[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblywoman HOLLY T. SCHEPISI

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator O'Scanlon, Assemblyman Space and Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies association assessment payment requirements in planned real estate developments.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on August 27, 2020 by the Senate pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning association assessment ¹ and election 2 participation 1 in planned real estate developments, and 3 supplementing P.L.1977, c.419 (C.45:22A-21 et seq.).

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. Certain associations have interpreted that the provisions of P.L.2017, c.106 (C.45:22A-45.1 et al.), enacted on July 13, 2017, may impose new responsibilities on certain property owners to pay assessments and other charges to their associations; and
- b. It is necessary and in the public interest for the Legislature to clarify that P.L.2017, c.106 (C.45:22A-45.1 et al.) did not impose new responsibilities on property owners to pay assessments and other charges ${}^{2}I^{1}$, nor did it convert a previously voluntary association into a planned real estate development ${}^{1}J^{2}$.

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- 2. a. An association in ¹[communities] <u>a community</u>¹ established prior to the ¹[passage] <u>effective date</u>¹ of the "Planned Real Estate ¹[Financial] <u>Development Full</u>¹ Disclosure Act," ("PREDFDA"), P.L.1977, c.419 (C.45:22A-21 et seq.), shall not be permitted to require property owners to pay assessments and other charges ²[¹, unless otherwise provided by law, ¹]² where ²[¹:
- $(1)^1$ the property owner's title record does not impose such an obligation 1 unless otherwise provided by law 2 $(1)^2$ $(1)^2$
- (2) the property owner's title record establishes such an obligation, but it was previously only imposed on property owners who voluntarily elected to join or become members of the association, and not on all property owners ¹.
- b. ¹In an association within a community established prior to the effective date of PREDFDA, if the association seeks to require one or more property owners to pay assessments and other charges where the property owner's title record is subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection a. of this section, the association shall first obtain an order of the court of competent jurisdiction, declaring the owners as members of the association and authorizing the association to assess the members of the association.], unless otherwise provided by law. ²
- 40 ²[c.¹] <u>b.²</u> If ¹, after July 13, 2017, ¹ an association has recorded 41 a lien ¹against an owner's property ¹ for non-payment ¹[on or after 42 July 13, 2017 that is based solely on the misinterpretation that

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHO committee amendments adopted March 5, 2020.

²Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations August 27, 2020.

S908 [2R] SINGLETON, OROHO

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1 P.L.2017, c.106 imposed new responsibilities on property owners to 2 pay 1 2 of 1 that is based solely on the misinterpretation that P.L.2017, c.106 imposed new responsibilities on property owners to 3 pay² an association's¹ assessments or other charges, ¹[pursuant to 4) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) 5 , c. (C. ²[in contravention of subsection b. of this section 1] pursuant to 6 P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)², 7 the lien shall be null and void. The association shall promptly 8 9 discharge such lien of record and provide notice of this action to the property owner. If an association fails to discharge such null and 10 void lien, the owner may bring an action to have the lien discharged 11 12 and, if successful, shall be entitled to petition the court for an award 13 of counsel fees.

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15 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be 16 retroactive to July 13, 2017.