1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to estoppel certificates; amending ss. 3 718.116, 719.108, and 720.30851, F.S.; revising 4 requirements relating to the issuance of an estoppel 5 certificate to specified persons; requiring 6 condominium, cooperative, and homeowners' associations 7 to designate a person or entity to be responsible for 8 receiving estoppel certificate requests; requiring the 9 association to publish certain information on its 10 website; specifying requirements relating to delivery, contents, and effective periods for an estoppel 11 12 certificate; waiving the association's right to collect certain moneys from specified persons; 13 14 revising requirements relating to fees for preparing and delivering an estoppel certificate; authorizing 15 the statement of moneys due to be delivered in one or 16 17 more estoppel certificates under certain circumstances; providing penalties relating to 18 19 refunds; providing applicability relating to refunds; providing for the adjustment of fees; requiring the 20 21 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to calculate fees and publish such amounts on its 22 23 website; deleting obsolete provisions; conforming 24 provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date. 25

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27	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
28	
29	Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 718.116, Florida
30	Statutes, is amended to read:
31	718.116 Assessments; liability; lien and priority;
32	interest; collection
33	(8) An association shall designate a person or entity to
34	be responsible for receiving a request for issuance of an
35	estoppel certificate. If the association has a website, it must
36	publish the name and physical street or electronic mail address
37	of the person or entity on its website. After receiving a
38	written or electronic request for an estoppel certificate from a
39	unit owner, unit owner's designee, unit mortgagee, or unit
40	mortgagee's designee, an association shall issue the certificate
41	to the requesting party within 10 business days. The estoppel
42	certificate shall be delivered by United States mail, hand
43	delivery, or electronic transmission to the requesting party on
44	the date of issuance. For purposes of this subsection, deposit
45	of the certificate in the United States mail or the electronic
46	delivery of a downloadable link to the certificate constitutes
47	<u>delivery</u> Within 15 days after receiving a written request
48	therefor from a unit owner or his or her designee, or a unit
49	mortgagee or his or her designee, the association shall provide
50	a certificate signed by an officer or agent of the association

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51	stating all assessments and other moneys owed to the association
52	by the unit owner with respect to the condominium parcel.
53	(a) The estoppel certificate must contain all of the
54	following information as set forth in the association's official
55	books and records and may include additional information as
56	determined by the association:
57	1. Date of issuance;
58	2. Name of unit owner as reflected in the association's
59	official books and records;
60	3. Unit designation and address;
61	4. Attorney's name and contact information if the account
62	is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for
63	collection;
64	5. Fee for preparation and delivery;
65	6. Name of requestor;
66	7. Amount and frequency of the regular periodic assessment
67	against the unit;
68	8. Date through which the regular periodic assessment is
69	paid;
70	9. Date on which the next installment of the regular
71	periodic assessment is due;
72	10. Itemized list of all assessments, special assessments,
73	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on
74	the date of issuance;
75	11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special
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76	assessments, and other moneys scheduled to become due during the
77	estoppel certificate's effective period that are known on the
78	date of issuance;
79	12. Whether there is a capital contribution fee, resale
80	fee, transfer fee, association application fee, or other fee due
81	and, if so, the type and amount of the fee;
82	13. Whether there are any open violations of the governing
83	documents or rules and regulations of the association noticed to
84	the unit owner in the association's official books and records;
85	14. The contact information for all insurance maintained
86	by the association; and
87	15. The signature of an officer or authorized agent of the
88	association Any person other than the owner who relies upon such
89	certificate shall be protected thereby.
	certificate shall be protected thereby. (b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or
89	
89 90	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or
89 90 91	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An
89 90 91 92	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States mail has
89 90 91 92 93	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States mail has a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a
89 90 91 92 93 94	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States mail has a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the
89 90 91 92 93 94 95	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States 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
89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States 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
89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States 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
89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States 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

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effective period begins on such date.

(c) An association waives the right to collect any moneys
owed before the date of issuance in excess of the amounts
specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who
requests the certificate, or on whose behalf the certificate is
requested, and from the person's successors and assigns.

107 <u>(d) (b)</u> A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be 108 brought to compel compliance with this subsection, and in any 109 such action the prevailing party is entitled to recover 110 reasonable attorney attorney's fees.

(e) (c) Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees 111 112 contained in s. 718.112(2)(i), an the association or its 113 authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation 114 and delivery of an estoppel certificate, which may not exceed 115 \$250 if, on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent 116 amounts are owed to the association for the applicable unit. If 117 an estoppel certificate is requested on an expedited basis and 118 delivered within 3 business days after the request, the 119 association may charge an additional fee of \$100. If an estoppel 120 certificate is requested on a more expedited basis and delivered 121 within fewer than 3 business days after the request, the 122 association may charge an additional fee as mutually agreed upon by the association and the requesting party. If a delinquent 123 124 amount is owed to the association for the applicable unit, an 125 additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$200

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126	for the preparation of the certificate. The amount of the fee
127	must be included on the certificate.
128	(f) If an association receives a request for an estoppel
129	certificate from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a
130	unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, and does not
131	deliver the estoppel certificate within 10 business days after
132	the request, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and
133	delivery of the estoppel certificate.
134	(g) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by
135	the same owner are simultaneously requested from the same
136	association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed
137	to the association, the statement of moneys due for the units
138	may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even
139	though the fee for each unit shall be computed as provided in
140	paragraph (e), the total fee that the association may charge for
141	the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificates may
142	not exceed, in the aggregate:
143	1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
144	2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
145	<u>3.</u> For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
146	4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
147	(h) (d) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation
148	and delivery of the estoppel certificate must shall be
149	established by a written resolution adopted by the board or
150	provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance
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152 certificate <u>is ordered</u> . If <u>a fee for an estoppel certificate is paid in conjunction with the sale or 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</u>	e
154 <u>closing does not occur, and no later than 30 days after the</u>	
155 closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer	
156 receives a written request accompanied by documentation from a	
157 payor other than the unit owner that the closing did not occur	<u>/</u>
158 the fee shall be refunded to the payor within 30 days after	
159 receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of the un	it
160 owner, and the association may collect the refund from the uni	t
161 owner in the same manner as an assessment against the unit as	
162 provided in this chapter.	
163 (i) If the association does not issue a refund within th	e
164 30-day period in paragraph (h) and all conditions precedent to	
165 the issuance of the refund have been satisfied, the payor must	
166 notify the association in writing of its failure to provide the	e
167 refund. If the association does not issue the refund within 5	
168 business days after receipt of the notice, the payor is entitl	ed
169 to, and the association shall be required to refund to the	
170 payor, a sum equal to three times the original refund amount.	
171 (j) The right to a refund as provided in this subsection	
172 may not be abrogated or abridged by the association or its	
173 agent, and any language to the contrary contained within the	
174 estoppel certificate is null and void and has no force or	
175 <u>effect. A payor receiving an estoppel certificate containing</u>	

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176	language indicating that the fee for the certificate is
177	nonrefundable, in full or in part, is entitled to recover actual
178	damages or minimum damages for the association's failure to
179	comply with this subsection. The minimum damages shall be equal
180	to three times the original refund amount.
181	(k) The fees in this subsection shall be adjusted every 3
182	years in an amount equal to the annual increases for the 3-year
183	period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S.
184	City Average, All Items, published by the Bureau of Labor
185	Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The
186	Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall
187	periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar,
188	and publish the amounts, as adjusted, on its website the
189	certificate is requested in conjunction with the sale or
190	mortgage of a unit but the closing does not occur and no later
191	than 30 days after the closing date for which the certificate
192	was sought the preparer receives a written request, accompanied
193	by reasonable documentation, that the sale did not occur from a
194	payor that is not the unit owner, the fee shall be refunded to
195	that payor within 30 days after receipt of the request. The
196	refund is the obligation of the unit owner, and the association
197	may collect it from that owner in the same manner as an
198	assessment as provided in this section.
199	Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 719.108, Florida
200	Statutes, is amended to read:

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201 719.108 Rents and assessments; liability; lien and 202 priority; interest; collection; cooperative ownership.-203 (6) An association shall designate a person or entity to 204 be responsible for receiving a request for issuance of an 205 estoppel certificate. If the association has a website, it must 206 publish the name and physical street or electronic mail address 207 of the person or entity on its website. After receiving a 208 written or electronic request for an estoppel certificate from a 209 unit owner, unit owner's designee, unit mortgagee, or unit 210 mortgagee's designee, an association shall issue the certificate 211 to the requesting party within 10 business days. The estoppel 212 certificate shall be delivered by United States mail, hand 213 delivery, or electronic transmission to the requesting party on 214 the date of issuance. For purposes of this subsection, deposit 215 of the certificate in the United States mail or the electronic 216 delivery of a downloadable link to the certificate constitutes delivery Within 15 days after request by a unit owner or 217 218 mortgagee, the association shall provide a certificate stating 219 all assessments and other moneys owed to the association by the 220 unit owner with respect to the cooperative parcel. Any person 221 other than the unit owner who relies upon such certificate shall 222 be protected thereby. The estoppel certificate must contain all of the 223 (a) 224 following information as provided in the association's official

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books and records and may include additional information as

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226	determined by the association:
227	1. Date of issuance;
228	2. Name of unit owner as reflected in the association's
229	official books and records;
230	3. Unit designation and address;
231	4. Attorney's name and contact information if the account
232	is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for
233	collection;
234	5. Fee for preparation and delivery;
235	6. Name of requestor;
236	7. Amount and frequency of the regular periodic assessment
237	against the unit;
238	8. Date through which the regular periodic assessment is
239	paid;
240	9. Date on which the next installment of the regular
241	periodic assessment is due;
242	10. Itemized list of all assessments, special assessments,
242 243	10. Itemized list of all assessments, special assessments, and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on
243	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on
243 244	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on the date of issuance;
243 244 245	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on the date of issuance; 11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special
243 244 245 246	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on the date of issuance; 11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys scheduled to become due during the
243 244 245 246 247	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on the date of issuance; 11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys scheduled to become due during the estoppel certificate's effective period that are known on the
243 244 245 246 247 248	and other moneys owed by the unit owner to the association on the date of issuance; 11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special assessments, and other moneys scheduled to become due during the estoppel certificate's effective period that are known on the date of issuance;

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251 and, if so, the type and amount of the fee; 252 13. Whether there are any open violations of the governing 253 documents or rules and regulations of the association noticed to 254 the unit owner in the association's official books and records; 255 14. The contact information for all insurance maintained 256 by the association; and 257 15. The signature of an officer or authorized agent of the 258 association. 259 An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or (b) 260 electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An 261 estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States mail has 262 a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a 263 mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the 264 association within the effective period, an amended estoppel 265 certificate may be delivered and becomes effective if a sale or 266 refinancing of the unit has not been completed during the 267 effective period. A fee may not be charged for an amended 268 estoppel certificate. An amended estoppel certificate must be 269 delivered on the date of issuance, and a new 30-day or 35-day 270 effective period begins on such date. 271 (c) An association waives the right to collect any moneys 272 owed before the date of issuance in excess of the amounts 273 specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who 274 requests the certificate, or on whose behalf the certificate is 275 requested, and from the person's successors and assigns.

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276	(d) A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be
277	brought to compel compliance with this subsection, and in any
278	such action the prevailing party is entitled to recover
279	reasonable attorney fees.
280	(e) Notwithstanding any limitation on transfer fees
281	contained in s. 719.106(1)(i), <u>an</u> the association or its
282	authorized agent may charge a reasonable fee for the preparation
283	and delivery of the estoppel certificate, which may not exceed
284	\$250 if, on the date the certificate is issued, no delinquent
285	amounts are owed to the association for the applicable unit. If
286	an estoppel certificate is requested on an expedited basis and
287	delivered within 3 business days after the request, the
288	association may charge an additional fee of \$100. If an estoppel
289	certificate is requested on a more expedited basis and delivered
290	within fewer than 3 business days after the request, the
291	association may charge an additional fee as mutually agreed upon
292	by the association and the requesting party. If a delinquent
293	amount is owed to the association for the applicable unit, an
294	additional fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$200.
295	(f) If an association receives a request for an estoppel
296	certificate from a unit owner or the unit owner's designee, or a
297	unit mortgagee or the unit mortgagee's designee, and does not
298	deliver the estoppel certificate within 10 business days after
299	the request, a fee may not be charged for the preparation and
300	delivery of the estoppel certificate.
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301	(g) If estoppel certificates for multiple units owned by
302	the same owner are simultaneously requested from the same
303	association and there are no past due monetary obligations owed
304	to the association, the statement of moneys due for the units
305	may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even
306	though the fee for each unit shall be computed as provided in
307	paragraph (e), the total fee that the association may charge for
308	the preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificates may
309	not exceed, in the aggregate:
310	1. For 25 or fewer units, \$750.
311	2. For 26 to 50 units, \$1,000.
312	3. For 51 to 100 units, \$1,500.
313	4. For more than 100 units, \$2,500.
314	(h) The authority to charge a fee for the preparation and
315	delivery of the estoppel certificate must be established by a
316	written resolution adopted by the board or provided by a written
317	management, bookkeeping, or maintenance contract and is payable
318	at the time the certificate is ordered. If a fee for an estoppel
319	certificate is paid in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of
320	a unit but the closing does not occur, and no later than 30 days
321	after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the
322	preparer receives a written request accompanied by documentation
323	from a payor other than the unit owner that the closing did not
324	occur, the fee shall be refunded to the payor within 30 days
325	after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation of
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326	the unit owner, and the association may collect the refund from
327	the unit owner in the same manner as an assessment against the
328	unit as provided in this chapter.
329	(i) If the association does not issue a refund within the
330	30-day period in paragraph (h) and all conditions precedent to
331	the issuance of such refund have been satisfied, the payor must
332	notify the association in writing of its failure to provide the
333	refund. If the association does not issue the refund within 5
334	business days after receipt of the notice, the payor is entitled
335	to, and the association shall be required to refund to the
336	payor, a sum equal to three times the original refund amount.
337	(j) The right to a refund as provided in this subsection
338	may not be abrogated or abridged by the association or its
339	agent, and any language to the contrary contained within the
340	estoppel certificate is null and void and has no force or
341	effect. A payor receiving an estoppel certificate containing
342	language indicating that the fee for the certificate is
343	nonrefundable, in full or in part, is entitled to recover actual
344	damages or minimum damages for the association's failure to
345	comply with this subsection. The minimum damages shall be equal
346	to three times the original refund amount.
347	(k) The fees in this subsection shall be adjusted every 3
348	years in an amount equal to the annual increases for the 3-year
349	period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S.
350	City Average, All Items, published by the Bureau of Labor
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351	Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The
352	Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall
353	periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar,
354	and publish the amounts, as adjusted, on its website.
355	Section 3. Section 720.30851, Florida Statutes, is amended
356	to read:
357	720.30851 Estoppel certificates
358	(1) An association shall designate a person or entity to
359	be responsible for receiving requests for issuance of an
360	estoppel certificate. If the association has a website, it must
361	publish the name and physical street or electronic mail address
362	of the person or entity on its website. After receiving a
363	written or electronic request for an estoppel certificate from a
364	parcel owner, parcel owner's designee, parcel mortgagee, or
365	parcel mortgagee's designee, an association shall issue the
366	certificate to the requesting party within 10 business days. The
367	estoppel certificate shall be delivered by United States mail,
368	hand delivery, or electronic transmission to the requesting
369	party on the date of issuance. For purposes of this subsection,
370	deposit of the certificate in the United States mail or the
371	electronic delivery of a downloadable link to the certificate
372	constitutes delivery.
373	(a) The estoppel certificate must contain all of the
374	following information as provided in the association's official
375	books and records and may include additional information as
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376	determined by the association:
377	1. Date of issuance;
378	2. Name of parcel owner as reflected in the association's
379	official books and records;
380	3. Parcel designation and address;
381	4. Attorney's name and contact information if the account
382	is delinquent and has been turned over to an attorney for
383	collection;
384	5. Fee for preparation and delivery;
385	6. Name of requestor;
386	7. Amount and frequency of the regular periodic assessment
387	against the parcel;
388	8. Date through which the regular periodic assessment is
389	paid;
390	9. Date on which the next installment of the regular
391	periodic assessment is due;
392	10. Itemized list of all assessments, special assessments,
393	and other moneys owed by the parcel owner to the association on
394	the date of issuance;
395	11. Itemized list of any additional assessments, special
396	assessments, and other moneys scheduled to become due during the
397	estoppel certificate's effective period that are known on the
398	date of issuance;
399	12. Whether there is a capital contribution fee, resale
400	fee, transfer fee, association application fee, or other fee due
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401	and, if so, the type and amount of the fee;
402	13. Whether there are any open violations of the governing
403	documents or rules and regulations of the association noticed to
404	the parcel owner in the association's official books and
405	records;
406	14. The contact information for all insurance maintained
407	by the association; and
408	15. The signature of an officer or authorized agent of the
409	association.
410	(b) An estoppel certificate that is hand delivered or
411	electronically transmitted has a 30-day effective period. An
412	estoppel certificate that is delivered by United States mail has
413	a 35-day effective period. If additional information or a
414	mistake related to the estoppel certificate becomes known to the
415	association within the effective period, an amended estoppel
416	certificate may be delivered and becomes effective if a sale or
417	refinancing of the parcel has not been completed during the
418	effective period. A fee may not be charged for an amended
419	estoppel certificate. An amended estoppel certificate must be
420	delivered on the date of issuance, and a new 30-day or 35-day
421	effective period begins on such date.
422	(c) An association waives the right to collect any moneys
423	owed before the date of issuance in excess of the amounts
424	specified in the estoppel certificate from any person who
425	requests the certificate, or on whose behalf the certificate is
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426 requested, and from the person's successors and assigns Within 427 15 days after the date on which a request for an estoppel 428 certificate is received from a parcel owner or mortgagee, or his 429 or her designee, the association shall provide a certificate 430 signed by an officer or authorized agent of the association 431 stating all assessments and other moneys owed to the association 432 by the parcel owner or mortgagee with respect to the parcel. An association may charge a fee for the preparation of such 433 434 certificate, and the amount of such fee must be stated on the 435 certificate.

436 (1) Any person other than a parcel owner who relies upon a
437 certificate receives the benefits and protection thereof.

438 (d)(2) A summary proceeding pursuant to s. 51.011 may be 439 brought to compel compliance with this section, and <u>in any such</u> 440 <u>action</u> the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable 441 attorney attorney's fees.

442 (e) An association or its authorized agent may charge a 443 reasonable fee for the preparation and delivery of the estoppel 444 certificate, which may not exceed \$250 if, on the date the 445 certificate is issued, no delinquent amounts are owed to the association for the applicable parcel. If an estoppel 446 447 certificate is requested on an expedited basis and delivered within 3 business days after the request, the association may 448 charge an additional fee of \$100. If an estoppel certificate is 449 450 requested on a more expedited basis and delivered within fewer

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than 3 business days after the request, the association may
charge an additional fee as mutually agreed upon by the
association and the requesting party. If a delinquent amount is
owed to the association for the applicable parcel, an additional
fee for the estoppel certificate may not exceed \$200.
(f) 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
does not deliver the estoppel certificate within 10 business
days after the request, a fee may not be charged for the
preparation and delivery of the estoppel certificate.
(g) 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 the parcels
may be delivered in one or more estoppel certificates, and, even
though the fee for each parcel shall be computed as provided in
paragraph (e), 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.
<u>(h)</u> The authority to charge a fee for the preparation
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476 and delivery of the estoppel certificate must shall be 477 established by a written resolution adopted by the board or 478 provided by a written management, bookkeeping, or maintenance 479 contract and is payable at the time upon the preparation of the 480 certificate is ordered. If a fee for an estoppel the certificate 481 is paid requested in conjunction with the sale or mortgage of a 482 parcel but the closing does not occur, and no later than 30 days 483 after the closing date for which the certificate was sought the preparer receives a written request τ accompanied by reasonable 484 485 documentation from a payor other than the parcel owner $_{\tau}$ that the 486 closing sale did not occur from a payor that is not the parcel 487 owner, the fee shall be refunded to the that payor within 30 488 days after receipt of the request. The refund is the obligation 489 of the parcel owner, and the association may collect the refund 490 it from the parcel that owner in the same manner as an assessment against the parcel as provided in this chapter 491 492 section.

493 If the association does not issue a refund within the (i) 494 30-day period in paragraph (h) and all conditions precedent to 495 the issuance of such refund have been satisfied, the payor must 496 notify the association in writing of its failure to provide the 497 refund. If the association does not issue the refund within 5 business days after receipt of the notice, the payor is entitled 498 499 to, and the association shall be required to refund to the 500 payor, a sum equal to three times the original refund amount.

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

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501	(j) The right to a refund as provided in this subsection
502	may not be abrogated or abridged by the association or its
503	agent, and any language to the contrary contained within the
504	estoppel certificate is null and void and has no force or
505	effect. A payor receiving an estoppel certificate containing
506	language indicating that the fee for the certificate is
507	nonrefundable, in full or in part, is entitled to recover actual
508	damages or minimum damages for the association's failure to
509	comply with this subsection. The minimum damages shall be equal
510	to three times the original refund amount.
511	(2) The fees in this section shall be adjusted every 3
512	years in an amount equal to the annual increases for the 3-year
513	period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S.
514	City Average, All Items, published by the Bureau of Labor
515	Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The
516	Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall
517	periodically calculate the fees, rounded to the nearest dollar,
518	and publish the amounts, as adjusted, on its website.
519	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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