

## Small Business Reorganization Act...(“SBRA”) [H.R. 3311](#) - PART ONE

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I do not suggest my thoughts here are anywhere close to exhaustive. Obviously, many issues are presented by the SBRA. Of course, my thoughts may be off mark on one or more items, but the discussions need to start somewhere, so here we go...

First off, why should you be interested?

If you are a standing trustee, or interested in being one, consider 11 U.S.C. 1183<sup>1</sup> which provides:

“(a) In general.—If the United States trustee has appointed an individual under section 586(b) of title 28 to serve as standing trustee in cases under this subchapter, and if such individual qualifies as a trustee under section 322 of this title, then that individual shall serve as trustee in any case under this subchapter. Otherwise, the United States trustee shall appoint one disinterested person to serve as trustee in the case or the United States trustee may serve as trustee in the case, as necessary.”

As a debtor’s attorney, know that the SBRA, while not a paragon of clarity in many regards, provides a well-stocked arsenal of options for the business debtor. If that debtor is an individual, it appears many of the strictures in Chapter 12 and 13 would not apply, although there are some significant tradeoffs.

As a creditor’s attorney....well, forewarned is forearmed...

Above is a link to the statute. Below is the text of provisions that reference statutes, which are either not applicable to the SBRA or are only made applicable in the discretion of the court. I have linked those section reference to endnotes which may help one understand the mosaic. Perhaps some enterprising soul will meld all of this together into one readable document, but such does not exist at this moment. With this backdrop, I will discuss some of what I believe are pertinent issues in later parts of this article.

Several statutes are impacted or implicated by the bare language of SBRA 2019, together with the clerical amendments, which was signed into law on August 23, 2019. The effective date is 180 after enactment, which is February 19, 2020.

The new statute applies only to a “small business debtor” as defined in 101 (51D). Unless removed for cause,<sup>2</sup> the debtor is a “debtor in possession”. 11 U.S.C. 1182(a)<sup>3</sup>

Preliminarily, note that in addition to the statutes specifically referenced in the text to the SBRA, there are clerical amendments of some importance.<sup>4</sup> Two, in particular, are of great significance, namely 28 U.S.C. 586(e), which addresses compensation for the

trustee and 11 U.S.C. 1102, which makes optional the selection of a creditors committee in SBRA cases.<sup>5</sup>

At first blush, it appears there are many positive aspects to the new law.

- No doubt the elimination of the ability of creditors to file a plan and the (for the most part) elimination of the requirement for a creditors committee to be formed are welcomed.
- The ability for the debtor to modify a non-purchase money security interest or mortgage in a residence used in connection with the debtor's business appears, again, well intentioned. This provision would most aid the business person who puts his residence up as collateral for a loan to sustain a business.
- The most positive aspect, in my judgment, are the changes to matters in connection with voting, acceptance and the absolute priority rule.<sup>6</sup> The court can confirm a plan without support of any class of claims, so long as the plan does not discriminate "unfairly"<sup>7</sup> and so long as it is fair and equitable with respect to each class of claims. To be "fair and equitable", the plan must provide for the debtor's projected disposable income to be received during the length of the plan will be applied to make plan payments for 3 to 5 years. Having said that, confirmation standards and discharge provisions are a little difficult to follow.

The SBRA appears to be the product of good intentions, but many implementation and interpretation issues may reduce its immediate effectiveness. While the details, as I see them, are more specifically addressed in subsequent parts of this article, here is a punch list of items which are readily apparent.

- As a Chapter 13 Trustee, I see the provisions regarding the utilization of a standing trustee (or someone else selected by the United States Trustee) as most troubling. The services of the trustee terminate upon "substantial consummation" of the plan. This term is statutorily defined in 1101(2).<sup>8</sup> Substantial consummation could occur at confirmation. Not only is the termination provision likely premature, in reality, it also is in conflict with other provisions of the new act.
- Since the trustee (standing or appointed) could end up running the business, in the event the debtor is removed as debtor in possession, the financial exposure to a trustee is enormous. Imagine someone handing you the keys to a foundry and saying "It's all yours..." While the debtor can be removed "for cause", this could not make payments under the plan.
- While it may be said that Chapter 11 cases generally run without the type of trustee required in Chapter 12s and 13s, there is no one supervising, or even monitoring, the case, after substantial confirmation is accomplished. Experience

in this area suggests that many creditors do not have the money, or perhaps even the time and inclination, to be actively involved in post confirmation matters, to any great extent.

- Payment to the trustee for services would not be on a percentage basis, as is now the case in Chapter 12s and 11s. Presumably, fee applications would need to be filed. Trustee fees could result in an administratively insolvent case and collection of the fees would also seem to be an issue, since the trustee would be a mere administrative claimant with no real recourse other than to participate as a litigant in the case to force payment issues.
- Provisions regarding what is required for a plan are watered down, when compared to other provisions of the bankruptcy code in Chapter 11, 12 and 13.
- The types of requirements and protections found in various sections of Chapter 12 and 13 are missing, particularly those found in 1222, 1322, 1225, and 1325.
- For individual debtors who are sole proprietors, the means test does not exist. These debtors will be judged solely by I and J, apparently.

This is a very short list of what seem to be the major pros and cons. There are many other issues to be resolved and some of those may not be presently known.

To quote all news sources of this day and age...“It is not immediately clear”

More will be revealed.

## **I. § 1181. “Inapplicability of other sections”**

Several sections of Chapter 11 are not applicable to SBRA cases.

“(a) In general—Sections 105(d)<sup>9</sup>, 1101(1)<sup>10</sup>, 1104<sup>11</sup>, 1105<sup>12</sup>, 1106<sup>13</sup>, 1107<sup>14</sup>, 1108<sup>15</sup>, 1115<sup>16</sup>, 1116<sup>17</sup>, 1121<sup>18</sup>, 1123(a)(8)<sup>19</sup>, 1123(c)<sup>20</sup>, 1127<sup>21</sup>, 1129(a)(15)<sup>22</sup>, 1129(b)<sup>23</sup>, 1129(c)<sup>24</sup>, 1129(e)<sup>25</sup>, and 1141(d)(5)<sup>26</sup> of this title do not apply in a case under this subchapter.”

## **II. § 1181 (b) “By Court Authority”**

Several sections of Chapter 11 are not applicable to SBRA cases, *unless* the court determines otherwise.

“(b) Court authority.—Unless the court for cause orders otherwise, paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 1102(a)<sup>27</sup> and sections 1102(b)<sup>28</sup>, 1103<sup>29</sup>, and 1125<sup>30</sup> of this title do not apply in a case under this subchapter.”

## **Stay tuned for Part Two “The Plan...”**

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<sup>1</sup> The term “small business debtor”—

“(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning or operating real property or activities incidental thereto) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than \$2,000,000 <sup>1</sup> (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) for a case in which the United States trustee has not appointed under section 1102(a)(1) a committee of unsecured creditors or where the court has determined that the committee of unsecured creditors is not sufficiently active and representative to provide effective oversight of the debtor; and

(B) does not include any member of a group of affiliated debtors that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than \$2,000,000 <sup>1</sup> (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders).”

NOTE: As of April 1, 2019, the amount is \$2,725,625.

<sup>2</sup> 1185. Removal of debtor in possession

“(a) In general.—On request of a party in interest, and after notice and a hearing, the court shall order that the debtor shall not be a debtor in possession for cause, including fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, or gross mismanagement of the affairs of the debtor, either before or after the date of commencement of the case, or for failure to perform the obligations of the debtor under a plan confirmed under this subchapter.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all statutory references are to 11 U.S.C.

<sup>4</sup> “(b) Clerical amendment.—The table of subchapters at the beginning of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

### **“SUBCHAPTER V—SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR REORGANIZATION**

#### **SEC. 3. Preferences; venue of certain proceedings.**

(a) Preferences.—Section 547(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, based on reasonable due diligence in the circumstances of the case and taking into account a party’s known or reasonably knowable affirmative defenses under subsection (c),” after “may”.

(b) Venue of certain proceedings.—Section 1409(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$25,000”.

#### **SEC. 4. Conforming amendments.**

(a) Title 11.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 101—

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(A) in paragraph (51C), by inserting “and has not elected that subchapter V of chapter 11 of this title shall apply” after “is a small business debtor”; and

(B) in paragraph (51D)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “or operating real property or activities incidental thereto” and inserting “single asset real estate”; and

(II) by striking “for a case in which” and all that follows and inserting “not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(II) by striking “does not include any member” and inserting the following: “does not include—

“(i) any member”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or

“(iii) any corporation that—

“(I) is subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); and

“(II) is an affiliate of a debtor.”;

(2) in section 103—

(A) by redesignating subsections (i) through (k) as subsections (j) through (l), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

“(i) Subchapter V of chapter 11 of this title applies only in a case under chapter 11 in which a small business debtor elects that subchapter V of chapter 11 shall apply.”;

(3) in section 322(a), by inserting “1183,” after “1163,”;

(4) in section 326—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “, other than a case under subchapter V of chapter 11” after “7 or 11”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 or” after “In a case under”;

(5) in section 347—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting “1194,” after “726,”; and

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(ii) by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11,” after “chapter 7,”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting “1194,” after “1173,”;

(6) in section 363(c)(1), by inserting “1183, 1184,” after “1108,”;

(7) in section 364(a), by inserting “1183, 1184,” after “1108,”;

(8) in section 523(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “1192” after “1141,”;

(9) in section 524—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “1192,” after “1141,”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “1192,” after “523,”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “1192,” after “1141,”; and

(C) in subsection (d), by inserting “1192,” after “1141,”;

(10) in section 557(d)(3), by inserting “1183,” after “1104,”;

(11) in section 1102(a), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) Unless the court for cause orders otherwise, a committee of creditors may not be appointed in a small business case or a case under subchapter V of this chapter.”; and

(12) in section 1146(a), by inserting “or 1191” after “1129”.

(b) Title 28.—Title 28 United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 586—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “(including subchapter V of chapter 11)” after “7, 11”;

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 or” after “cases under” the first place it appears;

(C) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 or” after “cases under” each place that term appears; and

(D) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 or” after “cases under”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 or” after “cases under” each place that term appears; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) In the event that the services of the trustee in a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11 are terminated by dismissal or conversion of the case, or upon substantial consummation of a plan under section 1183(c)(1) of that title, the court shall award compensation to the trustee consistent with services performed by the trustee and the limits on the compensation of the trustee established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection.”;

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(2) in section 589b—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 and” after “cases under”; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 and” after “trustees under”; and

(ii) in the undesignated matter following paragraph (8), by inserting “subchapter V of chapter 11 and” after “cases under”; and

(3) in section 1930(a)(6)(A), by inserting “, other than under subchapter V,” after “chapter 11 of title 11”.

SEC. 5. Effective date.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. “

<sup>5</sup> Congress added to 28 USC 586(e)(2)(iii)(5) “In the event that the services of the trustee in a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11 are terminated by dismissal or conversion of the case, or upon substantial consummation of a plan under section 1183(c)(1) of that title, the court shall award compensation to the trustee consistent with services performed by the trustee and the limits on the compensation of the trustee established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection.”

The new 11 U.S.C. 1102(a), as it relates to SBRA 2019 says:

“(3) Unless the court for cause orders otherwise, a committee of creditors may not be appointed in a small business case or a case under subchapter V of this chapter.”;

<sup>6</sup> 1129(b)(1) and *Norwest Bank Worthing v. Ahlers*, 485, U.S. 197 (1988)

<sup>7</sup> Of course, a significant body of case law on the issue of whether a plan discriminates “unfairly” is found with respect to 1322(b)(1).

<sup>8</sup> 1101(2) “substantial consummation” means—

(A) transfer of all or substantially all of the property proposed by the plan to be transferred;

(B) assumption by the debtor or by the successor to the debtor under the plan of the business or of the management of all or substantially all of the property dealt with by the plan; and

(C) commencement of distribution under the plan.

<sup>9</sup> 105(d)

“The court, on its own motion or on the request of a party in interest—

(1) shall hold such status conferences as are necessary to further the expeditious and economical resolution of the case; and

(2) unless inconsistent with another provision of this title or with applicable Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, may issue an order at any such conference prescribing such limitations and conditions as the court deems appropriate to ensure that the case is handled expeditiously and economically, including an order that—

(A) sets the date by which the trustee must assume or reject an executory contract or unexpired lease; or

(B) in a case under chapter 11 of this title—

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- (i) sets a date by which the debtor, or trustee if one has been appointed, shall file a disclosure statement and plan;
  - (ii) sets a date by which the debtor, or trustee if one has been appointed, shall solicit acceptances of a plan;
  - (iii) sets the date by which a party in interest other than a debtor may file a plan;
  - (iv) sets a date by which a proponent of a plan, other than the debtor, shall solicit acceptances of such plan;
  - (v) fixes the scope and format of the notice to be provided regarding the hearing on approval of the disclosure statement; or
  - (vi) provides that the hearing on approval of the disclosure statement may be combined with the hearing on confirmation of the plan.”

<sup>10</sup> 1101(1)

“In this chapter —

(1) “debtor in possession” means debtor except when a person that has qualified under section 322 of this title is serving as trustee in the case”

<sup>11</sup> 1104 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(a) At any time after the commencement of the case but before confirmation of a plan, on request of a party in interest or the United States trustee, and after notice and a hearing, the court shall order the appointment of a trustee—

(1) for cause, including fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, or gross mismanagement of the affairs of the debtor by current management, either before or after the commencement of the case, or similar cause, but not including the number of holders of securities of the debtor or the amount of assets or liabilities of the debtor; or

(2) if such appointment is in the interests of creditors, any equity security holders, and other interests of the estate, without regard to the number of holders of securities of the debtor or the amount of assets or liabilities of the debtor.

(b)(1) Except as provided in section 1163 of this title, on the request of a party in interest made not later than 30 days after the court orders the appointment of a trustee under subsection (a), the United States trustee shall convene a meeting of creditors for the purpose of electing one disinterested person to serve as trustee in the case. The election of a trustee shall be conducted in the manner provided in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 702 of this title.

(2)(A) If an eligible, disinterested trustee is elected at a meeting of creditors under paragraph (1), the United States trustee shall file a report certifying that election.

(B) Upon the filing of a report under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the trustee elected under paragraph (1) shall be considered to have been selected and appointed for purposes of this section; and

(ii) the service of any trustee appointed under subsection (a) shall terminate.

(C) The court shall resolve any dispute arising out of an election described in subparagraph (A).

(c) If the court does not order the appointment of a trustee under this section, then at any time before the confirmation of a plan, on request of a party in interest or the United States trustee, and after notice and a hearing, the court shall order the appointment of an examiner to conduct such an investigation of the debtor as is appropriate, including an investigation of any allegations of fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, misconduct, mismanagement, or irregularity in the management of the affairs of the debtor or by current or former management of the debtor, if—

(1) such appointment is in the interests of creditors, any equity security holders, and other interests of the estate; or



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(2) the debtor's fixed, liquidated, unsecured debts, other than debts for goods, services, or taxes, or owing to an insider, exceed \$5,000,000.

(d) If the court orders the appointment of a trustee or an examiner, if a trustee or an examiner dies or resigns during the case or is removed under section 324 of this title, or if a trustee fails to qualify under section 322 of this title, then the United States trustee, after consultation with parties in interest, shall appoint, subject to the court's approval, one disinterested person other than the United States trustee to serve as trustee or examiner, as the case may be, in the case.

(e) The United States trustee shall move for the appointment of a trustee under subsection (a) if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that current members of the governing body of the debtor, the debtor's chief executive or chief financial officer, or members of the governing body who selected the debtor's chief executive or chief financial officer, participated in actual fraud, dishonesty, or criminal conduct in the management of the debtor or the debtor's public financial reporting. "

<sup>12</sup> 1105 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

"At any time before confirmation of a plan, on request of a party in interest or the United States trustee, and after notice and a hearing, the court may terminate the trustee's appointment and restore the debtor to possession and management of the property of the estate and of the operation of the debtor's business."

<sup>13</sup> 1106 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

"(a) A trustee shall—

(1) perform the duties of the trustee, as specified in paragraphs (2), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12) of section 704(a);

(2) if the debtor has not done so, file the list, schedule, and statement required under section 521(a)(1) of this title;

(3) except to the extent that the court orders otherwise, investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the debtor, the operation of the debtor's business and the desirability of the continuance of such business, and any other matter relevant to the case or to the formulation of a plan;

(4) as soon as practicable—

(A) file a statement of any investigation conducted under paragraph (3) of this subsection, including any fact ascertained pertaining to fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, misconduct, mismanagement, or irregularity in the management of the affairs of the debtor, or to a cause of action available to the estate; and

(B) transmit a copy or a summary of any such statement to any creditors' committee or equity security holders' committee, to any indenture trustee, and to such other entity as the court designates;

(5) as soon as practicable, file a plan under section 1121 of this title, file a report of why the trustee will not file a plan, or recommend conversion of the case to a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13 of this title or dismissal of the case;

(6) for any year for which the debtor has not filed a tax return required by law, furnish, without personal liability, such information as may be required by the governmental unit with which such tax return was to be filed, in light of the condition of the debtor's books and records and the availability of such information;

(7) after confirmation of a plan, file such reports as are necessary or as the court orders; and

(8) if with respect to the debtor there is a claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the applicable notice specified in subsection (c).

(b) An examiner appointed under section 1104(d) of this title shall perform the duties specified in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a) of this section, and, except to the extent that the court orders otherwise, any other duties of the trustee that the court orders the debtor in possession not to perform.

(c)

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(1) In a case described in subsection (a)(8) to which subsection (a)(8) applies, the trustee shall—

(A)

(i) provide written notice to the holder of the claim described in subsection (a)(8) of such claim and of the right of such holder to use the services of the State child support enforcement agency established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social Security Act for the State in which such holder resides, for assistance in collecting child support during and after the case under this title; and

(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i) the address and telephone number of such State child support enforcement agency;

(B)

(i) provide written notice to such State child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such holder; and

(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a discharge under section 1141, provide written notice to such holder and to such State child support enforcement agency of—

(i) the granting of the discharge;

(ii) the last recent known address of the debtor;

(iii) the last recent known name and address of the debtor's employer; and

(iv) the name of each creditor that holds a claim that—

(I) is not discharged under paragraph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a); or

(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor under section 524(c).

(2)

(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection (a)(8) or the State child enforcement support agency of the State in which such holder resides may request from a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last known address of the debtor.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address of a debtor in connection with a request made under subparagraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making such disclosure."

<sup>14</sup> 1107 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

"(a) Subject to any limitations on a trustee serving in a case under this chapter, and to such limitations or conditions as the court prescribes, a debtor in possession shall have all the rights, other than the right to compensation under section 330 of this title, and powers, and shall perform all the functions and duties, except the duties specified in sections 1106(a)(2), (3), and (4) of this title, of a trustee serving in a case under this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding section 327(a) of this title, a person is not disqualified for employment under section 327 of this title by a debtor in possession solely because of such person's employment by or representation of the debtor before the commencement of the case."

<sup>15</sup> 1108 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

"Unless the court, on request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, orders otherwise, the trustee may operate the debtor's business."

<sup>16</sup> 1115 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

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“(a) In a case in which the debtor is an individual, property of the estate includes, in addition to the property specified in section 541—

(1) all property of the kind specified in section 541 that the debtor acquires after the commencement of the case but before the case is closed, dismissed, or converted to a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, whichever occurs first; and

(2) earnings from services performed by the debtor after the commencement of the case but before the case is closed, dismissed, or converted to a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, whichever occurs first.

(b) Except as provided in section 1104 or a confirmed plan or order confirming a plan, the debtor shall remain in possession of all property of the estate.”

<sup>17</sup> 1116 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“In a small business case, a trustee or the debtor in possession, in addition to the duties provided in this title and as otherwise required by law, shall—

(1) append to the voluntary petition or, in an involuntary case, file not later than 7 days after the date of the order for relief—

(A) its most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and Federal income tax return; or

(B) a statement made under penalty of perjury that no balance sheet, statement of operations, or cash-flow statement has been prepared and no Federal tax return has been filed;

(2) attend, through its senior management personnel and counsel, meetings scheduled by the court or the United States trustee, including initial debtor interviews, scheduling conferences, and meetings of creditors convened under section 341 unless the court, after notice and a hearing, waives that requirement upon a finding of extraordinary and compelling circumstances;

(3) timely file all schedules and statements of financial affairs, unless the court, after notice and a hearing, grants an extension, which shall not extend such time period to a date later than 30 days after the date of the order for relief, absent extraordinary and compelling circumstances;

(4) file all postpetition financial and other reports required by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure or by local rule of the district court;

(5) subject to section 363(c)(2), maintain insurance customary and appropriate to the industry;

(6)

(A) timely file tax returns and other required government filings; and

(B) subject to section 363(c)(2), timely pay all taxes entitled to administrative expense priority except those being contested by appropriate proceedings being diligently prosecuted; and

(7) allow the United States trustee, or a designated representative of the United States trustee, to inspect the debtor’s business premises, books, and records at reasonable times, after reasonable prior written notice, unless notice is waived by the debtor.

<sup>18</sup> 1121 **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(a) The debtor may file a plan with a petition commencing a voluntary case, or at any time in a voluntary case or an involuntary case.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, only the debtor may file a plan until after 120 days after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.

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(c) Any party in interest, including the debtor, the trustee, a creditors' committee, an equity security holders' committee, a creditor, an equity security holder, or any indenture trustee, may file a plan if and only if—

(1) a trustee has been appointed under this chapter;

(2) the debtor has not filed a plan before 120 days after the date of the order for relief under this chapter; or

(3) the debtor has not filed a plan that has been accepted, before 180 days after the date of the order for relief under this chapter, by each class of claims or interests that is impaired under the plan.

(d)

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), on request of a party in interest made within the respective periods specified in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and after notice and a hearing, the court may for cause reduce or increase the 120-day period or the 180-day period referred to in this section.

(2)

(A) The 120-day period specified in paragraph (1) may not be extended beyond a date that is 18 months after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.

(B) The 180-day period specified in paragraph (1) may not be extended beyond a date that is 20 months after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.

(e) In a small business case—

(1) only the debtor may file a plan until after 180 days after the date of the order for relief, unless that period is—

(A) extended as provided by this subsection, after notice and a hearing; or

(B) the court, for cause, orders otherwise;

(2) the plan and a disclosure statement (if any) shall be filed not later than 300 days after the date of the order for relief; and

(3) the time periods specified in paragraphs (1) and (2), and the time fixed in section 1129(e) within which the plan shall be confirmed, may be extended only if—

(A) the debtor, after providing notice to parties in interest (including the United States trustee), demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that it is more likely than not that the court will confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time;

(B) a new deadline is imposed at the time the extension is granted; and

(C) the order extending time is signed before the existing deadline has expired.”

<sup>19</sup> 1123(a)(8) **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(a) Notwithstanding any otherwise applicable nonbankruptcy law, a plan shall—

...

(8) in a case in which the debtor is an individual, provide for the payment to creditors under the plan of all or such portion of earnings from personal services performed by the debtor after the commencement of the case or other future income of the debtor as is necessary for the execution of the plan.”

<sup>20</sup> 1123(c) **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“In a case concerning an individual, a plan proposed by an entity other than the debtor may not provide for the use, sale, or lease of property exempted under section 522 of this title, unless the debtor consents to such use, sale, or lease.”

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<sup>21</sup> **1127 NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(a) The proponent of a plan may modify such plan at any time before confirmation, but may not modify such plan so that such plan as modified fails to meet the requirements of sections 1122 and 1123 of this title. After the proponent of a plan files a modification of such plan with the court, the plan as modified becomes the plan.

(b) The proponent of a plan or the reorganized debtor may modify such plan at any time after confirmation of such plan and before substantial consummation of such plan, but may not modify such plan so that such plan as modified fails to meet the requirements of sections 1122 and 1123 of this title. Such plan as modified under this subsection becomes the plan only if circumstances warrant such modification and the court, after notice and a hearing, confirms such plan as modified, under section 1129 of this title.

(c) The proponent of a modification shall comply with section 1125 of this title with respect to the plan as modified.

(d) Any holder of a claim or interest that has accepted or rejected a plan is deemed to have accepted or rejected, as the case may be, such plan as modified, unless, within the time fixed by the court, such holder changes such holder’s previous acceptance or rejection.

(e) If the debtor is an individual, the plan may be modified at any time after confirmation of the plan but before the completion of payments under the plan, whether or not the plan has been substantially consummated, upon request of the debtor, the trustee, the United States trustee, or the holder of an allowed unsecured claim, to—

(1) increase or reduce the amount of payments on claims of a particular class provided for by the plan;

(2) extend or reduce the time period for such payments; or

(3) alter the amount of the distribution to a creditor whose claim is provided for by the plan to the extent necessary to take account of any payment of such claim made other than under the plan.

(f)

(1) Sections 1121 through 1128 and the requirements of section 1129 apply to any modification under subsection (e).

(2) The plan, as modified, shall become the plan only after there has been disclosure under section 1125 as the court may direct, notice and a hearing, and such modification is approved.”

<sup>22</sup> **1129(a)(15) NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(a) The court shall confirm a plan only if all of the following requirements are met:

...

(15) In a case in which the debtor is an individual and in which the holder of an allowed unsecured claim objects to the confirmation of the plan—

(A) the value, as of the effective date of the plan, of the property to be distributed under the plan on account of such claim is not less than the amount of such claim; or

(B) the value of the property to be distributed under the plan is not less than the projected disposable income of the debtor (as defined in section 1325(b)(2)) to be received during the 5-year period beginning on the date that the first payment is due under the plan, or during the period for which the plan provides payments, whichever is longer.”

<sup>23</sup> **1129 (b) NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“(1) Notwithstanding section 510(a) of this title, if all of the applicable requirements of subsection (a) of this section other than paragraph (8) are met with respect to a plan, the court, on request of the proponent of the plan, shall confirm

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the plan notwithstanding the requirements of such paragraph if the plan does not discriminate unfairly, and is fair and equitable, with respect to each class of claims or interests that is impaired under, and has not accepted, the plan.

(2) For the purpose of this subsection, the condition that a plan be fair and equitable with respect to a class includes the following requirements:

(A) With respect to a class of secured claims, the plan provides—

(i)

(I) that the holders of such claims retain the liens securing such claims, whether the property subject to such liens is retained by the debtor or transferred to another entity, to the extent of the allowed amount of such claims; and

(II) that each holder of a claim of such class receive on account of such claim deferred cash payments totaling at least the allowed amount of such claim, of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, of at least the value of such holder's interest in the estate's interest in such property;

(ii) for the sale, subject to section 363(k) of this title, of any property that is subject to the liens securing such claims, free and clear of such liens, with such liens to attach to the proceeds of such sale, and the treatment of such liens on proceeds under clause (i) or (iii) of this subparagraph; or

(iii) for the realization by such holders of the indubitable equivalent of such claims.

(B) With respect to a class of unsecured claims—

(i) the plan provides that each holder of a claim of such class receive or retain on account of such claim property of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, equal to the allowed amount of such claim; or

(ii) the holder of any claim or interest that is junior to the claims of such class will not receive or retain under the plan on account of such junior claim or interest any property, except that in a case in which the debtor is an individual, the debtor may retain property included in the estate under section 1115, subject to the requirements of subsection (a)(14) of this section.

(C) With respect to a class of interests—

(i) the plan provides that each holder of an interest of such class receive or retain on account of such interest property of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, equal to the greatest of the allowed amount of any fixed liquidation preference to which such holder is entitled, any fixed redemption price to which such holder is entitled, or the value of such interest; or

(ii) the holder of any interest that is junior to the interests of such class will not receive or retain under the plan on account of such junior interest any property.”

<sup>24</sup> 1129(c)

“Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section and except as provided in section 1127(b) of this title, the court may confirm only one plan, unless the order of confirmation in the case has been revoked under section 1144 of this title. If the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section are met with respect to more than one plan, the court shall consider the preferences of creditors and equity security holders in determining which plan to confirm.”

<sup>25</sup> 1129(e) **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

“In a small business case, the court shall confirm a plan that complies with the applicable provisions of this title and that is filed in accordance with section 1121(e) not later than 45 days after the plan is filed unless the time for confirmation is extended in accordance with section 1121(e)(3).”

<sup>26</sup> 1141(d)(5) **NOT APPLICABLE TO SBRA**

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“(5) In a case in which the debtor is an individual—

(A) unless after notice and a hearing the court orders otherwise for cause, confirmation of the plan does not discharge any debt provided for in the plan until the court grants a discharge on completion of all payments under the plan;

(B) at any time after the confirmation of the plan, and after notice and a hearing, the court may grant a discharge to the debtor who has not completed payments under the plan if—

(i) the value, as of the effective date of the plan, of property actually distributed under the plan on account of each allowed unsecured claim is not less than the amount that would have been paid on such claim if the estate of the debtor had been liquidated under chapter 7 on such date;

(ii) modification of the plan under section 1127 is not practicable; and

(iii) subparagraph (C) permits the court to grant a discharge; and

(C) the court may grant a discharge if, after notice and a hearing held not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of the order granting the discharge, the court finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that—

(i) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the debtor; and

(ii) there is pending any proceeding in which the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B);

and if the requirements of subparagraph (A) or (B) are met.”

<sup>27</sup> 1102(a)(1), (2), and (4) **DO NOT APPLY TO SBRA EXCEPT FOR CAUSE**

“(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), as soon as practicable after the order for relief under chapter 11 of this title, the United States trustee shall appoint a committee of creditors holding unsecured claims and may appoint additional committees of creditors or of equity security holders as the United States trustee deems appropriate.

(2) On request of a party in interest, the court may order the appointment of additional committees of creditors or of equity security holders if necessary to assure adequate representation of creditors or of equity security holders. The United States trustee shall appoint any such committee.

...

(4) On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the court may order the United States trustee to change the membership of a committee appointed under this subsection, if the court determines that the change is necessary to ensure adequate representation of creditors or equity security holders. The court may order the United States trustee to increase the number of members of a committee to include a creditor that is a small business concern (as described in section 3(a)(1) of the Small Business Act), if the court determines that the creditor holds claims (of the kind represented by the committee) the aggregate amount of which, in comparison to the annual gross revenue of that creditor, is disproportionately large.”

<sup>28</sup> 1102(b) **DOES NOT APPLY TO SBRA EXCEPT FOR CAUSE**

(1)

“A committee of creditors appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall ordinarily consist of the persons, willing to serve, that hold the seven largest claims against the debtor of the kinds represented on such committee, or of the members of a committee organized by creditors before the commencement of the case under this chapter, if such committee was fairly chosen and is representative of the different kinds of claims to be represented.

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(a) At a scheduled meeting of a committee appointed under section 1102 of this title, at which a majority of the members of such committee are present, and with the court's approval, such committee may select and authorize the employment by such committee of one or more attorneys, accountants, or other agents, to represent or perform services for such committee.

(b) An attorney or accountant employed to represent a committee appointed under section 1102 of this title may not, while employed by such committee, represent any other entity having an adverse interest in connection with the case. Representation of one or more creditors of the same class as represented by the committee shall not per se constitute the representation of an adverse interest.

(c) A committee appointed under section 1102 of this title may—

(1) consult with the trustee or debtor in possession concerning the administration of the case;

(2) investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the debtor, the operation of the debtor's business and the desirability of the continuance of such business, and any other matter relevant to the case or to the formulation of a plan;

(3) participate in the formulation of a plan, advise those represented by such committee of such committee's determinations as to any plan formulated, and collect and file with the court acceptances or rejections of a plan;

(4) request the appointment of a trustee or examiner under section 1104 of this title; and

(5) perform such other services as are in the interest of those represented.

(d) As soon as practicable after the appointment of a committee under section 1102 of this title, the trustee shall meet with such committee to transact such business as may be necessary and proper."

## <sup>29</sup> 1103 **DOES NOT APPLY TO SBRA EXCEPT FOR CAUSE**

(a)  
At a scheduled meeting of a committee appointed under section 1102 of this title, at which a majority of the members of such committee are present, and with the court's approval, such committee may select and authorize the employment by such committee of one or more attorneys, accountants, or other agents, to represent or perform services for such committee.

(b)  
An attorney or accountant employed to represent a committee appointed under section 1102 of this title may not, while employed by such committee, represent any other entity having an adverse interest in connection with the case. Representation of one or more creditors of the same class as represented by the committee shall not per se constitute the representation of an adverse interest.

(c) A committee appointed under section 1102 of this title may—

(1)  
consult with the trustee or debtor in possession concerning the administration of the case;

(2)  
investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the debtor, the operation of the debtor's business and the desirability of the continuance of such business, and any other matter relevant to the case or to the formulation of a plan;

(3)  
participate in the formulation of a plan, advise those represented by such committee of such committee's determinations as to any plan formulated, and collect and file with the court acceptances or rejections of a plan;

(4)  
request the appointment of a trustee or examiner under section 1104 of this title; and

(5)  
perform such other services as are in the interest of those represented.

(d)  
As soon as practicable after the appointment of a committee under section 1102 of this title, the trustee shall meet with such committee to transact such business as may be necessary and proper.

(Pub. L. 95-598, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2627; Pub. L. 98-353, title III, §§ 324, 500, July 10, 1984, 98 Stat. 358, 384.)

## <sup>30</sup> 1125 **DOES NOT APPLY TO SBRA EXCEPT FOR CAUSE**



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“(a) In this section—

(1) “adequate information” means information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, as far as is reasonably practicable in light of the nature and history of the debtor and the condition of the debtor’s books and records, including a discussion of the potential material Federal tax consequences of the plan to the debtor, any successor to the debtor, and a hypothetical investor typical of the holders of claims or interests in the case, that would enable such a hypothetical investor of the relevant class to make an informed judgment about the plan, but adequate information need not include such information about any other possible or proposed plan and in determining whether a disclosure statement provides adequate information, the court shall consider the complexity of the case, the benefit of additional information to creditors and other parties in interest, and the cost of providing additional information; and

(2) “investor typical of holders of claims or interests of the relevant class” means investor having—

(A) a claim or interest of the relevant class;

(B) such a relationship with the debtor as the holders of other claims or interests of such class generally have; and

(C) such ability to obtain such information from sources other than the disclosure required by this section as holders of claims or interests in such class generally have.

(b) An acceptance or rejection of a plan may not be solicited after the commencement of the case under this title from a holder of a claim or interest with respect to such claim or interest, unless, at the time of or before such solicitation, there is transmitted to such holder the plan or a summary of the plan, and a written disclosure statement approved, after notice and a hearing, by the court as containing adequate information. The court may approve a disclosure statement without a valuation of the debtor or an appraisal of the debtor’s assets.

(c) The same disclosure statement shall be transmitted to each holder of a claim or interest of a particular class, but there may be transmitted different disclosure statements, differing in amount, detail, or kind of information, as between classes.

(d) Whether a disclosure statement required under subsection (b) of this section contains adequate information is not governed by any otherwise applicable nonbankruptcy law, rule, or regulation, but an agency or official whose duty is to administer or enforce such a law, rule, or regulation may be heard on the issue of whether a disclosure statement contains adequate information. Such an agency or official may not appeal from, or otherwise seek review of, an order approving a disclosure statement.

(e) A person that solicits acceptance or rejection of a plan, in good faith and in compliance with the applicable provisions of this title, or that participates, in good faith and in compliance with the applicable provisions of this title, in the offer, issuance, sale, or purchase of a security, offered or sold under the plan, of the debtor, of an affiliate participating in a joint plan with the debtor, or of a newly organized successor to the debtor under the plan, is not liable, on account of such solicitation or participation, for violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing solicitation of acceptance or rejection of a plan or the offer, issuance, sale, or purchase of securities.

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (b), in a small business case—

(1) the court may determine that the plan itself provides adequate information and that a separate disclosure statement is not necessary;

(2) the court may approve a disclosure statement submitted on standard forms approved by the court or adopted under section 2075 of title 28; and

(3)

(A) the court may conditionally approve a disclosure statement subject to final approval after notice and a hearing;

(B) acceptances and rejections of a plan may be solicited based on a conditionally approved disclosure statement if the debtor provides adequate information to each holder of a claim or interest that is solicited, but a conditionally approved disclosure statement shall be mailed not later than 25 days before the date of the hearing on confirmation of the plan; and

(C) the hearing on the disclosure statement may be combined with the hearing on confirmation of a plan.

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(g) Notwithstanding subsection (b), an acceptance or rejection of the plan may be solicited from a holder of a claim or interest if such solicitation complies with applicable nonbankruptcy law and if such holder was solicited before the commencement of the case in a manner complying with applicable nonbankruptcy law.”