By Senator Passidomo

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28-00324A-17 2017398

A bill to be entitled An act relating to estoppel certificates; amending ss. 718.116, 719.108, and 720.30851, F.S.; revising requirements relating to the issuance of an estoppel certificate to specified persons; requiring a condominium, cooperative, or homeowners' association to designate a street or e-mail address on its website for estoppel certificate requests; specifying delivery requirements for an estoppel certificate; requiring that an estoppel certificate contain certain information; providing an effective period for an estoppel certificate based upon the date of issuance and form of delivery; providing that an association waives a specified claim against a person or such person's successors or assigns who in good faith rely on the estoppel certificate; prohibiting an association from charging a preparation and delivery fee or making certain claims if it fails to deliver an estoppel certificate within certain timeframes; revising fee requirements for preparing and delivering an estoppel certificate under various circumstances; authorizing the statement of moneys due to be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates under certain circumstances; providing limits on a total fee charged for the preparation and delivery of estoppel certificates; requiring the fee for an estoppel certificate to be paid from specified proceeds under certain circumstances; requiring that the authority to charge a fee for the estoppel certificate be established by a specified written resolution or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract; deleting obsolete provisions;

Page 1 of 20

28-00324A-17 2017398

conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 718.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

- electronic request therefor from a unit owner or the unit owner's his or her designee, or a unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's his or her designee, the association shall issue the estoppel provide a 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 signed by an officer or agent of the association stating all assessments and other moneys owed to the association by the unit owner with respect to the condominium parcel.
- (a) The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - 1. Date of issuance:....
 - 2. Name of the unit owner(s):....
 - 3. Unit designation and address:....
 - 4. Parking or garage space number, if any:....

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28-00324A-17 2017398

- 5. Storage locker number, if any:....
- 6. 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.
- 7. Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate:....
 - 8. Name of the requestor:....
 - 9. Assessment information and other information:

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

- <u>a. The regular periodic assessment levied against the unit</u> 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 the effective period of the estoppel certificate.

OTHER INFORMATION:

2017398

91 f. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, transfer fee, or other fee due? ... (Yes) (No) If yes, 92 93 specify the type and the amount of the fee. 94 g. What is the amount, if any, of an association 95 application fee? 96 h. Is there a credit balance on the current account? 97 ...(Yes)... (No).... If yes, provide the following 98 information: 99 Yes, a balance of \$.... will be transferred to the new owner account. 100 Yes, a balance of \$.... will be transferred to the seller 101 102 by the association. i. Is there any violation of rule or regulation noticed to 103 104 the unit owner in the association official records? ... (Yes)... 105 ...(No).... 106 j. Is approval by the board of directors of the association 107 required for the transfer of the unit? ... (Yes) (No) 108 k. Do rules or regulations applicable to the unit provide 109 for a right of first refusal in favor of the members or 110 association? ... (Yes) (No) ... If yes, include applicable 111 rules or regulations. 112 1. Provide a list of utilities provided to the unit which are included in the assessments paid to the association. 113 114 m. Provide a list of all recreational or land leases to the association affecting the unit. 115 116 n. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all 117 other associations of which the unit is a member. o. Provide a description of any pending or threatened 118 119 litigation or administrative proceedings in which the

28-00324A-17 2017398

association is a party or which otherwise affect the association.

- p. Provide contact information for all insurance maintained by the association.
- q. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent of the association.

The association, at its option, may include additional information in the estoppel certificate Any person other than the owner who relies upon such certificate shall be protected thereby.

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

28-00324A-17 2017398

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 10 business days, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate. If the association fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within 15 business days, the association waives any claim, including a claim for a lien against the unit, against a purchaser and mortgagee of the unit who would have relied on the estoppel certificate, and the purchaser's and mortgagee's successors and assigns, for any amount that is owed to the association through the date of closing and that should have been shown on the estoppel certificate.

(e) (b) 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 attorney's fees.

(f) (c) Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 718.112(2)(i), an the association or its authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation and delivery of an estoppel certificate, which may not exceed \$200 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 \$200 for the preparation of the certificate. The amount of the fee must be included on the certificate.

28-00324A-17 2017398

(g)1. 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:

- a. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
- b. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
- c. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
- d. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
- 2. 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. An association may not require the payment of any other fee as a condition for the preparation or delivery of an estoppel certificate.
- (h) (d) The authority to charge a fee for the <u>preparation</u> and delivery of the estoppel certificate <u>must</u> shall be established 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

28-00324A-17 2017398

mortgage of a unit 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 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.

Section 2. 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.—

- 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) The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - 1. Date of issuance:....
 - 2. Name of the unit owner(s):....
 - 3. Unit designation and address:....

2017398

236 4. Parking or garage space number, if any:.... 237 5. Storage locker number, if any:.... 238 6. Attorney's name and contact information if the account 239 is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for 240 collection. No fee may be charged for this information. 241 7. Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel 242 certificate:.... 243 8. Name of the requestor:.... 244 9. Assessment information and other information: 245 246 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: 247 a. The regular periodic assessment levied against the unit is \$.... per ... (insert frequency of payment).... 248 249 b. The regular periodic assessment is paid through 250 ... (insert date paid through).... 251 c. The next installment of the regular periodic assessment 252 is due...(insert due date)... in the amount of \$..... 253 d. An itemized list of all assessments, special 254 assessments, and other moneys owed by the unit owner on the date 255 of issuance to the association for a specific unit is provided. 256 e. An itemized list of any additional assessments, special 257 assessments, and other moneys that are scheduled to become due 258 for each day after the date of issuance for the effective period 259 of the estoppel certificate is provided. In calculating the 260 amounts that are scheduled to become due, the association may 261 assume that any delinquent amounts will remain delinquent during 262 the effective period of the estoppel certificate. 263 264 OTHER INFORMATION:

2017398

265 f. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, 266 transfer fee, or other fee due? ... (Yes) ... (No) If yes, 267 specify the type and amount of the fee. 268 g. What is the amount, if any, of an association 269 application fee? 270 h. Is there a credit balance on the current account? 271 ...(Yes)... (No).... If yes, provide the following 272 information: 273 Yes, a balance of \$.... will be transferred to the new 274 owner account. Yes, a balance of \$.... will be transferred to the seller 275 276 by the association. i. Is there any violation of rule or regulation noticed to 277 278 the unit owner in the association official records? ... (Yes)... 279 ...(No).... 280 j. Is approval by the board of directors of the association 281 required for the transfer of the unit? ... Yes... ... (No).... 282 k. Do rules or regulations applicable to the unit provide 283 for a right of first refusal in favor of the members or 284 association? ... (Yes) (No) ... If yes, include applicable 285 rules or regulations. 286 1. Provide a list of utilities provided to the unit which 287 are included in the assessments paid to the association. 288 m. Provide a list of all recreational or land leases to the 289 association affecting the unit. 290 n. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all 291 other associations of which the unit is a member. 292 o. Provide a description of any pending or threatened 293 litigation or administrative proceedings in which the

28-00324A-17 2017398

association is a party or which otherwise affect the association.

- p. Provide contact information for all insurance maintained by the association.
- $\underline{\text{q. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent}}$ of the association.

The association, at its option, may include additional information in the estoppel certificate.

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

28-00324A-17 2017398

may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate. If the association fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within 15 business days, the association waives any claim, including a claim for a lien against the unit, against a purchaser and mortgagee of the unit who would have relied on the estoppel certificate, and the purchaser's and mortgagee's successors and assigns, for any amount that is owed to the association through the date of closing and that should have been shown on the 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 \$200 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 \$200.
- (g)1. 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

28-00324A-17 2017398

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:

- a. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
- <u>b. For 26 to</u> 50 units, \$1,000.
- c. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
- d. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
- 2. 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. An association may not require the payment of any other fee as a condition for the preparation or delivery of an estoppel certificate.
- (h) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate must be established by a written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract by a unit owner or mortgagee, the association shall provide a certificate stating all assessments and other moneys owed to the association by the unit owner with respect to the cooperative parcel. Any person other than the unit owner who relies upon such certificate shall be protected thereby. Notwithstanding any

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28-00324A-17 2017398

limitation on transfer fees contained in s. 719.106(1)(i), the association or its authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation of the certificate.

Section 3. Section 720.30851, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

720.30851 Estoppel certificates.—Within 10 business 15 days after receiving a written or electronic the date on which 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, 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) The estoppel certificate must contain all of the following information and must be substantially in the following form:
 - (a) Date of issuance:....
 - (b) Name of the parcel owner(s):....
 - (c) Parcel designation and address:....
 - (d) Parking or garage space number, if any:....
 - (e) Storage locker number, if any:....
- (f) 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.
- (g) Fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate:....

2017398

410 (h) Name of the requestor:.... 411 (i) Assessment information and other information: 412 413 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: 414 1. The regular periodic assessment levied against the 415 parcel is \$.... per ... (insert frequency of payment).... 416 2. The regular periodic assessment is paid through 417 ... (insert date paid through) 3. The next installment of the regular periodic assessment 418 419 is due ... (insert due date) ... in the amount of \$..... 420 4. An itemized list of all assessments, special 421 assessments, and other moneys owed on the date of issuance to 422 the association by the parcel owner for a specific parcel is 423 provided. 424 5. An itemized list of any additional assessments, special 425 assessments, and other moneys that are scheduled to become due 426 for each day after the date of issuance for the effective period 427 of the estoppel certificate is provided. In calculating the 428 amounts that are scheduled to become due, the association may 429 assume that any delinquent amounts will remain delinquent during 430 the effective period of the estoppel certificate. 431 432 OTHER INFORMATION: 433 6. Is there a capital contribution fee, resale fee, 434 transfer fee, or other fee due? ... (Yes) (No) If yes, 435 specify the type and amount of the fee. 436 7. What is the amount, if any, of an association 437 application fee? 8. Is there a credit balance on the current account? 438

28-00324A-17 2017398 439 ...(Yes)... (No).... If yes, provide the following 440 information: 441 Yes, a balance of \$.... will be transferred to the new 442 owner account. 443 Yes, a balance of \$... will be transferred to the seller 444 by the association. 445 9. Is there any violation of rule or regulation noticed to 446 the parcel owner in the association official records? 447 ...(Yes)... (No).... 448 10. Is approval by the board of directors of the 449 association required for the transfer of the parcel? ... (Yes) ... 450 ...(No).... 451 11. Do rules or regulations applicable to the parcel 452 provide for a right of first refusal in favor of the members or 453 association? ... (Yes) (No) ... If yes, include applicable 454 rules or regulations. 455 12. Provide a list of utilities provided to the parcel 456 which are included in the assessments paid to the association. 457 13. Provide a list of all recreational or land leases to 458 the association affecting the parcel. 459 14. Provide a list of, and contact information for, all 460 other associations of which the parcel is a member. 461 15. Provide a description of any pending or threatened 462 litigation or administrative proceedings in which the 463 association is a party or which otherwise affect the 464 association. 465 16. Provide contact information for all insurance 466 maintained by the association. 17. Provide the signature of an officer or authorized agent 467

28-00324A-17 2017398

of the association.

The association, at its option, may include additional information in the estoppel certificate.

- (2) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or sent 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 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 an estoppel certificate within 10 business days, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and delivery of that estoppel certificate. If the association fails to deliver the estoppel certificate within 15 business days, the association waives any claim, including a claim for a lien

28-00324A-17 2017398

against the parcel, against a purchaser and mortgagee of the parcel who would have relied on the estoppel certificate, and the purchaser's and mortgagee's successors and assigns, for any amount that is owed to the association through the date of closing and that should have been shown on the estoppel certificate for an estoppel certificate is received from a parcel owner or mortgagee, or his or her designee, the association shall provide a certificate signed by an officer or authorized agent of the association stating all assessments and other moneys owed to the association by the parcel owner or mortgagee with respect to the parcel. An association may charge a fee for the preparation of such certificate, and the amount of such fee must be stated on the certificate.

- (1) Any person other than a parcel owner who relies upon a certificate receives the benefits and protection thereof.
- $\underline{(5)}$ (2) 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 <u>attorney</u> attorney's 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 \$200 if on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent amounts are owed to the association for the applicable parcel. 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 parcel, an additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$200.

28-00324A-17 2017398

(7) (a) 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:

- 1. For 25 or fewer parcels, \$750.
- 2. For 26 to 50 parcels, \$1,000.
- 3. For 51 to 100 parcels, \$1,500.
- 4. For more than 100 parcels, \$2,500.
- (b) 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. An association may not require the payment of any other fee as a condition for the preparation or delivery of an estoppel certificate.
- (8)(3) The authority to charge a fee for the <u>preparation</u> and delivery of the estoppel certificate <u>must</u> shall be established 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

28-00324A-17

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 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.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Page 20 of 20