

House Bill 3495

Sponsored by Representatives ESQUIVEL, WITT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires persons that facilitate like-kind exchanges to make certain notifications and to provide bonds or other securities in specified amounts.

Prohibits exchange facilitator from taking certain actions.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to exchange facilitators.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 6 of this 2013 Act:

4
5 (1) **"Affiliate" means a person that controls, is controlled by or is under common control**
6 **with another person, directly or indirectly.**

7 (2) **"Client" means a taxpayer that enters into an agreement with an exchange facilitator**
8 **for services.**

9 (3) **"Exchange accommodation titleholder" means an exchange accommodation titleholder**
10 **as described in section 4.02(1) of Internal Revenue Service Revenue Procedure 2000-37.**

11 (4)(a) **"Exchange facilitator" means a person that:**

12 (A) **Is engaged in a business in which, for a fee, the person enters into agreements with**
13 **clients for the purpose of performing services as:**

14 (i) **A qualified intermediary;**

15 (ii) **An exchange accommodation titleholder;**

16 (iii) **A trustee of a qualified trust; or**

17 (iv) **An escrow holder of a qualified escrow account; or**

18 (B) **Maintains an office in this state for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in business**
19 **of the type described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.**

20 (b) **"Exchange facilitator" does not include:**

21 (A) **A taxpayer or a disqualified person, as defined in 26 C.F.R. 1.1031(k)-1(k), that is**
22 **seeking to qualify for the nonrecognition provisions of 26 U.S.C. 1031.**

23 (B) **A financial institution, as defined in ORS 706.008, that is not facilitating exchanges**
24 **under 26 U.S.C. 1031 and is:**

25 (i) **Acting as a depository for exchange funds;**

26 (ii) **Acting solely as a trustee of a qualified trust, notwithstanding the provisions of par-**
27 **agraph (a)(A)(iii) of this subsection; or**

28 (iii) **Acting solely as an escrow holder of a qualified escrow account, notwithstanding the**
29 **provisions of paragraph (a)(A)(iv) of this subsection.**

30 (C) **An escrow agent, as defined in ORS 696.505, title insurance company or other person**
31 **that is not facilitating exchanges under 26 U.S.C. 1031 and is:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (i) Acting solely as a trustee of a qualified trust, notwithstanding the provisions of par-
 2 agraph (a)(A)(iii) of this subsection; or

3 (ii) Acting solely as an escrow holder of a qualified escrow account, notwithstanding the
 4 provisions of paragraph (a)(A)(iv) of this subsection.

5 (D) A person that advertises and teaches seminars or classes or that otherwise makes
 6 presentations for the primary purpose of educating professionals in the field of taxation
 7 about tax-deferred exchanges or training persons to act as exchange facilitators.

8 (E) A qualified intermediary that holds funds from the disposition of property located
 9 outside this state and used in an exchange under 26 U.S.C. 1031, notwithstanding the pro-
 10 visions of paragraph (a)(A)(i) of this subsection, or an exchange accommodation titleholder
 11 that does not hold title to property located in this state.

12 (F) An entity that an exchange facilitator wholly owns and uses to take title to property
 13 in this state.

14 (5)(a) "Exchange funds" means moneys, property, instruments or other consideration an
 15 exchange facilitator receives from or on behalf of a client in connection with an exchange
 16 conducted under 26 U.S.C. 1031.

17 (b) "Exchange funds" does not include moneys or other consideration the exchange
 18 facilitator receives from a client as compensation for the exchange facilitator's services.

19 (6) "Fee" means compensation of any nature, direct or indirect, monetary or in-kind, that
 20 a person or another person related to the person in the manner described in 26 U.S.C. 267(b)
 21 or 26 U.S.C. 707(b) receives for services related or incidental to the exchange of like-kind
 22 property under 26 U.S.C. 1031.

23 (7) "Financial institution" has the meaning given that term in ORS 706.008.

24 (8) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company,
 25 joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust or other legal entity and the agents
 26 and employees of the entity.

27 (9) "Prudent investor standard" means an exercise of judgment and care under circum-
 28 stances then prevailing that investors of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the
 29 management of the investors' own affairs not in regard to speculation but in regard to the
 30 permanent disposition of the investors' funds when considering probable income and the
 31 probable safety of the investors' capital.

32 (10) "Qualified escrow account" has the meaning given that term in 26 C.F.R.
 33 1.1031(k)-1(g)(3)(ii).

34 (11) "Qualified exchange accommodation agreement" means a qualified exchange accom-
 35 modation agreement as described in section 4.02(3) of Internal Revenue Service Revenue
 36 Procedure 2000-37.

37 (12) "Qualified intermediary" has the meaning given that term in 26 C.F.R.
 38 1.1031(k)-1(g)(4)(iii).

39 (13) "Qualified trust" has the meaning given that term in 26 C.F.R. 1.1031(k)-1(g)(3)(iii).

40 (14) "Relinquished property" means relinquished property as described in 26 C.F.R.
 41 1.1031(k)-1(a).

42 (15) "Replacement property" means replacement property as described in 26 C.F.R.
 43 1.1031(k)-1(a).

44 **SECTION 2.** (1) When a change in control occurs for an exchange facilitator, the ex-
 45 change facilitator within 10 business days after the change in control becomes effective shall

1 notify the exchange facilitator's clients with relinquished property located in this state or for
 2 which the exchange facilitator holds replacement property under a qualified exchange ac-
 3 commodation agreement. If the exchange facilitator is a publicly traded company and re-
 4 mains a publicly traded company after the change in control, the publicly traded company
 5 need not notify existing clients about the change in control.

6 (2) The notice required under subsection (1) of this section must:

7 (a) Be delivered by hand, first-class mail, overnight mail, electronic mail or facsimile;

8 (b) Be posted on any website the exchange facilitator maintains for 90 days after the ef-
 9 fective date of the change in control; and

10 (c) Set forth the name, address, telephone number and other contact information for the
 11 person that assumes control of the exchange facilitator.

12 (3) For purposes of this section, a change in control for an exchange facilitator occurs
 13 if more than 50 percent of the exchange facilitator's assets or ownership interests transfer,
 14 directly or indirectly, to another person within 12 months.

15 **SECTION 3.** (1) An exchange facilitator shall at all times:

16 (a) Maintain one or more fidelity bonds that are issued by a corporate surety authorized
 17 to do business in this state in an aggregate amount of not less than \$1 million;

18 (b) Deposit with a financial institution in an interest-bearing deposit account or money
 19 market account, the interest of which accrues to the exchange facilitator, moneys, securities
 20 or irrevocable letters of credit issued by corporate sureties authorized to do business in this
 21 state in an aggregate amount of not less than \$1 million;

22 (c) Deposit with a financial institution funds used in an exchange under 26 U.S.C. 1031 in
 23 a qualified escrow account or a qualified trust and provide that withdrawals from the ac-
 24 count or trust require both the exchange facilitator's and the client's written authorization;
 25 or

26 (d) Be listed as a named insured on one or more fidelity bonds that are issued by a cor-
 27 porate surety authorized to do business in this state in an aggregate amount of not less than
 28 \$1 million.

29 (2) An exchange facilitator shall at all times:

30 (a) Maintain errors and omissions insurance issued by an authorized insurer, as defined
 31 in ORS 731.066, in an amount not less than \$250,000;

32 (b) Deposit with a financial institution in an interest-bearing deposit account or money
 33 market account, the interest of which accrues to the exchange facilitator, moneys, securities
 34 or irrevocable letters of credit issued by corporate sureties authorized to do business in this
 35 state in an aggregate amount of not less than \$250,000; or

36 (c) Be listed as a named insured in an errors and omissions insurance policy issued by
 37 an authorized insurer, as defined in ORS 731.066, in an amount of not less than \$250,000.

38 (3) An exchange facilitator may maintain bonds or deposits as provided in subsection (1)
 39 of this section or insurance or deposits as provided in subsection (2) of this section in
 40 amounts in excess of the minimum amounts specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this sec-
 41 tion.

42 **SECTION 4.** (1) An exchange facilitator shall act as a custodian for all exchange funds
 43 and shall invest the exchange funds only in investments that:

44 (a) Meet a prudent investor standard; and

45 (b) Satisfy the investment goals of liquidity and preservation of principal.

1 **(2) An exchange facilitator fails to invest exchange funds according to a prudent investor**
2 **standard if:**

3 **(a) The exchange facilitator knowingly commingles exchange funds with the exchange**
4 **facilitator's operating accounts; or**

5 **(b) Exchange funds are loaned or otherwise transferred to a person or entity, other than**
6 **a financial institution, that is an affiliate of or otherwise related to the exchange facilitator,**
7 **unless the exchange funds are transferred from an exchange facilitator to an exchange ac-**
8 **commodation titleholder in accordance with a qualified exchange accommodation agreement.**

9 **(3) Exchange funds are not subject to execution or attachment in any claim against the**
10 **exchange facilitator.**

11 **(4) An exchange facilitator may not knowingly keep moneys or cause moneys to be kept**
12 **in a financial institution under a name that designates the moneys as belonging to a client**
13 **unless the moneys belong to the client and the client entrusted the moneys to the exchange**
14 **facilitator.**

15 **SECTION 5. An exchange facilitator may not knowingly:**

16 **(1) Make a materially false statement, material misrepresentation or material statement**
17 **intended to mislead a client or another person concerning an exchange conducted under 26**
18 **U.S.C. 1031, or continue a course of material misrepresentation through advertising or oth-**
19 **erwise;**

20 **(2) Fail to account within a reasonable time for moneys or property in the exchange**
21 **facilitator's possession that belongs to another person;**

22 **(3) Engage in conduct that constitutes fraud or dishonesty or commit a crime involving**
23 **fraud, misrepresentation, deceit, embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, robbery or theft;**
24 **or**

25 **(4) Materially fail to fulfill the exchange facilitator's contractual duty to deliver moneys**
26 **or property to a client, unless the failure results from circumstances beyond the exchange**
27 **facilitator's control.**

28 **SECTION 6. (1) A person that claims to have suffered damage because an exchange**
29 **facilitator violated a provision of section 4 or 5 of this 2013 Act has a right of action on the**
30 **bonds or deposits described in section 3 of this 2013 Act. An action under this subsection does**
31 **not limit the remedies available to the person under this section or under other provisions**
32 **of law.**

33 **(2) An exchange facilitator that violates a provision of section 4 or 5 of this 2013 Act is**
34 **subject to an action for damages brought in a circuit court of this state.**

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