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

Page 1 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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

50

Page 2 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

51	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
52	
53	Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.4334,
54	Florida Statutes, to read:
55	468.4334 Professional practice standards; liability <u>;</u>
56	community association manager requirements
57	(3) A community association manager or community
58	association management firm that is authorized by contract to
59	provide community association management services to a
60	homeowners' association must do all of the following:
61	(a) Attend in person at least one member meeting or board
62	meeting of the homeowners' association annually.
63	(b) Provide to the members of the homeowners' association
64	the name and contact information for each community association
65	manager or representative of a community association management
66	firm assigned to the homeowners' association, the manager's or
67	representative's hours of availability, and a summary of the
68	duties for which the manager or representative is responsible.
69	The homeowners' association must also post this information on
70	the association's website or application required under s.
71	720.303(4)(b). The community association manager or community
72	association management firm must update the homeowners'
73	association and its members within 14 business days after any
74	change to such information.
75	(c) Provide to any member upon request a copy of the
	Page 3 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

76	contract between the community association manager or community
77	association management firm and the homeowners' association and
78	include such contract with association's governing documents.
79	Section 2. Section 468.4337, Florida Statutes, is amended
80	to read:
81	468.4337 Continuing educationThe department may not
82	renew a license until the licensee submits proof that the
83	licensee has completed the requisite hours of continuing
84	education. No more than 10 hours of continuing education
85	annually shall be required for renewal of a license. The number
86	of continuing education hours, criteria, and course content
87	shall be approved by the council by rule. <u>The council may not</u>
88	require more than 10 hours of continuing education annually for
89	renewal of a license. A community association manager who
90	provides community association management services to a
91	homeowners' association must biennially complete at least 5
92	hours of continuing education that pertains specifically to
93	homeowners' associations, 3 hours of which must relate to
94	recordkeeping.
95	Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) and paragraphs (a),
96	(d), and (f) of subsection (6) of section 720.303, Florida
97	Statutes, are amended to read:
98	720.303 Association powers and duties; meetings of board;
99	official records; budgets; financial reporting; association
100	funds; recalls
	Page 4 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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

Page 5 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

126 requesting that a different mailing address be used for all 127 required notices. The association shall also maintain the e-mail 128 addresses and the facsimile numbers designated by members for 129 receiving notice sent by electronic transmission of those 130 members consenting to receive notice by electronic transmission. 131 A member's e-mail address is the e-mail address the member 132 provided when consenting in writing to receiving notice by electronic transmission, unless the member has sent written 133 134 notice to the association requesting that a different e-mail 135 address be used for all required notices. The e-mail addresses and facsimile numbers provided by members to receive notice by 136 137 electronic transmission must be removed from association records when the member revokes consent to receive notice by electronic 138 139 transmission. However, the association is not liable for an 140 erroneous disclosure of the e-mail address or the facsimile 141 number for receiving electronic transmission of notices.

142 <u>8.(h)</u> All of the association's insurance policies or a 143 copy thereof, which policies must be retained for at least 7 144 years.

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

Page 6 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

151 year.

152 <u>10.(j)</u> The financial and accounting records of the 153 association, kept according to good accounting practices. All 154 financial and accounting records must be maintained for a period 155 of at least 7 years. The financial and accounting records must 156 include:

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

159 <u>b.2</u>. A current account and a periodic statement of the 160 account for each member, designating the name and current 161 address of each member who is obligated to pay assessments, the 162 due date and amount of each assessment or other charge against 163 the member, the date and amount of each payment on the account, 164 and the balance due.

165 <u>c.3.</u> All tax returns, financial statements, and financial 166 reports of the association.

167 <u>d.4.</u> Any other records that identify, measure, record, or 168 communicate financial information.

169 <u>11.(k)</u> A copy of the disclosure summary described in s. 170 720.401(1).

171 <u>12.(1)</u> Ballots, sign-in sheets, voting proxies, and all 172 other papers and electronic records relating to voting by parcel 173 owners, which must be maintained for at least 1 year after the 174 date of the election, vote, or meeting.

175 13.(m) All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s.

Page 7 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

176 720.3085(3)(c)3.

177 <u>14.(n)</u> All other written records of the association not 178 specifically included in this subsection which are related to 179 the operation of the association.

180 (b)1. By January 1, 2025, an association shall post a 181 current digital copy of the documents specified in paragraph (a) 182 on its website or make such documents available through an 183 application that can be downloaded on a mobile device.

184 <u>2. The association's website or application must be</u>
 185 <u>accessible through the Internet and must contain a subpage, web</u>
 186 <u>portal, or other protected electronic location that is</u>
 187 <u>inaccessible to the general public and accessible only to parcel</u>
 188 owners and employees of the association.

189 <u>3. Upon written request by a parcel owner, the association</u> 190 <u>must provide the parcel owner with a username and password and</u> 191 <u>access to the protected sections of the association's website or</u> 192 <u>application which contains the official documents of the</u> 193 association.

194 <u>4. The association shall ensure that the information and</u> 195 <u>records described in paragraph (5)(d), which are not allowed to</u> 196 <u>be accessible to parcel owners, are not posted on the</u> 197 <u>association's website or application. If protected information</u> 198 <u>or information restricted from being accessible to parcel owners</u> 199 <u>is included in documents that are required to be posted on the</u> 200 <u>association's website or application, the association must</u>

Page 8 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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

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

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

Page 9 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

226 upon request. If the association has a photocopy machine 227 available where the records are maintained, it must provide 228 parcel owners with copies on request during the inspection if 229 the entire request is limited to no more than 25 pages. An 230 association shall allow a member or his or her authorized 231 representative to use a portable device, including a smartphone, 232 tablet, portable scanner, or any other technology capable of 233 scanning or taking photographs, to make an electronic copy of 234 the official records in lieu of the association's providing the 235 member or his or her authorized representative with a copy of 236 such records. The association may not charge a fee to a member 237 or his or her authorized representative for the use of a 238 portable device.

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

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

250

(c) The association may adopt reasonable written rules

Page 10 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

251 governing the frequency, time, location, notice, records to be 252 inspected, and manner of inspections, but may not require a 253 parcel owner to demonstrate any proper purpose for the 254 inspection, state any reason for the inspection, or limit a 255 parcel owner's right to inspect records to less than one 8-hour 256 business day per month. The association may impose fees to cover 257 the costs of providing copies of the official records, including 258 the costs of copying and the costs required for personnel to 259 retrieve and copy the records if the time spent retrieving and 260 copying the records exceeds one-half hour and if the personnel 261 costs do not exceed \$20 per hour. Personnel costs may not be 262 charged for records requests that result in the copying of 25 or 263 fewer pages. The association may charge up to 25 cents per page 264 for copies made on the association's photocopier. If the 265 association does not have a photocopy machine available where 266 the records are kept, or if the records requested to be copied 267 exceed 25 pages in length, the association may have copies made 268 by an outside duplicating service and may charge the actual cost 269 of copying, as supported by the vendor invoice. The association 270 shall maintain an adequate number of copies of the recorded 271 governing documents, to ensure their availability to members and 272 prospective members.

273 <u>(d)</u> Notwithstanding this <u>subsection</u> paragraph, the 274 following records are not accessible to members or parcel 275 owners:

Page 11 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

276 Any record protected by the lawyer-client privilege as 1. 277 described in s. 90.502 and any record protected by the work-278 product privilege, including, but not limited to, a record prepared by an association attorney or prepared at the 279 280 attorney's express direction which reflects a mental impression, 281 conclusion, litigation strategy, or legal theory of the attorney 282 or the association and which was prepared exclusively for civil or criminal litigation or for adversarial administrative 283 284 proceedings or which was prepared in anticipation of such 285 litigation or proceedings until the conclusion of the litigation 286 or proceedings.

287 2. Information obtained by an association in connection 288 with the approval of the lease, sale, or other transfer of a 289 parcel.

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

4. Personnel records of association or management company 293 294 employees, including, but not limited to, disciplinary, payroll, 295 health, and insurance records. For purposes of this 296 subparagraph, the term "personnel records" does not include 297 written employment agreements with an association or management 298 company employee or budgetary or financial records that indicate 299 the compensation paid to an association or management company employee. 300

Page 12 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

301 5. Medical records of parcel owners or community 302 residents.

303 6. Social security numbers, driver license numbers, credit 304 card numbers, electronic mailing addresses, telephone numbers, 305 facsimile numbers, emergency contact information, any addresses 306 for a parcel owner other than as provided for association notice 307 requirements, and other personal identifying information of any 308 person, excluding the person's name, parcel designation, mailing 309 address, and property address. Notwithstanding the restrictions 310 in this subparagraph, an association may print and distribute to 311 parcel owners a directory containing the name, parcel address, 312 and all telephone numbers of each parcel owner. However, an owner may exclude his or her telephone numbers from the 313 314 directory by so requesting in writing to the association. An 315 owner may consent in writing to the disclosure of other contact 316 information described in this subparagraph. The association is 317 not liable for the disclosure of information that is protected 318 under this subparagraph if the information is included in an official record of the association and is voluntarily provided 319 320 by an owner and not requested by the association.

321 7. Any electronic security measure that is used by the322 association to safeguard data, including passwords.

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

Page 13 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

326 The data is part of the official records of the association.

327 9. All affirmative acknowledgments made pursuant to s.
328 720.3085(3)(c)3.

329 (e) (d) The association or its authorized agent is not 330 required to provide a prospective purchaser or lienholder with 331 information about the residential subdivision or the association 332 other than information or documents required by this chapter to 333 be made available or disclosed. The association or its 334 authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee to the prospective 335 purchaser or lienholder or the current parcel owner or member 336 for providing good faith responses to requests for information 337 by or on behalf of a prospective purchaser or lienholder, other 338 than that required by law, if the fee does not exceed \$150 plus 339 the reasonable cost of photocopying and any attorney fees 340 incurred by the association in connection with the response.

341 (f) If an association receives a subpoena for records from 342 a law enforcement agency, the association must provide a copy of 343 such records or otherwise make the records available for 344 inspection and copying to a law enforcement agency within 5 345 business days after receipt of the subpoena, unless otherwise specified by the law enforcement agency or subpoena. An 346 347 association must assist a law enforcement agency in its investigation to the extent permissible by law. 348 349 (6) BUDGETS.-350 (a)1. The association shall prepare an annual budget that

Page 14 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

351 sets out the annual operating expenses. The budget must reflect 352 the estimated revenues and expenses for that year and the 353 estimated surplus or deficit as of the end of the current year. 354 The budget must set out separately all fees or charges paid for 355 by the association for recreational amenities, whether owned by 356 the association, the developer, or another person. The 357 association shall provide each member with a copy of the annual 358 budget or a written notice that a copy of the budget is 359 available upon request at no charge to the member. The copy must be provided to the member within the time limits set forth in 360 361 subsection (5).

362 2. An association that has 2,500 members or more must use 363 an independent certified public accountant to prepare the 364 association's annual budget. Such association must also retain 365 an attorney to advise the association and its members on 366 procedural matters relating to the annual budget and to foster 367 communications between the board and the members of the 368 association. The independent certified public accountant or 369 attorney required under this subparagraph may not be: 370 The community association manager or an employee of the a. 371 community association management firm providing community 372 association management services to the association; or 373 b. An officer or a director of the association or an 374 immediate family member of an officer or a director. 375 (d) An association is deemed to have provided for reserve

Page 15 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

376 accounts upon the affirmative approval of a majority of the 377 total voting interests of the association. Such approval may be 378 obtained by vote of the members at a duly called meeting of the 379 membership or by the written consent of a majority of the total 380 voting interests of the association. The approval action of the 381 membership must state that reserve accounts shall be provided 382 for in the budget and must designate the components for which 383 the reserve accounts are to be established. Upon approval by the 384 membership, the board of directors or the independent certified 385 public accountant, if required under paragraph (a), shall 386 include the required reserve accounts in the budget in the next 387 fiscal year following the approval and each year thereafter. 388 Once established as provided in this subsection, the reserve 389 accounts must be funded or maintained or have their funding 390 waived in the manner provided in paragraph (f).

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

Page 16 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

401 subsection to waive or reduce reserves is applicable only to one 402 budget year. 403 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 720.3033, 404 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 405 720.3033 Officers and directors.-406 (1) (a) Within 90 days after being elected or appointed to 407 the board, each director shall certify in writing to the 408 secretary of the association that he or she has read the 409 association's declaration of covenants, articles of 410 incorporation, bylaws, and current written rules and policies; 411 that he or she will work to uphold such documents and policies 412 to the best of his or her ability; and that he or she will 413 faithfully discharge his or her fiduciary responsibility to the 414 association's members. Within 90 days after being elected or 415 appointed to the board, in lieu of such written certification, 416 the newly elected or appointed director must may submit a 417 certificate of having satisfactorily completed the educational 418 curriculum administered by a department-approved division-419 approved education provider. 420 The newly elected or appointed director must complete 1. 421 the department-approved education within 90 days after being 422 elected or appointed. 423 2. The certificate of completion is valid for a maximum of 424 4 years. 425 3. A director must complete such education at least every Page 17 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

426 4 years.

427 The department-approved educational curriculum must 4. 428 include training relating to financial literacy and 429 transparency, recordkeeping, levying of fines, and notice and 430 meeting requirements. 431 5. A newly elected or appointed director of an association 432 that has fewer than 1,000 members must complete at least 4 hours 433 of continuing education annually. 434 6. A newly elected or appointed director of an association 435 that has 1,000 members or more must complete at least 8 hours of continuing education annually within 1 year before or 90 days 436 437 after the date of election or appointment. The written certification or educational certificate 438 (b) 439 is valid for the uninterrupted tenure of the director on the 440 board. A director who does not timely file the written 441 certification or educational certificate is shall be suspended 442 from the board until he or she complies with the requirement. 443 The board may temporarily fill the vacancy during the period of 444 suspension. 445 The association shall retain each director's written (C) 446 certification or educational certificate for inspection by the 447 members for 5 years after the director's election. However, the 448 failure to have the written certification or educational 449 certificate on file does not affect the validity of any board

450 action.

Page 18 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

451 The department shall adopt rules to implement and (d) 452 administer the educational curriculum and continuing education 453 requirements under this subsection. 454 An officer, a director, or a manager may not solicit, (3) 455 offer to accept, or accept, or receive any thing or service of 456 value for which consideration has not been provided for his or 457 her benefit or for the benefit of a member of his or her 458 immediate family from any person providing or proposing to 459 provide goods or services to the association. An officer, a 460 director, or a manager who knowingly solicits, offers to accept, or accepts, or receives any thing or service of value or 461 462 kickback that is at least \$25 but not more than \$1,000 for which 463 consideration has not been provided for his or her own benefit 464 or that of his or her immediate family from any person providing 465 or proposing to provide goods or services to the association 466 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as 467 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and is subject to monetary 468 damages under s. 617.0834. If such thing or kickback is valued 469 at \$1,000 or more, the officer, director, or manager commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 470 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084 and is subject to monetary 471 damages under s. 617.0834. If the board finds that an officer or 472 473 a director has violated this subsection, the board shall 474 immediately remove the officer or director from office. The 475 vacancy shall be filled according to law until the end of the

Page 19 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

officer's or director's term of office. However, an officer, a director, or a manager may accept food to be consumed at a business meeting with a value of less than \$25 per individual or a service or good received in connection with trade fairs or education programs.

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

483 720.3035 Architectural control covenants; parcel owner 484 improvements; rights and privileges.-

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

Page 20 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

501 declaration of covenants. 502 Each parcel owner is shall be entitled to the rights (4) 503 and privileges set forth in the declaration of covenants or 504 other published quidelines and standards authorized by the 505 declaration of covenants concerning the architectural use of the 506 parcel, and the construction of permitted structures and 507 improvements on the parcel and such rights and privileges may 508 shall not be unreasonably infringed upon or impaired by the 509 association or any architectural, construction improvement, or 510 other such similar committee of the association. If the 511 association or any architectural, construction improvement, or 512 other such similar committee of the association denies a parcel owner's request or application for the construction of a 513 514 structure or other improvement on a parcel, the association or 515 committee must provide written notice to the parcel owner 516 stating with specificity the rule or covenant on which the 517 association or committee relied when denying the request or 518 application and the specific aspect or part of the proposed 519 improvement that does not conform to such rule or covenant. If 520 the association or any architectural, construction improvement, 521 or other such similar committee of the association should 522 unreasonably, knowingly, and willfully infringe upon or impair 523 the rights and privileges set forth in the declaration of 524 covenants or other published guidelines and standards authorized by the declaration of covenants, the adversely affected parcel 525 Page 21 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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

532Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section533720.3085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

534

720.3085 Payment for assessments; lien claims.-

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

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

548 2. Before changing the method of delivery for an invoice 549 for assessments or the statement of the account, the association 550 must deliver a written notice of such change to each parcel

Page 22 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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

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

567

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

Page 23 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.