

SENATE BILL NO. 298

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR SEEKINS

Introduced: 2/14/06

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to loans from trust property; relating to a trustee's power to appoint
2 the principal of a trust to another trust; relating to challenges to, claims against, and
3 liabilities of trustees, beneficiaries, and creditors of trusts and of trusts and estates;
4 relating to individual retirement accounts and plans; relating to certain trusts in divorce
5 and dissolutions of marriage situations; and providing for an effective date."

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 * **Section 1.** AS 13.36.109(21) is amended to read:

8 (21) to make loans out of trust property to an eligible [A] beneficiary
9 or an eligible third-party entity on terms and conditions the trustee considers to be
10 fair and reasonable under the circumstances and to guarantee loans to the eligible
11 beneficiary or eligible third-party entity by encumbrances on trust property; in this
12 paragraph,

13 (A) "eligible beneficiary" means a beneficiary of the trust

1 who is currently eligible for or entitled to a distribution of income from
 2 the principal of the trust;

3 (B) "eligible third-party entity" means a third-party entity
 4 if more than 50 percent of the equity of the entity is owned by the trust or
 5 by one or more beneficiaries of the trust;

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 13.36.157(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Subject to (d) of this section, unless [UNLESS] the terms of the
 8 instrument expressly provide otherwise, a trustee who has authority [THE
 9 ABSOLUTE DISCRETION] under the terms of an [A TESTAMENTARY]
 10 instrument or irrevocable inter vivos agreement to invade the principal of a trust for
 11 the benefit of a [THE] beneficiary who is eligible or entitled to the income of the trust
 12 may exercise without prior court approval the trustee's authority [DISCRETION] by
 13 appointing, whether or not there is a current need to invade the principal under
 14 any standard stated in the governing instrument, part or all of the principal of the
 15 trust in favor of a trustee of another [A] trust under an instrument other than that
 16 under which the power to invade was created if the exercise of this authority
 17 [DISCRETION]

18 (1) does not reduce any fixed income interest of a [AN INCOME]
 19 beneficiary of the trust being invaded;

20 (2) is in favor of the beneficiary of the trust to which principal is
 21 appointed; and

22 (3) does not violate the limitations on validity under AS 34.27.051 or
 23 34.27.100.

24 * **Sec. 3.** AS 13.36.157 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 (d) The governing instrument of an appointed trust may provide that, after a
 26 time or an event specified in the governing instrument, the trust assets of the appointed
 27 trust remaining after the time or event shall be held for the benefit of the beneficiaries
 28 of the invaded trust on terms and conditions regarding the nature and extent of the
 29 beneficiaries of the invaded trust that are substantially identical to the terms and
 30 conditions governing the beneficial interests in the invaded trust. In this subsection,

31 (1) "appointed trust" means the trust to which principal is appointed

1 under (a) of this section;

2 (2) "invaded trust" means the trust whose principal is invaded under
3 (a) of this section.

4 * **Sec. 4.** AS 13.16 is amended by adding a new section to article 8 to read:

5 **Sec. 13.16.530. Application to trustees.** Notwithstanding AS 13.16.450 -
6 13.16.525, the trustee of a trust may, under AS 13.36.368(b)(3), take the action a
7 personal representative may take under AS 13.16.450 - 13.16.525.

8 * **Sec. 5.** AS 13.36.100(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) Unless resolved or barred under (b) or (c) of this section, and
10 notwithstanding the lack of adequate disclosure, all claims against a trustee who has
11 issued a [FINAL] report received by the beneficiary and who has informed the
12 beneficiary of the location and availability of records for examination by the
13 beneficiary are barred unless a proceeding to assert the claims is commenced within
14 three years after the beneficiary's receipt of the [FINAL] report.

15 * **Sec. 6.** AS 13.36.100(b) is amended to read:

16 (b) If a trustee petitions a court for an order approving a report that adequately
17 discloses the existence of a potential claim, serves the report on all beneficiaries to be
18 bound by the report, [AND] gives the beneficiaries at least **60** [90] days' notice of the
19 court proceeding, **and notifies the beneficiary that a claim must be begun within**
20 **45 days after the beneficiary is served with notice of the court proceeding,** all
21 potential claims of the beneficiaries against the trustee are barred unless the claims are
22 served on the trustee and filed with the court within **45** [60] days after the beneficiaries
23 **are served with notice of** [RECEIVE THE REPORT, OR DURING] the **court**
24 proceeding.

25 * **Sec. 7.** AS 13.36.100(c) is amended to read:

26 (c) If a trustee serves a report on a beneficiary that adequately discloses the
27 existence of a potential claim against the trustee, the trustee informs the beneficiary
28 that a proceeding to assert any claim against the trustee must be commenced by the
29 beneficiary within [24 MONTHS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REPORT IF IT IS AN
30 INTERIM REPORT OR WITHIN] six months after receipt of the report [IF IT IS A
31 FINAL REPORT], and the beneficiary fails to assert a claim against the trustee, all

1 claims of the beneficiary are barred.

2 * **Sec. 8.** AS 13.36.100 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (h) The report of a trustee under this section is considered to provide adequate
4 notice to the beneficiary that there is a time limitation for filing a claim against the
5 trustee if the cover page or top of the first page of the report contains the following
6 language in at least 14 point bold type: "BY RECEIPT OF THIS REPORT, ANY
7 ACTION YOU MAY HAVE AS A BENEFICIARY AGAINST THE TRUSTEE
8 FOR BREACH OF TRUST BASED ON ANY MATTER ADEQUATELY
9 DISCLOSED IN THIS REPORT MAY BE BARRED UNLESS THE ACTION IS
10 BEGUN WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THIS REPORT. IF YOU
11 HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY WISH TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL
12 ADVICE REGARDING THIS REPORT."

13 * **Sec. 9.** AS 13.36.310(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Except as provided in **AS 34.40.110(b)** [AS 34.40.110], a trust that is
15 covered by AS 13.36.035(c) or that is otherwise governed by the laws of this state, or
16 a property transfer to a trust that is covered by AS 13.36.035(c) or that is otherwise
17 governed by the laws of this state, is not void, voidable, liable to be set aside,
18 defective in any fashion, or questionable as to the settlor's capacity, **and the assets of**
19 **the trust are not subject to the claim of a creditor of the settlor or a creditor of a**
20 **beneficiary**, on the grounds that the trust or transfer avoids or defeats a right, claim, or
21 interest conferred by law on a person by reason of a personal or business relationship
22 with the settlor **or beneficiary** or by way of a marital or similar right.

23 * **Sec. 10.** AS 13.36.310(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) If a trust or a property transfer to a trust is voided or set aside under
25 **AS 34.40.110(b)** [(a) OF THIS SECTION], then the trust or property transfer shall be
26 voided or set aside only to the extent necessary to satisfy the settlor's debt to the
27 creditor or other person at whose instance the trust or property transfer is voided or set
28 aside and the costs and attorney fees allowed under the rules of court.

29 * **Sec. 11.** AS 13.36 is amended by adding a new section to read:

30 **Sec. 13.36.368. Claims against revocable trusts.** (a) Whether or not the terms
31 of the trust contain a spendthrift restriction,

1 (1) during the lifetime of the settlor of a revocable trust, the property of
2 the trust is subject to claims of the settlor's creditors; and

3 (2) except as otherwise provided in (b) of this section, after the death
4 of the settlor of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death, and subject to the
5 settlor's right to direct the source from which claims may be paid, the property of the
6 trust is subject to claims to the extent the settlor's estate is not adequate to satisfy the
7 claims.

8 (b) With respect to claims in connection with the settlement after the death of
9 the settlor of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death,

10 (1) a creditor's claim that would be allowed or barred against a
11 decedent's estate under AS 13.16.450 - 13.16.525 shall be allowed or barred against
12 the trustee of the trust, the trust property, and the creditors and beneficiaries of the
13 trust;

14 (2) if the personal representative of the decedent's estate follows the
15 procedures provided by AS 13.16.450 - 13.16.525, then claims that are allowed or
16 barred against the decedent's estate shall also be allowed or barred against the assets of
17 the trust;

18 (3) if the personal representative of the decedent's estate fails to follow
19 the procedures stated by AS 13.16.450 - 13.16.525, the trustee of the trust may file a
20 petition with the superior court for a determination of claims and follow the
21 procedures established by AS 13.16.450 - 13.16.525, and claims against the trust and
22 against the decedent's estate shall be allowed or barred under those procedures.

23 (c) In (a)(2) and (b) of this section, "claim" means a claim

24 (1) of a creditor of the settlor;

25 (2) for the expenses of the administration of the settlor's estate;

26 (3) for the expenses of the settlor's funeral; and

27 (4) for the expenses of the disposal of the settlor's remains.

28 * **Sec. 12.** AS 34.40.110(b) is amended to read:

29 (b) If a trust contains a transfer restriction allowed under (a) of this section,
30 the transfer restriction prevents a creditor existing when the trust is created or a person
31 who subsequently becomes a creditor from satisfying a claim out of the beneficiary's

1 interest in the trust, unless the creditor is a creditor of the settlor and

2 (1) the settlor's transfer of property in trust was made with the intent to
3 defraud that creditor, and a cause of action or claim for relief with respect to the
4 fraudulent transfer complies with the requirements of (d) of this section;

5 (2) the trust, **except for an eligible individual retirement account**
6 **trust**, provides that the settlor may revoke or terminate all or part of the trust without
7 the consent of a person who has a substantial beneficial interest in the trust and the
8 interest would be adversely affected by the exercise of the power held by the settlor to
9 revoke or terminate all or part of the trust; in this paragraph, "revoke or terminate"
10 does not include a power to veto a distribution from the trust, a testamentary
11 nongeneral power of appointment or similar power, or the right to receive a
12 distribution of income, principal, or both in the discretion of a person, including a
13 trustee, other than the settlor, or a right to receive a distribution of income or principal
14 under **(3)(A), (B), (C), or (D)** [(3)(A) OR (B)] of this subsection;

15 (3) the trust, **except for an eligible individual retirement account**
16 **trust**, requires that all or a part of the trust's income or principal, or both, must be
17 distributed to the settlor; however, this paragraph does not apply to a settlor's right to
18 receive the following types of distributions, which remain subject to the restriction
19 provided by (a) of this section until the distributions occur:

20 (A) income or principal from a charitable remainder annuity
21 trust or charitable remainder unitrust; in this subparagraph, "charitable
22 remainder annuity trust" and "charitable remainder unitrust" have the meanings
23 given in 26 U.S.C. 664 (Internal Revenue Code) as that section reads on
24 October 8, 2003, and as it may be amended;

25 (B) a percentage of the value of the trust each year as
26 determined from time to time under the trust instrument, but not exceeding the
27 amount that may be defined as income under AS 13.38 or under 26 U.S.C.
28 643(b) (Internal Revenue Code) as that subsection reads on October 8, 2003,
29 and as it may be amended;

30 (C) the transferor's potential or actual use of real property held
31 under a qualified personal residence trust within the meaning of 26 U.S.C.

1 2702(c) (Internal Revenue Code) as that subsection reads on September 15,
2 2004, or as it may be amended in the future; or

3 (D) income or principal from a grantor retained annuity trust or
4 grantor retained unitrust that is allowed under 26 U.S.C. 2702 (Internal
5 Revenue Code) as that section reads on September 15, 2004, or as it may be
6 amended in the future; or

7 (4) at the time of the transfer, the settlor is in default by 30 or more
8 days of making a payment due under a child support judgment or order.

9 * **Sec. 13.** AS 34.40.110(l) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

10 (2) "eligible individual retirement account trust" means an individual
11 retirement account under 26 U.S.C. 408(a) or an individual retirement plan under 26
12 U.S.C. 408A(b) (Internal Revenue Code), as those sections read on the effective date
13 of this paragraph or as they may be amended in the future, that is in the form of a trust,
14 if a trust company or bank with its principal place of business in this state is the trustee
15 or custodian.

16 * **Sec. 14.** AS 34.40.110 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (m) If a trust has a transfer restriction allowed under (a) of this section, in the
18 event of the divorce or dissolution of the marriage of a beneficiary of the trust, the
19 beneficiary's interest in the trust is not considered property subject to division under
20 AS 25.24.160 or 25.24.230 or a part of a property division under AS 25.24.160 or
21 25.24.230. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties to the marriage, this
22 subsection does not apply to a settlor's interest in a self-settled trust with respect to
23 assets transferred to the trust after the settlor's marriage.

24 * **Sec. 15.** AS 13.36.100(g)(1) is repealed.

25 * **Sec. 16.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
26 read:

27 TRANSITION. AS 13.36.157(a), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, and
28 AS 13.36.157(d), as added by sec. 3 of this Act, apply to a trust that is created by a will or
29 another instrument before, on, or after the effective date of secs. 2 and 3 of this Act.

30 * **Sec. 17.** Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).