

CONDOMINIUM ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 59 of 1978

559.235 Successor developer.

Sec. 135. (1) As used in this section, "successor developer" means a person who acquires title to the lesser of 10 units or 75% of the units in a condominium project, other than a business condominium project, by foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure, purchase, or similar transaction.

(2) A successor developer shall do both of the following:

(a) Comply with this act in the same manner as a developer before selling any units.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3), assume all express written contractual warranty obligations for defects in workmanship and materials undertaken by its predecessor in title. A successor developer shall not be required to assume, and shall not otherwise be liable for, any other contractual obligations of its predecessor in title.

(3) A successor developer shall not be required to comply with subsection (2)(b) with respect to any express written contractual warranty obligations for defects in workmanship and materials, if either of the following is maintained with respect to units for which such a warranty was undertaken by the predecessor in title:

(a) An insurance policy, in a form approved by the insurance bureau, that is underwritten by an insurer authorized to do business in this state. The insurance policy shall provide coverage for express written contractual warranty obligations for liability for defects in workmanship and materials.

(b) An aggregate escrow account with an escrow agent which contains not less than 0.5% of the sales price of each unit. If the escrow account described in this subdivision is initiated by a developer before a successor developer acquires title, 0.5% of the sales price of each unit in the project shall be deposited by the developer in the aggregate escrow account periodically upon the sale of each unit. If the escrow account described in this subdivision is initiated by a successor developer after acquisition of title, a total amount equal to 0.5% of the sales price of all units for which the warranty period plus 6 months has not expired shall be deposited by the successor developer in the aggregate escrow account, and 0.5% of the sales price of each unit shall be deposited by the successor developer in the aggregate escrow account periodically upon the sale of each remaining unit. Funds in an escrow account described in this subdivision shall not be released for a unit until 6 months after the expiration of the warranty period for that unit.

(4) A successor developer that acquires title to the lesser of 10 business condominium units or 75% of the business condominium units in the condominium project shall not be required to assume, and shall not otherwise be liable for, any contractual obligations of its predecessor in title.

(5) A residential builder who neither constructs nor refurbishes common elements in a condominium project and who is not an affiliate of the developer shall not be required to assume and be liable for any contractual obligations of the developer under this section, and shall not be considered a successor developer or acquire any additional developer obligations or rights in the absence of a specific assignment of those obligations or rights from the developer. However, a residential builder that sells a condominium unit shall deliver to the purchaser of that condominium unit the condominium documents that the developer is required to deliver to the purchasers under section 84a(1). This subsection applies only to condominium projects established on or after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection.

History: 1978, Act 59, Eff. July 1, 1978;—Am. 1982, Act 538, Imd. Eff. Jan. 17, 1983;—Am. 2000, Act 379, Imd. Eff. Jan. 2, 2001;—Am. 2002, Act 283, Imd. Eff. May 9, 2002.