LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 767

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18. Read first time January 08, 2020 Committee:

1	A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to real property; to amend sections 25-223,
2	76-842, 76-844, 76-854, 76-857, 76-859, 76-860, 76-867, 76-869,
3	76-870, 76-884, and 76-890, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
4	and section 76-861, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019; to change
5	provisions relating to actions on breach of warranty on improvements
6	to real property; to change provisions under the Nebraska
7	Condominium Act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
8	sections.

9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 25-223, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 amended to read:

3 25-223 Any action to recover damages based on any alleged breach of warranty on improvements to real property or based on any alleged 4 5 deficiency in the design, planning, supervision, or observation of construction, or construction of an improvement to real property shall be 6 commenced within two four years after any alleged act or omission 7 constituting such breach of warranty or deficiency. If such cause of 8 9 action is not discovered and could not be reasonably discovered within such two-year four-year period, or within one year preceding the 10 expiration of such two-year four-year period, then the cause of action 11 may be commenced within <u>one year</u> two years from the date of such 12 discovery or from the date of discovery of facts which would reasonably 13 lead to such discovery, whichever is earlier. In no event may any action 14 be commenced to recover damages for an alleged breach of warranty on 15 16 improvements to real property or deficiency in the design, planning, 17 supervision, or observation of construction, or construction of an improvement to real property more than five ten years beyond the time of 18 the act giving rise to the cause of action. If the real property is a 19 condominium subject to the Nebraska Condominium Act, any action brought 20 under this section shall also comply with section 76-890. 21

22 Sec. 2. Section 76-842, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 23 amended to read:

24 76-842 (a) The declaration for a condominium must contain:

(1) the name of the condominium, which must include the word
condominium or be followed by the words a condominium, and the name of
the association;

(2) the name of every county in which any part of the condominium issituated;

30 (3) a legally sufficient description of the real estate included in31 the condominium;

-2-

1 (4) a statement of the anticipated number of units which the 2 declarant reserves the right to create, subject to an amendment of the 3 declaration to add more units pursuant to the Nebraska Condominium Act;

4 (5) a description of the boundaries of each unit created by the
5 declaration, including the unit's identifying number;

6 (6) a description of any limited common elements, other than those
7 specified in subdivision (b)(8) of section 76-846;

8 (7) a general description of any development rights and other 9 special declarant rights defined in <u>subdivision</u> subsection (23) of 10 section 76-827 reserved by the declarant;

11 (8) an allocation to each unit of the allocated interests in the 12 manner described in section 76-844;

(9) any restrictions on use, occupancy, and alienation of the units;
 and

15 (10) for a condominium project with more than four units, exclusive 16 of common area, a plan prepared by a licensed engineer or architect for 17 the preventive maintenance of the condominium and all common elements 18 therein, including, but not limited to, depreciation studies and reserve 19 analyses, an annually updated five-year capital plan, and minimum 20 financial reserves based on the reserve analyses; and

21 (<u>11</u>) (10) all matters required by sections 76-843 to 76-846, 76-852,
 22 and 76-853, and subsection (d) of section 76-861.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in section 76-856, the declaration
may contain any other matters the declarant deems appropriate.

25 Sec. 3. Section 76-844, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 26 amended to read:

27 76-844 (a) The declaration shall allocate a fraction or percentage 28 of undivided interests in the common elements and in the common expenses 29 of the association, and a portion of the votes in the association, to 30 each unit and state the formulas used to establish those allocations. 31 Those allocations may not discriminate in favor of units owned by the

-3-

1 declarant.

2 (b) If units may be added to or withdrawn from the condominium, the 3 declaration must state the formulas to be used to reallocate the 4 allocated interests among all units included in the condominium after the 5 addition or withdrawal.

(c) The declaration may provide: (i) that different allocations of 6 7 votes shall be made to the units on particular matters specified in the declaration; (ii) for cumulative voting only for the purpose of electing 8 9 members of the executive board; and (iii) for class voting on specified issues affecting the class if necessary to protect valid interests of the 10 class. A declarant may not utilize cumulative or class voting for the 11 purpose of evading any limitation imposed on declarants by the Nebraska 12 Condominium Act sections 76-825 to 76-894, nor may units constitute a 13 class because they are owned by a declarant. 14

(d) Except for minor variations due to rounding, the sum of the undivided interests in the common elements and common expense liabilities allocated at any time to all the units must equal one if stated as fractions or one hundred percent if stated as percentages. In the event of discrepancy between an allocated interest and the result derived from application of the pertinent formula, the allocated interest prevails.

(e) The common elements are not subject to partition, and any
purported conveyance, encumbrance, judicial sale, or other voluntary or
involuntary transfer of an undivided interest in the common elements made
without the unit to which that interest is allocated, is void.

25 Sec. 4. Section 76-854, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 26 amended to read:

76-854 (a) Except in cases of amendments that may be executed by (1)
a declarant under subsection (f) of section 76-846 or under section
76-847, (2) the association under section 76-831 or 76-850, subsection
(d) of section 76-843, subsection (c) of section 76-845, or subsection
(a) of section 76-849, or (3) certain unit owners under subsection (b) of

-4-

section 76-845, subsection (a) of section 76-849, subsection (b) of 1 2 section 76-850, or subsection (b) of section 76-855, and except as limited by subsection (d) of this section, the declaration, including the 3 4 plats and plans, may be amended only by vote or agreement of unit owners of units to which at least sixty-seven percent of the votes in the 5 association are allocated or any larger majority the declaration 6 specifies up to eighty percent of the votes in the association. The 7 declaration may specify a smaller number only if all of the units are 8 9 restricted exclusively to nonresidential use.

(b) No action to challenge the validity of an amendment adopted by
the association pursuant to this section may be brought more than one
year after the amendment is recorded.

(c) Every amendment to the declaration must be recorded in every
county in which any portion of the condominium is located and is
effective only upon recordation.

(d) Except to the extent expressly permitted or required by other 16 17 provisions of the Nebraska Condominium Act, no amendment may create or increase special declarant rights, increase the number of units, or 18 change the boundaries of any unit, the allocated interests of a unit, or 19 the uses to which any unit is restricted in the absence of the unanimous 20 consent of the unit owners. In addition, no amendment may change the 21 22 boundaries of any unit, increase the allocated interests of any unit, or change the uses to which any unit is restricted, without the consent of 23 24 the owner of the unit.

(e) Amendments to the declaration required by the act to be recorded by the association shall be prepared, executed, recorded, and certified on behalf of the association by any officer of the association designated for that purpose or, in the absence of designation, by the president of the association.

30 Sec. 5. Section 76-857, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 31 amended to read:

-5-

1 76-857 (a) If the declaration for a condominium provides that any of 2 the powers described in section 76-860 are to be exercised by or may be delegated to a profit or nonprofit corporation, or unincorporated 3 4 association, which exercises those or other powers on behalf of one or more condominiums or for the benefit of the unit owners of one or more 5 condominiums, all provisions of the Nebraska Condominium Act sections 6 7 76-825 to 76-894 applicable to unit owners associations apply to any such corporation or unincorporated association, except as modified by this 8 9 section. However, in no case shall the declaration provide that the power to institute or intervene as a plaintiff in litigation or administrative 10 proceedings, other than litigation or administrative proceedings to 11 enforce covenants, bylaws, or rules against unit owners, be delegated to 12 13 or exercised by any party other than the unit owners.

(b) Unless a master association is acting in the capacity of an association described in section 76-859, it may exercise the powers set forth in subdivision (a)(2) of section 76-860 only to the extent expressly permitted in the declarations of condominiums which are part of the master association or expressly described in the delegations of power from those condominiums to the master association.

(c) If the declaration of any condominium provides that the executive board may delegate certain powers to a master association, the members of the executive board have no liability for the acts or omissions of the master association with respect to those powers following delegation.

(d) The rights and responsibilities of unit owners with respect to the unit owners association set forth in sections 76-861, 76-866 to 76-868, and 76-870 apply in the conduct of the affairs of a master association only to those persons who elect the board of a master association, whether or not those persons are otherwise unit owners within the meaning of <u>the act sections 76-825 to 76-894</u>.

31 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section

-6-

76-861 with respect to the election of the executive board of an 1 2 association, by all unit owners after the period of declarant control ends, and even if a master association is also an association described 3 4 in section 76-859, the articles of incorporation or other instrument creating the master association and the declaration of each condominium 5 the powers of which are assigned by the declaration or delegated to the 6 7 master association may provide that the executive board of the master association must be elected after the period of declarant control in any 8 9 of the following ways:

(1) All unit owners of all condominiums subject to the master
 association may elect all members of that executive board.

(2) All members of the executive boards of all condominiums subjectto the master association may elect all members of that executive board.

(3) All unit owners of each condominium subject to the masterassociation may elect specified members of that executive board.

16 (4) All members of the executive board of each condominium subject
17 to the master association may elect specified members of that executive
18 board.

Sec. 6. Section 76-859, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, isamended to read:

76-859 A unit owners association must be organized no later than the 21 date the units first unit in the condominium equal to one-half of the 22 total number of units plus one are is conveyed. The membership of the 23 24 association at all times shall consist exclusively of all the unit owners or, following termination of the condominium, of all former unit owners 25 entitled to distributions of proceeds under section 76-855 or their 26 27 heirs, successors, or assigns. The association shall be organized as a profit or nonprofit corporation or as an unincorporated association. 28

29 Sec. 7. Section 76-860, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 30 amended to read:

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76-860 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section and

-7-

subject to the provisions of the declaration, the association, even if unincorporated, may:

3 (1) Adopt and amend bylaws and rules and regulations;

4 (2) Adopt and amend budgets for revenue, expenditures, and reserves
5 and collect assessments for common expenses from unit owners;

6 (3) Hire and discharge managing agents and other employees, agents,7 and independent contractors;

8 (4) Institute, defend, or intervene <u>as a plaintiff</u> in litigation or 9 administrative proceedings, <u>other than litigation or administrative</u> 10 <u>proceedings to enforce covenants</u>, <u>bylaws</u>, <u>or rules against unit owners</u>, 11 in its own name on behalf of itself or two or more unit owners on matters 12 affecting the condominium <u>upon the affirmative vote of at least ninety</u> 13 percent of the votes in the association;

14 (5) Make contracts and incur liabilities;

15 (6) Regulate the use, maintenance, repair, replacement, and 16 modification of common elements;

17 (7) Cause additional improvements to be made as a part of the common18 elements;

(8) Acquire, hold, encumber, and convey in its own name any right,
title, or interest to real or personal property, but common elements may
be <u>encumbered</u> conveyed or subjected to a security interest only pursuant
to section 76-870;

(9) Grant easements, leases, licenses, and concessions through or
 over the common elements;

(10) Impose and receive any payments, fees, or charges for the use,
rental, or operation of the common elements, other than limited common
elements described in subdivisions (2) and (4) of section 76-839, and for
services provided to unit owners;

(11) Impose charges for late payment of assessments and, after
 notice and opportunity to be heard, levy reasonable fines for violations
 of the declaration, bylaws, and rules and regulations for the

-8-

1 association;

2 (12) Impose reasonable charges for the preparation and recordation
3 of amendments to the declaration, resale statements required by section
4 76-884, or statements of unpaid assessments;

5 (13) Provide for the indemnification of its officers and executive
6 board and maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance;

7 (14) Assign its right to future income, including the right to
8 receive common expense assessments, but only to the extent the
9 declaration expressly so provides;

10 (15) Exercise any other powers conferred by the declaration or11 bylaws;

12 (16) Exercise all other powers that may be exercised in this state13 by legal entities of the same type as the association; and

14 (17) Exercise any other powers necessary and proper for the15 governance and operation of the association.

16 (b) The declaration may not impose limitations on the power of the 17 association to deal with the declarant which are more restrictive than 18 the limitations imposed on the power of the association to deal with 19 other persons.

20 Sec. 8. Section 76-861, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is 21 amended to read:

76-861 (a) Except as provided in the declaration, the bylaws, subsection (b) of this section, or other provisions of the Nebraska Condominium Act, the executive board may act in all instances on behalf of the association. In the performance of their duties, the officers and members of the executive board are required to exercise ordinary and reasonable care.

(b) The executive board may not act on behalf of the association to commence litigation on behalf of the association or unit owners, to amend the declaration pursuant to section 76-854, to terminate the condominium pursuant to section 76-855, or to elect members of the executive board or

-9-

1 determine the qualifications, powers and duties, or terms of office of 2 executive board members pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, but 3 the executive board may fill vacancies in its membership for the 4 unexpired portion of any term.

(c) Within thirty days after adoption of any proposed budget for the 5 condominium, the executive board shall provide a summary of the budget to 6 all the unit owners, and shall set a date for a meeting of the unit 7 owners to consider ratification of the budget not less than fourteen nor 8 9 more than thirty days after mailing of the summary. Unless at that meeting a majority of all votes in the association or any larger vote 10 specified in the declaration reject the budget, the budget is ratified, 11 whether or not a quorum is present. In the event the proposed budget is 12 13 rejected, the periodic budget last ratified by the unit owners shall be continued until such time as the unit owners ratify a subsequent budget 14 proposed by the executive board. 15

16 (d) Subject to subsection (e) of this section, the declaration may provide for a period of declarant control of the association, during 17 which period a declarant, or persons designated by him or her, may 18 appoint and remove the officers and members of the executive board. 19 Regardless of the period provided in the declaration, a period of 20 declarant control terminates no later than the earlier of: (i) Sixty days 21 after conveyance of ninety percent of the units which may be created to 22 unit owners other than a declarant; or (ii) two years after all 23 24 declarants have ceased to offer units for sale in the ordinary course of 25 business. A declarant may voluntarily surrender the right to appoint and remove officers and members of the executive board before termination of 26 that period, but in that event he or she may require, for the duration of 27 28 the period of declarant control, that specified actions of the association or executive board, as described in a recorded instrument 29 executed by the declarant, be approved by the declarant before they 30 31 become effective. Successor boards following declarant control may not

-10-

discriminate nor act arbitrarily with respect to units still owned by a
 declarant or a successor declarant.

3 (e) Not later than sixty days after conveyance of fifty twenty-five percent of the units which may be created to unit owners other than a 4 declarant, at least one member and not less than twenty-five percent of 5 the members of the executive board shall be elected exclusively by unit 6 7 owners other than the declarant. Not later than sixty days after conveyance of fifty percent of the units which may be created to unit 8 9 owners other than a declarant, not less than thirty-three and one-third 10 percent of the members of the executive board shall be elected exclusively by unit owners other than the declarant. 11

(f) Not later than the termination of any period of declarant control, the unit owners shall elect an executive board of at least three members, at least a majority of whom must be unit owners. The executive board shall elect the officers. The executive board members and officers shall take office upon election.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of the declaration or bylaws to the contrary, the unit owners, by a two-thirds vote of all persons present and entitled to vote at any meeting of the unit owners at which a quorum is present, may remove any member of the executive board with or without cause, other than a member appointed by the declarant.

(h) The association shall file with the register of deeds of the 22 county in which the condominium is located a condominium statement 23 24 listing the name of the association and the names and addresses of the current officers of the association. Such filing shall be made every year 25 on or before December 31. The receipt of any legal notice by or service 26 of process on such officer personally or at such officer's filed address 27 shall constitute notice to the association. If the association fails to 28 make the filing required by this subsection, the posting of the legal 29 notice or process at the entrance, main office, or other prominent 30 location in the common area of the condominium shall constitute notice to 31

-11-

1 the association until such filing is made.

Sec. 9. Section 76-867, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
amended to read:

4 76-867 (a) Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, a quorum is present 5 throughout any meeting of the association if persons entitled to cast 6 <u>thirty-five</u> twenty percent of the votes which may be cast for election of 7 the executive board are present in person or by proxy at the beginning of 8 the meeting.

9 (b) Unless the bylaws specify a larger percentage, a quorum is 10 deemed present throughout any meeting of the executive board if persons 11 entitled to cast fifty percent of the votes on that board are present at 12 the beginning of the meeting.

Sec. 10. Section 76-869, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

76-869 (a) Neither the association nor any unit owner except the 15 declarant is liable for that declarant's torts in connection with any 16 17 part of the condominium which that declarant has the responsibility to maintain. Otherwise, an action alleging a wrong done by the association 18 19 must be brought against the association and not against any unit owner. If the wrong occurred during any period of declarant control and the 20 association gives the declarant reasonable notice of and an opportunity 21 to defend against the action, the declarant who then controlled the 22 association is liable to the association or to any unit owner <u>only</u> \div (i) 23 For all tort losses not covered by insurance suffered by the association 24 25 or that unit owner, and (ii) for all costs which the association would not have incurred but for a breach of contract or other negligent 26 wrongful act or omission by the declarant. Whenever the declarant is 27 28 liable to the association under this section, the declarant is also liable for all litigation expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, 29 30 incurred by the association. Any statute of limitation affecting the association's right of action under this section is tolled until the 31

period of declarant control terminates. A unit owner is not precluded from bringing an action contemplated by this section because he or she is a unit owner or a member or officer of the association. Liens resulting from judgments against the association are governed by section 76-875.

5 (b) The declarant shall not be liable for any action, loss, or cost 6 pursuant to this section if at the time the loss occurred, insurance 7 required by section 76-871 was in place.

8 Sec. 11. Section 76-870, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is9 amended to read:

10 76-870 (a) Portions of the common elements may be encumbered conveyed or subjected to a security interest by the association if 11 persons entitled to cast at least sixty-seven eighty percent of the votes 12 in the association, including sixty-seven eighty percent of the votes 13 allocated to units not owned by a declarant, or any larger percentage the 14 declaration specifies, agree to that action; but all the owners of units 15 16 to which any limited common element is allocated must agree in order to 17 encumber convey that limited common element or subject it to a security interest. The declaration may specify a smaller percentage only if all of 18 19 the units are restricted exclusively to nonresidential uses. Proceeds of the sale are an asset of the association. 20

(b) An agreement to encumber convey common elements or subject them 21 to a security interest must be evidenced by the execution of an 22 agreement, or ratifications thereof, in the same manner as a deed, by the 23 24 requisite number of unit owners. The agreement must specify a date after 25 which the agreement will be void unless recorded before that date. The agreement and all ratifications thereof must be recorded in every county 26 in which a portion of the condominium is situated and is effective only 27 28 upon recordation.

(c) The association, on behalf of the unit owners, may contract to
 <u>encumber</u> convey common elements or subject them to a security interest,
 but the contract is not enforceable against the association until

-13-

approved pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section. Thereafter, the association has all powers necessary and appropriate to effect the conveyance or encumbrance, including the power to execute deeds or other instruments.

5 (d) Any purported conveyance, encumbrance, judicial sale, or other 6 voluntary transfer of common elements, unless made pursuant to this 7 section, is void.

8 (e) <u>An</u> A conveyance or encumbrance of common elements pursuant to 9 this section does not deprive any unit of its rights of access and 10 support.

(f) Unless the declaration otherwise provides, <u>an</u> a conveyance or
 encumbrance of common elements pursuant to this section does not affect
 the priority or validity of preexisting encumbrances.

Sec. 12. Section 76-884, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

16 76-884 (a) Except in the case of a sale where delivery of a public-17 offering statement is required or unless exempt under subsection (b) of 18 section 76-878, the unit owner and any other person in the business of 19 selling real estate who offers a unit to a purchaser shall furnish to a 20 purchaser before conveyance a copy of the declaration other than the 21 plats and plans, the bylaws, the rules or regulations of the association, 22 and the following information:

(1) a statement setting forth the amount of the monthly common
expense assessment and any unpaid common expense or special assessment
currently due and payable from the selling unit owner;

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(2) any other fees payable by unit owners;

(3) the most recent regularly prepared balance sheet and income and
expense statement, if any, of the association;

29 (4) the current operating budget of the association, if any;

30 (5) a statement that a copy of any insurance policy provided for the
 31 benefit of unit owners is available from the association upon request;

-14-

1 and

2 (6) a statement of the remaining term of any leasehold estate
3 affecting the condominium and the provisions governing any extension or
4 renewal thereof; and -

5 (7) a disclosure of any threatened or pending litigation involving
6 the unit or the association.

7 (b) The association, within ten days after a request by a unit 8 owner, shall furnish in writing the information necessary to enable the 9 unit owner to comply with this section. A unit owner providing 10 information pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not liable to 11 the purchaser for any erroneous information provided by the association 12 and included in the certificate.

(c) A purchaser is not liable for any unpaid assessment or fee greater than the amount set forth in the information prepared by the association. The unit owner or any other person in the business of selling real estate who offers a unit to a purchaser is not liable to a purchaser for the failure or delay of the association to provide such information in a timely manner.

Sec. 13. Section 76-890, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, isamended to read:

76-890 (a) A judicial proceeding for breach of any obligation 21 22 arising under section 76-887 or 76-888 must be commenced within two four years after the cause of action accrues, but the parties may agree to 23 24 reduce the period of limitation to not less than <u>one year two years</u>. With 25 respect to a unit that may be occupied for residential use, an agreement to reduce the period of limitation must be evidenced by an instrument 26 executed by the purchaser. Prior to commencing any judicial proceeding 27 28 under this section, the person seeking to commence the judicial proceeding must: (1) Provide written notice of the proposed proceeding to 29 the prospective defendant or defendants; (2) give the prospective 30 31 defendant or defendants at least six months to cure the alleged defect or

-15-

defects; and (3) submit the matter to mediation before a disinterested, professional, third-party mediator. If the defect or defects are such that they cannot reasonably be cured within six months, the cure period shall extend as long as the prospective defendant has commenced and is diligently proceeding with repairs. Any proceeding commenced without strict compliance with this section is subject to dismissal for such noncompliance.

8 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a cause of action for 9 breach of warranty, regardless of the purchaser's lack of knowledge of 10 the breach, accrues:

(1) as to a unit, at the time the purchaser to whom the warranty is first made enters into possession if a possessory interest was conveyed or at the time of acceptance of the instrument of conveyance if a nonpossessory interest was conveyed; and

(2) as to each common element, at the time the common element is completed or, if later, (i) as to a common element that may be added to the condominium or portion thereof, at the time the first unit therein is conveyed to a bona fide purchaser, or (ii) as to a common element within any other portion of the condominium, at the time the first unit in the condominium is conveyed to a bona fide purchaser.

(c) If a warranty explicitly extends to future performance or duration of any improvement or component of the condominium, the cause of action accrues at the time the breach is discovered or at the end of the period for which the warranty explicitly extends, whichever is earlier.

Sec. 14. Original sections 25-223, 76-842, 76-844, 76-854, 76-857,
76-859, 76-860, 76-867, 76-869, 76-870, 76-884, and 76-890, Reissue
Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 76-861, Revised Statutes
Supplement, 2019, are repealed.

-16-