with those treasury shares in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

(2) In subsection (1), a reference to a company holding its own shares as treasury shares is to the company holding such shares which—

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- (a) were (or are to be treated as having been) purchased by it in circumstances prescribed in the regulations referred to in subsection (1); and
- (b) have been held by the company continuously since they were so purchased (or treated as so purchased).

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) may make such further modification to the provisions of this Part or to Part II of the Companies Act 1931 as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be reasonably necessary in consequence of any provision made by the regulations.

(4) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

PART 4

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES ACT
1996**

Winding up

Amendment of sections 27 and 28

- 25.** (1) In section 27 of the 1996 Act—
- (a) at the beginning insert “(1)”;
 - (b) in paragraph (c), for “subject to section 28(2)” substitute “subject to subsection (2) and to section 28(2)”;
 - (c) at the end insert—
“(2) The affairs of a limited liability company are only to be wound up on the occurrence of an event specified in subsection (1)(c) if the operating agreement of the company so provides.”.
- (2) In section 28 of the 1996 Act—
- (a) in subsection (1), for “section 27(a) to (c) and (e)” substitute “section 27(1)(a) to (c) and (e)”;
 - (b) in subsection (2), for “section 27(c)” substitute “section 27(1)(c)”;
 - (c) in subsection (2)(a), the words “under a right to do so stated in the articles of organisation of the limited liability company” are repealed;
 - (d) in subsection (3), for “section 27(a) to (c) and (e)” substitute “section 27(1)(a) to (c) and (e)”;
 - (e) after subsection (9) insert—
“(10) This section is subject to section 27(2).”.

PART 5

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Treasury shares

Insertion of new section 58A

- 26.** After section 58 of the 2006 Act insert—

“Treasury shares

Power to permit the holding of treasury shares

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58A. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations make such provision (including provision by way of modification to the provisions of this Act) as it considers appropriate to permit a company—

- (a) to hold its own shares as treasury shares; and
- (b) to deal with those treasury shares in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

(2) In subsection (1), a reference to a company holding its own shares as treasury shares is to the company holding such shares which—

- (a) were (or are to be treated as having been) purchased by it in circumstances prescribed in the regulations referred to in subsection (1); and
- (b) have been held by the company continuously since they were so purchased (or treated as so purchased).

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) may make such further modification to the provisions of this Act as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be reasonably necessary in consequence of any provision made by the regulations.

(4) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Accounting records and financial statements

Amendment of section 78

27. In section 78(1) of the 2006 Act, for paragraph (f) (and the word “and” preceding it) substitute—

- “(f) either—
- (i) originals; or
 - (ii) copies provided in accordance with section 80(4B),
- of the accounting records that it is required to keep under this Act; and
- (g) originals of any financial statements prepared.”.

Amendment of section 80

28. (1) Section 80(2) of the 2006 Act is repealed.

(2) For section 80(3) of the 2006 Act substitute—

“(3) In this section “financial statements” means written accounts of the company which have approved by the directors as financial statements for the purposes of this Act and which include—

- (a) a written statement recording the assets and liabilities of the company on a specific date;
- (b) a written statement recording the receipts, payments and other financial transactions undertaken by the company in respect of the period ending on the date of the statement referred to in paragraph (a); and
- (c) such notes as are necessary for a reasonable understanding of the statements referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).”.

(3) After section 80(4) insert—

“(4A) The accounting records shall be kept at the office of the registered agent of the company or at such other place as the directors of the company think fit.

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(4B) Where accounting records are kept at a place other than the office of the company's registered agent, the company shall provide to the registered agent—

- (a) a written record of the physical address of the place or places at which the records are kept; and
- (b) at intervals not exceeding 12 months, copies of the records.

(4C) The copies provided under subsection (4B)(b) must themselves be sufficient so as to satisfy the requirements specified in subsection (1), without requiring sight of the original records.

(4D) Where the place at which the accounting records are kept is changed, the company shall provide the registered agent with the physical address of the new location of the records within 14 days of the change of location.

(4E) The registered agent of the company may—

- (a) at any reasonable time specified by the registered agent inspect the accounting records of the company without charge and make copies of or take extracts from the records;
- (b) require the company to provide originals or copies of the accounting records to the registered agent within 14 days.

(4F) The company shall comply with a request under subsection (4E).”.

Insertion of new sections 80A to 80E

29. After section 80 of the 2006 Act insert—

“Right to require financial statements to be prepared

80A. (1) If a company has not prepared financial statements for a continuous period of 18 months or more, any member or director of the company may at any time demand that financial statements be prepared for the period since the end of the financial period to which the preceding financial statements relate or, if none, since the incorporation of the company and made up to such date as is specified in the demand, not being later than the date of demand.

(2) A demand under subsection (1) shall be made in writing and deposited at the registered office of the company.

(3) The financial statements must be prepared by the company within 6 months of the date of deposit of the demand.

(4) A company that contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence.

Additional provisions concerning presentation of financial statements

80B. (1) Whenever financial statements are prepared—

- (a) the statement referred to in section 80(3)(a) must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the financial period to which it relates; and
- (b) the statement referred to in section 80(3)(b) must give a true and fair view of the receipts, payments and other financial transactions undertaken by the company for the financial period to which it relates.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to subsections (3) and (4).

(3) Unless regulations made under subsection (4) require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices which are not consistent with generally accepted accounting principles or practice, in determining how amounts are presented

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within items within the statements referred to in section 80(3)(a) and (b) the directors of a company must have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or practice.

(4) The Financial Supervision Commission may make regulations which, in such circumstances and for such purposes as are prescribed, require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and which may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, after as well as before the making of the regulations).

(5) Regulations under subsection (4) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.

(6) In this section, “generally accepted accounting principles or practice” means accounting standards and practices recommended by—

- (a) the International Accounting Standards Board (International Financial Reporting Standards);
- (b) the Accounting Standards Board (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) (UK GAAP); or
- (c) the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Government Accounting Standards Board or the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (US GAAP).

Auditor to be qualified

80C. (1) This section applies where an auditor is to be appointed by a company (whether or not under compulsion of law or other obligation).

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a company must appoint an auditor where the company’s securities are listed or admitted to trade on a securities market or exchange.

(3) Where this section applies, the company must appoint an auditor who is qualified for appointment under this section to audit its financial statements.

(4) Subject to subsection (6), a person or body shall not be qualified for appointment as auditor of a company (within the meaning of this Act) unless that person or body is qualified for appointment as auditor under sections 14 to 14H of the Companies Act 1982 [c.2] of a company (within the meaning of that Act).

(5) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (4), an application may be made under section 14E of the Companies Act 1982 for authorisation under that section to be appointed as auditor of a company (within the meaning of this Act) in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as an application under that section for authorisation to be appointed as auditor of a company (within the meaning of that Act).

(6) Regulations under section 80E may modify the application of subsection (4).

Public oversight

80D. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may make regulations (in this section referred to as “public oversight regulations”) requiring auditors of companies to comply with prescribed systems of—

- (a) public oversight;
- (b) quality assurance; and

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- (c) investigations and penalties.
- (2) Public oversight regulations apply in such circumstances and for such purposes as are prescribed.
- (3) Public oversight regulations may—
 - (a) prescribe criteria which systems referred to in subsection (1) must meet;
 - (b) require auditors to comply with prescribed systems to deter, correct and prevent inadequate audits;
 - (c) appoint one or more bodies (whether or not based in the Island) to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1);
 - (d) make any incidental or consequential provisions which the Financial Supervision Commission considers appropriate.
- (4) Public oversight regulations may require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).
- (5) Public oversight regulations may require auditors to comply with prescribed conditions requiring auditors—
 - (a) to be registered in a register kept by the Financial Supervision Commission in accordance with regulations made under section 14G of the Companies Act 1982;
 - (b) to enter into contracts with bodies appointed to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1);
 - (c) to pay for the services of a body referred to in paragraph (b) insofar as those services relate to the performance of prescribed functions;
 - (d) to agree to be bound by the rules and disciplinary procedures of a body referred to in paragraph (b), including rules and disciplinary procedures imposed by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).
- (6) Public oversight regulations may require bodies carrying out prescribed functions to provide reports to the Financial Supervision Commission in such circumstances and on such occasions as are prescribed and in respect of such matters as are prescribed.
- (7) The Financial Supervision Commission may pay for the services of a body appointed to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsection (1) insofar as—
 - (a) those services relate to the performance of prescribed functions; and
 - (b) those services have not been paid for by the auditor concerned.
- (8) Subsections (3) to (6) are without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1).
- (9) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.

Regulations concerning accounts and audit

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80E. (1) The Financial Supervision Commission may by regulations (in this section referred to as “accounting regulations”) make such provisions as appear to it to be appropriate in connection with the accounting records and financial statements of companies to which this Act applies and their audit.

(2) Accounting regulations may make provision as to—

- (a) the keeping of accounting records and financial statements;
- (b) the form, preparation, publication and certification of financial statements;
- (c) the accounting standards to be complied with when preparing financial statements;
- (d) the form, preparation and publication of statements of, and information relating to, the financial statements;
- (e) the time at which, and the manner and form in which, the financial statements and information relating to them shall be provided to the auditor;
- (f) the qualifications of auditors;
- (g) the jurisdictions in which auditors must or may be based or resident;
- (h) the duties of auditors;
- (i) the practices to be adopted by auditors; and
- (j) the time within which the financial statements must be prepared.

(3) Accounting regulations may appoint one or more bodies (whether or not based in the Island) to perform prescribed functions in respect of any of the matters referred to in subsections (1) or (2).

(4) Accounting regulations may require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by a body specified in the regulations, and may in particular require compliance with standards or the adoption of practices recommended by that body from time to time (that is, as well after as before the making of the regulations).

(5) Accounting regulations may add to, modify or repeal provisions of this Act and may provide for any such provision to have effect subject to such adaptations and modifications as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be appropriate.

(6) Accounting regulations may contain such supplementary, incidental and transitional provisions as appear to the Financial Supervision Commission to be appropriate.

(7) Subsections (2) to (6) are without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1).

(8) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Amendment of section 82

30. In section 82 of the 2006 Act—

- (a) subsection (2)(e) is repealed;
- (b) after subsection (2) insert—

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“(2A) In any of the circumstances specified in subsection (2B), a member is entitled, on giving written notice to the company—

- (a) to inspect the accounting records maintained under section 80, or a copy thereof; and
 - (b) to make copies of or take extracts from the documents and records.
- (2B) These are the circumstances referred to in subsection (2A)—
- (a) the articles of the company expressly provide for the inspection by the member of the accounting records and for the making of copies of or the taking of extracts from such documents and records;
 - (b) a demand has been made under section 80A(1) and the company has failed to prepare financial statements within the period specified in section 80A(3); or
 - (c) the member has requested the permission of the directors to inspect the accounting records and the directors have agreed to allow the member to inspect such records.”.

Takeovers and mergers

Insertion of new section 161A

31. After section 161 of the 2006 Act insert—

“Chapter 4 — Takeovers and mergers

Regulations concerning takeovers and mergers

161A.(1) The Registrar may by regulations make provision—

- (a) for or in connection with the regulation of—
 - (i) takeover bids;
 - (ii) merger transactions; and
 - (iii) transactions (not falling within sub-paragraph (i) or (ii)) that have or may have, directly or indirectly, an effect on the ownership or control of companies;
- (b) for or in connection with the regulation of things done in consequence of, or otherwise in relation to, any such bid or transaction;
- (c) about cases where—
 - (i) any such bid or transaction is, or has been, contemplated or apprehended; or
 - (ii) an announcement is made denying that any such bid or transaction is intended.

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) shall not come into operation unless they are approved by Tynwald.”.

Appeals from decisions of Registrar

Insertion of new section 208A

32. After section 208 of the 2006 Act insert—

“Appeals from decisions of Registrar

Companies (Amendment) Bill

208A.(1) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar under this Act may appeal to the Court within one month after the date of the decision or such further time as the Court may allow.

(2) On hearing an appeal under subsection (1), the Court may confirm the decision or make such determination in the matter as the Court sees fit.”.

PART 6

MISCELLANEOUS MODIFICATIONS

Amendment to Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001

33. For section 6(2) of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001 [c.2] substitute—

“(2) Section 1 confers no rights on a third party in the case of any contract binding on a company and its members under—

- (a) section 20 of the Companies Act 1931 [XIII p.235]; or
- (b) section 7 of the Companies Act 2006 [c.13].”.

Amendment to Financial Services Act 2008

34. (1) Subsection (2) has effect upon the passing of whichever is the later to be passed of—

- (a) the Financial Services Act 2008;
- (b) the Collective Investment Schemes Act 2008; and
- (c) this Act.

(2) In paragraph 2(1)(g) of Schedule 1 to the Financial Services Act 2008, for “Financial Supervision Act 1988” substitute “Collective Investment Schemes Act 2008”.

PART 7

SUPPLEMENTARY

Interpretation

35. (1) In this Act—

“**1931 Act**” means the Companies Act 1931 [XIII p.235];

“**1982 Act**” means the Companies Act 1982 [c.2];

“**1992 Act**” means the Companies Act 1992 [c.4];

“**1996 Act**” means the Limited Liability Companies Act 1996 [c.19];

“**2006 Act**” means the Companies Act 2006 [c.13].

Short title and commencement

36. (1) This Act may be cited as the Companies (Amendment) Act 2008.

(2) This Act comes into operation on such day as the Treasury by order appoints and different days may be appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.

(3) An order under subsection (2) may make such transitional and saving provisions as the Treasury considers necessary or expedient.