SENATE BILL NO. 362-SENATOR SCHNEIDER

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes to the provisions governing common-interest communities. (BDR 10-110)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; limiting the powers of an association concerning eminent domain and the imposition of fees; prohibiting the unreasonable restriction on alterations to the exteriors of units; providing for the automatic appeal to the Commission on Common-Interest Communities of certain fines and penalties; revising the provisions concerning the election and removal of members of an executive board; revising the provisions relating to political signs, drought tolerant landscaping and investigations of complaints; making various other changes to the provisions governing common-interest communities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law sets forth provisions concerning a unit or the common elements of an association acquired by eminent domain. (NRS 116.1107) **Section 2** of this bill provides that the existing provisions do not authorize an association to exercise the power of eminent domain.

Sections 5 and 28 of this bill revise existing law to limit an association's power to restrict and impose fines for the parking or storing of utility service vehicles in a common-interest community and to waive provisions of governing documents. (NRS 116.3102, 116.350)

Existing law permits executive boards to impose fines and construction penalties but provides no right of automatic appeal to the Commission on Common-Interest Communities. (NRS 116.310305, 116.31031) **Sections 7 and 8** of this bill provide for the automatic appeal to the Commission of such fines and penalties. **Section 8** also limits an executive board from imposing fines against a unit's owner under certain circumstances.





Sections 9, 10 and 12 of this bill revise provisions relating to elections by: (1) providing that officers of an association need not be units' owners; (2) providing rights for candidates for the executive board; (3) reducing the votes necessary for removal of a member of an executive board; and (4) prohibiting an association from interfering with the collection of certain petition signatures. (NRS 116.31034, 116.31036, 116.3108)

Sections 13-15 of this bill revise provisions relating to board meetings and hearings by: (1) requiring that meetings of the executive board be audio recorded and available in a certain manner; (2) requiring that certain written complaints be placed on the agenda; and (3) providing due process protections to units' owners at certain hearings. (NRS 116.31083, 116.31085, 116.31087) **Section 13** also revises existing law to allow public comments to be made after every agenda item instead of at the beginning of a meeting. (NRS 116.31083)

Sections 16 and 17 of this bill revise existing provisions relating to financial statements by allowing the Commission to waive the qualification requirements of auditors for certain associations and by allowing the executive board to impose assessments to establish adequate reserves without the approval of units' owners. (NRS 116.31144, 116.3115)

Section 18 of this bill revises existing law by providing for the filing of actions in district court to recover certain fees, administrative penalties and interest that were imposed erroneously. (NRS 116.31155)

Sections 20 and 21 of this bill revise existing provisions relating to foreclosure sales by requiring an association to obtain the approval of the Commission before attempting to foreclose on a lien and by providing that lien sales are subject to an equity or right of redemption. (NRS 116.3116, 116.31166)

Sections 22, 23 and 27 of this bill provide additional units' owners' rights by requiring that official association publications provide equal space for opposing viewpoints and by increasing the scope and definition of retaliatory action prohibited against units' owners and by mandating notice before an association may interrupt utility service to a unit's owner. (NRS 116.31175, 116.31183, 116.345)

Section 24 of this bill revises existing law by including financing as a prohibited activity for members of the executive board and officers. (NRS 116.31187)

Sections 30, 31 and 36-39 of this bill revise provisions relating to the Commission's duties by providing for training officers to give instruction to certain persons and to prepare a policy manual, eliminating claims processing as a duty of the Ombudsman for Owners in Common-Interest Communities, establishing a schedule for investigations of certain violations and allocating expenses and attorneys fees for hearings. (NRS 116.605, 116.625, 116.765, 116.775, 116.785, 116.790)

Section 41 of this bill revises existing law to require applicants for community managers to post a bond. (NRS 116A.410)

Section 45 of this bill repeals the existing provisions governing the mediation and arbitration of claims relating to residential property within a common-interest community.

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously deemed it important to set forth its intent regarding the creation and proper functioning of planned communities; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that planned communities are a dominant method of residential development in the State of Nevada; and





WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that planned communities are developed for the purposes of preserving neighborhood continuity and creating desirable places to reside; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that planned communities are governed by specific rules and regulations and by unit-owners' associations; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that a unitowners' association is the form of self-government closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously declared that all forms of government should follow the basic principles of democracy found in the United States Constitution and the Nevada Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that some unit-owners' associations in this State have a history of abuse of power; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that unitowners' associations have power over one of the most important aspects of a person's life, his residence; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously noted that homeowners invest financially and emotionally in their homes; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature previously declared that homeowners have the right to reside in a community without fear of illegal, unfair, unnecessary, unduly burdensome or costly interference with their property rights; and

WHEREAS, Many of the concerns previously noted by the Nevada Legislature persist to this day; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature deems it necessary and important to reiterate and endorse both the intent and the concerns previously expressed by the Nevada Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of planned communities is required by many local governments as a condition of granting necessary building permits for residential housing; and

WHEREAS, The form of self government of a unit-owners' association includes legislative, executive and quasi-judicial powers and functions; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. NRS 116.021 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.021 *I*. "Common-interest community" means real estate with respect to which a person, by virtue of his ownership of a unit, is obligated to pay for real estate other than that unit. ["Ownership]





- **2.** As used in this section, "ownership of a unit" does not include holding a leasehold interest of less than 20 years in a unit, including options to renew.
- 3. For the purposes of determining whether real estate is a "common-interest community" pursuant to this section, the fact that the real estate is subject to covenants, conditions or restrictions is not relevant or determinative.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 116.1107 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.1107 1. If a unit is acquired by eminent domain or part of a unit is acquired by eminent domain leaving the unit's owner with a remnant that may not practically or lawfully be used for any purpose permitted by the declaration, the award must include compensation to the unit's owner for that unit and its allocated interests, whether or not any common elements are acquired. Upon acquisition, unless the decree otherwise provides, that unit's allocated interests are automatically reallocated to the remaining units in proportion to the respective allocated interests of those units before the taking, and the association shall promptly prepare, execute and record an amendment to the declaration reflecting the reallocations. Any remnant of a unit remaining after part of a unit is taken under this subsection is thereafter a common element.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, if part of a unit is acquired by eminent domain, the award must compensate the unit's owner for the reduction in value of the unit and its interest in the common elements, whether or not any common elements are acquired. Upon acquisition, unless the decree otherwise provides:
- (a) That unit's allocated interests are reduced in proportion to the reduction in the size of the unit, or on any other basis specified in the declaration; and
- (b) The portion of the allocated interests divested from the partially acquired unit are automatically reallocated to that unit and to the remaining units in proportion to the respective allocated interests of those units before the taking, with the partially acquired unit participating in the reallocation on the basis of its reduced allocated interests.
- 3. If part of the common elements is acquired by eminent domain, the portion of the award attributable to the common elements taken must be paid to the association. Unless the declaration provides otherwise, any portion of the award attributable to the acquisition of a limited common element must be equally divided among the owners of the units to which that limited common element was allocated at the time of acquisition.
- 4. The judicial decree must be recorded in every county in which any portion of the common-interest community is located.





- 5. The provisions of this section do not authorize an association to exercise the power of eminent domain pursuant to chapter 37 of NRS, and an association may not exercise the power of eminent domain, as provided in NRS 37.0097.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 116.1206 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.1206 1. Any provision contained in a declaration, bylaw or other governing document of a common-interest community that violates the provisions of this chapter [shall]:
- (a) Shall be deemed to conform with those provisions by operation of law, and any such declaration, bylaw or other governing document is not required to be amended to conform to those provisions.
- (b) Is superseded by the provisions of this chapter, regardless of whether the provision contained in the declaration, bylaw or other governing document became effective before the enactment of the provision of this chapter that is being violated.
- 2. In the case of amendments to the declaration, bylaws or plats and plans of any common-interest community created before January 1, 1992:
- (a) If the result accomplished by the amendment was permitted by law before January 1, 1992, the amendment may be made either in accordance with that law, in which case that law applies to that amendment, or it may be made under this chapter; and
- (b) If the result accomplished by the amendment is permitted by this chapter, and was not permitted by law before January 1, 1992, the amendment may be made under this chapter.
- 3. An amendment to the declaration, bylaws or plats and plans authorized by this section to be made under this chapter must be adopted in conformity with the applicable provisions of chapter 117 or 278A of NRS and with the procedures and requirements specified by those instruments. If an amendment grants to any person any rights, powers or privileges permitted by this chapter, all correlative obligations, liabilities and restrictions in this chapter also apply to that person.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 116.2111 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.2111 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:
- (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;
- (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

- (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 paragraph is not an alteration of boundaries.
 - 2. An association may not:

- (a) Unreasonably restrict, prohibit or otherwise impede the lawful rights of a unit's owner to have reasonable access to his unit.
- (b) Unreasonably restrict, prohibit or withhold approval for a unit's owner to add to a unit:
- (1) Improvements such as ramps, railings or elevators that are necessary to improve access to the unit for any occupant of the unit who has a disability;
 - (2) Additional locks to improve the security of the unit;
- (3) Shutters to improve the security of the unit or to reduce the costs of energy for the unit; or
- (4) A system that uses wind energy to reduce the costs of energy for the unit if the boundaries of the unit encompass 2 acres or more within the common-interest community.
- (c) With regard to approving or disapproving any improvement or alteration made to a unit, act in violation of any state or federal law.
- [Any] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, any improvement or alteration made pursuant to subsection 2 that is visible from any other portion of the common-interest community must be installed, constructed or added in accordance with the procedures set forth in the governing documents of the association and must be selected or designed to the maximum extent practicable to be compatible with the style of the common-interest community , but the association shall not unreasonably delay, deny or withhold any required approval for any improvement or alteration or unreasonably determine that the improvement or alteration is not compatible with the style of the common-interest community. For the purposes of this subsection, there is a rebuttable presumption that the association has unreasonably delayed any required approval if the association has not acted on the request for approval within 21 calendar days after the request is submitted to the association.
- 4. A unit's owner may, without permission of the association, change the appearance of a wall or roof which is adjoining his





unit and which is a common element or limited common element to make an improvement or alteration described in subsection 2.

- 5. A unit's owner may, without permission of the association, change the exterior appearance of his unit if the change involves adding to the unit:
- (a) Shutters to improve the security of the unit or to reduce the costs of energy for the unit;
- (b) A system that uses wind energy as described in subparagraph 4 of paragraph (b) of subsection 2; or
 - (c) A system for obtaining solar energy.
- 6. A unit's owner may not add to the unit a system that uses wind energy as described in subparagraph 4 of paragraph (b) of subsection 2 unless he first obtains the written consent of each owner of property within 300 feet of any boundary of the unit.
- 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in accordance with the provisions of NRS 111.239, any provision in the governing documents that prohibits or unreasonably restricts the use of a system for obtaining solar or wind energy for his unit is void and unenforceable. For the purposes of this subsection, "unreasonably restricts the use of a system for obtaining solar or wind energy" means placing a restriction or requirement on the use of such a system which significantly decreases the efficiency or performance of the system and does not allow for the use of an alternative system at a comparable cost and with comparable efficiency and performance.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 116.3102 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.3102 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, and subject to the provisions of the declaration, the association may do any or all of the following:
 - (a) Adopt and amend bylaws, rules and regulations.
- (b) Adopt and amend budgets for revenues, expenditures and reserves and collect assessments for common expenses from the units' owners.
- (c) Hire and discharge managing agents and other employees, agents and independent contractors.
- (d) Institute, defend or intervene in litigation or administrative proceedings in its own name on behalf of itself or two or more units' owners on matters affecting the common-interest community.
 - (e) Make contracts and incur liabilities.
- (f) Regulate the use, maintenance, repair, replacement and modification of common elements.
- (g) Cause additional improvements to be made as a part of the common elements.
- (h) Acquire, hold, encumber and convey in its own name any right, title or interest to real estate or personal property, but:





- (1) Common elements in a condominium or planned community may be conveyed or subjected to a security interest only pursuant to NRS 116.3112; and
- (2) Part of a cooperative may be conveyed, or all or part of a cooperative may be subjected to a security interest, only pursuant to NRS 116.3112.
- (i) Grant easements, leases, licenses and concessions through or over the common elements.
- (j) Impose and receive any payments, fees or charges for the use, rental or operation of the common elements, other than limited common elements described in subsections 2 and 4 of NRS 116.2102, and for services provided to the units' owners.
 - (k) Impose charges for late payment of assessments.
- (1) Impose construction penalties when authorized pursuant to NRS 116.310305.
- (m) Impose reasonable fines for violations of the governing documents of the association only if the association complies with the requirements set forth in NRS 116.31031. This paragraph does not authorize an association to impose reasonable fines for violations of the governing documents of the association that pertain to the parking or storage of vehicles if the association is prohibited from regulating the parking or storage of such vehicles pursuant to NRS 116.350.
- (n) Impose reasonable charges for the preparation and recordation of any amendments to the declaration or any statements of unpaid assessments, and impose reasonable fees, not to exceed the amounts authorized by NRS 116.4109, for preparing and furnishing the documents and certificate required by that section.
- (o) Provide for the indemnification of its officers and executive board and maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance.
- (p) Assign its right to future income, including the right to receive assessments for common expenses, but only to the extent the declaration expressly so provides.
- (q) Exercise any other powers conferred by the declaration or bylaws.
- (r) Exercise all other powers that may be exercised in this State by legal entities of the same type as the association.
- (s) Direct the removal of vehicles improperly parked on property owned or leased by the association, as authorized pursuant to NRS 487.038, or improperly parked on any road, street, alley or other thoroughfare within the common-interest community in violation of the governing documents [.], unless the association is prohibited from regulating the parking or storage of such vehicles pursuant to NRS 116.350. In addition to complying with the requirements of NRS 487.038 and any requirements in the governing documents, if a





vehicle is improperly parked as described in this paragraph, the association must post written notice in a conspicuous place on the vehicle or provide oral or written notice to the owner or operator of the vehicle at least 48 hours before the association may direct the removal of the vehicle, unless the vehicle:

- (1) Is blocking a fire hydrant, fire lane or parking space designated for the handicapped; or
- (2) Poses an imminent threat of causing a substantial adverse effect on the health, safety or welfare of the units' owners or residents of the common-interest community.
- (t) Exercise any other powers necessary and proper for the governance and operation of the association.
- 2. The declaration may not impose limitations on the power of the association to deal with the declarant which are more restrictive than the limitations imposed on the power of the association to deal with other persons.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 116.3103 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.3103 1. Except as otherwise provided in the declaration, the bylaws, this section or other provisions of this chapter, the executive board may act in all instances on behalf of the association. In the performance of their duties, the officers and members of the executive board are fiduciaries. The members of the executive board are required to exercise the ordinary and reasonable care of directors of a corporation, subject to the business-judgment rule.
- 2. The executive board may not act on behalf of the association to amend the declaration, to terminate the common-interest community, or to elect members of the executive board or determine their qualifications, powers and duties or terms of office, but the executive board may fill vacancies in its membership for the unexpired portion of any term.
- 3. The executive board may not waive or refuse to enforce any provision of the governing documents.
- **Sec. 7.** NRS 116.310305 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.310305 1. A unit's owner shall adhere to a schedule required by the association for:
- (a) The completion of the design of a unit or the design of an improvement to a unit;
- (b) The commencement of the construction of a unit or the construction of an improvement to a unit;
- (c) The completion of the construction of a unit or the construction of an improvement to the unit; or
- (d) The issuance of a permit which is necessary for the occupancy of a unit or for the use of an improvement to a unit.





- 2. The association may impose and enforce a construction penalty against a unit's owner who fails to adhere to a schedule as required pursuant to subsection 1 if:
- (a) The maximum amount of the construction penalty and the schedule are set forth in:
 - (1) The declaration;

- (2) Another document related to the common-interest community that is recorded before the date on which the unit's owner acquired title to the unit; or
- (3) A contract between the unit's owner and the association; and
- (b) The unit's owner receives notice of the alleged violation which informs him that he has a right to a hearing on the alleged violation.
- 3. If the association imposes a construction penalty against a unit's owner pursuant to the provisions of this section, an appeal to the Commission is deemed automatically taken by the unit's owner without any action by him, unless he affirmatively waives the appeal within 30 days after the imposition of the construction penalty. A construction penalty imposed by the association must be stayed until a review of the appeal by the Commission is completed. The Commission, when reviewing an appeal, may affirm the imposition of a construction penalty, set aside the imposition of a construction penalty or change the amount of any construction penalty.
- **4.** For the purposes of this chapter, a construction penalty is not a fine.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 116.31031 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31031 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a unit's owner or a tenant or guest of a unit's owner violates any provision of the governing documents of an association, the executive board 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 the common elements. The provisions of this subparagraph 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) Impose a fine against the unit's owner or the tenant or guest of the unit's owner for each violation, except that a fine may not be imposed for a violation that is the subject of a construction penalty pursuant to NRS 116.310305. If the violation poses an imminent threat of causing a substantial adverse effect on the health, safety or





welfare of the units' owners or residents of the common-interest community, the amount of the fine must be commensurate with the severity of the violation and must be determined by the executive board in accordance with the governing documents. If the violation does not pose an imminent threat of causing a substantial adverse effect on the health, safety or welfare of the units' owners or residents of the common-interest community, the amount of the fine must be commensurate with the severity of the violation and must be determined by the executive board in accordance with the governing documents, but the amount of the fine must not exceed \$100 for each violation or a total amount of \$1,000, whichever is less. The limitations on the amount of the fine do not apply to any interest, charges or costs that may be collected by the association pursuant to this section if the fine becomes past due.

- 2. The executive board may not impose a fine pursuant to subsection 1 against a unit's owner for a violation of any provision of the governing documents of an association committed by a tenant or guest of the unit's owner unless the unit's owner:
 - (a) Participated in or authorized the violation;
 - (b) Had prior notice of the violation; or
 - (c) Had an opportunity to stop the violation and failed to do so.
- 3. The executive board may not impose a fine pursuant to subsection 1 unless:
- (a) Not less than 30 days before the violation, the person against whom the fine will be imposed had been provided with written notice of the applicable provisions of the governing documents that form the basis of the violation; and
- (b) Within a reasonable time after the discovery of the violation, the person against whom the fine will be imposed has been provided with:
- (1) Written notice specifying the details of the violation, the amount of the fine, and the date, time and location for a hearing on the violation; and
- (2) A reasonable opportunity to contest the violation at the hearing.
- [3.] 4. The executive board must schedule the date, time and location for the hearing on the violation so that the person against whom the fine will be imposed is provided with a reasonable opportunity to prepare for the hearing and to be present at the hearing.
- [4.] 5. The executive board must hold a hearing before it may impose the fine, unless the person against whom the fine will be imposed:
 - (a) Pays the fine;
 - (b) Executes a written waiver of the right to the hearing; or





(c) Fails to appear at the hearing after being provided with proper notice of the hearing.

[5.] 6. If the executive board imposes a fine pursuant to the provisions of this section, an appeal to the Commission is deemed automatically taken by the unit's owner or the tenant or guest of the unit's owner without any action by him for a fine imposed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 that exceeds \$5,000 or that is for a violation which poses an imminent threat of causing a substantial adverse effect on the health, safety or welfare of the units' owners or residents of the common-interest community, unless he affirmatively waives the appeal within 30 days after the imposition of the fine. A fine imposed by the executive board must be stayed until a review of the appeal by the Commission is completed. The Commission, when reviewing an appeal, may affirm the imposition of a fine, set aside the imposition of a fine or change the amount of any fine.

7. If [a] the Commission affirms the fine [is] imposed pursuant to subsection 1 and the violation is not cured within 14 days [...] of the decision by the Commission, or within any longer period that 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. Any additional fine may be imposed without notice and an opportunity to be heard.

[6.] 8. If the governing documents so provide, the executive board may appoint a committee, with not less than three members, to conduct hearings on violations and to impose fines pursuant to this section. While acting on behalf of the executive board for those limited purposes, the committee and its members are entitled to all privileges and immunities and are subject to all duties and requirements of the executive board and its members.

[7.] 9. The provisions of this section establish the minimum procedural requirements that the executive board must follow before it may impose a fine. The provisions of this section do not preempt any provisions of the governing documents that provide greater procedural protections.

[8.] 10. Any past due fine:

- (a) Bears interest at the rate established by the association, not to exceed the legal rate per annum.
- (b) May include any costs of collecting the past due fine at a rate established by the association. If the past due fine is for a violation that does not threaten the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the common-interest community, the rate established by the association for the costs of collecting the past due fine:





- 1 (1) May not exceed \$20, if the outstanding balance is less 2 than \$200.
 - (2) May not exceed \$50, if the outstanding balance is \$200 or more, but is less than \$500.
 - (3) May not exceed \$100, if the outstanding balance is \$500 or more, but is less than \$1,000.
 - (4) May not exceed \$250, if the outstanding balance is \$1,000 or more, but is less than \$5,000.
 - (5) May not exceed \$500, if the outstanding balance is \$5,000 or more.
 - (c) May include any costs incurred by the association during a civil action to enforce the payment of the past due fine.

[9.] 11. As used in this section:

- (a) "Costs of collecting" includes, without limitation, any collection fee, filing fee, recording fee, referral fee, fee for postage or delivery, and any other fee or cost that an association may reasonably charge to the unit's owner for the collection of a past due fine. The term does not include any costs incurred by an association during a civil action to enforce the payment of a past due fine.
- (b) "Outstanding balance" means the amount of a past due fine that remains unpaid before any interest, charges for late payment or costs of collecting the past due fine are added.
 - **Sec. 9.** 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. Unless the governing documents provide otherwise, the remaining members of the executive board do not have to be units' owners. The executive board shall elect the officers of the association. *Unless the governing documents provide otherwise, the officers of the association do not have to be units' owners.* The members of the executive board and the officers of the association shall take office upon election.
- 2. The term of office of a member of the executive board may not exceed 2 years, except for members who are appointed by the declarant. Unless the governing documents provide otherwise, there is no limitation on the number of terms that a person may serve as a member of the executive board.
- 3. The governing documents of the association must provide for terms of office that are staggered in such a manner that, to the extent possible, an equal number of members of the executive board are elected at each election. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:





- (a) Members of the executive board who are appointed by the declarant; and
 - (b) Members of the executive board who serve a term of 1 year or less.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. Each person whose name is placed on the ballot as a candidate for a member of the executive board must:
 - (a) Make a good faith effort to disclose any financial, business, professional or personal relationship or interest that would result or would appear to a reasonable person to result in a potential conflict of interest for the candidate if the candidate were to be elected to serve as a member of the executive board; and
 - (b) Disclose whether the candidate is a member in good standing. For the purposes of this paragraph, a candidate shall not be deemed to be in "good standing" if the candidate has any unpaid and past due assessments or construction penalties that are required to be paid to the association.
 - The candidate must make all disclosures required pursuant to this subsection in writing to the association with his candidacy information. The association shall distribute the disclosures to each member of the association with the ballot in the manner established in the bylaws of the association.
 - 6. Unless a person is appointed by the declarant:
 - (a) A person may not be a member of the executive board or an officer of the association if the person, his spouse or his parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, performs the duties of a community manager for that association.
 - (b) A person may not be a member of the executive board of a master association or an officer of that master association if the person, his spouse or his parent or child, by blood, marriage or adoption, performs the duties of a community manager for:
 - (1) That master association; or
 - (2) Any association that is subject to the governing documents of that master association.
 - 7. 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, a member or





manager of a limited-liability company that owns a unit, and a fiduciary of an estate that owns a unit may be an officer of the association or a member of the executive board. In all events where the person serving or offering to serve as an officer of the association or a 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, limited-liability company or estate as required by this subsection; and
- (b) Identifies the unit or units owned by the corporate owner, trust, partnership, limited-liability company or estate.
- 8. The election of any member of the executive board must be conducted by secret written ballot unless the declaration of the association provides that voting rights may be exercised by delegates or representatives as set forth in NRS 116.31105. If the election of any member of the executive board is conducted by secret written ballot:
- (a) The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall cause a secret ballot and a return envelope 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.
- (b) Each unit's owner must be provided with at least 15 days after the date the secret written ballot is mailed to the unit's owner to return the secret written ballot to the association.
- (c) A quorum is not required for the election of any member of the executive board.
- (d) Only the secret written ballots that are returned to the association may be counted to determine the outcome of the election
- (e) The secret written ballots must be opened and counted at a meeting of the association. A quorum is not required to be present when the secret written ballots are opened and counted at the meeting.
- (f) The incumbent members of the executive board and each person whose name is placed on the ballot as a candidate for a member of the executive board may not possess, be given access to or participate in the opening or counting of the secret written ballots that are returned to the association before those secret written ballots have been opened and counted at a meeting of the association.
- 9. An association shall not adopt any rule or regulation that has the effect of prohibiting or interfering with a candidate in his campaign for election as a member of the executive board, except that his campaign may be limited to 90 days before the date that ballots are required to be returned to the association. A candidate





may request that the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association send 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 the campaign literature of the candidate. The campaign literature may be sent with the secret ballot mailed pursuant to subsection 8 or in a separate mailing provided that the candidate pays for the cost of the mailing. In the event that more than one candidate requests that campaign literature be sent with the secret ballot mailed pursuant to subsection 8, the costs of including the campaign literature must be shared equally among the candidates.

10. Each member of the executive board shall, within 90 days after his appointment or election, certify in writing to the association, on a form prescribed by the Administrator, that he has read and understands the governing documents of the association and the provisions of this chapter to the best of his ability. The Administrator may require the association to submit a copy of the certification of each member of the executive board of that association at the time the association registers with the Ombudsman pursuant to NRS 116.31158.

Sec. 10. NRS 116.31036 is hereby amended to read as follows:

116.31036 1. Notwithstanding any provision of the declaration or bylaws to the contrary, any member of the executive board, other than a member appointed by the declarant, may be removed from the executive board, with or without cause, if at a removal election held pursuant to this section [the]:

- (b) At least a majority of all votes cast in that removal election are cast in favor of removal.
- 2. The removal of any member of the executive board must be conducted by secret written ballot unless the declaration of the association provides that voting rights may be exercised by delegates or representatives as set forth in NRS 116.31105. If the removal of a member of the executive board is conducted by secret written ballot:
- (a) The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the association shall cause a secret ballot , with arguments for and against the removal of a member of the executive board, and a return envelope 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. The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws of the





association is responsible for gathering the arguments for and against the removal of a member of the executive board by soliciting comments from, without limitation, units' owners and members of the executive board.

- (b) Each unit's owner must be provided with at least 15 days after the date the secret written ballot is mailed to the unit's owner to return the secret written ballot to the association.
- (c) Only the secret written ballots that are returned to the association may be counted to determine the outcome.
- (d) The secret written ballots must be opened and counted at a meeting of the association. A quorum is not required to be present when the secret written ballots are opened and counted at the meeting.
- (e) The incumbent members of the executive board, including, without limitation, the member who is subject to the removal, may not possess, be given access to or participate in the opening or counting of the secret written ballots that are returned to the association before those secret written ballots have been opened and counted at a meeting of the association.
- 3. If a member of an executive board is named as a respondent or 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 NRS 116.745 to 116.795, inclusive.
 - **Sec. 11.** NRS 116.3107 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.3107 1. Except to the extent provided by the declaration, subsection 2 and NRS 116.31135, the association [is responsible] has the duty to provide for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the common elements, and each unit's owner [is responsible] has the duty to provide for the maintenance, repair and replacement of his unit. Each unit's owner shall afford to the association and the other units' owners, and to their agents or employees, access through his unit reasonably necessary for those purposes. If damage is inflicted on the common elements or on any unit through which





access is taken, the unit's owner responsible for the damage, or the association if it is responsible, is liable for the prompt repair thereof.

- 2. In addition to the liability that a declarant as a unit's owner has under this chapter, the declarant alone is liable for all expenses in connection with real estate subject to developmental rights. No other unit's owner and no other portion of the common-interest community is subject to a claim for payment of those expenses. Unless the declaration provides otherwise, any income or proceeds from real estate subject to developmental rights inures to the declarant.
- 3. In a planned community, if all developmental rights have expired with respect to any real estate, the declarant remains liable for all expenses of that real estate unless, upon expiration, the declaration provides that the real estate becomes common elements or units.

Sec. 12. NRS 116.3108 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.3108 1. A meeting of the units' owners must be held at least once each year. If the governing documents 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 may be called by the president, by a majority of the executive board or by units' owners constituting at least 10 percent, or any lower percentage specified in the bylaws, of the total number of voting members of the association. The same number of units' owners may also call a removal election pursuant to NRS 116.31036. *The association shall* not adopt any rule or regulation which prevents, discourages or interferes with the collection of the required percentage of signatures for a petition pursuant to this section. To call a special meeting or a removal election, the units' owners must submit a written petition which is signed by the required percentage of the total number of voting members of the association pursuant to this section and which is mailed, return receipt requested, or served by a process server to the executive board or the community manager for the association. If the petition calls for a special meeting, the executive board shall set the date for the special meeting so that the special meeting is held not less than 15 days or more than 60 days after the date on which the petition is received. If the petition calls for a removal election and:
- (a) The voting rights of the units' owners will be exercised by delegates or representatives as set forth in NRS 116.31105, the executive board shall set the date for the removal election so that the





removal election is held not less than 15 days or more than 60 days after the date on which the petition is received; or

- (b) The voting rights of the units' owners will be exercised through the use of secret written ballots pursuant to NRS 116.31036, the secret written ballots for the removal election must be sent in the manner required by NRS 116.31036 not less than 15 days or more than 60 days after the date on which the petition is received, and the executive board shall set the date for the meeting to open and count the secret written ballots so that the meeting is held not more than 15 days after the deadline for returning the secret written ballots.
- 3. Not less than 15 days or more than 60 days in advance of any meeting of the units' owners, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause notice of the meeting to be hand-delivered, 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 or, if the association offers to send notice by electronic mail, sent by electronic mail at the request of the unit's owner to an electronic mail 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 provided to the unit's owner upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of providing the copy to the unit's owner.
- (b) Speak to the association or executive board, unless the executive board is meeting in executive session.
- 4. 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 of the association 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 *for each item on the agenda* and *a* 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).

- 5. If the association adopts a policy imposing fines for any violations of the governing documents of 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.
- 6. The secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause minutes to be recorded or otherwise taken at each meeting of the units' owners. Not more than 30 days after each such meeting, 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 upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of providing the copy to the unit's owner.
- 7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, the minutes of each meeting of the units' owners must include:
 - (a) The date, time and place of the meeting;
- (b) The substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided at the meeting; and
- (c) The substance of remarks made by any unit's owner at the meeting 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.
- 8. The executive board may establish reasonable limitations on materials, remarks or other information to be included in the minutes of a meeting of the units' owners.
- 9. The association shall maintain the minutes of each meeting of the units' owners until the common-interest community is terminated.
- 10. A unit's owner may record on audiotape or any other means of sound reproduction a meeting of the units' owners if the unit's owner, before recording the meeting, provides notice of his intent to record the meeting to the other units' owners who are in attendance at the meeting.
- 11. The units' owners may approve, at the annual meeting of the units' owners, the minutes of the prior annual meeting of the units' owners and the minutes of any prior special meetings of the units' owners. A quorum is not required to be present when the units' owners approve the minutes.
- 12. 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 or residents of the common-interest community;
- (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 3 or 4.
- **Sec. 13.** NRS 116.31083 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31083 1. A meeting of the executive board 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;
- (b) If the association offers to send notice by electronic mail, sent by electronic mail at the request of the unit's owner to an electronic mail address designated in writing by the unit's owner; or
- (c) 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 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. The notice must include notification of the right of a unit's owner to:
- (a) Have a copy of the *audio recording*, *the* minutes or a summary of the minutes of the meeting provided to the unit's owner upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of providing the copy to the unit's owner.
- (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 must comply with the provisions of subsection 4 of NRS 116.3108. [The period required to be devoted to comments by the 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 a minimum, the following financial information at one of its meetings:
 - (a) A current year-to-date financial statement of the association;
- (b) A current year-to-date schedule of revenues and expenses for the operating account and the reserve account, compared to the budget for those accounts;
- (c) A current reconciliation of the operating account of the association:
 - (d) A current reconciliation of the reserve account of the association:
 - (e) The latest account statements prepared by the financial institutions in which the accounts of the association are maintained; 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 secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause each meeting of the executive board to be audio recorded and the minutes to be recorded or otherwise taken electronically at each meeting of the executive board [.], but if the executive board is meeting in executive session, the meeting must not be audio recorded. Not more than 30 days after each such meeting, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause the audio recording of the meeting, the minutes [or] of the meeting and a summary of the minutes of the [meetings] meeting to be made available to the units' owners. A copy of the audio recording, the minutes or a summary of the minutes must be provided to any unit's owner upon request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the association of the cost of providing the copy to the unit's owner.
 - 8. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 9 and NRS 116.31085, the minutes of each meeting of the executive board must include:
 - (a) The date, time and place of the meeting;
- (b) Those members of the executive board who were present and those members who were absent at the meeting;





- (c) The substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided at the meeting;
- (d) A record of each member's vote on any matter decided by vote at the meeting; and
- (e) The substance of remarks made by any unit's owner who addresses the executive board at the meeting 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.
- 9. The executive board may establish reasonable limitations on materials, remarks or other information to be included in the minutes of its meetings.
- 10. The association shall maintain the minutes of each meeting of the executive board until the common-interest community is terminated.
- 11. A unit's owner may record on audiotape or any other means of sound reproduction a meeting of the executive board, unless the executive board is meeting in executive session, if the unit's owner, before recording the meeting, provides notice of his intent to record the meeting to the members of the executive board and the other units' owners who are in attendance at the meeting.
- 12. 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 or residents of the common-interest community;
- (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.
- **Sec. 14.** 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 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 not meet in executive session to enter into, renew, modify, terminate or take any other action regarding a contract, unless it is a contract between the association and an attorney.
 - 3. An executive board may meet in executive session only 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, or to enter into, renew, modify,





terminate or take any other action regarding a contract between the association and the attorney.

- (b) Discuss the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a community manager or an employee of the association.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, discuss a violation of the governing documents, including, without limitation, the failure to pay an assessment.
- (d) Discuss the alleged failure of a unit's owner to adhere to a schedule required pursuant to NRS 116.310305 if the alleged failure may subject the unit's owner to a construction penalty.
- 4. An executive board shall meet in executive session to hold a hearing on an alleged violation of the governing documents unless the person who may be sanctioned for the alleged violation requests in writing that an open hearing be conducted by the executive board. If the person who may be sanctioned for the alleged violation requests in writing that an open hearing be conducted, the person:
- (a) Is entitled to attend all portions of the hearing related to the alleged violation, including, without limitation, the presentation of evidence and the testimony of witnesses; [and]
- (b) Is entitled to invite anyone he wishes, including, without limitation, witnesses and the media, to attend with him all portions of the hearing relating to the alleged violation;
- (c) Is entitled to due process, including, without limitation, the right to testify, the right to call witnesses, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him, the right to counsel, the right to see all the documents considered by the executive board as a basis for the hearing and the right to require written findings of fact which form the basis of any decision made by the executive hoard:
- (d) Is entitled to one peremptory challenge of a member of the executive board and may make any subsequent challenges for cause; and
 - (e) Is not entitled to attend the deliberations of the executive board.
 - 5. The provisions of subsection 4 establish the minimum protections that the executive board must provide before it may make a decision. The provisions of subsection 4 do not preempt any provisions of the governing documents that provide greater protections.
 - 6. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any matter discussed by the executive board when it meets 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 4 concerning an alleged





violation and, upon request, provide a copy of the decision to the person who was subject to being sanctioned at the hearing or to his designated representative.

- [6.] 7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a unit's owner is not entitled to attend or speak at a meeting of the executive board held in executive session.
- **Sec. 15.** NRS 116.31087 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31087 1. If an executive board receives a written complaint from a unit's owner alleging that the executive board has violated any provision of this chapter or any provision of the governing documents of the association, the executive board shall [, if action is required by the executive board,] place the subject of the complaint on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the executive board.
- 2. Not later than 10 business days after the date that the association receives such a complaint, the executive board or an authorized representative of the association shall acknowledge the receipt of the complaint and notify the unit's owner that [, if action is required by the executive board,] the subject of the complaint will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the executive board.
- **Sec. 16.** NRS 116.31144 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31144 1. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection 2,] this section, the executive board shall:
 - (a) If the annual budget of the association is less than \$75,000, cause the financial statement of the association to be audited by an independent certified public accountant at least once every 4 fiscal years.
 - (b) If the annual budget of the association is \$75,000 or more but less than \$150,000, cause the financial statement of the association to be:
 - (1) Audited by an independent certified public accountant at least once every 4 fiscal years; and
- (2) Reviewed by an independent certified public accountant every fiscal year for which an audit is not conducted.
- (c) If the annual budget of the association is \$150,000 or more, cause the financial statement of the association to be audited by an independent certified public accountant every fiscal year.
- 2. For any fiscal year for which an audit of the financial statement of the association will not be conducted pursuant to subsection 1, the executive board shall cause the financial statement for that fiscal year to be audited by an independent certified public accountant if, within 180 days before the end of the fiscal year, 15





percent of the total number of voting members of the association submit a written request for such an audit.

- 3. The Commission shall adopt regulations prescribing the requirements for the auditing or reviewing of *the* financial statements of an association pursuant to this section. Such regulations must include, without limitation:
- (a) The qualifications necessary for a person to audit or review the financial statements of an association. [; and] The regulations must also provide for a waiver of the qualifications necessary for a person to audit or review the financial statements of an association so that a member of the executive board or other person approved by the Commission may audit or review the financial statements of an association upon application to the Commission by an association with an annual budget less than \$75,000. If the Commission grants a waiver of the qualifications, the Commission shall review the audit or review of the financial statements of the association to ensure that the audit or review of the financial statements of the association does not contain any errors.
- (b) The standards and format to be followed in auditing or reviewing financial statements of an association.
- (c) The requirement that an audit or review of the financial statements of an association be completed within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year.
 - **Sec. 17.** 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. Unless the declaration imposes more stringent standards, the budget must include a budget for the daily operation of the association and a budget for the reserves required by paragraph (b) of subsection 2.
 - 2. Except for assessments under subsections 4 to 7, inclusive:
- (a) All common expenses, including the reserves, 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 adequate reserves, funded on a reasonable basis, for the repair, replacement and restoration of the major components of the common elements. The reserves 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. The association may





comply with the provisions of this paragraph through a funding plan that is designed to allocate the costs for the repair, replacement and restoration of the major components of the common elements over a period of years if the funding plan is designed in an actuarially 5 sound manner which will ensure that sufficient money is available when the repair, replacement and restoration of the major 7 components of the elements common are Notwithstanding any provision of the governing documents to the contrary, to establish adequate reserves pursuant to this paragraph, including, without limitation, to establish or carry out 10 a funding plan, the executive board may, without seeking or 11 obtaining the approval of the units' owners, impose any necessary 12 13 and reasonable assessments against the units in the common-14 interest community.

- 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 each unit's owner of a meeting at which an assessment for a capital



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improvement is to be considered or action is to be taken on such an assessment at least 21 calendar days before the date of the meeting.

Sec. 18. NRS 116.31155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.31155 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an association shall:
- (a) If the association is required to pay the fee imposed by NRS 78.150, 82.193, 86.263, 87.541 or 88.591, pay to the Administrator a fee established by regulation of the Administrator for every unit in the association used for residential use.
- (b) If the association is organized as a trust or partnership, or as any other authorized business entity, pay to the Administrator a fee established by regulation of the Administrator for each unit in the association.
- 2. If an association is subject to the governing documents of a master association, the master association shall pay the fees required pursuant to this section for each unit in the association that is subject to the governing documents of the master association, unless the governing documents of the master association provide otherwise. The provisions of this subsection do not relieve any association that is subject to the governing documents of a master association from its ultimate responsibility to pay the fees required pursuant to this section to the Administrator if they are not paid by the master association.
 - 3. The fees required to be paid pursuant to this section must be:
 - (a) Paid at such times as are established by the Division.
- (b) Deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Account for Common-Interest Communities created by NRS 116.630.
- (c) Established on the basis of the actual costs of administering the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission and not on a basis which includes any subsidy beyond those actual costs. In no event may the fees required to be paid pursuant to this section exceed \$3 per unit.
- 4. The Division shall impose an administrative penalty against an association or master association that violates the provisions of this section by failing to pay the fees owed by the association or master association within the times established by the Division. The administrative penalty that is imposed for each violation must equal 10 percent of the amount of the fees owed by the association or master association or \$500, whichever amount is less. The amount of the unpaid fees owed by the association or master association bears interest at the rate set forth in NRS 99.040 from the date the fees are due until the date the fees are paid in full.
- 5. A unit's owner may not be required to pay any portion of the fees or any administrative penalties or interest required to be paid





pursuant to this section to both an association and a master association.

- 6. An association that is subject to the governing documents of a master association may not be required to pay any portion of the fees or any administrative penalties or interest required to be paid pursuant to this section to the extent they have already been paid by the master association.
- 7. A master association may not be required to pay any portion of the fees or any administrative penalties or interest required to be paid pursuant to this section to the extent they have already been paid by an association that is subject to the governing documents of the master association.
- 8. Upon the payment of the fees and any administrative penalties and interest required by this section, the Administrator shall provide to the association or master association evidence that it paid the fees and the administrative penalties and interest in compliance with this section.
- 9. Any person, association or master association which has been requested or required to pay any fees, administrative penalties or interest pursuant to this section and which believes that such fees, administrative penalties or interest have been imposed in error may, without exhausting any available administrative remedies, bring an action in the district court to recover:
- (a) Any amount paid in error for any fees, administrative penalties or interest during the immediately preceding 3 years;
- (b) Interest on the amount paid in error at the rate set forth in NRS 99.040; and
 - (c) Reasonable costs and attorney's fees.
- **Sec. 19.** 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 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 (e) (d) of subsection 4 of NRS 116.625.
 - Sec. 20. NRS 116.3116 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.3116 1. The association has a lien on a unit for any construction penalty that is imposed against the unit's owner pursuant to NRS 116.310305, any assessment levied against that unit or any fines imposed against the unit's owner from the time the construction penalty, assessment or fine becomes due. Unless the declaration otherwise provides, any penalties, fees, charges, late charges, fines and interest charged pursuant to paragraphs (j) to (n),





inclusive, of subsection 1 of NRS 116.3102 are enforceable as assessments under this section. If an assessment is payable in installments, the full amount of the assessment is a lien from the time the first installment thereof becomes due.

- 2. A lien under this section is prior to all other liens and encumbrances on a unit except:
- (a) Liens and encumbrances recorded before the recordation of the declaration and, in a cooperative, liens and encumbrances which the association creates, assumes or takes subject to;
- (b) A first security interest on the unit recorded before the date on which the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent or, in a cooperative, the first security interest encumbering only the unit's owner's interest and perfected before the date on which the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent; and
- (c) Liens for real estate taxes and other governmental assessments or charges against the unit or cooperative.
- The lien is also prior to all security interests described in paragraph (b) to the extent of the assessments for common expenses based on the periodic budget adopted by the association pursuant to NRS 116.3115 which would have become due in the absence of acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the lien. This subsection does not affect the priority of mechanics' or materialmen's liens, or the priority of liens for other assessments made by the association.
- 3. Unless the declaration otherwise provides, if two or more associations have liens for assessments created at any time on the same property, those liens have equal priority.
- 4. Recording of the declaration constitutes record notice and perfection of the lien. No further recordation of any claim of lien for assessment under this section is required.
- 5. A lien for unpaid assessments is extinguished unless proceedings to enforce the lien are instituted within 3 years after the full amount of the assessments becomes due.
- 6. This section does not prohibit actions to recover sums for which subsection 1 creates a lien or prohibit an association from taking a deed in lieu of foreclosure.
- 7. A judgment or decree in any action brought under this section must include costs and reasonable attorney's fees for the prevailing party.
- 8. The association, upon written request, shall furnish to a unit's owner a statement setting forth the amount of unpaid assessments against the unit. If the interest of the unit's owner is real estate or if a lien for the unpaid assessments may be foreclosed under NRS 116.31162 to 116.31168, inclusive, the statement must be in recordable form. The statement must be furnished within 10





business days after receipt of the request and is binding on the association, the executive board and every unit's owner.

- 9. In a cooperative, upon nonpayment of an assessment on a unit, the unit's owner may be evicted in the same manner as provided by law in the case of an unlawful holdover by a commercial tenant, and:
- (a) In a cooperative where the owner's interest in a unit is real estate under NRS 116.1105, the association's lien may be foreclosed under NRS 116.31162 to 116.31168, inclusive.
- (b) In a cooperative where the owner's interest in a unit is personal property under NRS 116.1105, the association's lien:
- (1) May be foreclosed as a security interest under NRS 104.9101 to 104.9709, inclusive; or
- (2) If the declaration so provides, may be foreclosed under NRS 116.31162 to 116.31168, inclusive.
 - 10. The association must obtain approval from the Commission before attempting to foreclose its lien pursuant to the provisions of NRS 116.31162 to 116.31168, inclusive.
 - **Sec. 21.** NRS 116.31166 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 116.31166 1. The recitals in a deed made pursuant to NRS 116.31164 of:
 - (a) Default, the mailing of the notice of delinquent assessment, and the recording of the notice of default and election to sell;
 - (b) The elapsing of the 90 days; and
 - (c) The giving of notice of sale,
 - → are conclusive proof of the matters recited.
 - 2. Such a deed containing those recitals is conclusive against the unit's former owner, his heirs and assigns, and all other persons. The receipt for the purchase money contained in such a deed is sufficient to discharge the purchaser from obligation to see to the proper application of the purchase money.
 - 3. The sale of a unit pursuant to NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164 [vests in the purchaser the title of the unit's owner without] is subject to an equity or right of redemption.
 - **Sec. 22.** 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, including, without limitation, all contracts to which the association is a party and all records filed with a court relating to a 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, except for those records relating to the number of hours worked and the salaries and benefits of those employees;
- (b) The records of the association relating to another unit's owner, except for those records described in subsection 2; and
 - (c) A contract between the association and an attorney.
- 2. The executive board of an association shall maintain a general record concerning each violation of the governing documents, other than a violation involving a failure to pay an assessment, for which the executive board has imposed a fine, a construction penalty or any other sanction. The general record:
- (a) Must contain a general description of the nature of the violation and the type of the sanction imposed. If the sanction imposed was a fine or construction penalty, the general record must specify the amount of the fine or construction penalty.
- (b) Must not contain the name or address of the person against whom the sanction was imposed or any other personal information which may be used to identify the person or the location of the unit, if any, that is associated with the violation.
- (c) Must be maintained in an organized and convenient filing system or data system that allows a unit's owner to search and review the general records concerning violations of the governing documents.
- 3. If the executive board refuses to allow a unit's owner to review the books, records or other papers of the association, the Ombudsman 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, or any member thereof acting on behalf of the Commission, to issue a subpoena for their production.
 - 4. The books, records and other papers of an association must be maintained for at least 10 years. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:
 - (a) The minutes of a meeting of the units' owners which must be maintained in accordance with NRS 116.3108; or
 - (b) The minutes of a meeting of the executive board which must be maintained in accordance with NRS 116.31083.
 - 5. The executive board shall not require a unit's owner to pay an amount in excess of \$10 per hour to review any books, records, contracts or other papers of the association pursuant to the provisions of this section.





- 6. If an official publication contains or will contain the views or opinions of the association, the executive board, a community manager or an officer, employee or agent of an association concerning an issue of official interest, the official publication must, upon request, without charge and without any prior censorship, devote and include equal space and equivalent exposure to any opposing views and opinions of a unit's owner, tenant or resident of the common-interest community. As used in this subsection:
 - (a) "Issue of official interest" includes, without limitation:
- (1) Any issue on which the executive board or the units' owners will be voting or have voted, including, without limitation, the election of members of the executive board; and
- (2) The enactment or adoption of proposed legislation or administrative regulations that will affect a common-interest community.
 - (b) "Official publication" means:
 - (1) An official website;

- (2) An official newsletter or other similar publication that is circulated to each unit's owner; or
- (3) An official bulletin board that is available to each unit's owner,
- which is published or maintained by an association, an executive board, a member of an executive board, a community manager or an officer, employee or agent of an association.
- **Sec. 23.** NRS 116.31183 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31183 *1.* An executive board, a member of an executive board, *a community manager* or an officer, employee or agent of an association shall not take, or direct or encourage another person to take, any retaliatory action against a unit's owner because the unit's owner has:
- [1.] (a) Complained in good faith about any alleged violation of any provision of this chapter or the governing documents of the association:
- (b) Recommended the selection or replacement of an attorney, community manager or vendor, unless such a selection or replacement would constitute a material breach of an existing contract; or
- [2.] (c) Requested in good faith to review the books, records or other papers of the association.
- 2. An executive board, a member of an executive board, a community manager or an officer, employee or agent of an association shall not intentionally interfere with the exercise of





any right conferred on a person pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

- **Sec. 24.** NRS 116.31187 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.31187 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of an executive board or an officer of an association shall not:
- (a) On or after October 1, 2003, enter into a contract or renew a contract with the association to provide *financing*, goods or services to the association; or
- (b) Otherwise accept any commission, personal profit or compensation of any kind from the association for providing *financing*, goods or services to the association.
- 2. The provisions of this section do not prohibit a declarant, an affiliate of a declarant or an officer, employee or agent of a declarant or an affiliate of a declarant from:
- (a) Receiving any commission, personal profit or compensation from the association, the declarant or an affiliate of the declarant for any *financing*, goods or services furnished to the association;
- (b) Entering into contracts with the association, the declarant or affiliate of the declarant; or
- (c) Serving as a member of the executive board or as an officer of the association.
 - **Sec. 25.** NRS 116.325 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 116.325 1. The executive board shall not and the governing documents must not prohibit a unit's owner or an occupant of a unit from exhibiting [a political sign] one or more political signs within such physical portion of the common-interest community as that owner or occupant has a right to occupy and use exclusively [if the political sign is] and on any wall which is a common element or limited common element and which is immediately adjacent to the unit, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) All political signs exhibited must not be larger than 24 inches by 36 inches.
 - (b) If the unit is occupied by a tenant, the unit's owner may not exhibit any political sign unless the tenant consents, in writing, to the exhibition of the political sign.
 - (c) If any political sign is exhibited on a wall which is a common element or limited common element, the political sign:
- (1) Must be exhibited in a manner that does not damage the wall; and
- (2) Is subject to any applicable provisions of law governing the posting of political signs.
- 2. The provisions of this section establish the minimum rights of a unit's owner or an occupant of a unit to exhibit [a] political





[sign.] signs. The provisions of this section do not preempt any provisions of the governing documents that provide greater rights and do not require the governing documents or the executive board to impose any restrictions on the exhibition of political signs other than those established by other provisions of law.

- 3. Any provision in a rental agreement which violates the provisions of this section or which requires a tenant to waive any rights pursuant to this section or other provisions of law is void as against public policy.
- 4. As used in this section, "political sign" means a sign that expresses support for or opposition to a candidate, political party or ballot question [.] in any federal, state or local election or any election of an association.

Sec. 26. NRS 116.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.330 1. The executive board shall not and the governing documents must not prohibit a unit's owner from installing or maintaining drought tolerant landscaping within such physical portion of the common-interest community as that owner has a right to occupy and use exclusively, *including*, *without limitation*, the front yard or back yard of the unit's owner, except that:
- (a) Before installing drought tolerant landscaping, the unit's owner must submit a detailed description or plans for the drought tolerant landscaping for architectural review and approval in accordance with the procedures, if any, set forth in the governing documents of the association; and
- (b) The drought tolerant landscaping must be selected or designed to the maximum extent practicable to be compatible with the style of the common-interest community.
- The provisions of this subsection must be construed liberally in favor of effectuating the purpose of encouraging the use of drought tolerant landscaping, and the executive board shall not and the governing documents must not unreasonably deny or withhold approval for the installation of drought tolerant landscaping or unreasonably determine that the drought tolerant landscaping is not compatible with the style of the commoninterest community.
- 2. Installation of drought tolerant landscaping within any common element or conversion of traditional landscaping or cultivated vegetation, such as turf grass, to drought tolerant landscaping within any common element shall not be deemed to be a change of use of the common element unless:
- (a) The common element has been designated as a park, open play space or golf course on a recorded plat map; or
- (b) The traditional landscaping or cultivated vegetation is required by a governing body under the terms of any applicable





zoning ordinance, permit or approval or as a condition of approval of any final subdivision map.

- 3. As used in this section, "drought tolerant landscaping" means landscaping which conserves water, protects the environment and is adaptable to local conditions. The term includes, without limitation, the use of mulches such as decorative rock and artificial turf.
 - **Sec. 27.** NRS 116.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.345 1. An association of a planned community may not restrict, prohibit or otherwise impede the lawful residential use of any property that is within or encompassed by the boundaries of the planned community and that is not designated as part of the planned community.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an association may not restrict the access of a person to any of his property. An association may restrict access to and from a unit within a planned community if the right to restrict such access was included in the declaration or in a separate recorded instrument at the time that the owner of the unit acquired title to the unit. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit an association from charging the owner of the property a reasonable and nondiscriminatory fee to operate or maintain a gate or other similar device designed to control access to the planned community that would otherwise impede ingress or egress to the property.
- 3. An association may not expand, construct or situate a building or structure that is not part of any plat or plan of the planned community if the expansion, construction or situation of the building or structure was not previously disclosed to the units' owners of the planned community unless the association obtains the written consent of a majority of the units' owners and residents of the planned community who own property or reside within 500 feet of the proposed location of the building or structure.
- 4. An association may not interrupt any utility service furnished to a unit's owner or a tenant of a unit's owner except for the nonpayment of utility charges when due. The interruption of any utility service pursuant to this subsection must be performed in a manner which is consistent with all laws, regulations and governing documents relating to the interruption of any utility service. An association must in every case send a written notice of its intent to interrupt any utility service to the unit's owner or the tenant of the unit's owner at least 10 days before the association interrupts any utility service.
- 5. The provisions of this section do not abrogate any easement, restrictive covenant, decision of a court, agreement of a party or any contract, governing document or declaration of covenants,





conditions and restrictions, or any other decision, rule or regulation that a local governing body or other entity that makes decisions concerning land use or planning is authorized to make or enact that exists before October 1, 1999, including, without limitation, a zoning ordinance, permit or approval process or any other requirement of a local government or other entity that makes decisions concerning land use or planning.

Sec. 28. NRS 116.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.350 1. In a common-interest community, the executive board shall not and the governing documents must not prohibit a person from parking a utility service vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight rating of 20,000 pounds or less on a street or driveway while the person is engaged in any activity relating to the delivery of public utility services to subscribers or consumers.
- 2. In a common-interest community which is not gated or enclosed and the access to which is not restricted or controlled by a person or device, the executive board shall not and the governing documents must not provide for the regulation of any road, street, alley or other thoroughfare the right-of-way of which is accepted by the State or a local government for dedication as a road, street, alley or other thoroughfare for public use.

[2. The]

- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, the provisions of subsection 1 2 do not preclude an association from adopting, and do not preclude the governing documents of an association from setting forth, rules that reasonably restrict the parking or storage of recreational vehicles, watercraft, trailers or commercial *motor* vehicles in the common-interest community to the extent authorized by law.
 - 4. As used in this section:
- (a) "Commercial motor vehicle" has the meaning ascribed to it in 49 C.F.R. § 350.105.
- (b) "Utility service vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle:
 - (1) Used in the furtherance of repairing, maintaining or operating any structure or any other physical facility necessary for the delivery of public utility services, including, without limitation, the furnishing of electricity, gas, water, sanitary sewer, telephone, cable or community antenna service.
 - (2) Except for any emergency use, operated primarily within the service area of a utility's subscribers or consumers, without regard to whether the commercial motor vehicle is owned, leased or rented by the utility.





- **Sec. 29.** NRS 116.4117 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.4117 1. If a declarant or any other person subject to this chapter fails to comply with any of its provisions or any provision of the declaration or bylaws, any person or class of persons suffering actual damages from the failure to comply has a claim for appropriate relief.
- 2. [Subject to the requirements set forth in NRS 38.310 and except] *Except* as otherwise provided in NRS 116.3111, a civil action for damages caused by a failure or refusal to comply with any provision of this chapter or the governing documents of an association may be brought:
 - (a) By the association against:
 - (1) A declarant; or

- (2) A unit's owner.
- (b) By a unit's owner against:
 - (1) The association;
 - (2) A declarant; or
 - (3) Another unit's owner of the association.
- 19 3. Punitive damages may be awarded for a willful and material 20 failure to comply with this chapter if the failure is established by 21 clear and convincing evidence.
 - 4. The court may award reasonable attorney's fees to the prevailing party.
 - 5. The civil remedy provided by this section is in addition to, and not exclusive of, any other available remedy or penalty.

Sec. 30. NRS 116.605 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.605 1. The Division shall employ one or more training officers who are qualified by training and experience to provide [or arrange to have provided] to each member of the Commission courses of instruction concerning rules of procedure and substantive law appropriate for members of the Commission. Such courses of instruction may be made available to the staff of the Division as well as to community managers.
 - 2. The training officer shall:
- (a) Prepare and make available a manual containing the policies and procedures to be followed by executive boards and community managers; and
 - (b) Perform any other duties as directed by the Division.
- **3.** Each member of the Commission must attend the courses of instruction *described in subsection 1* not later than 6 months after the date that the member is first appointed to the Commission.
 - Sec. 31. NRS 116.625 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.625 1. The Office of the Ombudsman for Owners in Common-Interest Communities is hereby created within the Division.





- 2. The Administrator shall appoint the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is in the unclassified service of the State.
- 3. The Ombudsman must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties and functions of his office.
- 4. In addition to any other duties set forth in this chapter, the Ombudsman 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;
- **[(e)]** (b) Assist members of executive boards and officers of associations to carry out their duties;
- [(d)] (c) When appropriate, investigate disputes involving the provisions of this chapter or the governing documents of an association and assist in resolving such disputes; and
- [(e)] (d) Compile and maintain a registration of each association organized within the State which includes, without limitation, the following information:
- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the association:
- (2) The name of each community manager for the commoninterest community and the name of any other person who is authorized to manage 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;
 - (6) The total annual assessment made by the association;
- (7) The number of foreclosures which were completed on units within the common-interest community and which were based on liens for the failure of the unit's owner to pay any assessments levied against the unit or any fines imposed against the unit's owner; and
- (8) Whether the study of the reserves of the association has been conducted pursuant to NRS 116.31152 and, if so, the date on which it was completed.
 - **Sec. 32.** NRS 116.630 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.630 1. There is hereby created the Account for Common-Interest Communities in the State General Fund. The Account must be administered by the Administrator.





- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, all money received by the Commission, a hearing panel or the Division pursuant to this chapter, including, without limitation, the fees collected pursuant to NRS 116.31155, must be deposited into the Account.
- 3. If the Commission imposes a fine or penalty, the Commission shall deposit the money collected from the imposition of the fine or penalty 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.
- 4. The interest and income earned on the money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.
- 5. The money in the Account must be used solely to defray [: (a) The] the costs and expenses of the Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman. [: and
- (b) If authorized by the Commission or any regulations adopted by the Commission, the costs and expenses of subsidizing proceedings for mediation and arbitration conducted pursuant to NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive.]
 - **Sec. 33.** NRS 116.665 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.665 1. The Commission shall conduct such hearings and other proceedings as are required by the provisions of this chapter.
- 2. The Commission shall collect and maintain or cause to be collected and maintained accurate information relating to:
- (a) The number and kind of common-interest communities in this State:
- (b) The effect of the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto on the development and construction of common-interest communities, the residential lending market for units within common-interest communities and the operation and management of common-interest communities;
- (c) Violations of the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
 - (d) [The accessibility and use of, and the costs related to, the arbitration and mediation procedures set forth in NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive, and the decisions rendered and awards made pursuant to those arbitration and mediation procedures;
 - (e) The number of foreclosures which were completed on units within common-interest communities and which were based on liens for the failure of the unit's owner to pay any assessments levied against the unit or any fines imposed against the unit's owner;





(e) The study of the reserves required by NRS 116.31152; and

[(g)] (f) Other issues that the Commission determines are of concern to units' owners, associations, community managers, developers and other persons affected by common-interest communities.

- 3. The Commission shall develop and promote:
- (a) Educational guidelines for conducting the elections of the members of an executive board, the meetings of an executive board and the meetings of the units' owners of an association; and
- (b) Educational guidelines for the enforcement of the governing documents of an association through liens, penalties and fines.
- 4. The Commission shall recommend and approve for accreditation programs of education and research relating to common-interest communities, including, without limitation:
 - (a) The management of common-interest communities;
- (b) The sale and resale of units within common-interest communities;
- (c) Alternative methods that may be used to resolve disputes relating to common-interest communities; and
- (d) The enforcement, including by foreclosure, of liens on units within common-interest communities for the failure of the unit's owner to pay any assessments levied against the unit or any fines imposed against the unit's owner.
 - **Sec. 34.** NRS 116.670 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 116.670 The Commission may:
- 1. [By regulation, establish standards for subsidizing proceedings for mediation and arbitration conducted pursuant to NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive, to ensure that such proceedings are not lengthy and are affordable and readily accessible to all parties;
- 2.] By regulation, establish standards for subsidizing educational programs for the benefit of units' owners, members of executive boards and officers of associations;
 - [3.] 2. Accept any gifts, grants or donations; and
- [4.] 3. Enter into agreements with other entities that are required or authorized to carry out similar duties in this State or in other jurisdictions and cooperate with such entities to develop uniform procedures for carrying out the provisions of this chapter and for accumulating information needed to carry out those provisions.
 - **Sec. 35.** NRS 116.675 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.675 1. The Commission may appoint one or more hearing panels. Each hearing panel must consist of one or more independent hearing officers. An independent hearing officer may





be, without limitation, a member of the Commission or an employee of the Commission.

- 2. The Commission may by regulation delegate to one or more hearing panels the power of the Commission to conduct hearings and other proceedings, determine violations, impose fines and penalties and take other disciplinary action authorized by the provisions of this chapter.
- 3. While acting under the authority of the Commission, a hearing panel and its members are entitled to all privileges and immunities and are subject to all duties and requirements of the Commission and its members.
 - 4. A final order of a hearing panel:

- (a) May be appealed to the Commission if, not later than 20 days after the date that the final order is issued by the hearing panel, any party aggrieved by the final order files a written notice of appeal with the Commission.
- (b) Must be reviewed and approved by the Commission if, not later than 40 days after the date that the final order is issued by the hearing panel, the Division, upon the direction of the Chairman of the Commission, provides written notice to all parties of the intention of the Commission to review the final order.
 - **Sec. 36.** NRS 116.765 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.765 1. Upon receipt of an affidavit that complies with the provisions of NRS 116.760, the Division shall *immediately* refer the affidavit to the Ombudsman.
- 2. The Ombudsman shall give such guidance to the parties as the Ombudsman deems necessary to assist the parties to resolve the alleged violation.
 - 3. If the parties are unable to resolve the alleged violation with the assistance of the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman shall provide to the Division, within 30 days after the affidavit is received by the Ombudsman, a report concerning the alleged violation and any information collected by the Ombudsman during his efforts to assist the parties to resolve the alleged violation.
 - 4. [Upon] Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, upon receipt of the report from the Ombudsman, the Division shall conduct and complete an investigation within 45 days to determine whether good cause exists to proceed with a hearing on the alleged violation. The Division may be granted an extension of time in which to complete an investigation if the Division obtains written approval granting such extension from the person who is aggrieved by an alleged violation.
 - 5. If, after investigating the alleged violation, the Division determines that the allegations in the affidavit are not frivolous, false or fraudulent and that good cause exists to proceed with a





hearing on the alleged violation, the Administrator shall file a formal complaint with the Commission and schedule a hearing on the complaint before the Commission or a hearing panel.

Sec. 37. NRS 116.775 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 116.775 1. Any party to the complaint may be represented by an attorney at any hearing on the complaint.
- 2. If an association is represented by an attorney in defense of a complaint made by a unit's owner, the association must pay the reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the unit's owner except where the complaint is found to be false, fraudulent or frivolous by judicial authority.
 - **Sec. 38.** NRS 116.785 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.785 1. If the Commission or the hearing panel, after notice and hearing, finds that the respondent has committed a violation, the Commission or the hearing panel may take any or all of the following actions:
- (a) Issue an order directing the respondent to cease and desist from continuing to engage in the unlawful conduct that resulted in the violation.
- (b) Issue an order directing the respondent to take affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from the violation.
- (c) Impose an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000 for each violation.
- 2. If the respondent is a member of an executive board or an officer of an association, the Commission or the hearing panel may order the respondent removed from his office or position if the Commission or the hearing panel, after notice and hearing, finds that:
- (a) The respondent has knowingly and willfully committed a violation; and
 - (b) The removal is in the best interest of the association.
- 3. If the respondent violates any order issued by the Commission or the hearing panel pursuant to this section, the Commission or the hearing panel, after notice and hearing, may impose an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000 for each violation.
- 4. If the Commission or the hearing panel takes any disciplinary action pursuant to this section, the Commission or the hearing panel may order the respondent to pay the costs of the proceedings incurred by the Division, including, without limitation, the cost of the investigation. [and reasonable attorney's fees.]
- 5. In any matter brought before the Commission or a hearing panel pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, attorney's fees must not be granted to a prevailing party, regardless of whether





the governing documents provide for such fees to be granted to a prevailing party.

- **6.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, unless the respondent has knowingly and willfully committed a violation, if the respondent is a member of an executive board or an officer of an association:
- (a) The association is liable for all fines and costs imposed against the respondent pursuant to this section; and
- (b) The respondent may not be held personally liable for those fines and costs.
 - **Sec. 39.** NRS 116.790 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116.790 1. If the Commission or a hearing panel, after notice and hearing, finds that the executive board or any person acting on behalf of the association has committed a violation, the Commission or the hearing panel may take any or all of the following actions:
- (a) Order an audit of the association [.], at the expense of the association.
- (b) Require the executive board to hire a community manager who holds a certificate.
- 2. The Commission, or the Division with the approval of the Commission, may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a receiver for an association if, after notice and a hearing, the Commission or a hearing officer finds that any of the following violations occurred:
- (a) The executive board, or any member thereof, has been guilty of fraud or collusion or gross mismanagement in the conduct or control of its affairs;
- (b) The executive board, or any member thereof, has been guilty of misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance; or
- (c) The assets of the association are in danger of waste or loss through attachment, foreclosure, litigation or otherwise.
- 3. In any application for the appointment of a receiver pursuant to this section, notice of a temporary appointment of a receiver may be given to the association alone, by process as in the case of an application for a temporary restraining order or injunction. The hearing thereon may be had after 5 days' notice unless the court directs a longer or different notice and different parties.
- 4. The court may, if good cause exists, appoint one or more receivers pursuant to this section to carry out the business of the association. The members of the executive board who have not been guilty of negligence or active breach of duty must be preferred in making the appointment.
- 5. The powers of any receiver appointed pursuant to this section may be continued as long as the court deems necessary and





proper. At any time, for sufficient cause, the court may order the receivership terminated.

- 6. Any receiver appointed pursuant to this section has, among the usual powers, all the functions, powers, tenure and duties to be exercised under the direction of the court as are conferred on receivers and as provided in NRS 78.635, 78.640 and 78.645, whether or not the association is insolvent. Such powers include, without limitation, the powers to:
 - (a) Take charge of the estate and effects of the association;
 - (b) Appoint an agent or agents;

- (c) Collect any debts and property due and belonging to the association and prosecute and defend, in the name of the association, or otherwise, any civil action as may be necessary or proper for the purposes of collecting debts and property;
- (d) Perform any other act in accordance with the governing documents of the association and this chapter that may be necessary for the association to carry out its obligations; and
- (e) By injunction, restrain the association from exercising any of its powers or doing business in any way except by and through a receiver appointed by the court.
 - **Sec. 40.** NRS 116A.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116A.300 1. The Commission may appoint one or more hearing panels. Each hearing panel must consist of one or more independent hearing officers. An independent hearing officer may be, without limitation, a member of the Commission or an employee of the Commission.
- 2. The Commission may by regulation delegate to one or more hearing panels the power of the Commission to conduct hearings and other proceedings, determine violations, impose fines and penalties and take other disciplinary action authorized by the provisions of this chapter.
- 3. While acting under the authority of the Commission, a hearing panel and its members are entitled to all privileges and immunities and are subject to all duties and requirements of the Commission and its members.
 - 4. A final order of a hearing panel:
- (a) May be appealed to the Commission if, not later than 20 days after the date that the final order is issued by the hearing panel, any party aggrieved by the final order files a written notice of appeal with the Commission.
- (b) Must be reviewed and approved by the Commission if, not later than 40 days after the date that the final order is issued by the hearing panel, the Division, upon the direction of the Chairman of the Commission, provides written notice to all parties of the intention of the Commission to review the final order.





- **Sec. 41.** NRS 116A.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 116A.410 1. The Commission shall by regulation provide for the issuance by the Division of certificates. The regulations:
- (a) Must establish the qualifications for the issuance of such a certificate, including, without limitation, the education and experience required to obtain such a certificate.
- (b) Must require an applicant to post a bond in an amount established by regulation. The Commission shall, by regulation, adopt a sliding scale for the amount of the bond that is based upon the amount of money that applicants are expected to control.
- (c) May require applicants to pass an examination in order to obtain a certificate. If the regulations require such an examination, the Commission shall by regulation establish fees to pay the costs of the examination, including any costs which are necessary for the administration of the examination.
- [(e)] (d) May require an investigation of an applicant's background. If the regulations require such an investigation, the Commission shall by regulation establish fees to pay the costs of the investigation.
- [(d)] (e) 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.
- [(e)] (f) Must establish rules of practice and procedure for conducting disciplinary hearings.
- 2. The Division may collect a fee for the issuance of a certificate in an amount not to exceed the administrative costs of issuing the certificate.
 - Sec. 42. NRS 38.217 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 38.217 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, a party to an agreement to arbitrate or to an arbitral proceeding may waive, or the parties may vary the effect of, the requirements of NRS 38.206 to 38.248, inclusive, to the extent permitted by law.
- 2. Before a controversy arises that is subject to an agreement to arbitrate, a party to the agreement may not:
- (a) Waive or agree to vary the effect of the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 38.218, subsection 1 of NRS 38.219, NRS 38.222, subsection 1 or 2 of NRS 38.233, NRS 38.244 or 38,247;
- (b) Agree to unreasonably restrict the right under NRS 38.223 to notice of the initiation of an arbitral proceeding;
- (c) Agree to unreasonably restrict the right under NRS 38.227 to disclosure of any facts by a neutral arbitrator; or
- (d) Waive the right under NRS 38.232 of a party to an agreement to arbitrate to be represented by a lawyer at any





proceeding or hearing under NRS 38.206 to 38.248, inclusive, but an employer and a labor organization may waive the right to representation by a lawyer in a labor arbitration.

- 3. A party to an agreement to arbitrate or arbitral proceeding may not waive, or the parties may not vary the effect of, the requirements of this section or subsection 1 or 3 of NRS 38.216, NRS 38.221, 38.229, 38.234, subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 38.237, NRS 38.239, 38.241, 38.242, subsection 1 or 2 of NRS 38.243 [,] or NRS 38.248. [or 38.330.]
 - **Sec. 43.** NRS 38.250 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38.250 1. [Except as otherwise provided in NRS 38.310:
- (a)] All civil actions filed in district court for damages, if the cause of action arises in the State of Nevada and the amount in issue does not exceed \$50,000 per plaintiff, exclusive of attorney's fees, interest and court costs, must be submitted to nonbinding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of NRS 38.250 to 38.259, inclusive, unless the parties have agreed or are otherwise required to submit the action to an alternative method of resolving disputes established by the Supreme Court pursuant to NRS 38.258, including, without limitation, a settlement conference, mediation or a short trial.
- [(b)] 2. A civil action for damages filed in Justice Court may be submitted to binding arbitration or to an alternative method of resolving disputes, including, without limitation, a settlement conference or mediation, if the parties agree to the submission.
- [2.] 3. An agreement entered into pursuant to this section must be:
- (a) Entered into at the time of the dispute and not be a part of any previous agreement between the parties;
 - (b) In writing; and

- (c) Entered into knowingly and voluntarily.
- → An agreement entered into pursuant to this section that does not comply with the requirements set forth in this subsection is void.
- [3.] 4. As used in this section, "short trial" means a trial that is conducted, with the consent of the parties to the action, in accordance with procedures designed to limit the length of the trial, including, without limitation, restrictions on the amount of discovery requested by each party, the use of a jury composed of not more than eight persons and a specified limit on the amount of time each party may use to present his case.
- **Sec. 44.** The manual described in subsection 2 of NRS 116.605, as amended by this act, must be prepared and made available by October 1, 2008.
- **Sec. 45.** NRS 38.300, 38.310, 38.320, 38.330, 38.340, 38.350 and 38.360 are hereby repealed.





LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

38,300 Definitions.

38.310 Limitations on commencement of certain civil actions.

38.320 Submission of claim for mediation or arbitration; contents of claim; fees; service of claim; written answer.

38.330 Procedure for mediation or arbitration of claim; payment of costs and fees upon failure to obtain a more favorable award or judgment in court.

38.340 Duties of Division: Maintenance of list of mediators and arbitrators; establishment of explanatory document.

38.350 Statute of limitations tolled.

38.360 Administration of provisions by Division; regulations; fees.





