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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to residential properties; amending ss. 718.116, 719.108, and 720.30851, F.S.; providing requirements relating to the request for an estoppel certificate by a unit or parcel owner or a unit or parcel mortgagee; providing that the association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts set forth in the estoppel certificate under certain conditions; providing that the association waives any claim against a person or entity who would have relied in good faith upon the estoppel certificate under certain conditions; providing and revising estoppel certificate fee and supplemental fee requirements; deleting provisions relating to expedited court action to compel issuance of an estoppel certificate; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

2021

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 718.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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718.116 Assessments; liability; lien and priority; interest; collection.—

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(8) Within $\underline{10}$ $\underline{15}$ days after receiving a written request for an estoppel certificate therefor from a unit owner or his or

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her designee, or a unit mortgagee or his or her designee, the association shall deliver by mail, hand, or electronic means an estoppel provide a certificate signed by an officer or agent of the association. The estoppel certificate must be dated as of the date it is delivered, must be valid for at least 30 days, and must state stating all assessments and other moneys, including costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the association incident to the collection process as authorized by subsection (3) and paragraph (5)(b), that are owed to the association by the unit owner with respect to the unit, as reflected in records maintained pursuant to s. 718.111(12), through a date that is at least 30 days after the date of the estoppel certificate condominium parcel.

- (a) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts set forth in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate and from that person's successors and assigns Any person other than the owner who relies upon such certificate shall be protected thereby.
- estoppel certificate from a unit owner or his or her designee, or a unit mortgagee or his or her designee, and fails to deliver an estoppel certificate as required by this section, the association waives, as to any person who would have in good faith relied on the estoppel certificate and as to that person's successors and assigns, any claim, including a claim for a lien

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against the unit, for any amounts owed to the association that should have been shown on the estoppel certificate A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be brought to compel compliance with this subsection, and in any such action the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees.

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Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 718.112(2)(i), an the association or its authorized agent may charge an estoppel certificate a reasonable fee as provided in this paragraph for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate. The amount of the estoppel certificate fee must be included on the estoppel certificate. If the estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a unit, the estoppel certificate fee and any supplemental estoppel certificate fees pursuant to this paragraph shall be due and payable no earlier than the closing of the sale or refinancing, and shall be paid from closing settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur within 60 days after the date the estoppel certificate is delivered, the estoppel certificate fee is the obligation of the unit owner and the association may collect the estoppel certificate fee only in the same manner as an assessment against the unit owner as set forth in this section. The preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate may not be conditioned upon the payment of any other fees. The estoppel certificate fee may not exceed \$100. However, one or more of the following supplemental

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estoppel certificate fees may be added:

- 1. If the unit owner is delinquent with respect to moneys owed to the association, and the association has referred the account to an attorney or other agent for collection, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be charged.
- 2. If a request to expedite delivery of the estoppel certificate is made and the estoppel certificate is delivered no later than the date requested, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be charged.
- 3. If an additional estoppel certificate is requested within 30 days after the most recently delivered estoppel certificate, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 for each such estoppel certificate may be charged.
- (d) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by the same unit owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those units may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, though the estoppel certificate fee for each unit shall be computed as set forth in paragraph (c), the total estoppel certificate fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate or estoppel certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:
 - 1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
 - 2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.

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3. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.

4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.

(e)(d) The authority to charge a fee for the estoppel certificate shall be established by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable upon the preparation of the certificate. If the certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a unit but the closing does not occur and no later than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a payor that is not the unit owner, the fee shall be refunded to that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the unit owner, and the association may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an assessment as provided in this section.

Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 719.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

719.108 Rents and assessments; liability; lien and priority; interest; collection; cooperative ownership.—

(6) Within 10 15 days after receiving a written request for an estoppel certificate from by a unit owner or his or her designee, or a unit mortgagee or his or her designee, the association shall deliver by mail, hand, or electronic means an estoppel provide a certificate signed by an officer or agent of the association. The estoppel certificate must be dated as of

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the date it is delivered, must be valid for at least 30 days, and must state stating all assessments and other moneys, including costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the association incident to the collection process as authorized by subsection (3) and paragraph (4) (b), that are owed to the association by the unit owner with respect to the cooperative parcel, as reflected in records maintained pursuant to s.

719.104(2), through a date that is at least 30 days after the date of the estoppel certificate.

- (a) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts set forth in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate, and from that person's successors and assigns Any person other than the unit owner who relies upon such certificate shall be protected thereby.
- (b) If an association receives a written request for an estoppel certificate from a unit owner or his or her designee, or a unit mortgagee or his or her designee, and fails to deliver an estoppel certificate as required by this section, the association waives, as to any person who would have in good faith relied on the estoppel certificate and as to that person's successors and assigns, any claim, including a claim for a lien against the unit, for any amounts owed to the association that should have been shown on the estoppel certificate.
- $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 719.106(1)(i), an the association or its

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authorized agent may charge an estoppel certificate a reasonable fee as provided in this paragraph for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate. The amount of the estoppel certificate fee must be included on the estoppel certificate. If the estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a unit, the estoppel certificate fee and any supplemental estoppel certificate fees pursuant to this paragraph shall be due and payable no earlier than the closing of the sale or refinancing, and shall be paid from closing settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur within 60 days after the date the estoppel certificate is delivered, the estoppel certificate fee is the obligation of the unit owner and the association may collect the estoppel certificate fee only in the same manner as an assessment against the unit owner as set forth in this section. The preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate may not be conditioned upon the payment of any other fees. The estoppel certificate fee may not exceed \$100. However, one or more of the following supplemental estoppel certificate fees may be added: 1. If the unit owner is delinquent with respect to moneys owed to the association, and the association has referred the account to an attorney or other agent for collection, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be

2. If a request to expedite delivery of the estoppel certificate is made and the estoppel certificate is delivered no

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later than the date requested, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be charged.

- 3. If an additional estoppel certificate is requested within 30 days after the most recently delivered estoppel certificate, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 for each such estoppel certificate may be charged.
- (d) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by the same unit owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those units may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, though the estoppel certificate fee for each unit shall be computed as set forth in paragraph (c), the total estoppel certificate fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate or estoppel certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:
 - 1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
 - 2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
 - 3. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
 - 4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
- (e) The authority to charge a fee for the estoppel certificate shall be established by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract.
- Section 3. Section 720.30851, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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720.30851 Estoppel certificates.—Within 10 15 days after receiving the date on which a written request for an estoppel certificate is received from a parcel owner or his or her designee, or a parcel mortgagee, or his or her designee, the association shall deliver by mail, hand, or electronic means an estoppel provide a certificate signed by an officer or authorized agent of the association. The estoppel certificate must be dated as of the date it is delivered, must be valid for at least 30 days, and must state stating all assessments and other moneys, including costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the association incident to the collection process as authorized by s. 720.3085, that are owed to the association by the parcel owner or parcel mortgagee with respect to the parcel, as reflected in records maintained pursuant to s. 720.303(4), through a date that is at least 30 days after the date of the estoppel certificate. An association may charge a fee for the preparation of such certificate, and the amount of such fee must be stated on the certificate.

- (1) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts set forth in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate, and from that person's successors and assigns Any person other than a parcel owner who relies upon a certificate receives the benefits and protection thereof.
- (2) <u>If an association receives a written request for an</u> estoppel certificate from a parcel owner or his or her designee,

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or a parcel mortgagee or his or her designee, and fails to deliver an estoppel certificate as required by this section, the association waives, as to any person who would have in good faith relied on the estoppel certificate and as to that person's successors and assigns, any claim, including a claim for a lien against the parcel, for any amounts owed to the association that should have been shown on the estoppel certificate A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be brought to compel compliance with this section, and the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees.

(3) An association or its agent may charge an estoppel certificate fee as provided in this subsection for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate. The amount of the estoppel certificate fee must be included on the estoppel certificate. If the estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a parcel, the estoppel certificate fee and any supplemental estoppel certificate fees pursuant to this subsection shall be due and payable no earlier than the closing of the sale or refinancing, and shall be paid from the closing settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur within 60 days after the date the estoppel certificate is delivered, the estoppel certificate fee is the obligation of the parcel owner and the association may collect the estoppel certificate fee only in the same manner as an assessment against the parcel owner as set forth in s. 720.3085. The preparation and delivery of an estoppel

certificate may not be conditioned upon the payment of any other fees. The estoppel certificate fee may not exceed \$100. However, one or more of the following supplemental estoppel certificate fees may be added:

- (a) If the parcel owner is delinquent with respect to moneys owed to the association, and the association has referred the account to an attorney or other agent for collection, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be charged.
- (b) If a request to expedite delivery of the estoppel certificate is made and the estoppel certificate is delivered no later than the date requested, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 may be charged.
- (c) If an additional estoppel certificate is requested within 30 days after the most recently delivered estoppel certificate, an additional estoppel certificate fee not to exceed \$50 for each such estoppel certificate may be charged.
- (4) If estoppel certificates for multiple parcels owned by the same parcel owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those parcels may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, though the estoppel certificate fee for each parcel shall be computed as set forth in subsection (3), the total estoppel certificate fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate or estoppel

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certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:

- (a) For 25 or fewer parcels, \$750.
- (b) For 26 to 50 parcels, \$1,000.
- (c) For 51 to 100 parcels, \$1,500.
- (d) For more than 100 parcels, \$2,500.
- certificate shall be established by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable upon the preparation of the certificate. If the certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a parcel but the closing does not occur and no later than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a payor that is not the parcel owner, the fee shall be refunded to that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the parcel owner, and the association may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an assessment as provided in this section.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

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