

# Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:15 AM 404 HOB

**Council Actions** 

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

**Summary:** 

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

Tuesday March 16, 2010 10:15 am

HB 11 Favorable	Yeas:	14	Nays:	1
CS/HB 109 Favorable	Yeas:	13	Nays:	0
CS/HB 183 Favorable	Yeas:	16	Nays:	0
HB 259 Favorable With Council Substitute	Yeas:	15	Nays:	0
HB 261 Favorable	Yeas:	15	Nays:	0
HB 327 Favorable With Council Substitute	Yeas:	15	Nays:	0
PCB CCJP 10-06 Favorable With Amendments	Yeas:	14	Nays:	0

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

Print Date: 3/16/2010 12:34 pm

#### Attendance:

	Present	Absent	Excused
William Snyder (Chair)	×		
Sandra Adams	×		
Kevin Ambler	X		
Carl Domino	X		
Eric Eisnaugle	X		
Adam M. Fetterman	X		
Luis Garcia	X		
Audrey Gibson	X		
Eduardo Gonzalez	X		
Tom Grady	X		
Doug Holder	×		
Julio Robaina	×		
Robert Schenck	X		
Perry Thurston	X		
James Waldman	X		
Michael Weinstein	X		
Totals:	16	0	0

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

**HB 11 : Crimes Against Homeless Persons** 

X Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X			rea	Nay
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X				
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady		X			
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X				
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)				Х	
	Total Yeas: 14	Total Nays: 1			

#### **Appearances:**

HB 11 Crimes Against Homeless Persons Arthur Rosenberg (Lobbyist) - Proponent Florida Legal Services 3000 Biscayne Blvd Miami FL 33137

Phone: 850-509-2085

HB 11 Crimes Against Homeless Persons

Commander Weirzbicki (General Public) - Proponent

Broward Sheriff Phone: 850-224-0880

HB 11 Crimes Against Homeless Persons

Nancy Daniels, Public Defender, 2nd Circuit (State Employee) - Opponent

Florida Public Defender Association

301 S Monroe St Tallahassee FL 32301 Phone: 850-606-1011

HB 11 Crimes Against Homeless Persons

Fely Curva (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Florida Coalition for the Homeless; Florida IMPACT

1212 Piedmont Dr Tallahassee FL 32312 Phone: 850-508-2256

Page 3 of 10

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 11 Crimes Against Homeless Persons Candice Ericks (Lobbyist) - Proponent Broward Sheriff 205 S Adams St Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: 850-224-0880

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

CS/HB 109 : Excise Tax on Documents

X Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman				X	
Luis Garcia				X	
Audrey Gibson				X	
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X				
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)	X				
	Total Yeas: 13	Total Nays: 0	)		

#### **Appearances:**

HB 109 Excise Tax on Documents
Wendell Davis, President (General Public) - Proponent
Florida Realtors
200 S Monroe St
Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: 850-224-1400

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

CS/HB 183 : Special Investigators

X Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X				
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X				
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)	X				
	Total Yeas: 16	Total Nays: (	)		

#### **Appearances:**

HB 183 Special Investigators
Michael McAuliffe (State Employee) - Proponent
State Attorney 15
401 N Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach FL 33401

Phone: 561-355-7247

HB 183 Special Investigators
Bill Eddins, State Attorney, 1st Circuit (Lobbyist) - Proponent
Florida Prosecuting Attorney Association
190 Governmental Center
Pensacola FL 32503

Phone: 850-595-4200

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

HB 259 : Capital Felonies

X Favorable With Council Substitute

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X	, .			
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X	***************************************			
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X			****	
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X				
Perry Thurston	X			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
James Waldman	X				-
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)				X	
	Total Yeas: 15	Total Nays: (	)		

#### **Appearances:**

HB 259 Capital Felonies
Buddy Jacobs, General Counsel (Lobbyist) - Proponent
Florida Prosecuting Attorney Association
961687 Gateway Blvd
Fernandina Beach FL 32034
Phone: 904-261-3693

HB 259 Capital Felonies
Major Clyde Eisenburg (General Public) - Proponent
Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office
2301 N Falkenburg
Tampa FL 33619

Phone: 813-247-8551

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE	ACTION	
ADOPTED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	(Y/N)	10 mg. 10
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)	W 12
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)	
OTHER		

Council/Committee hearing bill: Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council

Representative Weinstein offered the following:

#### Amendment

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Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (p) is added to subsection (5) of section 921.141, Florida Statutes, to read:

- 921.141 Sentence of death or life imprisonment for capital felonies; further proceedings to determine sentence.—
- (5) AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—Aggravating circumstances shall be limited to the following:
- (p) The capital felony was committed by a person subject to an injunction issued pursuant to s. 741.30 or s. 784.046, or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315, and was committed against the petitioner who obtained the injunction or protection order or any spouse, child, sibling, or parent of the petitioner.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

**HB 261**: Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates

X Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X				
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X				
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)				Х	
	Total Yeas: 15	Total Nays: 0	)		

#### **Appearances:**

HB 261 Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates
Nancy Daniels, Public Defender, 2nd Circuit (State Employee) - Opponent
Florida Public Defender Association

Leon County Courthouse 301 S Monroe St

Tallahassee FL 32301 Phone: 850-606-1010

HB 261 Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates

Gary Bradford (Lobbyist) - Proponent Florida Police Benevolent Assn

300 E Brevard St

Tallahassee FL 32301 Phone: 800-733-3722

HB 261 Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates

Thomas Grigsby (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Fraternal Order of Police 2144 Heathrow Dr Tallahassee FL 32312

Phone: 850-321-9684

HB 261 Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates

Fred Dunphy, Chairman (Lobbyist) (State Employee) - Proponent

Florida Parole Commission

Print Date: 3/16/2010 12:34 pm

2601 Blair Stone Rd

Tallahassee FL

Phone: 850-488-0476

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

**HB 327**: Community Associations

X Favorable With Council Substitute

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Kevin Ambier	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X				
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck	X	······································			
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)				Х	
	Total Yeas: 15	Total Nays:	0		

#### **Appearances:**

HB 327 Community Associations George Kane, Commissioner (General Public) - Proponent North Bay Village 7928 West Drive, #507 North Bay Village FL 33141

HB 327 Community Associations Keith Hetrick, General Counsel (Lobbyist) - Proponent Florida Home Builders Association 201 E Park Ave Tallahassee FL 32302

Phone: 850-224-4316 ext 104

Print Date: 3/16/2010 12:34 pm

Phone: 786-877-1679

HB 327 Community Associations
Howard E. "Gene" Adams, Attorney (Lobbyist) - Proponent
Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar
215 S Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-222-3533

HB 327 Community Associations
Wendell Davis, President (General Public) - Proponent
Florida Realtors
200 S Monroe St
Tallahassee FL 32301
Phone: 850-224-1400

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# COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION ADOPTED \_\_ (Y/N) ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_ (Y/N) ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_ (Y/N) FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_ (Y/N) WITHDRAWN \_\_ (Y/N) OTHER

Council/Committee hearing bill: Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council

Representative Robaina offered the following:

# Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert: Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 718.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

718.103 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (16) "Developer" means a person who creates a condominium or offers condominium units parcels for sale or lease in the ordinary course of business, but does not include:
- (a) An owner or lessee of a condominium or cooperative unit who has acquired the unit for his or her own occupancy; nor does it include
- (b) A cooperative association that which creates a condominium by conversion of an existing residential cooperative after control of the association has been transferred to the unit owners if, following the conversion, the unit owners will

be the same persons who were unit owners of the cooperative and no units are offered for sale or lease to the public as part of the plan of conversion;

- (c) A bulk assignee or bulk buyer as defined in s. 718.703; or
- <u>(d)</u> A state, county, or municipal entity is not a developer for any purposes under this act when it is acting as a lessor and not otherwise named as a developer in the <u>declaration</u> of condominium association.
- Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 718.501, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 718.501 Authority, responsibility, and duties of Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes.—
- (1) The Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, referred to as the "division" in this part, has the power to enforce and ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter and rules relating to the development, construction, sale, lease, ownership, operation, and management of residential condominium units. In performing its duties, the division has complete jurisdiction to investigate complaints and enforce compliance with the provisions of this chapter with respect to associations that are still under developer control or the control of a bulk assignee or bulk buyer pursuant to part VII of this chapter and complaints against developers, bulk assignees, or bulk buyers involving improper turnover or failure to turnover, pursuant to s. 718.301. However, after turnover has occurred, the division shall only have jurisdiction to

investigate complaints related to financial issues, elections, and unit owner access to association records pursuant to s. 718.111(12).

- (a)1. The division may make necessary public or private investigations within or outside this state to determine whether any person has violated this chapter or any rule or order hereunder, to aid in the enforcement of this chapter, or to aid in the adoption of rules or forms hereunder.
- 2. The division may submit any official written report, worksheet, or other related paper, or a duly certified copy thereof, compiled, prepared, drafted, or otherwise made by and duly authenticated by a financial examiner or analyst to be admitted as competent evidence in any hearing in which the financial examiner or analyst is available for cross-examination and attests under oath that such documents were prepared as a result of an examination or inspection conducted pursuant to this chapter.
- (b) The division may require or permit any person to file a statement in writing, under oath or otherwise, as the division determines, as to the facts and circumstances concerning a matter to be investigated.
- (c) For the purpose of any investigation under this chapter, the division director or any officer or employee designated by the division director may administer oaths or affirmations, subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any matter which is relevant to the investigation, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition, and location of any

(2010)

Bill No. HB 327

Amendment No. 1

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books, documents, or other tangible things and the identity and location of persons having knowledge of relevant facts or any other matter reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of material evidence. Upon the failure by a person to obey a subpoena or to answer questions propounded by the investigating officer and upon reasonable notice to all persons affected thereby, the division may apply to the circuit court for an order compelling compliance.

- (d) Notwithstanding any remedies available to unit owners and associations, if the division has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of any provision of this chapter or related rule has occurred, the division may institute enforcement proceedings in its own name against any developer, bulk assignee, bulk buyer, association, officer, or member of the board of administration, or its assignees or agents, as follows:
- 1. The division may permit a person whose conduct or actions may be under investigation to waive formal proceedings and enter into a consent proceeding whereby orders, rules, or letters of censure or warning, whether formal or informal, may be entered against the person.
- 2. The division may issue an order requiring the developer, <u>bulk assignee</u>, <u>bulk buyer</u>, association, developerdesignated officer, or developer-designated member of the board of administration, developer-designated assignees or agents, <u>bulk assignee-designated assignees or agents</u>, <u>bulk buyer-designated assignees or agents</u>, community association manager, or community association management firm to cease and desist

from the unlawful practice and take such affirmative action as in the judgment of the division will carry out the purposes of this chapter. If the division finds that a developer, <u>bulk</u> <u>assignee</u>, <u>bulk</u> <u>buyer</u>, association, officer, or member of the board of administration, or its assignees or agents, is violating or is about to violate any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted or order issued by the division, or any written agreement entered into with the division, and presents an immediate danger to the public requiring an immediate final order, it may issue an emergency cease and desist order reciting with particularity the facts underlying such findings. The emergency cease and desist order is effective for 90 days. If the division begins nonemergency cease and desist proceedings, the emergency cease and desist order remains effective until the conclusion of the proceedings under ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

3. If a developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer fails to pay any restitution determined by the division to be owed, plus any accrued interest at the highest rate permitted by law, within 30 days after expiration of any appellate time period of a final order requiring payment of restitution or the conclusion of any appeal thereof, whichever is later, the division shall bring an action in circuit or county court on behalf of any association, class of unit owners, lessees, or purchasers for restitution, declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or any other available remedy. The division may also temporarily revoke its acceptance of the filing for the developer to which the restitution relates until payment of restitution is made.

(2010)

Bill No. HB 327

#### Amendment No. 1

- 4. The division may petition the court for the appointment of a receiver or conservator. If appointed, the receiver or conservator may take action to implement the court order to ensure the performance of the order and to remedy any breach thereof. In addition to all other means provided by law for the enforcement of an injunction or temporary restraining order, the circuit court may impound or sequester the property of a party defendant, including books, papers, documents, and related records, and allow the examination and use of the property by the division and a court-appointed receiver or conservator.
- 5. The division may apply to the circuit court for an order of restitution whereby the defendant in an action brought pursuant to subparagraph 4. shall be ordered to make restitution of those sums shown by the division to have been obtained by the defendant in violation of this chapter. Such restitution shall, at the option of the court, be payable to the conservator or receiver appointed pursuant to subparagraph 4. or directly to the persons whose funds or assets were obtained in violation of this chapter.
- 6. The division may impose a civil penalty against a developer, bulk assignee, bulk buyer, or association, or its assignee or agent, for any violation of this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter. The division may impose a civil penalty individually against any officer or board member who willfully and knowingly violates a provision of this chapter, adopted rule, or a final order of the division; may order the removal of such individual as an officer or from the board of administration or as an officer of the association; and may

Amendment No. 1 159 prohibit such individual from serving as an officer or on the 160 board of a community association for a period of time. The term 161 "willfully and knowingly" means that the division informed the 162 officer or board member that his or her action or intended 163 action violates this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, 164 or a final order of the division and that the officer or board 165 member refused to comply with the requirements of this chapter, 166 a rule adopted under this chapter, or a final order of the 167 division. The division, prior to initiating formal agency action 168 under chapter 120, shall afford the officer or board member an 169 opportunity to voluntarily comply with this chapter, a rule 170 adopted under this chapter, or a final order of the division. An 171 officer or board member who complies within 10 days is not 172 subject to a civil penalty. A penalty may be imposed on the 173 basis of each day of continuing violation, but in no event shall 174 the penalty for any offense exceed \$5,000. By January 1, 1998, 175 the division shall adopt, by rule, penalty guidelines applicable 176 to possible violations or to categories of violations of this 177 chapter or rules adopted by the division. The guidelines must 178 specify a meaningful range of civil penalties for each such 179 violation of the statute and rules and must be based upon the 180 harm caused by the violation, the repetition of the violation, 181 and upon such other factors deemed relevant by the division. For 182 example, the division may consider whether the violations were 183 committed by a developer, bulk assignee, bulk buyer, or owner-

controlled association, the size of the association, and other

factors. The guidelines must designate the possible mitigating

or aggravating circumstances that justify a departure from the

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range of penalties provided by the rules. It is the legislative intent that minor violations be distinguished from those which endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the condominium residents or other persons and that such guidelines provide reasonable and meaningful notice to the public of likely penalties that may be imposed for proscribed conduct. This subsection does not limit the ability of the division to informally dispose of administrative actions or complaints by stipulation, agreed settlement, or consent order. All amounts collected shall be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to the credit of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes Trust Fund. If a developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer fails to pay the civil penalty and the amount deemed to be owed to the association, the division shall issue an order directing that such developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer cease and desist from further operation until such time as the civil penalty is paid or may pursue enforcement of the penalty in a court of competent jurisdiction. If an association fails to pay the civil penalty, the division shall pursue enforcement in a court of competent jurisdiction, and the order imposing the civil penalty or the cease and desist order will not become effective until 20 days after the date of such order. Any action commenced by the division shall be brought in the county in which the division has its executive offices or in the county where the violation occurred.

7. If a unit owner presents the division with proof that the unit owner has requested access to official records in writing by certified mail, and that after 10 days the unit owner

again made the same request for access to official records in writing by certified mail, and that more than 10 days has elapsed since the second request and the association has still failed or refused to provide access to official records as required by this chapter, the division shall issue a subpoena requiring production of the requested records where the records are kept pursuant to s. 718.112.

- 8. In addition to subparagraph 6., the division may seek the imposition of a civil penalty through the circuit court for any violation for which the division may issue a notice to show cause under paragraph (r). The civil penalty shall be at least \$500 but no more than \$5,000 for each violation. The court may also award to the prevailing party court costs and reasonable attorney's fees and, if the division prevails, may also award reasonable costs of investigation.
- (e) The division may prepare and disseminate a prospectus and other information to assist prospective owners, purchasers, lessees, and developers of residential condominiums in assessing the rights, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.
- (f) The division has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement and enforce the provisions of this chapter.
- (g) The division shall establish procedures for providing notice to an association and the developer during the period where the developer controls the association when the division is considering the issuance of a declaratory statement with respect to the declaration of condominium or any related document governing in such condominium community.

- (h) The division shall furnish each association which pays the fees required by paragraph (2)(a) a copy of this act, subsequent changes to this act on an annual basis, an amended version of this act as it becomes available from the Secretary of State's office on a biennial basis, and the rules adopted thereto on an annual basis.
- (i) The division shall annually provide each association with a summary of declaratory statements and formal legal opinions relating to the operations of condominiums which were rendered by the division during the previous year.
- (j) The division shall provide training and educational programs for condominium association board members and unit owners. The training may, in the division's discretion, include web-based electronic media, and live training and seminars in various locations throughout the state. The division shall have the authority to review and approve education and training programs for board members and unit owners offered by providers and shall maintain a current list of approved programs and providers and shall make such list available to board members and unit owners in a reasonable and cost-effective manner.
- (k) The division shall maintain a toll-free telephone number accessible to condominium unit owners.
- (1) The division shall develop a program to certify both volunteer and paid mediators to provide mediation of condominium disputes. The division shall provide, upon request, a list of such mediators to any association, unit owner, or other participant in arbitration proceedings under s. 718.1255 requesting a copy of the list. The division shall include on the

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list of volunteer mediators only the names of persons who have received at least 20 hours of training in mediation techniques or who have mediated at least 20 disputes. In order to become initially certified by the division, paid mediators must be certified by the Supreme Court to mediate court cases in county or circuit courts. However, the division may adopt, by rule, additional factors for the certification of paid mediators, which factors must be related to experience, education, or background. Any person initially certified as a paid mediator by the division must, in order to continue to be certified, comply with the factors or requirements imposed by rules adopted by the division.

(m) When a complaint is made, the division shall conduct its inquiry with due regard to the interests of the affected parties. Within 30 days after receipt of a complaint, the division shall acknowledge the complaint in writing and notify the complainant whether the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the division and whether additional information is needed by the division from the complainant. The division shall conduct its investigation and shall, within 90 days after receipt of the original complaint or of timely requested additional information, take action upon the complaint. However, the failure to complete the investigation within 90 days does not prevent the division from continuing the investigation, accepting or considering evidence obtained or received after 90 days, or taking administrative action if reasonable cause exists to believe that a violation of this chapter or a rule of the division has occurred. If an investigation is not completed

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within the time limits established in this paragraph, the division shall, on a monthly basis, notify the complainant in writing of the status of the investigation. When reporting its action to the complainant, the division shall inform the complainant of any right to a hearing pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

- (n) Condominium association directors, officers, and employees; condominium developers; condominium bulk assignees and bulk buyers; community association managers; and community association management firms have an ongoing duty to reasonably cooperate with the division in any investigation pursuant to this section. The division shall refer to local law enforcement authorities any person whom the division believes has altered, destroyed, concealed, or removed any record, document, or thing required to be kept or maintained by this chapter with the purpose to impair its verity or availability in the department's investigation.
  - (o) The division may:
- 1. Contract with agencies in this state or other jurisdictions to perform investigative functions; or
  - 2. Accept grants-in-aid from any source.
- (p) The division shall cooperate with similar agencies in other jurisdictions to establish uniform filing procedures and forms, public offering statements, advertising standards, and rules and common administrative practices.
- (q) The division shall consider notice to a developer, bulk assignee, and bulk buyer to be complete when it is

- Amendment No. 1 delivered to the developer's address of the developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer currently on file with the division.
- (r) In addition to its enforcement authority, the division may issue a notice to show cause, which shall provide for a hearing, upon written request, in accordance with chapter 120.
- (s) The division shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees an annual report that includes, but need not be limited to, the number of training programs provided for condominium association board members and unit owners, the number of complaints received by type, the number and percent of complaints acknowledged in writing within 30 days and the number and percent of investigations acted upon within 90 days in accordance with paragraph (m), and the number of investigations exceeding the 90-day requirement. The annual report shall also include an evaluation of the division's core business processes and make recommendations for improvements, including statutory changes. The report shall be submitted by September 30 following the end of the fiscal year.

Section 3. Part VII of chapter 718, Florida Statutes, consisting of sections 718.701, 718.702, 718.703, 718.704, 718.705, 718.706, 718.707, and 718.708, is created to read:

#### PART VII

#### DISTRESSED CONDOMINIUM RELIEF

718.701 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Distressed Condominium Relief Act."

718.702 Legislative intent.-

- (1) The Legislature acknowledges the massive downturn in the condominium market which has transpired throughout the state and the impact of such downturn on developers, lenders, unit owners, and condominium associations. Numerous condominium projects have either failed or are in the process of failing, whereby the condominium has a small percentage of third-party unit owners as compared to the unsold inventory of units. As a result of the inability to find purchasers for this inventory of units, which results in part from the devaluing of real estate in this state, developers are unable to satisfy the requirements of their lenders, leading to defaults on mortgages.

  Consequently, lenders are faced with the task of finding a solution to the problem in order to be paid for their investments.
- (2) The Legislature recognizes that all of the factors listed in this section lead to condominiums becoming distressed, resulting in detriment to the unit owners and the condominium association on account of the resulting shortage of assessment moneys available to support the financial requirements for proper maintenance of the condominium. Such shortage and the resulting lack of proper maintenance further erode property values. The Legislature finds that individuals and entities within Florida and in other states have expressed interest in purchasing unsold inventory in one or more condominium projects, but are reticent to do so because of the potential of accompanying liabilities inherited from the original developer, which are potentially by definition imputed to the successor purchaser, including a foreclosing mortgagee. This results in

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the potential purchaser having unknown and unquantifiable risks, and potential successor purchasers are unwilling to accept such risks. The result is that condominium projects stagnate, leaving all parties involved at an impasse without the ability to find a solution.

- The Legislature finds and declares that it is the (3) public policy of this state to protect the interests of developers, lenders, unit owners, and condominium associations with regard to distressed condominiums, and that there is a need for relief from certain provisions of the Florida Condominium Act geared toward enabling economic opportunities within these condominiums for successor purchasers, including foreclosing mortgagees, while at the same time clarifying the ambiguity in the law. Such relief would benefit existing unit owners and condominium associations. The Legislature further finds and declares that this situation cannot be open-ended without potentially prejudicing the rights of unit owners and condominium associations, and thereby declares that the provisions of this part shall be used by purchasers of condominium inventory for a specific and defined period.
  - 718.703 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
  - (1) "Bulk assignee" means a person who:
- (a) Acquires more than seven condominium units in a single condominium as set forth in s. 718.707; and
- (b) Receives an assignment of all or substantially all of the rights of the developer as are set forth in the declaration of condominium or in this chapter by a written instrument recorded as an exhibit to the deed or as a separate instrument

in the public records of the county in which the condominium is located.

- (2) "Bulk buyer" means a person who acquires more than seven condominium units in a single condominium as set forth in s. 718.707 but who does not receive an assignment of any developer rights other than, at the bulk buyer's option, the right to conduct sales, leasing, and marketing activities within the condominium; the right to be exempt from the payment of working capital contributions to the condominium association arising out of or in connection with the bulk buyer's acquisition of a bulk number of units; and the right to be exempt from any rights of first refusal which may be held by the condominium association and would otherwise be applicable to subsequent transfers of title from the bulk buyer to any third-party purchaser concerning one or more units.
- 718.704 Assignment of developer rights to and assumption of developer rights by bulk assignee; bulk buyer.—
- (1) A bulk assignee shall be deemed to have assumed and is liable for all duties and responsibilities of a developer under the declaration and this chapter, except:
- (a) Warranties of a developer under s. 718.203(1) or s. 718.618, except for design, construction, development, or repair work performed by or on behalf of such bulk assignee.
  - (b) The obligation to:
- 1. Fund converter reserves under s. 718.618 for a unit that was not acquired by the bulk assignee; or
- 2. Provide converter warranties on any portion of the condominium property except as may be expressly provided by the

bulk assignee in the contract for purchase and sale executed with a purchaser and pertaining to any design, construction, development, or repair work performed by or on behalf of the bulk assignee.

- (c) The requirement to provide the association with a cumulative audit of the association's finances from the date of formation of the condominium association as required by s.

  718.301. However, the bulk assignee shall provide an audit for the period for which the bulk assignee elects a majority of the members of the board of administration.
- (d) Any liability arising out of or in connection with actions taken by the board of administration or the developer-appointed directors before the bulk assignee elects a majority of the members of the board of administration.
- (e) Any liability for or arising out of the developer's failure to fund previous assessments or to resolve budgetary deficits in relation to a developer's right to guarantee assessments, except as otherwise provided in subsection (2).

Further, the bulk assignee is responsible for delivering documents and materials in accordance with s. 718.705(3). A bulk assignee may expressly assume some or all of the obligations of the developer described in paragraphs (a)-(e).

(2) A bulk assignee receiving the assignment of the rights of the developer to guarantee the level of assessments and fund budgetary deficits pursuant to s. 718.116 shall be deemed to have assumed and is liable for all obligations of the developer with respect to such guarantee, including any applicable funding

of reserves to the extent required by law, for as long as the guarantee remains in effect. A bulk assignee not receiving an assignment of the right of the developer to guarantee the level of assessments and fund budgetary deficits pursuant to s.

718.116 or a bulk buyer is not deemed to have assumed and is not liable for the obligations of the developer with respect to such guarantee, but is responsible for payment of assessments in the same manner as all other owners of condominium units.

- (3) A bulk buyer is liable for the duties and responsibilities of the developer under the declaration and this chapter only to the extent provided in this part, together with any other duties or responsibilities of the developer expressly assumed in writing by the bulk buyer.
- (4) An acquirer of condominium units is not considered a bulk assignee or a bulk buyer if the transfer to such acquirer was made prior to the effective date of this Distressed Condominium Relief Act or was made with the intent to hinder, delay, or defraud any purchaser, unit owner, or the association, or if the acquirer is a person who would constitute an insider under s. 726.102(7).
- (5) An assignment of developer rights to a bulk assignee may be made by the developer, a previous bulk assignee, or a court of competent jurisdiction acting on behalf of the developer or the previous bulk assignee. At any particular time, there may be no more than one bulk assignee within a condominium, but there may be more than one bulk buyer. If more than one acquirer of condominium units in the same condominium receives an assignment of developer rights from the same person,

the bulk assignee is the acquirer whose instrument of assignment is recorded first in applicable public records.

718.705 Board of administration; transfer of control.-

- (1) For purposes of determining the timing for transfer of control of the board of administration of the association to unit owners other than the developer under s. 718.301(1)(a) and (b), if a bulk assignee is entitled to elect a majority of the members of the board, any condominium unit acquired by the bulk assignee shall not be deemed to be conveyed to a purchaser, or to be owned by an owner other than the developer, until such condominium unit is conveyed to an owner who is not a bulk assignee.
- (2) Unless control of the board of administration of the association has already been relinquished pursuant to s.

  718.301(1), the bulk assignee is obligated to relinquish control of the association in accordance with s. 718.301(1) or (2) and this part as if the bulk assignee were the developer.
- of administration, the bulk assignee shall deliver all of those items required by s. 718.301(4). However, the bulk assignee is not required to deliver items and documents not in the possession of the bulk assignee during the period during which the bulk assignee was entitled to elect not less than a majority of the members of the board of administration. In conjunction with the acquisition of condominium units, a bulk assignee shall undertake a good faith effort to obtain the documents and materials required to be provided to the association pursuant to s. 718.301(4). To the extent the bulk assignee is not able to

obtain all of such documents and materials, the bulk assignee shall certify in writing to the association the names or descriptions of the documents and materials that were not obtainable by the bulk assignee. Delivery of the certificate relieves the bulk assignee of responsibility for the delivery of the documents and materials referenced in the certificate as otherwise required under ss. 718.112 and 718.301 and this part. The responsibility of the bulk assignee for the audit required by s. 718.301(4) shall commence as of the date on which the bulk assignee elected a majority of the members of the board of administration.

- (4) If a conflict arises between the provisions or application of this section and s. 718.301, this section shall prevail.
- (5) Failure of a bulk assignee or bulk buyer to substantially comply with all the requirements contained in this part shall result in the loss of all protections or exemptions provided under this part.
- 718.706 Specific provisions pertaining to offering of units by a bulk assignee or bulk buyer.—
- (1) Before offering any units for sale or for lease for a term exceeding 5 years, a bulk assignee or a bulk buyer shall file the following documents with the division and provide such documents to a prospective purchaser or lessee:
- (a) An updated prospectus or offering circular, or a supplement to the prospectus or offering circular, filed by the creating developer prepared in accordance with s. 718.504, which

Bill No. HB 327 (2010)

- Amendment No. 1 shall include the form of contract for sale and for lease in
- 550 compliance with s. 718.503(1)(a);
  - (b) An updated Frequently Asked Questions and Answers sheet;
  - (c) The executed escrow agreement if required under s.
    718.202; and
  - (d) The financial information required by s. 718.111(13). However, if a financial information report does not exist for the fiscal year before acquisition of title by the bulk assignee or bulk buyer, or accounting records cannot be obtained in good faith by the bulk assignee or the bulk buyer which would permit preparation of the required financial information report, the bulk assignee or bulk buyer is excused from the requirement of this paragraph. However, the bulk assignee or bulk buyer must include in the purchase contract the following statement in conspicuous type:

THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SECTION

718.111(13), FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING

FISCAL YEAR OF THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT AVAILABLE OR CANNOT BE

CREATED BY THE SELLER AS A RESULT OF INSUFFICIENT ACCOUNTING

RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

(2) Before offering any units for sale or for lease for a term exceeding 5 years, a bulk assignee shall file with the division and provide to a prospective purchaser a disclosure statement that must include, but is not limited to:

- (a) A description of any rights of the developer which have been assigned to the bulk assignee;
  - (b) The following statement in conspicuous type:

THE SELLER IS NOT OBLIGATED FOR ANY WARRANTIES OF THE DEVELOPER UNDER SECTION 718.203(1) OR SECTION 718.618, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS APPLICABLE, EXCEPT FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, OR REPAIR WORK PERFORMED BY OR ON BEHALF OF SELLER.

(c) If the condominium is a conversion subject to part VI, the following statement in conspicuous type:

THE SELLER HAS NO OBLIGATION TO FUND CONVERTER RESERVES OR TO PROVIDE CONVERTER WARRANTIES UNDER SECTION 718.618, FLORIDA STATUTES, ON ANY PORTION OF THE CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY EXCEPT AS MAY BE EXPRESSLY REQUIRED OF THE SELLER IN THE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE EXECUTED BY THE SELLER AND THE DEVELOPER AND PERTAINING TO ANY DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, OR REPAIR WORK PERFORMED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE SELLER.

- (3) While in control of the board of administration of the association, a bulk assignee may not authorize, on behalf of the association:
- (a) The waiver of reserves or the reduction of funding of the reserves in accordance with s. 718.112(2)(f)2., unless approved by a majority of the voting interests not controlled by the developer, bulk assignee, and bulk buyer; or

- (b) The use of reserve expenditures for other purposes in accordance with s. 718.112(2)(f)3., unless approved by a majority of the voting interests not controlled by the developer, bulk assignee, and bulk buyer.
- (4) A bulk assignee or bulk buyer shall comply with all the requirements of s. 718.302 regarding any contracts entered into by the association during the period the bulk assignee or bulk buyer maintains control of the board of administration.

  Unit owners shall be afforded all the protections contained in s. 718.302 regarding agreements entered into by the association before unit owners other than the developer, bulk assignee, or bulk buyer elected a majority of the board of administration.
- (5) A bulk buyer shall comply with the requirements contained in the declaration regarding any transfer of a unit, including sales, leases, and subleases. A bulk buyer is not entitled to any exemptions afforded a developer or successor developer under this chapter regarding any transfer of a unit, including sales, leases, or subleases.
- assignee or bulk buyer.—A person acquiring condominium units may not be classified as a bulk assignee or bulk buyer unless the condominium units were acquired before July 1, 2012. The date of such acquisition shall be determined by the date of recording of a deed or other instrument of conveyance for such units in the public records of the county in which the condominium is located or by the date of issuance of a certificate of title in a foreclosure proceeding with respect to such condominium units.

718.708 Liability of developers and others.—An assignment of developer rights to a bulk assignee or bulk buyer does not release the creating developer from any liabilities under the declaration or this chapter. This part does not limit the liability of the creating developer for claims brought by unit owners, bulk assignees, or bulk buyers for violations of this chapter by the creating developer, unless specifically excluded in this part. Nothing contained within this part waives, releases, compromises, or limits the liability, if any, of contractors, subcontractors, materialmen, manufacturers, architects, engineers, or any participant in the design or construction of a condominium for any claim brought by an association, unit owners, bulk assignees, or bulk buyers arising from the design of the condominium, construction defects, misrepresentations associated with condominium property, or violations of this chapter, unless specifically excluded in this part.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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# TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove the entire title and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to community associations; amending s. 718.103, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "developer" to exclude a bulk assignee or bulk buyer; amending s. 718.501, F.S.; revising the jurisdiction of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and

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Mobile Homes to include bulk assignees and bulk buyers; creating part VII of ch. 718, F.S., relating to distressed condominium relief; providing a short title; providing legislative findings and intent; defining the terms "bulk assignee" and "bulk buyer"; providing for the assignment of developer rights to and the assumption of developer rights by a bulk assignee; specifying liabilities of bulk assignees and bulk buyers; providing exceptions; providing additional responsibilities of bulk assignees and bulk buyers; authorizing certain entities to assign developer rights to a bulk assignee; limiting the number of bulk assignees at any given time; providing for the transfer of control of a board of administration; providing effects of such transfer on units acquired by a bulk assignee; providing obligations of a bulk assignee upon the transfer of control of a board of administration; requiring that a bulk assignee certify certain information in writing; providing for the resolution of a conflict between specified provisions of state law; providing that the failure of a bulk assignee or bulk buyer to comply with specified provisions of state law results in the loss of certain protections and exemptions; requiring that a bulk assignee or bulk buyer file certain information with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation before offering any units for sale or lease in excess of a specified term; requiring that a copy of such information be provided to a prospective purchaser;

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requiring that certain contracts and disclosure statements contain specified statements; requiring that a bulk assignee or bulk buyer comply with certain disclosure requirements; prohibiting a bulk assignee from taking certain actions on behalf of an association while the bulk assignee is in control of the board of administration of the association and requiring that such bulk assignee comply with certain requirements; requiring that a bulk assignee or bulk buyer comply with certain requirements regarding certain contracts; providing unit owners with specified protections regarding certain contracts; requiring that a bulk buyer comply with certain requirements regarding the transfer of a unit; prohibiting a person from being classified as a bulk assignee or bulk buyer unless condominium units were acquired before a specified date; providing for the determination of the date of acquisition of a unit; providing that the assignment of developer rights to a bulk assignee or bulk buyer does not release a developer from certain liabilities; preserving certain liabilities for certain parties; providing an effective date.

# **Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

3/16/2010 10:15:00AM

Location: 404 HOB

PCB CCJP 10-06 : Conflict Counsel

X | Favorable With Amendments

·	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Sandra Adams	X				
Kevin Ambler	X				
Carl Domino	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Adam M. Fetterman	X				
Luis Garcia	X				
Audrey Gibson	X				
Eduardo Gonzalez	X				
Tom Grady	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Julio Robaina	X				
Robert Schenck			X		
Perry Thurston	X				
James Waldman	X				
Michael Weinstein	X				
William Snyder (Chair)				X	
	Total Yeas: 14	Total Nays:	0		

#### **Appearances:**

PCB CCJP 10-06 Conflict Counsel

Jeffrey Deen, Conflict Counsel Regional Counsel 5th District (Lobbyist) (State Employee) - Proponent
Criminal Conflict & Civil Regional Counsel
151 Wymore Rd

Altamonte Springs FL 32714 Phone: 407-592-7634

PCB Name: PCB CCJP 10-06 (2010)

Amendment No.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE	ACTION	
ADOPTED	(Y/N)	
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)	Javable 3-16.10
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	(Y/N)	Javan 10
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)	3.10
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)	
OTHER		

Council/Committee hearing PCB: Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council

Representative(s) Holder offered the following:

#### Amendment

Remove lines 59-75 and insert: of attorney's fees and costs in accordance with s.  $\underline{938.29(2)}$   $\underline{984.08}$ .

- (1) A parent whose child is dependent, whether or not adjudication was withheld or whose parental rights are terminated and who has received the assistance of the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, or any other court appointed attorney, or who has received due process services after being found indigent for costs under s. 57.082, shall be liable for payment of the assessed application fee under s. 57.082, together with reasonable attorney's fees and costs as determined by the court.
- (2) If reasonable attorney's fees or costs are assessed, payment of said fees or costs may be made part of any case plan

# COUNCIL/COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

PCB Name: PCB CCJP 10-06 (2010)

# Amendment No.

20	in	dependency	proceedings	at	the	courts	discretion.	No	case
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- 21 plan will remain open for the sole issue of payment of
- 22 attorney's fees or costs. At the courts discretion, a lien upon
- 23 court-ordered payment of attorney's fees and costs may be
- ordered by the court in accordance with s. 938.29(2).