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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF A UNIT OWNER IN A COMMON INTEREST

## COMMUNITY IN RELATION TO THE COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS

 OWED BY THE UNIT OWNER TO THE COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY.
## Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

In common interest communities for real property, current law allows a unit owners' association (association) to require, without starting a legal proceeding, a unit owner to reimburse the association for
collection costs, attorney fees, or other costs resulting from the owner failing to timely pay assessments or other money owed. The bill limits the reimbursement amount to $50 \%$ of the original money owed.

Current law allows the association to require, without starting a legal proceeding, a unit owner to reimburse the association for collection costs and attorney fees resulting from the owner failing to obey the bylaws or rules of the association. The bill limits the reimbursement amount to $50 \%$ of the actual cost the association incurred for the failure to obey.

Current law requires a court to award an association reasonable attorney fees, costs, and collection costs in an action in which the association seeks to collect unpaid assessments or enforce or defend the association's bylaws or rules and the association prevails in the matter. The bill limits the award to $50 \%$ of the balance owed to the association.

Current law grants an association a lien on the unit for amounts owed to the association by the unit owner. The bill prohibits foreclosing on the lien until:

- The association has:
- Obtained a personal judgment against the unit owner in a civil action;
- Attempted to bring a civil action against the unit owner but was prevented by the death of or incapacity of the unit owner; or
- Attempted to bring a civil action against the unit owner but the association was unable to serve the unit owner within 180 days; or
- The unit owner is in a bankruptcy civil action.

Current law requires the association to attempt to enter into a payment plan to collect amounts due from a unit owner. The bill prohibits foreclosure on the lien if the unit owner is in compliance with the payment plan.

The bill creates a right of redemption following certain involuntary transfers of a unit to the association or a foreclosure purchaser for 180 days following the transfer. During the 180 days, the foreclosure purchaser or association is prohibited from selling the unit. The following people have the right of redemption in order of priority:

- The unit owner;
- A tenant of the unit;
- A nonprofit entity whose primary purpose is the development or preservation of affordable housing;
- A community land trust;
- A cooperative housing corporation; and
- The state of Colorado or a political subdivision of the state of Colorado.
The redeemer may send a notice of intent to exercise the right of
redemption. Upon receiving the notice of intent, the foreclosure purchaser or association is prohibited for a specified time from transferring the property to an authorized redeemer that has lower priority than the authorized redeemer that sent the notice.

To redeem a unit, the redeemer must reimburse the foreclosure purchaser or association in accordance with the standards set by the bill. Failure to execute a deed after redemption subjects the owner to liability plus attorney fees. Procedures are set for exercising the right of redemption and for recording deeds, affidavits, or certificates of compliance concerning the right of redemption with the county clerk and recorder. Filing an affidavit or certificate of compliance with the county clerk and recorder without a reasonable basis subjects the person to liability and attorney fees.

If a redeemer makes partial payment, but fails to pay all amounts necessary to redeem the unit before the redemption period expires, the association or foreclosure purchaser shall refund the partial payment on or before 30 days after the expiration of the redemption period.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-33.3-123, amend (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(c); and add (1)(f) as follows:

38-33.3-123. Enforcement - limitation. (1) (a) If any A unit owner fails to timely pay assessments or any money or sums due OWED to the association, the association may require, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF COMMENCING A LEGAL PROCEEDING, reimbursement for THE FOLLOWING, IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENTS OR OWED MONEY:
(I) Actual collection costs and of THE UNPAID ASSESSMENTS;
(II) Reasonable attorney fees INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO PAY; EXCEPT THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ATTORNEY FEES THAT EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE ASSESSMENTS AND ANY MONEY OWED TO THE ASSOCIATION AS DESCRIBED IN THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a), WHICHEVER IS LESS; and
(III) OTHER ACTUAL costs incurred as a result of sueh THE failure
without the necessity of commencing a legal proceeding TO PAY.
(b) For any failure to comply with the provisions of this artiele THIS ARTICLE 33.3 or any provisionof the declaration, bylaws, articles, or rules and regulations, other than the payment of assessments or any money or sums due OWED to the association, the association, any unit owner, or any class of unit owners adversely affected by the failure to comply may seek, wITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF COMMENCING A LEGAL PROCEEDING, reimbursement for:
(I) Actual collection costs INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO COMPLY; and
(II) Reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred as a result of such THE failure to comply; without the necessity of commeneing a legat proceding. EXCEPT THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ATTORNEY FEES THAT EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE ACTUAL COSTS THE ASSOCIATION OR UNIT OWNER INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO COMPLY, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
(c) (I) In any civil action to enforce or defend the provisions of this article or of THIS ARTICLE 33.3 OR the declaration, bylaws, articles, or rules and regulations, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees, ACTUAL costs, and ACTUAL costs of collection to the prevailing party, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION.
(II) In CONNECTION WITH ANY CIVIL ACTION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO COLLECT MONEY OWED TO AN ASSOCIATION FROM A UNIT OWNER, THE COURT SHALL NOT AWARD ATTORNEY FEES TO THE ASSOCIATION IN AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF FIVE

THOUSAND DOLLARS OR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE ACTUAL COSTS THE ASSOCIATION INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ARTICLE 33.3 OR WITH THE DECLARATION, BYLAWS, ARTICLES, OR RULES AND REGULATIONS, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
(f) IN DETERMINING REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1) RELATING TO AN ASSOCIATION'S FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN AGAINST A UNIT OWNER FOR UNPAID ASSESSMENTS, THE COURT SHALL GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING:
(I) THE AMOUNT OF THE UNPAID ASSESSMENTS;
(II) WHETHER THE AMOUNT OF THE ATTORNEY FEES REQUESTED EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF THE UNPAID ASSESSMENTS;
(III) WHETHER THE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT OR FEES INCURRED BY THE ATTORNEY ARE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE CASE, CONSIDERING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CASE OR THE EFFORTS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE UNPAID ASSESSMENTS;
(IV) WHETHER THE FORECLOSURE ACTION WAS CONTESTED OR REQUIRED THE ASSOCIATION TO RESPOND TO UNMERITORIOUS DEFENSES; AND
(V) OTHER FACTORS TYPICALLY CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-33.3-209.5, amend (7)(a)(I), (7)(a)(III) introductory portion, and (7)(a)(III)(A) as follows:

38-33.3-209.5. Responsible governance policies - due process for imposition of fines - procedure for collection of delinquent accounts - enforcement through small claims court - definitions. (7) (a) An association shall not commence a legal action to initiate a

JUDICIAL foreclosure proceeding based on a unit owner's delinquency in paying assessments unless:
(I) The association has complied with each of the requirements in this section and in section 38-33.3-316.3 SECTIONS 38-33.3-316 AND 38-33.3-316.3 related to a unit owner's delinquency in paying assessments;
(III) Within thirty days After the association has provided the owner with a written offer to enter into a repayment plan, the unit owner has either:
(A) Beetined FAILED TO ACCEPT the repayment plan WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE WRITTEN OFFER WAS MADE; or

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-33.3-316, amend (11) introductory portion; and add (10.5) and (10.7) as follows:

38-33.3-316. Lien for assessments - liens for fines, fees, charges, costs, and attorney fees - limitations. (10.5) TO FORECLOSE A LIEN DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION:
(a) The ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE OBTAINED A PERSONAL JUDGMENT AGAINST THE UNIT OWNER IN A CIVIL ACTION TO COLLECT THE AMOUNTS DUE;
(b) THE ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE UNIT OWNER BUT WAS PREVENTED BY THE DEATH OF OR INCAPACITY OF THE UNIT OWNER;
(c) THE ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE UNIT OWNER AND MADE A REASONABLE ATTEMPT TO SERVE THE UNIT OWNER BUT THE ASSOCIATION WAS UNABLE TO SERVE THE UNIT OWNER WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS; OR
(d) THE UNIT OWNER MUST HAVE FILED A BANKRUPTCY PETITION

OR MUST HAVE AN INVOLUNTARY BANKRUPTCY PETITION FILED AGAINST THE UNIT OWNER, AND THE AMOUNT DUE THE ASSOCIATION IS SUBJECT TO THE BANKRUPTCY CIVIL ACTION.
(10.7) (a) At LEAST THIRTY DAYS BEFORE INITIATING LEGAL ACTION TO FORECLOSE A LIEN UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN AND ELECTRONICNOTICE TO THE UNIT OWNER OR THE UNIT OWNER'S DESIGNEE THAT THE UNIT OWNER HAS THE RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN MEDIATION PRIOR TO LITIGATION. TO INITIATE MEDIATION, THE UNIT OWNER MUST RESPOND WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE NOTICE.
(b) TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDIATION, BOTH PARTIES MUST:
(I) SELECT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE MEDIATOR KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS ARTICLE 33.3 AND COMMONINTEREST COMMUNITY DISPUTES; AND
(II) SCHEDULE THE MEDIATION SESSION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (10.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
(c) IF A UNIT OWNER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (10.7)(b) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (10.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THIS SUBSECTION (10.7) DOES NOT BAR THE ASSOCIATION FROM FILING A CIVIL ACTION, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THE REST OF THIS SECTION.
(11) Subject to subsection (10.5) of This SECTION, the association's lien may be foreclosed by any of the following means:

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-33.3-316.3, add (3.5) as follows:

38-33.3-316.3. Collections - limitations - violations. (3.5) AN

ASSOCIATION OR THE HOLDER OR ASSIGNEE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S DEBTS SHALL NOT FORECLOSE A LIEN CREATED UNDER SECTION 38-33.3-316 IF THE UNIT OWNER IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF A PAYMENT PLAN REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-38-100.3, add (1.3), (4.3), (25), and (26) as follows:

38-38-100.3. Definitions. As used in articles 37 to 39 of this title 38 , unless the context otherwise requires:
(1.3) "ALTERNATELIENOR" MEANS A PERSONDEEMED ALIENOR BY SECTION 38-38-305.5 (1)(a).
(4.3) "COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 38-33.3-103 (8).
(25) "UNIT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 38-33.3-103 (30).
(26) "UNIT ASSOCIATION LIEN" MEANS A LIEN IN A UNIT IN A COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY THAT IS HELD BY AN ASSOCIATION AS defined in section 38-33.3-103 (3).

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-38-302, amend (1)(d) introductory portion and (4)(a) as follows:

38-38-302. Redemption by lienor - procedure. (1) Requirements for redemption. A lienor or assignee of a lien is entitled to redeem if the following requirements are met to the satisfaction of the officer:
(d) The lienor has, within eight business days after the sale, filed a notice with the officer of the lienor's intent to redeem; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE PERSON IS DEEMED AN ALTERNATE LIENOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-38-305.5 AND THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED IS A UNIT ASSOCIATION THE OFFICER OF THE ALTERNATE LIENOR'S INTENT TO REDEEM. A lienor may file a notice of intent to redeem more than eight business days after sale if:
(4) Redemption period. (a) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, no sooner than fifteen business days nor later than nineteen business days after a sale under this article ARTICLE 38, the junior lienor having the most senior recorded lien on the sold property or any portion thereof OF THE SOLD PROPERTY, according to the records, having first complied with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, may redeem the property sold by paying to the officer, no later than 12 noon on the last day of the lienor's redemption period, in the form specified in section 38-37-108, the amount for which the property was sold with interest from the date of sale, together with all sums allowed under section 38-38-301. Interest on the amount for which the property was sold shall be iS charged at the default rate specified in the evidence of debt, deed of trust, or other lien being foreclosed or, if not so specified, at the regular rate specified in the evidence of debt, deed of trust, or other lien being foreclosed. If different interest rates are specified in the evidence of debt, deed of trust, or other lien being foreclosed, the interest rate specified in the evidence of debt shall prevail PREVAILS. If the evidence of debt does not specify an interest rate, including a default interest rate, THE applicable interest rate as specified in the deed of trust or other lien being foreclosed shall apply APPLIES.
(II) (A) IF THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED IS IN A UNIT ASSOCIATION LIEN, AN ALTERNATE LIENOR'S REDEMPTION PERIOD COMMENCES UPON THE EXPIRATION OF ALL REDEMPTION RIGHTS AS SET BY THE OFFICER IN

ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (4)(d) OF THIS SECTION AND IS NO SOONER THAN THIRTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE SALE. THIS SUBSECTION (4)(a)(II) DOES NOT OTHERWISE CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION FOR AN ALTERNATE REDEEMER.
(B) No SOONER THAN THIRTY-FIVE DAYS ANDNOLATER THANONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER A SALE OF A UNIT ASSOCIATIONLIEN UNDER THIS ARTICLE 38, THE ALTERNATE LIENOR THAT FILED THE NOTICE WITH THE OFFICER OF THE ALTERNATE LIENOR'S INTENT TO REDEEM AND THAT HAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE SOLD PROPERTY MAY REDEEM THE PROPERTY BY PAYING, IN THE FORM SPECIFIED IN SECTION 38-37-108, TO THE OFFICER, NO LATER THAN 12 NOON ON THE LAST DAY OF THE ALTERNATE LIENOR'S REDEMPTION PERIOD, THE AMOUNT FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD WITH INTEREST FROM THE DATE OF SALE, TOGETHER WITH ALL SUMS ALLOWED UNDER SECTION 38-38-107 AND IF APPLICABLE, THE REDEMPTION AMOUNT PAID BY THE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR REDEEMING LIENOR, WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, PLUS THE AMOUNT CLAIMED IN THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR REDEEMING LIENOR PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE PER DIEM AMOUNTS THROUGH THE DATE WHEN THE PAYMENT IS MADE, OR IF NO PRIOR LIEN HAS REDEEMED, THE REDEMPTION AMOUNT DETERMINED PURSUANT SUBSECTION (4)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION.
(C) IF PROPERTY IS REDEEMED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4)(a)(II), ANY ALTERNATE REDEEMER WITH A LOWER PRIORITY REDEMPTION RIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED.
(11) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "UNIT ASSOCIATION LIEN" MEANS A LIEN IN A UNIT IN A COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY THAT IS HELD BY AN

ASSOCIATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 38-33.3-103 (3).
SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 38-38-305.5 as follows:

38-38-305.5. Persons considered as lienors - redemption of property. (1) (a) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE 38, THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE DEEMED ALTERNATE LIENORS WITHOUT A LIEN AMOUNT:
(I) THE UNIT OWNER THAT HAS AN INTEREST APPEARING BY AN INSTRUMENT RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER OF THE COUNTY PRIOR TO THE RECORDING OF THE LIS PENDENS IS THE FIRST PRIORITY;
(II) A TENANT OF THE UNIT, IF THE TENANCY COMMENCED PRIOR TO THE RECORDING OF THE LIS PENDENS AND IF THE LEASE IS NOT RECORDED, IS THE SECOND PRIORITY;
(III) A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT HAS A PRIMARY PURPOSE TO DEVELOP OR PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS THE THIRD PRIORITY;
(IV) A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST IS THE FOURTH PRIORITY;
(V) A COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION FORMED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 33.5 OF THIS TITLE 38 IS THE FIFTH PRIORITY; AND
(VI) The state of Colorado or a political subdivision of THE STATE OF COLORADO IS THE SIXTH PRIORITY.
(b) AN ALTERNATE LIENOR'S ABILITY TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO:
(I) A LIENOR THAT HOLDS EVIDENCE OF DEBT SECURED BY THE PROPERTY; OR
(II) A PERSON THAT IS DEEMED A LIENOR UNDER SECTION 38-38-305.
(c) IF AN ALTERNATE LIENOR REDEEMS AFTER THE REDEMPTION OF


#### Abstract

A LESSEE OR EASEMENT HOLDER, THE ALTERNATE LIENOR, IN ACQUIRING THE PROPERTY, TAKES THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE LEASE OR EASEMENT.


(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE RIGHTS UNDER THIS ARTICLE 38 OF A LESSEE WHOSE RESIDENTIAL LEASE IS RECORDED.
(3) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO THE FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN IN A UNIT IN A COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY BY AN ASSOCIATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 38-33.3-103 (3).

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-38-501, add (3) as follows:

38-38-501. Title vests upon expiration of redemption periods - confirmation deed - definition. (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "REDEMPTION PERIODS" MEANS THE PERIODS OF TIME DURING WHICH A PERSONMAY REDEEM PROPERTY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 38-38-302(4); EXCEPT THAT THE REDEMPTION PERIOD IS THIRTY DAYS IF THE PROPERTY IS A UNIT IN A COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY; THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED IS HELD BY AN ASSOCIATION, AS DEFINED IN 38-33.3-103 (3), AND A LIENOR DOES NOT FILE A NOTICE WITH THE OFFICER OF THE LIENOR'S INTENT TO REDEEM.

## SECTION 9. Act subject to petition - effective date -

 applicability. (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take1 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the 2 governor.
(2) This act applies to debts accrued on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

