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SENATE BILL NO. 136–SENATORS HARDY, O'CONNELL, CEGAVSKE, TOWNSEND, AMODEI, CARE, COFFIN, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY AND TITUS

FEBRUARY 17, 2003

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to certain penalties and fines imposed by unit-owners' associations. (BDR 10-897)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to property; making various changes relating to common-interest communities; authorizing a unit-owners' association to impose construction penalties under certain circumstances and to place and foreclose a lien on a unit for failure to pay such penalties; revising provisions governing the imposition of certain fines by a unitowners' association; establishing certain procedural requirements for the imposition of certain fines; providing exceptions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 116 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. A unit's owner shall adhere to a schedule required by the 4 association for:

5 (a) The completion of the design of a unit or the design of an 6 improvement to a unit;

7 (b) The commencement of the construction of a unit or the 8 construction of an improvement to a unit;



1 (c) The completion of the construction of a unit or the 2 construction of an improvement to the unit; or

(d) The issuance of a permit which is necessary for the 3 occupancy of a unit or for the use of an improvement to a unit. 4

5 2. The association may impose and enforce a construction penalty against a unit's owner who fails to adhere to a schedule as 6 7 required pursuant to subsection 1 if:

8 (a) The maximum amount of the construction penalty and the 9 schedule are set forth in:

(1) The declaration;

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(2) Another document related to the common-interest 11 community that is recorded before the date on which the unit's 12 13 owner acquired title to the unit; or

14 (3) A contract between the unit's owner and the 15 association: and

16 (b) The unit's owner receives notice of the alleged violation which informs him that he has a right to a hearing on the alleged 17 18 violation.

3. For the purposes of this chapter, a construction penalty is 19 20 not a fine. 21

Sec. 2. NRS 116.1203 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 116.1203 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if 23 a planned community contains no more than 12 units and is not subject to any developmental rights, it is subject only to NRS 24 116.1105, 116.1106 and 116.1107 unless the declaration provides 25 that this entire chapter is applicable. 26

27 2. Except for NRS 116.3104, 116.31043, 116.31046 and 28 116.31138, the provisions of NRS 116.3101 to 116.3119, inclusive, 29 and section 1 of this act and the definitions set forth in NRS 30 116.110305 to 116.110393, inclusive, to the extent *that such* 31 *definitions are* necessary in construing any of those [sections,] *provisions*, apply to a residential planned community containing 32 33 more than six units. 34

Sec. 3. NRS 116.3102 is hereby amended to read as follows:

116.3102 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, 35 36 and subject to the provisions of the declaration, the association may: 37 (a) Adopt and amend bylaws, rules and regulations;

38 (b) Adopt and amend budgets for revenues, expenditures and reserves and collect assessments for common expenses from units' 39 40 owners;

41 (c) Hire and discharge managing agents and other employees, 42 agents and independent contractors;

43 (d) Institute, defend or intervene in litigation or administrative 44 proceedings in its own name on behalf of itself or two or more units'

45 owners on matters affecting the common-interest community;



(e) Make contracts and incur liabilities;

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2 (f) Regulate the use, maintenance, repair, replacement and 3 modification of common elements;

4 (g) Cause additional improvements to be made as a part of the 5 common elements;

6 (h) Acquire, hold, encumber and convey in its own name any 7 right, title or interest to real estate or personal property, but:

8 (1) Common elements in a condominium or planned 9 community may be conveyed or subjected to a security interest only 10 pursuant to NRS 116.3112; and

(2) Part of a cooperative may be conveyed, or all or part of a
cooperative may be subjected to a security interest, only pursuant to
NRS 116.3112;

(i) Grant easements, leases, licenses and concessions through orover the common elements;

(j) 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 subsections 2 and 4 of NRS
116.2102, and for services provided to units' owners;

(k) Impose charges for late payment of assessments [and, except
 as otherwise provided in NRS 116.31031, after notice and an
 opportunity to be heard, levy];

23 (1) Impose construction penalties when authorized pursuant to 24 section 1 of this act;

(m) Impose reasonable fines for violations of the [declaration,
 bylaws, rules and regulations] governing documents of the
 association [;

28 (1)] only if the association complies with the requirements set
 29 forth in NRS 116.31031;

30 (*n*) Impose reasonable charges for the preparation and 31 recordation of amendments to the declaration, the information 32 required by NRS 116.4109 or statements of unpaid assessments;

33 [(m)] (o) Provide for the indemnification of its officers and
 34 executive board and maintain directors' and officers' liability
 35 insurance;

36 **[(n)]** (*p*) Assign its right to future income, including the right to 37 receive assessments for common expenses, but only to the extent the 38 declaration expressly so provides;

39 (q) Exercise any other powers conferred by the declaration
 40 or bylaws;

41 **(p)** (r) Exercise all other powers that may be exercised in this 42 state by legal entities of the same type as the association;

43 [(q)] (s) Direct the removal of vehicles improperly parked on 44 property owned or leased by the association, pursuant to NRS 45 487.038; and



1 **((r))** (*t*) Exercise any other powers necessary and proper for the 2 governance and operation of the association.

3 2. The declaration may not impose limitations on the power of 4 the association to deal with the declarant which are more restrictive 5 than the limitations imposed on the power of the association to deal 6 with other persons.

Sec. 4. NRS 116.31031 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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8 116.31031 1. **[If]** *Except as otherwise provided in this* 9 *section, if* a unit's owner **[,]** or a tenant or guest of a unit's owner **[,** 10 does not comply with a] *violates any* provision of the governing 11 documents of an association, the executive board of the association 12 may, if the governing documents so provide:

13 (a) Prohibit, for a reasonable time, the unit's owner [,] or the 14 tenant or guest of the unit's owner [,] from:

15 (1) Voting on matters related to the common-interest 16 community.

17 (2) Using the common elements. The provisions of this 18 subparagraph do not prohibit the unit's owner [,] or the tenant or 19 guest of the unit's owner [,] from using any vehicular or pedestrian 20 ingress or egress to go to or from the unit, including any area used 21 for parking.

22 (b) [Require] Impose a fine against the unit's owner [,] or the 23 tenant or guest of the unit's owner [, to pay a fine] for each [failure to comply that does not threaten the health and welfare of the 24 common interest community.] violation, except that a fine may not 25 be imposed for a violation that is the subject of a construction 26 27 penalty pursuant to section 1 of this act. The fine must be 28 commensurate with the severity of the violation, but must not 29 exceed \$100 for each violation or a total amount of \$500, whichever 30 is less.

31 2. The executive board may not impose a fine pursuant to 32 subsection 1 unless:

(a) Not less than 30 days before the violation, the person
against whom the fine will be imposed had been provided with
written notice of the applicable provisions of the governing
documents that form the basis of the violation; and

(b) Within a reasonable time after the discovery of the
violation, the person against whom the fine will be imposed has
been provided with:

40 (1) Written notice specifying the details of the violation, the 41 amount of the fine, and the date, time and location for a hearing 42 on the violation; and

43 (2) A reasonable opportunity to contest the violation at the 44 hearing.



1 3. The executive board must schedule the date, time and 2 location for the hearing on the violation so that the person against 3 whom the fine will be imposed is provided with a reasonable 4 opportunity to prepare for the hearing and to be present at the 5 hearing.

6 4. The executive board must hold a hearing before it may 7 impose the fine, unless the person against whom the fine will be 8 imposed:

9 (a) Pays the fine;

10 (b) Executes a written waiver of the right to the hearing; or

11 (c) Fails to appear at the hearing after being provided with 12 proper notice of the hearing.

5. If a fine is imposed pursuant to subsection 1 and the 13 violation is not cured within 14 days, or [a] within any longer 14 15 period [as] *that* may be established by the executive board, the violation shall be deemed a continuing violation. Thereafter, the 16 executive board may impose an additional fine for the violation for 17 each 7-day period or portion thereof that the violation is not cured. 18 19 Any additional fine may be imposed without notice and an 20 opportunity to be heard.

21 [3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the 22 imposition of a fine pursuant to this section must comply with the 23 requirements of subsection 6 of NRS 116.31065.]

6. If the governing documents so provide, the executive board may appoint a committee, with not less than three members, to conduct hearings on violations and to impose fines pursuant to this section. While acting on behalf of the executive board for those limited purposes, the committee and its members are entitled to all privileges and immunities and are subject to all duties and requirements of the executive board and its members. 7. The provisions of this section establish the minimum

7. The provisions of this section establish the minimum
procedural requirements that the executive board must follow
before it may impose a fine. The provisions of this section do not
preempt any provisions of the governing documents that provide
greater procedural protections.

36 Sec. 5. NRS 116.31065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 116.31065 The rules adopted by an association:

38 1. Must be reasonably related to the purpose for which they are39 adopted.

2. Must be sufficiently explicit in their prohibition, direction or
 limitation to inform a <u>[unit's owner, or a tenant or guest of a unit's</u>
 <u>owner,] person</u> of any action or omission required for compliance.

43 3. Must not be adopted to evade any obligation of the 44 association.



1 4. Must be consistent with the governing documents of the 2 association and must not arbitrarily restrict conduct or require the 3 construction of any capital improvement by a unit's owner that is 4 not required by the governing documents of the association.

5 5. Must be uniformly enforced under the same or similar 6 circumstances against all units' owners. Any rule that is not so 7 uniformly enforced may not be enforced against any unit's owner.

8 6. May be enforced by the [assessment] association through
9 the imposition of a fine only if [:

10 (a) The person alleged to have violated the rule has received

11 notice of the alleged violation that informs him of his opportunity to

12 request a hearing on the alleged violation.

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13 (b) At least 30 days before the alleged violation, the person

alleged to have violated the rule was given written notice of the rule
 or any amendment to the rule.] the association complies with the
 requirements set forth in NRS 116.31031.

Sec. 6. NRS 116.3108 is hereby amended to read as follows:

116.3108 1. A meeting of the units' owners of an association 18 must be held at least once each year. If the governing documents of 19 a common-interest community do not designate an annual meeting 20 date of the units' owners, a meeting of the units' owners must be 21 22 held 1 year after the date of the last meeting of the units' owners. If the units' owners have not held a meeting for 1 year, a meeting of 23 24 the units' owners must be held on the following March 1. Special 25 meetings of the units' owners of an association may be called by the 26 president, a majority of the executive board or by units' owners 27 having 10 percent, or any lower percentage specified in the bylaws, 28 of the votes in the association.

29 2. Not less than 10 nor more than 60 days in advance of any 30 meeting of the units' owners of an association, the secretary or other 31 officer specified in the bylaws shall cause notice of the meeting to be hand-delivered, sent prepaid by United States mail to the mailing 32 33 address of each unit or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner or, if the association offers to send 34 35 notice by electronic mail, sent by electronic mail at the request of the unit's owner to an electronic mail address designated in writing 36 37 by the unit's owner. The notice of the meeting must state the time 38 and place of the meeting and include a copy of the agenda for the 39 meeting. The notice must include notification of the right of a unit's 40 owner to:

(a) Have a copy of the minutes or a summary of the minutes of
the meeting [distributed to him] provided to the unit's owner upon
request and, if required by the executive board, upon payment to the
association of the cost of [making the distribution.] providing the
copy to the unit's owner.



1 (b) Speak to the association or executive board, unless the 2 executive board is meeting in executive session.

3 3. The agenda for a meeting of the units' owners must consist 4 of:

5 (a) A clear and complete statement of the topics scheduled to be 6 considered during the meeting, including, without limitation, any 7 proposed amendment to the declaration or bylaws, any fees or 8 assessments to be imposed or increased by the association, any 9 budgetary changes and any proposal to remove an officer *of the* 10 *association* or member of the executive board.

(b) A list describing the items on which action may be taken and
clearly denoting that action may be taken on those items. In an
emergency, the units' owners may take action on an item which is
not listed on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

15 (c) A period devoted to comments by units' owners and 16 discussion of those comments. Except in emergencies, no action 17 may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda 18 until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as 19 an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to paragraph (b).

20 If the association adopts a policy imposing [a fine on a unit's 4. 21 owner for the violation of the declaration, bylaws or other rules 22 established by fines for any violations of the governing documents of the association, the secretary or other officer specified in the 23 24 bylaws shall prepare and cause to be hand-delivered or sent prepaid 25 by United States mail to the mailing address of each unit or to any other mailing address designated in writing by the unit's owner, a 26 27 schedule of the fines that may be imposed for those violations.

5. Not more than 30 days after any meeting of the units' owners, the secretary or other officer specified in the bylaws shall cause the minutes or a summary of the minutes of the meeting to be made available to the units' owners. A copy of the minutes or a summary of the minutes must be provided to any unit's owner who pays the association the cost of providing the copy to him.

34 6. As used in this section, "emergency" means any occurrence 35 or combination of occurrences that:

(a) Could not have been reasonably foreseen;

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(b) Affects the health, welfare and safety of the units' owners ofthe association;

(c) Requires the immediate attention of, and possible action by,the executive board; and

41 (d) Makes it impracticable to comply with the provisions of 42 subsection 2 or 3.

43 Sec. 7. NRS 116.31085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

44 116.31085 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a 45 unit's owner may attend any meeting of the units' owners of the



association or of the executive board and speak at any such meeting.
 The executive board may establish reasonable limitations on the
 time a unit's owner may speak at such a meeting.

2. An executive board may meet in executive session to:

5 (a) Consult with the attorney for the association on matters 6 relating to proposed or pending litigation if the contents of the 7 discussion would otherwise be governed by the privilege set forth in 8 NRS 49.035 to 49.115, inclusive;

9 (b) Discuss matters relating to personnel; [or

10 <u>(c) Discuss</u>]

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(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, discuss a violation of the governing documents, [alleged to have been ecommitted by a unit's owner,] including, without limitation, the failure to pay an assessment [, except as otherwise provided in subsection 3.]; or

(d) Discuss the alleged failure of a unit's owner to adhere to a
schedule required pursuant to section 1 of this act if the alleged
failure may subject the unit's owner to a construction penalty.

19 3. An executive board shall meet in executive session to hold a 20 hearing on an alleged violation of the governing documents unless the [unit's owner who allegedly committed] person who may be 21 22 sanctioned for the alleged violation requests in writing that the 23 hearing be conducted by the executive board at an open meeting. The [unit's owner who is alleged to have committed] person who 24 may be sanctioned for the alleged violation [may] is entitled to 25 attend the hearing and testify concerning the alleged violation, but 26 27 *the person* may be excluded by the executive board from any other 28 portion of the hearing, including, without limitation, the 29 deliberations of the executive board.

30 4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any matter 31 discussed by the executive board when it meets in executive session must be generally noted in the minutes of the meeting of the 32 33 executive board. The executive board shall maintain minutes of any 34 decision made pursuant to subsection 3 *concerning an alleged* 35 *violation* and, upon request, provide a copy of the decision to the [unit's owner who was the subject of the hearing] person who was 36 subject to being sanctioned at the hearing or to his designated 37 38 representative.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a unit's owner is not entitled to attend or speak at a meeting of the executive board held in executive session.

42 Sec. 8. NRS 116.3116 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 116.3116 1. The association has a lien on a unit for any
 44 construction penalty that is imposed against the unit's owner
 45 pursuant to section 1 of this act, any assessment levied against that



1 unit or *any* fines imposed against the unit's owner from the time the 2 *construction penalty*, assessment or fine becomes due. Unless the declaration otherwise provides, any penalties, fees, charges, late 3 charges, fines and interest charged pursuant to paragraphs (j) [, (k) 4 and (1)] to (n), inclusive, of subsection 1 of NRS 116.3102 are 5 enforceable as assessments under this section. If an assessment is 6 7 payable in installments, the full amount of the assessment is a lien 8 from the time the first installment thereof becomes due.

9 2. A lien under this section is prior to all other liens and 10 encumbrances on a unit except:

(a) Liens and encumbrances recorded before the recordation of
 the declaration and, in a cooperative, liens and encumbrances which
 the association creates, assumes or takes subject to;

(b) A first security interest on the unit recorded before the date
on which the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent
[,] or, in a cooperative, the first security interest encumbering only
the unit's owner's interest and perfected before the date on which
the assessment sought to be enforced became delinquent; and

19 (c) Liens for real estate taxes and other governmental 20 assessments or charges against the unit or cooperative.

21 The lien is also prior to all security interests described in paragraph 22 (b) to the extent of the assessments for common expenses based on 23 the periodic budget adopted by the association pursuant to NRS 116.3115 which would have become due in the absence of 24 25 acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the lien. This subsection does not affect the 26 27 priority of mechanics' or materialmen's liens, or the priority of liens 28 for other assessments made by the association.

29 3. Unless the declaration otherwise provides, if two or more
30 associations have liens for assessments created at any time on the
31 same property, those liens have equal priority.

4. Recording of the declaration constitutes record notice and
 perfection of the lien. No further recordation of any claim of lien for
 assessment under this section is required.

5. A lien for unpaid assessments is extinguished unless proceedings to enforce the lien are instituted within 3 years after the full amount of the assessments becomes due.

6. This section does not prohibit actions to recover sums for
which subsection 1 creates a lien or prohibit an association from
taking a deed in lieu of foreclosure.

41 7. A judgment or decree in any action brought under this 42 section must include costs and reasonable attorney's fees for the 43 prevailing party.

8. The association , upon written request , shall furnish to a unit's owner a statement setting forth the amount of unpaid



assessments against the unit. If the interest of the unit's owner is real
 estate, the statement must be in recordable form. The statement must
 be furnished within 10 business days after receipt of the request and
 is binding on the association, the executive board and every unit's
 owner.

6 9. In a cooperative, upon nonpayment of an assessment on a 7 unit, the unit's owner may be evicted in the same manner as 8 provided by law in the case of an unlawful holdover by a 9 commercial tenant, and the lien may be foreclosed as provided by 10 this section or by NRS 116.31162 to 116.31168, inclusive.

10. In a cooperative where the owner's interest in a unit is personal property [] under NRS 116.1105, [],] the association's lien may be foreclosed [in like manner] as a security interest under NRS 104.9101 to 104.9709, inclusive.

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Sec. 9. NRS 116.31162 is hereby amended to read as follows: 116.31162 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4,

in a condominium, *in* a cooperative where the owner's interest in a
unit is real estate [as determined pursuant to] under NRS 116.1105,
or *in* a planned community, the association may foreclose its lien by
sale after:

21 (a) The association has mailed by certified or registered mail, 22 return receipt requested, to the unit's owner or his successor in 23 interest, at his address if known $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and at the address of the unit, a 24 notice of delinquent assessment which states the amount of the 25 assessments and other sums which are due in accordance with 26 subsection 1 of NRS 116.3116, a description of the unit against 27 which the lien is imposed [,] and the name of the record owner of 28 the unit:

29 (b) The association or other person conducting the sale has 30 executed and caused to be recorded, with the county recorder of the 31 county in which the common-interest community or any part of it is situated, a notice of default and election to sell the unit to satisfy the 32 33 lien, which contains the same information as the notice of delinquent assessment, but must also describe the deficiency in 34 35 payment and the name and address of the person authorized by the association to enforce the lien by sale; and 36

(c) The unit's owner or his successor in interest has failed to pay
the amount of the lien, including costs, fees and expenses incident to
its enforcement, for 60 days following the recording of the notice of
default and election to sell.

2. The notice of default and election to sell must be signed by
the person designated in the declaration or by the association for that
purpose [,] or , if no one is designated, by the president of the
association.



1 3. The period of 60 days begins on the first day following the 2 later of:

(a) The day on which the notice of default is recorded; or

4 (b) The day on which a copy of the notice of default is mailed 5 by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the unit's 6 owner or his successor in interest at his address, if known, and at 7 the address of the unit.

8 4. The association may not foreclose a lien by sale [for the 9 assessment of] based on a fine or penalty for a violation of the 10 [declaration, bylaws, rules or regulations] governing documents of 11 the association [, unless the violation is of a type that threatens] 12 unless:

(a) *The violation threatens* the health, safety or welfare of the
 residents of the common-interest community [-]; or

15 (b) The penalty is imposed for failure to adhere to a schedule 16 required pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Sec. 10. NRS 38.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 38.300 As used in NRS 38.300 to 38.360, inclusive, unless the 19 context otherwise requires:

1. "Assessments" means:

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(a) Any charge which an association may impose against an
 owner of residential property pursuant to a declaration of covenants,
 conditions and restrictions, including any late charges, interest and
 costs of collecting the charges; and

(b) Any *penalties*, fines, fees and other charges which may be
imposed by an association pursuant to paragraphs (j) [, (k) and (l)] *to* (*n*), *inclusive*, of subsection 1 of NRS 116.3102.

28 2. "Association" has the meaning ascribed to it in 29 NRS 116.110315.

30 3. "Civil action" includes an action for money damages or 31 equitable relief. The term does not include an action in equity for 32 injunctive relief in which there is an immediate threat of irreparable 33 harm, or an action relating to the title to residential property.

4. "Division" means the Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry.

5. "Residential property" includes, but is not limited to, real estate within a planned community subject to the provisions of chapter 116 of NRS. The term does not include commercial property if no portion thereof contains property which is used for residential purposes.

41 Sec. 11. 1. The amendatory provisions of this act apply to 42 any violation of the governing documents of an association or 43 master association that occurs on or after October 1, 2003.



1 2. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if the 2 provisions of the governing documents of an association or master 3 association do not conform to the amendatory provisions of this act:

4 (a) The nonconforming provisions of the governing documents 5 shall be deemed to have been conformed to the amendatory 6 provisions of this act by operation of law on October 1, 2003; and

7 (b) If the association or master association is associated with a common-interest community that was created on or after January 1, 8 9 1992, the executive board of the association or master association may change the nonconforming provisions of the governing documents to conform to the amendatory provisions of this act. The 10 11 executive board of the association or master association may make 12 such changes without complying with any procedural requirements 13 that would otherwise apply if the executive board were to amend the 14 governing documents of the association or master association in 15 accordance with law. 16

3. As used in this section:

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18 (a) "Association" has the meaning ascribed to it in 19 NRS 116.110315.

20 (b) "Common-interest community" has the meaning ascribed to 21 it in NRS 116.110323.

22 (c) "Executive board" has the meaning ascribed to it in 23 NRS 116.110345.

(d) "Governing documents" has the meaning ascribed to it inNRS 116.110347.

26 (e) "Master association" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 116.110358.

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