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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1256

Offered January 20, 2012

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 55-79.84, 55-79.97, and 55-516 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Condominium Act and the Property Owners' Association Act; lien for assessments; priority.

Patron—Sickles

Referred to Committee on General Laws

## Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 55-79.84, 55-79.97, and 55-516 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 55-79.84. Lien for assessments.

A. The unit owners' association shall have a lien on every condominium unit for unpaid assessments levied against that condominium unit in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and all lawful provisions of the condominium instruments. ~~The~~ *Except as specifically provided in subsection B*, said lien, once perfected, shall be prior to all other liens and encumbrances except (i) real estate tax liens on that condominium unit, (ii) liens and encumbrances recorded prior to the recordation of the declaration, and (iii) sums unpaid on any first mortgages or first deeds of trust recorded prior to the perfection of said lien for assessments and securing institutional lenders. The provisions of this subsection shall not affect the priority of mechanics' and materialmen's liens.

B. *Such portion of the unpaid assessments due and owing the association for a period not to exceed three years that is attributable to providing the maintenance and upkeep of the common elements and such other areas of association responsibility expressly provided for in the declaration, including capital expenditures, shall be prior to all other liens and encumbrances with the exception of any real estate tax liens or deeds of trust or mortgages, regardless of when recorded, on the condominium unit.*

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any other provision of law requiring documents to be recorded in the miscellaneous lien books or the deed books in the clerk's office of any court, on or after July 1, 1974, all memoranda of liens arising under this section shall, in the discretion of the clerk, be recorded in the miscellaneous lien books or the deed books in such clerk's office. Any such memorandum shall be indexed in the general index to deeds, and such general index shall identify the lien as a lien for condominium assessments.

~~C.D.~~ The unit owners' association, in order to perfect the lien given by this section, shall file before the expiration of 90 days from the time the first such assessment became due and payable in the clerk's office of the circuit court in the county or city in which such condominium is situated, a memorandum, verified by the oath of the principal officer of the unit owners' association, or such other officer or officers as the condominium instruments may specify, which contains the following:

1. A description of the condominium unit in accordance with the provisions of § 55-79.47.
2. The name or names of the persons constituting the unit owners of that condominium unit.
3. The amount of unpaid assessments currently due or past due together with the date when each fell due.
4. The date of issuance of the memorandum.

It shall be the duty of the clerk in whose office such memorandum is filed as hereinabove provided to record and index the same as provided in subsection ~~B~~ C, in the names of the persons identified therein as well as in the name of the unit owners' association. The cost of recording such memorandum shall be taxed against the person found liable in any judgment or decree enforcing such lien.

~~D.E.~~ No suit to enforce any lien perfected under subsection ~~E~~ D shall be brought or action to foreclose any lien perfected under subsection ~~I~~ J shall be initiated after 36 months from the time when the memorandum of lien was recorded; however, the filing of a petition to enforce any such lien in any suit wherein such petition may be properly filed shall be regarded as the institution of a suit under this section. Nothing herein shall extend the time within which any such lien may be perfected.

~~E.F.~~ The judgment or decree in an action brought pursuant to this section shall include, without limitation, reimbursement for costs and ~~attorneys'~~ attorney fees of the prevailing party. If the association prevails, it may also recover interest at the legal rate for the sums secured by the lien from the time each such sum became due and payable.

~~F.G.~~ When payment or satisfaction is made of a debt secured by the lien perfected by subsection ~~E~~ D, said lien shall be released in accordance with the provisions of § 55-66.3. Any lien which is not so released shall subject the lien creditor to the penalty set forth in subdivision A (~~4~~) 1 of § 55-66.3. For the purposes of that section, the principal officer of the unit owners' association, or such other officer or

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59 officers as the condominium instruments may specify, shall be deemed the duly authorized agent of the  
60 lien creditor.

61 *G.H.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit actions at law to recover sums for which  
62 subsection A creates a lien, maintainable pursuant to § 55-79.53.

63 *H.I.* Any unit owner or purchaser of a condominium unit, having executed a contract for the  
64 disposition of the same, shall be entitled upon request to a recordable statement setting forth the amount  
65 of unpaid assessments currently levied against that unit. Such request shall be in writing, directed to the  
66 principal officer of the unit owners' association or to such other officer as the condominium instruments  
67 may specify. Failure to furnish or make available such a statement within 10 days of the receipt of such  
68 request shall extinguish the lien created by subsection A as to the condominium unit involved. Such  
69 statement shall be binding on the unit owners' association, the executive organ, and every unit owner.  
70 Payment of a fee not exceeding \$10 may be required as a prerequisite to the issuance of such a  
71 statement if the condominium instruments so provide.

72 *I.J.* At any time after perfecting the lien pursuant to this section, the unit owners' association may  
73 sell the unit at public sale, subject to prior liens. For purposes of this section, the unit owners'  
74 association shall have the power both to sell and convey the unit, and shall be deemed the unit owner's  
75 statutory agent for the purpose of transferring title to the unit. A nonjudicial foreclosure sale shall be  
76 conducted in compliance with the following:

77 1. The unit owners' association shall give notice to the unit owner prior to advertisement required by  
78 subdivision 4. The notice shall specify (i) the debt secured by the perfected lien; (ii) the action required  
79 to satisfy the debt secured by the perfected lien; (iii) the date, not less than 60 days from the date the  
80 notice is given to the unit owner, by which the debt secured by the lien must be satisfied; and (iv) that  
81 failure to satisfy the debt secured by the lien on or before the date specified in the notice may result in  
82 the sale of the unit. The notice shall further inform the unit owner of the right to bring a court action in  
83 the circuit court of the county or city where the condominium is located to assert the nonexistence of a  
84 debt or any other defense of the unit owner to the sale.

85 2. After expiration of the 60-day notice period provided in subdivision 1, the unit owners' association  
86 may appoint a trustee to conduct the sale. The appointment of the trustee shall be filed in the clerk's  
87 office of the circuit court in the county or city in which the condominium is located. It shall be the duty  
88 of the clerk in whose office such appointment is filed to record and index the same as provided in  
89 subsection *C D*, in the names of the persons identified therein as well as in the name of the unit owners'  
90 association. The unit owners' association, at its option, may from time to time remove the trustee and  
91 appoint a successor trustee.

92 3. If the unit owner meets the conditions specified in this subdivision prior to the date of the  
93 foreclosure sale, the unit owner shall have the right to have enforcement of the perfected lien  
94 discontinued prior to the sale of the unit. Those conditions are that the unit owner: ~~(a)~~ (i) satisfy the  
95 debt secured by lien that is the subject of the nonjudicial foreclosure sale and ~~(b)~~ (ii) pay all  
96 expenses and costs incurred in perfecting and enforcing the lien, including but not limited to advertising  
97 costs and reasonable ~~attorneys'~~ attorney fees.

98 4. In addition to the advertisement required by subdivision 5, the unit owners' association shall give  
99 written notice of the time, date and place of any proposed sale in execution of the lien, and including  
100 the name, address and telephone number of the trustee, by personal delivery or by mail to (i) the present  
101 owner of the property to be sold at his last known address as such owner and address appear in the  
102 records of the unit owners' association, (ii) any lienholder who holds a note against the property secured  
103 by a deed of trust recorded at least 30 days prior to the proposed sale and whose address is recorded  
104 with the deed of trust, and (iii) any assignee of such a note secured by a deed of trust provided the  
105 assignment and address of the assignee are likewise recorded at least 30 days prior to the proposed sale.  
106 Mailing a copy of the advertisement or the notice containing the same information to the owner by  
107 certified or registered mail no less than 14 days prior to such sale and to the lienholders and their  
108 assigns, at the addresses noted in the memorandum of lien, by ordinary mail no less than 14 days prior  
109 to such sale, shall be a sufficient compliance with the requirement of notice.

110 5. The advertisement of sale by the unit owners' association shall be in a newspaper having a general  
111 circulation in the city or county wherein the property to be sold, or any portion thereof, lies pursuant to  
112 the following provisions:

113 a. The unit owners' association shall advertise once a week for four successive weeks; however, if  
114 the property or some portion thereof is located in a city or in a county immediately contiguous to a city,  
115 publication of the advertisement five different days, which may be consecutive days, shall be deemed  
116 adequate. The sale shall be held on any day following the day of the last advertisement that is no earlier  
117 than eight days following the first advertisement nor more than 30 days following the last advertisement.

118 b. Such advertisement shall be placed in that section of the newspaper where legal notices appear or  
119 where the type of property being sold is generally advertised for sale. The advertisement of sale, in  
120 addition to such other matters as the unit owners' association finds appropriate, shall set forth a

description of the property to be sold, which description need not be as extensive as that contained in the deed of trust, but shall identify the property by street address, if any, or, if none, shall give the general location of the property with reference to streets, routes, or known landmarks. Where available, tax map identification may be used but is not required. The advertisement shall also include the date, time, place, and terms of sale and the name of the unit owners' association. It shall set forth the name, address and telephone number of the representative, agent, or attorney who may be able to respond to inquiries concerning the sale.

c. In addition to the advertisement required by subdivisions a and b ~~above~~, the unit owners' association may give such other further and different advertisement as the association finds appropriate.

6. In the event of postponement of sale, which postponement shall be at the discretion of the unit owners' association, advertisement of such postponed sale shall be in the same manner as the original advertisement of sale.

7. Failure to comply with the requirements for advertisement contained in this section shall, upon petition, render a sale of the property voidable by the court.

8. In the event of a sale, the unit owners' association shall have the following powers and duties:

a. Written one-price bids may be made and shall be received by the trustee from the unit owners' association or any person for entry by announcement at the sale. Any person other than the trustee may bid at the foreclosure sale, including a person who has submitted a written one-price bid. Upon request to the trustee, any other bidder in attendance at a foreclosure sale shall be permitted to inspect written bids. Unless otherwise provided in the condominium instruments, the unit owners' association may bid to purchase the unit at a foreclosure sale. The unit owners' association may own, lease, encumber, exchange, sell or convey the unit. Whenever the written bid of the unit owners' association is the highest bid submitted at the sale, such written bid shall be filed by the trustee with his account of sale required under subdivision ~~I 10 of this section~~ and § 26-15. The written bid submitted pursuant to this subsection may be prepared by the unit owners' association, its agent or attorney.

b. The unit owners' association may require of any bidder at any sale a cash deposit of as much as 10 percent of the sale price before his bid is received, which shall be refunded to him if the property is not sold to him. The deposit of the successful bidder shall be applied to his credit at settlement, or if such bidder fails to complete his purchase promptly, the deposit shall be applied to pay the costs and expenses of the sale, and the balance, if any, shall be retained by the unit owners' association in connection with that sale.

c. The unit owners' association shall receive and receipt for the proceeds of sale, no purchaser being required to see to the application of the proceeds, and apply the same in the following order: first, to the reasonable expenses of sale, including reasonable ~~attorneys'~~ attorney fees; second, to the satisfaction of all taxes, levies, and assessments, with costs and interest; third, to the satisfaction of the lien for the unit owners' assessments; fourth, to the satisfaction in the order of priority of any remaining inferior claims of record; and fifth, to pay the residue of the proceeds to the unit owner or his assigns; provided, however, that the association as to such residue shall not be bound by any inheritance, devise, conveyance, assignment or lien of or upon the unit owner's equity, without actual notice thereof prior to distribution.

9. The trustee shall deliver to the purchaser a trustee's deed conveying the unit with special warranty of title. The trustee shall not be required to take possession of the property prior to the sale thereof or to deliver possession of the unit to the purchaser at the sale.

10. The trustee shall file an accounting of the sale with the commissioner of accounts pursuant to § 26-15 and every account of a sale shall be recorded pursuant to § 26-16. In addition, the accounting shall be made available for inspection and copying pursuant to § 55-79.74:1 upon the written request of the prior unit owner, current unit owner or any holder of a recorded lien against the unit at the time of the sale. The unit owners' association shall maintain a copy of the accounting for at least 12 months following the foreclosure sale.

11. If the sale of a unit is made pursuant to *this* subsection ~~I~~ and the accounting is made by the trustee, the title of the purchaser at such sale shall not be disturbed unless within 12 months from the confirmation of the accounting by the commissioner of accounts, the sale is set aside by the court or an appeal is allowed by the Supreme Court of Virginia, and a decree is therein entered requiring such sale to be set aside.

§ 55-79.97. Resale by purchaser.

A. In the event of any resale of a condominium unit by a unit owner other than the declarant, and subject to the provisions of subsection F and *subsection A of § 55-79.87 A*, the unit owner shall disclose in the contract that (i) the unit is located within a development which is subject to the Condominium Act, (ii) the Act requires the seller to obtain from the unit owners' association a resale certificate and provide it to the purchaser, (iii) the purchaser may cancel the contract within three days after receiving the resale certificate or being notified that the resale certificate will not be available, (iv) if the purchaser

182 has received the resale certificate, the purchaser has a right to request a resale certificate update or  
183 financial update in accordance with § 55-79.97:1, as appropriate, and (v) the right to receive the resale  
184 certificate and the right to cancel the contract are waived conclusively if not exercised before settlement.

185 For purposes of clause (iii), the resale certificate shall be deemed not to be available if (a) a current  
186 annual report has not been filed by the unit owners' association with either the State Corporation  
187 Commission pursuant to § 13.1-936 or the Common Interest Community Board pursuant to § 55-79.93:1,  
188 (b) the seller has made a written request to the unit owners' association that the resale certificate be  
189 provided and no such resale certificate has been received within 14 days in accordance with subsection  
190 C, or (c) written notice has been provided by the unit owners' association that a resale certificate is not  
191 available.

192 B. If the contract does not contain the disclosure required by subsection A, the purchaser's sole  
193 remedy is to cancel the contract prior to settlement.

194 C. The information contained in the resale certificate shall be current as of a date specified on the  
195 resale certificate. A resale certificate update or a financial update may be requested as provided in  
196 § 55-79.97:1, as appropriate. The purchaser may cancel the contract (i) within three days after the date  
197 of the contract, if the purchaser receives the resale certificate on or before the date that the purchaser  
198 signs the contract; (ii) within three days after receiving the resale certificate if the resale certificate is  
199 hand delivered or delivered by electronic means and a receipt obtained; or (iii) within six days after the  
200 postmark date if the resale certificate is sent to the purchaser by United States mail. Notice of  
201 cancellation shall be provided to the unit owner or his agent by one of the following methods:

202 a. Hand delivery;

203 b. United States mail, postage prepaid, provided the sender retains sufficient proof of mailing, which  
204 may be either a United States postal certificate of mailing or a certificate of service prepared by the  
205 sender confirming such mailing;

206 c. Electronic means provided the sender retains sufficient proof of the electronic delivery, which may  
207 be an electronic receipt of delivery, a confirmation that the notice was sent by facsimile, or a certificate  
208 of service prepared by the sender confirming the electronic delivery; or

209 d. Overnight delivery using a commercial service or the United States Postal Service.

210 In the event of a dispute, the sender shall have the burden to demonstrate delivery of the notice of  
211 cancellation. Such cancellation shall be without penalty, and the unit owner shall cause any deposit to be  
212 returned promptly to the purchaser.

213 A resale certificate shall include the following:

214 1. An appropriate statement pursuant to subsection H I of § 55-79.84 which need not be notarized  
215 and, if applicable, an appropriate statement pursuant to § 55-79.85;

216 2. A statement of any expenditure of funds approved by the unit owners' association or the executive  
217 organ which shall require an assessment in addition to the regular assessment during the current or the  
218 immediately succeeding fiscal year;

219 3. A statement, including the amount, of all assessments and any other fees or charges currently  
220 imposed by the unit owners' association, together with any known post-closing fee charged by the  
221 common interest community manager, if any, and associated with the purchase, disposition and  
222 maintenance of the condominium unit and the use of the common elements, and the status of the  
223 account;

224 4. A statement whether there is any other entity or facility to which the unit owner may be liable for  
225 fees or other charges;

226 5. The current reserve study report or a summary thereof, a statement of the status and amount of  
227 any reserve or replacement fund and any portion of the fund designated for any specified project by the  
228 executive organ;

229 6. A copy of the unit owners' association's current budget or a summary thereof prepared by the unit  
230 owners' association and a copy of the statement of its financial position (balance sheet) for the last fiscal  
231 year for which a statement is available, including a statement of the balance due of any outstanding  
232 loans of the unit owners' association;

233 7. A statement of the nature and status of any pending suits or unpaid judgments to which the unit  
234 owners' association is a party which either could or would have a material impact on the unit owners'  
235 association or the unit owners or which relates to the unit being purchased;

236 8. A statement setting forth what insurance coverage is provided for all unit owners by the unit  
237 owners' association, including the fidelity bond maintained by the unit owners' association, and what  
238 additional insurance coverage would normally be secured by each individual unit owner;

239 9. A statement that any improvements or alterations made to the unit, or the limited common  
240 elements assigned thereto, are or are not in violation of the condominium instruments;

241 10. A copy of the current bylaws, rules and regulations and architectural guidelines adopted by the  
242 unit owners' association and the amendments thereto;

243 11. A statement of whether the condominium or any portion thereof is located within a development

subject to the Property Owners' Association Act (§ 55-508 et seq.) of Chapter 26 of this title;

12. A copy of the notice given to the unit owner by the unit owners' association of any current or pending rule or architectural violation;

13. A copy of any approved minutes of the executive organ and unit owners' association meetings for the six calendar months preceding the request for the resale certificate;

14. Certification that the unit owners' association has filed with the Common Interest Community Board the annual report required by § 55-79.93:1, which certification shall indicate the filing number assigned by the Common Interest Community Board and the expiration date of such filing;

15. A statement of any limitation on the number of persons who may occupy a unit as a dwelling; and

16. A statement setting forth any restrictions, limitation or prohibition on the right of a unit owner to display the flag of the United States, including, but not limited to reasonable restrictions as to the size, time, place, and manner of placement or display of such flag.

Failure to receive a resale certificate shall not excuse any failure to comply with the provisions of the condominium instruments, articles of incorporation, or rules or regulations.

The resale certificate shall be delivered in accordance with the written request and instructions of the seller or his authorized agent, including whether the resale certificate shall be delivered electronically or in hard copy, and shall specify the complete contact information for the parties to whom the resale certificate shall be delivered. The resale certificate shall be delivered within 14 days of receipt of such request. The resale certificate shall not, in and of itself, be deemed a security within the meaning of § 13.1-501.

D. The seller or his authorized agent may request that the resale certificate be provided in hard copy or in electronic form. A unit owners' association or common interest community manager may provide the resale certificate electronically; however, the seller or his authorized agent shall have the right to request that the resale certificate be provided in hard copy. The seller or his authorized agent shall continue to have the right to request a hard copy of the resale certificate in person at the principal place of business of the unit owners' association. If the seller or his authorized agent requests that the resale certificate be provided in electronic format, neither the unit owners' association nor its common interest community manager may require the seller or his authorized agent to pay any fees to use the provider's electronic network or system. If the seller or his authorized agent asks that the resale certificate be provided in electronic format, the seller or his authorized agent may designate no more than two additional recipients to receive the resale certificate in electronic format at no additional charge.

E. Subject to the provisions of § 55-79.87, but notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the provisions and requirements of this section shall apply to any such resale of a condominium unit created under the provisions of the Horizontal Property Act (§ 55-79.1 et seq.).

F. The resale certificate required by this section need not be provided in the case of:

1. A disposition of a unit by gift;
2. A disposition of a unit pursuant to court order if the court so directs;
3. A disposition of a unit by foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure; or
4. A disposition of a unit by a sale at auction, when the resale certificate was made available as part of the auction package for prospective purchasers prior to the auction.

G. In any transaction in which a resale certificate is required and a trustee acts as the seller in the sale or resale of a unit, the trustee shall obtain the resale certificate from the unit owners' association and provide the resale certificate to the purchaser.

§ 55-516. Lien for assessments.

A. Once perfected, the association shall have a lien on every lot for unpaid assessments levied against that lot in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and all lawful provisions of the declaration. *The Except as specifically provided in subsection B, the* lien, once perfected, shall be prior to all other subsequent liens and encumbrances except (i) real estate tax liens on that lot, (ii) liens and encumbrances recorded prior to the recordation of the declaration, and (iii) sums unpaid on and owing under any mortgage or deed of trust recorded prior to the perfection of said lien. The provisions of this subsection shall not affect the priority of mechanics' and materialmen's liens. Notice of a memorandum of lien to a holder of a credit line deed of trust under § 55-58.2 shall be given in the same fashion as if the association's lien were a judgment.

B. *Such portion of the unpaid assessments due and owing the association for a period not to exceed three years that is attributable to providing the maintenance and upkeep of the common areas and such other areas of association responsibility expressly provided for in the declaration, including capital expenditures, shall be prior to all other liens and encumbrances with the exception of any real estate tax liens or deeds of trust or mortgages, regardless of when recorded, on the lot.*

C. The association, in order to perfect the lien given by this section, shall file before the expiration of 12 months from the time the first such assessment became due and payable in the clerk's office of the

305 circuit court in the county or city in which such development is situated, a memorandum, verified by the  
306 oath of the principal officer of the association, or such other officer or officers as the declaration may  
307 specify, which contains the following:

- 308 1. The name of the development;
- 309 2. A description of the lot;
- 310 3. The name or names of the persons constituting the owners of that lot;
- 311 4. The amount of unpaid assessments currently due or past due relative to such lot together with the  
312 date when each fell due;
- 313 5. The date of issuance of the memorandum;
- 314 6. The name of the association and the name and current address of the person to contact to arrange  
315 for payment or release of the lien; and
- 316 7. A statement that the association is obtaining a lien in accordance with the provisions of the  
317 Virginia Property Owners' Association Act as set forth in Chapter 26 (§ 55-508 et seq.) of Title 55.

318 It shall be the duty of the clerk in whose office such memorandum is filed as hereinafter provided to  
319 record and index the same as provided in subsection ~~D~~ E, in the names of the persons identified therein  
320 as well as in the name of the association. The cost of recording and releasing the memorandum shall be  
321 taxed against the person found liable in any judgment or decree enforcing such lien.

322 ~~C~~.D. Prior to filing a memorandum of lien, a written notice shall be sent to the property owner by  
323 certified mail, at the property owner's last known address, informing the property owner that a  
324 memorandum of lien will be filed in the circuit court clerk's office of the applicable city or county. The  
325 notice shall be sent at least 10 days before the actual filing date of the memorandum of lien.

326 ~~D~~.E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any other provision of law requiring  
327 documents to be recorded in the miscellaneous lien books or the deed books in the clerk's office of any  
328 court, on or after July 1, 1989, all memoranda of liens arising under this section shall be recorded in the  
329 deed books in the clerk's office. Any memorandum shall be indexed in the general index to deeds, and  
330 the general index shall identify the lien as a lien for lot assessments.

331 ~~E~~.F. No suit to enforce any lien perfected under subsection ~~B~~ C shall be brought or action to  
332 foreclose any lien perfected under subsection ~~I~~ J shall be initiated after 36 months from the time when  
333 the memorandum of lien was recorded; however, the filing of a petition to enforce any such lien in any  
334 suit wherein the petition may be properly filed shall be regarded as the institution of a suit under this  
335 section. Nothing herein shall extend the time within which any such lien may be perfected.

336 ~~F~~.G. The judgment or decree in an action brought pursuant to this section shall include, without  
337 limitation, reimbursement for costs and reasonable ~~attorneys'~~ attorney fees of the prevailing party. If the  
338 association prevails, it may also recover interest at the legal rate for the sums secured by the lien from  
339 the time each such sum became due and payable.

340 ~~G~~.H. When payment or satisfaction is made of a debt secured by the lien perfected by subsection ~~B~~  
341 ~~hereof~~ C, the lien shall be released in accordance with the provisions of § 55-66.3. Any lien which is  
342 not so released shall subject the lien creditor to the penalty set forth in subdivision A 1 of § 55-66.3.  
343 For the purposes of § 55-66.3, the principal officer of the association, or any other officer or officers as  
344 the declaration may specify, shall be deemed the duly authorized agent of the lien creditor.

345 ~~H~~.I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit actions at law to recover sums for which  
346 subsection A ~~hereof~~ creates a lien, maintainable pursuant to § 55-515.

347 ~~I~~.J. At any time after perfecting the lien pursuant to this section, the property owners' association  
348 may sell the lot at public sale, subject to prior liens. For purposes of this section, the association shall  
349 have the power both to sell and convey the lot and shall be deemed the lot owner's statutory agent for  
350 the purpose of transferring title to the lot. A nonjudicial foreclosure sale shall be conducted in  
351 compliance with the following:

- 352 1. The association shall give notice to the lot owner prior to advertisement required by subdivision 4.  
353 The notice shall specify (i) the debt secured by the perfected lien; (ii) the action required to satisfy the  
354 debt secured by the perfected lien; (iii) the date, not less than 60 days from the date the notice is given  
355 to the lot owner, by which the debt secured by the lien must be satisfied; and (iv) that failure to satisfy  
356 the debt secured by the lien on or before the date specified in the notice may result in the sale of the  
357 lot. The notice shall further inform the lot owner of the right to bring a court action in the circuit court  
358 of the county or city where the lot is located to assert the nonexistence of a debt or any other defense of  
359 the lot owner to the sale.

360 2. After expiration of the 60-day notice period specified in subdivision 1, the association may appoint  
361 a trustee to conduct the sale. The appointment of the trustee shall be filed in the clerk's office of the  
362 circuit court in the county or city in which such development is situated. It shall be the duty of the clerk  
363 in whose office such appointment is filed to record and index the same as provided in subsection ~~D~~ E,  
364 in the names of the persons identified therein as well as in the name of the association. The association,  
365 at its option, may from time to time remove the trustee and appoint a successor trustee.

- 366 3. If the lot owner meets the conditions specified in this subdivision prior to the date of the

foreclosure sale, the lot owner shall have the right to have enforcement of the perfected lien discontinued prior to the sale of the lot. Those conditions are that the lot owner: (i) satisfy the debt secured by lien that is the subject of the nonjudicial foreclosure sale and (ii) pays all expenses and costs incurred in perfecting and enforcing the lien, including but not limited to advertising costs and reasonable attorneys' attorney fees.

4. In addition to the advertisement required by subdivision 5, the association shall give written notice of the time, date and place of any proposed sale in execution of the lien, and including the name, address and telephone number of the trustee, by personal delivery or by mail to (i) the present owner of the property to be sold at his last known address as such owner and address appear in the records of the association, (ii) any lienholder who holds a note against the property secured by a deed of trust recorded at least 30 days prior to the proposed sale and whose address is recorded with the deed of trust, and (iii) any assignee of such a note secured by a deed of trust provided the assignment and address of the assignee are likewise recorded at least 30 days prior to the proposed sale. Mailing a copy of the advertisement or the notice containing the same information to the owner by certified or registered mail no less than 14 days prior to such sale and to lienholders and their assigns, at the addresses noted in the memorandum of lien, by ordinary mail no less than 14 days prior to such sale, shall be a sufficient compliance with the requirement of notice.

5. The advertisement of sale by the association shall be in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city or county wherein the property to be sold, or any portion thereof, lies pursuant to the following provisions:

a. The association shall advertise once a week for four successive weeks; however, if the property or some portion thereof is located in a city or in a county immediately contiguous to a city, publication of the advertisement five different days, which may be consecutive days, shall be deemed adequate. The sale shall be held on any day following the day of the last advertisement which is no earlier than eight days following the first advertisement nor more than 30 days following the last advertisement.

b. Such advertisement shall be placed in that section of the newspaper where legal notices appear or where the type of property being sold is generally advertised for sale. The advertisement of sale, in addition to such other matters as the association finds appropriate, shall set forth a description of the property to be sold, which description need not be as extensive as that contained in the deed of trust, but shall identify the property by street address, if any, or, if none, shall give the general location of the property with reference to streets, routes, or known landmarks. Where available, tax map identification may be used but is not required. The advertisement shall also include the date, time, place, and terms of sale and the name of the association. It shall set forth the name, address and telephone number of the representative, agent, or attorney who may be able to respond to inquiries concerning the sale.

c. In addition to the advertisement required by subdivisions a and b above, the association may give such other further and different advertisement as the association finds appropriate.

6. In the event of postponement of sale, which postponement shall be at the discretion of the association, advertisement of such postponed sale shall be in the same manner as the original advertisement of sale.

7. Failure to comply with the requirements for advertisement contained in this section shall, upon petition, render a sale of the property voidable by the court.

8. In the event of a sale, the association shall have the following powers and duties:

a. Written one-price bids may be made and shall be received by the trustee from the association or any person for entry by announcement at the sale. Any person other than the trustee may bid at the foreclosure sale, including a person who has submitted a written one-price bid. Upon request to the trustee, any other bidder in attendance at a foreclosure sale shall be permitted to inspect written bids. Unless otherwise provided in the declaration, the association may bid to purchase the lot at a foreclosure sale. The association may own, lease, encumber, exchange, sell or convey the lot. Whenever the written bid of the association is the highest bid submitted at the sale, such written bid shall be filed by the trustee with his account of sale required under subdivision 10 of this section and § 26-15. The written bid submitted pursuant to this subsection may be prepared by the association, its agent or attorney.

b. The association may require of any bidder at any sale a cash deposit of as much as 10 percent of the sale price before his bid is received, which shall be refunded to him if the property is not sold to him. The deposit of the successful bidder shall be applied to his credit at settlement, or if such bidder fails to complete his purchase promptly, the deposit shall be applied to pay the costs and expenses of the sale, and the balance, if any, shall be retained by the association in connection with that sale.

c. The property owners' association shall receive and receipt for the proceeds of sale, no purchaser being required to see to the application of the proceeds, and apply the same in the following order: first, to the reasonable expenses of sale, including attorneys' attorney fees; second, to the satisfaction of all taxes, levies and assessments, with costs and interest; third, to the satisfaction of the lien for the owners' assessments; fourth, to the satisfaction in the order of priority of any remaining inferior claims of record;

428 and fifth, to pay the residue of the proceeds to the owner or his assigns; provided, however, that the  
429 association as to such residue shall not be bound by any inheritance, devise, conveyance, assignment or  
430 lien of or upon the owner's equity, without actual notice thereof prior to distribution.

431 9. The trustee shall deliver to the purchaser a trustee's deed conveying the lot with special warranty  
432 of title. The trustee shall not be required to take possession of the property prior to the sale thereof or to  
433 deliver possession of the lot to the purchaser at the sale.

434 10. The trustee shall file an accounting of the sale with the commissioner of accounts pursuant to  
435 § 26-15 and every account of a sale shall be recorded pursuant to § 26-16. In addition, the accounting  
436 shall be made available for inspection and copying pursuant to § 55-510 upon the written request of the  
437 prior lot owner, current lot owner or any holder of a recorded lien against the lot at the time of the sale.  
438 The association shall maintain a copy of the accounting for at least 12 months following the foreclosure  
439 sale.

440 11. If the sale of a lot is made pursuant to *this* subsection I and the accounting is made by the  
441 trustee, the title of the purchaser at such sale shall not be disturbed unless within 12 months from the  
442 confirmation of the accounting by the commissioner of accounts, the sale is set aside by the court or an  
443 appeal is allowed by the Supreme Court of Virginia, and a decree is therein entered requiring such sale  
444 to be set aside.