As Passed by the Senate

134th General Assembly

Regular Session 2021-2022

S. B. No. 49

Senators Hottinger, Sykes

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Craig, Rulli, Yuko, Blessing, Manning, Schuring, Antonio, Cirino, Fedor, Gavarone, Hackett, Hoagland, Johnson, Reineke, Romanchuk, Williams, Wilson

A BILL

То	enact sections 4703.20, 4703.201, 4703.202,	1
	4703.203, 4703.204, 4703.205, 4703.206, 4703.54,	2
	4703.541, 4703.542, 4703.543, 4703.544,	3
	4703.545, 4703.546, 4733.30, 4733.301, 4733.302,	4
	4733.303, 4733.304, 4733.305, and 4733.306 of	5
	the Revised Code to establish a payment	6
	assurance program for registered design	7
	professionals.	8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4703.20, 4703.201, 4703.202,	9
4703.203, 4703.204, 4703.205, 4703.206, 4703.54, 4703.541,	10
4703.542, 4703.543, 4703.544, 4703.545, 4703.546, 4733.30,	11
4733.301, 4733.302, 4733.303, 4733.304, 4733.305, and 4733.306	12
of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	13
Sec. 4703.20. As used in sections 4703.20 to 4703.206 of	14
the Revised Code:	15
(A) "Architect" means an individual, partnership,	16

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(b) A fixture, bridge, or other structure;

constructed for the production of oil or gas.

(c) Any gas pipeline or well, including a well drilled or

(2) The furnishing of tile for the drainage of any lot or	44
<pre>land;</pre>	45
(3) The excavation, cleanup, or removal of hazardous	46
<pre>material or waste from real property;</pre>	47
(4) The enhancement or embellishment of real property by	48
seeding, sodding, or the planting thereon of any plants;	49
(5) The grading or filling to establish a grade.	50
(D) "Owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable	51
interest in commercial real estate, including a contingent	52
interest, pursuant to an agreement or contract, and who enters	53
into a written contract with an architect for services to be	54
provided with regard to any such interest in the commercial real	55
estate.	56
Sec. 4703.201. (A) (1) An architect who enters into a	57
written contract for services to be provided with regard to any	58
interest in commercial real estate has a lien on that interest.	59
(2) The lien shall be effective only if the contract for	60
services is in writing and is signed by the architect and the	61
owner of the interest in commercial real estate.	62
(B) (1) Only the architect named in the contract shall have	63
a lien pursuant to this section.	64
(2) A lien is not available to any employee, agent, or	65
independent contractor of the architect.	66
(C) The amount of the lien shall be limited to the amount	67
due to the architect pursuant to the contract.	68
(D) The lien shall be effective only against the interest	69
in commercial real estate that is the subject of the contract.	70

(E) All valid and recorded mechanic's liens arising	71
pursuant to Chapter 1311. of the Revised Code, regardless of	72
recordation date, and all previously recorded mortgages and	73
liens, including judgment liens, take priority over an	74
architect's lien.	75
Sec. 4703.202. (A) To perfect a lien on commercial real	76
estate referred to in section 4703.201 of the Revised Code, an	77
architect shall file with the county recorder of the county in	78
which the commercial real estate is located an affidavit as	79
described in division (B) of this section.	80
(B) (1) The affidavit required under division (A) of this	81
section shall include all of the following:	82
(a) The name of the architect;	83
(b) The name of the owner of the interest in the	84
<pre>commercial real estate;</pre>	85
(c) The name of the record owner of the commercial real	86
estate if different than the owner described in division (B)(1)	87
(b) of this section;	88
(d) (i) A legal description of the commercial real estate	89
sufficient to reference the instrument by which the record owner	90
took title;	91
(ii) Division (B)(1)(d)(i) of this section shall not be	92
construed as requiring a metes and bounds description.	93
(e) The parties to and date of the contract;	94
(f) The amount of the architect's claim under the	95
contract;	96
(q) A statement that the information contained in the	97

(C) (1) The architect shall file the complaint within two

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years of the date of recordation of the affidavit required under	127
section 4703.202 of the Revised Code.	128
(2) Failure to file a complaint within the time specified	129
shall extinguish the lien.	130
(D)(1)(a) Any person with an interest in the commercial	131
real estate subject to a lien perfected pursuant to section	132
4703.202 of the Revised Code may demand, in writing, that the	133
architect commence suit to enforce the lien.	134
(b) Such a demand shall be commenced by serving the	135
architect and all parties listed in the affidavit required under	136
section 4703.202 of the Revised Code the written demand. Such a	137
delivery may be made by any means that provides proof of	138
receipt.	139
(2) If the architect does not commence the action within	140
sixty days after receipt of the demand, the lien is	141
extinguished.	142
Sec. 4703.204. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	143
perfected pursuant to section 4703.202 of the Revised Code is	144
satisfied, the architect holding the lien shall record a written	145
release of the architect's lien in the county recorder's office	146
of the county in which the lien was recorded.	147
(B) The architect shall file the lien release for	148
recording within thirty days after the underlying claim is	149
satisfied.	150
(C) The county recorder shall record the release and	151
charge and collect from the architect the fees set forth in	152
section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the recorder's services.	153
Sec. 4703.205. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	154

established pursuant to section 4703.201 of the Revised Code is	155
satisfied, regardless of whether or not the architect holding	156
the lien records a written release pursuant to section 4703.204	157
of the Revised Code, or when such a lien is extinguished	158
pursuant to section 4703.203 of the Revised Code, any person	159
with an interest in the commercial real estate that was the	160
subject of the lien, or named in the affidavit recorded pursuant	161
to section 4703.202 of the Revised Code, may record an affidavit	162
stating that the underlying claim was satisfied or that the lien	163
was released by operation of law in the county recorder's office	164
of the county in which the commercial real estate is located.	165
(B) The county recorder shall record the affidavit and	166
charge and collect from the person filing the affidavit the fees	167
set forth in section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the	168
recorder's services.	169
(C) The fact that a claim underlying a lien is satisfied	170
or that a lien is extinguished by operation of law does not	171
affect any other right or appropriate action, such as for breach	172
of contract.	173
Sec. 4703.206. (A) Any person with an interest in	174
commercial real estate on which a lien has been perfected	175
pursuant to section 4703.202 of the Revised Code, or named in	176
the affidavit required under that section, may apply to the	177
common pleas court of the county in which the commercial real	178
estate is located to substitute financial security for the lien.	179
(B) The substitute security shall be in the amount equal	180
to the architect's claim, and in a form such as an escrow	181
account or surety bond held by the clerk of courts or other	182
party as determined adequate by the court.	183

(C) The court, in its entry approving the substitute	184
security, shall direct the release of the lien.	185
(D)(1) The person substituting the security shall file the	186
entry and release for recording in the office of the county	187
recorder of the county in which the commercial real estate is	188
<pre>located.</pre>	189
(2) The county recorder shall record the entry and release	190
and charge and collect from the person filing the entry and	191
release for recording the fees set forth in section 317.32 of	192
the Revised Code for the recorder's services.	193
Sec. 4703.54. As used in sections 4703.54 to 4703.546 of	194
the Revised Code:	195
(A) "Commercial real estate" and "improvement" have the	196
same meanings as in section 4703.20 of the Revised Code.	197
(B) "Landscape architect" means an individual,	198
partnership, corporation, or association providing landscape	199
architect services pursuant to this chapter. "Landscape	200
architect" does not include an architect licensed under this	201
<pre>chapter.</pre>	202
(C) "Owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable	203
interest in commercial real estate, including a contingent	204
interest, pursuant to an agreement or contract, and who enters	205
into a written contract with a landscape architect for services	206
to be provided with regard to any such interest in the	207
commercial real estate.	208
Sec. 4703.541. (A) (1) A landscape architect who enters	209
into a written contract for services to be provided with regard	210
to any interest in commercial real estate has a lien on that	211
interest.	212

(2) The lien shall be effective only if the contract for	213
services is in writing and is signed by the landscape architect	214
and the owner of the interest in commercial real estate.	215
(B) (1) Only the landscape architect named in the contract	216
shall have a lien pursuant to this section.	217
(2) A lien is not available to any employee, agent, or	218
independent contractor of the landscape architect.	219
(C) The amount of the lien shall be limited to the amount	220
due to the landscape architect pursuant to the contract.	221
(D) The lien shall be effective only against the interest	222
in commercial real estate that is the subject of the contract.	223
(E) All valid and recorded mechanic's liens arising	224
pursuant to Chapter 1311. of the Revised Code, regardless of	225
recordation date, and all previously recorded mortgages and	226
liens, including judgment liens, take priority over a landscape	227
architect's lien.	228
Sec. 4703.542. (A) To perfect a lien on commercial real	229
estate referred to in section 4703.541 of the Revised Code, a	230
landscape architect shall file with the county recorder of the	231
county in which the commercial real estate is located an	232
affidavit as described in division (B) of this section.	233
(B) (1) The affidavit required under division (A) of this	234
section shall include all of the following:	235
(a) The name of the landscape architect;	236
(b) The name of the owner of the interest in the	237
<pre>commercial real estate;</pre>	238
(c) The name of the record owner of the commercial real	239

estate if different than the owner described in division (B)(1)	240
(b) of this section;	241
(d)(i) A legal description of the commercial real estate	242
sufficient to reference the instrument by which the record owner	243
<pre>took title;</pre>	244
(ii) Division (B)(1)(d)(i) of this section shall not be	245
construed as requiring a metes and bounds description.	246
(e) The parties to and date of the contract;	247
(f) The amount of the landscape architect's claim under	248
<pre>the contract;</pre>	249
(g) A statement that the information contained in the	250
affidavit is true and accurate to the knowledge of the landscape	251
architect.	252
(2) The affidavit shall be signed by the landscape	253
architect and notarized.	254
(C) Not later than thirty days after recordation, the	255
landscape architect shall serve the recorded affidavit upon all	256
parties listed in the affidavit by such delivery method as	257
provides proof of receipt. Failure to serve shall not invalidate	258
the lien, but a court may consider equitable remedies for such	259
failure.	260
(D) A county recorder receiving an affidavit filed	261
pursuant to division (A) of this section shall record the	262
affidavit and charge and collect from the person filing the	263
affidavit the fees prescribed in section 317.32 of the Revised	264
Code for the recorder's services.	265
Sec. 4703.543. (A) (1) A landscape architect holding a lien	266
that has been perfected pursuant to section 4703.542 of the	267

Revised Code may commence proceedings to enforce a lien by	268
filing a complaint in the common pleas court of the county in	269
which the commercial real estate is located.	270
(2) The complaint need not initiate foreclosure	271
proceedings on the lien prior to a court determining the	272
validity of the underlying claim.	273
(B) The landscape architect shall name as defendants in	274
the complaint all parties who have an interest of record in the	275
commercial real estate that is the subject of the lien,	276
including all parties named in the affidavit required under	277
section 4703.542 of the Revised Code.	278
(C) (1) The landscape architect shall file the complaint	279
within two years of the date of recordation of the affidavit	280
required under section 4703.542 of the Revised Code.	281
(2) Failure to file a complaint within the time specified	282
shall extinguish the lien.	283
(D)(1)(a) Any person with an interest in the commercial	284
real estate subject to a lien perfected pursuant to section	285
4703.542 of the Revised Code may demand, in writing, that the	286
landscape architect commence suit to enforce the lien.	287
(b) Such a demand shall be commenced by serving the	288
landscape architect and all parties listed in the affidavit	289
required under section 4703.542 of the Revised Code the written	290
demand. Such a delivery may be made by any means that provides	291
<pre>proof of receipt.</pre>	292
(2) If the landscape architect does not commence the	293
action within sixty days after receipt of the demand, the lien	294
is extinguished.	295

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Sec. 4703.544. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	296
perfected pursuant to section 4703.542 of the Revised Code is	297
satisfied, the landscape architect holding the lien shall record	298
a written release of the landscape architect's lien in the	299
county recorder's office of the county in which the lien was	300
recorded.	301
(B) The landscape architect shall file the lien release	302
for recording within thirty days after the underlying claim is	303
satisfied.	304
(C) The county recorder shall record the release and	305
charge and collect from the landscape architect the fees set	306
forth in section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the recorder's	307
services.	308
Sec. 4703.545. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	309
established pursuant to section 4703.541 of the Revised Code is	310
satisfied, regardless of whether or not the landscape architect	311
holding the lien records a written release pursuant to section	312
4703.544 of the Revised Code, or when such a lien is	313
extinguished pursuant to section 4703.543 of the Revised Code,	314
any person with an interest in the commercial real estate that	315
was the subject of the lien, or named in the affidavit recorded	316
pursuant to section 4703.542 of the Revised Code, may record an	317
affidavit stating that the underlying claim was satisfied or	318
that the lien was released by operation of law in the county	319
recorder's office of the county in which the commercial real	320
estate is located.	321
(B) The county recorder shall record the affidavit and	322
charge and collect from the person filing the affidavit the fees	323
set forth in section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the	324
recorder's services.	325

(C) The fact that a claim underlying a lien is satisfied	326
or that a lien is extinguished by operation of law does not	327
affect any other right or appropriate action, such as for breach	328
of contract.	329
Sec. 4703.546. (A) Any person with an interest in	330
commercial real estate on which a lien has been perfected	331
pursuant to section 4703.542 of the Revised Code, or named in	332
the affidavit required under that section, may apply to the	333
common pleas court of the county in which the commercial real	334
estate is located to substitute financial security for the lien.	335
(B) The substitute security shall be in the amount equal	336
to the landscape architect's claim, and in a form such as an	337
escrow account or surety bond held by the clerk of courts or	338
other party as determined adequate by the court.	339
(C) The court, in its entry approving the substitute	340
security, shall direct the release of the lien.	341
(D) (1) The person substituting the security shall file the	342
entry and release for recording in the office of the county	343
recorder of the county in which the commercial real estate is	344
located.	345
(2) The county recorder shall record the entry and release	346
and charge and collect from the person filing the entry and	347
release for recording the fees set forth in section 317.32 of	348
the Revised Code for the recorder's services.	349
Sec. 4733.30. As used in sections 4733.30 to 4733.306 of	350
<pre>the Revised Code:</pre>	351
(A) "Commercial real estate" and "improvement" have the	352
same meanings as in section 4703 20 of the Revised Code	353

(B) "Owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable	354
interest in commercial real estate, including a contingent	355
interest, pursuant to an agreement or contract, and who enters	356
into a written contract with a professional engineer or	357
professional surveyor for services to be provided with regard to	358
any such interest in the commercial real estate.	359
(C) "Professional engineer" means an individual,	360
partnership, corporation, or association providing engineering	361
services pursuant to this chapter.	362
(D) "Professional surveyor" means an individual,	363
partnership, corporation, or association providing engineering	364
services pursuant to this chapter.	365
Sec. 4733.301. (A) (1) A professional engineer or	366
professional surveyor who enters into a written contract for	367
services to be provided with regard to any interest in	368
commercial real estate has a lien on that interest.	369
(2) The lien shall be effective only if the contract for	370
services is in writing and is signed by the professional	371
<pre>engineer or professional surveyor and the owner of the interest</pre>	372
in commercial real estate.	373
(B) (1) Only the professional engineer or professional	374
surveyor named in the contract shall have a lien pursuant to	375
this section.	376
(2) A lien is not available to any employee, agent, or	377
independent contractor of the professional engineer or	378
professional surveyor.	379
(C) The amount of the lien shall be limited to the amount	380
due to the professional engineer or professional surveyor	381
pursuant to the contract	382

(D) The lien shall be effective only against the interest	383
in commercial real estate that is the subject of the contract.	384
(E) All valid and recorded mechanic's liens arising	385
pursuant to Chapter 1311. of the Revised Code, regardless of	386
recordation date, and all previously recorded mortgages and	387
liens, including judgment liens, take priority over a	388
professional engineer or professional surveyor's lien.	389
Sec. 4733.302. (A) To perfect a lien on commercial real_	390
estate referred to in section 4733.301 of the Revised Code, a	391
professional engineer or professional surveyor shall file with	392
the county recorder of the county in which the commercial real	393
estate is located an affidavit as described in division (B) of	394
this section.	395
(B)(1) The affidavit required under division (A) of this	396
section shall include all of the following:	397
(a) The name of the professional engineer or professional	398
surveyor;	399
(b) The name of the owner of the interest in the	400
<pre>commercial real estate;</pre>	401
(c) The name of the record owner of the commercial real	402
estate if different than the owner described in division (B)(1)	403
(b) of this section;	404
(d)(i) A legal description of the commercial real estate	405
sufficient to reference the instrument by which the record owner	406
<pre>took title;</pre>	407
(ii) Division (B)(1)(d)(i) of this section shall not be	408
construed as requiring a metes and bounds description.	409
(e) The parties to and date of the contract:	410

(f) The amount of the professional engineer or	411
professional surveyor's claim under the contract;	412
(g) A statement that the information contained in the	413
affidavit is true and accurate to the knowledge of the	414
professional engineer or professional surveyor.	415
(2) The affidavit shall be signed by the professional	416
engineer or professional surveyor and notarized.	417
(C) Not later than thirty days after recordation, the	418
professional engineer or professional surveyor shall serve the	419
recorded affidavit upon all parties listed in the affidavit by	420
such delivery method as provides proof of receipt. Failure to	421
serve shall not invalidate the lien, but a court may consider	422
equitable remedies for such failure.	423
(D) A county recorder receiving an affidavit filed	424
pursuant to division (A) of this section shall record the	425
affidavit and charge and collect from the person filing the	426
affidavit the fees prescribed in section 317.32 of the Revised	427
Code for the recorder's services.	428
Sec. 4733.303. (A) (1) A professional engineer or	429
professional surveyor holding a lien that has been perfected	430
pursuant to section 4733.302 of the Revised Code may commence	431
proceedings to enforce the lien by filing a complaint in the	432
common pleas court of the county in which the commercial real	433
estate is located.	434
(2) The complaint need not initiate foreclosure	435
proceedings on the lien prior to a court determining the	436
validity of the underlying claim.	437
(B) The professional engineer or professional surveyor	438
shall name as defendants in the complaint all parties who have	430

an interest of record in the commercial real estate that is the	440
subject of the lien, including all parties named in the	441
affidavit required under section 4733.302 of the Revised Code.	442
(C)(1) The professional engineer or professional surveyor	443
shall file the complaint within two years of the date of	444
recordation of the affidavit required under section 4733.302 of	445
the Revised Code.	446
(2) Failure to file a complaint within the time specified	447
shall extinguish the lien.	448
(D)(1)(a) Any person with an interest in the commercial	449
real estate subject to a lien perfected pursuant to section	450
4733.302 of the Revised Code may demand, in writing, that the	451
professional engineer or professional surveyor commence suit to	452
enforce the lien.	453
(b) Such a demand shall be commenced by serving the	454
professional engineer or professional surveyor and all parties	455
listed in the affidavit required under section 4733.302 of the	456
Revised Code the written demand. Such a delivery may be made by	457
any means that provides proof of receipt.	458
(2) If the professional engineer or professional surveyor	459
does not commence the action within sixty days after receipt of	460
the demand, the lien is extinguished.	461
Sec. 4733.304. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	462
perfected pursuant to section 4733.302 of the Revised Code is	463
satisfied, the professional engineer or professional surveyor	464
holding the lien shall record a written release of the	465
professional engineer or professional surveyor's lien in the	466
county recorder's office of the county in which the lien was	467
recorded.	468

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(B) The professional engineer or professional surveyor	469
shall file the lien release for recording within thirty days	470
after the underlying claim is satisfied.	471
(C) The county recorder shall record the release and	472
charge and collect from the professional engineer or	473
professional surveyor the fees set forth in section 317.32 of	474
the Revised Code for the recorder's services.	475
Sec. 4733.305. (A) When a claim underlying a lien	476
established pursuant to section 4733.301 of the Revised Code is	477
satisfied, regardless of whether or not the professional	478
<pre>engineer or professional surveyor holding the lien recorded a</pre>	479
written release pursuant to section 4733.304 of the Revised	480
Code, or when such a lien is extinguished pursuant to section	481
4733.303 of the Revised Code, any person with an interest in the	482
commercial real estate that was the subject of the lien, or	483
named in the affidavit recorded pursuant to section 4733.302 of	484
the Revised Code, may record an affidavit stating that the	485
underlying claim was satisfied or that the lien was released by	486
operation of law in the county recorder's office of the county	487
in which the commercial real estate is located.	488
(B) The county recorder shall record the affidavit and	489
charge and collect from the person filing the affidavit the fees	490
set forth in section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the	491
recorder's services.	492
(C) The fact that a claim underlying a lien is satisfied	493
or that a lien is extinguished by operation of law does not	494
affect any other right or appropriate action, such as for breach	495
of contract.	496

Sec. 4733.306. (A) Any person with an interest in

<u>commercial real estate on which a lien has been perfected</u>	498
pursuant to section 4733.302 of the Revised Code, or named in	499
the affidavit required under that section, may apply to the	500
common pleas court of the county in which the commercial real	501
estate is located to substitute financial security for the lien.	502
(B) The substitute security shall be in the amount equal	503
to the professional engineer or professional surveyor's claim,	504
and in a form such as an escrow account or surety bond held by	505
the clerk of courts or other party as determined adequate by the	506
<pre>court.</pre>	507
(C) The court, in its entry approving the substitute	508
security, shall direct the release of the lien.	509
(D)(1) The person substituting the security shall file the	510
entry and release for recording in the office of the county	511
recorder of the county in which the commercial real estate is	512
<pre>located.</pre>	513
(2) The county recorder shall record the entry and release	514
and charge and collect from the person filing the entry and	515
release for recording the fees set forth in section 317.32 of	516
the Revised Code for the recorder's services.	517