As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session 2021-2022

S. B. No. 49

Senators Hottinger, Sykes

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Craig, Rulli, Yuko, Blessing, Manning, Schuring

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
corporation, or association providing architect services	17
oursuant to this chapter. "Architect" does not include a	18

intended to contain one-to-four residential units.	22
(b) "Commercial real estate" includes any improvement made	23
to or with regard to such a parcel.	24
(2) "Commercial real estate" does not include either of	25
the following:	26
(a) Single-family residential units such as condominiums,	27
townhouses, manufactured homes or industrialized units as	28
defined in section 3781.06 of the Revised Code, or homes in a	29
subdivision when sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed on a unit-	30
by-unit basis, even though these units may be a part of a larger	31
building or parcel of real estate containing more than four	32
residential units;	33
(b) Real estate owned by a public authority as defined in	34
section 1311.25 of the Revised Code.	35
(C) "Improvement" means all of the following:	36
(1) Designing, planning, constructing, erecting, altering,	37
repairing, demolishing, removing, or providing other	38
construction services with regard to any of the following:	39
(a) Any building or appurtenance thereto;	40
(b) A fixture, bridge, or other structure;	41
(c) Any gas pipeline or well, including a well drilled or	42
constructed for the production of oil or gas.	43
(2) The furnishing of tile for the drainage of any lot or	44
<pre>land;</pre>	45

(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

S. B. No. 49 As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee	Page 4
recordation date, and all previously recorded mortgages and	73
liens, including judgment liens, take priority over an	7.4
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	7.9
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	8.9
sufficient to reference the instrument by which the record owner	90
<pre>took title;</pre>	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
<pre>contract;</pre>	96
(g) A statement that the information contained in the	97
affidavit is true and accurate to the knowledge of the	98
architect.	99

(2) The affidavit shall be signed by the architect and	100
<pre>notarized.</pre>	101
(C) Not later than thirty days after recordation, the	102
architect shall serve the recorded affidavit upon all parties	103
listed in the affidavit by such delivery method as provides	104
proof of receipt. Failure to serve shall not invalidate the	105
lien, but a court may consider equitable remedies for such	106
failure.	107
(D) A county recorder receiving an affidavit filed	108
pursuant to division (A) of this section shall record the	109
affidavit and charge and collect from the person filing the	110
affidavit the fees prescribed in section 317.32 of the Revised	111
Code for the recorder's services.	112
Sec. 4703.203. (A) (1) An architect holding a lien on	113
commercial real estate that has been perfected pursuant to	114
section 4703.202 of the Revised Code may commence proceedings to	115
enforce the lien by filing a complaint in the common pleas court	116
of the county in which the commercial real estate is located.	117
(2) The complaint need not initiate foreclosure	118
proceedings on the lien prior to a court determining the	119
validity of the underlying claim.	120
(B) The architect shall name as defendants in the	121
complaint all parties who have an interest of record in the	122
commercial real estate that is the subject of the lien,	123
including all parties named in the affidavit required under	124
section 4703.202 of the Revised Code.	125
(C)(1) The architect shall file the complaint within two	126
years of the date of recordation of the affidavit required under	127
section 4703.202 of the Revised Code.	128

Page 6

(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

services is in writing and is signed by the landscape architect

and the owner of the interest in commercial real estate.

214215

(D) The lien shall be effective only against the interest in commercial real estate that is the subject of the contract.

221

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

(E) All valid and recorded mechanic's liens arising
pursuant to Chapter 1311. of the Revised Code, regardless of
recordation date, and all previously recorded mortgages and
liens, including judgment liens, take priority over a landscape
architect's lien.

due to the landscape architect pursuant to the contract.

sec. 4703.542. (A) To perfect a lien on commercial real estate referred to in section 4703.541 of the Revised Code, a landscape architect shall file with the county recorder of the county in which the commercial real estate is located an affidavit as described in division (B) of this section.

(B) (1) The affidavit required under division (A) of this

section shall include all of the following:

234

(a) The name of the landscape architect;

(b) The name of the owner of the interest in the commercial real estate;

(c) The name of the record owner of the commercial real estate if different than the owner described in division (B)(1)

(b) of this section;

(d) (i) A legal description of the commercial real estate

Page 10

sufficient to reference the instrument by which the record owner	243
took title;	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
the contract;	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
proof of receipt.	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
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	290

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
<pre>forth in section 317.32 of the Revised Code for the recorder's</pre>	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
<pre>located.</pre>	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
estate is located.	404
(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	439
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
(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
engineer or professional surveyor holding the lien recorded a	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	497
commercial real estate on which a lien has been perfected	498
pursuant to section 4733.302 of the Revised Code, or named in	499

S. B. No. 49	
As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee	

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
court.	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

Page 19