As Reported by the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

134th General Assembly Regular Session 2021-2022

Sub. S. B. No. 61

Senators Blessing, Antonio Cosponsor: Senator Maharath

A BILL

То	amend sections 5311.05, 5311.08, 5311.081,	1
	5311.091, 5311.16, 5311.18, 5312.02, 5312.03,	2
	5312.05, 5312.06, 5312.07, and 5312.11 and to	3
	enact sections 5311.192 and 5312.16 of the	4
	Revised Code regarding condominiums and planned	5
	community properties.	6

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

Section 1. That sections 5311.05, 5311.08, 5311.081,	7
5311.091, 5311.16, 5311.18, 5312.02, 5312.03, 5312.05, 5312.06,	8
5312.07, and 5312.11 be amended and sections 5311.192 and	9
5312.16 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	10
Sec. 5311.05. (A) A declaration submitting property to the	11
provisions of this chapter shall be signed and acknowledged by	12
the owner before a judge or clerk of a court of record, county	13
auditor, county engineer, notary public, or mayor, who shall	14
certify the acknowledgment and subscribe the certificate of	15
acknowledgment.	16
(B) A declaration shall contain all of the following:	17
(1) A legal description of the land or, for a water slip	18

condominium property, of the land and the land under the water 19 area, submitted to the provisions of this chapter; 20 (2) The name of the condominium property, which shall 21 include the word "condominium"; 22 (3) The purpose of the condominium property, the units and 23 recreational and commercial facilities situated in the 24 condominium property, and any restrictions upon the use of the 25 condominium property; 26 (4) A general description of buildings submitted to the 27 provisions of this chapter, stating the principal construction 28 materials and the number of stories, basements, and units. The 29 declaration for a water slip property shall also contain a 30 general description of each water slip and of the piers and 31 wharves forming each water slip submitted to the provisions of 32 this chapter; 33 (5) The unit designation of each unit submitted to the 34 provisions of this chapter and a statement of its location, 35

approximate area, the immediate common element or limited common36element to which it has access, and any other information37necessary for its proper identification;38

(6) A description of the common elements and limited 39 common elements submitted to the provisions of this chapter, the 40 undivided interest in those elements appurtenant to each unit, 41 the basis upon which those appurtenant undivided interests are 42 allocated, and the procedures whereby the undivided interests 43 appertaining to each unit may be altered. The undivided 44 interests, basis, and procedures shall be in accordance with 45 sections 5311.031 to 5311.033 and 5311.04 of the Revised Code; 46

(7) A statement that each unit owner is a member of a unit 47

owners association established for the administration of the 48 condominium property; 49 (8) The name of a person to receive service of process for 50 the unit owners association, together with the person's 51 residence or place of business located in this state; 52 (9) A statement of any membership requirement if the unit 53 owners association or any unit owners are required to be members 54 of a not-for-profit organization that provides facilities or 55 recreation, education, or social services to owners of property 56 57 other than the condominium property; (10) The method by which the declaration may be amended, 58 which, except as provided in division (E) of this section, 59 division (E) of section 5311.04, division (B) of section 60 5311.041, and sections 5311.031 to 5311.033 and 5311.051 of the 61 Revised Code, requires the affirmative vote of unit owners 62 exercising not less than seventy-five per cent of the voting 63 power; 64 (11) Any further provisions deemed desirable. 65 (C) The declaration for an expandable condominium property 66 shall contain all of the following in addition to the 67 requirements of division (B) of this section: 68

(1) The explicit reservation of the declarant's option to69expand the condominium property;70

(2) A statement of any limitations on that option to
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(3) A statement;
(4) A statement;
(4) A statement;

76 (3) (a) The time at which the option to expand the condominium development expires, which shall not exceed seven 77 years from the date the declaration is filed for record; 78 (b) A statement that the declarant may, during the six 79 months prior to the time that the option expires, extend the 80 option for an additional seven years with the consent of the 81 holders of a majority of the voting power of the unit owners 82 other than the declarant; 83 84 (c) A statement of any circumstances that will terminate 85 the option to expand prior to the time established pursuant to division (C)(3)(a) or (b) of this section. 86 (4) A legal description of all additional property that, 87 through exercise of the option, may be submitted to the 88 provisions of this chapter and added to the condominium 89 90 property; (5) A statement that specifies all of the following: 91 (a) Whether the addition of all or a particular portion of 92 the additional property is mandatory; 93 (b) If the addition of additional property is not 94 mandatory, whether all or a particular portion of the additional 95 property must be added if any other additional property is 96 added; 97 (c) Whether or not there are any limitations on portions 98 of additional property that may be added. 99 (6) A statement of whether portions of the additional 100

(6) A statement of whether portions of the additional100property may be added at different times and a statement that101sets forth any limitations on the addition of additional102property at different times, including the legal descriptions of103

the boundaries of portions that may be added and specifications 104 on the order in which those portions may be added to the 105 condominium property or a statement that there are no 106 limitations on the addition of additional property; 107

(7) A statement of any limitations on the location of any
improvements that may be made on any portion of the additional
property added to the condominium property, or a statement that
there are no limitations of that kind;

(8) A statement of the maximum number of units that may be 112 created on the additional property. If portions of the 113 additional property may be added to the condominium property and 114 the boundaries of those portions are fixed in accordance with 115 division (C)(6) of this section, the declaration also shall 116 state the maximum number of units that may be created on each 117 portion added to the condominium property. If portions of the 118 additional property may be added to the condominium property and 119 the boundaries of those portions are not fixed in accordance 120 with division (C)(6) of this section, the declaration also shall 121 state the maximum number of units per acre that may be created 122 on any portion added to the condominium property. 123

(9) Except when the original condominium property
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contained no units restricted to residential use, a statement of
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the maximum percentage of the aggregate land area and the
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maximum percentage of aggregate floor area that may be devoted
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to units not restricted to residential use on any additional
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property added to the condominium property;
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(10) A statement of the extent to which any structures
erected on any portion of the additional property added to the
condominium property will be compatible with structures on the
submitted property in terms of quality of construction, the

principal materials to be used, and architectural style, or a 134 statement that the structures need not be compatible in those 135 respects; 136

(11) With respect to all improvements to any portion of
additional property added to the condominium property, other
than structures, a statement setting forth both of the
following:

(a) A description of the improvements that must be made or 141a statement that no other improvements must be made; 142

(b) Any restrictions or limitations on the improvements
that may be made or a statement that there are no restrictions
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or limitations on improvements.
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(12) With respect to all units created on any portion of
additional property added to the condominium property, a
statement setting forth both of the following:

(a) Whether all units of that kind must be substantiallyidentical to units on previously submitted property;150

(b) Any limitations on the types of units that may be
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created on the additional property or a statement that there are
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no limitations of that kind.
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(13) A description of any reserved right of the declarant 154 to create limited common elements within any portion of the 155 additional property added to the condominium property or to 156 designate common elements within each portion. The description 157 shall specify the types, sizes, and maximum number of limited 158 common elements in each portion that may subsequently be 159 assigned to units; 160

(14) Drawings and plans that the declarant considers 161

appropriate in supplementing the requirements of division (C) of 162 this section; 163

(15) A statement that a successor owner of the condominium 164 property or of additional property added to the condominium 165 property who is not an affiliate of the developer and who is a 166 bona fide purchaser of the property for value, or a purchaser 167 who acquires the property at a sheriff's sale or by deed in lieu 168 of a foreclosure, is not liable in damages for harm caused by an 169 action or omission of the developer or a breach of an obligation 170 by the developer. 171

(D) The declaration for a leasehold condominium
 development shall contain all of the following in addition to
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 the requirements of division (B) of this section:
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(1) With respect to any ground lease or other leases, the
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(2) A statement setting forth the date upon which each180lease referred to in division (D) (1) of this section expires;181

(3) (a) A statement of whether the unit owners own any land
or improvements of the condominium property in fee simple, and
if so, a description of the improvements and a legal description
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of the land;

(b) A statement of any rights the unit owners have to
remove any improvements within a reasonable time after the
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expiration or termination of any ninety-nine year lease, or a
statement that they have no rights of that nature.

(4) A statement of the rights that the unit owners have to 190

redeem the reversion or any of the reversions, or a statement 191 that they have no rights of that nature; 192

(5) A statement that, subsequent to the recording of the 193 declaration, no lessor who executed it and no successor in 194 interest to that lessor has any right or power to terminate any 195 part of the leasehold interest of any unit owner who makes 196 timely payment of the unit owner's share of the rent to the 197 person designated in the declaration for the receipt of that 198 rent and who otherwise complies with all covenants that, if 199 violated, entitle the lessor to terminate the lease. 200

(E)(1) Without a vote of the unit owners, the board of directors may amend the declaration in any manner necessary for any of the following purposes:

(a) To meet the requirements of institutional mortgagees, 204
guarantors and insurers of first mortgage loans, the federal 205
national mortgage association, the federal home loan mortgage 206
corporation, the federal housing administration, the veterans 207
administration, and similar institutions; 208

(b) To meet the requirements of insurance underwriters; 209

(c) To bring the declaration into compliance with this210chapter;211

(d) To correct clerical or typographical errors or obvious factual errors in the declaration or an exhibit to the declaration;

(e) To designate a successor to the person named to 215 receive service of process for the unit owners association. If 216 the association is incorporated in this state, this may be 217 accomplished by filing with the secretary of state an 218 appropriate change of statutory agent designation; 219

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(f) To permit notices to owners, as required by the	220
declaration or bylaws, to be sent by electronic mail and, if	221
returned undeliverable, by regular mail, provided the	222
association has received the prior, written authorization from	223
the owner;	224

(g) To delete as void, any provision within the225declaration or bylaws, or in any applicable restriction or226covenant, that prohibits or limits the conveyance, encumbrance,227rental, occupancy, or use of property subject to this chapter on228the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or229familial status.230

(2) Division (E)(1) of this section applies to condominium properties submitted to this chapter prior to, on, or after the effective date of this amendment July 20, 2004.

(3) Any unit owner who is aggrieved by an amendment to the 234 declaration that the board of directors makes pursuant to 235 division (E)(1) of this section may commence a declaratory 236 judgment action to have the amendment declared invalid as 237 violative of division (E)(1) of this section. Any action filed 238 pursuant to division (E)(3) of this section shall be filed in 239 the appropriate court of common pleas within one year from the 240 date of the recordation of the amendment. 241

Sec. 5311.08. (A) (1) Every condominium property shall be 242 administered by a unit owners association. All power and 243 authority of the unit owners association shall be exercised by a 244 board of directors, which the unit owners shall elect from among 245 the unit owners or the spouses of unit owners. If a unit owner 246 is not an individual, that unit owner may nominate for the board 247 of directors any principal, member of a limited liability 248 company, partner, director, officer, or employee of that unit 249

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owner. The majority of the board shall not consist of unit_	250
owners or representatives from the same unit unless authorized	251
by a resolution adopted by the board of directors prior to the	252
board majority being comprised of owners or representatives from	253
the same unit.	254
(2) The board of directors shall elect a president,	255
secretary, treasurer, and other officers that the board may	256
desire.	257
(3) Unless otherwise provided in the declaration or the	258
bylaws, all meetings of the unit owners association are open to	259
the unit owners, and those present in person or by proxy when	260
action is taken during a meeting of the unit owners association	261
constitute a sufficient quorum.	261
constitute a sufficient quorum.	202
(4)(a) A meeting of the board of directors may be held by	263
any method of communication, including electronic or telephonic	264
communication provided that each member of the board can hear,	265
participate, and respond to every other member of the board.	266
(b) In lieu of conducting a meeting, the board of	267
directors may take action with the unanimous written consent of	268
the members of the board. Those written consents shall be filed	269
with the minutes of the meetings of the board.	270
(B) The <u>Except</u> as provided in division (A)(1) of this	271
section, the unit owners association shall be governed by	272
bylaws. No modification of or amendment to the bylaws is valid	273
unless it is set forth in an amendment to the declaration, and	274
the amendment to the declaration is filed for record. Unless	275
otherwise provided by the declaration, the bylaws shall provide	276

(1) (a) The election of the board of directors of the unit 278

for the following:

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owners association;	279
(b) The number of persons constituting the board;	280
(c) The terms of the directors, with not less than one- fifth to expire annually;	281 282
(d) The powers and duties of the board;	283
(e) The compensation of the directors;	284
(f) The method of removal of directors from office;	285
(g) The election of officers of the board;	286
(h) Whether or not the services of a manager or managing agent may be engaged.	287 288
(2) The time and place for holding meetings; the manner of	289
and authority for calling, giving notice of, and conducting	290
meetings; and the requirement, in terms of undivided interests	291
in the common elements, of a quorum for meetings of the unit	292
owners association;	293
(3) By whom and the procedure by which maintenance,	294
repair, and replacement of the common elements may be	295
authorized;	296
(4) The common expenses for which assessments may be made	297
and the manner of collecting from the unit owners their	298
respective shares of the common expenses;	299
(5) The method of distributing the common profits;	300
(6) By whom and the procedure by which administrative	301
rules governing the operation and use of the condominium	302
property or any portion of the property may be adopted and	303
amended. These rules may govern any aspect of the condominium	304
property that is not required to be governed by bylaws and may	305

include standards governing the type and nature of information 306 and documents that are subject to examination and copying by 307 unit owners pursuant to section 5311.091 of the Revised Code, 308 including the times and location at which items may be examined 309 or copied and any required fee for copying the information or 310 documents. 311

(C)(1) The unit owners association shall be established 312 not later than the date that the deed or other evidence of 313 ownership is filed for record following the first sale of a 314 condominium ownership interest in a condominium development. 315 Membership in the unit owners association shall be limited to 316 unit owners, and all unit owners shall be members. Until the 317 unit owners association is established, the developer shall act 318 in all instances in which action of the unit owners association 319 or its officers is authorized or required by law or the 320 declaration. 321

(2) (a) Not later than sixty days after the developer has
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sold and conveyed condominium ownership interests appertaining
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to twenty-five per cent of the undivided interests in the common
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elements in a condominium development, the unit owners
association shall meet, and the unit owners other than the
developer shall elect not less than one-third of the members of
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the board of directors.

(b) When computing undivided interests in expandable
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condominium properties for purposes of divisions (C) and (D) of
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this section, the undivided interests in common elements shall
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be computed by comparing the number of units sold and conveyed
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to the maximum number of units that may be created, as stated in
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the declaration pursuant to division (C) (8) of section 5311.05
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of the Revised Code.

(D) (1) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, 336 the declaration or bylaws of a condominium development may 337 authorize the developer or persons the developer designates to 338 appoint and remove members of the board of directors of the unit 339 owners association and to exercise the powers and 340 responsibilities otherwise assigned by law, the declaration, or 341 the bylaws to the unit owners association or to the board of 342 directors. The authorization for developer control may extend 343 from the date the unit owners association is established until 344 sixty days after the sale and conveyance to purchasers in good 345 faith for value of condominium ownership interests to which 346 seventy-five per cent of the undivided interests in the common 347 elements appertain, except that in no case may the authorization 348 extend for more than five years after the unit owners 349 association is established if the declaration includes 350 expandable condominium property or more than three years after 351 the unit owners association is established if the declaration 352 does not include expandable condominium property. 353

(2) If there is a unit owner other than the developer, the
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 declaration of a condominium development shall not be amended to
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 increase the scope or the period of the developer's control.
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(3) Within sixty days after the expiration of the period
during which the developer has control pursuant to division (D)
(1) of this section, the unit owners association shall meet and
(2) elect all members of the board of directors of the association.
(3) The persons elected shall take office at the end of the meeting
(3) The point officers.

(E) The board of directors, or the developer while in364control of the association, may take any measures necessary to365

incorporate the unit owners association as a not-for-profit	366
corporation.	367
Sec. 5311.081. (A) Unless otherwise provided in the	368
declaration or bylaws, the The unit owners association, through	369
the board of directors, shall do both of the following:	370
(1) Adopt Annually, adopt and amend budgets an estimated	371
<u>budget</u> for revenues $ au_{-}$ and expenditures $ au_{-}$ and $ ext{. The budget shall}$	372
include reserves in an amount adequate to repair and replace	373
major capital items in the normal course of operations without	374
the necessity of special assessments, provided that the amount	375
set aside annually for reserves shall not be less than ten per-	376
cent of the budget for that year unless the reserve requirement	377
is waived annually by the either of the following applies:	378
(a) The declaration or bylaws include language limiting	379
the ability of the board of directors to increase assessments	380
for common expenses without a vote of the unit owners;	381
(b) The unit owners, exercising not less than a majority	382
of the voting power of the unit owners association ;, waive the	383
reserve requirement in writing annually.	384
(2) Collect assessments for common expenses from unit	385
owners.	386
(B) Unless otherwise provided in the declaration, the unit	387
owners association, through the board of directors, may exercise	388
all powers of the association, including the power to do the	389
following:	390
(1) Hire and fire managing agents, attorneys, accountants,	391
and other independent contractors and employees that the board	392
determines are necessary or desirable in the management of the	393
condominium property and the association;	394

(2) Commence, defend, intervene in, settle, or compromise 395
any civil, criminal, <u>land use planning</u>, or administrative action 396
or proceeding that is in the name of, or threatened against, the 397
unit owners association, the board of directors, or the 398
condominium property, or that involves two or more unit owners 399
and, impacts zoning, or otherwise relates to matters affecting 400
the condominium property; 401

(3) Enter into contracts and incur liabilities relating to402the operation of the condominium property;403

(4) Regulate the use, maintenance, repair, replacement,404modification, and appearance of the condominium property;405

(5) Adopt rules that regulate the use or occupancy of
units, the maintenance, repair, replacement, modification, and
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appearance of units, common elements, and limited common
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elements when the actions regulated by those rules affect common
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elements or other units;

(6) Cause additional improvements to be made as part of411the common elements;412

(7) Purchase, encumber, and convey units, and, subject to
any restrictions in the declaration or bylaws and with the
approvals required by division (H) (2) or (3) of section 5311.04
of the Revised Code, acquire an interest in other real property
and encumber or convey that interest. All expenses incurred in
connection with the acquisition, encumbrance, use, and operation
of that interest are common expenses.

(8) Acquire, encumber, and convey or otherwise transfer420personal property;421

(9) Hold in the name of the unit owners association the422real property and personal property acquired pursuant to423

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divisions (B)(7) and (8) of this section;	424
(10) Grant easements, leases, licenses, and concessions	425
through or over the common elements;	426
(11) Impose and collect fees or other charges for <u>all of</u>	427
the following:	428
(a) The use, rental, or operation of the common elements	429
or for services<u>;</u>	430
(b) Services provided to unit owners;	431
(c) To the extent provided in the declaration or bylaws,	432
social activities or charitable contributions on behalf of the	433
owners association;	434
(12) Impose interest and late charges for the late payment	435
of assessments; impose returned check charges; and, pursuant to	436
division (C) of this section, impose reasonable enforcement	437
assessments for violations of the declaration, the bylaws, and	438
the rules of the unit owners association, and reasonable charges	439
for damage to the common elements or other property;	440
(13) Adopt and amend rules that regulate the collection of	441
delinquent assessments and the application of payments of	442
delinquent assessments;	443
(14) Subject to applicable laws, adopt and amend rules	444
that regulate the termination of utility or other service to a	445
commercial unit if the unit owner is delinquent in the payment	446
of an assessment that pays, in whole or in part, the cost of	447
that service;	448
(15) Impose reasonable charges for preparing, recording,	449
or copying amendments to the declaration, resale certificates,	450
or statements of unpaid assessments;	451

(16) Enter a unit for bona fide purposes when conditions 452 exist that involve an imminent risk of damage or harm to common 453 elements, another unit, or to the health or safety of the 454 occupants of that unit or another unit; 455 (17) To the extent provided in the declaration or bylaws, 456 assign the unit owners association's rights to common 457 assessments, or other future income, to a lender as security for 458 a loan to the unit owners association; 459 (18) Suspend the voting privileges and use of recreational 460 facilities of a unit owner who is delinquent in the payment of 461 assessments for more than thirty days; 462 (19) Purchase insurance and fidelity bonds the directors 463 consider appropriate or necessary; 464 (20) Invest excess funds in investments that meet 465 standards for fiduciary investments under Ohio law; 466 (21) Exercise powers that are: 467 (a) Conferred by the declaration or the bylaws of the unit 468 owners association or the board of directors; 469 (b) Necessary to incorporate the unit owners association 470 as a not-for-profit corporation; 471 472 (c) Permitted to be exercised in this state by a not-forprofit corporation; 473 (d) Necessary and proper for the government and operation 474 of the unit owners association. 475 (C) (1) Prior to imposing a charge for damages or an 476 enforcement assessment pursuant to division (B)(12) of this 477

section, the board of directors shall give the unit owner a 478

written notice, which may be in the form of electronic mail to	479
an electronic mail address previously provided by the owner in	480
writing, that includes all of the following:	481
(a) A description of the property damage or violation;	482
(b) The amount of the proposed charge or assessment;	483
(c) A statement that the owner has a right to a hearing	484
before the board of directors to contest the proposed charge or	485
assessment;	486
(d) A statement setting forth the procedures to request a	487
hearing pursuant to division (C)(2) of this section;	488
(e) A reasonable date by which the unit owner must cure	489
the violation to avoid the proposed charge or assessment.	490
(2)(a) To request a hearing, the owner shall deliver a	491
written notice to the board of directors not later than the	492
tenth day after receiving the notice required by division (C)(1)	493
of this section. If the owner fails to make a timely request for	494
a hearing, the right to that hearing is waived, and the board	495
may immediately impose a charge for damages or an enforcement	496
assessment pursuant to division (C) of this section.	497
(b) If a unit owner requests a hearing, at least seven	498
days prior to the hearing the board of directors shall provide	499
the unit owner with a written notice that includes the date,	500
time, and location of the hearing.	501
(3) The board of directors shall not levy a charge or	502
assessment before holding any hearing requested pursuant to	503
division (C)(2) of this section.	504
(4) The unit owners, through the board of directors, may	505
allow a reasonable time to cure a violation described in	506

division (B)(12) of this section before imposing a charge or assessment.

(5) Within thirty days following a hearing at which the
board of directors imposes a charge or assessment, the unit
owners association shall deliver a written notice of the charge
or assessment to the unit owner.
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(6) Any written notice that division (C) of this section
requires shall be delivered to the unit owner or any occupant of
the unit by personal delivery, by certified mail, return receipt
requested, or by regular mail.

Sec. 5311.091. (A) Except as otherwise prohibited by this section, any member of a unit owners association may examine and copy the books, records, and minutes described in division (A) of section 5311.09 of the Revised Code pursuant to reasonable standards set forth in the declaration, bylaws, or rules the board promulgates, which may include, but are not limited to, standards governing the type of documents that are subject to examination and copying, the times and locations at which those documents may be examined or copied, and the specification of a reasonable fee for copying the documents.

(B) The unit owners association is not required to permit 527
the examination and copying of any of the following from Unless 528
approved by the board of directors, a unit owner may not examine 529
or copy any books, records, and or minutes that meet either of 530
the following conditions: 531

(1) Date back more than five years prior to the date of532the request;533

(2) Contain any of the following:

(a) Information that pertains to condominium property-

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related	personnel	. matters;
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(2) (b) Communications with legal counsel or attorney work537product pertaining to pending litigation or other condominium538property-related matters;539

(3) (c) Information that pertains to contracts or540transactions currently under negotiation, or information that is541contained in a contract or other agreement containing542confidentiality requirements and that is subject to those543requirements;544

(4) (d) Information that relates to the enforcement of the545declaration, bylaws, or rules of the unit owners association546against unit owners;547

 $\frac{(5)}{(e)}$ Information the disclosure of which is prohibited by state or federal law.

Sec. 5311.16. Unless otherwise provided by the declaration550or bylaws, the board of directors shall insure maintain, with551the cost to be a common expense, all of the following:552

(A) Liability insurance for all unit owners, their553tenants, and all persons lawfully in possession or control of554any part of the condominium property for the in an amount that555it determines against liability for personal injury or property556damage arising from or relating to the common elements and shall557obtain for;558

(B) For the benefit of all unit owners, fire and extended559coverage insurance on all buildings and structures of the560condominium property in an amount not less than eighty ninety561per cent of the fair market value. The cost of the insurance is562a common expense.replacement cost;563

(C)(1) Blanket fidelity, crime, or dishonesty insurance	564
coverage for any person who controls or disburses association	565
funds. As used in division (C)(1) of this section, "person who	566
controls or disburses association funds" means any individual	567
with authority or access to sign checks, conduct electronic	568
transfers, or otherwise withdraw funds from any association	569
account or deposit, including the following:	570
(a) A management company's principals and employees;	571
(b) A bookkeeper;	572
(c) The president, secretary, treasurer, any other board	573
member, or employee of the unit owners association.	574
(2) All of the following apply to the insurance coverage	575
required under division (C)(1) of this section:	576
(a) Coverage shall be for the maximum amount of funds that	577
will be in the custody of the association or its designated	578
agent at any one time plus three months of operating expenses.	579
(b) The insurance shall be the property of and for the	580
sole benefit of the association and shall protect against theft,	581
embezzlement, misappropriation, or any other unauthorized taking	582
or loss of association funds.	583
(c) The policy shall include in its definition of	584
"employee" the manager and the managing agent of the	585
association's funds or provide for this inclusion by an	586
endorsement to the policy.	587
(d) The policy shall name the association as the insured	588
party and shall include a provision requiring the issuer of the	589
policy to provide a ten-day written notice to the association's	590
president or manager in the event of cancellation or substantial	591

modification of the policy. The manager or managing agent, if	592
any, of the association shall be the designated agent on the	593
policy.	594
(e) If there is a change in the manager or the managing	595
agent of the association, then within ten days of the effective	596
start date, the new manager or managing agent shall notify the	597
insurer of such change.	598
Sec. 5311.18. (A)(1) Unless otherwise provided by the	599
declaration or the bylaws, the unit owners association has a	600
continuing lien upon the estate or interest of the owner in any	601
unit and the appurtenant undivided interest in the common	602
elements for the payment of any of the following expenses that	603
are chargeable against the unit and that remain unpaid for ten	604
days after any portion has become due and payable:	605
(a) The portion of the common expenses chargeable against	606
the unit;	607
(b) Interest, administrative late fees, enforcement	608
assessments, and collection costs, attorney's fees, and	609
paralegal fees the association incurs if authorized by the	610
declaration, the bylaws, or the rules of the unit owners	611
association and if chargeable against the unit.	612
(2) Unless otherwise provided by the declaration, the	613
bylaws, or the rules of the unit owners association, the	614
association shall credit payments made by a unit owner for the	615
expenses described in divisions (A)(1)(a) and (b) of this	616
section in the following order of priority:	617
(a) First, to interest owed to the association;	618
(b) Second, to administrative late fees owed to the	619
association;	620

(c) Third, to collection costs, attorney's fees, andparalegal fees incurred by the association;622

(d) Fourth, to the principal amounts the unit owner owes
to the association for the common expenses or penalty
624
assessments chargeable against the unit.
625

(3) The lien described in division (A)(1) of this section 626 is effective on the date that a certificate of lien in the form 627 described in division (A)(3) of this section is filed for record 628 in the office of the recorder of the county or counties in which 629 the condominium property is situated pursuant to an 630 authorization given by the board of directors of the unit owners 631 association. The certificate shall contain a description of the 632 unit, the name of the record owner of the unit, and the amount 633 of the unpaid portion of the common expenses and, subject to 634 subsequent adjustments, any unpaid interest, administrative late 635 fees, enforcement assessments, collection costs, attorney's 636 fees, and paralegal fees. The certificate shall be subscribed by 637 the president or other designated representative of the 638 association. 639

(4) The lien described in division (A) (1) of this section
is valid for a period of five years from the date of filing,
unless it is sooner released or satisfied in the same manner
provided by law for the release and satisfaction of mortgages on
real property or unless it is discharged by the final judgment
or order of a court in an action brought to discharge the lien
as provided in division (C) of this section.

(B) (1) The lien described in division (A) (1) of this
section is prior to any lien or encumbrance subsequently arising
or created except liens for real estate taxes and assessments of
political subdivisions and liens of first mortgages that have
650

been filed for record and may be foreclosed in the same manner651as a mortgage on real property in an action brought on behalf of652the unit owners association by the president or other chief653officer of the association pursuant to authority given to that654individual as authorized by the board of directors.655

(2) In a foreclosure action a unit owners association 656 commences pursuant to division (B)(1) of this section or a 657 foreclosure action the holder of a first mortgage or other lien 658 on a unit commences, the owner of the unit, as the defendant in 659 the action, shall be required to pay a reasonable rental for the 660 unit during the pendency of the action. The unit owners 661 association or the holder of the lien is entitled to the 662 appointment of a receiver to collect the rental. Each rental 663 payment a receiver collects during the pendency of the 664 foreclosure action shall be applied first to the payment of the 665 portion of the common expenses chargeable to the unit during the 666 foreclosure action. 667

(3) In a foreclosure action the holder of a lien on a unit
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commences, the holder of that lien shall name the unit owners
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association as a defendant in the action.
670

(4) Unless prohibited by the declaration or the bylaws,
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following a foreclosure action a unit owners association
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commences pursuant to division (B) (1) of this section or a
foreclosure action the holder of a lien on a unit commences, the
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association or its agent duly authorized by action of the board
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of directors, is entitled to become a purchaser at the
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foreclosure sale.

(5) A mortgage on a unit may contain a provision that
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secures the mortgagee's advances for the payment of the portion
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of the common expenses chargeable against the unit upon which
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the mortgagee holds the mortgage.

(6) In any foreclosure action, it is not a defense, set
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off, counterclaim, or crossclaim that the unit owners
association has failed to provide the unit owner with any
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service, goods, work, or material, or failed in any other duty.
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(C) A unit owner who believes that the portion of the 686 687 common expenses chargeable to the unit, for which the unit owners association files a certificate of lien pursuant to 688 division (A) of this section, has been improperly charged may 689 commence an action for the discharge of the lien in the court of 690 common pleas of the county in which all or a part of the 691 condominium property is situated. In the action, if it is 692 finally determined that the portion of the common expenses was 693 improperly charged to the unit owner or the unit, the court 694 shall enter an order that it determines to be just, which may 695 provide for a discharge of record of all or a portion of the 696 lien. 697

Sec. 5311.192. (A) Unless specifically prohibited in the698declaration, any owner of a solar appropriate unit may install a699solar energy collection device on the roof of that unit if700either of the following conditions apply:701

(1) The unit, as defined by the declaration, includes the702roof, for which the cost to insure, maintain, repair, and703replace is not a common expense and is instead the owner's704responsibility.705

(2) The declaration specifically allows for and regulates706the types and installation of solar energy collection devices in707the common or limited common elements and establishes708responsibility for the cost to insure, maintain, repair, and709

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737

replace such devices. 710 (B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, a unit 711 owners association may establish reasonable restrictions 712 concerning the size, place, and manner of placement of solar 713 714 energy collection devices. (C) As used in this section: 715 (1) "Solar appropriate unit" means a condominium unit that_ 716 does not have any other condominium units directly above or 717 below it. 718 (2) "Solar energy collection device" means any device 719 manufactured and sold for the sole purpose of facilitating the 720 collection and beneficial use of solar energy, including passive 721 heating panels or building components and solar photovoltaic 722 723 apparatus. Sec. 5312.02. (A) Any planned community in this state is 724 subject to this chapter. No person shall establish a planned 725 community unless that person files and records a declaration and 726 bylaws for that planned community in the office of the recorder 727 of the county or counties in which the planned community is 728 located. 729 (B) Any declaration for a planned community shall be 730 accompanied by bylaws that provide for the operation of the 731

planned community. The Except as provided in division (A) (1) of732section 5312.03 of the Revised Code, the declaration and bylaws733shall provide for all of the following:734(1) The election of the board of directors of the owners735

association; 736

(2) The number of persons constituting the board;

(3) The terms of the directors, with not less than one- fifth to expire annually;	738 739
(4) The powers and duties of the board;	740
(5) The method of removal of directors from office;	741
(6) Whether the services of a manager or managing agent may be engaged;	742 743
(7) The method of amending the declaration and bylaws;	744
(8) The time and place for holding meetings and the manner	745
of and authority for calling , giving notice of, and <u>meetings,</u>	746
conducting meetings, and giving notice of meetings, which notice	747
may be sent by electronic mail, provided the association has	748
received the prior, written authorization from the owner;	749
(9) The common expenses for which assessments may be made	750
and the manner of collecting from the owners their respective	751
shares of the common expenses;	752
(10) Any other matters the original declarant or the	753
owners association deem necessary and appropriate.	754
(C) Nothing in this chapter invalidates any provision of a	755
document that governs a planned community if that provision was	756
in the document at the time the document was recorded and the	757
document was recorded prior to the original effective date of	758
this chapter, September 10, 2010.	759
(D)(1) The board of directors of the owners association of	760
any planned community that is in existence on the original	761
effective date of this chapter, September 10, 2010, shall file	762
and record the bylaws of that planned community that are in	763
effect on that effective date in the office of the recorder of	764
the county or counties in which the planned community is located	765

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within one hundred eighty days after that effective date.	766
(2) The board of directors of the owners association of	767
any planned community that is in existence on the original	768
effective date of this chapter, September 10, 2010, shall file	769
and record the bylaws that are adopted by the owners association	770
on or after that effective date in the office of the recorder of	771
the county or counties in which the planned community is located	772
within ninety days after the date of adoption of the bylaws.	773
(3) The board of directors of the owners association of	774
any planned community that adopts an amendment to the bylaws of	775
that planned community shall file and record the amendment in	776
the office of the recorder of the county or counties in which	777
the planned community is located within sixty days after the	778
date of adoption of the amendment.	779
(4) Nothing in division (D)(1) or (2) of this section	780
(4) Nothing in division (D)(1) of (2) of this section	/80
shall require the board of directors or owners association of	781
any planned community that is in existence on the original	782
effective date of this chapter, September 10, 2010, to adopt	783
bylaws of that planned community.	784
(5) No board of directors of the owners association of a	785

(5) No board of directors of the owners association of a 785 planned community that is in existence on the original effective 786 date of this chapter, September 10, 2010, shall pursue any civil 787 action against any person based upon any provision of the bylaws 788 of that planned community or upon any amendments to the bylaws 789 until the bylaws or amendments are filed and recorded under 790 division (D)(1), (2), or (3) of this section. 791

Sec. 5312.03. (A) (1) An owners association shall792administer a planned community, and a board of directors the793owners elect from among the owners and their spouses shall794

exercise all power and authority of the owners association. If 795 an owner is not an individual, any principal, member of a 796 limited liability company, partner, director, officer, trustee, 797 or employee of the owner may be elected to the board. The 798 majority of the board shall not consist of owners or 799 representatives from the same lot unless authorized by a 800 resolution adopted by the board of directors prior to the board 801 majority being comprised of owners or representatives from the 802 803 same lot.

(2) Unless otherwise provided, a board of directors may carry out any action this chapter requires or allows an owners association to take, subject to any vote required of the owners.

(B) A declarant shall establish an owners association not
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later than the date upon which the first lot in the planned
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community is conveyed to a bona fide purchaser for value. The
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owners association shall be organized as a nonprofit corporation
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pursuant to Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code.
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(C) (1) If provided in the declaration, a declarant may 812 control the owners association for the period of time the 813 declaration specifies. During the time of declarant control, the 814 declarant or the declarant's designee may appoint and remove the 815 members of the board. The period of declarant control shall 816 terminate not later than the time at which all of the lots have 817 been transferred to owners. 818

(2) Not later than the termination of any period of
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 declarant control, the owners shall elect a board of directors
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 comprised of the number of members the declaration or bylaws
 821
 specify.
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Sec. 5312.05. (A) Unless otherwise specified in division

Page 29

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(C) of this section or the declaration or bylaws, the owners may 824 amend the declaration and bylaws by the consent of seventy-five 825 per cent of the owners, either in writing or in a meeting called 826 for that purpose. No amendment to the declaration or bylaws is 827 effective until filed in the office of the county recorder. 828

(B) A vote to terminate the applicability of thedeclaration and to dissolve the planned community requires theunanimous consent of owners.831

(C) A vote to delete as void, any provision within the832declaration or bylaws, or any applicable restriction or833covenant, that limits the occupancy or use of property subject834to this chapter on the basis of race, color, national origin,835religion, sex, or familial status, requires only a majority vote836of the board of directors of the owners association.837

Sec. 5312.06. (A) Unless otherwise provided in the838declaration or bylaws, the The owners association, through its839board of directors, shall do both of the following:840

(1) Annually adopt and amend an estimated budget for 841 revenues and expenditures. Any budget shall include reserves in 842 an amount adequate to repair and replace major capital items in 843 the normal course of operations without the necessity of special 844 assessments, unless the owners, exercising not less than a 845 majority of the voting power of the owners association, waive 846 the reserve requirement <u>in writing</u> annually. 847

(2) Collect assessments for common expenses from owners in 848accordance with section 5312.10 of the Revised Code. 849

(B) Commencing not later than the time of the first
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conveyance of a lot to a person other than a declarant, the
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owners association shall maintain all of the following to the
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extent reasonably available and applicable:	853
(1) Property insurance on the common elements;	854
(2) Liability insurance pertaining to the common elements;	855
(3) Directors and officers liability insurance;	856
(4) (a) Blanket fidelity, crime, or dishonesty insurance	857
coverage for any person who controls or disburses association	858
funds. As used in division (B)(4)(a) of this section, "person	859
who controls or disburses association funds" means any	860
individual with authority or access to sign checks, conduct	861
electronic transfers, or otherwise withdraw funds from any	862
association account or deposit, including the following:	863
(i) A management company's principals and employees;	864
(ii) A bookkeeper;	865
(iii) The president, secretary, treasurer, any other board	866
member, or employee of the owners association.	867
(b) All of the following apply to the insurance coverage	868
required under division (B)(4)(a) of this section:	869
(i) Coverage shall be for the maximum amount of funds that	870
will be in the custody of the association or its designated	871
agent at any one time plus three months of operating expenses.	872
(ii) The insurance shall be the property of and for the	873
sole benefit of the association and shall protect against theft,	874
embezzlement, misappropriation, or any other unauthorized taking	875
or loss of association funds.	876
(iii) The policy shall include in its definition of	877
"employee" the manager and the managing agent of the	878
association's funds or provide for this inclusion by an	879

endorsement to the policy.

endorsement to the policy.	880
(iv) The policy shall name the association as the insured	881
party and shall include a provision requiring the issuer of the	882
policy to provide a ten-day written notice to the association's	883
president or manager in the event of cancellation or substantial	884
modification of the policy. The manager or managing agent, if	885
any, of the association shall be the designated agent on the	886
policy.	887
(v) If there is a change in the manager or the managing	888
agent of the association, then within ten days of the effective	889
start date, the new manager or managing agent shall notify the	890
insurer of such change.	891
(C) The owners association shall keep all of the	892
following:	893
(1) Correct and complete books and records of account that	894
specify the receipts and expenditures relating to the common	895
elements and other common receipts and expenses;	896
(2) Records showing the collection of the common expenses	897
from the owners;	898
(3) Minutes of the meetings of the association and the	899
board of directors;	900
(4) Records of the names and addresses of the owners.	901
(D) An owners association, through its board of directors,	902
may do any of the following:	903
(1) Hire and fire managing agents, attorneys, accountants,	904
and other independent professionals and employees that the board	905
determines are necessary or desirable in the management of the	906
property and the association;	907

(2) Commence, defend, intervene in, settle, or compromise	908
any civil, criminal, <u>land use planning,</u> or administrative action	909
or proceeding that is in the name of, or threatened against, the	910
association, the board of directors, or the property, or that	911
involves two or more owners—and, impacts zoning, or otherwise_	912
relates to matters affecting the property;	913
(3) Enter into contracts and incur liabilities relating to	914
the operation of the property;	915
(4) Enforce all provisions of the declaration, bylaws,	916
covenants, conditions, restrictions, and articles of	917
incorporation governing the lots, common elements, and limited	918
common elements;	919
(5) Adopt and enforce rules that regulate the maintenance,	920
repair, replacement, modification, and appearance of common	921
elements, and any other rules as the declaration provides;	922
(6) Acquire, encumber, and convey or otherwise transfer	923
real and personal property, subject to section 5312.10 of the	924
Revised Code;	925
(7) Hold in the name of the owners association the real	926
property and personal property;	927
property and personal property,	521
(8) Grant easements, leases, licenses, and concessions	928
through or over the common elements;	929
(9) Levy and collect fees or other charges for the use,	930
rental, or operation of the common elements or for services	931
provided to owners;	932
(10) Pursuant to section 5312.11 of the Revised Code, levy	933
the following charges and assessments:	934
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
(a) Interest and charges for the late payment of	935

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assessments;	936
(b) Returned check charges;	937
(c) Enforcement assessments for violations of the	938
declaration, the bylaws, and the rules of the owners association;	939 940
(d) Charges for damage to the common elements or other property.	941 942
(11) Adopt and amend rules that regulate the collection of delinquent assessments and the application of payments of delinquent assessments;	943 944 945
(12) Impose reasonable charges for preparing, recording, or copying the declaration, bylaws, amendments to the declaration and bylaws, resale certificates, or statements of unpaid assessments;	946 947 948 949
(13) Authorize entry to any portion of the planned community by designated individuals when conditions exist that involve an imminent risk of damage or harm to common elements, another dwelling unit, or to the health or safety of the occupants of that dwelling unit or another dwelling unit;	950 951 952 953 954
<pre>(14) Subject to division (A)(1) of section 5312.09 of the Revised Code, borrow money and assign the right to common assessments or other future income to a lender as security for a loan to the owners association;</pre>	955 956 957 958
(15) Suspend the voting privileges and use of recreational facilities of an owner who is delinquent in the payment of assessments for more than thirty days;	959 960 961
(16) Purchase insurance and fidelity bonds the directors consider appropriate and necessary;	962 963

(17) Invest excess funds in investments that meet	964
standards for fiduciary investments under the laws of this	965
state;	966
(18) Exercise powers that are any of the following:	967
(a) Conferred by the declaration or bylaws;	968
(b) Necessary to incorporate the owners association as a	969
nonprofit corporation;	970
(c) Permitted to be exercised in this state by a nonprofit	971
corporation;	972
(d) Necessary and proper for the government and operation	973
of the owners association.	974
Sec. 5312.07. (A) Unless otherwise prohibited by this	975
section, any owner may examine and copy the books, records, and	976
minutes of the owners association that division (C) of section	977
5312.06 of the Revised Code describes, pursuant to reasonable	978
standards set forth in the declaration, bylaws, or rules the	979
board promulgates. The standards may include, but are not	980
limited to, standards governing the type of documents that are	981
subject to examination and copying, the times and locations at	982
which those documents may be examined or copied, and the	983
specification of a reasonable fee for copying the documents.	984
(B) Unless approved by the board of directors, an owner	985
may not examine or copy any of the following from books,	986
records, and <u>or minutes that meet either of the following</u>	987
conditions:	988
(1) Date back more than five years prior to the date of	989
the request;	990
(2) Contain any of the following:	991

(a) Information that pertains to property-related	992
personnel matters;	993
(2) (b) Communications with legal counsel or attorney work	994
product pertaining to potential, threatened or pending	995
litigation, or other property-related matters;	996
$\frac{(3)}{(c)}$ Information that pertains to contracts or	997
transactions currently under negotiation, or information that is	998
contained in a contract or other agreement containing	999
confidentiality requirements and that is subject to those	1000
requirements;	1001
(4) (d) Information that relates to the enforcement of the	1002
declaration, bylaws, or rules of the owners association against	1003
other owners;	1004
$\frac{(5)}{(e)}$ Information, the disclosure of which is prohibited	1005
by state or federal law.	1006
Sec. 5312.11. (A) An owners association may assess an	1007
individual lot for any of the following:	1008
(1) Enforcement assessments and individual assessments for	1009
utility service that are imposed or levied in accordance with	1010
the declaration, as well as expenses the board incurs in	1011
collecting those assessments;	1012
(2) Costs of maintenance, repair, or replacement incurred	1013
due to the willful or negligent act of an owner or occupant of a	1014
lot or their family, tenants, guests, or invitees, including,	1015
but not limited to, attorney's fees, court costs, and other	1016
expenses;	1010
capended,	T O T 1
(3) Costs associated with the enforcement of the	1018
declaration or the rules and regulations of the owners	1019

association, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees,	1020
court costs, and other expenses;	1021
(4) Costs or charges the declaration or bylaws permit.	1022
(B) Unless otherwise provided by the declaration, bylaws,	1023
or rules, the owners association shall credit any amount it	1024
receives from a lot owner pursuant to this section in the	1025
following order:	1026
(1) To interest owed to the owners association;	1027
(2) To administrative late fees or enforcement assessments	1028
owed to the owners association;	1029
(3) To collection costs, attorney's fees, and paralegal	1030
fees the owners association incurred in collecting the	1031
assessment;	1032
(4) To the oldest principal amounts the owner owes to the	1033
owners association for the common expenses chargeable against	1034
the dwelling unit or lot.	1035
(C) Prior to imposing a charge for damages or an	1036
enforcement assessment pursuant to this section, the board of	1037
directors shall give the owner a written notice, which may be in	1038
the form of electronic mail to an electronic mail address	1039
previously provided by the owner in writing, that includes all	1040
of the following:	1041
(1) A description of the property damage or violation;	1042
(2) The amount of the proposed charge or assessment;	1043
(3) A statement that the owner has a right to a hearing	1044
before the board to contest the proposed charge or assessment;	1045
(4) A statement setting forth the procedures to request a	1046

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hearing;

(5) A reasonable date by which the owner must cure a
continuing violation to avoid the proposed charge or assessment,
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if such an opportunity to cure is applicable.
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(D) (1) To request a hearing, the owner shall deliver a 1051
written notice to the board not later than the tenth day after 1052
receiving the notice this division requires. If the owner fails 1053
to make a timely request for a hearing, the right to that 1054
hearing is waived, and the board immediately may impose a charge 1055
for damages or an enforcement assessment pursuant to this 1056
section. 1057

(2) If an owner requests a hearing, at least seven days
prior to the hearing the board shall provide the owner with a
written notice that includes the date, time, and location of the
hearing.

(3) The board shall not levy a charge or assessment beforeholding any hearing requested pursuant to this section.1063

(4) Within thirty days following a hearing at which the
board imposes a charge or assessment, the owners association
shall deliver a written notice of the charge or assessment to
1066
the owner.

(5) Any written notice that this section requires shall be
delivered to the owner or any occupant of the dwelling unit by
personal delivery, by certified mail, return receipt requested,
1070
or by regular mail.

Sec. 5312.16. (A) Unless specifically prohibited in the1072declaration, any owner may install a solar energy collection1073device on the owner's dwelling unit or other location within the1074owner's lot if either of the following conditions apply:1075

(1) The cost to insure, maintain, repair, and replace the 1076 unit's roof or alternative location within the lot is not a 1077 common expense of the owners association and is instead the 1078 owner's responsibility. 1079 (2) The declaration specifically allows for and regulates 1080 the types and installation of solar energy collection devices 1081 within the planned community and establishes responsibility for 1082 the cost to insure, maintain, repair, and replace such devices. 1083 (B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, an 1084 owners association may establish reasonable restrictions 1085 concerning the size, place, and manner of placement of solar 1086 energy collection devices. 1087 (C) Prior to imposing a charge for damages or an 1088 enforcement assessment pursuant to this section, the board of 1089 directors shall give the owner a written notice, which may be in 1090 the form of electronic mail to an electronic mail address 1091 previously provided by the owner in writing that includes all of 1092 the following: 1093 (1) A description of the property damage or violation; 1094 (2) The amount of the proposed charge or assessment; 1095 (3) A statement that the owner has a right to a hearing 1096 before the board of directors to contest the proposed charge or 1097 assessment; 1098 (4) A statement setting forth the procedures to request a 1099 hearing; 1100 (5) A reasonable date by which the unit owner must cure 1101 the violation to avoid the proposed charge or assessment. 1102

(D) As used in this section, "solar energy collection 1103

device" has the same meaning as in section 5311.192 of the	1104
Revised Code.	1105
Section 2. That existing sections 5311.05, 5311.08,	1106
5311.081, 5311.091, 5311.16, 5311.18, 5312.02, 5312.03, 5312.05,	1107
5312.06, 5312.07, and 5312.11 of the Revised Code are hereby	1108
repealed.	1109