1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to homeowners' associations; amending
3	s. 468.4334, F.S.; providing requirements for certain
4	community association managers and community
5	association management firms; amending s. 468.4337,
6	F.S.; requiring certain community association managers
7	to take a specific number of hours of continuing
8	education biennially; amending s. 720.303, F.S.;
9	requiring official records of a homeowners'
10	association to be maintained for a certain number of
11	years; requiring an association to post certain
12	documents on its website or make such documents
13	available through an application by a date certain;
14	providing requirements for an association's website or
15	application; requiring an association to provide
16	certain information to parcel owners upon request;
17	requiring an association to ensure certain information
18	and records are not accessible on the website or
19	application; providing that an association or its
20	agent is not liable for the disclosure of certain
21	information; requiring an association to adopt certain
22	rules; requiring an association to provide or make
23	available subpoenaed records within a certain
24	timeframe; requiring an association to assist in a law
25	enforcement investigation as allowed by law; requiring
	Dage 1 of 92

Page 1 of 23

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2.6 that certain associations use an independent certified 27 public accountant to prepare its annual budget; 28 requiring certain associations to retain an attorney 29 for certain purposes; prohibiting certain persons from 30 acting as the accountant or attorney; amending s. 31 720.3033, F.S.; providing education requirements for 32 newly elected or appointed directors; providing 33 requirements for the educational curriculum; requiring 34 certain directors to complete a certain number of 35 hours of continuing education annually; requiring the 36 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to 37 adopt certain rules; providing criminal penalties for 38 certain actions by an officer, a director, or a 39 manager of an association; amending s. 720.3035, F.S.; 40 requiring an association or any architectural, 41 construction improvement, or other such similar 42 committee of an association to apply and enforce 43 certain standards reasonably and equitably; requiring 44 an association or any architectural, construction improvement, or other such similar committee of an 45 association to provide certain written notice to a 46 47 parcel owner; amending s. 720.3085, F.S.; conforming a 48 cross-reference; providing an effective date. 49 50 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Page 2 of 23

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51 52 Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.4334, 53 Florida Statutes, to read: 54 468.4334 Professional practice standards; liability; 55 community association manager requirements .-56 (3) A community association manager or community 57 association management firm that is authorized by contract to provide community association management services to a 58 59 homeowners' association must do all of the following: 60 (a) Attend in person at least one member meeting or board meeting of the homeowners' association annually. 61 62 (b) Provide to the members of the homeowners' association 63 the name and contact information for each community association 64 manager or representative of a community association management 65 firm assigned to the homeowners' association, the manager's or 66 representative's hours of availability, and a summary of the 67 duties for which the manager or representative is responsible. 68 The homeowners' association must also post this information on 69 the association's website or application required under s. 70 720.303(4)(b). The community association manager or community association management firm must update the homeowners' 71 72 association and its members within 14 business days after any 73 change to such information. 74 (c) Provide to any member upon request a copy of the 75 contract between the community association manager or community

Page 3 of 23

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2024

76	association management firm and the homeowners' association and
77	include such contract with association's governing documents.
78	Section 2. Section 468.4337, Florida Statutes, is amended
79	to read:
80	468.4337 Continuing educationThe department may not
81	renew a license until the licensee submits proof that the
82	licensee has completed the requisite hours of continuing
83	education. No more than 10 hours of continuing education
84	annually shall be required for renewal of a license. The number
85	of continuing education hours, criteria, and course content
86	shall be approved by the council by rule. <u>The council may not</u>
87	require more than 10 hours of continuing education annually for
88	renewal of a license. A community association manager who
89	provides community association management services to a
90	homeowners' association must biennially complete at least 5
90 91	homeowners' association must biennially complete at least 5 hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to
91	hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to
91 92	hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping.
91 92 93	hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a),
91 92 93 94	<pre>hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida</pre>
91 92 93 94 95	<pre>hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:</pre>
91 92 93 94 95 96	<pre>hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:</pre>
91 92 93 94 95 96 97	<pre>hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 720.303 Association powers and duties; meetings of board; official records; budgets; financial reporting; association</pre>
91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98	<pre>hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to recordkeeping. Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 720.303 Association powers and duties; meetings of board; official records; budgets; financial reporting; association</pre>

Page 4 of 23

101 The association shall maintain each of the following (a) 102 items, when applicable, for at least 7 years, unless the 103 governing documents of the association require a longer period 104 of time, which constitute the official records of the 105 association: 1. (a) Copies of any plans, specifications, permits, and 106 107 warranties related to improvements constructed on the common areas or other property that the association is obligated to 108 109 maintain, repair, or replace. 2.(b) A copy of the bylaws of the association and of each 110 111 amendment to the bylaws. 3.(c) A copy of the articles of incorporation of the 112 113 association and of each amendment thereto. 114 4.(d) A copy of the declaration of covenants and a copy of 115 each amendment thereto. 116 5.(e) A copy of the current rules of the homeowners' 117 association. 118 6.(f) The minutes of all meetings of the board of 119 directors and of the members, which minutes must 120 at least 7 years. 121 7.(g) A current roster of all members and their designated mailing addresses and parcel identifications. A member's 122 123 designated mailing address is the member's property address, 124 unless the member has sent written notice to the association 125 requesting that a different mailing address be used for all Page 5 of 23

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126 required notices. The association shall also maintain the e-mail 127 addresses and the facsimile numbers designated by members for 128 receiving notice sent by electronic transmission of those members consenting to receive notice by electronic transmission. 129 130 A member's e-mail address is the e-mail address the member 131 provided when consenting in writing to receiving notice by 132 electronic transmission, unless the member has sent written 133 notice to the association requesting that a different e-mail 134 address be used for all required notices. The e-mail addresses 135 and facsimile numbers provided by members to receive notice by electronic transmission must be removed from association records 136 137 when the member revokes consent to receive notice by electronic 138 transmission. However, the association is not liable for an 139 erroneous disclosure of the e-mail address or the facsimile 140 number for receiving electronic transmission of notices.

141 <u>8.(h)</u> All of the association's insurance policies or a 142 copy thereof, which policies must be retained for at least 7 143 years.

144 <u>9.(i)</u> A current copy of all contracts to which the 145 association is a party, including, without limitation, any 146 management agreement, lease, or other contract under which the 147 association has any obligation or responsibility. Bids received 148 by the association for work to be performed <u>are must also be</u> 149 considered official records and must be kept for a period of 1 150 year.

Page 6 of 23

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151 <u>10.(j)</u> The financial and accounting records of the 152 association, kept according to good accounting practices. All 153 financial and accounting records must be maintained for a period 154 of at least 7 years. The financial and accounting records must 155 include:

156 <u>a.1.</u> Accurate, itemized, and detailed records of all 157 receipts and expenditures.

158 <u>b.2</u>. A current account and a periodic statement of the 159 account for each member, designating the name and current 160 address of each member who is obligated to pay assessments, the 161 due date and amount of each assessment or other charge against 162 the member, the date and amount of each payment on the account, 163 and the balance due.

164 <u>c.3.</u> All tax returns, financial statements, and financial 165 reports of the association.

166 <u>d.4.</u> Any other records that identify, measure, record, or 167 communicate financial information.

168 <u>11.(k)</u> A copy of the disclosure summary described in s. 169 720.401(1).

170 <u>12.(1)</u> Ballots, sign-in sheets, voting proxies, and all 171 other papers and electronic records relating to voting by parcel 172 owners, which must be maintained for at least 1 year after the 173 date of the election, vote, or meeting.

174 <u>13.(m)</u> All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s. 175 720.3085(3)(c)3.

Page 7 of 23

176 14.(n) All other written records of the association not 177 specifically included in this subsection which are related to 178 the operation of the association. 179 (b)1. By January 1, 2025, an association shall post a 180 current digital copy of the documents specified in paragraph (a) 181 on its website or make such documents available through an 182 application that can be downloaded on a mobile device. 183 2. The association's website or application must be 184 accessible through the Internet and must contain a subpage, web 185 portal, or other protected electronic location that is 186 inaccessible to the general public and accessible only to parcel 187 owners and employees of the association. 3. Upon written request by a parcel owner, the association 188 189 must provide the parcel owner with a username and password and 190 access to the protected sections of the association's website or 191 application which contains the official documents of the 192 association. 193 4. The association shall ensure that the information and 194 records described in paragraph (5)(d), which are not allowed to 195 be accessible to parcel owners, are not posted on the association's website or application. If protected information 196 197 or information restricted from being accessible to parcel owners 198 is included in documents that are required to be posted on the 199 association's website or application, the association must ensure the information is redacted before posting the documents. 200

Page 8 of 23

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201 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the association or its authorized 202 agent is not liable for disclosing information that is protected 203 or restricted under paragraph (5) (d) unless such disclosure was 204 made with a knowing or intentional disregard of the protected or 205 restricted nature of such information.

(c) The association shall adopt written rules governing
the method or policy by which the official records of the
association are to be retained and for how long such records
must be retained. Such information must be made available to the
parcel owners through the association's website or application.

INSPECTION AND COPYING OF RECORDS.-Unless otherwise 211 (5) 212 provided by law or the governing documents of the association, 213 the official records must shall be maintained within the state 214 for at least 7 years and shall be made available to a parcel 215 owner for inspection or photocopying within 45 miles of the 216 community or within the county in which the association is 217 located within 10 business days after receipt by the board or 218 its designee of a written request from the parcel owner. This 219 subsection may be complied with by having a copy of the official 220 records available for inspection or copying in the community or τ 221 at the option of the association, by making the records 222 available to a parcel owner electronically via the association's website or application Internet or by allowing the records to be 223 224 viewed in electronic format on a computer screen and printed 225 upon request. If the association has a photocopy machine

Page 9 of 23

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226 available where the records are maintained, it must provide 227 parcel owners with copies on request during the inspection if 228 the entire request is limited to no more than 25 pages. An association shall allow a member or his or her authorized 229 230 representative to use a portable device, including a smartphone, 231 tablet, portable scanner, or any other technology capable of 232 scanning or taking photographs, to make an electronic copy of 233 the official records in lieu of the association's providing the 234 member or his or her authorized representative with a copy of 235 such records. The association may not charge a fee to a member or his or her authorized representative for the use of a 236 237 portable device.

(a) The failure of an association to provide access to the
records within 10 business days after receipt of a written
request submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested,
creates a rebuttable presumption that the association willfully
failed to comply with this subsection.

(b) A member who is denied access to official records is entitled to the actual damages or minimum damages for the association's willful failure to comply with this subsection. The minimum damages are to be \$50 per calendar day up to 10 days, the calculation to begin on the 11th business day after receipt of the written request.

(c) The association may adopt reasonable written rulesgoverning the frequency, time, location, notice, records to be

Page 10 of 23

2024

251 inspected, and manner of inspections, but may not require a 252 parcel owner to demonstrate any proper purpose for the 253 inspection, state any reason for the inspection, or limit a 254 parcel owner's right to inspect records to less than one 8-hour 255 business day per month. The association may impose fees to cover 256 the costs of providing copies of the official records, including 257 the costs of copying and the costs required for personnel to 258 retrieve and copy the records if the time spent retrieving and 259 copying the records exceeds one-half hour and if the personnel 260 costs do not exceed \$20 per hour. Personnel costs may not be 261 charged for records requests that result in the copying of 25 or 262 fewer pages. The association may charge up to 25 cents per page 263 for copies made on the association's photocopier. If the 264 association does not have a photocopy machine available where 265 the records are kept, or if the records requested to be copied 266 exceed 25 pages in length, the association may have copies made 267 by an outside duplicating service and may charge the actual cost 268 of copying, as supported by the vendor invoice. The association 269 shall maintain an adequate number of copies of the recorded 270 governing documents, to ensure their availability to members and 271 prospective members.

272 <u>(d)</u> Notwithstanding this <u>subsection</u> paragraph, the 273 following records are not accessible to members or parcel 274 owners:

275

1. Any record protected by the lawyer-client privilege as

Page 11 of 23

276 described in s. 90.502 and any record protected by the work-277 product privilege, including, but not limited to, a record 278 prepared by an association attorney or prepared at the attorney's express direction which reflects a mental impression, 279 280 conclusion, litigation strategy, or legal theory of the attorney 281 or the association and which was prepared exclusively for civil 282 or criminal litigation or for adversarial administrative 283 proceedings or which was prepared in anticipation of such 284 litigation or proceedings until the conclusion of the litigation 285 or proceedings.

286 2. Information obtained by an association in connection 287 with the approval of the lease, sale, or other transfer of a 288 parcel.

3. Information an association obtains in a gated community in connection with guests' visits to parcel owners or community residents.

292 4. Personnel records of association or management company 293 employees, including, but not limited to, disciplinary, payroll, 294 health, and insurance records. For purposes of this 295 subparagraph, the term "personnel records" does not include 296 written employment agreements with an association or management 297 company employee or budgetary or financial records that indicate 298 the compensation paid to an association or management company 299 employee.

300

5. Medical records of parcel owners or community

Page 12 of 23

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301 residents.

302 Social security numbers, driver license numbers, credit 6. 303 card numbers, electronic mailing addresses, telephone numbers, 304 facsimile numbers, emergency contact information, any addresses 305 for a parcel owner other than as provided for association notice 306 requirements, and other personal identifying information of any 307 person, excluding the person's name, parcel designation, mailing 308 address, and property address. Notwithstanding the restrictions 309 in this subparagraph, an association may print and distribute to parcel owners a directory containing the name, parcel address, 310 311 and all telephone numbers of each parcel owner. However, an 312 owner may exclude his or her telephone numbers from the 313 directory by so requesting in writing to the association. An 314 owner may consent in writing to the disclosure of other contact 315 information described in this subparagraph. The association is 316 not liable for the disclosure of information that is protected 317 under this subparagraph if the information is included in an 318 official record of the association and is voluntarily provided by an owner and not requested by the association. 319

320 7. Any electronic security measure that is used by the321 association to safeguard data, including passwords.

322 8. The software and operating system used by the
323 association which allows the manipulation of data, even if the
324 owner owns a copy of the same software used by the association.
325 The data is part of the official records of the association.

Page 13 of 23

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326 All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s. 9. 327 720.3085(3)(c)3.

328 (e) (d) The association or its authorized agent is not required to provide a prospective purchaser or lienholder with 329 330 information about the residential subdivision or the association 331 other than information or documents required by this chapter to 332 be made available or disclosed. The association or its 333 authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee to the prospective 334 purchaser or lienholder or the current parcel owner or member 335 for providing good faith responses to requests for information 336 by or on behalf of a prospective purchaser or lienholder, other 337 than that required by law, if the fee does not exceed \$150 plus 338 the reasonable cost of photocopying and any attorney fees 339 incurred by the association in connection with the response.

340 (f) If an association receives a subpoena for records from 341 a law enforcement agency, the association must provide a copy of 342 such records or otherwise make the records available for 343 inspection and copying to a law enforcement agency within 5 344 business days after receipt of the subpoena, unless otherwise 345 specified by the law enforcement agency or subpoena. An 346 association must assist a law enforcement agency in its 347 investigation to the extent permissible by law. 348 (6) BUDGETS.-

349

(a)1. The association shall prepare an annual budget that sets out the annual operating expenses. The budget must reflect 350

Page 14 of 23

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351 the estimated revenues and expenses for that year and the 352 estimated surplus or deficit as of the end of the current year. 353 The budget must set out separately all fees or charges paid for 354 by the association for recreational amenities, whether owned by 355 the association, the developer, or another person. The 356 association shall provide each member with a copy of the annual 357 budget or a written notice that a copy of the budget is 358 available upon request at no charge to the member. The copy must 359 be provided to the member within the time limits set forth in 360 subsection (5).

2. An association that has 2,500 members or more must use 361 362 an independent certified public accountant to prepare the 363 association's annual budget. Such association must also retain 364 an attorney to advise the association and its members on 365 procedural matters relating to the annual budget and to foster 366 communications between the board and the members of the 367 association. The independent certified public accountant or 368 attorney required under this subparagraph may not be:

369 <u>a. The community association manager or an employee of the</u>
 370 <u>community association management firm providing community</u>
 371 <u>association management services to the association; or</u>
 372 <u>b. An officer or a director of the association or an</u>
 373 immediate family member of an officer or a director.

374 (d) An association is deemed to have provided for reserve375 accounts upon the affirmative approval of a majority of the

Page 15 of 23

376 total voting interests of the association. Such approval may be 377 obtained by vote of the members at a duly called meeting of the 378 membership or by the written consent of a majority of the total 379 voting interests of the association. The approval action of the 380 membership must state that reserve accounts shall be provided 381 for in the budget and must designate the components for which 382 the reserve accounts are to be established. Upon approval by the 383 membership, the board of directors or the independent certified 384 public accountant, if required under paragraph (a), shall 385 include the required reserve accounts in the budget in the next 386 fiscal year following the approval and each year thereafter. 387 Once established as provided in this subsection, the reserve 388 accounts must be funded or maintained or have their funding 389 waived in the manner provided in paragraph (f).

390 After one or more reserve accounts are established, (f) 391 the membership of the association, upon a majority vote at a 392 meeting at which a quorum is present, may provide for no 393 reserves or less reserves than required by this section. If a 394 meeting of the parcel unit owners has been called to determine 395 whether to waive or reduce the funding of reserves and such 396 result is not achieved or a quorum is not present, the reserves 397 as included in the budget go into effect. After the turnover, 398 the developer may vote its voting interest to waive or reduce 399 the funding of reserves. Any vote taken pursuant to this subsection to waive or reduce reserves is applicable only to one 400

Page 16 of 23

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401 budget year. 402 Subsections (1) and (3) of section 720.3033, Section 4. 403 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 404 720.3033 Officers and directors.-405 (1) (a) Within 90 days after being elected or appointed to 406 the board, each director shall certify in writing to the 407 secretary of the association that he or she has read the association's declaration of covenants, articles of 408 409 incorporation, bylaws, and current written rules and policies; 410 that he or she will work to uphold such documents and policies 411 to the best of his or her ability; and that he or she will 412 faithfully discharge his or her fiduciary responsibility to the 413 association's members. Within 90 days after being elected or 414 appointed to the board, in lieu of such written certification, 415 the newly elected or appointed director must may submit a 416 certificate of having satisfactorily completed the educational 417 curriculum administered by a department-approved division-418 approved education provider. 419 1. The newly elected or appointed director must complete 420 the department-approved education for newly elected or appointed 421 directors within 90 days after being elected or appointed. 422 2. The certificate of completion is valid for a maximum of 423 4 years. 424 3. A director must complete the education specific to 425 newly elected or appointed directors at least every 4 years.

Page 17 of 23

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426 The department-approved educational curriculum specific 4. 427 to newly elected or appointed directors must include training 428 relating to financial literacy and transparency, recordkeeping, 429 levying of fines, and notice and meeting requirements. 430 5. In addition to the educational curriculum specific to 431 newly elected or appointed directors: 432 a. A director of an association that has fewer than 2,500 433 members must complete at least 4 hours of continuing education 434 annually. 435 b. A director of an association that has 2,500 members or 436 more must complete at least 8 hours of continuing education 437 annually within 1 year before or 90 days after the date of 438 election or appointment. 439 The written certification or educational certificate (b) 440 is valid for the uninterrupted tenure of the director on the 441 board. A director who does not timely file the written 442 certification or educational certificate is shall be suspended 443 from the board until he or she complies with the requirement. 444 The board may temporarily fill the vacancy during the period of 445 suspension. The association shall retain each director's written 446 (C) certification or educational certificate for inspection by the 447 448 members for 5 years after the director's election. However, the 449 failure to have the written certification or educational certificate on file does not affect the validity of any board 450

Page 18 of 23

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451 action.

452 (d) The department shall adopt rules to implement and
453 administer the educational curriculum and continuing education
454 requirements under this subsection.

455 An officer, a director, or a manager may not solicit, (3) 456 offer to accept, or accept, or receive any thing or service of 457 value for which consideration has not been provided for his or 458 her benefit or for the benefit of a member of his or her 459 immediate family from any person providing or proposing to 460 provide goods or services to the association. An officer, a 461 director, or a manager who knowingly solicits, offers to accept, 462 or accepts, or receives any thing or service of value or 463 kickback that is at least \$25 but not more than \$1,000 for which 464 consideration has not been provided for his or her own benefit 465 or that of his or her immediate family from any person providing 466 or proposing to provide goods or services to the association 467 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as 468 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and is subject to monetary 469 damages under s. 617.0834. If such thing or kickback is valued at \$1,000 or more, the officer, director, or manager commits a 470 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 471 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084 and is subject to monetary 472 damages under s. 617.0834. If the board finds that an officer or 473 474 a director has violated this subsection, the board shall 475 immediately remove the officer or director from office. The

Page 19 of 23

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476 vacancy shall be filled according to law until the end of the 477 officer's or director's term of office. However, an officer, a 478 director, or a manager may accept food to be consumed at a 479 business meeting with a value of less than \$25 per individual or 480 a service or good received in connection with trade fairs or 481 education programs.

482 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 720.3035, 483 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

484 720.3035 Architectural control covenants; parcel owner
485 improvements; rights and privileges.-

486 (1)The authority of an association or any architectural, 487 construction improvement, or other such similar committee of an 488 association to review and approve plans and specifications for 489 the location, size, type, or appearance of any structure or 490 other improvement on a parcel, or to enforce standards for the 491 external appearance of any structure or improvement located on a 492 parcel, is shall be permitted only to the extent that the 493 authority is specifically stated or reasonably inferred as to 494 such location, size, type, or appearance in the declaration of 495 covenants or other published guidelines and standards authorized 496 by the declaration of covenants. An association or any 497 architectural, construction improvement, or similar committee of 498 an association must reasonably and equitably apply and enforce 499 on all parcel owners the architectural and construction 500 improvement standards authorized by the declaration of covenants

Page 20 of 23

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CS/HB 1243

2024

501	or other published guidelines and standards authorized by the
502	declaration of covenants.
503	(4) Each parcel owner <u>is</u> shall be entitled to the rights
504	and privileges set forth in the declaration of covenants or
505	other published guidelines and standards authorized by the
506	declaration of covenants concerning the architectural use of the
507	parcel, and the construction of permitted structures and
508	improvements on the parcel and such rights and privileges <u>may</u>
509	shall not be unreasonably infringed upon or impaired by the
510	association or any architectural, construction improvement, or
511	other such similar committee of the association. <u>If the</u>
512	association or any architectural, construction improvement, or
513	other such similar committee of the association denies a parcel
514	owner's request or application for the construction of a
515	structure or other improvement on a parcel, the association or
516	committee must provide written notice to the parcel owner
517	stating with specificity the rule or covenant on which the
518	association or committee relied when denying the request or
519	application and the specific aspect or part of the proposed
520	improvement that does not conform to such rule or covenant. If
521	the association or any architectural, construction improvement,
522	or other such similar committee of the association should
523	unreasonably, knowingly, and willfully infringe upon or impair
524	the rights and privileges set forth in the declaration of
525	covenants or other published guidelines and standards authorized

Page 21 of 23

526 by the declaration of covenants, the adversely affected parcel 527 owner <u>is shall be</u> entitled to recover damages caused by such 528 infringement or impairment, including any costs and reasonable 529 <u>attorney attorney's</u> fees incurred in preserving or restoring the 530 rights and privileges of the parcel owner set forth in the 531 declaration of covenants or other published guidelines and 532 standards authorized by the declaration of covenants.

533 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 534 720.3085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

535

720.3085 Payment for assessments; lien claims.-

(3) Assessments and installments on assessments that are not paid when due bear interest from the due date until paid at the rate provided in the declaration of covenants or the bylaws of the association, which rate may not exceed the rate allowed by law. If no rate is provided in the declaration or bylaws, interest accrues at the rate of 18 percent per year.

(c)1. If an association sends out an invoice for assessments or a parcel's statement of the account described in <u>s. 720.303(4)(a)10.b.</u> s. 720.303(4)(j)2., the invoice for assessments or the parcel's statement of account must be delivered to the parcel owner by first-class United States mail or by electronic transmission to the parcel owner's e-mail address maintained in the association's official records.

549 2. Before changing the method of delivery for an invoice 550 for assessments or the statement of the account, the association

Page 22 of 23

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551 must deliver a written notice of such change to each parcel 552 owner. The written notice must be delivered to the parcel owner 553 at least 30 days before the association sends the invoice for 554 assessments or the statement of the account by the new delivery 555 method. The notice must be sent by first-class United States 556 mail to the owner at his or her last address as reflected in the 557 association's records and, if such address is not the parcel 558 address, must be sent by first-class United States mail to the 559 parcel address. Notice is deemed to have been delivered upon 560 mailing as required by this subparagraph.

3. A parcel owner must affirmatively acknowledge his or her understanding that the association will change its method of delivery of the invoice for assessments or the statement of the account before the association may change the method of delivering an invoice for assessments or the statement of account. The parcel owner may make the affirmative acknowledgment electronically or in writing.

568

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 23 of 23

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