	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate		House
Comm: RCS		
01/18/2024		
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Martin) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 468.4334, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.4334 Professional practice standards; liability.-(2)

(b) Indemnification under paragraph (a) may not cover any errors or omissions relating to the preparation or provision of

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11 an estoppel certificate, or any act or omission that violates a 12 criminal law; derives an improper personal benefit, either 13 directly or indirectly; is grossly negligent; or is reckless, is 14 in bad faith, is with malicious purpose, or is in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, 15 16 or property.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 468.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.436 Disciplinary proceedings.-

- (2) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (4) may be taken:
 - (b) 1. Violation of any provision of this part.
- 2. Violation of any lawful order or rule rendered or adopted by the department or the council.
- 3. Being convicted of or pleading nolo contendere to a felony in any court in the United States.
- 4. Obtaining a license or certification or any other order, ruling, or authorization by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts.
- 5. Committing acts of gross misconduct or gross negligence in connection with the profession.
- 6. Contracting, on behalf of an association, with any entity in which the licensee has a financial interest that is not disclosed.
- 7. Violating any provision of chapter 718, chapter 719, or chapter 720 during the course of performing community association management services pursuant to a contract with a community association as defined in s. 468.431(1).
 - 8.a. Charging or attempting to charge fees or charges for

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an estoppel certificate, for which fees are not authorized or are in excess of the amounts authorized by chapter 718, chapter 719, or chapter 720.

b. Failing to timely provide an estoppel certificate or providing an incomplete estoppel certificate.

Section 3. Subsection (8) of section 718.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

718.116 Assessments; liability; lien and priority; interest; collection.-

- (8) Within 5 10 business days after receiving a written or electronic request therefor from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, the association shall issue the estoppel certificate. Each association shall designate on its website a person or entity with a street or e-mail address for receipt of a request for an estoppel certificate issued pursuant to this section. The estoppel certificate must be provided by hand delivery, regular mail, or e-mail to the requestor on the date of issuance of the estoppel certificate.
- (a) An estoppel certificate may be completed by any board member, authorized agent, or authorized representative of the association, including any authorized agent, authorized representative, or employee of a management company authorized to complete this form on behalf of the board or association. The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - 1. Date of issuance:....
- 2. Name(s) of the unit owner(s) as reflected in the books and records of the association:....



- 69 3. Unit designation and address:....
 - 4. Parking or garage space number, as reflected in the books and records of the association:....
 - 5. Attorney's name and contact information if the account is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for collection. No fee may be charged for this information.
 - 6. Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate:....
 - 7. Name of the requestor:....
 - 8. Assessment information and other information:

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ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

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- a. The regular periodic assessment levied against the unit is \$.... per ... (insert frequency of payment)
- b. The regular periodic assessment is paid through ... (insert date paid through)
- c. The next installment of the regular periodic assessment is due ... (insert due date) ... in the amount of \$.....
- d. An itemized list of all assessments, special assessments, and other moneys owed on the date of issuance to the association by the unit owner for a specific unit is provided.
- e. An itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys that are scheduled to become due for each day after the date of issuance for the effective period of the estoppel certificate is provided. In calculating the amounts that are scheduled to become due, the association may assume that any delinquent amounts will remain delinquent during



98 the effective period of the estoppel certificate. 99 100 OTHER INFORMATION: 101 102 f. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, 103 transfer fee, or other fee due? (Yes) (No). If yes, 104 specify the type and the amount of the fee. 105 q. Is there any open violation of rule or regulation 106 noticed to the unit owner in the association official records? 107(Yes)(No). 108 h. Do the rules and regulations of the association 109 applicable to the unit require approval by the board of 110 directors of the association for the transfer of the unit? 111(Yes)(No). If yes, has the board approved the transfer 112 of the unit? \dots (Yes) \dots (No). 113 i. Is there a right of first refusal provided to the 114 members or the association? (Yes) (No). If yes, have the 115 members or the association exercised that right of first 116 refusal? (Yes) (No). 117 j. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all 118 other associations of which the unit is a member. k. Provide contact information for all insurance maintained 119 120 by the association. 121 1. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent 122 of the association. 123 124 The association, at its option, may include additional 125 information in the estoppel certificate.

(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or sent

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by electronic means has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is sent by regular mail has a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the association within the effective period, an amended estoppel certificate may be delivered and becomes effective if a sale or refinancing of the unit has not been completed during the effective period. A fee may not be charged for an amended estoppel certificate. An amended estoppel certificate must be delivered on the date of issuance, and a new 30-day or 35-day effective period begins on such date.

- (c) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate and from the person's successors and assigns.
- (d) If an association receives a request for an estoppel certificate from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, and fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within $5 \, \frac{10}{10}$ business days, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate.
- (e) A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be brought to compel compliance with this subsection, and in any such action the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees.
- (f) Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 718.112(2)(k), an association or its authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation and

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delivery of an estoppel certificate, which may not exceed \$250, if, on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent amounts are owed to the association for the applicable unit. If an estoppel certificate is requested on an expedited basis and delivered within 3 business days after the request, the association may charge an additional fee of \$100. If a delinquent amount is owed to the association for the applicable unit, an additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$150.

- (g) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by the same owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those units may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even though the fee for each unit shall be computed as set forth in paragraph (f), the total fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:
 - 1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
 - 2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
 - 3. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
 - 4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
- (h) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate must be established annually by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable upon the preparation of the certificate. If the certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a unit but the closing does not occur and no later

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than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a payor that is not the unit owner, the fee shall be refunded to that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the unit owner, and the association may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an assessment as provided in this section. The right to reimbursement may not be waived or modified by any contract or agreement. The prevailing party in any action brought to enforce a right of reimbursement shall be awarded damages and all applicable attorney fees and costs.

- (i) An association may not directly or indirectly charge any fee for an estoppel certificate other than those expressly authorized by this section. Unauthorized fees or charges, whether described as a convenience fee, archive fee, service fee, processing fee, delivery fee, credit card fee, certification fee, third-party fee, or any other fee or charge, are void and may be ignored by the requestor of the certificate.
- (j) If an estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a unit, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate shall be paid to the association from the closing or settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate remains the obligation of the unit owner, and the association may collect the fee in the same manner as an assessment against the unit. The fees specified in this subsection shall be adjusted every 5 years in an amount equal to the total of the annual increases for that 5-

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year period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar, and publish the amounts, as adjusted, on its website.

Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 719.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

719.108 Rents and assessments; liability; lien and priority; interest; collection; cooperative ownership.-

- (6) Within 5 10 business days after receiving a written or electronic request for an estoppel certificate from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, the association shall issue the estoppel certificate. Each association shall designate on its website a person or entity with a street or e-mail address for receipt of a request for an estoppel certificate issued pursuant to this section. The estoppel certificate must be provided by hand delivery, regular mail, or e-mail to the requestor on the date of issuance of the estoppel certificate.
- (a) An estoppel certificate may be completed by any board member, authorized agent, or authorized representative of the association, including any authorized agent, authorized representative, or employee of a management company authorized to complete this form on behalf of the board or association. The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - 1. Date of issuance:....
- 2. Name(s) of the unit owner(s) as reflected in the books and records of the association:....



- 243 3. Unit designation and address:....
 - 4. Parking or garage space number, as reflected in the books and records of the association:....
 - 5. Attorney's name and contact information if the account is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for collection. No fee may be charged for this information.
 - 6. Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate:....
 - 7. Name of the requestor:....
 - 8. Assessment information and other information:

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

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- a. The regular periodic assessment levied against the unit is \$.... per ... (insert frequency of payment)....
- b. The regular periodic assessment is paid through ... (insert date paid through)
- c. The next installment of the regular periodic assessment is due ... (insert due date) ... in the amount of \$.....
- d. An itemized list of all assessments, special assessments, and other moneys owed by the unit owner on the date of issuance to the association for a specific unit is provided.
- e. An itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys that are scheduled to become due for each day after the date of issuance for the effective period of the estoppel certificate is provided. In calculating the amounts that are scheduled to become due, the association may assume that any delinquent amounts will remain delinquent during the effective period of the estoppel certificate.



OTHER INFORMATION:

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- f. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, transfer fee, or other fee due? (Yes) (No). If yes, specify the type and amount of the fee.
- q. Is there any open violation of rule or regulation noticed to the unit owner in the association official records?(Yes)(No).
- h. Do the rules and regulations of the association applicable to the unit require approval by the board of directors of the association for the transfer of the unit?(Yes)(No). If yes, has the board approved the transfer of the unit? \dots (Yes) \dots (No).
- i. Is there a right of first refusal provided to the members or the association? (Yes) (No). If yes, have the members or the association exercised that right of first refusal? (Yes) (No).
- j. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all other associations of which the unit is a member.
- k. Provide contact information for all insurance maintained by the association.
- 1. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent of the association.

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- The association, at its option, may include additional information in the estoppel certificate.
- 299 (b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or sent by electronic means has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel 300

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certificate that is sent by regular mail has a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the association within the effective period, an amended estoppel certificate may be delivered and becomes effective if a sale or refinancing of the unit has not been completed during the effective period. A fee may not be charged for an amended estoppel certificate. An amended estoppel certificate must be delivered on the date of issuance, and a new 30-day or 35-day effective period begins on such date.

- (c) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate and from the person's successors and assigns.
- (d) If an association receives a request for an estoppel certificate from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, and fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within $5 \frac{10}{10}$ business days, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate.
- (e) A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be brought to compel compliance with this subsection, and in any such action the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees.
- (f) Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 719.106(1)(i), an association or its authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate, which may not exceed \$250

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if, on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent amounts are owed to the association for the applicable unit. If an estoppel certificate is requested on an expedited basis and delivered within 3 business days after the request, the association may charge an additional fee of \$100. If a delinquent amount is owed to the association for the applicable unit, an additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$150.

- (g) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by the same owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those units may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even though the fee for each unit shall be computed as set forth in paragraph (f), the total fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:
 - 1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
 - 2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
 - 3. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
 - 4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
- (h) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate must be established annually by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable upon the preparation of the certificate. If the certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a parcel but the closing does not occur and no later than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate

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was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a payor that is not the parcel owner, the fee shall be refunded to that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the parcel owner, and the association may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an assessment as provided in this section. The right to reimbursement may not be waived or modified by any contract or agreement. The prevailing party in any action brought to enforce a right of reimbursement shall be awarded damages and all applicable attorney fees and costs.

- (i) An association may not directly or indirectly charge any fee for an estoppel certificate other than those expressly authorized by this section. Unauthorized fees or charges, whether described as a convenience fee, archive fee, service fee, processing fee, delivery fee, credit card fee, certification fee, third-party fee, or any other fee or charge, are void and may be ignored by the requestor of the certificate.
- (j) If an estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a unit, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate shall be paid to the association from the closing or settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate remains the obligation of the unit owner, and the association may collect the fee in the same manner as an assessment against the unit. The fees specified in this subsection shall be adjusted every 5 years in an amount equal to the total of the annual increases for that 5year period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers,

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U.S. City Average, All Items. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar, and publish the amounts, as adjusted, on its website.

Section 5. Section 720.30851, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

720.30851 Estoppel certificates.—Within 5 10 business days after receiving a written or electronic request for an estoppel certificate from a parcel owner or the parcel owner's designee, or a parcel mortgagee or the parcel mortgagee's designee, the association shall issue the estoppel certificate. Each association shall designate on its website a person or entity with a street or e-mail address for receipt of a request for an estoppel certificate issued pursuant to this section. The estoppel certificate must be provided by hand delivery, regular mail, or e-mail to the requestor on the date of issuance of the estoppel certificate.

- (1) An estoppel certificate may be completed by any board member, authorized agent, or authorized representative of the association, including any authorized agent, authorized representative, or employee of a management company authorized to complete this form on behalf of the board or association. The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - (a) Date of issuance:....
- (b) Name(s) of the parcel owner(s) as reflected in the books and records of the association:....
 - (c) Parcel designation and address:....
 - (d) Parking or garage space number, as reflected in the



417 books and records of the association:....

- (e) Attorney's name and contact information if the account is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for collection. No fee may be charged for this information.
- (f) Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate:....
 - (g) Name of the requestor:....
 - (h) Assessment information and other information:

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ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

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- 1. The regular periodic assessment levied against the parcel is \$.... per ... (insert frequency of payment)....
- 430 2. The regular periodic assessment is paid through 431 ... (insert date paid through)
 - 3. The next installment of the regular periodic assessment is due ... (insert due date) ... in the amount of \$.....
 - 4. An itemized list of all assessments, special assessments, and other moneys owed on the date of issuance to the association by the parcel owner for a specific parcel is provided.
 - 5. An itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys that are scheduled to become due for each day after the date of issuance for the effective period of the estoppel certificate is provided. In calculating the amounts that are scheduled to become due, the association may assume that any delinquent amounts will remain delinquent during the effective period of the estoppel certificate.

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446 OTHER INFORMATION: 447 448 6. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, 449 transfer fee, or other fee due? (Yes) (No). If yes, 450 specify the type and amount of the fee. 7. Is there any open violation of rule or regulation 451 452 noticed to the parcel owner in the association official records? 453(Yes)(No). 454 8. Do the rules and regulations of the association 455 applicable to the parcel require approval by the board of 456 directors of the association for the transfer of the parcel? 457 (Yes) (No). If yes, has the board approved the transfer 458 of the parcel? (Yes) (No). 459 9. Is there a right of first refusal provided to the 460 members or the association? (Yes) (No). If yes, have the 461 members or the association exercised that right of first 462 refusal? (Yes) (No). 463 10. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all 464 other associations of which the parcel is a member. 465 11. Provide contact information for all insurance 466 maintained by the association. 12. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent 467 468 of the association. 469 470 The association, at its option, may include additional 471 information in the estoppel certificate. 472 (2) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or sent by electronic means has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel 473

certificate that is sent by regular mail has a 35-day effective

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period. If additional information or a mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the association within the effective period, an amended estoppel certificate may be delivered and becomes effective if a sale or refinancing of the parcel has not been completed during the effective period. A fee may not be charged for an amended estoppel certificate. An amended estoppel certificate must be delivered on the date of issuance, and a new 30-day or 35-day effective period begins on such date.

- (3) An association waives the right to collect any moneys owed in excess of the amounts specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who in good faith relies upon the estoppel certificate and from the person's successors and assigns.
- (4) If an association receives a request for an estoppel certificate from a parcel owner or the parcel owner's designee, or a parcel mortgagee or the parcel mortgagee's designee, and fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within 5 10 business days, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate.
- (5) A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be brought to compel compliance with this section, and the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees.
- (6) An association or its authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate, which may not exceed \$250, if, on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent amounts are owed to the association for the applicable parcel. If an estoppel

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certificate is requested on an expedited basis and delivered within 3 business days after the request, the association may charge an additional fee of \$100. If a delinquent amount is owed to the association for the applicable parcel, an additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$150.

- (7) If estoppel certificates for multiple parcels owned by the same owner are simultaneously requested from the same association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed to the association, the statement of moneys due for those parcels may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even though the fee for each parcel shall be computed as set forth in subsection (6), the total fee that the association may charge for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificates may not exceed, in the aggregate:
 - (a) For 25 or fewer parcels, \$750.
 - (b) For 26 to 50 parcels, \$1,000.
 - (c) For 51 to 100 parcels, \$1,500.
 - (d) For more than 100 parcels, \$2,500.
- (8) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate must be established annually by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable upon the preparation of the certificate. If the certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a parcel but the closing does not occur and no later than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a payor that is not the parcel owner, the fee shall be refunded to

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that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the parcel owner, and the association may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an assessment as provided in this section. The right to reimbursement may not be waived or modified by any contract or agreement. The prevailing party in any action brought to enforce a right of reimbursement shall be awarded damages and all applicable attorney fees and costs.

- (9) An association may not directly or indirectly charge any fee for an estoppel certificate other than those expressly authorized by this section. Unauthorized fees or charges, whether described as a convenience fee, archive fee, service fee, processing fee, delivery fee, credit card fee, certification fee, third-party fee, or any other fee or charge, are void and may be ignored by the requestor of the certificate.
- (10) If an estoppel certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or refinancing of a parcel, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate shall be paid to the association from the closing or settlement proceeds. If the closing does not occur, the fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate remains the obligation of the parcel owner, and the association may collect the fee in the same manner as an assessment against the parcel. The fees specified in this section shall be adjusted every 5 years in an amount equal to the total of the annual increases for that 5year period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar, and publish the amounts, as



adjusted, on its website.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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========= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====:

566 And the title is amended as follows:

> Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to estoppel certificates; amending s. 468.4334, F.S.; prohibiting agreements that indemnify a community association manager or community association management firm for errors or omissions relating to the provision or preparation of an estoppel certificate; amending s. 468.436, F.S.; revising acts that constitute grounds for which certain disciplinary actions may be taken to include specified actions relating to estoppel certificates; making technical changes; amending ss. 718.116, 719.108, and 720.30851, F.S.; revising the time in which a community association must provide an estoppel certificate to a requestor; specifying the maximum charges for an estoppel certificate to a specified amount; requiring a community association to annually establish the authority to charge a fee for an estoppel certificate; limiting fees or charges for an estoppel certificate to those specified by law; deleting provisions providing for the adjustment of fees for an estoppel certificate based on changes in an inflation index; providing for the fee for the



591	preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate to
592	be paid from closing or settlement proceeds in certain
593	circumstances; providing an effective date.