#### SENATE BILL NO. 371-SENATOR SCHNEIDER

## MARCH 17, 2003

### Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Creates Constructional Defect Commission and revises various provisions governing actions resulting from constructional defects. (BDR 54-251)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes. Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to real property; creating the Constructional Defect Commission; providing for its membership; setting forth the duties of the Commission; conferring exclusive jurisdiction upon the Commission to determine claims or causes of action for constructional defects; providing exceptions; requiring a claimant to provide certain notices and allow a contractor a reasonable opportunity to repair a constructional defect before presenting a claim involving the constructional defect to the Commission; setting forth the manner in which a complaint must be presented to the Commission; requiring the Commission to hear a claim of constructional defect within a certain period; authorizing the Commission to require a contractor to repair a constructional defect under certain circumstances; limiting the period during which an action for the recovery of damages for a constructional defect may be commenced; requiring certain persons to complete a course of instruction in constructional defects as a condition for the renewal or reinstatement of a license or certificate; prohibiting the exclusion of a public officer from a meeting of a unit-owners' association under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.



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

**Section 1.** Chapter 624 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.

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- Sec. 2. As used in sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
  - Sec. 3. "Commission" means the Constructional Defect Commission created pursuant to section 6 of this act.
  - Sec. 4. "Construction record" means a document received or produced by a contractor, or any person employed by the contractor, that contains information relating to the construction of a residence or appurtenance, including, without limitation, any report, record, plan, permit, contract, subcontract, invoice, work order or other document.
  - Sec. 5. "Constructional defect" includes a defect in the design, construction, manufacture, repair or landscaping of a new residence, of an alteration of or addition to an existing residence, or of an appurtenance. The term includes physical damage to the residence, an appurtenance or the real property to which the residence or appurtenance is affixed that is proximately caused by a constructional defect.
  - Sec. 6. 1. The Board shall create the Constructional Defect Commission consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor.
- 26 2. Each member who is appointed to the Commission serves 27 for a term of 4 years. A member may be reappointed to the 28 Commission.
  - 3. The Governor shall appoint to the Commission:
  - (a) Three members who are contractors recommended by the Board, each of whom:
    - (1) Holds a license issued pursuant to this chapter;
  - (2) Is actively engaged in the contracting business and has been so engaged for not less than 5 years preceding the date of his appointment; and
  - (3) Has been a resident of this state for at least 5 years immediately preceding his appointment; and
- 38 (b) Four members who are representatives of the general 39 public.
- 40 **4.** The Governor shall appoint a Chairman of the 41 Commission.



- Sec. 7. 1. The members of the Commission:
- (a) Serve without compensation; and

- (b) Upon written request to the Board, are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally while engaged in the business of the Commission. A claim submitted pursuant to this paragraph must be paid from the account established by NRS 624.470.
- 2. The Governor may remove a member of the Commission before the expiration of his term for misconduct in office, incompetence or neglect of duty.
- 3. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Commission, the Governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. A vacancy on the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- 4. Four members, at least one of whom must be a contractor, constitute a quorum.
- 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member of the Commission:
- (a) Is not disqualified from public employment or holding a public office because of his membership on the Commission; and
- (b) Does not forfeit his public office or public employment because of his membership on the Commission.
- Sec. 8. 1. The Board shall arrange for courses of instruction in the rules of procedure and substantive law appropriate for members of the Commission.
- 2. Each person appointed to serve on the Commission shall attend the instruction provided pursuant to subsection 1 before serving on the Commission.
- Sec. 9. 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act, the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to determine claims or causes of action for the recovery of damages based on constructional defects, and no person may bring or maintain such a claim or cause of action in a manner other than that prescribed in sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
- 2. A final decision of the Commission concerning a claim or cause of action specified in subsection 1 is subject to judicial review in accordance with chapter 233B of NRS.
- 3. The provisions of chapter 241 of NRS do not apply to any meeting or hearing of the Commission held to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act or to the deliberations of the Commission on any information or evidence pursuant to sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
- pursuant to sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
   Sec. 10. The Commission and its members acting pursuant to sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act are immune from any civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith and without



1 malicious intent in response to a complaint filed with the 2 Commission.

Sec. 11. 1. The Board:

- (a) Shall develop and maintain a list of alternate members who satisfy the requirements of sections 6 and 8 of this act;
  - (b) Shall schedule the hearings for the Commission;
- (c) Shall obtain, before or after the filing of a complaint with the Commission, such construction records and other materials as may be required by the parties or the Commission in connection with the claim of a constructional defect;
- (d) Shall charge and collect a reasonable fee for copying materials produced under subpoena;
- (e) For good cause shown, may authorize a continuance for the proceedings involving the Commission;
- (f) To the extent necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties, shall provide the Commission with administrative support, equipment and office space; and
- (g) May adopt such rules of practice and procedure as are necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
- 2. The Attorney General shall serve as legal counsel for the Commission.
- Sec. 12. 1. A member of the Commission may disqualify himself from acting in any matter upon the ground of actual or implied bias.
- 2. A party to a matter who seeks to disqualify a member of the Commission from acting on a complaint of a constructional defect filed pursuant to section 15 of this act shall file a request for disqualification in writing with the Board not later than 15 days after the expiration of the time in which to answer the complaint, specifying the facts upon which such disqualification is sought. A party may make a request for the disqualification of any member of the Commission for cause on any of the grounds provided pursuant to NRS 16.050 for the challenge of jurors.
- 3. The Board shall determine whether cause exists to disqualify a member of the Commission pursuant to a request filed by a party and shall notify each party in writing of its decision not later than 15 days after the request is made.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the Commission, less any member who has been disqualified, may proceed to review a complaint without designating a person to sit in the place of a disqualified member.
- 5. If the number of members who are disqualified or whose temporary absence prohibits a quorum of the Commission from forming, the Board shall, upon the disqualification or temporary



absence of a member of the Commission, designate an alternate member from the list developed pursuant to section 11 of this act who is the same class of member as the disqualified or absent member to sit in the place of the disqualified or absent member. If an alternate member is designated, that member must be identified in the notice provided to the parties pursuant to subsection 3.

- Sec. 13. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no claim involving a constructional defect may be presented to the Commission until the claimant provides:
- (a) Two written notices by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the contractor, at the contractor's last known address, of the constructional defect alleged in the complaint against the contractor; and
- (b) A reasonable opportunity, following the written notices, for the contractor to repair the alleged constructional defect.
- 16 2. The written notices required pursuant to subsection 1 17 must:
  - (a) Be mailed at least 30 days apart;

- (b) Specify, in reasonable detail, the defect or any damage or injury to each residence or appurtenance that is the subject of the claim;
- (c) Describe in reasonable detail the cause of the defect, if the cause is known, and the nature and extent that is known of the damage or injury resulting from the defect; and
- (d) Provide the location of each defect within each residence or appurtenance to the extent known.
- 3. Within 45 days after the contractor receives the first notice, on his written request, the contractor is entitled to inspect the property that is the subject of the claim to determine the nature and cause of the defect, damage or injury and the nature and extent of repairs necessary to remedy the defect. The contractor shall, before conducting the inspection, provide reasonable notice of the inspection, and shall conduct the inspection at a reasonable time. The contractor may take reasonable steps to establish the existence of the defect, damage or injury.
- 4. Within 15 days after a contractor receives the second notice, a claimant may present a claim to the Commission as set forth in section 15 of this act if the contractor fails to:
- (a) Make an agreement that is acceptable to the claimant to make repairs, if the contractor is licensed to make the repairs, or cause the repairs to be made, at the contractor's expense, by another contractor who is bonded, insured and licensed to make the repairs; or
- (b) Make the repairs specified in an agreement between the claimant and contractor pursuant to paragraph (a):



- (1) Within the time specified in the agreement; and
- (2) In a good and workmanlike manner.

- 5. A written waiver or settlement agreement executed by a claimant after a contractor has corrected or otherwise repaired a constructional defect pursuant to this section does not bar a claim for the constructional defect if it is determined that the contractor failed to correct or repair the defect properly.
- Sec. 14. A contractor or his representative must be present at any inspection at the residence or appurtenance, if any, that is the subject of a claim governed by sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act, which is conducted by the claimant or his representative, including, without limitation, an expert hired or retained by the claimant to conduct the inspection.
- Sec. 15. 1. A claim of a constructional defect is properly presented to the Commission by filing a complaint with the Board.
- 2. The complaint must contain a clear and concise statement of the facts of the case, including, without limitation, the persons involved and the dates and circumstances, so far as they are known, of the alleged constructional defect. The Commission may dismiss a complaint if the complaint is filed without an affidavit supporting the allegations of the complaint submitted by an expert concerning the alleged constructional defect.
- 3. The person against whom a complaint is made must, within 30 days after receipt of the complaint, file an answer with the Board, accompanied by a fee of \$250. The Board may authorize an extension of the time in which an answer must be filed only if all parties to the action stipulate to the extension.
- 4. Unless otherwise stipulated to by all the parties to the action, an answer or response that is not timely filed may not be:
  - (a) Accepted by the Board; or
  - (b) Considered by the Commission.
- 5. The claimant may respond only to the allegations of the answer or any accompanying affidavit by filing a written response with the Board within 15 days after he receives the answer. The Commission shall disregard any portion of the response that does not address an allegation raised in the answer or an affidavit accompanying the answer. No fee may be charged or collected by the Board for the filing of the response. The Board may authorize an extension of the time in which a response may be filed only if all parties to the action stipulate to the extension.
- 6. A copy of any pleading required by this section to be filed with the Board must be delivered by the party, by certified or registered mail or by personal service, to each opposing party or, if an opposing party is represented in the proceedings by counsel, to his attorney.



7. The fees provided by this section must not be charged or collected more than once from any party.

- 8. If a person fails to pay any fee required by this section, the Board may refer the nonpayment to the Office of the Attorney General for collection of the fee and any costs incurred.
- Sec. 16. 1. The Board may, by certified or registered mail, issue subpoenas as may be required by the Commission, to compel the attendance of expert witnesses and, as may be required by the parties or the Commission, to compel the production of construction records or other materials.
- 2. The Board shall keep the material so produced and make it available to the parties, upon request, for inspection or copying. If the material is reasonably capable of being copied, the Board shall provide a copy to the parties, upon request and the receipt of a fee for the copying.
- 3. If an expert witness refuses to attend or testify or if a person refuses to produce any construction records or other materials as required by the subpoena, the Board may petition the district court for an order compelling the expert witness to attend and testify or the other person to produce the construction records or other materials. The petition must include a statement indicating that:
- (a) Notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of the expert witness or for the production of the construction records or other materials;
- (b) The expert witness or the person required to produce the construction records or other materials has been subpoenaed by the Board pursuant to this section; and
- (c) The expert witness has failed or refused to attend or testify, to produce the construction records or other materials required by the subpoena, or to answer questions propounded to him.
- 4. Upon receiving a petition pursuant to subsection 3, the court shall enter an order directing the expert witness or other person to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in its order, which is not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and show cause why he has not attended, testified, or produced the construction records or other materials. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the expert witness or other person.
- 5. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the Board, the court shall enter an order that the expert witness or other person appear at the time and place fixed in the order and testify or produce the required construction records or other materials, and upon his failure to obey the order, the expert



witness or other person must be dealt with as for contempt of court.

- Sec. 17. 1. A claim of a constructional defect must be heard by the Commission within 45 days after the expiration of the time in which to answer the complaint filed pursuant to section 15 of this act.
- 2. The Commission shall consider all the construction records or other materials, including, without limitation, the complaint, answer and response, construction records and the testimony of an expert witness the Commission considers necessary, and shall, based on the evidence submitted, determine only whether there is a reasonable probability that a constructional defect exists and that the claimant was damaged thereby.
- 3. Copies of the original complaint and of the findings of the Commission with regard to each matter considered by the Commission must be forwarded to the city or county building department where the alleged constructional defect occurred, as appropriate.

4. The Board shall promptly mail to each party to the claim a copy of the findings of the Commission concerning the complaint.

- 5. The findings must be based upon a vote of the members of the Commission made by a written ballot, must be rendered within 5 days after the hearing on the claim and must be in substantially the following form:
- (a) Based upon a review of the materials submitted by the parties and the testimony of expert witnesses, if any, the Commission finds that there is a reasonable probability that a constructional defect exists and that the claimant was damaged thereby; or
- (b) Based upon a review of the materials submitted by the parties and the testimony of expert witnesses, if any, the Commission finds that there is no reasonable probability that a constructional defect exists.
- 6. A finding made pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 5 must also include the findings of the Commission concerning each claim of constructional defect alleged by the claimant.
- Sec. 18. 1. If the Commission issues a finding in favor of the claimant pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 5 of section 17 of this act, the Commission may order the contractor to:

  (a) Make repairs at the contractor's expense, if the contractor
  - (a) Make repairs at the contractor's expense, if the contractor is licensed to make the repairs; or
- 43 (b) Cause the repairs to be made, at the contractor's expense 44 and, if insured, his insurer's expense, by another contractor who 45 is bonded, insured and licensed to make the repairs.



2. Any repairs ordered pursuant to this section must be completed within 90 days after the contractor is served with a written notice of the order.

- 3. A copy of the order must be served on each party to the claim personally, or by registered or certified mail. The order is effective upon such service, unless the Commission orders otherwise.
- 4. A contractor may petition the Board, by written request supported by an affidavit of the contractor, for an extension of the time for completion of repairs if completion is delayed by the claimant or by any other event beyond the control of the contractor, or if timely completion of the repairs is not reasonably possible.
- 5. The Board may grant one extension of time not to exceed 45 days for a contractor to complete the repairs required by the order of the Commission if the extension is timely requested and supported by an affidavit of the contractor. The Board shall provide written notice of any grant or denial of an extension of time to each party to the claim within 10 days after receipt of the request.
- 6. If the contractor fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to this section, upon the written request of the claimant made within 10 days after the expiration of the period for making the repairs or causing the repairs to be made as described in the order, or any authorized extension for the contractor to make the repairs or cause the repairs to be made, the Commission:
- (a) May cause the repairs to be made, at the constructor's expense and, if insured, at his insurer's expense, by another contractor who is bonded, insured and licensed to make the repairs; and
- (b) Shall notify the Board in writing of the failure of the contractor to comply with the order. As soon as practicable after receiving a written notice pursuant to this paragraph, the Board shall revoke the license of the contractor.
- Sec. 19. If the Commission issues a finding that there is no reasonable probability that a constructional defect exists, the Commission shall dismiss the complaint filed in the action pursuant to section 15 of this act.
- Sec. 20. 1. No action may be commenced for the recovery of damages for a constructional defect more than 2 years after the alleged constructional defect is discovered or should have been discovered through the use of reasonable diligence.
- 2. The period of limitation set forth in subsection 1 is tolled for any period during which the person against whom the recovery of damages is sought conceals the constructional defect upon



which the action is based and which is known or through the use of reasonable diligence should have been known to him.

**Sec. 21.** NRS 624.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

624.470 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, in addition to the annual fee for a license required pursuant to NRS 624.280, a residential contractor shall pay to the Board an annual assessment in the following amount, if the monetary limit on his license is:

Not more than \$1,000,000	\$100
More than \$1,000,000 but limited	
Unlimited	500

- 2. The Board shall administer and account separately for the money received from the annual assessments collected pursuant to subsection 1. The Board may refer to the money in the account as the "Recovery Fund."
  - 3. The Board [shall]:

- (a) Shall suspend the collection of assessments pursuant to subsection 1 when the balance in the account reaches 150 percent of the largest balance in the account during the previous fiscal year [.]; and
- (b) May increase the annual assessment imposed pursuant to subsection 1 in an amount that, as determined by the Board, is required to pay any claims for per diem allowances and travel expenses of the Constructional Defect Commission pursuant to section 7 of this act.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 624.540, the money in the account must be used to pay claims [made:]:
- (a) Made by owners who are damaged by the failure of a residential contractor to perform qualified services adequately, as provided in [NRS 624.400 to 624.560, inclusive.] sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act; or
  - (b) Submitted pursuant to section 7 of this act.
- **Sec. 22.** Chapter 645 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- "Constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
  - **Sec. 23.** NRS 645.0005 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 645.0005 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 645.001 to 645.040, inclusive, *and section 22 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.



**Sec. 24.** NRS 645.285 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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- 645.285 1. Application for original registration as an owner-developer [shall] *must* be made on a form provided by the Division, and [shall] *must* set forth:
- (a) The limits of the area within which the applicant owns the residences proposed to be sold;
- (b) The location of the applicant's principal place of business; and
- (c) Any further information required by regulations of the Commission.
- 2. An application to enlarge the area covered by a registration shall set forth the limits of the area to be added.
- 3. The Division shall not approve an application for original registration as an owner-developer unless the owner-developer submits evidence satisfactory to the Division that he has, before the date of his application, completed a course of instruction in constructional defects approved by the State Contractors' Board.
  - **Sec. 25.** NRS 645.575 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 645.575 1. The Commission shall prescribe standards for the continuing education of persons licensed pursuant to this chapter by adopting regulations which include:
- (a) For renewal of a license which is on active status, a requirement for the hours of attendance at any approved educational course, seminar or conference of:
- (1) Thirty hours within the first year immediately after initial licensing; and
- (2) Fifteen hours within each subsequent 2-year period before renewal.
  - For each period, at least 6 of the hours must be devoted to ethics, professional conduct or the legal aspects of real estate.
  - (b) For reinstatement of a license which has been placed on inactive status, a requirement for total attendance at any approved educational course, seminar or conference of:
  - (1) Thirty hours if the license was on inactive status for 2 years or less during the initial license period;
  - (2) Fifteen hours if the license was on inactive status for a period of 2 years or less, no part of which was during the initial license period;
  - (3) Forty-five hours if the license was on inactive status for a period of more than 2 years, part of which was during the initial license period; or
- (4) Thirty hours if the license was on inactive status for a period of more than 2 years, no part of which was during the initial license period.



For each period, at least 6 of the hours must be devoted to ethics, professional conduct or the legal aspects of real estate.

- (c) A basis and method of qualifying educational programs and certifying attendance which will satisfy the requirements of this section.
- (d) A procedure for the evaluation of petitions based on a claim of equivalency with the requirements of paragraph (a) or (b).
  - (e) A system of controlling and reporting qualifying attendance.
- (f) A statement of the conditions for which an extension of time may be granted to comply with the continuing education requirements as well as a method of applying and qualifying for an extension.
- 2. The standards prescribed in subsection 1 must permit alternatives of subject material, taking cognizance of specialized areas of practice and alternatives in sources of programs considering availability in area and time. The standards must include, where qualified, generally accredited educational institutions, private vocational schools, educational programs and seminars of professional societies and organizations, other organized educational programs on technical subjects, or equivalent offerings. The Commission shall qualify only those educational courses that it determines address the appropriate subject matter and are given by an accredited university or community college. Subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission has exclusive authority to determine what is an appropriate subject matter for qualification as a continuing education course.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the license of a broker, broker-salesman or salesman must not be renewed or reinstated unless the Administrator finds that the applicant for the renewal license or for reinstatement to active status has completed the continuing education required by this chapter. Any amendment or repeal of a regulation does not operate to prevent an applicant from complying with this section for the next licensing period following the amendment or repeal.
- 4. In addition to any other requirement for the renewal or reinstatement of a license pursuant to this chapter, a broker, broker-salesman or salesman must, as a condition for the renewal or reinstatement of his license, complete a course of instruction in constructional defects approved by the State Contractors' Board. The course of instruction must be completed:
- (a) For the renewal of a license that is on active status, during each of the 2 years immediately preceding the application for renewal; or



- (b) For the reinstatement of a license that has been placed on inactive status, during the year immediately preceding the application for reinstatement.
- **Sec. 26.** NRS 645.6052 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645.6052 1. A person who is licensed pursuant to this chapter as a real estate broker, real estate broker-salesman or real estate salesman may apply to the Real Estate Division for a permit to engage in property management.
  - 2. An applicant for a permit must:

- (a) Furnish proof satisfactory to the Division that he has successfully completed at least 24 classroom hours of instruction in property management; and
- (b) Comply with all other requirements established by the Commission for the issuance of a permit.
- 3. A permit expires, and may be renewed, at the same time as the license of the holder of the permit.
  - 4. An applicant for the renewal of a permit must:
- (a) Furnish proof satisfactory to the Division that he has successfully completed at least 3 of the hours of the continuing education required for the renewal of his license pursuant to NRS 645.575 in a course of instruction in constructional defects specified in subsection 4 of NRS 645.575 and an approved educational course, seminar or conference concerning property management; and
- (b) Comply with all other requirements established by the Commission for the renewal of a permit.
- 5. The Commission may adopt such regulations as it determines are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations may, without limitation:
- (a) Establish additional requirements for the issuance or renewal of a permit.
  - (b) Establish a fee for the issuance and renewal of a permit.
- (c) Set forth standards of education for the approval of a course of instruction to qualify a person for a permit pursuant to this section.
- **Sec. 27.** Chapter 645C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- "Constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
- **Sec. 28.** NRS 645C.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645C.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 645C.020 to 645C.130, inclusive, *and section 27 of this act* have the meanings

ascribed to them in those sections.



- **Sec. 29.** NRS 645C.420 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645C.420 1. The Division may place a certificate or license on inactive status:
  - (a) At the request of the appraiser;

- (b) For failure of the appraiser to notify the Division pursuant to NRS 645C.400 of any change in the name or location of his business, or of the location or any change in the location where his records are stored;
- (c) For failure to apply and pay the fee for renewal before the expiration of the certificate or license; or
  - (d) As a result of a disciplinary proceeding against the appraiser.
- 2. An appraiser whose certificate or license has been placed on inactive status shall not prepare or communicate appraisals until he meets all the requirements for the reinstatement of his certificate or license.
- 3. A certificate or license may be reinstated upon submission of the required fee and proof of completion of the required hours of continuing education [,] and the course of instruction in constructional defects specified in subsection 2 of NRS 645C.430, and upon approval by the Division.
- **Sec. 30.** NRS 645C.430 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645C.430 1. An appraiser must complete the following number of hours of continuing education in courses approved by the Commission as a condition to the renewal of an active certificate or license or the reinstatement of an inactive certificate or license:
- (a) For the renewal of an active certificate or license, not less than 30 hours of instruction within the 2 years immediately preceding the application for renewal.
- (b) For the reinstatement of a certificate or license which has been on inactive status:
- (1) For not more than 2 years, or for more than 2 years including the initial period of certification or licensure, not less than 30 hours of instruction.
- (2) For more than 2 years, no part of which includes the initial period of certification or licensure, not less than 15 hours of instruction per year for each year that the certificate or license was on inactive status, not to exceed 60 hours of instruction.
- 2. In addition to the requirements for renewing or reinstating a license or certificate set forth in subsection 1, an appraiser must, as a condition for the renewal of an active certificate or license or the reinstatement of an inactive certificate or license, complete a course of instruction in constructional defects approved by the State Contractors' Board. The course of instruction must be completed:



(a) For the renewal of an active certificate or license, during each of the 2 years immediately preceding the application for renewal: or

- (b) For the reinstatement of a certificate or license which has been on inactive status, during the year immediately preceding the application for reinstatement.
- **3.** As used in this section, an "hour of instruction" means at least 50 minutes of actual time spent receiving instruction.
- **Sec. 31.** Chapter 645D of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- "Constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
- **Sec. 32.** NRS 645D.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645D.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 645D.020 to 645D.080, inclusive, *and section 31 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
  - **Sec. 33.** NRS 645D.120 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645D.120 The Division shall adopt:
- 1. Regulations prescribing the education and experience required to obtain a certificate.
- 2. Regulations prescribing a standard of practice and code of ethics for certified inspectors. Such regulations must establish a degree of care that must be exercised by a reasonably prudent certified inspector.
- 3. Regulations requiring a certified inspector, as a condition for the renewal of his certificate, to complete a course of instruction in constructional defects approved by the State Contractors' Board. The regulations must include the requirements for submission of proof of attendance at the course.
- **4.** Such other regulations as are necessary for the administration of this chapter.
- **Sec. 34.** NRS 645D.230 is hereby amended to read as follows: 645D.230 1. The Division shall issue a certificate to each eligible person in the form and size prescribed by the Division. A certificate must:
- (a) Indicate the name and address of the inspector and the location of each place where he transacts business as an inspector; and
  - (b) Contain any additional matter prescribed by the Division.
- 2. A certificate is valid for 2 years after the first day of the first calendar month immediately following the date it is issued.
- 3. If an inspector fails to apply for the renewal of his certificate and fails to submit proof satisfactory to the Division that he has completed a course of instruction in constructional defects during



each of the 2 years immediately preceding his application and pay the fee for renewal before the certificate expires, and applies for renewal:

- (a) Not later than 1 year after the date of expiration, he must submit to the Division the proof of completion of a course of instruction in constructional defects required by this subsection and pay a fee equal to 150 percent of the amount otherwise required for renewal.
- (b) Later than 1 year after the date of expiration, he must apply in the same manner as for an original certificate.

**Sec. 35.** NRS 11.202 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 11.202 1. [An] Except as otherwise provided in section 20 of this act, an action may be commenced against the owner, occupier or any person performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction, or the construction of an improvement to real property at any time after the substantial completion of such an improvement, for the recovery of damages for:
- (a) Any deficiency in the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction or the construction of such an improvement which is the result of his willful misconduct or which he fraudulently concealed;
- (b) Injury to real or personal property caused by any such deficiency; or
- (c) Injury to or the wrongful death of a person caused by any such deficiency.
- 2. The provisions of this section do not apply in an action brought against:
- (a) The owner or keeper of any hotel, inn, motel, motor court, boardinghouse or lodginghouse in this state on account of his liability as an innkeeper.
  - (b) Any person on account of a defect in a product.
  - **Sec. 36.** NRS 11.203 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 11.203 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 11.202 and 11.206, *and section 20 of this act*, no action may be commenced against the owner, occupier or any person performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction, or the construction of an improvement to real property more than 10 years after the substantial completion of such an improvement, for the recovery of damages for:
- (a) Any deficiency in the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction or the construction of such an improvement which is known or through the use of reasonable diligence should have been known to him;



(b) Injury to real or personal property caused by any such deficiency; or

- (c) Injury to or the wrongful death of a person caused by any such deficiency.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 11.190 and subsection 1 of this section, if an injury occurs in the 10th year after the substantial completion of such an improvement, an action for damages for injury to property or person, damages for wrongful death resulting from such injury or damages for breach of contract may be commenced within 2 years after the date of such injury, irrespective of the date of death, but in no event may an action be commenced more than 12 years after the substantial completion of the improvement.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not apply to a claim for indemnity or contribution.
  - **Sec. 37.** NRS 11.204 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 11.204 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 11.202, 11.203 and 11.206, *and section 20 of this act*, no action may be commenced against the owner, occupier or any person performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction, or the construction, of an improvement to real property more than 8 years after the substantial completion of such an improvement, for the recovery of damages for:
- (a) Any latent deficiency in the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction or the construction of such an improvement;
- (b) Injury to real or personal property caused by any such deficiency; or
- (c) Injury to or the wrongful death of a person caused by any such deficiency.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 11.190 and subsection 1 of this section, if an injury occurs in the eighth year after the substantial completion of such an improvement, an action for damages for injury to property or person, damages for wrongful death resulting from such injury or damages for breach of contract may be commenced within 2 years after the date of such injury, irrespective of the date of death, but in no event may an action be commenced more than 10 years after the substantial completion of the improvement.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not apply to a claim for indemnity or contribution.
- 4. For the purposes of this section, "latent deficiency" means a deficiency which is not apparent by reasonable inspection.



**Sec. 38.** NRS 11.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.205 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 11.202, 11.203 and 11.206, *and section 20 of this act*, no action may be commenced against the owner, occupier or any person performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction, or the construction of an improvement to real property more than 6 years after the substantial completion of such an improvement, for the recovery of damages for:

- (a) Any patent deficiency in the design, planning, supervision or observation of construction or the construction of such an improvement;
- (b) Injury to real or personal property caused by any such deficiency; or
- (c) Injury to or the wrongful death of a person caused by any such deficiency.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 11.190 and subsection 1 of this section, if an injury occurs in the sixth year after the substantial completion of such an improvement, an action for damages for injury to property or person, damages for wrongful death resulting from such injury or damages for breach of contract may be commenced within 2 years after the date of such injury, irrespective of the date of death, but in no event may an action be commenced more than 8 years after the substantial completion of the improvement.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not apply to a claim for indemnity or contribution.
- 4. For the purposes of this section, "patent deficiency" means a deficiency which is apparent by reasonable inspection.
  - **Sec. 39.** NRS 113.135 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 113.135 1. Upon signing a sales agreement with the initial purchaser of residential property that was not occupied by the purchaser for more than 120 days after substantial completion of the construction of the residential property, the seller shall:
- (a) Provide to the initial purchaser a copy of NRS 11.202 to 11.206, inclusive, and [40.600 to 40.695, inclusive;] sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act;
- (b) Notify the initial purchaser of any soil report prepared for the residential property or for the subdivision in which the residential property is located; and
- (c) If requested in writing by the initial purchaser not later than 5 days after signing the sales agreement, provide to the purchaser without cost each report described in paragraph (b) not later than 5 days after the seller receives the written request.



2. Not later than 20 days after receipt of all reports pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1, the initial purchaser may rescind the sales agreement.

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3. The initial purchaser may waive his right to rescind the sales agreement pursuant to subsection 2. Such a waiver is effective only if it is made in a written document that is signed by the purchaser.

**Sec. 40.** NRS 116.3115 is hereby amended to read as follows:

116.3115 1. Until the association makes an assessment for common expenses, the declarant shall pay all common expenses. After an assessment has been made by the association, assessments must be made at least annually, based on a budget adopted at least annually by the association in accordance with the requirements set forth in NRS 116.31151. Unless the declaration imposes more stringent standards, the budget must include a budget for the daily operation of the association and the money for the reserve required by paragraph (b) of subsection 2.

- 2. Except for assessments under subsections 4 to 7, inclusive:
- (a) All common expenses, including a reserve, must be assessed against all the units in accordance with the allocations set forth in the declaration pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 of NRS 116.2107.
- (b) The association shall establish an adequate reserve, funded on a reasonable basis, for the repair, replacement and restoration of the major components of the common elements. The reserve may be used only for those purposes, including, without limitation, repairing, replacing and restoring roofs, roads and sidewalks, and must not be used for daily maintenance.
- 3. Any past due assessment for common expenses or installment thereof bears interest at the rate established by the association not exceeding 18 percent per year.
  - 4. To the extent required by the declaration:
- (a) Any common expense associated with the maintenance, repair, restoration or replacement of a limited common element must be assessed against the units to which that limited common element is assigned, equally, or in any other proportion the declaration provides;
- (b) Any common expense or portion thereof benefiting fewer than all of the units must be assessed exclusively against the units benefited; and
- (c) The costs of insurance must be assessed in proportion to risk and the costs of utilities must be assessed in proportion to usage.
- 5. Assessments to pay a judgment against the association may be made only against the units in the common-interest community at the time the judgment was entered, in proportion to their liabilities for common expenses.



6. If any common expense is caused by the misconduct of any unit's owner, the association may assess that expense exclusively against his unit.

- 7. The association of a common-interest community created before January 1, 1992, is not required to make an assessment against a vacant lot located within the community that is owned by the declarant.
- 8. If liabilities for common expenses are reallocated, assessments for common expenses and any installment thereof not yet due must be recalculated in accordance with the reallocated liabilities.
- 9. The association shall provide written notice to the owner of each unit of a meeting at which an assessment for a capital improvement or the commencement of a civil action is to be considered or action is to be taken on such an assessment at least 21 calendar days before the meeting. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the association may commence a civil action only upon a vote or written agreement of the owners of units to which at least a majority of the votes of the members of the association are allocated. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to a civil action that is commenced:
  - (a) To enforce the payment of an assessment;
- (b) To enforce the declaration, bylaws or rules of the association;
  - (c) To proceed with a counterclaim; or
- (d) To protect the health, safety and welfare of the members of the association. If a civil action is commenced pursuant to this paragraph without the required vote or agreement, the action must be ratified within 90 days after the commencement of the action by a vote or written agreement of the owners of the units to which at least a majority of votes of the members of the association are allocated. If the association, after making a good faith effort, cannot obtain the required vote or agreement to commence or ratify such a civil action, the association may thereafter seek to dismiss the action without prejudice for that reason only if a vote or written agreement of the owners of the units to which at least a majority of votes of the members of the association are allocated was obtained at the time the approval to commence or ratify the action was sought.
- 10. At least 10 days before an association commences or seeks to ratify the commencement of a civil action, the association shall provide a written statement to all units' owners that includes:
- (a) A reasonable estimate of the costs of the civil action, including reasonable attorney's fees;
- (b) An explanation of the potential benefits of the civil action and the potential adverse consequences if the association does not



commence the action or if the outcome of the action is not favorable to the association; and

- (c) All disclosures that are required to be made upon the sale of the property.
- 11. At any meeting at which the filing of a claim for a constructional defect is considered, the executive board shall not exclude a public officer from attending the meeting if the public officer is invited to attend the meeting by a unit's owner who is authorized to attend the meeting. The authority of the public officer to attend a meeting pursuant to this subsection is coextensive with the authority of the unit's owner to attend the meeting pursuant to NRS 116.31085. As used in this subsection:
- (a) "Constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
  - (b) "Public officer" means:

- (1) The Ombudsman for Owners in Common-Interest Communities; and
- (2) Any other person who is an elected or appointed public officer.
- 12. No person other than a unit's owner may request the dismissal of a civil action commenced by the association on the ground that the association failed to comply with any provision of this section.
  - **Sec. 41.** NRS 278.577 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278.577 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, or in any city located within such a county, if the city or county provides for the inspection of structures and the enforcement of building codes pursuant to NRS 278.570, 278.573 and 278.575, the city or county shall:
- (a) Prepare a list of national and international organizations which certify persons who inspect a structure or a portion of a structure and which are approved by the city or county, as appropriate, for certifying persons pursuant to this subsection;
- (b) Require a person who fills the position of building official, reviews plans or inspects a structure or building or a portion of a structure or building pursuant to NRS 278.570 or 278.575 to be certified by an organization included on the list prepared pursuant to paragraph (a);
- (c) Establish requirements for continuing education for a person who is required to be certified pursuant to this subsection; and
- (d) Prohibit a person who is not certified or does not fulfill the requirements for continuing education pursuant to this subsection from filling the position of building official, reviewing plans or



inspecting a structure or building or a portion of a structure or building pursuant to NRS 278.570 or 278.575.

- 2. A city or county specified in subsection 1 may authorize an employee of the city or county to perform duties for which certification is required pursuant to that subsection if those duties are performed under the supervision of a person who is certified by an organization that is included on the list prepared by the city or county pursuant to paragraph (a) of that subsection. The city or county may authorize an employee to perform duties pursuant to this subsection for not more than 1 year.
- 3. The requirements for continuing education established pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 must:
- (a) Include the completion of at least 45 hours of continuing education every 3 years; and
- (b) Specify the manner in which a person may complete those hours.
- 4. In a county whose population is less than 100,000, or in any city located within such a county, if the city or county provides for the inspection of structures and the enforcement of building codes pursuant to NRS 278.570, 278.573 and 278.575, the city or county shall, by resolution, establish the requirements for certifying and for continuing education for a person who, on a full-time basis, fills the position of building official, reviews plans or inspects a structure or building or a portion of a structure or building pursuant to NRS 278.570 or 278.575.
- 5. In addition to the requirements for continuing education established pursuant to this section, each city or county that provides for the inspection of structures and the enforcement of building codes pursuant to NRS 278.570, 278.573 and 278.575 shall, by resolution, require each person who:
- (a) Fills the position of building official, reviews plans or inspects a structure or building or a portion of a structure or building pursuant to NRS 278.570 or 278.575; and
- (b) Is required to attend a course of continuing education pursuant to this section,
- to complete a course of instruction in constructional defects approved by the State Contractors' Board. The resolution must require the person to complete the course annually and must include the requirements for submission of proof of attendance at the course. As used in this subsection, "constructional defect" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
- **Sec. 42.** NRS 40.600, 40.605, 40.610, 40.613, 40.615, 40.620, 40.625, 40.630, 40.635, 40.640, 40.645, 40.650, 40.655, 40.660, 40.665, 40.667, 40.668, 40.670, 40.672, 40.675, 40.680, 40.682,



40.687, 40.688, 40.6881, 40.6882, 40.6883, 40.6884, 40.6885, 40.689, 40.690, 40.692 and 40.695 are hereby repealed.

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**Sec. 43.** 1. Each person who, before October 1, 2003, submitted a claim to recover damages resulting from a constructional defect pursuant to NRS 40.600 to 40.695, inclusive, but who has not filed a civil action concerning the claim, may, if the claim has not been withdrawn, settled or otherwise resolved in accordance with those sections before October 1, 2003, submit the claim to the Constructional Defect Commission for disposition in accordance with the provisions of sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act. The claim must be submitted within 1 year after October 1, 2003.

- 2. The clerk of each court in this state in which a civil action for damages resulting from a constructional defect has been filed before October 1, 2003, and for which a trial has not been commenced in that court before October 1, 2003, shall, as soon as practicable after October 1, 2003, transmit the file for the civil action to the Constructional Defect Commission for disposition in accordance with the provisions of sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act.
  - 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 42 of this act, if:
- (a) A civil action for damages resulting from a constructional defect has been filed before October 1, 2003; and
- (b) A trial for the civil action has been commenced before October 1, 2003,

the civil action must be adjudicated in accordance with the provisions of NRS 40.600 to 40.695, inclusive, as if those provisions had not been repealed.

## LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

40.600 **Definitions.** "Appurtenance" defined. 40.605 "Claimant" defined. 40.610 "Complex matter" defined. 40.613 40.615 "Constructional defect" defined. "Contractor" defined. 40.620 40.625 "Homeowner's warranty" defined. 40.630 "Residence" defined. Applicability; effect on other defenses. 40.635 40.640 Liability of contractor.



40.645 Written notice to contractor required before claimant commences certain actions; contents of notice; inspection by contractor; pursuit of claim under warranty; written response by contractor required; mutual duty to disclose documentary evidence.

40.650 Effect of rejecting reasonable offer of settlement or denying opportunity to repair defect; effect of payment under warranty; effect of contractor failing to take certain actions; effect of bad faith denial of coverage under warranty.

40.655 Limitation on recovery.

40.660 Nonacceptance of offer of settlement deemed rejection.

40.665 Settlement by repurchase; certain offers of settlement deemed reasonable.

40.667 Effect of written waiver or settlement agreement when contractor fails to correct or repair defect properly; conditions to bringing action; effect of failure to prevail in action.

40.668 Action against subdivider or master developer for defect in appurtenance in planned unit development: Conditions and limitations; tolling of statutes of limitation or repose; applicability.

40.670 Defect which creates imminent threat to health or safety: Duty of contractor to cure; effect of failure to cure; exceptions.

40.672 Defect in new residence: Duty of contractor to repair; time limits; extensions; disciplinary action for failure to comply.

40.675 Inspection of repairs.

40.680 Mediation of certain claims required before action commenced; procedure; appointment of special master; effect of failure to mediate in good faith.

40.682 Complex matters: Written notice by claimant; procedural requirements; additional parties and third-party complaints; mediation; appointment of special master; limitation on certain pretrial procedures; pursuit of claim under warranty; written response by contractor.

40.687 Disclosure of information concerning warranties after action is commenced; disclosure of information concerning insurance agreements; compelled production of information.

40.688 Disclosure of defects by claimant to prospective purchaser of residence required; timing and contents of disclosure; duty of attorney to inform claimant of disclosure requirement.

40.6881 Definitions.



"Complainant" defined. 40.6882

40.6883 "Design professional" defined. 40.6884 Attorney required to consult expert; required affidavit of attorney; required report of expert.

40.6885 Effect of compliance with or failure to comply with NRS 40.6884.

40.689 Preference given to action; action may be assigned to senior judge; assessment of additional expenses.

40.690 Limitation on bringing claim against governmental entity during period for resolution; effect of settlement; contractor or claimant may require party to appear and participate.

40.692 Procedural requirements waived for certain defects included in amended complaint; joinder or intervention of party after action is commenced.

40.695 Tolling of statutes of limitation or repose; applicability.

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