CS/HB 545

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to fines levied by homeowners'
3	associations; amending s. 720.305, F.S.; prohibiting
4	fines imposed by homeowners' associations from
5	exceeding \$500 in the aggregate; requiring an
6	association to provide certain notice to a member at
7	his or her designated mailing address; providing an
8	exception; providing requirements for such notice;
9	prohibiting the imposition of a fine or suspension
10	under certain circumstances; providing an effective
11	date.
12	
13	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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15	Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 720.305, Florida
16	Statutes, is amended to read:
17	720.305 Obligations of members; remedies at law or in
18	equity; levy of fines and suspension of use rights
19	(2) An association may levy reasonable fines. A fine may
20	not exceed \$100 per violation against any member or any member's
21	tenant, guest, or invitee for the failure of the owner of the
22	parcel or its occupant, licensee, or invitee to comply with any
23	provision of the declaration, the association bylaws, or
24	reasonable rules of the association unless otherwise provided in
25	the governing documents. A fine may be levied by the board for
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26 each day of a continuing violation, with a single notice and 27 opportunity for hearing, except that the fine may not exceed 28 \$500 \$1,000 in the aggregate unless otherwise provided in the 29 governing documents. The notice must be sent to a member's 30 designated mailing address, which is the member's property address, unless the member has sent written notice to the 31 32 association requesting that a different mailing address be used for such notice. The notice must include a description of the 33 34 alleged violation and the specific actions required to cure such 35 violation. If the member cures the alleged violation within 14 days after receiving notice from the association, a fine or 36 suspension may not be imposed for such violation. A fine of less 37 38 than \$1,000 may not become a lien against a parcel. In any 39 action to recover a fine, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs from the nonprevailing party 40 41 as determined by the court.

An association may suspend, for a reasonable period of 42 (a) 43 time, the right of a member, or a member's tenant, guest, or 44 invitee, to use common areas and facilities for the failure of 45 the owner of the parcel or its occupant, licensee, or invitee to 46 comply with any provision of the declaration, the association 47 bylaws, or reasonable rules of the association. This paragraph 48 does not apply to that portion of common areas used to provide 49 access or utility services to the parcel. A suspension may not 50 prohibit an owner or tenant of a parcel from having vehicular

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and pedestrian ingress to and egress from the parcel, including, but not limited to, the right to park.

53 A fine or suspension levied by the board of (b) 54 administration may not be imposed unless the board first 55 provides at least 14 days' notice to the parcel owner and, if 56 applicable, any occupant, licensee, or invitee of the parcel 57 owner, sought to be fined or suspended and an opportunity for a hearing before a committee of at least three members appointed 58 59 by the board who are not officers, directors, or employees of the association, or the spouse, parent, child, brother, or 60 sister of an officer, director, or employee. If the committee, 61 by majority vote, does not approve a proposed fine or 62 63 suspension, the proposed fine or suspension may not be imposed. 64 The role of the committee is limited to determining whether to 65 confirm or reject the fine or suspension levied by the board. If 66 the proposed fine or suspension levied by the board is approved by the committee, the fine payment is due 5 days after notice of 67 68 the approved fine is provided to the parcel owner and, if 69 applicable, to any occupant, licensee, or invitee of the parcel 70 owner. The association must provide written notice of such fine 71 or suspension by mail or hand delivery to the parcel owner and, 72 if applicable, to any occupant, licensee, or invitee of the 73 parcel owner.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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