SENATE BILL NO. 421-SENATOR SCHNEIDER

MARCH 19, 2001

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes to provisions governing common-interest communities. (BDR 10-446)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.

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11 12 13 Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; creating the commission for common-interest communities to hear and take action on complaints related to such communities; requiring property managing agents to be licensed by the administrator of the real estate division of the department of business and industry; limiting the circumstances under which an association may bring an action to recover damages resulting from constructional defects in any units of the common-interest community; clarifying the amount of a fine that may be imposed for a continuing violation of the governing documents of an association; requiring the removal of a member of the executive board of an association to be conducted by secret ballot; revising the circumstances under which an association may foreclose on its lien for unpaid assessments; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 116 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 30, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. "Commission" means the commission for common-interest communities created pursuant to section 6 of this act.

Sec. 3. "Property management" means the physical, administrative or financial maintenance and management of real property in a common-interest community, or the supervision of those activities for a fee, commission or other compensation or valuable consideration.

Sec. 4. "Property manager" means a person engaged in property management for a common-interest community.

Sec. 5. "Property managing agent" means a person who, for another person and for compensation, provides or arranges for the services of a property manager.



- Sec. 6. 1. The commission for common-interest communities, consisting of five members appointed by the governor, is hereby created.
 - 2. The governor shall appoint to the commission:

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- (a) Two members who are units' owners residing in this state, one of whom is serving or has served as a member of the executive board of an association;
- (b) One member who is in the business of developing common-interest communities in this state;
- (c) One member who holds a permit to engage in property management that is issued pursuant to the provisions of chapter 645 of NRS or holds a certificate for property management issued by the real estate commission pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 116.31139; and
- (d) One member who has experience with or knowledge of matters related to common-interest communities, other than property management.
- 3. At least three members of the commission must be residents of a county whose population is 400,000 or more. At least one member of the commission must be a resident of a county whose population is 40,000 or more. Each member of the commission must have resided in a commoninterest community or have been actively engaged in a business related to common-interest communities for not less than 3 years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.
- 4. After the initial terms, each member of the commission shall serve a term of 3 years. Each member may serve no more than two consecutive full terms. If a vacancy occurs during a member's term, the governor shall appoint a person qualified under this section to replace the member for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 5. While engaged in the business of the commission, each member is entitled to receive:
- (a) A salary of not more than \$80 per day, as established by the commission; and
- (b) The per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.
- Sec. 7. 1. The commission shall, at the first meeting of each fiscal year, elect from its members a chairman, vice chairman and secretary.
- The commission shall meet at least once each calendar quarter
 and at other times on the call of the chairman or a majority of its
 members.
 A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a
 - 3. A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of all business.
 - Sec. 8. 1. A person who is aggrieved by any act committed in violation of the provisions of this chapter may, within 2 years after the alleged violation and after submitting the complaint for resolution to the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities, file a written complaint with the commission specifying the relevant facts. The commission may prescribe forms and adopt procedures for the filing of such a complaint.
- 48 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the commission 49 shall, upon the receipt of such a complaint, conduct an investigation to



determine whether disciplinary action is warranted. The commission shall not investigate or take action on a complaint that has been submitted to mediation or arbitration pursuant to the provisions of NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive.

- 3. The commission may require any person who knowingly files a false or fraudulent complaint with the commission to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000.
- Sec. 9. 1. To carry out its duties, the commission, or any member thereof, may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records and other papers.
- 2. If any person fails to comply with a subpoena issued by the commission pursuant to this section within 10 days after its issuance, the commission may petition the district court for an order of the court compelling compliance with the subpoena.
- 3. Upon such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the person subpoenaed to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and show cause why he has not complied with the subpoena. A certified copy must be served upon the person subpoenaed.

4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the commission, the court shall enter an order compelling compliance with the subpoena, and upon failure to obey the order, the person must be dealt with as for contempt of court.

Sec. 10. 1. If the commission determines that a complaint received pursuant to section 8 of this act is not frivolous, the secretary of the commission shall fix a time and place for a hearing on the complaint and cause a notice of the hearing and a formal complaint prepared by the commission to be served on the person who is alleged to have committed the violation. The notice must be served at least 20 days before the date fixed for the hearing.

2. The commission shall hold a hearing on the complaint within 90 days after the complaint is filed with the commission. The hearing may be continued by the commission upon its own motion or upon written request, for good cause shown.

3. Written notice may be served by delivery of it personally to the person alleged to have committed the violation or by mailing it by registered or certified mail to his last known address.

4. If the person alleged to have committed the violation submits a written request, the commission shall furnish him with copies of any communications, reports and affidavits in possession of the commission relating to the complaint.

5. A person may be represented by an attorney at any proceeding or hearing conducted pursuant to this section or section 11 of this act.

Sec. 11. 1. All money received by the commission must be deposited in a bank or other financial institution in this state and paid out on its order for its expenses.

2. The commission may delegate to an independent hearing officer or panel its authority to take any disciplinary action pursuant to sections 6 to 14, inclusive, of this act, including the authority to impose and



collect fines and penalties. Fines and penalties imposed by an independent hearing officer or panel must be deposited in an account for the commission in a bank or other financial institution in this state.

- 3. If a hearing officer or panel is not authorized to take disciplinary action and determine the amount of any fine or penalty imposed pursuant to subsection 2, the commission shall deposit the money collected from the imposition of fines with the state treasurer for credit to the state general fund. If the money is so deposited, the commission may present a claim to the state board of examiners for recommendation to the interim finance committee if money is required to pay attorney's fees or the costs of an investigation, or both.
- Sec. 12. 1. The commission shall render a decision on a complaint within 20 days after the final hearing thereon.
- 2. The commission shall notify all parties to the complaint of its decision in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested.
- Sec. 13. 1. If the commission determines, after notice and hearing, that:
- (a) Any person has violated a provision of this chapter, the commission may:
- (1) Issue an order to cease and desist from engaging in such conduct;
- (2) Issue an order to take affirmative action to correct conditions resulting from the unlawful conduct;
 - (3) Impose a fine of not more than \$5,000 for each violation; or
- (4) Take any combination of the actions authorized by subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3).
- (b) A member or officer of an executive board of an association has knowingly and willfully violated a provision of this chapter, the commission may remove him from his office if it determines that the removal is in the best interest of the association.
- 2. If the commission takes any disciplinary action pursuant to subsection 1, it may recover from the person against whom the action is taken the costs of the proceedings incurred by the commission, including, without limitation, the cost of the investigation and reasonable attorney's fees.
- Sec. 14. 1. If the commission determines that any person has violated or will violate a provision of this chapter, the commission may bring an action in the district court for the county in which the person resides or, if the person does not reside in this state, in any court of competent jurisdiction in this state, to enjoin him from engaging in the violation or from doing any act in furtherance of the violation.
 - 2. The action must be brought in the name of the State of Nevada.
- 43 3. An injunction:

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- (a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by any person.
- (b) Does not prevent the criminal prosecution and punishment of a person who violates the provisions of this chapter.



- Sec. 15. 1. A person shall not conduct business as a property managing agent in this state without first obtaining a license from the administrator.
- 2. Each applicant for a license as a property managing agent shall file an application with the administrator on a form prescribed by the administrator.
 - 3. The application must:

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- (a) Include the social security number of the applicant;
- (b) Be accompanied by the statement required pursuant to section 17 of this act; and
- (c) Be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 20 of this act.
- Sec. 16. An applicant for a license as a property managing agent must:
 - 1. Be at least 18 years of age;
- 2. Be a citizen of the United States or lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
 - 3. Be competent to engage in business as a property managing agent;
- 4. Have successfully completed a course in property management that is approved by the administrator;
 - 5. Have passed any examination prescribed by the administrator;
- 6. Hold a permit to engage in property management that is issued pursuant to the provisions of chapter 645 of NRS or hold a certificate issued by the real estate commission pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 116.31139; and
- 7. Have such experience in property management as may be prescribed by the administrator.
- Sec. 17. 1. An applicant for the issuance or renewal of a license as a property managing agent must submit to the administrator the statement prescribed by the welfare division of the department of human resources pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.
- 2. The administrator shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:
- (a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the issuance or renewal of the license; or
 - (b) A separate form prescribed by the administrator.
- 3. A license may not be issued or renewed by the administrator if the applicant:
 - (a) Fails to submit the statement required pursuant to subsection 1; or
- (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.
- 4. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of



the amount owed pursuant to the order, the administrator shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.

- Sec. 18. 1. If the administrator receives a copy of a court order issued pursuant to NRS 425.540 that provides for the suspension of all professional, occupational and recreational licenses, certificates and permits issued to the holder of a license as a property managing agent, the administrator shall deem the license to be suspended at the end of the 30th day after the date the court order was issued unless the administrator receives a letter issued to the licensee by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 stating that the licensee has complied with a subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560.
- 2. The administrator shall reinstate a license that has been suspended by a district court pursuant to NRS 425.540 if:
- (a) The administrator receives a letter issued by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 to the licensee stating that the licensee has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560; and
- (b) The licensee pays the fee for the reinstatement of the license prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 20 of this act.
- Sec. 19. 1. Each license as a property managing agent expires 2 years after the date it is issued and may be renewed if, before the license expires, the licensee submits to the administrator:
- (a) An application on a form prescribed by the administrator;
- (b) The fee for the renewal of the license prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 20 of this act; and
 - (c) The statement required by section 17 of this act.
 - 2. A license that expires pursuant to the provisions of this section may be restored if the applicant:
 - (a) Complies with the provisions of subsection 1;
- (b) Submits to the administrator proof of his ability to engage in property management; and
- (c) Submits to the board the fees prescribed pursuant to section 20 of this act.
- 37 Sec. 20. 1. The administrator shall prescribe by regulation the fees 38 for:
- 39 (a) An application for a license as a property managing agent.
 - (b) The issuance of a license.
 - (c) The renewal of a license.
 - (d) The restoration of an expired license.
 - (e) The reinstatement of a suspended license.
 - (f) The issuance of a duplicate license.
- 45 2. The administrator may adopt such other regulations as are 46 necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 15 to 22, inclusive, of 47 this act.
- 48 **Sec. 21.** *A person who:*

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1. Engages in business as a property managing agent;



2. Holds himself out as licensed or qualified to engage in business as a property managing agent; or

- 3. Uses in connection with his name any title, words, letters or other designation intended to imply or designate that he engages in business as a property managing agent,
- without first obtaining a license from the administrator is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Sec. 22. 1. The administrator may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend or revoke, a license as a property managing agent if, after notice and a hearing, the administrator determines that the applicant or licensee:
- (a) Has submitted false or misleading information to the administrator or any agency of this state, any other state, the Federal Government or the District of Columbia.
- (b) Has violated any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.
- (c) Has been convicted of a felony, a crime relating to a controlled substance or a crime involving moral turpitude.
- (d) Is not competent to engage in the business of property management.
- 2. The administrator may require the applicant or licensee to pay the costs incurred by the administrator to conduct an investigation and hearing required by this section.
- Sec. 23. 1. If an executive board of an association receives a written complaint from a unit's owner alleging that the board has violated any provision of this chapter or any provision of the governing documents of the association, the executive board shall respond to the complaint, in writing, within 10 days after receiving the complaint.
- 2. The executive board shall provide a copy of the response to a unit's owner within 1 business day after receiving a request therefor.
- Sec. 24. A member of an executive board shall not harass or take any reprisal or retaliatory action against a unit's owner because the unit's owner has:
- 1. Complained in good faith about any violation of this chapter or the governing documents of the association; or
- 2. Requested to review the books, records and papers of the association.
- Sec. 25. 1. A member of an executive board of an association shall not:
- 40 (a) On or after October 1, 2001, enter into a contract or renew a 41 contract with the association to provide goods or services to the 42 association; or
 - (b) Otherwise accept any commission, personal profit or compensation of any kind from the association for providing goods or services to the association.
 - 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not prohibit the payment of a salary or other income to a member of an executive board of an association for acting in his official capacity.



Sec. 26. 1. The administrator shall:

(a) Prescribe standard forms that may be used in preparing declarations of covenants, conditions and restrictions for commoninterest communities, the bylaws of an association, and the rules and regulations of an association.

- (b) Make the forms available to declarants and associations upon request.
- 2. The administrator may charge a fee for providing the forms prescribed pursuant to subsection 1. The fee must not exceed the cost incurred by the administrator to provide the forms.
- Sec. 27. 1. An association may bring an action to recover damages resulting from constructional defects in any of the units of the commoninterest community, or submit such a claim to mediation pursuant to NRS 40.680, only:
- (a) If the written approval of the owners of the units that will be the subject of the action or claim is first obtained; and
- (b) Upon a vote of the units' owners to which at least a majority of the votes of the members of the association are allocated.
- 2. If an action is brought by an association to recover damages resulting from constructional defects in any of the units of the commoninterest community, or such a claim is submitted to mediation pursuant to NRS 40.680, the attorney representing the association shall provide to each unit's owner whose unit is the subject of the action or claim a statement that includes, in reasonable detail:
 - (a) The defects and damages or injuries to the unit;
 - (b) The cause of the defects, if the cause is known;
- (c) The nature and extent that is known of the damage or injury resulting from the defects; and
- (d) The location of each defect within the unit.
- 3. As used in this section, "constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 40.615.
- Sec. 28. If a member of the immediate family of a unit's owner inherits the owner's unit within a common-interest community, the declarant or association may not prohibit that person from residing in the common-interest community on the sole ground that he fails to comply with qualifications relating to age that are set forth in the governing documents of the association.
- Sec. 29. A person who offers for sale any interest in a unit in a common-interest community shall disclose in any advertisement related to the sale:
 - 1. That the unit is:
 - (a) Located within a common-interest community;
 - (b) Governed by an association of units' owners; and
 - (c) Subject to the governing documents of the association.
 - 2. The projected monthly assessment that a prospective purchaser will be required to pay.
- Sec. 30. Any person who engages in activities on behalf of an association to collect assessments, fines or other money owed to the



association shall comply with the provisions of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692b to 1692j, inclusive, as those provisions exist on October 1, 2001.

Sec. 31. NRS 116.1103 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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116.1103 In the declaration and bylaws (NRS 116.3106) ically provided otherwise or of an association and in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, [and in this chapter,] the words and terms defined in NRS 116.110305 to 116.110393, inclusive, and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 32. NRS 116.11145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

116.11145 1. To carry out the purposes of this chapter, the real estate commission, or any member thereof, may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records and other

- 2. If any person fails to comply with a subpoena issued by the *real* estate commission pursuant to this section within 10 days after its issuance, the *real estate* commission may petition the district court for an order of the court compelling compliance with the subpoena.
- 3. Upon such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the person subpoenaed to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and show cause why he has not complied with the subpoena. A certified copy must be served upon the person subpoenaed.
- 4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the real estate commission, the court shall enter an order compelling compliance with the subpoena, and upon failure to obey the order the person shall be dealt with as for contempt of court.

- **Sec. 33.** NRS 116.1116 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.1116

 1. The office of the ombudsman for owners in commoninterest communities is hereby created within the real estate division of the department of business and industry.
- 2. The administrator shall appoint the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities. The ombudsman for owners in commoninterest communities is in the unclassified service of the state.
- 3. The ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties and functions
 - The ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities shall:
- (a) Assist in processing claims submitted to mediation or arbitration pursuant to NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive;
- (b) Assist owners in common-interest communities to understand their rights and responsibilities as set forth in this chapter and the governing documents of their associations, including, without limitation, publishing materials related to those rights and responsibilities;
- (c) Assist persons appointed or elected to serve on executive boards of associations to carry out their duties; [and]
- (d) Assist in resolving complaints filed with the office alleging a violation of the provisions of this chapter or the governing documents of the association; and



- (e) Compile and maintain a registration of each association organized within the state which includes, without limitation:
 - (1) The name, address and telephone number of the association;
- (2) The name of the [person engaged in property management for the common interest community] property manager or the name of the person who manages the property at the site of the common-interest community;
- (3) The names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the members of the executive board of the association;
 - (4) The name of the declarant;

- (5) The number of units in the common-interest community; and
- (6) The total annual assessment made by the association.

Sec. 34. NRS 116.2111 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.2111 [Subject]

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and subject to the provisions of the declaration and other provisions of law, a unit's owner:
- [1.] (a) May make any improvements or alterations to his unit that do not impair the structural integrity or mechanical systems or lessen the support of any portion of the common-interest community;
- [2.] (b) May not change the appearance of the common elements, or the exterior appearance of a unit or any other portion of the common-interest community, without permission of the association; and
- [3.] (c) After acquiring an adjoining unit or an adjoining part of an adjoining unit, may remove or alter any intervening partition or create apertures therein, even if the partition in whole or in part is a common element, if those acts do not impair the structural integrity or mechanical systems or lessen the support of any portion of the common-interest community. Removal of partitions or creation of apertures under this [subsection] paragraph is not an alteration of boundaries.
 - 2. An association may not:
- (a) Require the removal of any structure, fixture or other improvement made to a unit if it was approved by the association before it was installed or constructed.
- (b) Restrict, prohibit or otherwise impede the lawful rights of units' owners to protect and care for themselves, to have reasonable access to their homes and to feel safe and secure in their homes.
- (c) Prohibit or require approval for a unit's owner to include or add in or outside a unit:
- (1) An apparatus required to make use of solar energy or to protect against the effects of solar energy;
- (2) Improvements such as ramps, railings or elevators that are necessary or desirable to increase the owner's access to his home if the owner is elderly or disabled; or
- (3) Safety devices such as shutters or additional locks that are desirable to make an owner feel safe in his home.
- 3. Any device or other improvement included or added to the inside or outside of a unit pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 2 must be added or installed in the most reasonable manner possible and must be selected or designed to the maximum extent practicable to be complimentary to the style of the common-interest community.



Sec. 35. NRS 116.31031 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31031 1. If a unit's owner, or a tenant or guest of a unit's owner, does not comply with a provision of the governing documents of an association, the executive board of the association may, if the governing documents so provide:
- (a) Prohibit, for a reasonable time, the unit's owner, or the tenant or guest of the unit's owner, from :
 - (1) Voting on matters related to the common interest community
- (2) Using using the common elements. The provisions of this [subparagraph] paragraph do not prohibit the unit's owner, or the tenant or guest of the unit's owner, from using any vehicular or pedestrian ingress or egress to go to or from the unit, including any area used for parking.
- (b) Require the unit's owner, or the tenant or guest of the unit's owner, to pay a fine for each failure to comply. [that does not threaten the health and welfare of the common interest community.] The fine must be commensurate with the severity of the violation. [, but] If the failure to comply does not threaten the health, safety or welfare of the commoninterest community, the fine must not exceed \$100 for each violation or a total amount of \$500, whichever is less.
- 2. If a fine is imposed pursuant to subsection 1 and the violation is not cured within 14 days or a longer period as may be established by the executive board, the violation shall be deemed a continuing violation. Thereafter, the executive board may impose an additional fine for the violation for each 7-day period or portion thereof that the violation is not cured 1.1, but in no event may the total amount of the additional fine exceed \$500. Any additional fine for the continuing violation may be imposed without notice and an opportunity to be heard.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the imposition of a fine pursuant to this section must comply with the requirements of subsection 6 of NRS 116.31065.
- 4. For the purposes of this section, the administrator shall adopt by regulation a definition of violations that threaten the health, safety or welfare of the common-interest community.
 - Sec. 36. NRS 116.31034 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31034 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5 of NRS 116.212, not later than the termination of any period of declarant's control, the units' owners shall elect an executive board of at least three members, at least a majority of whom must be units' owners. The executive board shall elect the officers. The members and officers of the executive board shall take office upon election.
- 2. The term of office of a member of the executive board may not exceed 2 years. A member of the executive board may be elected to succeed himself. The governing documents of the association must set forth the month during which elections for the members of the executive board must be held after the termination of any period of the declarant's control.
- 3. Not less than 30 days before the preparation of a ballot for the election of members of the executive board, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall cause notice to be given to



each unit's owner of his eligibility to serve as a member of the executive board. Each unit's owner who is qualified to serve as a member of the executive board may have his name placed on the ballot along with the names of the nominees selected by the members of the executive board or a nominating committee established by the association. A unit's owner may not be disqualified from serving as a member of the executive board on the sole ground that he has failed to pay any assessment levied against his unit or any fine imposed against him for failing to comply with the governing documents of the association.

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- 4. A unit's owner may not be an officer or member of the executive board if he or any member of his immediate family is the property manager of the association.
- 5. An officer, employee, agent or director of a corporate owner of a unit, a trustee or designated beneficiary of a trust that owns a unit, a partner of a partnership that owns a unit, and a fiduciary of an estate that owns a unit may be an officer or member of the executive board. In all events where the person serving or offering to serve as an officer or member of the executive board is not the record owner, he shall file proof in the records of the association that:
- (a) He is associated with the corporate owner, trust, partnership or estate as required by this subsection; and
- (b) Identifies the unit or units owned by the corporate owner, trust, partnership or estate.
- [5.] 6. The election of any member of the executive board must be conducted by secret written ballot. The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall cause to be sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit within the common-interest community or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner, a secret ballot and a return envelope.
- [6.] 7. Each member of the executive board shall, within 30 days after his appointment or election, certify in writing that he has read and understands the governing documents of the association and the provisions of this chapter to the best of his ability.
 - Sec. 37. NRS 116.31036 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31036 1. Notwithstanding any provision of the declaration or bylaws to the contrary, the units' owners, by a two-thirds vote of [all persons present and entitled to vote at any meeting of the units' owners at which a quorum is present,] the votes cast, may remove any member of the executive board with or without cause. [, other than a member appointed by the declarant.]
- 2. The removal of any member of the executive board must be conducted by secret written ballot. The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall cause to be sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit within the commoninterest community or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner, a secret ballot and a return envelope.
- 3. If a member of an executive board is sued for liability for actions undertaken in his role as a member of the board, the association shall indemnify him for his losses or claims, and undertake all costs of defense,



unless it is proven that he acted with willful or wanton misfeasance or with gross negligence. After such proof the association is no longer liable for the cost of defense, and may recover costs already expended from the member of the executive board who so acted. Members of the executive board are not personally liable to the victims of crimes occurring on the property. Punitive damages may not be recovered against the association, but may be recovered from persons whose activity gave rise to the damages.

- 4. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the commission from taking any disciplinary action against a member of an executive board pursuant to section 13 or 14 of this act.
 - **Sec. 38.** NRS 116.3106 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 116.3106 1. The bylaws of the association must provide:
- (a) The number of members of the executive board and the titles of the officers of the association;
- (b) For election by the executive board of a president, treasurer, secretary and any other officers of the association the bylaws specify;
- (c) The qualifications, powers and duties, terms of office and manner of electing and removing officers of the association and members of the executive board and filling vacancies;
- (d) Which, if any, of its powers the executive board or officers may delegate to other persons or to a managing agent;
- (e) Which of its officers may prepare, execute, certify and record amendments to the declaration on behalf of the association;
 - (f) Procedural rules for conducting meetings of the association; [and]
 - (g) A method for amending the bylaws []; and

- (h) Procedural rules for conducting special elections. Such rules must provide that a special election be held in a timely manner if at least 10 percent of the units' owners of the association have signed a petition requesting such an election. The petition must include the purpose for which the special election is to be held.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in the declaration, the bylaws may provide for any other matters the association deems necessary and appropriate.
 - 3. The bylaws must be written in plain English.
 - **Sec. 39.** NRS 116.31065 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 116.31065 The rules adopted by an association:
- 1. Must be reasonably related to the purpose for which they are adopted.
- 2. Must be sufficiently explicit in their prohibition, direction or limitation to inform a unit's owner, or a tenant or guest of a unit's owner, of any action or omission required for compliance.
 - 3. Must not be adopted to evade any obligation of the association.
- 4. Must be consistent with the governing documents of the association and must not arbitrarily restrict conduct or require the construction of any capital improvement by a unit's owner that is not required by the governing documents of the association.



- 5. Must be uniformly enforced under the same or similar circumstances against all units' owners. [Any rule that is not so uniformly enforced may not be enforced against any unit's owner.]
 - 6. May be enforced by the assessment of a fine only if:

- (a) The person alleged to have violated the rule has received notice of the alleged violation that informs him of his opportunity to request a hearing on the alleged violation.
- (b) At least 30 days before the alleged violation, the person alleged to have violated the rule was given written notice of the rule or any amendment to the rule.

Sec. 40. NRS 116.3108 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.3108 1. A meeting of the units' owners of an association must be held at least once each year. If the governing documents of a commoninterest community do not designate an annual meeting date of the units' owners, a meeting of the units' owners must be held 1 year after the date of the last meeting of the units' owners. If the units' owners have not held a meeting for 1 year, a meeting of the units' owners must be held on the following March 1. Special meetings of the units' owners of an association may be called by the president, a majority of the executive board or by units' owners having 10 percent, or any lower percentage specified in the bylaws, of the votes in the association.
- 2. Not less than 10 nor more than 60 days in advance of any meeting of the units' owners of an association, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause notice of the meeting to be hand-delivered or sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner. The notice of the meeting must state the time and place of the meeting and include a copy of the agenda for the meeting. The notice must include notification of the right of a unit's owner to:
- (a) Have a copy of the minutes or a summary of the minutes of the meeting distributed to him upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of making the distribution.
- (b) Speak to the association or executive board, unless the executive board is meeting in executive session.
 - 3. The agenda for a meeting of the units' owners must consist of:
- (a) A clear and complete statement of the topics scheduled to be considered during the meeting, including, without limitation, any proposed amendment to the declaration or bylaws, any fees or assessments to be imposed or increased by the association, any budgetary changes and any proposal to remove an officer or member of the executive board.
- (b) A list describing the items on which action may be taken and clearly denoting that action may be taken on those items. In an emergency, the units' owners may take action on an item which is not listed on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken.
- (c) A period devoted to comments by units' owners and discussion of those comments. Except in emergencies, no action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been



specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to paragraph (b).

- 4. If the association adopts a policy imposing a fine on a unit's owner for the violation of the declaration, bylaws or other rules established by the association, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall prepare and cause to be hand-delivered or sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner, a schedule of the fines that may be imposed for those violations.
- 5. Not more than 30 days after any meeting of the units' owners, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause the minutes or a summary of the minutes of the meeting to be made available to the units' owners. A copy of the minutes or a summary of the minutes must be provided to any unit's owner who pays the association the cost of providing the copy to him.
- 6. As used in this section, "emergency" means any occurrence or combination of occurrences that:
 - (a) Could not have been reasonably foreseen;

- (b) Affects the health, welfare and safety of the units' owners of the association;
- (c) Requires the immediate attention of, and possible action by, the executive board; and
- (d) Makes it impracticable to comply with the provisions of subsection 2 or 3.
- 7. For the purposes of this section, the administrator shall adopt regulations to provide for a more detailed definition of an emergency that affects the health, welfare and safety of the units' owners of the association.
 - **Sec. 41.** NRS 116.31083 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31083 1. A meeting of the executive board of an association must be held at least once every 90 days.
- 2. Except in an emergency or unless the bylaws of an association require a longer period of notice, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall, not less than 10 days before the date of a meeting of the executive board, cause notice of the meeting to be given to the units' owners. Such notice must be:
- (a) Sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit within the common-interest community or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner; or
- (b) Published in a newsletter or other similar publication that is circulated to each unit's owner.
- 3. In an emergency, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall, if practicable, cause notice of the meeting to be sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit within the common-interest community. If delivery of the notice in this manner is impracticable, the notice must be hand-delivered to each unit within the common-interest community or posted in a prominent place or places within the common elements of the association.



- 4. The notice of a meeting of the executive board of an association must state the time and place of the meeting and include a copy of the agenda for the meeting or the date on which and the locations where copies of the agenda may be conveniently obtained by the units' owners of the association. The notice must include notification of the right of a unit's owner to:
- (a) Have a copy of the minutes or a summary of the minutes of the meeting distributed to him upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of making the distribution.
- (b) Speak to the association or executive board, unless the executive board is meeting in executive session.
- 5. The agenda of the meeting of the executive board of an association must comply with the provisions of subsection 3 of NRS 116.3108. The period required to be devoted to comments by units' owners and discussion of those comments must be scheduled for the beginning of each meeting. In an emergency, the executive board may take action on an item which is not listed on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken.
- 6. At least once every 90 days, unless the declaration or bylaws of the association impose more stringent standards, the executive board shall review at one of its meetings:
 - (a) A current reconciliation of the operating account of the association;
 - (b) A current reconciliation of the reserve account of the association;
- (c) The actual revenues and expenses for the reserve account, compared to the budget for that account for the current year;
- (d) The latest account statements prepared by the financial institutions in which the accounts of the association are maintained;
- (e) An income and expense statement, prepared on at least a quarterly basis, for the operating and reserve accounts of the association; and
- (f) The current status of any civil action or claim submitted to arbitration or mediation in which the association is a party.
- 7. The minutes of a meeting of the executive board of an association must the :
 - (a) Include:

- (1) The date, time and place of the meeting;
- (2) Those members of the executive board who were present and those members who were absent;
- (3) The substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided and, at the request of any member, a record of each member's vote on any matter decided by vote;
- (4) The substance of remarks made by any unit's owner who addresses the executive board if he requests that the minutes reflect his remarks or, if he has prepared written remarks, a copy of his prepared remarks if he submits a copy for inclusion; and
- (5) Any other information that any unit's owner requests to be included or reflected in the minutes;
- (b) Be maintained by the executive board until the common-interest community is terminated; and



- (c) Be made available to the units' owners in accordance with the provisions of subsection 5 of NRS 116.3108.
- 8. As used in this section, "emergency" means any occurrence or combination of occurrences that:
 - (a) Could not have been reasonably foreseen;

- (b) Affects the health, welfare and safety of the units' owners of the association;
- (c) Requires the immediate attention of, and possible action by, the executive board; and
- (d) Makes it impracticable to comply with the provisions of subsection 2 or 5.
- 9. For the purposes of this section, the administrator shall adopt regulations to provide factual considerations for use in determining whether an emergency affects the health, welfare and safety of the units' owners of the association.
 - **Sec. 42.** NRS 116.31085 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31085 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a unit's owner may attend any meeting of the units' owners of the association or of the executive board and speak at any such meeting. The executive board may establish reasonable limitations on the time a unit's owner may speak at such a meeting.
 - 2. An executive board may meet in executive session to:
- (a) Consult with the attorney for the association on matters relating to proposed or pending litigation if the contents of the discussion would otherwise be governed by the privilege set forth in NRS 49.035 to 49.115, inclusive:
- (b) Discuss [matters relating to personnel;] personal matters relating to an employee of the association; or
- (c) Discuss a violation of the governing documents alleged to have been committed by a unit's owner, including, without limitation, the failure to pay an assessment, except as otherwise provided in subsection 3.
- 3. An executive board shall meet in executive session to hold a hearing on an alleged violation of the governing documents unless the unit's owner who allegedly committed the violation requests in writing that the hearing be conducted by the executive board at an open meeting. The unit's owner who is alleged to have committed the violation may attend the hearing and testify concerning the alleged violation, but may be excluded by the executive board from any other portion of the hearing, including, without limitation, the deliberations of the executive board.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any matter discussed in executive session must be generally noted in the minutes of the meeting of the executive board. The executive board shall maintain minutes of any decision made pursuant to subsection 3 and, upon request, provide a copy of the decision to the unit's owner who was the subject of the hearing or to his designated representative.
- 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a unit's owner is not entitled to attend or speak at a meeting of the executive board held in executive session.



Sec. 43. NRS 116.3109 is hereby amended to read as follows:

 116.3109 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and unless the bylaws provide otherwise, a quorum is present throughout any meeting of the association if persons entitled to cast 20 percent of the votes that may be cast for election of the executive board are present in person or by proxy at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Unless the bylaws specify a larger percentage, a quorum is deemed present throughout any meeting of the executive board if persons entitled to cast 50 percent of the votes on that board are present at the beginning of the meeting.

3. For the purposes of [determining whether a quorum is present for the election of] electing or removing any member of the executive board, a quorum is not required and only the secret written ballots that are returned to the association may be counted.

Sec. 44. NRS 116.311 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.311 1. If only one of several owners of a unit is present at a meeting of the association, that owner is entitled to cast all the votes allocated to that unit. If more than one of the owners are present, the votes allocated to that unit may be cast only in accordance with the agreement of a majority in interest of the owners, unless the declaration expressly provides otherwise. There is majority agreement if any one of the owners cast the votes allocated to that unit without protest made promptly to the person presiding over the meeting by any of the other owners of the unit.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, votes allocated to a unit may be cast pursuant to a proxy executed by a unit's owner. A unit's owner may give a proxy only to a member of his immediate family, a tenant of the unit's owner who resides in the common-interest community or another unit's owner who resides in the common-interest community. If a unit is owned by more than one person, each owner of the unit may vote or register protest to the casting of votes by the other owners of the unit through an executed proxy. A unit's owner may revoke a proxy given pursuant to this section only by actual notice of revocation to the person presiding over a meeting of the association. A proxy is void if:
 - (a) It is not dated or purports to be revocable without notice;
- (b) It does not designate the votes that must be cast on behalf of the unit's owner who executed the proxy; or
- (c) The holder of the proxy does not disclose at the beginning of the meeting for which the proxy is executed the number of proxies pursuant to which he will be casting votes. [and the voting instructions received for each proxy.]

A proxy terminates immediately after the conclusion of the meeting for which it was executed. A vote may not be cast pursuant to a proxy for the election *or removal* of a member of the executive board of an association.

- 3. Only a vote cast in person, by secret ballot or by proxy, may be counted.
- 4. If the declaration requires that votes on specified matters affecting the common-interest community be cast by lessees rather than units' owners of leased units:



(a) The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 apply to lessees as if they were units' owners;

- (b) Units' owners who have leased their units to other persons may not cast votes on those specified matters; and
- (c) Lessees are entitled to notice of meetings, access to records, and other rights respecting those matters as if they were units' owners.

Units' owners must also be given notice, in the manner provided in NRS 116.3108, of all meetings at which lessees are entitled to vote.

- 5. No votes allocated to a unit owned by the association may be cast.
- 6. Votes cast for the election *or removal* of a member of the executive board of an association must be counted in public.

Sec. 45. NRS 116.31135 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31135 1. [Any] Except as otherwise provided in this section, any portion of the common-interest community for which insurance is required under NRS 116.3113 which is damaged or destroyed must be repaired or replaced promptly by the association unless:
- (a) The common-interest community is terminated, in which case NRS 116.2118, 116.21183 and 116.21185 apply;
- (b) Repair or replacement would be illegal under any state or local statute or ordinance governing health or safety; or
- (c) Eighty percent of the units' owners, including every owner of a unit or assigned limited common element that will not be rebuilt, vote not to rebuild.

The cost of repair or replacement in excess of insurance proceeds and reserves is a common expense.

- 2. If any damage to a portion of the common-interest community that is required to be repaired pursuant to subsection 1 threatens the health, welfare or safety of the units' owners of the association, it must be repaired as soon as practicable, but not later than 10 days after it is discovered.
- 3. If the entire common-interest community is not repaired or replaced, the proceeds attributable to the damaged common elements, must be used to restore the damaged area to a condition compatible with the remainder of the common-interest community, and except to the extent that other persons will be distributees [{| pursuant to} subparagraph 2 of paragraph (l) of subsection 1 of NRS 116.2105 : []:]
- (a) The proceeds attributable to units and limited common elements that are not rebuilt must be distributed to the owners of those units and the owners of the units to which those limited common elements were allocated, or to lien holders, as their interests may appear; and
- (b) The remainder of the proceeds must be distributed to all the units' owners or lien holders, as their interests may appear, as follows:
- (1) In a condominium, in proportion to the interests of all the units in the common elements; and
- (2) In a cooperative or planned community, in proportion to the liabilities of all the units for common expenses.
- [3.] 4. If the units' owners vote not to rebuild any unit, that unit's allocated interests are automatically reallocated upon the vote as if the unit



had been condemned under subsection 1 of NRS 116.1107, and the association promptly shall prepare, execute and record an amendment to the declaration reflecting the reallocations.

- **Sec. 46.** NRS 116.31139 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.31139 1. An association may employ a [person engaged in property management for the common interest community.] property manager.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person engaged in property management for a common interest community property
- (a) Hold a permit to engage in property management that is issued pursuant to the provisions of chapter 645 of NRS; or
- (b) Hold a certificate issued by the real estate commission pursuant to
- 3. The real estate commission shall provide by regulation for the issuance of certificates for the management of common-interest communities to persons who are not otherwise authorized to engage in property management pursuant to the provisions of chapter 645 of NRS. The regulations:
- (a) Must establish the qualifications for the issuance of such a certificate, including the education and experience required to obtain such a certificate:
- (b) May require applicants to pass an examination in order to obtain a certificate;
- (c) Must establish standards of practice for [persons engaged in property management for a common interest community;] property managers;
- (d) Must establish the grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a person to whom a certificate has been issued, including, without limitation, the grounds for placing conditions, limitations or restrictions on a certificate and for the suspension or revocation of a certificate; and
- (e) Must establish rules of practice and procedure for conducting disciplinary hearings.
- The real estate division of the department of business and industry may investigate the property managers to whom certificates have been issued to ensure their compliance with the standards of practice adopted pursuant to this subsection and collect a fee for the issuance of a certificate by the real estate commission in an amount not to exceed the administrative costs of issuing the certificate.
 - 4. The provisions of subsection 2 do not apply to:
- (a) A person who is engaged in property management for a commoninterest community on October 1, 1999, and is granted an exemption from the requirements of subsection 2 by the administrator upon demonstration that he is qualified and competent to engage in property management for a common-interest community.
 - (b) A financial institution.
 - (c) An attorney licensed to practice in this state.
 - (d) A trustee.

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(e) An employee of a corporation who manages only the property of the corporation.



- (f) A declarant.
- (g) A receiver.

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As used in this section, "property management" means the physical, administrative or financial maintenance and management of real property, or the supervision of those activities for a fee, commission or other compensation or valuable consideration.

Sec. 47. NRS 116.3115 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.3115 1. Until the association makes an assessment for common expenses, the declarant shall pay all common expenses. After an assessment has been made by the association, assessments must be made at least annually, based on a budget adopted at least annually by the association in accordance with the requirements set forth in NRS 116.31151. Except for an association for a time-share project governed by the provisions of chapter 119A of NRS, and unless the declaration imposes more stringent standards, the budget must include a budget for the daily operation of the association and the money for the reserve required by paragraph (b) of subsection 2.

- 2. Except for assessments under subsections 4 to 7, inclusive:
- (a) All common expenses, including a reserve, must be assessed against all the units in accordance with the allocations set forth in the declaration pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 of NRS 116.2107.
- (b) The association shall establish an adequate reserve, funded on a reasonable basis, for the repair, replacement and restoration of the major components of the common elements. The reserve may be used only for those purposes, including, without limitation, repairing, replacing and restoring roofs, roads and sidewalks, and must not be used for daily maintenance.
- 3. Any past due assessment for common expenses or installment thereof bears interest at the rate established by the association not exceeding 18 percent per year.
 - 4. To the extent required by the declaration:
- (a) Any common expense associated with the maintenance, repair, restoration or replacement of a limited common element must be assessed against the units to which that limited common element is assigned, equally, or in any other proportion the declaration provides;
- (b) Any common expense or portion thereof benefiting fewer than all of the units must be assessed exclusively against the units benefited; and
- (c) The costs of insurance must be assessed in proportion to risk and the costs of utilities must be assessed in proportion to usage.
- 5. Assessments to pay a judgment against the association may be made only against the units in the common-interest community at the time the judgment was entered, in proportion to their liabilities for common expenses.
- 6. If any common expense is caused by the misconduct of any unit's owner, the association may assess that expense exclusively against his unit.
- 7. The association of a common-interest community created before January 1, 1992, is not required to make an assessment against a vacant lot located within the community that is owned by the declarant.



- 8. If liabilities for common expenses are reallocated, assessments for common expenses and any installment thereof not yet due must be recalculated in accordance with the reallocated liabilities.
- 9. The association shall provide written notice to the owner of each unit of a meeting at which an assessment for a capital improvement or the commencement of a civil action is to be considered or action is to be taken on such an assessment at least 21 calendar days before the meeting. [Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the] *The* association may commence a civil action only upon a vote [or written agreement] of the owners of units to which at least a majority of the votes of the members of the association are allocated. [The provisions of this subsection do not apply to a civil action that is commenced:
 - (a) By an association for a time share project governed by the provisions of chapter 119A of NRS;
- (b) To enforce the payment of an assessment;
- 16 (c) To enforce the declaration, bylaws or rules of the association;
 - (d) To proceed with a counterclaim; or

- (e) To protect the health, safety and welfare of the members of the association. If a civil action is commenced pursuant to this paragraph without the required vote or agreement, the action must be ratified within 90 days after the commencement of the action by a vote or written agreement of the owners of the units to which at least a majority of votes of the members of the association are allocated. If the association, after making a good faith effort, cannot obtain the required vote or agreement to commence or ratify such a civil action, the association may thereafter seek to dismiss the action without prejudice for that reason only if a vote or written agreement of the owners of the units to which at least a majority of votes of the members of the association are allocated was obtained at the time the approval to commence or ratify the action was sought.]
- 10. At least 10 days before an association commences for seeks to ratify the commencement of a civil action, the association shall provide a written statement to all units' owners that includes:
- (a) A reasonable estimate of the costs of the civil action, including reasonable attorney's fees;
- (b) An explanation of the potential benefits of the civil action and the potential adverse consequences if the association does not commence the action or if the outcome of the action is not favorable to the association; and
- (c) All disclosures that are required to be made upon the sale of the property.
- 11. No person other than a unit's owner may request the dismissal of a civil action commenced by the association on the ground that the association failed to comply with any provision of this section.
- **Sec. 48.** NRS 116.31158 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31158 1. Each association shall, at the time it pays the fee required by NRS 116.31155, register with the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities on a form prescribed by the ombudsman.



2. The form for registration must include, without limitation, the information required to be maintained pursuant to paragraph {(d)} (e) of subsection 4 of NRS 116.1116.

Sec. 49. NRS 116.31162 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31162 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, in a condominium, a cooperative where the owner's interest in a unit is real estate as determined pursuant to NRS 116.1105, or a planned community, the association may foreclose its lien by sale after:
- (a) The association has mailed by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the unit's owner or his successor in interest, at his address if known, and at the address of the unit, a notice of delinquent assessment which states the amount of the assessments and other sums which are due in accordance with subsection 1 of NRS 116.3116, a description of the unit against which the lien is imposed, and the name of the record owner of the unit;
- (b) The association has given written notice to the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities that contains the same information as the notice of delinquent assessment, the ombudsman provides an explanation of the pending action to the unit's owner or his successor in interest, and the ombudsman approves the foreclosure, in writing;
- (c) The association or other person conducting the sale has executed and caused to be recorded, with the county recorder of the county in which the common-interest community or any part of it is situated, a notice of default and election to sell the unit to satisfy the lien, which contains the same information as the notice of delinquent assessment, but must also describe the deficiency in payment and the name and address of the person authorized by the association to enforce the lien by sale; and
- **((e))** (d) The unit's owner or his successor in interest has failed to pay the amount of the lien, including costs, fees and expenses incident to its enforcement, for 60 days following the recording of the notice of default and election to sell.
- 2. The notice of default and election to sell must be signed by the person designated in the declaration or by the association for that purpose, or if no one is designated, by the president of the association.
 - 3. The period of 60 days begins on the first day following the later of:
 - (a) The day on which the notice of default is recorded; [or]
- (b) The day on which a copy of the notice of default is mailed by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the unit's owner or his successor in interest at his address if known, and at the address of the unit [...]; or
- (c) The day on which the ombudsman's written approval is received by the association.
- 4. The association may not foreclose a lien by sale for the assessment of a fine for a violation of the declaration, bylaws, rules or regulations of the association, unless the violation is of a type that threatens the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the common-interest community. For the purposes of this subsection, the administrator shall adopt by



regulation a definition of violations that threaten the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the common-interest community.

Sec. 50. NRS 116.31175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31175 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the executive board of an association shall, upon the written request of a unit's owner, make available the books, records and other papers of the association for review during the regular working hours of the association in cluding, without limitation, all records relating to any civil or criminal action to which the association is a party. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:
 - (a) The personnel records of the employees of the association; and
 - (b) The records of the association relating to another unit's owner.
- 2. If the executive board refuses to allow a unit's owner to review the books, records or other papers of the association, the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities may:
- (a) On behalf of the unit's owner and upon written request, review the books, records or other papers of the association during the regular working hours of the association; and
- (b) If he is denied access to the books, records or other papers, request the commission to issue a subpoena for their production.
- 3. The books, records and other papers of an association must be maintained for a period of at least 10 years.

Sec. 51. NRS 116.31177 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31177 1. The executive board of an association shall maintain and make available for review at the business office of the association or other suitable location:
 - (a) The financial statement of the association;
- (b) The budgets of the association required to be prepared pursuant to NRS 116.31151; and
- (c) The study of the reserves of the association required to be conducted pursuant to NRS 116.31152.
- 2. The executive board shall provide a copy of any of the records required to be maintained pursuant to subsection 1 to a unit's owner or the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities within 14 days after receiving a written request therefor. The executive board may charge a fee to cover the actual costs of preparing a copy, but not to exceed 25 cents per page.
- 3. The records required to be maintained pursuant to subsection 1 must be maintained for a period of at least 10 years.
 - Sec. 52. NRS 116.4109 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.4109 1. Except in the case of a sale in which delivery of a public offering statement is required, or unless exempt under subsection 2 of NRS 116.4101, a unit's owner shall furnish to a purchaser before execution of any contract for sale of a unit, or otherwise before conveyance:
- (a) A copy of the declaration, other than any plats and plans, the bylaws, the rules or regulations of the association and, except for a time share governed by the provisions of chapter 119A of NRS, the information statement required by NRS 116.41095;



(b) A statement setting forth the amount of the monthly assessment for common expenses and any unpaid assessment of any kind currently due from the selling unit's owner;

- (c) The current operating budget of the association and a financial statement for the association; and
- (d) A statement of any unsatisfied judgments or pending legal actions against the association and the status of any pending legal actions relating to the common-interest community of which the unit's owner has actual knowledge.
- 2. The association, within [10] 5 days after *receiving* a request by a unit's owner, shall furnish a certificate containing the information necessary to enable the unit's owner to comply with this section. A unit's owner providing a certificate pursuant to subsection 1 is not liable to the purchaser for any erroneous information provided by the association and included in the certificate.
- 3. Neither a purchaser nor the purchaser's interest in a unit is liable for any unpaid assessment or fee greater than the amount set forth in the certificate prepared by the association. If the association fails to furnish the certificate within the [10] 5 days allowed by subsection 2, the seller is not liable for the delinquent assessment.

Sec. 53. NRS 116.41095 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.41095 The information statement required by NRS 116.4103 and 116.4109 must be in substantially the following form:

BEFORE YOU PURCHASE PROPERTY IN A COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITY DID YOU KNOW . . .

1. YOU ARE AGREEING TO RESTRICTIONS ON HOW YOU CAN USE YOUR PROPERTY?

These restrictions are contained in a document known as the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (C, C & R's) that should be provided for your review before making your purchase. The C, C & R's become a part of the title to your property. They bind you and every future owner of the property whether or not you have read them or had them explained to you. The C, C & R's, together with other "governing documents" (such as association bylaws and rules and regulations), are intended to preserve the character and value of properties in the community, but may also restrict what you can do to improve or change your property and limit how you use and enjoy your property. By purchasing a property encumbered by C, C & R's, you are agreeing to limitations that could affect your lifestyle and freedom of choice. You should review the C, C & R's and other governing documents before purchasing to make sure that these limitations and controls are acceptable to you.

2. YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY OWNERS' ASSESSMENTS FOR AS LONG AS YOU OWN YOUR PROPERTY?

As an owner in a common-interest community, you are responsible for paying your share of expenses relating to the common elements, such as landscaping, shared amenities and the operation of any homeowner's



association. The obligation to pay these assessments binds you and every 2 future owner of the property. Owners' fees are usually assessed by the homeowner's association and due monthly. You have to pay dues whether or not you agree with the way the association is managing the property or spending the assessments. The executive board of the association may have the power to change and increase the amount of the assessment and to levy special assessments against your property to meet extraordinary expenses. In some communities, major components of the community such as roofs and private roads must be maintained and replaced by the association. If 10 the association is not well managed or fails to maintain adequate reserves to repair, replace and restore common elements, you may be required to 11 12 pay large, special assessments to accomplish these tasks. 13

3. IF YOU FAIL TO PAY OWNERS' ASSESSMENTS, YOU COULD LOSE YOUR HOME?

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22 23 If you do not pay these assessments when due, the association usually has the power to collect them by selling your property in a nonjudicial foreclosure sale. If fees become delinquent, you may also be required to pay penalties and the association's costs and attorney's fees to become current. If you dispute the obligation or its amount, your only remedy to avoid the loss of your home may be to file a lawsuit and ask a court to intervene in the dispute.

4. YOU MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF A HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION THAT HAS THE POWER TO AFFECT HOW YOU USE AND ENJOY YOUR PROPERTY?

24 25 Many common-interest communities have a homeowner's association. In a 26 new development, the association will usually be controlled by the 27 developer until a certain number of units have been sold. After the period of developer control, the association may be controlled by property owners like yourself who are elected by homeowners to sit on an executive board 30 and other boards and committees formed by the association. The 31 association, and its executive board, are responsible for assessing 32 homeowners for the cost of operating the association and the common or 33 shared elements of the community and for the day to day operation and 34 management of the community. Because homeowners sitting on the 35 executive board and other boards and committees of the association may 36 not have the experience or professional background required to understand and carry out the responsibilities of the association properly, the association may hire professional managers to carry out these 37 38 39 responsibilities.

40 Homeowner's associations operate on democratic principles. Some 41 decisions require all homeowners to vote, some decisions are made by the 42 executive board or other boards or committees established by the 43 association or governing documents. Although the actions of the 44 association and its executive board are governed by state laws, the C, C & 45 R's and other documents that govern the common-interest community, decisions made by these persons will affect your use and enjoyment of 46 your property, your lifestyle and freedom of choice, and your cost of living 47 48 in the community. You may not agree with decisions made by the association or its governing bodies even though the decisions are ones



which the association is authorized to make. Decisions may be made by a few persons on the executive board or governing bodies that do not necessarily reflect the view of the majority of homeowners in the community. If you do not agree with decisions made by the association, its executive board or other governing bodies, your remedy is typically to attempt to use the democratic processes of the association to seek the election of members of the executive board or other governing bodies that are more responsive to your needs. If persons controlling the association or its management are not complying with state laws or the governing documents, your remedy is typically to seek to mediate or arbitrate the dispute and, if mediation or arbitration is unsuccessful, file a lawsuit and ask a court to resolve the dispute. In addition to your personal cost in mediation or arbitration, or to prosecute a lawsuit, you may be responsible for paying your share of the association's cost in defending against your claim. There is no government agency in this state that investigates or intervenes to resolve disputes in homeowner's associations.

 5. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF YOUR PROPERTY WITH INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING IN YOUR COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITY?

The law requires you to provide to a prospective purchaser of your property, before you enter into a purchase agreement, a copy of the community's governing documents, including the C, C & R's, association bylaws, and rules and regulations, as well as a copy of this document. You are also required to provide a copy of the association's current financial statement, operating budget and information regarding the amount of the monthly assessment for common expenses, including the amount set aside as reserves for the repair, replacement and restoration of common elements. You are also required to inform prospective purchasers of any outstanding judgments or lawsuits pending against the association of which you are aware. You are also required to provide a copy of the minutes from the most recent meeting of the homeowner's association or its executive board. For more information regarding these requirements, see Nevada Revised Statutes 116.4103.

- 6. YOU HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS REGARDING OWNERSHIP IN A COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITY THAT ARE GUARANTEED YOU BY THE STATE?
- Pursuant to provisions of chapter 116 of Nevada Revised Statutes, you have the right:
- (a) To be notified of all meetings of the association and its executive board, except in cases of emergency.
- (b) To attend and speak at all meetings of the association and its executive board, except in some cases where the executive board is authorized to meet in closed, executive session.
- (c) To request a special meeting of the association upon petition of at least 10 percent of the homeowners.
- (d) To inspect, examine, photocopy and audit financial and other records of the association.
- 48 (e) To be notified of all changes in the community's rules and 49 regulations and other actions by the association or board that affect you.



7. OUESTIONS?

 Although they may be voluminous, you should take the time to read and understand the documents that will control your ownership of a property in a common-interest community. You may wish to ask your real estate professional, lawyer or other person with experience to explain anything you do not understand. You may also request assistance from the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities, Nevada Real Estate Division, at (telephone number) \ \frac{1}{1-1} \, or the commission for common-interest communities, at (telephone number).

Buyer	or	prospective	buyer'	s initials:	
Date:					

Sec. 54. NRS 38.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38.330 1. If all parties named in a written claim filed pursuant to NRS 38.320 agree to have the claim submitted for mediation, the parties shall reduce the agreement to writing and shall select a mediator from the list of mediators maintained by the division pursuant to NRS 38.340. Any mediator selected must be available within the geographic area. If the parties fail to agree upon a mediator, the division shall appoint a mediator from the list of mediators maintained by the division. Any mediator appointed must be available within the geographic area. Unless otherwise provided by an agreement of the parties, mediation must be completed within 60 days after the parties agree to mediation. Any agreement obtained through mediation conducted pursuant to this section must, within 20 days after the conclusion of mediation, be reduced to writing by the mediator and a copy thereof provided to each party. The agreement may be enforced as any other written agreement. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the parties are responsible for all costs of mediation conducted pursuant to this section.

- 2. If all the parties named in the claim do not agree to mediation, the parties shall select an arbitrator from the list of arbitrators maintained by the division pursuant to NRS 38.340. Any arbitrator selected must be available within the geographic area. If the parties fail to agree upon an arbitrator, the division shall appoint an arbitrator from the list maintained by the division. Any arbitrator appointed must be available within the geographic area. Upon appointing an arbitrator, the division shall provide the name of the arbitrator to each party.
- 3. The division may provide for the payment of the fees for a mediator or an arbitrator selected or appointed pursuant to this section from the account for the ombudsman for owners in common-interest communities created pursuant to NRS 116.1117, to the extent that money is available in the account for this purpose.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section and except where inconsistent with the provisions of NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive, the arbitration of a claim pursuant to this section must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of NRS 38.075 to [38.105,] 38.135, inclusive, [38.115, 38.125, 38.135,] 38.155 and 38.165. No party to the arbitration may be represented by an attorney. At any time during the arbitration of a claim relating to the interpretation, application or



enforcement of any covenants, conditions or restrictions applicable to residential property or any bylaws, rules or regulations adopted by an association, the arbitrator may issue an order prohibiting the action upon which the claim is based. An award must be made within 30 days after the conclusion of arbitration, unless a shorter period is agreed upon by the parties to the arbitration.

- 5. If all the parties have agreed to nonbinding arbitration, any party to the arbitration may, within 30 days after a decision and award have been served upon the parties, commence a civil action in the proper court concerning the claim which was submitted for arbitration. Any complaint filed in such an action must contain a sworn statement indicating that the issues addressed in the complaint have been arbitrated pursuant to the provisions of NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive. If such an action is not commenced within that period, any party to the arbitration may, within 1 year after the service of the award, apply to the proper court for a confirmation of the award pursuant to NRS 38.135.
- 6. [If] Except as otherwise provided in this section, if all the parties agree in writing to binding arbitration, the arbitration must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of [chapter 38 of NRS.] this chapter. An award procured pursuant to such arbitration may be vacated and a rehearing granted upon application of a party pursuant to the provisions of NRS 38.145.
 - 7. If, after the conclusion of arbitration, a party:

- (a) Applies to have an award vacated and a rehearing granted pursuant to NRS 38.145; or
- (b) Commences a civil action based upon any claim which was the subject of arbitration.
- the party shall, if he fails to obtain a more favorable award or judgment than that which was obtained in the initial arbitration, pay all costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the opposing party after the application for a rehearing was made or after the complaint in the civil action was filed.
- 8. Upon request by a party, the division shall provide a statement to the party indicating the amount of the fees for a mediator or an arbitrator selected or appointed pursuant to this section.
- 9. As used in this section, "geographic area" means an area within 150 miles from any residential property or association which is the subject of a written claim submitted pursuant to NRS 38.320.
 - **Sec. 55.** Section 15 of this act is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 15. 1. A person shall not conduct business as a property managing agent in this state without first obtaining a license from the administrator.
 - 2. Each applicant for a license as a property managing agent shall file an application with the administrator on a form prescribed by the administrator.
 - 3. The application must +
 - (a) Include the social security number of the applicant;
 - (b) Be accompanied by the statement required pursuant to section 17 of this act; and



(c) Bel be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 20 of this act.

Sec. 56. Section 19 of this act is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 19. 1. Each license as a property managing agent expires 2 years after the date it is issued and may be renewed if, before the license expires, the licensee submits to the administrator:
 - (a) An application on a form prescribed by the administrator; and
- (b) The fee for the renewal of the license prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 20 of this act. [; and
 - (c) The statement required by section 17 of this act.

- 2. A license that expires pursuant to the provisions of this section may be restored if the applicant:
 - (a) Complies with the provisions of subsection 1;
- (b) Submits to the administrator proof of his ability to engage in property management; and
- (c) Submits to the board the fees prescribed pursuant to section 20 of this act.
- **Sec. 57.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 15 to 22, inclusive, of this act, a person who engages in business as a property managing agent is not required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act before January 1, 2002.
- Sec. 58. Any declaration, bylaw or other governing document of a common-interest community in effect on October 1, 2001, that does not conform to the provisions of chapter 116 of NRS, as amended by this act, shall be deemed to have been conformed to those provisions by operation of law. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, not later than October 1, 2002, any declaration, bylaw or other governing document of a common-interest community created on or after January 1, 1992, that does not conform to the provisions of chapter 116 of NRS, as amended by this act, must be changed to conform to those provisions, and may be so changed without complying with the procedural requirements generally applicable to the adoption of an amendment to such a declaration, by law or other governing document.
- **Sec. 59.** As soon as practicable after October 1, 2001, the governor shall appoint to the commission for common-interest communities:
 - 1. One member whose term expires on October 1, 2002.
 - 2. Two members whose terms expire on October 1, 2003.
 - 3. Two members whose terms expire on October 1, 2004.
- **Sec. 60.** The provisions of this act do not apply to offenses committed before October 1, 2001.
- **Sec. 61.** 1. This section and sections 1 to 53, inclusive, and 56 to 59, inclusive, of this act become effective on October 1, 2001.
- 2. Sections 54 and 55 of this act become effective on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:



- (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,
- 6 are repealed by the Congress of the Unites States.

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- 3. Sections 17 and 18 of this act expire by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
- (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- 15 (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more 16 children,
- are repealed by the Congress of the Unites States.



