By Senator Bradley

	6-01522E-24 20241178_
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to condominium and cooperative
3	associations; amending s. 468.4334, F.S.; requiring
4	community association managers and management firms to
5	return official records of an association within a
6	specified period following termination of a contract;
7	providing a rebuttable presumption regarding
8	noncompliance; providing penalties for the failure to
9	timely return official records; creating s. 468.4335,
10	F.S.; requiring community association managers and
11	management firms to disclose certain conflicts of
12	interest to the association's board; providing a
13	rebuttable presumption as to the existence of a
14	conflict; requiring an association to consider
15	multiple bids for goods or services under certain
16	circumstances; providing requirements for an
17	association to approve any contract or transaction
18	deemed a conflict of interest; authorizing that any
19	such contract may be canceled, subject to certain
20	requirements; specifying liability and nonliability of
21	the association upon cancellation of such a contract;
22	authorizing an association to cancel a contract with a
23	community association manager or management firm upon
24	a finding of a violation of certain provisions;
25	specifying liability and nonliability of the
26	association upon cancellation of such a contract;
27	authorizing an association to void a contract if
28	certain conflicts were not disclosed in accordance
29	with the act; defining the term "relative"; amending

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30	s. 468.436, F.S.; revising the list of grounds for
31	which the Department of Business and Professional
32	Regulation may take disciplinary actions against
33	community association managers or firms to conform to
34	changes made by the act; amending s. 718.103, F.S.;
35	revising the definition of the term "alternative
36	funding method" to conform to changes made by the act;
37	defining the term "hurricane protection"; amending s.
38	718.104, F.S.; requiring that declarations specify the
39	entity responsible for the installation, maintenance,
40	repair, or replacement of hurricane protection;
41	amending s. 718.111, F.S.; providing criminal
42	penalties for any officer, director, or manager of an
43	association who unlawfully solicits, offers to accept,
44	or accepts any thing or service of value or kickback;
45	revising the list of records that constitute the
46	official records of an association; revising
47	maintenance requirements for official records;
48	revising requirements regarding requests to inspect or
49	copy association records; requiring an association to
50	provide a checklist and affidavit in response to
51	certain records requests; providing a rebuttable
52	presumption regarding compliance; providing criminal
53	penalties for certain violations regarding
54	noncompliance with records requirements; defining the
55	term "repeatedly"; requiring that copies of certain
56	building permits be posted on an association's website
57	or application; modifying the method of delivery of
58	certain letters regarding association financial

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6-01522E-24 20241178 59 reports to unit owners; conforming a provision to 60 changes made by the act; revising circumstances under which an association may prepare certain reports; 61 62 requiring an association to prepare certain financial 63 statements if it invests funds in a certain manner; 64 revising applicable law for criminal penalties for 65 persons who unlawfully use a debit card issued in the name of an association; defining the term "lawful 66 obligation of the association"; providing requirements 67 68 for associations investing funds in certain investment 69 products; providing duties of the board and any 70 investment adviser selected by the board; revising the 71 threshold for associations that must post certain 72 documents on its website or through an application; 73 amending s. 718.112, F.S.; requiring the boards of 74 administration of associations consisting of more than 75 a specified number of units to meet a minimum number 76 of times each year; revising requirements regarding 77 notice of such meetings; requiring a director of a 78 board of an association to provide a written certification and complete an educational requirement 79 80 upon election or appointment to the board; providing 81 transitional provisions; requiring that an 82 association's budget include reserve amounts for 83 planned maintenance, in lieu of deferred maintenance; authorizing the structural integrity reserve study to 84 85 temporarily pause or limit reserve funding if certain 86 conditions exist; requiring an association to

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distribute or deliver copies of a structural integrity

6-01522E-24 20241178 88 reserve study to unit owners within a specified 89 timeframe; specifying the manner of distribution or 90 delivery; authorizing certain boards to approve 91 contingent special assessments in order to secure a 92 line of credit under certain circumstances; specifying 93 requirements and limitations for any line of credit 94 secured; revising the circumstances under which a 95 director or an officer must be removed from office after being charged by information or indictment; 96 97 prohibiting such officers and directors with pending 98 criminal charges from accessing the official records 99 of any association; providing an exception; providing 100 criminal penalties for certain fraudulent voting 101 activities relating to association elections; amending 102 s. 718.113, F.S.; providing applicability; 103 authorizing, rather than requiring, certain hurricane 104 protection specifications; specifying that certain actions are not material alterations or substantial 105 106 additions; authorizing the boards of residential and 107 mixed-use condominiums to install or require the unit 108 owners to install hurricane protection; requiring a 109 vote of the unit owners for the installation of 110 hurricane protection; requiring that such vote be 111 attested to in a certificate and recorded in certain 112 public records; providing requirements for such 113 certificate; providing that the validity or 114 enforceability of a vote of the unit owners is not 115 affected if the board fails to record a certificate or 116 send a copy of the recorded certificate to the unit

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117	owners; providing that a vote of the unit owners is
118	not required under certain circumstances; prohibiting
119	installation of the same type of hurricane protection
120	previously installed; providing exceptions;
121	prohibiting the boards of residential and mixed-use
122	condominiums from refusing to approve certain
123	hurricane protections; authorizing the board to
124	require owners to adhere to certain guidelines
125	regarding the external appearance of a condominium;
126	revising responsibility for the cost of removal or
127	reinstallation of hurricane protection and certain
128	exterior windows, doors, or apertures in certain
129	circumstances; requiring the board to make a certain
130	determination; providing that costs incurred by the
131	association in connection with such removal or
132	installation completed by the association may not be
133	charged to the unit owner; requiring reimbursement of
134	the unit owner, or application of a credit toward
135	future assessments, in certain circumstances;
136	authorizing the association to collect charges if the
137	association removes or installs hurricane protection
138	and making such charges enforceable as an assessment;
139	amending s. 718.115, F.S.; specifying when the cost of
140	installation of hurricane protection is not a common
141	expense; authorizing certain expenses to be
142	enforceable as assessments; requiring that certain
143	unit owners be excused from certain assessments or to
144	receive a credit for hurricane protection that has
145	been installed; providing credit applicability under

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146	certain circumstances; providing for the amount of
147	credit that a unit owner must receive; specifying that
148	certain expenses are common expenses; amending s.
149	718.116, F.S.; requiring that the written notice of
150	certain assessments be recorded in the public records;
151	amending s. 718.121, F.S.; conforming a cross-
152	reference; amending s. 718.1224, F.S.; revising
153	legislative findings and intent to conform to changes
154	made by the act; revising the definition of the term
155	"governmental entity"; prohibiting a condominium
156	association from filing strategic lawsuits against
157	public participation; prohibiting an association from
158	taking certain action against a unit owner in response
159	to specified conduct; prohibiting associations from
160	expending association funds in support of certain
161	actions against a unit owner; conforming provisions to
162	changes made by the act; amending s. 718.301, F.S.;
163	revising items that developers are required to deliver
164	to an association upon relinquishing control of the
165	association; amending s. 718.3026, F.S.; exempting
166	contracts for registered investment advisers from
167	certain contract requirements; amending s. 718.3027,
168	F.S.; revising requirements regarding attendance at a
169	board meeting in the event of a conflict of interest;
170	modifying circumstances under which a contract may be
171	voided; amending s. 718.303, F.S.; requiring that a
172	notice of nonpayment be provided to a unit owner by a
173	specified time before an election or a vote of
174	association members; amending s. 718.501, F.S.;

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175	revising circumstances under which the Division of
176	Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes has
177	jurisdiction to investigate and enforce certain
178	matters; requiring the division to provide official
179	records, without charge, to a unit owner denied
180	access; requiring the division to provide educational
181	curriculum and issue a certificate, free of charge, to
182	directors of a board of administration; requiring the
183	division to refer suspected criminal acts to the
184	appropriate law enforcement authority; authorizing
185	certain division officials to attend association
186	meetings; requiring the division to conduct random
187	audits of associations for specified purposes;
188	requiring that an association's annual fee be filed
189	concurrently with the annual certification; specifying
190	requirements for the annual certification; amending s.
191	718.618, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made
192	by the act; amending s. 719.106, F.S.; requiring that
193	a cooperative association's budget include reserve
194	amounts for planned maintenance, in lieu of deferred
195	maintenance; requiring an association to distribute or
196	deliver copies of a structural integrity reserve study
197	to unit owners within a specified timeframe;
198	specifying the manner of distribution or delivery;
199	conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
200	amending s. 719.301, F.S.; revising items that
201	developers are required to deliver to a cooperative
202	association upon relinquishing control of association
203	property; amending s. 719.618, F.S.; conforming a

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204	provision to changes made by the act; requiring the
205	division to conduct a review of statutory requirements
206	regarding posting of official records on a condominium
207	association's website or application; requiring the
208	division to submit its findings, including any
209	recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature
210	by a specified date; providing effective dates.
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212	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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214	Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.4334,
215	Florida Statutes, to read:
216	468.4334 Professional practice standards; liability
217	(3) A community association manager or a community
218	association management firm shall return all community
219	association official records within its possession to the
220	community association within 20 business days after termination
221	of a contractual agreement to provide community association
222	management services to the community association or receipt of a
223	written request for return of the official records, whichever
224	occurs first. Failure of a community association manager or a
225	community association management firm to timely return all of
226	the official records within its possession to the community
227	association creates a rebuttable presumption that the
228	association willfully failed to comply with this subsection. A
229	community association manager or a community association
230	management firm that fails to timely return community
231	association records is subject to suspension of its license
232	under s. 468.436, and a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day for up

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233	to 10 days, assessed beginning on the 21st day after termination
234	of a contractual agreement to provide community association
235	management services to the community association or receipt of a
236	written request from the association for return of the records,
237	whichever occurs first.
238	Section 2. Section 468.4335, Florida Statutes, is created
239	to read:
240	468.4335 Conflicts of interest
241	(1) A community association manager or a community
242	association management firm, including directors, officers,
243	persons with a financial interest in a community association
244	management firm, and the relatives of such persons, must
245	disclose to the board any activity that may reasonably be
246	construed to be a conflict of interest. A rebuttable presumption
247	of a conflict of interest exists if any of the following occurs
248	without prior notice, as required in subsection (5):
249	(a) A community association manager or a community
250	association management firm, including directors, officers,
251	persons with a financial interest in a community association
252	management firm, or the relative of such persons, enters into a
253	contract for goods or services with the association.
254	(b) A community association manager or a community
255	association management firm, including directors, officers,
256	persons with a financial interest in a community association
257	management firm, or the relative of such persons, holds an
258	interest in a corporation, limited liability corporation,
259	partnership, limited liability partnership, or other business
260	entity that conducts business with the association or proposes
261	to enter into a contract or other transaction with the

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6-01522E-24 20241178 262 association. 263 (2) If the association receives and considers a bid to 264 provide a good or service, other than community association 265 management services, from a community association manager or a 266 community association management firm, including directors, 267 officers, persons with a financial interest in a community 268 association management firm, or a relative of such persons, the association must also consider at least three bids from other 269 270 third-party providers of such good or service. 271 (3) If a community association manager or a community 272 association management firm, including directors, officers, 273 persons with a financial interest in a community association management firm, or the relative of such persons, proposes to 274 275 engage in an activity that is a conflict of interest as 276 described in subsection (1), the proposed activity must be listed on, and all contracts and transactional documents related 277 278 to the proposed activity must be attached to, the meeting 279 agenda. The disclosures must be entered into the written minutes 280 of the meeting. Approval of the contract or other transaction 281 requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all other 282 directors present. At the next regular or special meeting of the 283 members, the existence of the contract or other transaction must 284 be disclosed to the members. Upon motion of any member, the 285 contract or transaction must be brought up for a vote and may be 286 canceled by a majority vote of the members present. If the 287 contract is canceled, the association is liable only for the 288 reasonable value of the goods and services provided up to the time of cancellation and is not liable for any termination fee, 289 290 liquidated damages, or other form of penalty for such

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291	cancellation.
292	(4) If the board finds that a community association manager
293	or a community association management firm, including directors,
294	officers, persons with a financial interest in a community
295	association management firm, or the relative of such persons,
296	has violated this section, the association may cancel its
297	community association management contract with the community
298	association manager or the community association management
299	firm. If the contract is canceled, the association is liable
300	only for the reasonable value of the management services
301	provided up to the time of cancellation and is not liable for
302	any termination fee, liquidated damages, or other form of
303	penalty for such cancellation.
304	(5) If an association enters into a contract with a
305	community association manager or a community association
306	management firm, including directors, officers, persons with a
307	financial interest in a community association management firm,
308	or the relative of such persons, which is a party to or has an
309	interest in an activity that is a possible conflict of interest
310	as described in subsection (1) and that activity has not been
311	properly disclosed as a conflict of interest or potential
312	conflict of interest as required by this section, the contract
313	is voidable and terminates upon the association filing a written
314	notice terminating the contract with its board of directors
315	which contains the consent of at least 20 percent of the voting
316	interests of the association.
317	(6) As used in this section, the term "relative" means a
318	relative within the third degree of consanguinity by blood or
319	marriage.

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320	Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
321	468.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
322	468.436 Disciplinary proceedings
323	(2) The following acts constitute grounds for which the
324	disciplinary actions in subsection (4) may be taken:
325	(b)1. Violation of any provision of this part.
326	2. Violation of any lawful order or rule rendered or
327	adopted by the department or the council.
328	3. Being convicted of or pleading nolo contendere to a
329	felony in any court in the United States.
330	4. Obtaining a license or certification or any other order,
331	ruling, or authorization by means of fraud, misrepresentation,
332	or concealment of material facts.
333	5. Committing acts of gross misconduct or gross negligence
334	in connection with the profession.
335	6. Contracting, on behalf of an association, with any
336	entity in which the licensee has a financial interest that is
337	not disclosed.
338	7. Failing to disclose any conflict of interest as required
339	by s. 468.4335.
340	<u>8.</u> Violating any provision of chapter 718, chapter 719, or
341	chapter 720 during the course of performing community
342	association management services pursuant to a contract with a
343	community association as defined in s. 468.431(1).
344	Section 4. Present subsections (19) through (32) of section
345	718.103, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (20)
346	through (33), respectively, a new subsection (19) is added to
347	that section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to
348	read:
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ı	6-01522E-24 20241178
349	718.103 DefinitionsAs used in this chapter, the term:
350	(1) "Alternative funding method" means a method approved by
351	the division for funding the capital expenditures and <u>planned</u>
352	deferred maintenance obligations for a multicondominium
353	association operating at least 25 condominiums which may
354	reasonably be expected to fully satisfy the association's
355	reserve funding obligations by the allocation of funds in the
356	annual operating budget.
357	(19) "Hurricane protection" means hurricane shutters,
358	impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, and other code-
359	compliant hurricane protection products used to preserve and
360	protect the condominium property or association property.
361	Section 5. Paragraph (p) is added to subsection (4) of
362	section 718.104, Florida Statutes, to read:
363	718.104 Creation of condominiums; contents of declaration
364	Every condominium created in this state shall be created
365	pursuant to this chapter.
366	(4) The declaration must contain or provide for the
367	following matters:
368	(p) For both residential condominiums and mixed-use
369	condominiums, a statement that specifies whether the unit owner
370	or the association is responsible for the installation,
371	maintenance, repair, or replacement of hurricane protection that
372	is for the preservation and protection of the condominium
373	property and association property.
374	Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsections
375	(12), (13), and (15) of section 718.111, Florida Statutes, are
376	amended, and subsection (16) is added to that section, to read:
377	718.111 The association

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378 (1) CORPORATE ENTITY.-379 (a) The operation of the condominium shall be by the 380 association, which must be a Florida corporation for profit or a 381 Florida corporation not for profit. However, any association 382 which was in existence on January 1, 1977, need not be 383 incorporated. The owners of units shall be shareholders or 384 members of the association. The officers and directors of the 385 association have a fiduciary relationship to the unit owners. It 386 is the intent of the Legislature that nothing in this paragraph 387 shall be construed as providing for or removing a requirement of a fiduciary relationship between any manager employed by the 388 389 association and the unit owners. An officer, director, or 390 manager may not solicit, offer to accept, or accept any thing or service of value or kickback for which consideration has not 391 392 been provided for his or her own benefit or that of his or her 393 immediate family, from any person providing or proposing to 394 provide goods or services to the association. Any such officer, 395 director, or manager who knowingly so solicits, offers to 396 accept, or accepts any thing or service of value or kickback 397 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in 398 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, and is subject to a civil 399 penalty pursuant to s. 718.501(1)(d) and, if applicable, a 400 criminal penalty as provided in paragraph (d). However, this 401 paragraph does not prohibit an officer, director, or manager 402 from accepting services or items received in connection with 403 trade fairs or education programs. An association may operate 404 more than one condominium.

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(12) OFFICIAL RECORDS.-

(a) From the inception of the association, the association

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407	shall maintain each of the following items, if applicable, which
408	constitutes the official records of the association:
409	1. A copy of the plans, permits, warranties, and other
410	items provided by the developer under s. 718.301(4).
411	2. A photocopy of the recorded declaration of condominium
412	of each condominium operated by the association and each
413	amendment to each declaration.
414	3. A photocopy of the recorded bylaws of the association
415	and each amendment to the bylaws.
416	4. A certified copy of the articles of incorporation of the
417	association, or other documents creating the association, and
418	each amendment thereto.
419	5. A copy of the current rules of the association.
420	6. A book or books that contain the minutes of all meetings
421	of the association, the board of administration, and the unit
422	owners.
423	7. A current roster of all unit owners and their mailing
424	addresses, unit identifications, voting certifications, and, if
425	known, telephone numbers. The association shall also maintain
426	the e-mail addresses and facsimile numbers of unit owners
427	consenting to receive notice by electronic transmission. The e-
428	mail addresses and facsimile numbers are not accessible to unit
429	owners if consent to receive notice by electronic transmission
430	is not provided in accordance with sub-subparagraph (c)5.e.
431	(c)3.e. However, the association is not liable for an
432	inadvertent disclosure of the e-mail address or facsimile number
433	for receiving electronic transmission of notices.
434	8. All current insurance policies of the association and
435	condominiums operated by the association.

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436
          9. A current copy of any management agreement, lease, or
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     other contract to which the association is a party or under
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     which the association or the unit owners have an obligation or
439
     responsibility.
440
          10. Bills of sale or transfer for all property owned by the
441
     association.
442
          11. Accounting records for the association and separate
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     accounting records for each condominium that the association
     operates. Any person who knowingly or intentionally defaces or
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445
     destroys such records, or who knowingly or intentionally fails
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     to create or maintain such records, with the intent of causing
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     harm to the association or one or more of its members, is
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     personally subject to a civil penalty pursuant to s.
449
     718.501(1)(d). The accounting records must include, but are not
450
     limited to:
451
          a. Accurate, itemized, and detailed records of all receipts
452
     and expenditures.
453
          b. All invoices, transaction receipts, deposit slips, or
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     other underlying documentation that substantiates any receipt or
455
     expenditure of funds by the association.
456
          c. A current account and a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly
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     statement of the account for each unit designating the name of
458
     the unit owner, the due date and amount of each assessment, the
459
     amount paid on the account, and the balance due.
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          d.c. All audits, reviews, accounting statements, structural
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     integrity reserve studies, and financial reports of the
462
     association or condominium. Structural integrity reserve studies
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     must be maintained for at least 15 years after the study is
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     completed.
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465	
466	to be performed are also considered official records and must be
467	maintained by the association for at least 1 year after receipt
468	of the bid.
469	12. Ballots, sign-in sheets, voting proxies, and all other
470	papers and electronic records relating to voting by unit owners,
471	which must be maintained for 1 year from the date of the
472	election, vote, or meeting to which the document relates,
473	notwithstanding paragraph (b).
474	13. All rental records if the association is acting as
475	agent for the rental of condominium units.
476	14. A copy of the current question and answer sheet as
477	described in s. 718.504.
478	15. A copy of the inspection reports described in ss.
479	553.899 and 718.301(4)(p) and any other inspection report
480	relating to a structural or life safety inspection of
481	condominium property. Such record must be maintained by the
482	association for 15 years after receipt of the report.
483	16. Bids for materials, equipment, or services.
484	17. All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s.
485	718.121(4)(c).
486	18. A copy of the investment policy statement adopted
487	pursuant to paragraph (16)(c).
488	19. A copy of all building permits.
489	20. All other written records of the association not
490	specifically included in the foregoing which are related to the
491	operation of the association.
492	(b) The official records specified in subparagraphs (a)1
493	6. must be permanently maintained from the inception of the

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494	association. Bids for work to be performed or for materials,
495	equipment, or services must be maintained for at least 1 year
496	after receipt of the bid. All other official records must be
497	maintained within the state for at least 7 years, unless
498	otherwise provided by general law. The official records must be
499	maintained in an organized manner that facilitates inspection of
500	the records by a unit owner. The obligation to maintain official
501	records includes the obligation to obtain and recreate those
502	records to the fullest extent possible in the event that the
503	records are lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable. The
504	records of the association shall be made available to a unit
505	owner within 45 miles of the condominium property or within the
506	county in which the condominium property is located within 10
507	working days after receipt of a written request by the board or
508	its designee. However, such distance requirement does not apply
509	to an association governing a timeshare condominium. This
510	paragraph <u>and paragraph (c)</u> may be complied with by having a
511	copy of the official records of the association available for
512	inspection or copying on the condominium property or association
513	property, or the association may offer the option of making the
514	records available to a unit owner electronically via the
515	Internet as provided under paragraph (g) or by allowing the
516	records to be viewed in electronic format on a computer screen
517	and printed upon request. The association is not responsible for
518	the use or misuse of the information provided to an association
519	member or his or her authorized representative in compliance
520	with this chapter unless the association has an affirmative duty
521	not to disclose such information under this chapter.
522	(c)1.a. The official records of the association are open to

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6-01522E-24 20241178 523 inspection by any association member and any person authorized 524 by an association member as a representative of such member at 525 all reasonable times. The right to inspect the records includes 526 the right to make or obtain copies, at the reasonable expense, 527 if any, of the member and of the person authorized by the 528 association member as a representative of such member. A renter 529 of a unit has a right to inspect and copy only the declaration 530 of condominium, the association's bylaws and rules, and the 531 inspection reports described in ss. 553.899 and 718.301(4)(p). 532 The association may adopt reasonable rules regarding the 533 frequency, time, location, notice, and manner of record 534 inspections and copying but may not require a member to 535 demonstrate any purpose or state any reason for the inspection. 536 The failure of an association to provide the records within 10 537 working days after receipt of a written request creates a 538 rebuttable presumption that the association willfully failed to 539 comply with this paragraph. A unit owner who is denied access to 540 official records is entitled to the actual damages or minimum 541 damages for the association's willful failure to comply. Minimum 542 damages are \$50 per calendar day for up to 10 days, beginning on 543 the 11th working day after receipt of the written request. The 544 failure to permit inspection entitles any person prevailing in 545 an enforcement action to recover reasonable attorney fees from the person in control of the records who, directly or 546 547 indirectly, knowingly denied access to the records. If the 548 requested records are posted on an association's website, the association may fulfill its obligations as provided under this 549 550 paragraph by directing to the website all persons authorized to 551 request access to official records pursuant to this paragraph.

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552	b. In response to a statutorily compliant written request
553	to inspect records, the association must simultaneously provide
554	a checklist to the requestor of all records made available for
555	inspection and copying and a sworn affidavit in which the person
556	facilitating or handling the association's compliance with the
557	request attests to the veracity of the checklist provided to the
558	requestor. The checklist must also identify any of the
559	association's official records that were not made available to
560	the requestor. An association must maintain a checklist provided
561	under this sub-subparagraph for 7 years. An association
562	delivering a checklist and affidavit pursuant to this sub-
563	subparagraph creates a rebuttable presumption that the
564	association has complied with this paragraph.
565	2. Any director or member of the board or association or a
566	community association manager who knowingly, willfully, and
567	repeatedly violates subparagraph 1. commits a misdemeanor of the
568	second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
569	775.083. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term
570	"repeatedly" means two or more violations within a 12-month
571	period.
572	3.2. Any person who knowingly or intentionally defaces or
573	destroys accounting records that are required by this chapter to
574	be maintained during the period for which such records are
575	required to be maintained, or who knowingly or intentionally
576	fails to create or maintain accounting records that are required
577	to be created or maintained, with the intent of causing harm to
578	the association or one or more of its members, is personally
579	subject to a civil penalty pursuant to s. 718.501(1)(d).
580	4. Any person who willfully and knowingly refuses to

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6-01522E-24 20241178 581 release or otherwise produce association records with the intent to avoid or escape detection, arrest, trial, or punishment for 582 583 the commission of a crime, or to assist another person with such 584 avoidance or escape, commits a felony of the third degree, 585 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. 586 5.3. The association shall maintain an adequate number of 587 copies of the declaration, articles of incorporation, bylaws, 588 and rules, and all amendments to each of the foregoing, as well 589 as the question and answer sheet as described in s. 718.504 and 590 year-end financial information required under this section, on the condominium property to ensure their availability to unit 591 592 owners and prospective purchasers, and may charge its actual 593 costs for preparing and furnishing these documents to those 594 requesting the documents. An association shall allow a member or 595 his or her authorized representative to use a portable device, 596 including a smartphone, tablet, portable scanner, or any other 597 technology capable of scanning or taking photographs, to make an 598 electronic copy of the official records in lieu of the 599 association's providing the member or his or her authorized 600 representative with a copy of such records. The association may

601 not charge a member or his or her authorized representative for 602 the use of a portable device. Notwithstanding this paragraph, 603 the following records are not accessible to unit owners:

a. Any record protected by the lawyer-client privilege as described in s. 90.502 and any record protected by the workproduct privilege, including a record prepared by an association attorney or prepared at the attorney's express direction, which reflects a mental impression, conclusion, litigation strategy, or legal theory of the attorney or the association, and which

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610 was prepared exclusively for civil or criminal litigation or for 611 adversarial administrative proceedings, or which was prepared in 612 anticipation of such litigation or proceedings until the conclusion of the litigation or proceedings. 613 614 b. Information obtained by an association in connection 615 with the approval of the lease, sale, or other transfer of a 616 unit. 617 c. Personnel records of association or management company employees, including, but not limited to, disciplinary, payroll, 618 619 health, and insurance records. For purposes of this sub-620 subparagraph, the term "personnel records" does not include 621 written employment agreements with an association employee or 622 management company, or budgetary or financial records that 623 indicate the compensation paid to an association employee. d. Medical records of unit owners. 624 625 e. Social security numbers, driver license numbers, credit 626 card numbers, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, facsimile 627 numbers, emergency contact information, addresses of a unit 628 owner other than as provided to fulfill the association's notice 629 requirements, and other personal identifying information of any 630 person, excluding the person's name, unit designation, mailing 631 address, property address, and any address, e-mail address, or 632 facsimile number provided to the association to fulfill the 633 association's notice requirements. Notwithstanding the 634 restrictions in this sub-subparagraph, an association may print 635 and distribute to unit owners a directory containing the name, 636 unit address, and all telephone numbers of each unit owner. 637 However, an owner may exclude his or her telephone numbers from 638 the directory by so requesting in writing to the association. An

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640	information described in this sub-subparagraph. The association
641	is not liable for the inadvertent disclosure of information that
642	is protected under this sub-subparagraph if the information is
643	included in an official record of the association and is
644	voluntarily provided by an owner and not requested by the
645	association.
646	f. Electronic security measures that are used by the
647	association to safeguard data, including passwords.
648	g. The software and operating system used by the
649	association which allow the manipulation of data, even if the
650	owner owns a copy of the same software used by the association.
651	The data is part of the official records of the association.
652	h. All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s.
653	718.121(4)(c).
654	(d) The association shall prepare a question and answer
655	sheet as described in s. 718.504, and shall update it annually.
656	(e)1. The association or its authorized agent is not
657	required to provide a prospective purchaser or lienholder with
658	information about the condominium or the association other than
659	information or documents required by this chapter to be made
660	available or disclosed. The association or its authorized agent
661	may charge a reasonable fee to the prospective purchaser,
662	lienholder, or the current unit owner for providing good faith
663	responses to requests for information by or on behalf of a
664	prospective purchaser or lienholder, other than that required by
665	law, if the fee does not exceed \$150 plus the reasonable cost of
666	photocopying and any attorney's fees incurred by the association
667	in connection with the response.
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6-01522E-24 20241178 668 2. An association and its authorized agent are not liable 669 for providing such information in good faith pursuant to a 670 written request if the person providing the information includes 671 a written statement in substantially the following form: "The 672 responses herein are made in good faith and to the best of my 673 ability as to their accuracy." 674 (f) An outgoing board or committee member must relinquish 675 all official records and property of the association in his or 676 her possession or under his or her control to the incoming board 677 within 5 days after the election. The division shall impose a 678 civil penalty as set forth in s. 718.501(1)(d)6. against an 679 outgoing board or committee member who willfully and knowingly 680 fails to relinquish such records and property. 681 (q)1. By January 1, 2019, an association managing a condominium with 150 or more units which does not contain 682 683 timeshare units shall post digital copies of the documents 684 specified in subparagraph 2. on its website or make such 685 documents available through an application that can be 686 downloaded on a mobile device. 687 a. The association's website or application must be: 688 (I) An independent website, application, or web portal 689 wholly owned and operated by the association; or 690 (II) A website, application, or web portal operated by a 691 third-party provider with whom the association owns, leases, 692 rents, or otherwise obtains the right to operate a web page, 693 subpage, web portal, collection of subpages or web portals, or 694 an application which is dedicated to the association's 695 activities and on which required notices, records, and documents 696 may be posted or made available by the association.

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697	b. The association's website or application must be
698	accessible through the Internet and must contain a subpage, web
699	portal, or other protected electronic location that is
700	inaccessible to the general public and accessible only to unit
701	owners and employees of the association.
702	c. Upon a unit owner's written request, the association
703	must provide the unit owner with a username and password and
704	access to the protected sections of the association's website or
705	application which contain any notices, records, or documents
706	that must be electronically provided.
707	2. A current copy of the following documents must be posted
708	in digital format on the association's website or application:
709	a. The recorded declaration of condominium of each
710	condominium operated by the association and each amendment to
711	each declaration.
712	b. The recorded bylaws of the association and each
713	amendment to the bylaws.
714	c. The articles of incorporation of the association, or
715	other documents creating the association, and each amendment to
716	the articles of incorporation or other documents. The copy
717	posted pursuant to this sub-subparagraph must be a copy of the
718	articles of incorporation filed with the Department of State.
719	d. The rules of the association.
720	e. A list of all executory contracts or documents to which
721	the association is a party or under which the association or the
722	unit owners have an obligation or responsibility and, after
723	bidding for the related materials, equipment, or services has
724	closed, a list of bids received by the association within the

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past year. Summaries of bids for materials, equipment, or

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6-01522E-24 20241178 726 services which exceed \$500 must be maintained on the website or 727 application for 1 year. In lieu of summaries, complete copies of 728 the bids may be posted. 729 f. The annual budget required by s. 718.112(2)(f) and any 730 proposed budget to be considered at the annual meeting. 731 g. The financial report required by subsection (13) and any 732 monthly income or expense statement to be considered at a 733 meeting. 734 h. The certification of each director required by s. 735 718.112(2)(d)4.b. 736 i. All contracts or transactions between the association 737 and any director, officer, corporation, firm, or association 738 that is not an affiliated condominium association or any other 739 entity in which an association director is also a director or 740 officer and financially interested. 741 j. Any contract or document regarding a conflict of 742 interest or possible conflict of interest as provided in ss. 468.4335, 468.436(2)(b)6., and 718.3027(3). 743 744 k. The notice of any unit owner meeting and the agenda for 745 the meeting, as required by s. 718.112(2)(d)3., no later than 14 746 days before the meeting. The notice must be posted in plain view 747 on the front page of the website or application, or on a 748 separate subpage of the website or application labeled "Notices" 749 which is conspicuously visible and linked from the front page. 750 The association must also post on its website or application any 751 document to be considered and voted on by the owners during the 752 meeting or any document listed on the agenda at least 7 days 753 before the meeting at which the document or the information 754 within the document will be considered.

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6-01522E-24 20241178 755 1. Notice of any board meeting, the agenda, and any other 756 document required for the meeting as required by s. 757 718.112(2)(c), which must be posted no later than the date 758 required for notice under s. 718.112(2)(c). 759 m. The inspection reports described in ss. 553.899 and 760 718.301(4)(p) and any other inspection report relating to a 761 structural or life safety inspection of condominium property. 762 n. The association's most recent structural integrity 763 reserve study, if applicable. 764 o. Copies of all building permits issued for ongoing or 765 planned construction. 3. The association shall ensure that the information and 766 767 records described in paragraph (c), which are not allowed to be 768 accessible to unit owners, are not posted on the association's 769 website or application. If protected information or information 770 restricted from being accessible to unit owners is included in 771 documents that are required to be posted on the association's 772 website or application, the association shall ensure the 773 information is redacted before posting the documents. 774 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the association or its agent is 775 not liable for disclosing information that is protected or 776 restricted under this paragraph unless such disclosure was made 777 with a knowing or intentional disregard of the protected or 778 restricted nature of such information. 779 4. The failure of the association to post information 780 required under subparagraph 2. is not in and of itself

781 sufficient to invalidate any action or decision of the 782 association's board or its committees.

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(13) FINANCIAL REPORTING.-Within 90 days after the end of

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6-01522E-24 20241178 784 the fiscal year, or annually on a date provided in the bylaws, 785 the association shall prepare and complete, or contract for the 786 preparation and completion of, a financial report for the 787 preceding fiscal year. Within 21 days after the final financial 788 report is completed by the association or received from the 789 third party, but not later than 120 days after the end of the 790 fiscal year or other date as provided in the bylaws, the 791 association shall deliver mail to each unit owner, by United 792 States mail or personal delivery at the mailing address, 793 property address, e-mail address, or facsimile number provided to fulfill the association's notice requirements at the address 794 last furnished to the association by the unit owner, or hand 795 796 deliver to each unit owner, a copy of the management letter or 797 opinion letter, as applicable, for the most recent financial 798 report, and or a notice that a copy of the most recent financial 799 report will be mailed or hand delivered to the unit owner, 800 without charge, within 5 business days after receipt of a 801 written request from the unit owner. The division shall adopt 802 rules setting forth uniform accounting principles and standards 803 to be used by all associations and addressing the financial 804 reporting requirements for multicondominium associations. The 805 rules must include, but not be limited to, standards for 806 presenting a summary of association reserves, including a good 807 faith estimate disclosing the annual amount of reserve funds 808 that would be necessary for the association to fully fund 809 reserves for each reserve item based on the straight-line 810 accounting method. This disclosure is not applicable to reserves 811 funded via the pooling method. In adopting such rules, the division shall consider the number of members and annual 812

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6-01522E-24 20241178 813 revenues of an association. Financial reports shall be prepared 814 as follows: 815 (a) An association that meets the criteria of this paragraph shall prepare a complete set of financial statements 816 817 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The 818 financial statements must be based upon the association's total 819 annual revenues, as follows: 820 1. An association with total annual revenues of \$150,000 or 821 more, but less than \$300,000, shall prepare compiled financial 822 statements. 82.3 2. An association with total annual revenues of at least 824 \$300,000, but less than \$500,000, shall prepare reviewed 825 financial statements. 3. An association with total annual revenues of \$500,000 or 826 827 more shall prepare audited financial statements. 828 (b)1. An association with total annual revenues of less 829 than \$150,000 shall prepare a report of cash receipts and 830 expenditures. 831 2. A report of cash receipts and disbursements must 832 disclose the amount of receipts by accounts and receipt 833 classifications and the amount of expenses by accounts and 834 expense classifications, including, but not limited to, the 835 following, as applicable: costs for security, professional and 836 management fees and expenses, taxes, costs for recreation 837 facilities, expenses for refuse collection and utility services, 838 expenses for lawn care, costs for building maintenance and 839 repair, insurance costs, administration and salary expenses, and 840 reserves accumulated and expended for capital expenditures, planned deferred maintenance, and any other category for which 841

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842	the association maintains reserves.
843	(c) An association may prepare, without a meeting of or
844	approval by the unit owners:
845	1. Compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements, if
846	the association is required to prepare a report of cash receipts
847	and expenditures;
848	2. Reviewed or audited financial statements, if the
849	association is required to prepare compiled financial
850	statements; or
851	3. Audited financial statements if the association is
852	required to prepare reviewed financial statements.
853	(d) Unless an association invests funds pursuant to
854	paragraph (16)(b), and only if approved by a majority of the
855	voting interests present at a properly called meeting of the
856	association, an association may prepare:
857	1. A report of cash receipts and expenditures in lieu of a
858	compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statement;
859	2. A report of cash receipts and expenditures or a compiled
860	financial statement in lieu of a reviewed or audited financial
861	statement; or
862	3. A report of cash receipts and expenditures, a compiled
863	financial statement, or a reviewed financial statement in lieu
864	of an audited financial statement.
865	
866	Such meeting and approval must occur before the end of the
867	fiscal year and is effective only for the fiscal year in which
868	the vote is taken. An association may not prepare a financial
869	report pursuant to this paragraph for consecutive fiscal years $_{m au}$
870	except that the approval may also be effective for the following
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6-01522E-24 20241178 871 fiscal year. If the developer has not turned over control of the 872 association, all unit owners, including the developer, may vote 873 on issues related to the preparation of the association's 874 financial reports, from the date of incorporation of the 875 association through the end of the second fiscal year after the 876 fiscal year in which the certificate of a surveyor and mapper is 877 recorded pursuant to s. 718.104(4)(e) or an instrument that 878 transfers title to a unit in the condominium which is not 879 accompanied by a recorded assignment of developer rights in 880 favor of the grantee of such unit is recorded, whichever occurs 881 first. Thereafter, all unit owners except the developer may vote 882 on such issues until control is turned over to the association 883 by the developer. Any audit or review prepared under this section shall be paid for by the developer if done before 884 turnover of control of the association. 885 886 (e) A unit owner may provide written notice to the division 887 of the association's failure to mail or hand deliver him or her 888 a copy of the most recent financial report within 5 business 889 days after he or she submitted a written request to the 890 association for a copy of such report. If the division 891 determines that the association failed to mail or hand deliver a

892 copy of the most recent financial report to the unit owner, the 893 division shall provide written notice to the association that 894 the association must mail or hand deliver a copy of the most 895 recent financial report to the unit owner and the division 896 within 5 business days after it receives such notice from the 897 division. An association that fails to comply with the 898 division's request may not waive the financial reporting 899 requirement provided in paragraph (d) for the fiscal year in

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900	which the unit owner's request was made and the following fiscal
901	year. A financial report received by the division pursuant to
902	this paragraph shall be maintained, and the division shall
903	provide a copy of such report to an association member upon his
904	or her request.
905	(f) If an association invests funds pursuant to paragraph
906	(16)(b), the association must prepare financial statements
907	pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b).
908	(15) DEBIT CARDS
909	(a) An association and its officers, directors, employees,
910	and agents may not use a debit card issued in the name of the
911	association, or billed directly to the association, for the
912	payment of any association expense.
913	(b) <u>A person who uses</u> Use of a debit card issued in the
914	name of the association, or billed directly to the association,
915	for any expense that is not a lawful obligation of the
916	association commits theft under s. 812.014. For the purposes of
917	this paragraph, the term "lawful obligation of the association"
918	means an obligation that has been properly preapproved by the
919	board and is reflected in the meeting minutes or the written
920	budget may be prosecuted as credit card fraud pursuant to s.
921	817.61.
922	(16) INVESTMENT OF ASSOCIATION FUNDS
923	(a) A board, in fulfilling its duty to manage operating and
924	reserve funds of an association, must use best efforts to make
925	prudent investment decisions that carefully consider risk and
926	return in an effort to maximize returns on invested funds.
927	(b) An association, including a multicondominium
928	association, may invest reserve funds in one or any combination

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929	of depository accounts at a community bank, savings bank,
930	
	commercial bank, savings and loan association, or credit union
931	if the respective account balance at any institution does not
932	exceed the amount of deposit insurance per account provided by
933	any agency of the Federal Government or as otherwise available.
934	Notwithstanding any declaration, only funds identified as
935	reserve funds may be invested pursuant to this subsection.
936	(c) The board shall create an investment committee composed
937	of at least two board members and two-unit non-board member unit
938	owners. The board shall also adopt rules for invested funds,
939	including, but not limited to, rules requiring periodic reviews
940	of any investment manager's performance, the development of an
941	investment policy statement, and that all meetings of the
942	investment committee be recorded and made part of the official
943	records of the association. The investment policy statement
944	developed pursuant to this paragraph must, at a minimum, address
945	risk, liquidity, and benchmark measurements; authorized classes
946	of investments; authorized investment mixes; limitations on
947	authority relating to investment transactions; requirements for
948	projected reserve expenditures within, at minimum, the next 24
949	months to be held in cash or cash equivalents; projected
950	expenditures relating to an inspection performed pursuant to s.
951	553.899; and protocols for proxy response.
952	(d) The investment committee shall recommend investment
953	advisers to the board, and the board shall select one of the
954	recommended investment advisers to provide services to the
955	association. Such investment advisers must be registered or have
956	notice filed under s. 517.12. The investment adviser and any
957	representative or association of the investment adviser may not
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958	be related by affinity or consanguinity to, or under common
959	ownership with, any board member, community management company,
960	reserve study provider, or unit owner. The investment adviser
961	shall comply with the prudent investor rule in s. 518.11. The
962	investment adviser shall act as a fiduciary to the association
963	in compliance with the standards set forth in the Employee
964	Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 at 29 U.S.C. s.
965	1104(a)(1)(A)-(C). In case of conflict with other provisions of
966	law authorizing investments, the investment and fiduciary
967	standards set forth in this paragraph must prevail. If at any
968	time the investment committee determines that an investment
969	adviser does not meet the requirements of this section, the
970	investment committee must recommend a replacement investment
971	adviser to the board.
972	(e) At least once each calendar year, or sooner if a
973	substantial financial obligation of the association becomes
974	known to the board, the association must provide the investment
975	adviser with the association's investment policy statement, the
976	most recent reserve study report, the association's structural
977	integrity report, and the financial reports prepared pursuant to
978	subsection (13). If there is no recent reserve study report, the
979	association must provide the investment adviser with a good
980	faith estimate disclosing the annual amount of reserve funds
981	necessary for the association to fully fund reserves for the
982	life of each reserve component and each component's
983	redundancies. The investment adviser shall annually review these
984	documents and provide the association with a portfolio
985	allocation model that is suitably structured and prudently
986	designed to match projected annual reserve fund requirements and

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987	liability, assets, and liquidity requirements. The investment
988	adviser shall prepare a funding projection for each reserve
989	component, including any of the component's redundancies. There
990	must be a minimum of 24 months of projected reserves in cash or
991	
992	cash equivalents available to the association at all times.
992	(f) Portfolios managed by the investment adviser may
	contain any type of investment necessary to meet the objectives
994	in the investment policy statement; however, portfolios may not
995	contain stocks, securities, or other obligations that the State
996	Board of Administration is prohibited from investing in under s.
997	215.471, s. 215.4725, or s. 215.473 or that state agencies are
998	prohibited from investing in under s. 215.472, as determined by
999	the investment adviser. Any funds invested by the investment
1000	adviser must be held in third party custodial accounts that are
1001	subject to insurance coverage by the Securities Investor
1002	Protection Corporation in an amount equal to or greater than the
1003	invested amount. The investment adviser may withdraw investment
1004	fees, expenses, and commissions from invested funds.
1005	(g) The investment adviser shall:
1006	1. Annually provide the association with a written
1007	certification of compliance with this section and a list of
1008	stocks, securities, and other obligations that are prohibited
1009	from being in association portfolios under paragraph (f); and
1010	2. Submit monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to the
1011	association which are prepared in accordance with established
1012	financial industry standards and in accordance with chapter 517.
1013	(h) Any principal, earnings, or interest managed under this
1014	subsection must be available at no cost or charge to the
1015	association within 15 business days after delivery of the

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1016	association's written or electronic request.
1017	(i) Unallocated income earned on reserve fund investments
1018	may be spent only on capital expenditures, planned maintenance,
1019	structural repairs, or other items for which the reserve
1020	accounts have been established. Any surplus of funds which
1021	exceeds the amount required to maintain reasonably funded
1022	reserves must be managed pursuant to s. 718.115.
1023	Section 7. Effective January 1, 2026, paragraph (g) of
1024	subsection (12) of section 718.111, Florida Statutes, as amended
1025	by this act, is amended to read:
1026	718.111 The association
1027	(12) OFFICIAL RECORDS
1028	(g)1. By January 1, 2019, An association managing a
1029	condominium with $\underline{25}$ $\underline{150}$ or more units which does not contain
1030	timeshare units shall post digital copies of the documents
1031	specified in subparagraph 2. on its website or make such
1032	documents available through an application that can be
1033	downloaded on a mobile device.
1034	a. The association's website or application must be:
1035	(I) An independent website, application, or web portal
1036	wholly owned and operated by the association; or
1037	(II) A website, application, or web portal operated by a
1038	third-party provider with whom the association owns, leases,
1039	rents, or otherwise obtains the right to operate a web page,
1040	subpage, web portal, collection of subpages or web portals, or
1041	an application which is dedicated to the association's
1042	activities and on which required notices, records, and documents
1043	may be posted or made available by the association.
1044	b. The association's website or application must be

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      accessible through the Internet and must contain a subpage, web
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      portal, or other protected electronic location that is
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      inaccessible to the general public and accessible only to unit
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      owners and employees of the association.
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           c. Upon a unit owner's written request, the association
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      must provide the unit owner with a username and password and
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      access to the protected sections of the association's website or
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      application which contain any notices, records, or documents
      that must be electronically provided.
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1054
           2. A current copy of the following documents must be posted
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      in digital format on the association's website or application:
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           a. The recorded declaration of condominium of each
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      condominium operated by the association and each amendment to
1058
      each declaration.
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           b. The recorded bylaws of the association and each
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      amendment to the bylaws.
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           c. The articles of incorporation of the association, or
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      other documents creating the association, and each amendment to
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      the articles of incorporation or other documents. The copy
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      posted pursuant to this sub-subparagraph must be a copy of the
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      articles of incorporation filed with the Department of State.
           d. The rules of the association.
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           e. A list of all executory contracts or documents to which
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      the association is a party or under which the association or the
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      unit owners have an obligation or responsibility and, after
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      bidding for the related materials, equipment, or services has
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      closed, a list of bids received by the association within the
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      past year. Summaries of bids for materials, equipment, or
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      services which exceed $500 must be maintained on the website or
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6-01522E-24 20241178 1074 application for 1 year. In lieu of summaries, complete copies of 1075 the bids may be posted. 1076 f. The annual budget required by s. 718.112(2)(f) and any 1077 proposed budget to be considered at the annual meeting. 1078 g. The financial report required by subsection (13) and any 1079 monthly income or expense statement to be considered at a 1080 meeting. 1081 h. The certification of each director required by s. 1082 718.112(2)(d)4.b. 1083 i. All contracts or transactions between the association 1084 and any director, officer, corporation, firm, or association that is not an affiliated condominium association or any other 1085 1086 entity in which an association director is also a director or 1087 officer and financially interested. 1088 j. Any contract or document regarding a conflict of 1089 interest or possible conflict of interest as provided in ss. 1090 468.4335, 468.436(2)(b)6., and 718.3027(3). 1091 k. The notice of any unit owner meeting and the agenda for 1092 the meeting, as required by s. 718.112(2)(d)3., no later than 14 1093 days before the meeting. The notice must be posted in plain view 1094 on the front page of the website or application, or on a 1095 separate subpage of the website or application labeled "Notices" 1096 which is conspicuously visible and linked from the front page. 1097 The association must also post on its website or application any 1098 document to be considered and voted on by the owners during the 1099 meeting or any document listed on the agenda at least 7 days 1100 before the meeting at which the document or the information within the document will be considered. 1101 1102 1. Notice of any board meeting, the agenda, and any other

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1103 document required for the meeting as required by s. 1104 718.112(2)(c), which must be posted no later than the date 1105 required for notice under s. 718.112(2)(c). m. The inspection reports described in ss. 553.899 and 1106 1107 718.301(4)(p) and any other inspection report relating to a 1108 structural or life safety inspection of condominium property. 1109 n. The association's most recent structural integrity 1110 reserve study, if applicable. o. Copies of all building permits issued for ongoing or 1111 1112 planned construction. 1113 3. The association shall ensure that the information and 1114 records described in paragraph (c), which are not allowed to be 1115 accessible to unit owners, are not posted on the association's 1116 website or application. If protected information or information 1117 restricted from being accessible to unit owners is included in documents that are required to be posted on the association's 1118 1119 website or application, the association shall ensure the 1120 information is redacted before posting the documents. 1121 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the association or its agent is 1122 not liable for disclosing information that is protected or 1123 restricted under this paragraph unless such disclosure was made 1124 with a knowing or intentional disregard of the protected or restricted nature of such information. 1125

1126 4. The failure of the association to post information 1127 required under subparagraph 2. is not in and of itself 1128 sufficient to invalidate any action or decision of the 1129 association's board or its committees.

1130 Section 8. Paragraphs (c), (d), (f), (g), (i), and (q) of 1131 subsection (2) of section 718.112, Florida Statutes, are

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1132 amended, and paragraph (r) is added to that section, to read: 1133 718.112 Bylaws.-(2) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.-The bylaws shall provide for the 1134 1135 following and, if they do not do so, shall be deemed to include 1136 the following: 1137 (c) Board of administration meetings.-In a residential 1138 condominium association of more than 10 units, the board of 1139 administration shall meet at least four times each year for the 1140 purpose of responding to inquiries from members and informing 1141 members on the state of the condominium, including the status of 1142 any construction or repair projects, the status of the 1143 association's revenue and expenditures during the fiscal year, 1144 or other issues affecting the association. Meetings of the board 1145 of administration at which a quorum of the members is present 1146 are open to all unit owners. Members of the board of 1147 administration may use e-mail as a means of communication but 1148 may not cast a vote on an association matter via e-mail. A unit 1149 owner may tape record or videotape the meetings. The right to 1150 attend such meetings includes the right to speak at such 1151 meetings with reference to all designated agenda items. The 1152 division shall adopt reasonable rules governing the tape 1153 recording and videotaping of the meeting. The association may 1154 adopt written reasonable rules governing the frequency, 1155 duration, and manner of unit owner statements. 1156 1. Adequate notice of all board meetings, which must 1157 specifically identify all agenda items, must be posted 1158 conspicuously on the condominium property at least 48 continuous

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of the voting interests petition the board to address an item of

hours before the meeting except in an emergency. If 20 percent

6-01522E-24 20241178 1161 business, the board, within 60 days after receipt of the 1162 petition, shall place the item on the agenda at its next regular 1163 board meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. An item not included on the notice may be taken up on an 1164 1165 emergency basis by a vote of at least a majority plus one of the 1166 board members. Such emergency action must be noticed and 1167 ratified at the next regular board meeting. Written notice of a meeting at which a nonemergency special assessment or an 1168 amendment to rules regarding unit use will be considered must be 1169 1170 mailed, delivered, or electronically transmitted to the unit owners and posted conspicuously on the condominium property at 1171 least 14 days before the meeting. Evidence of compliance with 1172 1173 this 14-day notice requirement must be made by an affidavit 1174 executed by the person providing the notice and filed with the 1175 official records of the association. Notice of any meeting in 1176 which regular or special assessments against unit owners are to 1177 be considered must specifically state that assessments will be 1178 considered and provide the estimated cost and description of the 1179 purposes for such assessments. 1180 2. Upon notice to the unit owners, the board shall, by duly

adopted rule, designate a specific location on the condominium 1181 1182 property where all notices of board meetings must be posted. If 1183 there is no condominium property where notices can be posted, 1184 notices shall be mailed, delivered, or electronically 1185 transmitted to each unit owner at least 14 days before the meeting. In lieu of or in addition to the physical posting of 1186 the notice on the condominium property, the association may, by 1187 reasonable rule, adopt a procedure for conspicuously posting and 1188 1189 repeatedly broadcasting the notice and the agenda on a closed-

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1190 circuit cable television system serving the condominium 1191 association. However, if broadcast notice is used in lieu of a 1192 notice physically posted on condominium property, the notice and 1193 agenda must be broadcast at least four times every broadcast 1194 hour of each day that a posted notice is otherwise required 1195 under this section. If broadcast notice is provided, the notice 1196 and agenda must be broadcast in a manner and for a sufficient 1197 continuous length of time so as to allow an average reader to 1198 observe the notice and read and comprehend the entire content of 1199 the notice and the agenda. In addition to any of the authorized 1200 means of providing notice of a meeting of the board, the 1201 association may, by rule, adopt a procedure for conspicuously 1202 posting the meeting notice and the agenda on a website serving 1203 the condominium association for at least the minimum period of 1204 time for which a notice of a meeting is also required to be physically posted on the condominium property. Any rule adopted 1205 1206 shall, in addition to other matters, include a requirement that 1207 the association send an electronic notice in the same manner as 1208 a notice for a meeting of the members, which must include a 1209 hyperlink to the website where the notice is posted, to unit 1210 owners whose e-mail addresses are included in the association's 1211 official records. 1212 3. Notice of any meeting in which regular or special 1213 assessments against unit owners are to be considered must 1214 specifically state that assessments will be considered and 1215 provide the estimated cost and description of the purposes for 1216 such assessments. If an agenda item relates to the approval of a contract for goods or services, a copy of the contract must be 1217

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1247

6-01522E-24 20241178 1219 4.2. Meetings of a committee to take final action on behalf 1220 of the board or make recommendations to the board regarding the 1221 association budget are subject to this paragraph. Meetings of a 1222 committee that does not take final action on behalf of the board 1223 or make recommendations to the board regarding the association 1224 budget are subject to this section, unless those meetings are 1225 exempted from this section by the bylaws of the association. 1226 5.3. Notwithstanding any other law, the requirement that 1227 board meetings and committee meetings be open to the unit owners 1228 does not apply to: 1229 a. Meetings between the board or a committee and the 1230 association's attorney, with respect to proposed or pending 1231 litigation, if the meeting is held for the purpose of seeking or 1232 rendering legal advice; or 1233 b. Board meetings held for the purpose of discussing 1234 personnel matters. 1235 (d) Unit owner meetings.-1236 1. An annual meeting of the unit owners must be held at the 1237 location provided in the association bylaws and, if the bylaws 1238 are silent as to the location, the meeting must be held within 1239 45 miles of the condominium property. However, such distance 1240 requirement does not apply to an association governing a 1241 timeshare condominium. 1242 2. Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, a vacancy on the 1243 board caused by the expiration of a director's term must be 1244 filled by electing a new board member, and the election must be 1245 by secret ballot. An election is not required if the number of 1246 vacancies equals or exceeds the number of candidates. For

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purposes of this paragraph, the term "candidate" means an

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1248 eligible person who has timely submitted the written notice, as 1249 described in sub-subparagraph 4.a., of his or her intention to 1250 become a candidate. Except in a timeshare or nonresidential 1251 condominium, or if the staggered term of a board member does not 1252 expire until a later annual meeting, or if all members' terms 1253 would otherwise expire but there are no candidates, the terms of 1254 all board members expire at the annual meeting, and such members 1255 may stand for reelection unless prohibited by the bylaws. Board 1256 members may serve terms longer than 1 year if permitted by the 1257 bylaws or articles of incorporation. A board member may not serve more than 8 consecutive years unless approved by an 1258 1259 affirmative vote of unit owners representing two-thirds of all 1260 votes cast in the election or unless there are not enough 1261 eligible candidates to fill the vacancies on the board at the 1262 time of the vacancy. Only board service that occurs on or after July 1, 2018, may be used when calculating a board member's term 1263 1264 limit. If the number of board members whose terms expire at the 1265 annual meeting equals or exceeds the number of candidates, the 1266 candidates become members of the board effective upon the 1267 adjournment of the annual meeting. Unless the bylaws provide 1268 otherwise, any remaining vacancies shall be filled by the 1269 affirmative vote of the majority of the directors making up the 1270 newly constituted board even if the directors constitute less 1271 than a quorum or there is only one director. In a residential 1272 condominium association of more than 10 units or in a 1273 residential condominium association that does not include 1274 timeshare units or timeshare interests, co-owners of a unit may not serve as members of the board of directors at the same time 1275 1276 unless they own more than one unit or unless there are not

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1277 enough eligible candidates to fill the vacancies on the board at 1278 the time of the vacancy. A unit owner in a residential 1279 condominium desiring to be a candidate for board membership must 1280 comply with sub-subparagraph 4.a. and must be eligible to be a 1281 candidate to serve on the board of directors at the time of the 1282 deadline for submitting a notice of intent to run in order to 1283 have his or her name listed as a proper candidate on the ballot 1284 or to serve on the board. A person who has been suspended or 1285 removed by the division under this chapter, or who is delinquent 1286 in the payment of any assessment due to the association, is not 1287 eligible to be a candidate for board membership and may not be 1288 listed on the ballot. For purposes of this paragraph, a person 1289 is delinquent if a payment is not made by the due date as 1290 specifically identified in the declaration of condominium, 1291 bylaws, or articles of incorporation. If a due date is not 1292 specifically identified in the declaration of condominium, 1293 bylaws, or articles of incorporation, the due date is the first 1294 day of the assessment period. A person who has been convicted of 1295 any felony in this state or in a United States District or 1296 Territorial Court, or who has been convicted of any offense in 1297 another jurisdiction which would be considered a felony if 1298 committed in this state, is not eligible for board membership 1299 unless such felon's civil rights have been restored for at least 1300 5 years as of the date such person seeks election to the board. 1301 The validity of an action by the board is not affected if it is 1302 later determined that a board member is ineligible for board 1303 membership due to having been convicted of a felony. This 1304 subparagraph does not limit the term of a member of the board of 1305 a nonresidential or timeshare condominium.

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1306 3. The bylaws must provide the method of calling meetings 1307 of unit owners, including annual meetings. Written notice of an 1308 annual meeting must include an agenda; be mailed, hand 1309 delivered, or electronically transmitted to each unit owner at 1310 least 14 days before the annual meeting; and be posted in a 1311 conspicuous place on the condominium property or association 1312 property at least 14 continuous days before the annual meeting. 1313 Written notice of a meeting other than an annual meeting must include an agenda; be mailed, hand delivered, or electronically 1314 1315 transmitted to each unit owner; and be posted in a conspicuous 1316 place on the condominium property or association property within 1317 the timeframe specified in the bylaws. If the bylaws do not 1318 specify a timeframe for written notice of a meeting other than 1319 an annual meeting, notice must be provided at least 14 1320 continuous days before the meeting. Upon notice to the unit 1321 owners, the board shall, by duly adopted rule, designate a 1322 specific location on the condominium property or association 1323 property where all notices of unit owner meetings must be 1324 posted. This requirement does not apply if there is no 1325 condominium property for posting notices. In lieu of, or in 1326 addition to, the physical posting of meeting notices, the 1327 association may, by reasonable rule, adopt a procedure for 1328 conspicuously posting and repeatedly broadcasting the notice and 1329 the agenda on a closed-circuit cable television system serving 1330 the condominium association. However, if broadcast notice is 1331 used in lieu of a notice posted physically on the condominium 1332 property, the notice and agenda must be broadcast at least four 1333 times every broadcast hour of each day that a posted notice is 1334 otherwise required under this section. If broadcast notice is

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1335	provided, the notice and agenda must be broadcast in a manner
1336	and for a sufficient continuous length of time so as to allow an
1337	average reader to observe the notice and read and comprehend the
1338	entire content of the notice and the agenda. In addition to any
1339	of the authorized means of providing notice of a meeting of the
1340	board, the association may, by rule, adopt a procedure for
1341	conspicuously posting the meeting notice and the agenda on a
1342	website serving the condominium association for at least the
1343	minimum period of time for which a notice of a meeting is also
1344	required to be physically posted on the condominium property.
1345	Any rule adopted shall, in addition to other matters, include a
1346	requirement that the association send an electronic notice in
1347	the same manner as a notice for a meeting of the members, which
1348	must include a hyperlink to the website where the notice is
1349	posted, to unit owners whose e-mail addresses are included in
1350	the association's official records. Unless a unit owner waives
1351	in writing the right to receive notice of the annual meeting,
1352	such notice must be hand delivered, mailed, or electronically
1353	transmitted to each unit owner. Notice for meetings and notice
1354	for all other purposes must be mailed to each unit owner at the
1355	address last furnished to the association by the unit owner, or
1356	hand delivered to each unit owner. However, if a unit is owned
1357	by more than one person, the association must provide notice to
1358	the address that the developer identifies for that purpose and
1359	thereafter as one or more of the owners of the unit advise the
1360	association in writing, or if no address is given or the owners
1361	of the unit do not agree, to the address provided on the deed of
1362	record. An officer of the association, or the manager or other
1363	person providing notice of the association meeting, must provide
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6-01522E-24 20241178 1364 an affidavit or United States Postal Service certificate of 1365 mailing, to be included in the official records of the 1366 association affirming that the notice was mailed or hand 1367 delivered in accordance with this provision. 1368 4. The members of the board of a residential condominium 1369 shall be elected by written ballot or voting machine. Proxies 1370 may not be used in electing the board in general elections or 1371 elections to fill vacancies caused by recall, resignation, or 1372 otherwise, unless otherwise provided in this chapter. This 1373 subparagraph does not apply to an association governing a 1374 timeshare condominium. 1375 a. At least 60 days before a scheduled election, the 1376 association shall mail, deliver, or electronically transmit, by 1377 separate association mailing or included in another association 1378 mailing, delivery, or transmission, including regularly 1379 published newsletters, to each unit owner entitled to a vote, a 1380 first notice of the date of the election. A unit owner or other 1381 eligible person desiring to be a candidate for the board must 1382 give written notice of his or her intent to be a candidate to 1383 the association at least 40 days before a scheduled election. 1384 Together with the written notice and agenda as set forth in 1385 subparagraph 3., the association shall mail, deliver, or 1386 electronically transmit a second notice of the election to all 1387 unit owners entitled to vote, together with a ballot that lists 1388 all candidates not less than 14 days or more than 34 days before 1389 the date of the election. Upon request of a candidate, an 1390 information sheet, no larger than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches, 1391 which must be furnished by the candidate at least 35 days before 1392 the election, must be included with the mailing, delivery, or

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1393 transmission of the ballot, with the costs of mailing, delivery, 1394 or electronic transmission and copying to be borne by the 1395 association. The association is not liable for the contents of 1396 the information sheets prepared by the candidates. In order to 1397 reduce costs, the association may print or duplicate the information sheets on both sides of the paper. The division 1398 1399 shall by rule establish voting procedures consistent with this 1400 sub-subparagraph, including rules establishing procedures for giving notice by electronic transmission and rules providing for 1401 1402 the secrecy of ballots. Elections shall be decided by a 1403 plurality of ballots cast. There is no quorum requirement; 1404 however, at least 20 percent of the eligible voters must cast a 1405 ballot in order to have a valid election. A unit owner may not 1406 authorize any other person to vote his or her ballot, and any 1407 ballots improperly cast are invalid. A unit owner who violates this provision may be fined by the association in accordance 1408 1409 with s. 718.303. A unit owner who needs assistance in casting 1410 the ballot for the reasons stated in s. 101.051 may obtain such 1411 assistance. The regular election must occur on the date of the 1412 annual meeting. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, an election is not required unless more candidates file notices of 1413 1414 intent to run or are nominated than board vacancies exist. 1415 b. A director of a Within 90 days after being elected or appointed to the board of an association of a residential 1416

1418 <u>(I)</u> Certify in writing to the secretary of the association 1419 that he or she has read the association's declaration of 1420 condominium, articles of incorporation, bylaws, and current 1421 written policies; that he or she will work to uphold such

condominium, each newly elected or appointed director shall:

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1422	documents and policies to the best of his or her ability; and
1423	that he or she will faithfully discharge his or her fiduciary
1424	responsibility to the association's members. In lieu of this
1425	written certification, within 90 days after being elected or
1426	appointed to the board, the newly elected or appointed director
1427	may
1428	(II) Submit to the secretary of the association a
1429	certificate of having satisfactorily completed the educational
1430	curriculum administered by the division or a division-approved
1431	condominium education provider within 1 year before or 90 days
1432	after the date of election or appointment.
1433	
1434	Each newly elected or appointed director must submit the written
1435	certification and educational certificate to the secretary of
1436	the association within 1 year before being elected or appointed
1437	or within 90 days after the date of election or appointment. A
1438	director of an association of a residential condominium who was
1439	elected or appointed before July 1, 2024, must comply with the
1440	written certification and educational certificate requirements
1441	in this sub-subparagraph by June 30, 2025. The written
1442	certification and \overline{or} educational certificate is valid for 7
1443	years from the date of issuance and does not have to be
1444	resubmitted as long as the director serves on the board without
1445	interruption during the 7-year period. A director who is
1446	appointed by the developer may satisfy the educational
1447	certificate requirement in sub-sub-subparagraph (II) for any
1448	subsequent appointment to a board by a developer within 7 years
1449	after the date of issuance of the most recent educational
1450	certificate, including any interruption of service on a board or

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1	6-01522E-24 20241178
1451	appointment to a board in another association within that 7-year
1452	period. One year after submission of the most recent written
1453	certification and educational certificate, and annually
1454	thereafter, a director of an association of a residential
1455	condominium must submit to the secretary of the association a
1456	certificate of having satisfactorily completed an educational
1457	curriculum administered by the division, or a division-approved
1458	condominium education provider, relating to any recent changes
1459	to this chapter and the related administrative rules during the
1460	past year. A director of an association of a residential
1461	condominium who fails to timely file the written certification
1462	<u>and</u> or educational certificate is suspended from service on the
1463	board until he or she complies with this sub-subparagraph. The
1464	board may temporarily fill the vacancy during the period of
1465	suspension. The secretary shall cause the association to retain
1466	a director's written certification <u>and</u> or educational
1467	certificate for inspection by the members for 5 years after a
1468	director's election or the duration of the director's
1469	uninterrupted tenure, whichever is longer. Failure to have such
1470	written certification <u>and</u> or educational certificate on file
1471	does not affect the validity of any board action.
1472	c. Any challenge to the election process must be commenced
1473	within 60 days after the election results are announced.
1474	5. Any approval by unit owners called for by this chapter

5. Any approval by unit owners called for by this chapter or the applicable declaration or bylaws, including, but not limited to, the approval requirement in s. 718.111(8), must be made at a duly noticed meeting of unit owners and is subject to all requirements of this chapter or the applicable condominium documents relating to unit owner decisionmaking, except that

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1480	
	unit owners may take action by written agreement, without
1481	meetings, on matters for which action by written agreement
1482	without meetings is expressly allowed by the applicable bylaws
1483	or declaration or any law that provides for such action.
1484	6. Unit owners may waive notice of specific meetings if
1485	allowed by the applicable bylaws or declaration or any law.
1486	Notice of meetings of the board of administration; unit owner
1487	meetings, except unit owner meetings called to recall board
1488	members under paragraph (1); and committee meetings may be given
1489	by electronic transmission to unit owners who consent to receive
1490	notice by electronic transmission. A unit owner who consents to
1491	receiving notices by electronic transmission is solely
1492	responsible for removing or bypassing filters that block receipt
1493	of mass e-mails sent to members on behalf of the association in
1494	the course of giving electronic notices.
1495	7. Unit owners have the right to participate in meetings of
1496	unit owners with reference to all designated agenda items.
1497	However, the association may adopt reasonable rules governing
1498	the frequency, duration, and manner of unit owner participation.
1499	8. A unit owner may tape record or videotape a meeting of
1500	the unit owners subject to reasonable rules adopted by the
1501	division.
1502	9. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, any vacancy

1502 9. Onless otherwise provided in the bylaws, any vacancy 1503 occurring on the board before the expiration of a term may be 1504 filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining 1505 directors, even if the remaining directors constitute less than 1506 a quorum, or by the sole remaining director. In the alternative, 1507 a board may hold an election to fill the vacancy, in which case 1508 the election procedures must conform to sub-subparagraph 4.a.

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1509	unless the association governs 10 units or fewer and has opted
1510	out of the statutory election process, in which case the bylaws
1511	of the association control. Unless otherwise provided in the
1512	bylaws, a board member appointed or elected under this section
1513	shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the seat being
1514	filled. Filling vacancies created by recall is governed by
1515	paragraph (l) and rules adopted by the division.
1516	10. This chapter does not limit the use of general or
1517	limited proxies, require the use of general or limited proxies,
1518	or require the use of a written ballot or voting machine for any
1519	agenda item or election at any meeting of a timeshare
1520	condominium association or nonresidential condominium
1521	association.
1522	
1523	Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)2. and sub-subparagraph 4.a., an
1524	association of 10 or fewer units may, by affirmative vote of a
1525	majority of the total voting interests, provide for different
1526	voting and election procedures in its bylaws, which may be by a
1527	proxy specifically delineating the different voting and election
1528	procedures. The different voting and election procedures may
1529	provide for elections to be conducted by limited or general
1530	proxy.
1531	(f) Annual budget.—
1532	1. The proposed annual budget of estimated revenues and
1533	expenses must be detailed and must show the amounts budgeted by
1534	accounts and expense classifications, including, at a minimum,
1535	any applicable expenses listed in s. 718.504(21). The board
1536	shall adopt the annual budget at least 14 days before the start
1537	of the association's fiscal year. In the event that the board
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1538	fails to timely adopt the annual budget a second time, it is
1539	deemed a minor violation and the prior year's budget shall
1540	continue in effect until a new budget is adopted. A
1541	multicondominium association must adopt a separate budget of
1542	common expenses for each condominium the association operates
1543	and must adopt a separate budget of common expenses for the
1544	association. In addition, if the association maintains limited
1545	common elements with the cost to be shared only by those
1546	entitled to use the limited common elements as provided for in
1547	s. 718.113(1), the budget or a schedule attached to it must show
1548	the amount budgeted for this maintenance. If, after turnover of
1549	control of the association to the unit owners, any of the
1550	expenses listed in s. 718.504(21) are not applicable, they do
1551	not need to be listed.
1552	2.a. In addition to annual operating expenses, the budget
1553	must include reserve accounts for capital expenditures and
1554	<u>planned</u> deferred maintenance. These accounts must include, but
1555	are not limited to, roof replacement, building painting, and
1556	pavement resurfacing, regardless of the amount of <u>planned</u>

1557 deferred maintenance expense or replacement cost, and any other 1558 item that has a planned deferred maintenance expense or 1559 replacement cost that exceeds \$10,000. The amount to be reserved 1560 must be computed using a formula based upon estimated remaining 1561 useful life and estimated replacement cost or planned deferred 1562 maintenance expense of the reserve item. In a budget adopted by 1563 an association that is required to obtain a structural integrity 1564 reserve study, reserves must be maintained for the items 1565 identified in paragraph (g) for which the association is 1566 responsible pursuant to the declaration of condominium, and the

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1567 reserve amount for such items must be based on the findings and 1568 recommendations of the association's most recent structural 1569 integrity reserve study. With respect to items for which an 1570 estimate of useful life is not readily ascertainable or with an 1571 estimated remaining useful life of greater than 25 years, an 1572 association is not required to reserve replacement costs for 1573 such items, but an association must reserve the amount of 1574 planned deferred maintenance expense, if any, which is 1575 recommended by the structural integrity reserve study for such 1576 items. The association may adjust replacement reserve 1577 assessments annually to take into account an inflation 1578 adjustment and any changes in estimates or extension of the 1579 useful life of a reserve item caused by planned deferred 1580 maintenance. The members of a unit-owner-controlled association 1581 may determine, by a majority vote of the total voting interests 1582 of the association, to provide no reserves or less reserves than 1583 required by this subsection. For a budget adopted on or after 1584 December 31, 2024, the members of a unit-owner-controlled 1585 association that must obtain a structural integrity reserve 1586 study may not determine to provide no reserves or less reserves 1587 than required by this subsection for items listed in paragraph 1588 (g), except that members of an association operating a 1589 multicondominium may determine to provide no reserves or less 1590 reserves than required by this subsection if an alternative 1591 funding method has been approved by the division. Additionally, members of an association may determine to provide no reserves 1592 1593 or less reserves than required by this subsection if the 1594 condominium building or units are unsafe and uninhabitable due 1595 to substantial damage or loss as determined by the local

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1596 enforcement agency, as defined in s. 553.71(5), and it is in the 1597 best interests of the association to use revenues and existing 1598 reserve funds to perform necessary repairs to make the building 1599 or units safe and habitable, but an association may not opt for 1600 such a waiver of reserve requirements after the building or 1601 units have been declared safe for occupancy by the local 1602 enforcement agency. b. Before turnover of control of an association by a 1603 1604 developer to unit owners other than a developer under s. 1605 718.301, the developer-controlled association may not vote to 1606 waive the reserves or reduce funding of the reserves. If a 1607 meeting of the unit owners has been called to determine whether 1608 to waive or reduce the funding of reserves and no such result is 1609 achieved or a quorum is not attained, the reserves included in 1610 the budget shall go into effect. After the turnover, the 1611 developer may vote its voting interest to waive or reduce the 1612 funding of reserves. 1613 3. Reserve funds and any interest or earnings accruing 1614 thereon shall remain in the reserve account or accounts, and may 1615 be used only for authorized reserve expenditures unless their 1616 use for other purposes is approved in advance by a majority vote 1617 of all the total voting interests of the association. Before 1618 turnover of control of an association by a developer to unit 1619 owners other than the developer pursuant to s. 718.301, the 1620 developer-controlled association may not vote to use reserves 1621 for purposes other than those for which they were intended. For 1622

1622 a budget adopted on or after December 31, 2024, members of a 1623 unit-owner-controlled association that must obtain a structural 1624 integrity reserve study may not vote to use reserve funds, or

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1625 any interest accruing thereon, for any other purpose other than 1626 the replacement or planned deferred maintenance costs of the 1627 components listed in paragraph (g). 1628 4. The only voting interests that are eligible to vote on 1629 questions that involve waiving or reducing the funding of 1630 reserves, or using existing reserve funds for purposes other 1631 than purposes for which the reserves were intended, are the 1632 voting interests of the units subject to assessment to fund the 1633 reserves in question. Proxy questions relating to waiving or 1634 reducing the funding of reserves or using existing reserve funds 1635 for purposes other than purposes for which the reserves were 1636 intended must contain the following statement in capitalized, 1637 bold letters in a font size larger than any other used on the 1638 face of the proxy ballot: WAIVING OF RESERVES, IN WHOLE OR IN 1639 PART, OR ALLOWING ALTERNATIVE USES OF EXISTING RESERVES MAY 1640 RESULT IN UNIT OWNER LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF UNANTICIPATED 1641 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS REGARDING THOSE ITEMS.

1642

1650

(g) Structural integrity reserve study.-

1643 1. A residential condominium association must have a 1644 structural integrity reserve study completed at least every 10 1645 years after the condominium's creation for each building on the 1646 condominium property that is three stories or higher in height, 1647 as determined by the Florida Building Code, which includes, at a 1648 minimum, a study of the following items as related to the 1649 structural integrity and safety of the building:

a. Roof.

b. Structure, including load-bearing walls and other primary structural members and primary structural systems as those terms are defined in s. 627.706.

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1654	c. Fireproofing and fire protection systems.
1655	d. Plumbing.
1656	e. Electrical systems.
1657	f. Waterproofing and exterior painting.
1658	g. Windows and exterior doors.
1659	h. Any other item that has a <u>planned</u> deferred maintenance
1660	expense or replacement cost that exceeds \$10,000 and the failure
1661	to replace or maintain such item negatively affects the items
1662	listed in sub-subparagraphs ag., as determined by the visual
1663	inspection portion of the structural integrity reserve study.
1664	2. A structural integrity reserve study is based on a
1665	visual inspection of the condominium property. A structural
1666	integrity reserve study may be performed by any person qualified
1667	to perform such study. However, the visual inspection portion of
1668	the structural integrity reserve study must be performed or
1669	verified by an engineer licensed under chapter 471, an architect
1670	licensed under chapter 481, or a person certified as a reserve
1671	specialist or professional reserve analyst by the Community
1672	Associations Institute or the Association of Professional
1673	Reserve Analysts.
1674	3. At a minimum, a structural integrity reserve study must
1675	identify each item of the condominium property being visually
1676	inspected, state the estimated remaining useful life and the
1677	estimated replacement cost or <u>planned</u> deferred maintenance
1678	expense of each item of the condominium property being visually
1679	inspected, and provide a reserve funding schedule with a
1680	recommended annual reserve amount that achieves the estimated
1681	replacement cost or <u>planned</u> deferred maintenance expense of each
1682	item of condominium property being visually inspected by the end

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1683	of the estimated remaining useful life of the item. The
1684	structural integrity reserve study may recommend that reserves
1685	do not need to be maintained for any item for which an estimate
1686	of useful life and an estimate of replacement cost cannot be
1687	determined, or the study may recommend a <u>planned</u> deferred
1688	maintenance expense amount for such item. The structural
1689	integrity reserve study may recommend that reserves for
1690	replacement costs do not need to be maintained for any item with
1691	an estimated remaining useful life of greater than 25 years, but
1692	the study may recommend a <u>planned</u> deferred maintenance expense
1693	amount for such item. The structural integrity reserve study may
1694	recommend a temporary pause in reserve funding or reduced
1695	reserve funding if the condominium building or units are unsafe
1696	and uninhabitable due to substantial damage or loss as
1697	determined by the local enforcement agency, as defined in s.
1698	533.71(5), and it is in the best interests of the association to
1699	use revenues and existing reserve funds to perform necessary
1700	repairs to make the building safe and habitable, but the reserve
1701	funding schedule may not pause reserve funding after the
1702	building has been declared safe for occupancy by the local
1703	enforcement agency.
1704	4 This paragraph does not apply to buildings less than

4. This paragraph does not apply to buildings less than three stories in height; single-family, two-family, or threefamily dwellings with three or fewer habitable stories above ground; any portion or component of a building that has not been submitted to the condominium form of ownership; or any portion or component of a building that is maintained by a party other than the association.

1711

5. Before a developer turns over control of an association

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1712 to unit owners other than the developer, the developer must have 1713 a turnover inspection report in compliance with s. 718.301(4)(p) 1714 and (q) for each building on the condominium property that is 1715 three stories or higher in height. 1716 6. Associations existing on or before July 1, 2022, which 1717 are controlled by unit owners other than the developer, must have a structural integrity reserve study completed by December 1718 1719 31, 2024, for each building on the condominium property that is three stories or higher in height. An association that is 1720 1721 required to complete a milestone inspection in accordance with 1722 s. 553.899 on or before December 31, 2026, may complete the 1723 structural integrity reserve study simultaneously with the 1724 milestone inspection. In no event may the structural integrity 1725 reserve study be completed after December 31, 2026. 1726 7. If the milestone inspection required by s. 553.899, or 1727 an inspection completed for a similar local requirement, was 1728 performed within the past 5 years and meets the requirements of 1729 this paragraph, such inspection may be used in place of the 1730 visual inspection portion of the structural integrity reserve 1731 study. 8. If the officers or directors of an association willfully 1732 1733 and knowingly fail to complete a structural integrity reserve 1734 study pursuant to this paragraph, such failure is a breach of an 1735 officer's and director's fiduciary relationship to the unit owners under s. 718.111(1). 1736 1737 9. Within 45 days after receiving the structural integrity

1737 <u>9. Within 45 days after receiving the structural integrity</u> 1738 <u>reserve study, the association must distribute a copy of the</u> 1739 <u>study to each unit owner or deliver to each unit owner a notice</u> 1740 <u>that the completed study is available for inspection and copying</u>

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1741	upon a written request. Distribution of a copy of the study or
1742	notice must be made by United States mail or personal delivery
1743	at the mailing address, property address, or any other address
1744	of the owner provided to fulfill the association's notice
1745	requirements under this chapter, or by electronic transmission
1746	to the e-mail address or facsimile number provided to fulfill
1747	the association's notice requirements to unit owners who
1748	previously consented to receive notice by electronic
1749	transmission.
1750	(i) Assessments.—
1751	<u>1.</u> The manner of collecting from the unit owners their
1752	shares of the common expenses shall be stated in the bylaws.
1753	Assessments shall be made against units not less frequently than
1754	quarterly in an amount which is not less than that required to
1755	provide funds in advance for payment of all of the anticipated
1756	current operating expenses and for all of the unpaid operating
1757	expenses previously incurred. Nothing in this paragraph shall
1758	preclude the right of an association to accelerate assessments
1759	of an owner delinquent in payment of common expenses.
1760	Accelerated assessments shall be due and payable on the date the
1761	claim of lien is filed. Such accelerated assessments shall
1762	include the amounts due for the remainder of the budget year in
1763	which the claim of lien was filed.
1764	2.a. In lieu of a special assessment to fund needed repair,
1765	maintenance, or replacement of a building component recommended
1766	by a milestone inspection required under s. 553.899 or a similar
1767	local inspection requirement or a structural integrity reserve
1768	study, or unanticipated repairs, the board of a unit-owner-
1769	controlled association may approve contingent special

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1770	assessments against each unit to secure a line of credit for the
1771	association to provide available funding to pay for such repair,
1772	maintenance, or replacement. The approved line of credit must be
1773	made available to the board for the funding of the needed
1774	repair, maintenance, or replacement. The association must record
1775	a declaration of special assessments evidencing the levy of such
1776	special assessments in the public records.
1777	b. Funding from the line of credit must be immediately
1778	available for access by the board to fund required repair,
1779	maintenance, or replacement expenses without further approval by
1780	the members of the association. At the option of a unit owner,
1781	the special assessment may be paid in full at the time it
1782	becomes due or the payment may be amortized over a term of years
1783	as provided for by the line of credit. However, a unit owner may
1784	pay the remaining balance of the special assessment at any time
1785	during the amortization period.
1786	c. For a budget adopted on or before December 31, 2029, an
1787	association may secure a line of credit and assess a contingent
1788	special assessment as provided in this subparagraph to meet the
1789	reserve funding schedule recommended by the structural integrity
1790	reserve study.
1791	d. Except as authorized by sub-subparagraph c., a line of
1792	credit and contingent special assessment in this paragraph may
1793	not be used as an alternative to the association's reserve
1794	funding requirements in paragraph (f).
1795	(q) Director or officer offenses
1796	<u>1.</u> A director or <u>an</u> officer charged by information or
1797	indictment with any of the following crimes must be removed from
1798	office:

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1799	a. Forgery of a ballot envelope or voting certificate used
1800	in a condominium association election as provided in s. 831.01.
1801	b. Theft or embezzlement involving the association's funds
1802	or property as provided in s. 812.014.
1803	c. Destruction of, or the refusal to allow inspection or
1804	copying of, an official record of a condominium association
1805	which is accessible to unit owners within the time periods
1806	required by general law, in furtherance of any crime. Such act
1807	constitutes tampering with physical evidence as provided in s.
1808	<u>918.13.</u>
1809	d. Obstruction of justice under chapter 843.
1810	2. The board shall fill the vacancy in accordance with
1811	paragraph (2)(d) a felony theft or embezzlement offense
1812	involving the association's funds or property must be removed
1813	from office, creating a vacancy in the office to be filled
1814	according to law until the end of the period of the suspension
1815	or the end of the director's term of office, whichever occurs
1816	first. While such director or officer has such criminal charge
1817	pending, he or she may not be appointed or elected to a position
1818	as a director or officer <u>of any association and may not have</u>
1819	access to the official records of any association, except
1820	pursuant to a court order. However, if the charges are resolved
1821	without a finding of guilt, the director or officer shall be
1822	reinstated for the remainder of his or her term of office, if
1823	any.
1824	(r) Fraudulent voting activities relating to association
1825	elections; penalties
1826	1. A person who engages in the following acts of fraudulent
1827	voting activity relating to association elections commits a
I	

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1828	misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
1829	775.082 or s. 775.083:
1830	a. Willfully and falsely swearing to or affirming an oath
1831	or affirmation, or willfully procuring another person to falsely
1832	swear to or affirm an oath or affirmation, in connection with or
1833	arising out of voting activities.
1834	b. Perpetrating or attempting to perpetrate, or aiding in
1835	the perpetration of, fraud in connection with a vote cast, to be
1836	cast, or attempted to be cast.
1837	c. Preventing a member from voting or preventing a member
1838	from voting as he or she intended by fraudulently changing or
1839	attempting to change a ballot, ballot envelope, vote, or voting
1840	certificate of the member.
1841	d. Menacing, threatening, or using bribery or any other
1842	corruption to attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence,
1843	deceive, or deter a member when the member is voting.
1844	e. Giving or promising, directly or indirectly, anything of
1845	value to another member with the intent to buy the vote of that
1846	member or another member or to corruptly influence that member
1847	or another member in casting his or her vote. This subsection
1848	does not apply to any food served which is to be consumed at an
1849	election rally or a meeting or to any item of nominal value
1850	which is used as an election advertisement, including a campaign
1851	message designed to be worn by a member.
1852	f. Using or threatening to use, directly or indirectly,
1853	force, violence, or intimidation or any tactic of coercion or
1854	intimidation to induce or compel a member to vote or refrain
1855	from voting in an election or on a particular ballot measure.
1856	2. Each of the following acts constitutes a misdemeanor of

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1857	the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
1858	<u>775.083:</u>
1859	a. Knowingly aiding, abetting, or advising a person in the
1860	commission of a fraudulent voting activity related to
1861	association elections.
1862	b. Agreeing, conspiring, combining, or confederating with
1863	at least one other person to commit a fraudulent voting activity
1864	related to association elections.
1865	c. Having knowledge of a fraudulent voting activity related
1866	to association elections and giving any aid to the offender with
1867	intent that the offender avoid or escape detection, arrest,
1868	trial, or punishment. This paragraph does not apply to a
1869	licensed attorney giving legal advice to a client.
1870	Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 718.113, Florida
1871	Statutes, is amended to read:
1872	718.113 Maintenance; limitation upon improvement; display
1873	of flag; hurricane shutters and protection; display of religious
1874	decorations
1875	(5) To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the
1876	people of this state and to ensure uniformity and consistency in
1877	the hurricane protections installed by condominium associations
1878	and unit owners, this subsection applies to all residential and
1879	mixed-use condominiums in this state, regardless of when the
1880	condominium is created pursuant to the declaration of
1881	<u>condominium.</u> Each board of administration of a residential
1882	condominium <u>or mixed-use condominium</u> shall adopt hurricane
1883	protection shutter specifications for each building within each
1884	condominium operated by the association which <u>may shall</u> include
1885	color, style, and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

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1886	All specifications adopted by the board must comply with the
1887	applicable building code. The installation, maintenance, repair,
1888	replacement, and operation of hurricane protection in accordance
1889	with this subsection is not considered a material alteration or
1890	substantial addition to the common elements or association
1891	property within the meaning of this section.
1892	(a) The board may, subject to s. 718.3026 and the approval
1893	of a majority of voting interests of the residential condominium
1894	or mixed-use condominium, install or require that unit owners
1895	<u>install</u> hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-compliant windows
1896	or doors, or other types of code-compliant hurricane protection
1897	that <u>complies</u> comply with or <u>exceeds</u> exceed the applicable
1898	building code. A vote of the unit owners to require the
1899	installation of hurricane protection must be set forth in a
1900	certificate attesting to such vote and include the date that the
1901	hurricane protection must be installed. The board must record
1902	the certificate in the public records of the county where the
1903	condominium is located. The certificate must include the
1904	recording data identifying the declaration of condominium and
1905	must be executed in the form required for the execution of a
1906	deed. Once the certificate is recorded, the board must mail or
1907	hand deliver a copy of the recorded certificate to the unit
1908	owners at the owners' addresses, as reflected in the records of
1909	the association. The board may provide a copy of the recorded
1910	certificate by electronic transmission to unit owners who
1911	previously consented to receive notice by electronic
1912	transmission. The failure to record the certificate or send a
1913	copy of the recorded certificate to the unit owners does not
1914	affect the validity or enforceability of the vote of the unit

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1915	owners. However, A vote of the unit owners under this paragraph
1916	is not required if the installation, maintenance, repair, and
1917	replacement of the hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-
1918	compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant
1919	hurricane protection, or any exterior windows, doors, or other
1920	apertures protected by the hurricane protection, is are the
1921	responsibility of the association pursuant to the declaration of
1922	condominium as originally recorded or as amended, or if the unit
1923	owners are required to install hurricane protection pursuant to
1924	the declaration of condominium as originally recorded or as
1925	<u>amended</u> . If hurricane protection or laminated glass or window
1926	film architecturally designed to function as hurricane
1927	protection that complies with or exceeds the current applicable
1928	building code has been previously installed, the board may not
1929	install <u>the same type of</u> hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-
1930	compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant
1931	hurricane protection or require that unit owners install the
1932	same type of hurricane protection unless the installed hurricane
1933	protection has reached the end of its useful life or unless it
1934	is necessary to prevent damage to the common elements or to a
1935	<u>unit</u> except upon approval by a majority vote of the voting
1936	interests.
1937	(b) The association is responsible for the maintenance,
1938	repair, and replacement of the hurricane shutters, impact glass,
1939	code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-
1940	compliant hurricane protection authorized by this subsection if
1941	such property is the responsibility of the association pursuant
1942	to the declaration of condominium. If the hurricane shutters,

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impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of

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6-01522E-24 20241178 1944 code-compliant hurricane protection are the responsibility of 1945 the unit owners pursuant to the declaration of condominium, the maintenance, repair, and replacement of such items are the 1946 1947 responsibility of the unit owner. 1948 (b) (c) The board may operate shutters, impact glass, codecompliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant 1949 1950 hurricane protection installed pursuant to this subsection 1951 without permission of the unit owners only if such operation is 1952 necessary to preserve and protect the condominium property or 1953 and association property. The installation, replacement, 1954 operation, repair, and maintenance of such shutters, impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-1955 1956 compliant hurricane protection in accordance with the procedures 1957 set forth in this paragraph are not a material alteration to the 1958 common elements or association property within the meaning of 1959 this section. 1960 (c) (d) Notwithstanding any other provision in the 1961 residential condominium or mixed-use condominium documents, if 1962 approval is required by the documents, a board may not refuse to 1963 approve the installation or replacement of hurricane shutters, 1964 impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of 1965 code-compliant hurricane protection by a unit owner which 1966 conforms conforming to the specifications adopted by the board. 1967 However, a board may require the unit owner to adhere to an existing unified building scheme regarding the external 1968 1969 appearance of the condominium. 1970 (d) A unit owner is not responsible for the cost of any 1971 removal or reinstallation of hurricane protection, and any exterior window, door, or other aperture protected by the 1972

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1973	hurricane protection if its removal is necessary for the
1974	maintenance, repair, or replacement of other condominium
1975	property or association property for which the association is
1976	responsible. The board shall determine if the removal or
1977	reinstallation of hurricane protection must be completed by the
1978	unit owner or the association. If such removal or reinstallation
1979	is completed by the association, the costs incurred by the
1980	association may not be charged to the unit owner. If such
1981	removal or installation is completed by the unit owner, the
1982	association must reimburse the unit owner for the cost of the
1983	removal or installation or the association must apply the unit
1984	owner's cost of removal or installation as a credit toward
1985	future assessments.
1986	(e) If the removal or installation of hurricane protection
1987	or of any exterior windows, doors, or other apertures protected
1988	by the hurricane protection are the responsibility of the unit
1989	owner, such removal or installation is completed by the
1990	association, and the association then charges the unit owner for
1991	such removal or installation, such charges are enforceable as an
1992	assessment and may be collected in the manner provided under s.
1993	718.116.
1994	Section 10. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
1995	718.115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1996	718.115 Common expenses and common surplus
1997	(1)
1998	(e) <u>1. Except as provided in s. 718.113(5)(d)</u>
1999	installation, replacement, operation, repair, and maintenance of
2000	hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-compliant windows or
2001	doors, or other types of code-compliant hurricane protection by
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2002	the board pursuant to s. 718.113(5) constitutes a common expense
2003	and shall be collected as provided in this section if the
2004	association is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and
2005	replacement of the hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-
2006	compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant
2007	hurricane protection pursuant to the declaration of condominium.
2008	However, if the installation of maintenance, repair, and
2009	replacement of the hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-
2010	compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant
2011	hurricane protection <u>is</u> are the responsibility of the unit
2012	owners pursuant to the declaration of condominium <u>or a vote of</u>
2013	the unit owners under s. 718.113(5), the cost of the
2014	installation of the hurricane shutters, impact glass, code-
2015	compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant
2016	hurricane protection by the association is not a common expense
2017	and <u>must</u> shall be charged individually to the unit owners based
2018	on the cost of installation of the hurricane shutters, impact
2019	glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of code-
2020	compliant hurricane protection appurtenant to the unit. <u>The</u>
2021	costs of installation of hurricane protection are enforceable as
2022	an assessment and may be collected in the manner provided under
2023	<u>s. 718.116.</u>
2024	2. Notwithstanding s. 718.116(9), and regardless of whether
2025	or not the declaration requires the association or unit owners
2026	to <u>install,</u> maintain, repair, or replace hurricane shutters,
0007	

2029 where who has previously installed hurricane shutters in

2030 accordance with s. 718.113(5) that comply with the current

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impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or other types of

code-compliant hurricane protection, the a unit owner of a unit

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2031	applicable building code shall receive a credit when the
2032	shutters are installed; a unit owner who has previously
2033	installed impact glass or code-compliant windows or doors that
2034	comply with the current applicable building code shall receive a
2035	credit when the impact glass or code-compliant windows or doors
2036	are installed; and a unit owner who has installed other types of
2037	code-compliant hurricane protection that <u>complies</u> comply with
2038	the current applicable building code has been installed is
2039	excused from any assessment levied by the association or shall
2040	receive a credit <u>if</u> when the same type of other code-compliant
2041	hurricane protection is installed <u>by the association</u> , and the
2042	credit shall be equal to the pro rata portion of the assessed
2043	installation cost assigned to each unit. A credit is applicable
2044	if the installation of hurricane protection is for all other
2045	units that do not have hurricane protection and the cost of such
2046	installation is funded by the association's budget, including
2047	the use of reserve funds. The credit must be equal to the amount
2048	that the unit owner would have been assessed to install the
2049	hurricane protection. However, such unit owner remains
2050	responsible for the pro rata share of expenses for hurricane
2051	shutters, impact glass, code-compliant windows or doors, or
2052	other types of code-compliant hurricane protection installed on
2053	common elements and association property by the board pursuant
2054	to s. 718.113(5) and remains responsible for a pro rata share of
2055	the expense of the replacement, operation, repair, and
2056	maintenance of such shutters, impact glass, code-compliant
2057	windows or doors, or other types of code-compliant hurricane
2058	protection. Expenses for the installation, replacement,
2059	operation, repair, or maintenance of hurricane protection on

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2060 common elements and association property are common expenses. 2061 Section 11. Subsection (10) of section 718.116, Florida 2062 Statutes, is amended to read: 2063 718.116 Assessments; liability; lien and priority; 2064 interest; collection.-2065 (10) The specific purpose or purposes of any special 2066 assessment, including any contingent special assessment levied 2067 in conjunction with the purchase of an insurance policy 2068 authorized by s. 718.111(11), approved in accordance with the 2069 condominium documents shall be set forth in a written notice of 2070 such assessment sent or delivered to each unit owner and 2071 recorded in the public records. The funds collected pursuant to 2072 a special assessment shall be used only for the specific purpose 2073 or purposes set forth in such notice. However, upon completion 2074 of such specific purpose or purposes, any excess funds will be 2075 considered common surplus, and may, at the discretion of the 2076 board, either be returned to the unit owners or applied as a 2077 credit toward future assessments. 2078 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 2079 718.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 2080 718.121 Liens.-2081 (4) (a) If an association sends out an invoice for 2082 assessments or a unit's statement of the account described in s. 2083 718.111(12)(a)11.c. s. 718.111(12)(a)11.b., the invoice for 2084 assessments or the unit's statement of account must be delivered 2085 to the unit owner by first-class United States mail or by 2086 electronic transmission to the unit owner's e-mail address 2087 maintained in the association's official records.

Section 13. Section 718.1224, Florida Statutes, is amended

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      to read:

      2090
      718.1224 Prohibition against SLAPP suits; other prohibited

      2091
      actions.-
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2092 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the 2093 right of condominium unit owners to exercise their rights to instruct their representatives and petition for redress of 2094 2095 grievances before their condominium association and the various 2096 governmental entities of this state as protected by the First 2097 Amendment to the United States Constitution and s. 5, Art. I of 2098 the State Constitution. The Legislature recognizes that 2099 strategic lawsuits against public participation, or "SLAPP 2100 suits," as they are typically referred to, have occurred when 2101 association members are sued by condominium associations, 2102 individuals, business entities, or governmental entities arising 2103 out of a condominium unit owner's appearance and presentation 2104 before the board of the condominium association or a 2105 governmental entity on matters related to the condominium 2106 association. However, it is the public policy of this state that 2107 condominium associations, governmental entities, business 2108 organizations, and individuals not engage in SLAPP suits, 2109 because such actions are inconsistent with the right of 2110 condominium unit owners to participate in their condominium 2111 association and in the state's institutions of government. 2112 Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that prohibiting 2113 such lawsuits by condominium associations, governmental 2114 entities, business entities, and individuals against condominium 2115 unit owners who address matters concerning their condominium 2116 association will preserve this fundamental state policy, 2117 preserve the constitutional rights of condominium unit owners,

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2118	and ensure the continuation of representative government in this
2119	state, and ensure unit owner participation in condominium
2120	associations. It is the intent of the Legislature that such
2121	lawsuits be expeditiously disposed of by the courts. As used in
2122	this subsection, the term "governmental entity" means the state,
2123	including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of
2124	government; law enforcement agencies; the independent
2125	establishments of the state, counties, municipalities,
2126	districts, authorities, boards, or commissions; or any agencies
2127	of these branches that are subject to chapter 286.
2128	(2) A condominium association, governmental entity,
2129	business organization, or individual in this state may not file
2130	or cause to be filed through its employees or agents any
2131	lawsuit, cause of action, claim, cross-claim, or counterclaim
2132	against a condominium unit owner without merit and solely
2133	because such condominium unit owner has exercised the right to
2134	instruct his or her representatives or the right to petition for
2135	redress of grievances before the condominium association or the
2136	various governmental entities of this state, as protected by the
2137	First Amendment to the United States Constitution and s. 5, Art.
2138	I of the State Constitution.
2139	(3) It is unlawful for a condominium association to fine,
2140	discriminatorily increase a unit owner's assessments or
2141	discriminatorily decrease services to a unit owner, or bring or
2142	threaten to bring an action for possession or other civil
2143	action, including a defamation, libel, slander, or tortious
2144	interference action, based on conduct described in paragraphs
2145	(a) through (f). In order for the unit owner to raise the
2146	defense of retaliatory conduct, the unit owner must have acted

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2147	in good faith and not for any improper purposes, such as to		
2148	harass or to cause unnecessary delay or for frivolous purpose or		
2149	needless increase in the cost of litigation. Examples of conduct		
2150	for which a condominium association, officer, director, or agent		
2151	of an association may not retaliate include, but are not limited		
2152	to, situations where:		
2153	(a) The unit owner has in good faith complained to a		
2154	governmental agency charged with responsibility for enforcement		
2155	of a building, housing, or health code of a suspected violation		
2156	applicable to the condominium;		
2157	(b) The unit owner has organized, encouraged, or		
2158	participated in a unit owners' organization;		
2159	(c) The unit owner submitted information or filed a		
2160	complaint alleging criminal violations or violations of this		
2161	chapter or the rules of the division with the division, the		
2162	Office of the Condominium Ombudsman, a law enforcement agency, a		
2163	state attorney, the Attorney General, or any other governmental		
2164	agency;		
2165	(d) The unit owner has exercised his or her rights under		
2166	this chapter;		
2167	(e) The unit owner has complained to the association or any		
2168	of its representatives for their failure to comply with this		
2169	chapter or chapter 617; or		
2170	(f) The unit owner has made public statements critical of		
2171	the operation or management of the association.		
2172	(4) Evidence of retaliatory conduct may be raised by the		
2173	unit owner as a defense in any action brought against him or her		
2174	for possession.		
2175	(5) A condominium unit owner sued by a <u>condominium</u>		
I			

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2176	association, governmental entity, business organization, or
2177	individual in violation of this section has a right to an
2178	expeditious resolution of a claim that the suit is in violation
2179	of this section. A condominium unit owner may petition the court
2180	for an order dismissing the action or granting final judgment in
2181	favor of that condominium unit owner. The petitioner may file a
2182	motion for summary judgment, together with supplemental
2183	affidavits, seeking a determination that the condominium
2184	association's, governmental entity's, business organization's,
2185	or individual's lawsuit has been brought in violation of this
2186	section. The condominium association, governmental entity,
2187	business organization, or individual shall thereafter file its
2188	response and any supplemental affidavits. As soon as
2189	practicable, the court shall set a hearing on the petitioner's
2190	motion, which shall be held at the earliest possible time after
2191	the filing of the condominium association's, governmental
2192	entity's, business organization's, or individual's response. The
2193	court may award the condominium unit owner sued by the
2194	condominium association, governmental entity, business
2195	organization, or individual actual damages arising from the
2196	<pre>condominium association's, governmental entity's, individual's,</pre>
2197	or business organization's violation of this section. A court
2198	may treble the damages awarded to a prevailing condominium unit
2199	owner and shall state the basis for the treble damages award in
2200	its judgment. The court shall award the prevailing party
2201	reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with
2202	a claim that an action was filed in violation of this section.
2203	(6)(4) Condominium associations may not expend association

2204 funds in prosecuting a SLAPP suit against a condominium unit

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2205	owner.
2206	(7) Condominium associations may not expend association
2207	funds in support of a defamation, libel, slander, or tortious
2208	interference action against a unit owner or any other claim
2209	against a unit owner based on conduct described in paragraphs
2210	<u>(3)(a)-(f)</u> .
2211	Section 14. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section
2212	718.301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
2213	718.301 Transfer of association control; claims of defect
2214	by association
2215	(4) At the time that unit owners other than the developer
2216	elect a majority of the members of the board of administration
2217	of an association, the developer shall relinquish control of the
2218	association, and the unit owners shall accept control.
2219	Simultaneously, or for the purposes of paragraph (c) not more
2220	than 90 days thereafter, the developer shall deliver to the
2221	association, at the developer's expense, all property of the
2222	unit owners and of the association which is held or controlled
2223	by the developer, including, but not limited to, the following
2224	items, if applicable, as to each condominium operated by the
2225	association:
2226	(p) Notwithstanding when the certificate of occupancy was
2227	issued or the height of the building, a turnover inspection
2228	report included in the official records, under seal of an
2229	architect or engineer authorized to practice in this state or a
2230	person certified as a reserve specialist or professional reserve
2231	analyst by the Community Associations Institute or the
2232	Association of Professional Reserve Analysts, and $\underline{consisting}$ of
2233	a structural integrity reserve study attesting to required

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2234	maintenance, condition, useful life, and replacement costs of				
2235	the following applicable condominium property:				
2236	1. Roof.				
2237	2. Structure, including load-bearing walls and primary				
2238	structural members and primary structural systems as those terms				
2239	are defined in s. 627.706.				
2240	3. Fireproofing and fire protection systems.				
2241	4. Plumbing.				
2242	5. Electrical systems.				
2243	6. Waterproofing and exterior painting.				
2244	7. Windows and exterior doors.				
2245	Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section				
2246	718.3026, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:				
2247	718.3026 Contracts for products and services; in writing;				
2248	bids; exceptions.—Associations with 10 or fewer units may opt				
2249	out of the provisions of this section if two-thirds of the unit				
2250	owners vote to do so, which opt-out may be accomplished by a				
2251	proxy specifically setting forth the exception from this				
2252	section.				
2253	(2)(a) Notwithstanding the foregoing, contracts with				
2254	employees of the association, and contracts for attorney,				
2255	accountant, architect, community association manager, timeshare				
2256	management firm, engineering, registered investment adviser, and				
2257	landscape architect services are not subject to the provisions				
2258	of this section.				
2259	Section 16. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 718.3027,				
2260	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:				
2261	718.3027 Conflicts of interest				
2262	(4) A director or an officer, or a relative of a director				
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2263	or an officer, who is a party to, or has an interest in, an
2264	activity that is a possible conflict of interest, as described
2265	in subsection (1), may attend the meeting at which the activity
2266	is considered by the board and is authorized to make a
2267	presentation to the board regarding the activity. After the
2268	presentation, the director or officer, <u>and any</u> or the relative
2269	of the director or officer, must leave the meeting during the
2270	discussion of, and the vote on, the activity. A director or an
2271	officer who is a party to, or has an interest in, the activity
2272	must recuse himself or herself from the vote. The attendance of
2273	a director with a possible conflict of interest at the meeting
2274	of the board is sufficient to constitute a quorum for the
2275	meeting and the vote in his or her absence on the proposed
2276	activity.
2277	(5) A contract entered into between a director or an

entered into between a director or an 2277 2278 officer, or a relative of a director or an officer, and the 2279 association, which is not a timeshare condominium association, 2280 that has not been properly disclosed as a conflict of interest 2281 or potential conflict of interest as required by this section or 2282 s. 617.0832 s. 718.111(12)(g) is voidable and terminates upon 2283 the filing of a written notice terminating the contract with the 2284 board of directors which contains the consent of at least 20 2285 percent of the voting interests of the association.

2286 Section 17. Subsection (5) of section 718.303, Florida 2287 Statutes, is amended to read:

2288

718.303 Obligations of owners and occupants; remedies.-

(5) An association may suspend the voting rights of a unit owner or member due to nonpayment of any fee, fine, or other monetary obligation due to the association which is more than

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2292 \$1,000 and more than 90 days delinquent. Proof of such 2293 obligation must be provided to the unit owner or member 30 days 2294 before such suspension takes effect. Notice of such obligation 2295 must also be provided to the unit owner at least 90 days before 2296 an election or vote of the members. A voting interest or consent 2297 right allocated to a unit owner or member which has been 2298 suspended by the association shall be subtracted from the total 2299 number of voting interests in the association, which shall be 2300 reduced by the number of suspended voting interests when 2301 calculating the total percentage or number of all voting 2302 interests available to take or approve any action, and the 2303 suspended voting interests shall not be considered for any 2304 purpose, including, but not limited to, the percentage or number 2305 of voting interests necessary to constitute a quorum, the 2306 percentage or number of voting interests required to conduct an 2307 election, or the percentage or number of voting interests 2308 required to approve an action under this chapter or pursuant to 2309 the declaration, articles of incorporation, or bylaws. The 2310 suspension ends upon full payment of all obligations currently 2311 due or overdue the association. The notice and hearing 2312 requirements under subsection (3) do not apply to a suspension 2313 imposed under this subsection. 2314 Section 18. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 718.501, 2315 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 2316 718.501 Authority, responsibility, and duties of Division 2317 of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes.-

(1) The division may enforce and ensure compliance with
this chapter and rules relating to the development,
construction, sale, lease, ownership, operation, and management

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2321	of residential condominium units and complaints related to the
2322	procedural completion of milestone inspections under s. 553.899.
2323	In performing its duties, the division has complete jurisdiction
2324	to investigate complaints and enforce compliance with respect to
2325	associations that are still under developer control or the
2326	control of a bulk assignee or bulk buyer pursuant to part VII of
2327	this chapter and complaints against developers, bulk assignees,
2328	or bulk buyers involving improper turnover or failure to
2329	turnover, pursuant to s. 718.301. However, after turnover has
2330	occurred, the division has jurisdiction to investigate
2331	complaints related only to financial issues, elections, and the
2332	maintenance of and unit owner access to association records
2333	under s. 718.111(12), and the procedural completion of
2334	structural integrity reserve studies under s. 718.112(2)(g).
2335	(a)1. The division may make necessary public or private

investigations within or outside this state to determine whether any person has violated this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, to aid in the enforcement of this chapter, or to aid in the adoption of rules or forms.

2340 2. The division may submit any official written report, 2341 worksheet, or other related paper, or a duly certified copy 2342 thereof, compiled, prepared, drafted, or otherwise made by and 2343 duly authenticated by a financial examiner or analyst to be 2344 admitted as competent evidence in any hearing in which the 2345 financial examiner or analyst is available for cross-examination 2346 and attests under oath that such documents were prepared as a 2347 result of an examination or inspection conducted pursuant to 2348 this chapter.

2349

(b) The division may require or permit any person to file a

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2350 statement in writing, under oath or otherwise, as the division 2351 determines, as to the facts and circumstances concerning a 2352 matter to be investigated. 2353 (c) For the purpose of any investigation under this 2354 chapter, the division director or any officer or employee 2355 designated by the division director may administer oaths or 2356 affirmations, subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance, 2357 take evidence, and require the production of any matter which is 2358 relevant to the investigation, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition, and location of any 2359 2360 books, documents, or other tangible things and the identity and 2361 location of persons having knowledge of relevant facts or any 2362 other matter reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of 2363 material evidence. Upon the failure by a person to obey a 2364 subpoena or to answer questions propounded by the investigating 2365 officer and upon reasonable notice to all affected persons, the 2366 division may apply to the circuit court for an order compelling 2367 compliance.

2368 (d) Notwithstanding any remedies available to unit owners 2369 and associations, if the division has reasonable cause to 2370 believe that a violation of any provision of this chapter or 2371 related rule has occurred, the division may institute 2372 enforcement proceedings in its own name against any developer, 2373 bulk assignee, bulk buyer, association, officer, or member of 2374 the board of administration, or its assignees or agents, as 2375 follows:

2376 1. The division may permit a person whose conduct or 2377 actions may be under investigation to waive formal proceedings and enter into a consent proceeding whereby orders, rules, or 2378

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6-01522E-24 20241178_ 2379 letters of censure or warning, whether formal or informal, may 2380 be entered against the person.

2381 2. The division may issue an order requiring the developer, 2382 bulk assignee, bulk buyer, association, developer-designated 2383 officer, or developer-designated member of the board of 2384 administration, developer-designated assignees or agents, bulk 2385 assignee-designated assignees or agents, bulk buyer-designated 2386 assignees or agents, community association manager, or community 2387 association management firm to cease and desist from the 2388 unlawful practice and take such affirmative action as in the 2389 judgment of the division carry out the purposes of this chapter. 2390 If the division finds that a developer, bulk assignee, bulk 2391 buyer, association, officer, or member of the board of 2392 administration, or its assignees or agents, is violating or is 2393 about to violate any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted 2394 or order issued by the division, or any written agreement 2395 entered into with the division, and presents an immediate danger 2396 to the public requiring an immediate final order, it may issue 2397 an emergency cease and desist order reciting with particularity 2398 the facts underlying such findings. The emergency cease and 2399 desist order is effective for 90 days. If the division begins 2400 nonemergency cease and desist proceedings, the emergency cease 2401 and desist order remains effective until the conclusion of the 2402 proceedings under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

3. If a developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer fails to pay any restitution determined by the division to be owed, plus any accrued interest at the highest rate permitted by law, within 30 days after expiration of any appellate time period of a final order requiring payment of restitution or the conclusion

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2408 of any appeal thereof, whichever is later, the division must 2409 bring an action in circuit or county court on behalf of any 2410 association, class of unit owners, lessees, or purchasers for 2411 restitution, declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or any other 2412 available remedy. The division may also temporarily revoke its acceptance of the filing for the developer to which the 2413 2414 restitution relates until payment of restitution is made. 2415 4. The division may petition the court for appointment of a receiver or conservator. If appointed, the receiver or 2416 2417 conservator may take action to implement the court order to 2418 ensure the performance of the order and to remedy any breach 2419 thereof. In addition to all other means provided by law for the 2420 enforcement of an injunction or temporary restraining order, the 2421 circuit court may impound or sequester the property of a party 2422 defendant, including books, papers, documents, and related 2423 records, and allow the examination and use of the property by 2424 the division and a court-appointed receiver or conservator. 2425 5. The division may apply to the circuit court for an order 2426 of restitution whereby the defendant in an action brought under 2427 subparagraph 4. is ordered to make restitution of those sums 2428 shown by the division to have been obtained by the defendant in 2429

violation of this chapter. At the option of the court, such restitution is payable to the conservator or receiver appointed under subparagraph 4. or directly to the persons whose funds or assets were obtained in violation of this chapter.

6. The division may impose a civil penalty against a developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer, or association, or its assignee or agent, for any violation of this chapter or related rule. The division may impose a civil penalty individually

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2437 against an officer or board member who willfully and knowingly 2438 violates this chapter, an adopted rule, or a final order of the 2439 division; may order the removal of such individual as an officer 2440 or from the board of administration or as an officer of the 2441 association; and may prohibit such individual from serving as an 2442 officer or on the board of a community association for a period 2443 of time. The term "willfully and knowingly" means that the 2444 division informed the officer or board member that his or her 2445 action or intended action violates this chapter, a rule adopted 2446 under this chapter, or a final order of the division and that 2447 the officer or board member refused to comply with the 2448 requirements of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, 2449 or a final order of the division. The division, before 2450 initiating formal agency action under chapter 120, must afford 2451 the officer or board member an opportunity to voluntarily 2452 comply, and an officer or board member who complies within 10 2453 days is not subject to a civil penalty. A penalty may be imposed 2454 on the basis of each day of continuing violation, but the 2455 penalty for any offense may not exceed \$5,000. The division 2456 shall adopt, by rule, penalty guidelines applicable to possible 2457 violations or to categories of violations of this chapter or 2458 rules adopted by the division. The guidelines must specify a 2459 meaningful range of civil penalties for each such violation of 2460 the statute and rules and must be based upon the harm caused by 2461 the violation, upon the repetition of the violation, and upon 2462 such other factors deemed relevant by the division. For example, 2463 the division may consider whether the violations were committed 2464 by a developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer, or owner-2465 controlled association, the size of the association, and other

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2466 factors. The quidelines must designate the possible mitigating 2467 or aggravating circumstances that justify a departure from the 2468 range of penalties provided by the rules. It is the legislative 2469 intent that minor violations be distinguished from those which 2470 endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the condominium 2471 residents or other persons and that such quidelines provide 2472 reasonable and meaningful notice to the public of likely 2473 penalties that may be imposed for proscribed conduct. This 2474 subsection does not limit the ability of the division to 2475 informally dispose of administrative actions or complaints by 2476 stipulation, agreed settlement, or consent order. All amounts 2477 collected shall be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to 2478 the credit of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, 2479 and Mobile Homes Trust Fund. If a developer, bulk assignee, or 2480 bulk buyer fails to pay the civil penalty and the amount deemed 2481 to be owed to the association, the division shall issue an order 2482 directing that such developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer 2483 cease and desist from further operation until such time as the 2484 civil penalty is paid or may pursue enforcement of the penalty 2485 in a court of competent jurisdiction. If an association fails to 2486 pay the civil penalty, the division shall pursue enforcement in 2487 a court of competent jurisdiction, and the order imposing the civil penalty or the cease and desist order is not effective 2488 2489 until 20 days after the date of such order. Any action commenced 2490 by the division shall be brought in the county in which the 2491 division has its executive offices or in the county where the 2492 violation occurred.

24937. If a unit owner presents the division with proof that2494 the unit owner has requested access to official records in

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2495 writing by certified mail, and that after 10 days the unit owner 2496 again made the same request for access to official records in 2497 writing by certified mail, and that more than 10 days has 2498 elapsed since the second request and the association has still 2499 failed or refused to provide access to official records as 2500 required by this chapter, the division shall issue a subpoena 2501 requiring production of the requested records where the records 2502 are kept pursuant to s. 718.112. Upon receipt of the records, 2503 the division must provide without charge the produced official 2504 records to the unit owner who was denied access to such records.

2505 8. In addition to subparagraph 6., the division may seek 2506 the imposition of a civil penalty through the circuit court for 2507 any violation for which the division may issue a notice to show 2508 cause under paragraph (s) (r). The civil penalty shall be at 2509 least \$500 but no more than \$5,000 for each violation. The court 2510 may also award to the prevailing party court costs and 2511 reasonable attorney fees and, if the division prevails, may also 2512 award reasonable costs of investigation.

(e) The division may prepare and disseminate a prospectus and other information to assist prospective owners, purchasers, lessees, and developers of residential condominiums in assessing the rights, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.

2517 (f) The division may adopt rules to administer and enforce 2518 this chapter.

(g) The division shall establish procedures for providing notice to an association and the developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer during the period in which the developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer controls the association if the division is considering the issuance of a declaratory statement with

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2524 respect to the declaration of condominium or any related 2525 document governing such condominium community. 2526 (h) The division shall furnish each association that pays 2527 the fees required by paragraph (2)(a) a copy of this chapter, as 2528 amended, and the rules adopted thereto on an annual basis. 2529 (i) The division shall annually provide each association 2530 with a summary of declaratory statements and formal legal 2531 opinions relating to the operations of condominiums which were 2532 rendered by the division during the previous year. 2533 (j) The division shall provide training and educational 2534 programs for condominium association board members and unit 2535 owners. The training may, in the division's discretion, include 2536 web-based electronic media and live training and seminars in 2537 various locations throughout the state. The division may review 2538 and approve education and training programs for board members 2539 and unit owners offered by providers and shall maintain a 2540 current list of approved programs and providers and make such 2541 list available to board members and unit owners in a reasonable and cost-effective manner. The division shall provide the 2542 2543 educational curriculum required under s. 718.112(2)(d) and issue 2544 a certificate of satisfactory completion to directors of the 2545 board of administration at no charge, including when the 2546 required educational curriculum is provided by a division-2547 approved condominium education provider. 2548

(k) The division shall maintain a toll-free telephonenumber accessible to condominium unit owners.

(1) The division shall develop a program to certify both volunteer and paid mediators to provide mediation of condominium disputes. The division shall provide, upon request, a list of

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2553 such mediators to any association, unit owner, or other 2554 participant in alternative dispute resolution proceedings under 2555 s. 718.1255 requesting a copy of the list. The division shall 2556 include on the list of volunteer mediators only the names of 2557 persons who have received at least 20 hours of training in 2558 mediation techniques or who have mediated at least 20 disputes. 2559 In order to become initially certified by the division, paid 2560 mediators must be certified by the Supreme Court to mediate 2561 court cases in county or circuit courts. However, the division 2562 may adopt, by rule, additional factors for the certification of 2563 paid mediators, which must be related to experience, education, 2564 or background. Any person initially certified as a paid mediator 2565 by the division must, in order to continue to be certified, 2566 comply with the factors or requirements adopted by rule. 2567 (m) If a complaint is made, the division must conduct its 2568 inquiry with due regard for the interests of the affected 2569 parties. Within 30 days after receipt of a complaint, the 2570 division shall acknowledge the complaint in writing and notify 2571 the complainant whether the complaint is within the jurisdiction 2572

of the division and whether additional information is needed by 2573 the division from the complainant. The division shall conduct 2574 its investigation and, within 90 days after receipt of the 2575 original complaint or of timely requested additional 2576 information, take action upon the complaint. However, the 2577 failure to complete the investigation within 90 days does not 2578 prevent the division from continuing the investigation, 2579 accepting or considering evidence obtained or received after 90 2580 days, or taking administrative action if reasonable cause exists to believe that a violation of this chapter or a rule has 2581

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2582 occurred. If an investigation is not completed within the time 2583 limits established in this paragraph, the division shall, on a 2584 monthly basis, notify the complainant in writing of the status 2585 of the investigation. When reporting its action to the 2586 complainant, the division shall inform the complainant of any 2587 right to a hearing under ss. 120.569 and 120.57. The division 2588 may adopt rules regarding the submission of a complaint against 2589 an association. 2590 (n) Condominium association directors, officers, and 2591 employees; condominium developers; bulk assignees, bulk buyers, 2592 and community association managers; and community association 2593 management firms have an ongoing duty to reasonably cooperate 2594 with the division in any investigation under this section. The 2595 division shall refer to local law enforcement authorities any 2596 person whom the division believes has altered, destroyed, 2597 concealed, or removed any record, document, or thing required to 2598 be kept or maintained by this chapter with the purpose to impair 2599 its verity or availability in the department's investigation. 2600 The division shall refer to local law enforcement authorities 2601 any person whom the division believes has engaged in fraud, 2602 theft, embezzlement, or other criminal activity or when the 2603 division has cause to believe that fraud, theft, embezzlement, 2604 or other criminal activity has occurred. 2605 (o) The division director or any officer or employee of the 2606 division, and the condominium ombudsman or employee of the 2607 Office of the Condominium Ombudsman may attend and observe any 2608 meeting of the board of administration or unit owner meeting, 2609 including any meeting of a subcommittee or special committee, 2610 that is open to members of the association for the purpose of

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2611	performing the duties of the division or the Office of the
2612	Condominium Ombudsman under this chapter.
2613	(p) The division may:
2614	1. Contract with agencies in this state or other
2615	jurisdictions to perform investigative functions; or
2616	2. Accept grants-in-aid from any source.
2617	<u>(q)(p)</u> The division shall cooperate with similar agencies
2618	in other jurisdictions to establish uniform filing procedures
2619	and forms, public offering statements, advertising standards,
2620	and rules and common administrative practices.
2621	<u>(r) (q)</u> The division shall consider notice to a developer,
2622	bulk assignee, or bulk buyer to be complete when it is delivered
2623	to the address of the developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer
2624	currently on file with the division.
2625	(s) (r) In addition to its enforcement authority, the
2626	division may issue a notice to show cause, which must provide
2627	for a hearing, upon written request, in accordance with chapter
2628	120.
2629	(t) The division shall routinely conduct random audits of
2630	condominium associations to determine compliance with the
2631	website or application requirements for official records under
2632	s. 718.111(12)(g).
2633	<u>(u)</u> The division shall submit to the Governor, the
2634	President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
2635	Representatives, and the chairs of the legislative
2636	appropriations committees an annual report that includes, but
2637	need not be limited to, the number of training programs provided
2638	for condominium association board members and unit owners, the
2639	number of complaints received by type, the number and percent of
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2640	complaints acknowledged in writing within 30 days and the number
2641	and percent of investigations acted upon within 90 days in
2642	accordance with paragraph (m), and the number of investigations
2643	exceeding the 90-day requirement. The annual report must also
2644	include an evaluation of the division's core business processes
2645	and make recommendations for improvements, including statutory
2646	changes. The report shall be submitted by September 30 following
2647	the end of the fiscal year.
2648	(2)(a) Each condominium association which operates more
2649	than two units shall pay to the division an annual fee in the
2650	amount of \$4 for each residential unit in condominiums operated
2651	by the association. The annual fee shall be filed together with
2652	the annual certification described in paragraph (c). If the fee
2653	is not paid by March 1, the association shall be assessed a
2654	penalty of 10 percent of the amount due, and the association
2655	will not have standing to maintain or defend any action in the
2656	courts of this state until the amount due, plus any penalty, is
2657	paid.
2658	(b) All fees shall be deposited in the Division of Florida
2659	Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes Trust Fund as
2660	provided by law.
2661	(c) On the certification form provided by the division, the
2662	directors of the association shall certify that all directors of
2663	the association have completed the written certification and
2664	educational certificate requirements in s. 718.112(2)(d)4.b.
2665	Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 718.618, Florida
2666	Statutes, is amended to read:
2667	718.618 Converter reserve accounts; warranties
2668	(1) When existing improvements are converted to ownership

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2669 as a residential condominium, the developer shall establish 2670 converter reserve accounts for capital expenditures and planned 2671 deferred maintenance, or give warranties as provided by 2672 subsection (6), or post a surety bond as provided by subsection 2673 (7). The developer shall fund the converter reserve accounts in 2674 amounts calculated as follows: 2675 (a)1. When the existing improvements include an air-2676 conditioning system serving more than one unit or property which 2677 the association is responsible to repair, maintain, or replace, 2678 the developer shall fund an air-conditioning reserve account. 2679 The amount of the reserve account shall be the product of the 2680 estimated current replacement cost of the system, as disclosed 2681 and substantiated pursuant to s. 718.616(3)(b), multiplied by a 2682 fraction, the numerator of which shall be the lesser of the age 2683 of the system in years or 9, and the denominator of which shall 2684 be 10. When such air-conditioning system is within 1,000 yards 2685 of the seacoast, the numerator shall be the lesser of the age of 2686 the system in years or 3, and the denominator shall be 4. 2687 2. The developer shall fund a plumbing reserve account. The

amount of the funding shall be the product of the estimated current replacement cost of the plumbing component, as disclosed and substantiated pursuant to s. 718.616(3)(b), multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the lesser of the age of the plumbing in years or 36, and the denominator of which shall be 40.

3. The developer shall fund a roof reserve account. The amount of the funding shall be the product of the estimated current replacement cost of the roofing component, as disclosed and substantiated pursuant to s. 718.616(3)(b), multiplied by a

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2698	fracti	on, the numerator of wh	ich shall be th	e lesser of the age
2699	of the roof in years or the numerator listed in the following			
2700	table.	The denominator of the	fraction shall	be determined based
2701	on the	e roof type, as follows:		
2702				
		Roof Type	Numerator	Denominator
2703				
	a.	Built-up roof	4	5
		without insulation		
2704				
	b.	Built-up roof with	4	5
		insulation		
2705				
	С.	Cement tile roof	45	50
2706				
	d.	Asphalt shingle	14	15
		roof		
2707				
	e.	Copper roof		
2708				
	f.	Wood shingle roof	9	10
2709			1.0	0.0
0 - 1 0	g.	All other types	18	20
2710				
2711		(b) The age of any compo		
2712		oper is required to fund		
2713	measured in years, rounded to the nearest whole year. The amount			
2714	of converter reserves to be funded by the developer for each structure or component shall be based on the age of the			
2715	struct	ture or component shall	be based on the	age of the

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2716	structure or component as disclosed in the inspection report.			
2717	The architect or engineer shall determine the age of the			
2718	component from the later of:			
2719	1. The date when the component or structure was replaced or			
2720	substantially renewed, if the replacement or renewal of the			
2721	component at least met the requirements of the then-applicable			
2722	building code; or			
2723	2. The date when the installation or construction of the			
2724	existing component or structure was completed.			
2725	(c) When the age of a component or structure is to be			
2726	measured from the date of replacement or renewal, the developer			
2727	shall provide the division with a certificate, under the seal of			
2728	an architect or engineer authorized to practice in this state,			
2729	verifying:			
2730	1. The date of the replacement or renewal; and			
2731	2. That the replacement or renewal at least met the			
2732	requirements of the then-applicable building code.			
2733	(d) In addition to establishing the reserve accounts			
2734	specified above, the developer shall establish those other			
2735	reserve accounts required by s. 718.112(2)(f), and shall fund			
2736	those accounts in accordance with the formula provided therein.			
2737	The vote to waive or reduce the funding or reserves required by			
2738	s. 718.112(2)(f) does not affect or negate the obligations			
2739	arising under this section.			
2740	Section 20. Paragraphs (j) and (k) of subsection (1) of			
2741	section 719.106, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:			
2742	719.106 Bylaws; cooperative ownership			
2743	(1) MANDATORY PROVISIONSThe bylaws or other cooperative			
2744	documents shall provide for the following, and if they do not,			

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2745 they shall be deemed to include the following: 2746 (j) Annual budget.-2747 1. The proposed annual budget of common expenses must be 2748 detailed and must show the amounts budgeted by accounts and 2749 expense classifications, including, if applicable, but not 2750 limited to, those expenses listed in s. 719.504(20). The board 2751 of administration shall adopt the annual budget at least 14 days 2752 before the start of the association's fiscal year. In the event 2753 that the board fails to timely adopt the annual budget a second 2754 time, it is deemed a minor violation and the prior year's budget

shall continue in effect until a new budget is adopted.

2756 2. In addition to annual operating expenses, the budget 2757 must include reserve accounts for capital expenditures and 2758 planned deferred maintenance. These accounts must include, but 2759 not be limited to, roof replacement, building painting, and 2760 pavement resurfacing, regardless of the amount of planned 2761 deferred maintenance expense or replacement cost, and for any 2762 other items for which the planned deferred maintenance expense 2763 or replacement cost exceeds \$10,000. The amount to be reserved 2764 must be computed by means of a formula which is based upon 2765 estimated remaining useful life and estimated replacement cost 2766 or planned deferred maintenance expense of the reserve item. In 2767 a budget adopted by an association that is required to obtain a 2768 structural integrity reserve study, reserves must be maintained 2769 for the items identified in paragraph (k) for which the 2770 association is responsible pursuant to the declaration, and the 2771 reserve amount for such items must be based on the findings and recommendations of the association's most recent structural 2772 integrity reserve study. With respect to items for which an 2773

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6-01522E-24 20241178 2774 estimate of useful life is not readily ascertainable or with an 2775 estimated remaining useful life of greater than 25 years, an 2776 association is not required to reserve replacement costs for 2777 such items, but an association must reserve the amount of 2778 planned deferred maintenance expense, if any, which is 2779 recommended by the structural integrity reserve study for such 2780 items. The association may adjust replacement reserve 2781 assessments annually to take into account an inflation 2782 adjustment and any changes in estimates or extension of the 2783 useful life of a reserve item caused by planned deferred maintenance. The members of a unit-owner-controlled association 2784 2785 may determine, by a majority vote of the total voting interests 2786 of the association, for a fiscal year to provide no reserves or 2787 reserves less adequate than required by this subsection. Before 2788 turnover of control of an association by a developer to unit 2789 owners other than a developer under s. 719.301, the developer-2790 controlled association may not vote to waive the reserves or 2791 reduce funding of the reserves. For a budget adopted on or after 2792 December 31, 2024, a unit-owner-controlled association that must 2793 obtain a structural integrity reserve study may not determine to 2794 provide no reserves or reserves less adequate than required by 2795 this paragraph for items listed in paragraph (k). If a meeting 2796 of the unit owners has been called to determine to provide no 2797 reserves, or reserves less adequate than required, and such 2798 result is not attained or a quorum is not attained, the reserves 2799 as included in the budget shall go into effect. 2800 3. Reserve funds and any interest accruing thereon shall

2800 3. Reserve funds and any interest accruing thereon shall 2801 remain in the reserve account or accounts, and shall be used 2802 only for authorized reserve expenditures unless their use for

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2803	other purposes is approved in advance by a vote of the majority			
2804	of the total voting interests of the association. Before			
2805	turnover of control of an association by a developer to unit			
2806	owners other than the developer under s. 719.301, the developer			
2807	may not vote to use reserves for purposes other than that for			
2808				
2809	which they were intended. For a budget adopted on or after December 31, 2024, members of a unit-owner-controlled			
2810	association that must obtain a structural integrity reserve			
2811	study may not vote to use reserve funds, or any interest			
2812				
2813	accruing thereon, for purposes other than the replacement or planned deferred maintenance costs of the components listed in			
2814				
	paragraph (k).			
2815	(k) Structural integrity reserve study			
2816	1. A residential cooperative association must have a			
2817	structural integrity reserve study completed at least every 10			
2818	years for each building on the cooperative property that is			
2819	three stories or higher in height, as determined by the Florida			
2820	Building Code, that includes, at a minimum, a study of the			
2821	following items as related to the structural integrity and			
2822	safety of the building:			
2823	a. Roof.			
2824	b. Structure, including load-bearing walls and other			
2825	primary structural members and primary structural systems as			
2826	those terms are defined in s. 627.706.			
2827	c. Fireproofing and fire protection systems.			
2828	d. Plumbing.			
2829	e. Electrical systems.			
2830	f. Waterproofing and exterior painting.			
2831	g. Windows and exterior doors.			
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6-01522E-24 20241178 2832 h. Any other item that has a planned deferred maintenance 2833 expense or replacement cost that exceeds \$10,000 and the failure 2834 to replace or maintain such item negatively affects the items 2835 listed in sub-subparagraphs a.-g., as determined by the visual 2836 inspection portion of the structural integrity reserve study. 2837 2. A structural integrity reserve study is based on a 2838 visual inspection of the cooperative property. A structural 2839 integrity reserve study may be performed by any person qualified 2840 to perform such study. However, the visual inspection portion of 2841 the structural integrity reserve study must be performed or 2842 verified by an engineer licensed under chapter 471, an architect licensed under chapter 481, or a person certified as a reserve 2843 2844 specialist or professional reserve analyst by the Community 2845 Associations Institute or the Association of Professional 2846 Reserve Analysts. 2847 3. At a minimum, a structural integrity reserve study must 2848 identify each item of the cooperative property being visually 2849 inspected, state the estimated remaining useful life and the 2850 estimated replacement cost or planned deferred maintenance 2851 expense of each item of the cooperative property being visually 2852 inspected, and provide a reserve funding schedule with a 2853 recommended annual reserve amount that achieves the estimated 2854 replacement cost or planned deferred maintenance expense of each 2855 item of cooperative property being visually inspected by the end 2856 of the estimated remaining useful life of the item. The 2857 structural integrity reserve study may recommend that reserves 2858 do not need to be maintained for any item for which an estimate 2859 of useful life and an estimate of replacement cost cannot be 2860 determined, or the study may recommend a planned deferred

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2861
      maintenance expense amount for such item. The structural
2862
      integrity reserve study may recommend that reserves for
2863
      replacement costs do not need to be maintained for any item with
2864
      an estimated remaining useful life of greater than 25 years, but
2865
      the study may recommend a planned deferred maintenance expense
      amount for such item.
2866
2867
           4. This paragraph does not apply to buildings less than
2868
      three stories in height; single-family, two-family, or three-
2869
      family dwellings with three or fewer habitable stories above
2870
      ground; any portion or component of a building that has not been
2871
      submitted to the cooperative form of ownership; or any portion
2872
      or component of a building that is maintained by a party other
2873
      than the association.
2874
           5. Before a developer turns over control of an association
2875
      to unit owners other than the developer, the developer must have
2876
      a turnover inspection report in compliance with s. 719.301(4)(p)
2877
      and (q) for each building on the cooperative property that is
      three stories or higher in height.
2878
2879
            6. Associations existing on or before July 1, 2022, which
2880
      are controlled by unit owners other than the developer, must
2881
      have a structural integrity reserve study completed by December
2882
      31, 2024, for each building on the cooperative property that is
2883
      three stories or higher in height. An association that is
2884
      required to complete a milestone inspection on or before
2885
      December 31, 2026, in accordance with s. 553.899 may complete
2886
      the structural integrity reserve study simultaneously with the
2887
      milestone inspection. In no event may the structural integrity
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reserve study be completed after December 31, 2026. 7. If the milestone inspection required by s. 553.899, or

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2890	an inspection completed for a similar local requirement, was				
2891	performed within the past 5 years and meets the requirements of				
2892	this paragraph, such inspection may be used in place of the				
2893	visual inspection portion of the structural integrity reserve				
2894	study.				
2895	8. If the officers or directors of an association willfully				
2896	and knowingly fail to complete a structural integrity reserve				
2897	study pursuant to this paragraph, such failure is a breach of an				
2898	officer's and director's fiduciary relationship to the unit				
2899	owners under s. 719.104(9).				
2900	9. Within 45 days after receiving the structural integrity				
2901	reserve study, the association must distribute a copy of the				
2902	study to each unit owner or deliver to each unit owner a notice				
2903	that the completed study is available for inspection and copying				
2904	upon a written request. Distribution of a copy of the study or				
2905	notice must be made by United States mail or personal delivery				
2906	at the mailing address, property address, or any other address				
2907	of the owner provided to fulfill the association's notice				
2908	requirements under this chapter, or by electronic transmission				
2909	to the e-mail address or facsimile number provided to fulfill				
2910	the association's notice requirements to unit owners who				
2911	previously consented to receive notice by electronic				
2912	transmission.				
2913	Section 21. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section				
2914	719.301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:				
2915	719.301 Transfer of association control				
2916	(4) When unit owners other than the developer elect a				
2917	majority of the members of the board of administration of an				
2918	association, the developer shall relinquish control of the				
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2919	association, and the unit owners shall accept control.			
2920	Simultaneously, or for the purpose of paragraph (c) not more			
2921	than 90 days thereafter, the developer shall deliver to the			
2922	association, at the developer's expense, all property of the			
2923	unit owners and of the association held or controlled by the			
2924	developer, including, but not limited to, the following items,			
2925	if applicable, as to each cooperative operated by the			
2926	association:			
2927	(p) Notwithstanding when the certificate of occupancy was			
2928	issued or the height of the building, a turnover inspection			
2929	report included in the official records, under seal of an			
2930	architect or engineer authorized to practice in this state or a			
2931	person certified as a reserve specialist or professional reserve			
2932	analyst by the Community Associations Institute or the			
2933	Association of Professional Reserve Analysts, <u>consisting of a</u>			
2934	structural integrity reserve study attesting to required			
2935	maintenance, condition, useful life, and replacement costs of			
2936	the following applicable cooperative property:			
2937	1. Roof.			
2938	2. Structure, including load-bearing walls and primary			
2939	structural members and primary structural systems as those terms			
2940	are defined in s. 627.706.			
2941	3. Fireproofing and fire protection systems.			
2942	4. Plumbing.			
2943	5. Electrical systems.			
2944	6. Waterproofing and exterior painting.			
2945	7. Windows and exterior doors.			
2946	Section 22. Subsection (1) of section 719.618, Florida			
2947	Statutes, is amended to read:			
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6-01522E-24 20241178 2948 719.618 Converter reserve accounts; warranties.-2949 (1) When existing improvements are converted to ownership 2950 as a residential cooperative, the developer shall establish 2951 reserve accounts for capital expenditures and planned deferred 2952 maintenance, or give warranties as provided by subsection (6), 2953 or post a surety bond as provided by subsection (7). The 2954 developer shall fund the reserve accounts in amounts calculated 2955 as follows: 2956 (a)1. When the existing improvements include an air-2957 conditioning system serving more than one unit or property which 2958 the association is responsible to repair, maintain, or replace, 2959 the developer shall fund an air-conditioning reserve account. 2960 The amount of the reserve account shall be the product of the 2961 estimated current replacement cost of the system, as disclosed 2962 and substantiated pursuant to s. 719.616(3)(b), multiplied by a 2963 fraction, the numerator of which shall be the lesser of the age 2964 of the system in years or 9, and the denominator of which shall 2965 be 10. When such air-conditioning system is within 1,000 yards 2966 of the seacoast, the numerator shall be the lesser of the age of 2967 the system in years or 3, and the denominator shall be 4. 2968 2. The developer shall fund a plumbing reserve account. The 2969 amount of the funding shall be the product of the estimated 2970 current replacement cost of the plumbing component, as disclosed 2971 and substantiated pursuant to s. 719.616(3)(b), multiplied by a

2972 fraction, the numerator of which shall be the lesser of the age 2973 of the plumbing in years or 36, and the denominator of which 2974 shall be 40.

2975 3. The developer shall fund a roof reserve account. The 2976 amount of the funding shall be the product of the estimated

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2977	 current replacement cost of the roofing component, as disclosed				
2978	and substantiated pursuant to s. 719.616(3)(b), multiplied by a				
2979	fraction, the numerator of which shall be the lesser of the age				
2980	of the roof in years or the numerator listed in the following				
2981	table. The denominator of the fraction shall be determined based				
2982	on the roof type, as follows:				
2983					
		Roof Type	Numerator	Denominator	
2984					
	a.	Built-up roof	4	5	
		without insulation			
2985					
	b.	Built-up roof with	4	5	
		insulation			
2986					
	с.	Cement tile roof	45	50	
2987					
	d.	Asphalt shingle	14	15	
		roof			
2988					
	e.	Copper roof			
2989					
	f.	Wood shingle roof	9	10	
2990					
	g.	All other types	18	20	
2991		<i>(</i>), -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -,			
2992	(b) The age of any component or structure for which the				
2993	developer is required to fund a reserve account shall be				
2994	measu	red in years from the la	ater of:		

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2995	1. The date when the component or structure was replaced or				
2996	substantially renewed, if the replacement or renewal of the				
2997	component at least met the requirements of the then-applicable				
2998	building code; or				
2999	2. The date when the installation or construction of the				
3000	existing component or structure was completed.				
3001	(c) When the age of a component or structure is to be				
3002	measured from the date of replacement or renewal, the developer				
3003	shall provide the division with a certificate, under the seal of				
3004	an architect or engineer authorized to practice in this state,				
3005	verifying:				
3006	1. The date of the replacement or renewal; and				
3007	2. That the replacement or renewal at least met the				
3008	requirements of the then-applicable building code.				
3009	Section 23. The Division of Florida Condominiums,				
3010	Timeshares, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and				
3011	Professional Regulation shall complete a review of the website				
3012	or application requirements for official records under s.				
3013	718.111(12)(g), Florida Statutes, and make recommendations				
3014	regarding any additional official records of a condominium				
3015	association that should be included in the record maintenance				
3016	requirement in the statute. The division shall submit the				
3017	findings of its review to the Governor, the President of the				
3018	Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the				
3019	chairs of the legislative appropriations committees and				
3020	appropriate substantive committees with jurisdiction over				
3021	chapter 718, Florida Statutes, by February 1, 2025.				
3022	Section 24. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this				
3023	act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024.				

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