CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SECOND ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536

Chapter 201, Laws of 2004

58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

CONDOMINIUMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/10/04

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SECOND ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 11, 2004 YEAS 41 NAYS 8

MILTON H. DOUMIT JR.

CERTIFICATE

Secretary

Approved March 29, 2004.

FILED

March 29, 2004 - 3:00 p.m.

GARY F. LOCKE

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State State of Washington

SECOND ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2004 Regular Session

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Finkbeiner, Reardon, Roach, Hale, Horn, Benton, Morton, Hewitt, Schmidt, Kastama, Sheahan, Mulliken, Johnson, Parlette, Stevens, West and Esser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/03.

- AN ACT Relating to condominiums; amending RCW 64.34.100, 64.34.324,
- 2 64.34.425, 64.34.445, 64.34.450, 64.34.452, 64.34.020, 64.34.312, and
- 3 64.34.410; adding a new section to chapter 64.34 RCW; adding a new
- 4 chapter to Title 64 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
- 5 effective date.

- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 64.34 RCW to read as follows:
 - (1) The legislature finds, declares, and determines that:
- 10 (a) Washington's cities and counties under the growth management
 11 act are required to encourage urban growth in urban growth areas at
 12 densities that aggregate twenty-year growth projections:
- densities that accommodate twenty-year growth projections;
- 13 (b) The growth management act's planning goals include encouraging 14 the availability of affordable housing for all residents of the state 15 and promoting a variety of housing types;
- 16 (c) Quality condominium construction needs to be encouraged to 17 achieve growth management act mandated urban densities and to ensure 18 that residents of the state, particularly in urban growth areas, have
- 19 a broad range of ownership choices.

- 1 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that limited changes be 2 made to the condominium act to ensure that a broad range of affordable 3 homeownership opportunities continue to be available to the residents 4 of the state, and to assist cities' and counties' efforts to achieve 5 the density mandates of the growth management act.
- 6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 64.34.100 and 1989 c 43 s 1-113 are each amended to 7 read as follows:
 - (1) The remedies provided by this chapter shall be liberally administered to the end that the aggrieved party is put in as good a position as if the other party had fully performed. However, consequential, special, or punitive damages may not be awarded except as specifically provided in this chapter or by other rule of law.
- 13 (2) Except as otherwise provided in chapter 64.-- RCW (sections 101 through 2002 of this act), any right or obligation declared by this chapter is enforceable by judicial proceeding.
- 16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 64.34.324 and 1992 c 220 s 16 are each amended to read 17 as follows:
 - (1) Unless provided for in the declaration, the bylaws of the association shall provide for:
 - (a) The number, qualifications, powers and duties, terms of office, and manner of electing and removing the board of directors and officers and filling vacancies;
 - (b) Election by the board of directors of such officers of the association as the bylaws specify;
 - (c) Which, if any, of its powers the board of directors or officers may delegate to other persons or to a managing agent;
- 27 (d) Which of its officers may prepare, execute, certify, and record 28 amendments to the declaration on behalf of the association; ((and))
 - (e) The method of amending the bylaws; and
- 30 (f) A statement of the standard of care for officers and members of 31 the board of directors imposed by RCW 64.34.308(1).
- 32 (2) Subject to the provisions of the declaration, the bylaws may 33 provide for any other matters the association deems necessary and 34 appropriate.
- 35 (3) In determining the qualifications of any officer or director of 36 the association, notwithstanding the provision of RCW 64.34.020(32) the

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- term "unit owner" in such context shall, unless the declaration or 1 2 bylaws otherwise provide, be deemed to include any director, officer, partner in, or trustee of any person, who is, either alone or in 3 conjunction with another person or persons, a unit owner. Any officer 4 5 or director of the association who would not be eligible to serve as such if he or she were not a director, officer, partner in, or trustee 6 7 of such a person shall be disqualified from continuing in office if he or she ceases to have any such affiliation with that person, or if that 8 9 person would have been disqualified from continuing in such office as a natural person. 10
- 11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 64.34.425 and 1992 c 220 s 23 are each amended to read 12 as follows:

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- (1) Except in the case of a sale where delivery of a public offering statement is required, or unless exempt under RCW 64.34.400(2), a unit owner shall furnish to a purchaser before execution of any contract for sale of a unit, or otherwise before conveyance, a resale certificate, signed by an officer or authorized agent of the association and based on the books and records of the association and the actual knowledge of the person signing the certificate, containing:
- 21 (a) A statement disclosing any right of first refusal or other 22 restraint on the free alienability of the unit contained in the 23 declaration;
 - (b) A statement setting forth the amount of the monthly common expense assessment and any unpaid common expense or special assessment currently due and payable from the selling unit owner and a statement of any special assessments that have been levied against the unit which have not been paid even though not yet due;
 - (c) A statement, which shall be current to within forty-five days, of any common expenses or special assessments against any unit in the condominium that are past due over thirty days;
 - (d) A statement, which shall be current to within forty-five days, of any obligation of the association which is past due over thirty days;
 - (e) A statement of any other fees payable by unit owners;
- 36 (f) A statement of any anticipated repair or replacement cost in

excess of five percent of the annual budget of the association that has been approved by the board of directors;

- (g) A statement of the amount of any reserves for repair or replacement and of any portions of those reserves currently designated by the association for any specified projects;
- (h) The annual financial statement of the association, including the audit report if it has been prepared, for the year immediately preceding the current year.
- (i) A balance sheet and a revenue and expense statement of the association prepared on an accrual basis, which shall be current to within one hundred twenty days;
 - (j) The current operating budget of the association;
- (k) A statement of any unsatisfied judgments against the association and the status of any pending suits or legal proceedings in which the association is a plaintiff or defendant;
- (1) A statement describing any insurance coverage provided for the benefit of unit owners;
- (m) A statement as to whether there are any alterations or improvements to the unit or to the limited common elements assigned thereto that violate any provision of the declaration;
- (n) A statement of the number of units, if any, still owned by the declarant, whether the declarant has transferred control of the association to the unit owners, and the date of such transfer;
- (o) A statement as to whether there are any violations of the health or building codes with respect to the unit, the limited common elements assigned thereto, or any other portion of the condominium;
- (p) A statement of the remaining term of any leasehold estate affecting the condominium and the provisions governing any extension or renewal thereof; ((and))
- (q) A copy of the declaration, the bylaws, the rules or regulations of the association, and any other information reasonably requested by mortgagees of prospective purchasers of units. Information requested generally by the federal national mortgage association, the federal home loan bank board, the government national mortgage association, the veterans administration and the department of housing and urban development shall be deemed reasonable, provided such information is reasonably available to the association; and

(r) A statement, as required by section 301 of this act, as to whether the units or common elements of the condominium are covered by a qualified warranty, and a history of claims under any such warranty.

- (2) The association, within ten days after a request by a unit owner, and subject to payment of any fee imposed pursuant to RCW 64.34.304(1)(1), shall furnish a resale certificate signed by an officer or authorized agent of the association and containing the information necessary to enable the unit owner to comply with this section. For the purposes of this chapter, a reasonable charge for the preparation of a resale certificate may not exceed one hundred fifty dollars. The association may charge a unit owner a nominal fee for updating a resale certificate within six months of the unit owner's request. The unit owner shall also sign the certificate but the unit owner is not liable to the purchaser for any erroneous information provided by the association and included in the certificate unless and to the extent the unit owner had actual knowledge thereof.
- (3) A purchaser is not liable for any unpaid assessment or fee against the unit as of the date of the certificate greater than the amount set forth in the certificate prepared by the association unless and to the extent such purchaser had actual knowledge thereof. A unit owner is not liable to a purchaser for the failure or delay of the association to provide the certificate in a timely manner, but the purchaser's contract is voidable by the purchaser until the certificate has been provided and for five days thereafter or until conveyance, whichever occurs first.
- Sec. 5. RCW 64.34.445 and 1992 c 220 s 26 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A declarant and any dealer warrants that a unit will be in at least as good condition at the earlier of the time of the conveyance or delivery of possession as it was at the time of contracting, reasonable wear and tear and damage by casualty or condemnation excepted.
- (2) A declarant and any dealer impliedly warrants that a unit and the common elements in the condominium are suitable for the ordinary uses of real estate of its type and that any improvements made or contracted for by such declarant or dealer will be:
 - (a) Free from defective materials; ((and))

- 1 (b) Constructed in accordance with sound engineering and construction standards((, and));
 - (c) Constructed in a workmanlike manner; and
 - (d) Constructed in compliance with all laws then applicable to such improvements.
 - (3) A declarant and any dealer warrants to a purchaser of a unit that may be used for residential use that an existing use, continuation of which is contemplated by the parties, does not violate applicable law at the earlier of the time of conveyance or delivery of possession.
 - (4) Warranties imposed by this section may be excluded or modified as specified in RCW 64.34.450.
 - (5) For purposes of this section, improvements made or contracted for by an affiliate of a declarant, as defined in RCW 64.34.020(1), are made or contracted for by the declarant.
 - (6) Any conveyance of a unit transfers to the purchaser all of the declarant's implied warranties of quality.
 - (7) In a judicial proceeding for breach of any of the obligations arising under this section, the plaintiff must show that the alleged breach has adversely affected or will adversely affect the performance of that portion of the unit or common elements alleged to be in breach. As used in this subsection, an "adverse effect" must be more than technical and must be significant to a reasonable person. To establish an adverse effect, the person alleging the breach is not required to prove that the breach renders the unit or common element uninhabitable or unfit for its intended purpose.
 - (8) Proof of breach of any obligation arising under this section is not proof of damages. Damages awarded for a breach of an obligation arising under this section are the cost of repairs. However, if it is established that the cost of such repairs is clearly disproportionate to the loss in market value caused by the breach, then damages shall be limited to the loss in market value.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 64.34.450 and 1989 c 43 s 4-113 are each amended to read as follows:
- 34 (1) ((Except as limited by subsection (2) of this section)) For units intended for nonresidential use, implied warranties of quality:
- 36 (a) May be excluded or modified by written agreement of the 37 parties; and

- 1 (b) Are excluded by written expression of disclaimer, such as "as is," "with all faults," or other language which in common understanding calls the buyer's attention to the exclusion of warranties.
- (2) ((With respect to a purchaser of a unit that may be occupied)) 4 5 For units intended for residential use, no ((general)) disclaimer of implied warranties of quality is effective, ((but)) except that a 6 7 declarant ((and any)) or dealer may disclaim liability in ((an instrument)) writing, in type that is bold faced, capitalized, 8 underlined, or otherwise set out from surrounding material so as to be 9 conspicuous, and separately signed by the purchaser, for a specified 10 defect or specified failure to comply with applicable law, if: (a) The 11 12 declarant or dealer knows or has reason to know that the specific 13 defect or failure ((entered into and became a part of the basis of the 14 bargain)) exists at the time of disclosure; (b) the disclaimer specifically describes the defect or failure; and (c) the disclaimer 15 includes a statement as to the effect of the defect or failure. 16
- (3) A declarant or dealer may offer an express written warranty of quality only if the express written warranty does not reduce protections provided to the purchaser by the implied warranty set forth in RCW 64.34.445.
- 21 Sec. 7. RCW 64.34.452 and 2002 c 323 s 11 are each amended to read 22 as follows:

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- (1) A judicial proceeding for breach of any obligations arising under RCW 64.34.443 ((and)), 64.34.445, and 64.34.450 must be commenced within four years after the cause of action accrues: PROVIDED, That the period for commencing an action for a breach accruing pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section shall not expire prior to one year after termination of the period of declarant control, if any, under RCW 64.34.308(4). Such periods may not be reduced by either oral or written agreement, or through the use of contractual claims or notice procedures that require the filing or service of any claim or notice prior to the expiration of the period specified in this section.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a cause of action or breach of warranty of quality, regardless of the purchaser's lack of knowledge of the breach, accrues:
 - (a) As to a unit, the date the purchaser to whom the warranty is

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- first made enters into possession if a possessory interest was conveyed or the date of acceptance of the instrument of conveyance if a nonpossessory interest was conveyed; and
 - (b) As to each common element, at the latest of (i) the date the first unit in the condominium was conveyed to a bona fide purchaser,(ii) the date the common element was completed, or (iii) the date the common element was added to the condominium.
 - (3) If a warranty of quality explicitly extends to future performance or duration of any improvement or component of the condominium, the cause of action accrues at the time the breach is discovered or at the end of the period for which the warranty explicitly extends, whichever is earlier.
 - (4) If a written notice of claim is served under RCW 64.50.020 within the time prescribed for the filing of an action under this chapter, the statutes of limitation in this chapter and any applicable statutes of repose for construction-related claims are tolled until sixty days after the period of time during which the filing of an action is barred under RCW 64.50.020.
- 19 <u>(5) Nothing in this section affects the time for filing a claim</u> 20 <u>under chapter 64.-- RCW (sections 101 through 2002 of this act).</u>

21 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 8.** (1) A committee is established to study:

- (a) The required use of independent third-party inspections of residential condominiums as a way to reduce the problem of water penetration in residential condominiums; and
- (b) The use of arbitration or other forms of alternative dispute resolution to resolve disputes involving alleged breaches of implied or express warranties under chapter 64.34 RCW.
- (2) The committee consists of the following members who shall be persons with experience and expertise in condominium law or condominium construction:
- 31 (a) A member, who shall be the chair of the committee, to be 32 appointed by the governor;
- 33 (b) Three members to be appointed by the majority leader of the 34 senate; and
- 35 (c) Three members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of 36 representatives.
 - (3) The committee shall:

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- 1 (a) Examine the problem of water penetration of condominiums and 2 the efficacy of requiring independent third-party inspections of 3 condominiums, including plan inspection and inspection during 4 construction, as a way to reduce the problem of water penetration;
 - (b) Examine issues relating to alternative dispute resolution, including but not limited to:

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- 7 (i) When and how the decision to use alternative dispute resolution 8 is made;
- 9 (ii) The procedures to be used in an alternative dispute 10 resolution;
- 11 (iii) The nature of the right of appeal from an alternative dispute 12 resolution decision; and
- 13 (iv) The allocation of costs and fees associated with an 14 alternative dispute resolution proceeding or appeal;
- 15 (c) Deliver to the judiciary committees of the senate and house of 16 representatives, not later than December 31, 2004, a report of the 17 findings and conclusions of the committee, and any proposed legislation 18 implementing third-party water penetration inspections or providing for 19 alternative dispute resolution for warranty issues.
- 20 **Sec. 9.** RCW 64.34.020 and 1992 c 220 s 2 are each amended to read 21 as follows:
- In the declaration and bylaws, unless specifically provided otherwise or the context requires otherwise, and in this chapter:
 - (1) "Affiliate ((of a declarant))" means any person who controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with ((a declarant)) the referenced person. A person "controls" ((a declarant)) another person if the person: (a) Is a general partner, officer, director, or employer of the ((declarant)) referenced person; (b) directly or indirectly or acting in concert with one or more other persons, or through one or more subsidiaries, owns, controls, holds with power to vote, or holds proxies representing, more than twenty percent of the voting interest in the ((declarant)) referenced person; (c) controls in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of the ((declarant)) referenced person; or (d) has contributed more than twenty percent of the capital of the ((declarant)) referenced person. A person "is controlled by" ((a declarant)) another person if the ((declarant)) other person: (i) Is a general partner, officer,

- director, or employer of the person; (ii) directly or indirectly or 1 2 acting in concert with one or more other persons, or through one or more subsidiaries, owns, controls, holds with power to vote, or holds 3 proxies representing, more than twenty percent of the voting interest 4 5 in the person; (iii) controls in any manner the election of a majority of the directors of the person; or (iv) has contributed more than 6 7 twenty percent of the capital of the person. Control does not exist if the powers described in this subsection are held solely as security for 8 9 an obligation and are not exercised.
 - (2) "Allocated interests" means the undivided interest in the common elements, the common expense liability, and votes in the association allocated to each unit.
 - (3) "Assessment" means all sums chargeable by the association against a unit including, without limitation: (a) Regular and special assessments for common expenses, charges, and fines imposed by the association; (b) interest and late charges on any delinquent account; and (c) costs of collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the association in connection with the collection of a delinquent owner's account.
- 20 (4) "Association" or "unit owners' association" means the unit 21 owners' association organized under RCW 64.34.300.
 - (5) "Board of directors" means the body, regardless of name, with primary authority to manage the affairs of the association.
 - (6) "Common elements" means all portions of a condominium other than the units.
 - (7) "Common expenses" means expenditures made by or financial liabilities of the association, together with any allocations to reserves.
- 29 (8) "Common expense liability" means the liability for common 30 expenses allocated to each unit pursuant to RCW 64.34.224.
- 31 (9) "Condominium" means real property, portions of which are 32 designated for separate ownership and the remainder of which is 33 designated for common ownership solely by the owners of those portions. 34 Real property is not a condominium unless the undivided interests in 35 the common elements are vested in the unit owners, and unless a 36 declaration and a survey map and plans have been recorded pursuant to 37 this chapter.

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- (10) "Conversion condominium" means a condominium (a) that at any 1 2 time before creation of the condominium was lawfully occupied wholly or partially by a tenant or subtenant for residential purposes pursuant to 3 a rental agreement, oral or written, express or implied, for which the 4 5 tenant or subtenant had not received the notice described in (b) of this subsection; or (b) that, at any time within twelve months before 6 7 the conveyance of, or acceptance of an agreement to convey, any unit therein other than to a declarant or any affiliate of a declarant, was 8 lawfully occupied wholly or partially by a residential tenant of a 9 declarant or an affiliate of a declarant and such tenant was not 10 notified in writing, prior to lawfully occupying a unit or executing a 11 rental agreement, whichever event first occurs, that the unit was part 12 of a condominium and subject to sale. "Conversion condominium" shall 13 not include a condominium in which, before July 1, 1990, any unit 14 therein had been conveyed or been made subject to an agreement to 15 convey to any transferee other than a declarant or an affiliate of a 16 17 declarant.
 - (11) "Conveyance" means any transfer of the ownership of a unit, including a transfer by deed or by real estate contract and, with respect to a unit in a leasehold condominium, a transfer by lease or assignment thereof, but shall not include a transfer solely for security.

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- (12) "Dealer" means a person who, together with such person's affiliates, owns or has a right to acquire either six or more units in a condominium or fifty percent or more of the units in a condominium containing more than two units.
- (13) "Declarant" means ((any person or group of persons acting in concert who)):
- 29 (a) <u>Any person who</u> executes as declarant a declaration as defined 30 in subsection (15) of this section((7)); or
- 31 (b) ((reserves or succeeds to any special declarant right under))
 32 Any person who reserves any special declarant right in the declaration:
 33 or
- 34 (c) Any person who exercises special declarant rights or to whom
 35 special declarant rights are transferred; or
- 36 (d) Any person who is the owner of a fee interest in the real 37 property which is subjected to the declaration at the time of the 38 recording of an instrument pursuant to RCW 64.34.316 and who directly

- or through one or more affiliates is materially involved in the construction, marketing, or sale of units in the condominium created by the recording of the instrument.
 - (14) "Declarant control" means the right of the declarant or persons designated by the declarant to appoint and remove officers and members of the board of directors, or to veto or approve a proposed action of the board or association, pursuant to RCW 64.34.308 (4) or (5).
- 9 (15) "Declaration" means the document, however denominated, that 10 creates a condominium by setting forth the information required by RCW 11 64.34.216 and any amendments to that document.
 - (16) "Development rights" means any right or combination of rights reserved by a declarant in the declaration to: (a) Add real property or improvements to a condominium; (b) create units, common elements, or limited common elements within real property included or added to a condominium; (c) subdivide units or convert units into common elements; (d) withdraw real property from a condominium; or (e) reallocate limited common elements with respect to units that have not been conveyed by the declarant.
 - (17) "Dispose" or "disposition" means a voluntary transfer or conveyance to a purchaser or lessee of any legal or equitable interest in a unit, but does not include the transfer or release of a security interest.
 - (18) "Eligible mortgagee" means the holder of a mortgage on a unit that has filed with the secretary of the association a written request that it be given copies of notices of any action by the association that requires the consent of mortgagees.
 - (19) "Foreclosure" means a forfeiture or judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure of a mortgage or a deed in lieu thereof.
- 30 (20) "Identifying number" means the designation of each unit in a condominium.
 - (21) "Leasehold condominium" means a condominium in which all or a portion of the real property is subject to a lease, the expiration or termination of which will terminate the condominium or reduce its size.
- 35 (22) "Limited common element" means a portion of the common 36 elements allocated by the declaration or by operation of RCW 64.34.204 37 (2) or (4) for the exclusive use of one or more but fewer than all of 38 the units.

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- 1 (23) "Master association" means an organization described in RCW 64.34.276, whether or not it is also an association described in RCW 64.34.300.
- 4 (24) "Mortgage" means a mortgage, deed of trust or real estate 5 contract.
- 6 (25) "Person" means a natural person, corporation, partnership,
 7 limited partnership, trust, governmental subdivision or agency, or
 8 other legal entity.

- (26) "Purchaser" means any person, other than a declarant or a dealer, who by means of a disposition acquires a legal or equitable interest in a unit other than (a) a leasehold interest, including renewal options, of less than twenty years at the time of creation of the unit, or (b) as security for an obligation.
- (27) "Real property" means any fee, leasehold or other estate or interest in, over, or under land, including structures, fixtures, and other improvements thereon and easements, rights and interests appurtenant thereto which by custom, usage, or law pass with a conveyance of land although not described in the contract of sale or instrument of conveyance. "Real property" includes parcels, with or without upper or lower boundaries, and spaces that may be filled with air or water.
- 22 (28) "Residential purposes" means use for dwelling or recreational purposes, or both.
 - (29) "Special declarant rights" means rights reserved for the benefit of a declarant to: (a) Complete improvements indicated on survey maps and plans filed with the declaration under RCW 64.34.232; (b) exercise any development right under RCW 64.34.236; (c) maintain sales offices, management offices, signs advertising the condominium, and models under RCW 64.34.256; (d) use easements through the common elements for the purpose of making improvements within the condominium or within real property which may be added to the condominium under RCW 64.34.260; (e) make the condominium part of a larger condominium or a development under RCW 64.34.280; (f) make the condominium subject to a master association under RCW 64.34.276; or (g) appoint or remove any officer of the association or any master association or any member of the board of directors, or to veto or approve a proposed action of the board or association, during any period of declarant control under RCW 64.34.308(4).

- 1 (30) "Timeshare" shall have the meaning specified in the timeshare 2 act, RCW 64.36.010(11).
- 3 (31) "Unit" means a physical portion of the condominium designated 4 for separate ownership, the boundaries of which are described pursuant 5 to RCW 64.34.216(1)(d). "Separate ownership" includes leasing a unit 6 in a leasehold condominium under a lease that expires contemporaneously 7 with any lease, the expiration or termination of which will remove the 8 unit from the condominium.
- 9 (32) "Unit owner" means a declarant or other person who owns a unit 10 or leases a unit in a leasehold condominium under a lease that expires 11 simultaneously with any lease, the expiration or termination of which 12 will remove the unit from the condominium, but does not include a 13 person who has an interest in a unit solely as security for an 14 obligation. "Unit owner" means the vendee, not the vendor, of a unit 15 under a real estate contract.
- 16 **Sec. 10.** RCW 64.34.312 and 1989 c 43 s 3-104 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Within sixty days after the termination of the period of declarant control provided in RCW 64.34.308(4) or, in the absence of such period, within sixty days after the first conveyance of a unit in the condominium, the declarant shall deliver to the association all property of the unit owners and of the association held or controlled by the declarant including, but not limited to:
 - (a) The original or a photocopy of the recorded declaration and each amendment to the declaration;
 - (b) The certificate of incorporation and a copy or duplicate original of the articles of incorporation of the association as filed with the secretary of state;
 - (c) The bylaws of the association;
- 30 (d) The minute books, including all minutes, and other books and records of the association;
 - (e) Any rules and regulations that have been adopted;
- 33 (f) Resignations of officers and members of the board who are 34 required to resign because the declarant is required to relinquish 35 control of the association;
- 36 (g) The financial records, including canceled checks, bank

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statements, and financial statements of the association, and source documents from the time of incorporation of the association through the date of transfer of control to the unit owners;

- (h) Association funds or the control of the funds of the association;
- (i) All tangible personal property of the association, represented by the declarant to be the property of the association or ostensibly the property of the association, and an inventory of the property;
- (j) Except for alterations to a unit done by a unit owner other than the declarant, a copy of the declarant's plans and specifications utilized in the construction or remodeling of the condominium, with a certificate of the declarant or a licensed architect or engineer that the plans and specifications represent, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the actual plans and specifications utilized by the declarant in the construction or remodeling of the condominium;
- (k) Insurance policies or copies thereof for the condominium and association;
- (1) Copies of any certificates of occupancy that may have been issued for the condominium;
- (m) Any other permits issued by governmental bodies applicable to the condominium in force or issued within one year before the date of transfer of control to the unit owners;
- (n) All written warranties that are still in effect for the common elements, or any other areas or facilities which the association has the responsibility to maintain and repair, from the contractor, subcontractors, suppliers, and manufacturers and all owners' manuals or instructions furnished to the declarant with respect to installed equipment or building systems;
- (o) A roster of unit owners and eligible mortgagees and their addresses and telephone numbers, if known, as shown on the declarant's records and the date of closing of the first sale of each unit sold by the declarant;
- (p) Any leases of the common elements or areas and other leases to which the association is a party;
- (q) Any employment contracts or service contracts in which the association is one of the contracting parties or service contracts in which the association or the unit owners have an obligation or a

responsibility, directly or indirectly, to pay some or all of the fee 1 2 or charge of the person performing the service; ((and))

- (r) A copy of any qualified warranty issued to the association as provided for in section 1001 of this act; and
 - (s) All other contracts to which the association is a party.
- (2) Upon the transfer of control to the unit owners, the records of 6 7 the association shall be audited as of the date of transfer by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally 8 accepted auditing standards unless the unit owners, other than the 9 declarant, by two-thirds vote elect to waive the audit. 10 The cost of the audit shall be a common expense unless otherwise provided in the 11 12 declaration. The accountant performing the audit shall examine 13 supporting documents and records, including the cash disbursements and related paid invoices, to determine if expenditures were for 14 association purposes and the billings, cash receipts, and related 15 16 records to determine if the declarant was charged for and paid the 17 proper amount of assessments.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 64.34.410 and 2002 c 323 s 10 are each amended to 18 read as follows: 19
- 20 (1) A public offering statement shall contain the following 21 information:
 - (a) The name and address of the condominium;
 - (b) The name and address of the declarant;
 - (c) The name and address of the management company, if any;
- 25 (d) The relationship of the management company to the declarant, if 26 any;
 - (e) A list of up to the five most recent condominium projects completed by the declarant or an affiliate of the declarant within the past five years, including the names of the condominiums, their addresses, and the number of existing units in each. For the purpose of this section, a condominium is "completed" when any one unit therein has been rented or sold;
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- (f) The nature of the interest being offered for sale; 33
- (g) A brief description of the permitted uses and use restrictions 34 pertaining to the units and the common elements; 35
- 36 (h) A brief description of the restrictions, if any, on the renting

or leasing of units by the declarant or other unit owners, together with the rights, if any, of the declarant to rent or lease at least a majority of units;

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- (i) The number of existing units in the condominium and the maximum number of units that may be added to the condominium;
- (j) A list of the principal common amenities in the condominium which materially affect the value of the condominium and those that will or may be added to the condominium;
- 9 (k) A list of the limited common elements assigned to the units 10 being offered for sale;
- 11 (1) The identification of any real property not in the condominium, 12 the owner of which has access to any of the common elements, and a 13 description of the terms of such access;
 - (m) The identification of any real property not in the condominium to which unit owners have access and a description of the terms of such access;
- 17 (n) The status of construction of the units and common elements, 18 including estimated dates of completion if not completed;
- 19 (o) The estimated current common expense liability for the units 20 being offered;
 - (p) An estimate of any payment with respect to the common expense liability for the units being offered which will be due at closing;
 - (q) The estimated current amount and purpose of any fees not included in the common expenses and charged by the declarant or the association for the use of any of the common elements;
 - (r) Any assessments which have been agreed to or are known to the declarant and which, if not paid, may constitute a lien against any units or common elements in favor of any governmental agency;
 - (s) The identification of any parts of the condominium, other than the units, which any individual owner will have the responsibility for maintaining;
 - (t) If the condominium involves a conversion condominium, the information required by RCW 64.34.415;
- 34 (u) Whether timesharing is restricted or prohibited, and if 35 restricted, a general description of such restrictions;
- 36 (v) A list of all development rights reserved to the declarant and 37 all special declarant rights reserved to the declarant, together with

the dates such rights must terminate, and a copy of or reference by recording number to any recorded transfer of a special declarant right;

- (w) A description of any material differences in terms of furnishings, fixtures, finishes, and equipment between any model unit available to the purchaser at the time the agreement for sale is executed and the unit being offered;
- (x) Any liens on real property to be conveyed to the association required to be disclosed pursuant to RCW 64.34.435(2)(b);
- (y) A list of any physical hazards known to the declarant which particularly affect the condominium or the immediate vicinity in which the condominium is located and which are not readily ascertainable by the purchaser;
- 13 (z) A brief description of any construction warranties to be 14 provided to the purchaser;
 - (aa) Any building code violation citations received by the declarant in connection with the condominium which have not been corrected;
 - (bb) A statement of any unsatisfied judgments or pending suits against the association, a statement of the status of any pending suits material to the condominium of which the declarant has actual knowledge, and a statement of any litigation brought by an owners' association, unit owner, or governmental entity in which the declarant or any affiliate of the declarant has been a defendant, arising out of the construction, sale, or administration of any condominium within the previous five years, together with the results thereof, if known;
 - (cc) Any rights of first refusal to lease or purchase any unit or any of the common elements;
 - (dd) The extent to which the insurance provided by the association covers furnishings, fixtures, and equipment located in the unit;
 - (ee) A notice which describes a purchaser's right to cancel the purchase agreement or extend the closing under RCW 64.34.420, including applicable time frames and procedures;
 - (ff) Any reports or statements required by RCW 64.34.415 or 64.34.440(6)(a). RCW 64.34.415 shall apply to the public offering statement of a condominium in connection with which a final certificate of occupancy was issued more than sixty calendar months prior to the preparation of the public offering statement whether or not the

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1 condominium is a conversion condominium as defined in RCW 2 64.34.020(10);

- (gg) A list of the documents which the prospective purchaser is entitled to receive from the declarant before the rescission period commences;
 - (hh) A notice which states: A purchaser may not rely on any representation or express warranty unless it is contained in the public offering statement or made in writing signed by the declarant or by any person identified in the public offering statement as the declarant's agent;
- (ii) A notice which states: This public offering statement is only a summary of some of the significant aspects of purchasing a unit in this condominium and the condominium documents are complex, contain other important information, and create binding legal obligations. You should consider seeking the assistance of legal counsel;
- (jj) Any other information and cross-references which the declarant believes will be helpful in describing the condominium to the recipients of the public offering statement, all of which may be included or not included at the option of the declarant;
- (kk) A notice that addresses compliance or noncompliance with the housing for older persons act of 1995, P.L. 104-76, as enacted on December 28, 1995; ((and))
- 23 (11) A notice that is substantially in the form required by RCW 24 64.50.050; and
 - (mm) A statement, as required by section 301 of this act, as to whether the units or common elements of the condominium are covered by a qualified warranty, and a history of claims under any such warranty.
 - (2) The public offering statement shall include copies of each of the following documents: The declaration, the survey map and plans, the articles of incorporation of the association, bylaws of the association, rules and regulations, if any, current or proposed budget for the association, and the balance sheet of the association current within ninety days if assessments have been collected for ninety days or more.
- If any of the foregoing documents listed in this subsection are not available because they have not been executed, adopted, or recorded, drafts of such documents shall be provided with the public offering

- statement, and, before closing the sale of a unit, the purchaser shall be given copies of any material changes between the draft of the proposed documents and the final documents.
- 4 (3) The disclosures required by subsection (1)(g), (k), (s), (u), 5 (v), and (cc) of this section shall also contain a reference to specific sections in the condominium documents which further explain 7 the information disclosed.
- 8 (4) The disclosures required by subsection (1)(ee), (hh), (ii), and 9 (11) of this section shall be located at the top of the first page of the public offering statement and be typed or printed in ten-point bold face type size.
- 12 (5) A declarant shall promptly amend the public offering statement 13 to reflect any material change in the information required by this 14 section.
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 5 and 6 of this act apply only to condominiums created by declarations recorded on or after July 1, 2004.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. Sections 1 through 13 of this act take effect July 1, 2004.

24 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 101. DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
 - (1) "Affiliate" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 29 (2) "Association" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 30 (3) "Building envelope" means the assemblies, components, and 31 materials of a building that are intended to separate and protect the 32 interior space of the building from the adverse effects of exterior
- 33 climatic conditions.

- 1 (4) "Common element" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 2 (5) "Condominium" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 3 (6) "Construction professional" has the meaning in RCW 64.50.010.
- 4 (7) "Conversion condominium" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 5 (8) "Declarant" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.

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- (9) "Declarant control" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
- 7 (10) "Defect" means any aspect of a condominium unit or common 8 element which constitutes a breach of the implied warranties set forth 9 in RCW 64.34.445.
 - (11) "Limited common element" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
 - (12) "Material" means substantive, not simply formal; significant to a reasonable person; not trivial or insignificant. When used with respect to a particular construction defect, "material" does not require that the construction defect render the unit or common element unfit for its intended purpose or uninhabitable.
 - (13) "Mediation" means a collaborative process in which two or more parties meet and attempt, with the assistance of a mediator, to resolve issues in dispute between them.
 - (14) "Mediation session" means a meeting between two or more parties to a dispute during which they are engaged in mediation.
 - (15) "Mediator" means a neutral and impartial facilitator with no decision-making power who assists parties in negotiating a mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute between them.
 - (16) "Person" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.
 - (17) "Public offering statement" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.410.
 - (18) "Qualified insurer" means an entity that holds a certificate of authority under RCW 48.05.030, or an eligible insurer under chapter 48.15 RCW.
- 29 (19) "Qualified warranty" means an insurance policy issued by a 30 qualified insurer that complies with the requirements of this chapter.
- A qualified warranty includes coverage for repair of physical damage caused by the defects covered by the qualified warranty, except to the extent of any exclusions and limitations under this chapter.
- 34 (20) "Resale certificate" means the statement to be delivered by 35 the association under RCW 64.34.425.
- 36 (21) "Transition date" means the date on which the declarant is 37 required to deliver to the association the property of the association 38 under RCW 64.34.312.

- (22) "Unit" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020. 1
- 2 (23) "Unit owner" has the meaning in RCW 64.34.020.

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4 EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AND PROCEDURE

IN CASES WHERE A QUALIFIED WARRANTY IS PROVIDED

NEW SECTION. Sec. 201. No declarant, affiliate of a declarant, or 6 7 construction professional is liable to a unit owner or an association for damages awarded for repair of construction defects and resulting 8 physical damage, and chapter 64.50 RCW shall not apply if: (1) Every 9 unit is the subject of a qualified warranty; and (2) the association 10 has been issued a qualified warranty with respect to the common elements. If a construction professional agrees on terms satisfactory 12 to the qualified insurer to partially or fully indemnify the qualified 13 14 insurer with respect to a defect caused by the construction professional, the liability of the construction professional for the defect and resulting physical damage caused by him or her shall not 16 exceed damages recoverable under the terms of the qualified warranty 17 for the defect. Any indemnity claim by the qualified insurer shall be by separate action or arbitration, and no unit owner or association 19 20 shall be joined therein. A qualified warranty may also be provided in the case of improvements made or contracted for by a declarant as part of a conversion condominium, and in such case, declarant's liability 22 with respect to such improvements shall be limited as set forth in this 23 section. 24

25 ARTICLE 3 26 DISCLOSURE

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 301.** (1) Every public offering statement and resale certificate shall affirmatively state whether or not the unit and/or the common elements are covered by a qualified warranty, and shall provide to the best knowledge of the person preparing the public offering statement or resale certificate a history of claims under the warranty.

(2) The history of claims must include, for each claim, not less

- 1 than the following information for the unit and/or the common elements,
- 2 as applicable, to the best knowledge of the person providing the
- 3 information:
- 4 (a) The type of claim that was made;
- 5 (b) The resolution of the claim;
- 6 (c) The type of repair performed;
- 7 (d) The date of the repair;
- 8 (e) The cost of the repair; and
- 9 (f) The name of the person or entity who performed the repair.

11 MINIMUM COVERAGE STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED WARRANTIES

- 12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 401.** TWO-YEAR MATERIALS AND LABOR WARRANTY.
- 13 (1) The minimum coverage for the two-year materials and labor warranty
- 14 is
- 15 (a) In the first twelve months, for other than the common elements,
- 16 (i) coverage for any defect in materials and labor; and (ii) subject to
- 17 subsection (2) of this section, coverage for a violation of the
- 18 building code;
- 19 (b) In the first fifteen months, for the common elements, (i)
- 20 coverage for any defect in materials and labor; and (ii) subject to
- 21 subsection (2) of this section, coverage for a violation of the
- 22 building code;
- 23 (c) In the first twenty-four months, (i) coverage for any defect in
- 24 materials and labor supplied for the electrical, plumbing, heating,
- 25 ventilation, and air conditioning delivery and distribution systems;
- 26 (ii) coverage for any defect in materials and labor supplied for the
- 27 exterior cladding, caulking, windows, and doors that may lead to
- 28 detachment or material damage to the unit or common elements; (iii)
- 29 coverage for any defect in materials and labor which renders the unit
- 30 unfit to live in; and (iv) subject to subsection (2) of this section,
- 31 coverage for a violation of the building code.
- 32 (2) Noncompliance with the building code is considered a defect
- 33 covered by a qualified warranty if the noncompliance:
- 34 (a) Constitutes an unreasonable health or safety risk; or
- 35 (b) Has resulted in, or is likely to result in, material damage to
- 36 the unit or common elements.

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 402. FIVE-YEAR BUILDING ENVELOPE WARRANTY. The minimum coverage for the building envelope warranty is five years for defects in the building envelope of a condominium, including a defect which permits unintended water penetration so that it causes, or is likely to cause, material damage to the unit or common elements.
- 6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 403.** TEN-YEAR STRUCTURAL DEFECTS WARRANTY. The 7 minimum coverage for the structural defects warranty is ten years for:
- 8 (1) Any defect in materials and labor that results in the failure 9 of a load-bearing part of the condominium; and
- 10 (2) Any defect which causes structural damage that materially and 11 adversely affects the use of the condominium for residential occupancy.
- 12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 404.** BEGINNING DATES FOR WARRANTY COVERAGE.
- 13 (1) For the unit, the beginning date of the qualified warranty coverage 14 is the earlier of:
 - (a) Actual occupancy of the unit; or
 - (b) Transfer of legal title to the unit.
- 17 (2) For the common elements, the beginning date of a qualified 18 warranty is the date a temporary or final certificate of occupancy is 19 issued for the common elements in each separate multiunit building, 20 comprised by the condominium.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 405. BEGINNING DATES FOR SPECIAL CASES;
 DECLARANT CONTROL. (1) If an unsold unit is occupied as a rental unit,
 the qualified warranty beginning date for such unit is the date the
 unit is first occupied.
 - (2) If the declarant subsequently offers to sell a unit which is rented, the declarant must disclose, in writing, to each prospective purchaser, the date on which the qualified warranty expires.
 - (3) If the declarant retains any declarant control over the association on the date that is fourteen full calendar months following the month in which the beginning date for common element warranty coverage commences, the declarant shall within thirty days thereafter cause an election to be held in which the declarant may not vote, for the purpose of electing one or more board members who are empowered to make warranty claims. If at such time, one or more independent board members hold office, no additional election need be held, and such

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- 1 independent board members are empowered to make warranty claims. The
- 2 declarant shall inform all independent board members of their right to
- 3 make warranty claims at no later than sixteen full calendar months
- 4 following the beginning date of the common element warranty.
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 406.** LIVING EXPENSE ALLOWANCE. (1) If repairs are required under the qualified warranty and damage to the unit, or the extent of the repairs renders the unit uninhabitable, the qualified warranty must cover reasonable living expenses incurred by the owner to live elsewhere in an amount commensurate with the nature of the unit.
 - (2) If a qualified insurer establishes a maximum amount per day for claims for living expenses, the limit must be the greater of one hundred dollars per day or a reasonable amount commensurate with the nature of the unit for the complete reimbursement of the actual accommodation expenses incurred by the owner at a hotel, motel, or other rental accommodation up to the day the unit is ready for occupancy, subject to the owner receiving twenty-four hours' advance notice.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 407. WARRANTY ON REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS. (1)
 All repairs and replacements made under a qualified warranty must be
 warranted by the qualified warranty against defects in materials and
 labor until the later of:
- 22 (a) The first anniversary of the date of completion of the repair 23 or replacement; or
 - (b) The expiration of the applicable qualified warranty coverage.
- 25 (2) All repairs and replacements made under a qualified warranty 26 must be completed in a reasonable manner using materials and labor 27 conforming to the building code and industry standards.

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PERMITTED TERMS FOR QUALIFIED WARRANTIES

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 501. A qualified insurer may include any of the following provisions in a qualified warranty:
- 32 (1) If the qualified insurer makes a payment or assumes liability 33 for any payment or repair under a qualified warranty, the owner and 34 association must fully support and assist the qualified insurer in

pursuing any rights that the qualified insurer may have against the declarant, and any construction professional that has contractual or common law obligations to the declarant, whether such rights arose by contract, subrogation, or otherwise.

- (2) Warranties or representations made by a declarant which are in addition to the warranties set forth in this chapter are not binding on the qualified insurer unless and to the extent specifically provided in the text of the warranty; and disclaimers of specific defects made by agreement between the declarant and the unit purchaser under RCW 64.34.450 act as an exclusion of the specified defect from the warranty coverage.
- (3) An owner and the association must permit the qualified insurer or declarant, or both, to enter the unit at reasonable times, after reasonable notice to the owner and the association:
 - (a) To monitor the unit or its components;
 - (b) To inspect for required maintenance;
 - (c) To investigate complaints or claims; or
- (d) To undertake repairs under the qualified warranty.
 - If any reports are produced as a result of any of the activities referred to in (a) through (d) of this subsection, the reports must be provided to the owner and the association.
 - (4) An owner and the association must provide to the qualified insurer all information and documentation that the owner and the association have available, as reasonably required by the qualified insurer to investigate a claim or maintenance requirement, or to undertake repairs under the qualified warranty.
 - (5) To the extent any damage to a unit is caused or made worse by the unreasonable refusal of the association, or an owner or occupant to permit the qualified insurer or declarant access to the unit for the reasons in subsection (3) of this section, or to provide the information required by subsection (4) of this section, that damage is excluded from the qualified warranty.
 - (6) In any claim under a qualified warranty issued to the association, the association shall have the sole right to prosecute and settle any claim with respect to the common elements.

36 ARTICLE 6

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 601. (1) A qualified insurer may exclude from a qualified warranty:
- 4 (a) Landscaping, both hard and soft, including plants, fencing, 5 detached patios, planters not forming a part of the building envelope, 6 gazebos, and similar structures;
- 7 (b) Any commercial use area and any construction associated with a 8 commercial use area;
 - (c) Roads, curbs, and lanes;

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- 10 (d) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, site grading and 11 surface drainage except as required by the building code;
- 12 (e) Municipal services operation, including sanitary and storm 13 sewer;
 - (f) Septic tanks or septic fields;
- 15 (g) The quality or quantity of water, from either a piped municipal water supply or a well;
- (h) A water well, but excluding equipment installed for the operation of a water well used exclusively for a unit, which equipment is part of the plumbing system for that unit for the purposes of the qualified warranty.
- 21 (2) The exclusions permitted by subsection (1) of this section do 22 not include any of the following:
 - (a) A driveway or walkway;
- 24 (b) Recreational and amenity facilities situated in, or included as 25 the common property of, a unit;
 - (c) A parking structure in a multiunit building;
- 27 (d) A retaining wall that:
- 28 (i) An authority with jurisdiction requires to be designed by a 29 professional engineer; or
- 30 (ii) Is reasonably required for the direct support of, or retaining 31 soil away from, a unit, driveway, or walkway.
- 32 ARTICLE 7
- 33 PERMITTED EXCLUSIONS--DEFECTS
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 701. A qualified insurer may exclude any or all of the following items from a qualified warranty:

- 1 (1) Weathering, normal wear and tear, deterioration, or deflection 2 consistent with normal industry standards;
- 3 (2) Normal shrinkage of materials caused by drying after 4 construction;
 - (3) Any loss or damage which arises while a unit is being used primarily or substantially for nonresidential purposes;
 - (4) Materials, labor, or design supplied by an owner;
- 8 (5) Any damage to the extent caused or made worse by an owner or third party, including:
 - (a) Negligent or improper maintenance or improper operation by anyone other than the declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors;
 - (b) Failure of anyone, other than the declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors, to comply with the warranty requirements of the manufacturers of appliances, equipment, or fixtures;
 - (c) Alterations to the unit, including converting nonliving space into living space or converting a unit into two or more units, by anyone other than the declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors while undertaking their obligations under the sales contract; and
- 21 (d) Changes to the grading of the ground by anyone other than the 22 declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors;
 - (6) An owner failing to take timely action to prevent or minimize loss or damage, including failing to give prompt notice to the qualified insurer of a defect or discovered loss, or a potential defect or loss;
 - (7) Any damage caused by insects, rodents, or other animals, unless the damage results from noncompliance with the building code by the declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors;
 - (8) Accidental loss or damage from acts of nature including, but not limited to, fire, explosion, smoke, water escape, glass breakage, windstorm, hail, lightning, falling trees, aircraft, vehicles, flood, earthquake, avalanche, landslide, and changes in the level of the underground water table which are not reasonably foreseeable by the declarant;
- 36 (9) Bodily injury or damage to personal property or real property 37 which is not part of a unit;

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- 1 (10) Any defect in, or caused by, materials or work supplied by 2 anyone other than the declarant, an affiliate of a declarant, or their 3 respective contractors, employees, agents, or subcontractors;
 - (11) Changes, alterations, or additions made to a unit by anyone after initial occupancy, except those performed by the declarant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors as required by the qualified warranty or under the construction contract or sales agreement;
 - (12) Contaminated soil;

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- 9 (13) Subsidence of the land around a unit or along utility lines, 10 other than subsidence beneath footings of a unit or under driveways or 11 walkways;
- 12 (14) Diminution in the value of the unit.

13 ARTICLE 8

MONETARY LIMITS ON QUALIFIED WARRANTY COVERAGE

- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 801.** (1) A qualified insurer may establish a monetary limit on the amount of the warranty. Any limit must not be less than:
- 18 (a) For a unit, the lesser of (i) the original purchase price paid 19 by the owner, or (ii) one hundred thousand dollars;
 - (b) For common elements, the lesser of (i) the total original purchase price for all components of the multiunit building, or (ii) one hundred fifty thousand dollars times the number of units of the condominium.
 - (2) When calculating the cost of warranty claims under the standard limits under a qualified warranty, a qualified insurer may include:
 - (a) The cost of repairs;
- 27 (b) The cost of any investigation, engineering, and design required 28 for the repairs; and
- 29 (c) The cost of supervision of repairs, including professional 30 review, but excluding legal costs.
- 31 (3) The minimum amounts in subsections (1) and (2) of this section 32 shall be adjusted at the end of each calendar year after the effective 33 date by an amount equal to the percentage change in the consumer price 34 index for all urban consumers, all items, as published from time to 35 time by the United States department of labor. The adjustment does not 36 affect any qualified warranty issued before the adjustment date.

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PROHIBITED POLICY PROVISIONS

NEW SECTION. Sec. 901. (1) A qualified insurer must not include in a qualified warranty any provision that requires an owner or the association:

- (a) To sign a release before repairs are performed under the qualified warranty; or
- (b) To pay a deductible in excess of five hundred dollars for the repair of any defect in a unit covered by the qualified warranty, or in excess of the lesser of five hundred dollars per unit or ten thousand dollars in the aggregate for any defect in the common elements.
- 12 (2) All exclusions must be permitted by this chapter and stated in 13 the qualified warranty.

14 ARTICLE 10

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

NEW SECTION. Sec. **1001.** (1) Ιf coverage under a qualified warranty is conditional on an owner undertaking proper maintenance, or if coverage is excluded for damage caused by negligence by the owner or association with respect to maintenance or repair by the owner or association, the conditions or exclusions apply only to maintenance requirements or procedures: (a) Provided to the original owner in the case of the unit warranty, and to the association for the common element warranty with an estimation of the required cost thereof for the common element warranty provided in the budget prepared by the declarant; or (b) that would be obvious to a reasonable and prudent layperson. Recommended maintenance requirements and procedures are sufficient for purposes of this subsection if consistent with knowledge generally available in the construction industry at the time the qualified warranty is issued.

(2) If an original owner or the association has not been provided with the manufacturer's documentation or warranty information, or both, or with recommended maintenance and repair procedures for any component of a unit, the relevant exclusion does not apply. The common element warranty is included in the written warranty to be provided to the association under RCW 64.34.312.

1	ARTICLE 11
2	MANDATORY NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF WARRANTY
3	NEW SECTION. Sec. 1101. (1) A qualified insurer must, as soon as
4	reasonably possible after the beginning date for the qualified
5	warranty, provide an owner and association with a schedule of the
6	expiration dates for coverages under the qualified warranty as
7	applicable to the unit and the common elements, respectively.
8	(2) The expiration date schedule for a unit must set out all the
9	required dates on an adhesive label that is a minimum size of four
10	inches by four inches and is suitable for affixing by the owner in a
11	conspicuous location in the unit.
12	ARTICLE 12
13	DUTY TO MITIGATE
14	NEW SECTION. Sec. 1201. (1) The qualified insurer may require an
15	owner or association to mitigate any damage to a unit or the common
16	elements, including damage caused by defects or water penetration, as
17	set out in the qualified warranty.
18	(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, for defects covered
19	by the qualified warranty, the duty to mitigate is met through timely
20	notice in writing to the qualified insurer.
21	(3) The owner must take all reasonable steps to restrict damage to
22	the unit if the defect requires immediate attention.
23	(4) The owner's duty to mitigate survives even if:
24	(a) The unit is unoccupied;
25	(b) The unit is occupied by someone other than the owner;
26	(c) Water penetration does not appear to be causing damage; or
27	(d) The owner advises the homeowners' association corporation about
28	the defect.
29	(5) If damage to a unit is caused or made worse by the failure of
30	an owner to take reasonable steps to mitigate as set out in this
31	section, the damage may, at the option of the qualified insurer, be
32	excluded from qualified warranty coverage.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1301. (1) Within a reasonable time after the discovery of a defect and before the expiration of the applicable qualified warranty coverage, a claimant must give to the qualified insurer and the declarant written notice in reasonable detail that provides particulars of any specific defects covered by the qualified warranty.
- 7 (2) The qualified insurer may require the notice under subsection 8 (1) of this section to include:
 - (a) The qualified warranty number; and
- 10 (b) Copies of any relevant documentation and correspondence between 11 the claimant and the declarant, to the extent any such documentation 12 and correspondence is in the control or possession of the claimant.

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14 HANDLING OF CLAIMS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1401. A qualified insurer must, on receipt of a notice of a claim under a qualified warranty, promptly make reasonable attempts to contact the claimant to arrange an evaluation of the claim. Claims shall be handled in accordance with the claims procedures set forth in rules by the insurance commissioner, and as follows:
 - (1) The qualified insurer must make all reasonable efforts to avoid delays in responding to a claim under a qualified warranty, evaluating the claim, and scheduling any required repairs.
 - (2) If, after evaluating a claim under a qualified warranty, the qualified insurer determines that the claim is not valid, or not covered under the qualified warranty, the qualified insurer must: (a) Notify the claimant of the decision in writing; (b) set out the reasons for the decision; and (c) set out the rights of the parties under the third-party dispute resolution process for the warranty.
 - (3) Repairs must be undertaken in a timely manner, with reasonable consideration given to weather conditions and the availability of materials and labor.
 - (4) On completing any repairs, the qualified insurer must deliver a copy of the repair specifications to the claimant along with a letter confirming the date the repairs were completed and referencing the repair warranty provided for in section 407 of this act.

MEDIATION OF DISPUTED CLAIMS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1501. (1) If a dispute between a qualified insurer and a claimant arising under a qualified warranty cannot be resolved by informal negotiation within a reasonable time, the claimant or qualified insurer may require that the dispute be referred to mediation by delivering written notice to the other to mediate.
- (2) If a party delivers a request to mediate under subsection (1) of this section, the qualified insurer and the party must attend a mediation session in relation to the dispute and may invite to participate in the mediation any other party to the dispute who may be liable.
- (3) Within twenty-one days after the party has delivered a request to mediate under subsection (1) of this section, the parties must, directly or with the assistance of an independent, neutral person or organization, jointly appoint a mutually acceptable mediator.
- (4) If the parties do not jointly appoint a mutually acceptable mediator within the time required by subsection (3) of this section, the party may apply to the superior court of the county where the project is located, which must appoint a mediator taking into account:
 - (a) The need for the mediator to be neutral and independent;
 - (b) The qualifications of the mediator;
 - (c) The mediator's fees;
 - (d) The mediator's availability; and
- (e) Any other consideration likely to result in the selection of an impartial, competent, and effective mediator.
 - (5) After selecting the mediator under subsection (4) of this section, the superior court must promptly notify the parties in writing of that selection.
 - (6) The mediator selected by the superior court is deemed to be appointed by the parties effective the date of the notice sent under subsection (5) of this section.
 - (7) The first mediation session must occur within twenty-one days of the appointment of the mediator at the date, time, and place selected by the mediator.
 - (8) A party may attend a mediation session by representative if:
- 37 (a) The party is under a legal disability and the representative is 38 that party's guardian ad litem;

1 (b) The party is not an individual; or

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- 2 (c) The party is a resident of a jurisdiction other than Washington 3 and will not be in Washington at the time of the mediation session.
 - (9) A representative who attends a mediation session in the place of a party as permitted by subsection (8) of this section:
 - (a) Must be familiar with all relevant facts on which the party, on whose behalf the representative attends, intends to rely; and
- 8 (b) Must have full authority to settle, or have immediate access to 9 a person who has full authority to settle, on behalf of the party on 10 whose behalf the representative attends.
- 11 (10) A party or a representative who attends the mediation session 12 may be accompanied by counsel.
- 13 (11) Any other person may attend a mediation session on consent of 14 all parties or their representatives.
- 15 (12) At least seven days before the first mediation session is to 16 be held, each party must deliver to the mediator a statement briefly 17 setting out:
 - (a) The facts on which the party intends to rely; and
- 19 (b) The matters in dispute.
- 20 (13) The mediator must promptly send each party's statement to each 21 of the other parties.
- 22 (14) Before the first mediation session, the parties must enter 23 into a retainer agreement with the mediator which must:
 - (a) Disclose the cost of the mediation services; and
 - (b) Provide that the cost of the mediation will be paid:
 - (i) Equally by the parties; or
- 27 (ii) On any other specified basis agreed by the parties.
- 28 (15) The mediator may conduct the mediation in any manner he or she 29 considers appropriate to assist the parties to reach a resolution that 30 is timely, fair, and cost-effective.
- 31 (16) A person may not disclose, or be compelled to disclose, in any 32 proceeding, oral or written information acquired or an opinion formed, 33 including, without limitation, any offer or admission made in 34 anticipation of or during a mediation session.
- 35 (17) Nothing in subsection (16) of this section precludes a party 36 from introducing into evidence in a proceeding any information or 37 records produced in the course of the mediation that are otherwise 38 producible or compellable in those proceedings.

- 1 (18) A mediation session is concluded when:
- 2 (a) All issues are resolved;
- 3 (b) The mediator determines that the process will not be productive 4 and so advises the parties or their representatives; or
- 5 (c) The mediation session is completed and there is no agreement to 6 continue.
 - (19) If the mediation resolves some but not all issues, the mediator may, at the request of all parties, complete a report setting out any agreements made as a result of the mediation, including, without limitation, any agreements made by the parties on any of the following:
- 12 (a) Facts;

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- 13 (b) Issues; and
- 14 (c) Future procedural steps.
- 15 ARTICLE 16
 16 ARBITRATION
 - NEW SECTION. Sec. 1601. A qualified warranty may include mandatory binding arbitration of all disputes arising out of or in connection with a qualified warranty. The provision may provide that all claims for a single condominium be heard by the same arbitrator, but shall not permit the joinder or consolidation of any other person or entity. The arbitration shall comply with the following minimum procedural standards:
 - (1) Any demand for arbitration shall be delivered by certified mail return receipt requested, and by ordinary first class mail. The party initiating the arbitration shall address the notice to the address last known to the initiating party in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and also, for any entity which is required to have a registered agent in the state of Washington, to the address of the registered agent. Demand for arbitration is deemed effective three days after the date deposited in the mail;
 - (2) All disputes shall be heard by one qualified arbitrator, unless the parties agree to use three arbitrators. If three arbitrators are used, one shall be appointed by each of the disputing parties and the first two arbitrators shall appoint the third, who will chair the panel. The parties shall select the identity and number of the

- arbitrator or arbitrators after the demand for arbitration is made.

 If, within thirty days after the effective date of the demand for arbitration, the parties fail to agree on an arbitrator or the agreed number of arbitrators fail to be appointed, then an arbitrator or arbitrators shall be appointed under RCW 7.04.050 by the presiding judge of the superior court of the county in which the condominium is located;
 - (3) In any arbitration, at least one arbitrator must be a lawyer or retired judge. Any additional arbitrator must be either a lawyer or retired judge or a person who has experience with construction and engineering standards and practices, written construction warranties, or construction dispute resolution. No person may serve as an arbitrator in any arbitration in which that person has any past or present financial or personal interest;
 - (4) The arbitration hearing must be conducted in a manner that permits full, fair, and expeditious presentation of the case by both parties. The arbitrator is bound by the law of Washington state. Parties may be, but are not required to be, represented by attorneys. The arbitrator may permit discovery to ensure a fair hearing, but may limit the scope or manner of discovery for good cause to avoid excessive delay and costs to the parties. The parties and the arbitrator shall use all reasonable efforts to complete the arbitration within six months of the effective date of the demand for arbitration or, when applicable, the service of the list of defects in accordance with RCW 64.50.030;
 - (5) Except as otherwise set forth in this section, arbitration shall be conducted under chapter 7.04 RCW, unless the parties elect to use the construction industry arbitration rules of the American arbitration association, which are permitted to the extent not inconsistent with this section. The expenses of witnesses including expert witnesses shall be paid by the party producing the witnesses. All other expenses of arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties, unless all parties agree otherwise or unless the arbitrator awards expenses or any part thereof to any specified party or parties. The parties shall pay the fees of the arbitrator as and when specified by the arbitrator;
- 37 (6) Demand for arbitration given pursuant to subsection (1) of this 38 section commences a judicial proceeding for purposes of RCW 64.34.452;

1 (7) The arbitration decision shall be in writing and must set forth 2 findings of fact and conclusions of law that support the decision.

3 ARTICLE 17

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4 ATTORNEYS' FEES

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1701. In any judicial proceeding or arbitration brought to enforce the terms of a qualified warranty, the court or arbitrator may award reasonable attorneys' fees to the substantially prevailing party. In no event may such fees exceed the reasonable hourly value of the attorney's work.

10 ARTICLE 18

11 TRANSFER

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1801. (1) A qualified warranty pertains solely to the unit and common elements for which it provides coverage and no notice to the qualified insurer is required on a change of ownership.

(2) All of the applicable unused benefits under a qualified warranty with respect to a unit are automatically transferred to any subsequent owner on a change of ownership.

18 ARTICLE 19

ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARANT FOR QUALIFIED WARRANTY

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1901. (1) No insurer is bound to offer a qualified warranty to any person. Except as specifically set forth in this section, the terms of any qualified warranty are set in the sole discretion of the qualified insurer. Without limiting the generality of this subsection, a qualified insurer may make inquiries about the applicant as follows:

- (a) Does the applicant have the financial resources to undertake the construction of the number of units being proposed by the applicant's business plan for the following twelve months;
- (b) Does the applicant and its directors, officers, employees, and consultants possess the necessary technical expertise to adequately perform their individual functions with respect to their proposed role in the construction and sale of units;

- 1 (c) Does the applicant and its directors and officers have 2 sufficient experience in business management to properly manage the 3 unit construction process;
 - (d) Does the applicant and its directors, officers, and employees have sufficient practical experience to undertake the proposed unit construction;
 - (e) Does the past conduct of the applicant and its directors, officers, employees, and consultants provide a reasonable indication of good business practices, and reasonable grounds for belief that its undertakings will be carried on in accordance with all legal requirements; and
 - (f) Is the applicant reasonably able to provide, or to cause to be provided, after-sale customer service for the units to be constructed.
 - (2) A qualified insurer may charge a fee to make the inquiries permitted by subsection (1) of this section.
 - (3) Before approving a qualified warranty for a condominium, a qualified insurer may make such inquiries and impose such conditions as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion, including without limitation the following:
 - (a) To determine if the applicant has the necessary capitalization or financing in place, including any reasonable contingency reserves, to undertake construction of the proposed unit;
 - (b) To determine if the applicant or, in the case of a corporation, its directors, officers, employees, and consultants possess reasonable technical expertise to construct the proposed unit, including specific technical knowledge or expertise in any building systems, construction methods, products, treatments, technologies, and testing and inspection methods proposed to be employed;
 - (c) To determine if the applicant or, in the case of a corporation, its directors, officers, employees, and consultants have sufficient practical experience in the specific types of construction to undertake construction of the proposed unit;
 - (d) To determine if the applicant has sufficient personnel and other resources to adequately undertake the construction of the proposed unit in addition to other units which the applicant may have under construction or is currently marketing;
 - (e) To determine if:

- 1 (i) The applicant is proposing to engage a general contractor to 2 undertake all or a significant portion of the construction of the 3 proposed unit; and
 - (ii) The general contractor meets the criteria set out in this section;
 - (f) Requiring that a declarant provide security in a form suitable to the qualified insurer;
- 8 (g) Establishing or requiring compliance with specific construction 9 standards for the unit;
- 10 (h) Restricting the applicant from constructing some types of units or using some types of construction or systems;
 - (i) Requiring the use of specific types of systems, consultants, or personnel for the construction;
 - (j) Requiring an independent review of the unit building plans or consultants' reports or any part thereof;
 - (k) Requiring third-party verification or certification of the construction of the unit or any part thereof;
 - (1) Providing for inspection of the unit or any part thereof during construction;
 - (m) Requiring ongoing monitoring of the unit, or one or more of its components, following completion of construction;
 - (n) Requiring that the declarant or any of the design professionals, engineering professionals, consultants, general contractors, or subcontractors maintain minimum levels of insurance, bonding, or other security naming the potential owners and qualified insurer as loss payees or beneficiaries of the insurance, bonding, or security to the extent possible;
 - (o) Requiring that the declarant provide a list of all design professionals and other consultants who are involved in the design or construction inspection, or both, of the unit;
- 31 (p) Requiring that the declarant provide a list of trades employed 32 in the construction of the unit, and requiring evidence of their 33 current trade's certification, if applicable.

34 ARTICLE 20 35 MISCELLANEOUS

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- 1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2001.** All qualified warrantees shall be deemed
- 2 to be "insurance" for purposes of RCW 48.01.040, and shall be regulated
- 3 as such.
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2002.** Captions and part headings used in this
- 5 act are not any part of the law.
- 6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2003.** Sections 101 through 2002 of this act 7 constitute a new chapter in Title 64 RCW.

Passed by the Senate March 11, 2004.

Passed by the House March 10, 2004.

Approved by the Governor March 29, 2004.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 29, 2004.