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Other	_	
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Composed of	_	
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· _	Area Code and Telephone Number 202 437 6030	
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Deborah M. Lodge

Name of Person Signing

Adamy Old Signature

12-16-99

Date Signed

# State of Delaware Office of the Secretary of State

I, EDWARD J. FREEL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP, WHICH MERGES:

"HILLS DEPARTMENT STORE COMPANY", A DELAWARE CORPORATION,

WITH AND INTO WHILLS STORES COMPANY" UNDER THE NAME OF "HILLS STORES COMPANY", A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, AS RECEIVED AND FILED IN THIS OFFICE THE TWENTIETH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1999, AT 11:03 O'CLOCK A.M.

A FILED COPY OF THIS CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS.



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**AUTHENTICATION:** 

9697031

DATE:

04-20-99

05/12/99 WED 14:36 [TX/RX NO 8633]

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### CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP AND MERGER

of

#### HILLS DEPARTMENT STORE COMPANY

#### with and into

#### HILLS STORES COMPANY

(Pursuant to Section 253 of the Delaware General Corporation Law)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hills Stores Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), does hereby certify:

FIRST: That the Company is incorporated under and pursuant to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

SECOND: That the Company owns all of the outstanding shares of each class of capital stock of Hills Department Store Company, a Delaware corporation ("HDSC").

THIRD: That the Company, by the following resolutions of its Board of Directors, duly adopted as of March 30, 1999, determined to, and hereby does, merge HDSC with and into itself on the terms and conditions set forth in such resolutions:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Hills Stores Company deems it desirable and in the best interests of Hills Stores Company to merge with and into itself Hills Department Store Company, a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of Hills Stores Company; and further

RESOLVED, that, effective upon the filing of an executed Certificate of Ownership and Merger (the "Certificate of Merger") merging Hills Department Store Company with and into Hills Stores Company in accordance with Section 253 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, Hills Department Store Company shall be merged with and into Hills Stores Company (the "Merger"), the separate corporate existence of Hills Department Store Company shall cease, and Hills Stores Company shall continue as the surviving corporation as a result of the Merger and shall assume all of the liabilities and obligations of Hills Department Store Company; and further

RESOLVED, that the Merger be, and the same hereby is, approved, authorized, adopted and ratified in all respects; and further

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RESOLVED, that the officers of Hills Stores Company be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, empowered and directed, in the name and on behalf of Hills Stores Company, to take such additional lawful actions and to execute and deliver such additional agreements, documents or instruments as any of them may deem necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the foregoing resolutions, including, but not limited to, the execution and filing with the Secretary of State of Delaware of the Certificate of Merger, the authority for the taking of such actions and the execution and delivery of such agreements, documents and instruments to be conclusively evidenced thereby; and further

RESOLVED, that all actions heretofore taken by any officer, representative or agent of Hills Stores Company in connection with the matters referred to in the foregoing resolutions, be and the same hereby are, ratified, approved and confirmed in all respects.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this Certificate of Ownership and Merger to be executed as of March 30, 1999.

HILLS STORES COMPANY

Vice President and Secreta

RECORDED: 12/20/1999