

Assembly Bill No. 1927

Passed the Assembly August 16, 2010

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 11, 2010

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2010, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 1368 of, and to add Section 1360.2 to, the Civil Code, relating to common interest developments.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1927, Knight. Real property: common interest developments.

The Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act provides for the creation and regulation of common interest developments. Under existing law, a common interest development is managed by an association pursuant to the provisions of the governing documents of the development.

This bill would provide that any provision that is added to or included in a governing document initially recorded on or after January 1, 2011, that prohibits the rental or lease of a separate interest is void, unless the provision imposing the prohibition is approved by the owners of separate interests, as provided.

Existing law requires that an owner of a separate interest in a common interest development provide certain items to a prospective purchaser prior to transfer of title.

This bill would also require the owner of a separate interest, when a governing document prohibits the rental or leasing of all or any of the separate interests, to provide a statement describing the prohibition.

This bill would also incorporate additional changes to Section 1368 of the Civil Code, as proposed by SB 1128, to be operative only if SB 1128 and this bill are both enacted, each bill amends Section 1368 of the Civil Code, and this bill is enacted after SB 1128.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the rights of common interest development owners to rent or lease their properties, as the rights existed at the time they acquired them, should be protected by the State of California. The Legislature further finds and declares that a common interest development creates a unique home ownership model that is unlike the status

of a single family home in a traditional neighborhood. Property owners and residents who purchase units within, and live in, a common interest development governed by a homeowner's association have agreed to live under rules and guidelines created by a democratic process. It is best, therefore, as provided herein, that the owners of units within a common interest development determine, through the exercise of a democratic decisionmaking process, what is best for their communities.

SEC. 2. Section 1360.2 is added to the Civil Code, to read:

1360.2. Unless approved as provided in this section, any provision that prohibits the rental or lease of a separate interest in a common interest development and that is added to a governing document on or after January 1, 2011, or that is included in a governing document initially recorded on or after January 1, 2011, is void.

(a) On or after January 1, 2011, if a common interest development adopts a governing document or an amendment to a governing document that prohibits the rental or lease of a separate interest in a common interest development, that provision shall be approved by a vote of the owners of separate interests with voting power in the common interest development.

(b) The vote required by this section shall be conducted pursuant to the requirements of Section 1363.03.

(c) The vote, as required by this section, shall be subject to the vote approval standards for adopting or amending governing documents.

SEC. 3. Section 1368 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1368. (a) The owner of a separate interest, other than an owner subject to the requirements of Section 11018.6 of the Business and Professions Code, shall, as soon as practicable before transfer of title to the separate interest or execution of a real property sales contract therefor, as defined in Section 2985, provide the following to the prospective purchaser:

(1) A copy of the governing documents of the common interest development, including any operating rules, and including a copy of the association's articles of incorporation, or, if not incorporated, a statement in writing from an authorized representative of the association that the association is not incorporated.

(2) If there is a restriction in the governing documents limiting the occupancy, residency, or use of a separate interest on the basis

of age in a manner different from that provided in Section 51.3, a statement that the restriction is only enforceable to the extent permitted by Section 51.3 and a statement specifying the applicable provisions of Section 51.3.

(3) A copy of the most recent documents distributed pursuant to Section 1365.

(4) A true statement in writing obtained from an authorized representative of the association as to the amount of the association's current regular and special assessments and fees, any assessments levied upon the owner's interest in the common interest development that are unpaid on the date of the statement, and any monetary fines or penalties levied upon the owner's interest and unpaid on the date of the statement. The statement obtained from an authorized representative shall also include true information on late charges, interest, and costs of collection which, as of the date of the statement, are or may be made a lien upon the owner's interest in a common interest development pursuant to Section 1367 or 1367.1.

(5) A copy or a summary of any notice previously sent to the owner pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1363 that sets forth any alleged violation of the governing documents that remains unresolved at the time of the request. The notice shall not be deemed a waiver of the association's right to enforce the governing documents against the owner or the prospective purchaser of the separate interest with respect to any violation. This paragraph shall not be construed to require an association to inspect an owner's separate interest.

(6) A copy of the preliminary list of defects provided to each member of the association pursuant to Section 1375, unless the association and the builder subsequently enter into a settlement agreement or otherwise resolve the matter and the association complies with Section 1375.1. Disclosure of the preliminary list of defects pursuant to this paragraph does not waive any privilege attached to the document. The preliminary list of defects shall also include a statement that a final determination as to whether the list of defects is accurate and complete has not been made.

(7) A copy of the latest information provided for in Section 1375.1.

(8) Any change in the association's current regular and special assessments and fees which have been approved by the

association's board of directors, but have not become due and payable as of the date disclosure is provided pursuant to this subdivision.

(9) If there is a provision in the governing documents that prohibits the rental or leasing of all or any of the separate interests in the common interest development to a renter, lessee, or tenant, a statement describing the prohibition.

(b) Upon written request, an association shall, within 10 days of the mailing or delivery of the request, provide the owner of a separate interest with a copy of the requested items specified in paragraphs (1) to (8), inclusive, of subdivision (a). The items required to be made available pursuant to this section may be maintained in electronic form and requesting parties shall have the option of receiving them by electronic transmission or machine readable storage media if the association maintains these items in electronic form. The association may charge a reasonable fee for this service based upon the association's actual cost to procure, prepare, and reproduce the requested items.

(c) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), neither an association nor a community service organization or similar entity may impose or collect any assessment, penalty, or fee in connection with a transfer of title or any other interest except for the following:

(A) An amount not to exceed the association's actual costs to change its records.

(B) An amount authorized by subdivision (b).

(2) The amendments made to this subdivision by the act adding this paragraph do not apply to a community service organization or similar entity that is described in subparagraph (A) or (B):

(A) The community service organization or similar entity satisfies both of the following requirements:

(i) The community service organization or similar entity was established prior to February 20, 2003.

(ii) The community service organization or similar entity exists and operates, in whole or in part, to fund or perform environmental mitigation or to restore or maintain wetlands or native habitat, as required by the state or local government as an express written condition of development.

(B) The community service organization or similar entity satisfies all of the following requirements:

(i) The community service organization or similar entity is not an organization or entity described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) The community service organization or similar entity was established and received a transfer fee prior to January 1, 2004.

(iii) On and after January 1, 2006, the community service organization or similar entity offers a purchaser the following payment options for the fee or charge it collects at time of transfer:

(I) Paying the fee or charge at the time of transfer.

(II) Paying the fee or charge pursuant to an installment payment plan for a period of not less than seven years. If the purchaser elects to pay the fee or charge in installment payments, the community service organization or similar entity may also collect additional amounts that do not exceed the actual costs for billing and financing on the amount owed. If the purchaser sells the separate interest before the end of the installment payment plan period, he or she shall pay the remaining balance prior to transfer.

(3) For the purposes of this subdivision, a “community service organization or similar entity” means a nonprofit entity, other than an association, that is organized to provide services to residents of the common interest development or to the public in addition to the residents, to the extent community common areas or facilities are available to the public. A “community service organization or similar entity” does not include an entity that has been organized solely to raise moneys and contribute to other nonprofit organizations that are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that provide housing or housing assistance.

(d) Any person or entity who willfully violates this section is liable to the purchaser of a separate interest that is subject to this section for actual damages occasioned thereby and, in addition, shall pay a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). In an action to enforce this liability, the prevailing party shall be awarded reasonable attorneys’ fees.

(e) Nothing in this section affects the validity of title to real property transferred in violation of this section.

(f) In addition to the requirements of this section, an owner transferring title to a separate interest shall comply with applicable requirements of Sections 1133 and 1134.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a person who acts as a community association manager is an agent, as defined in Section 2297, of the association.

SEC. 3.5. Section 1368 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1368. (a) The owner of a separate interest, other than an owner subject to the requirements of Section 11018.6 of the Business and Professions Code, shall, as soon as practicable before transfer of title to the separate interest or execution of a real property sales contract therefor, as defined in Section 2985, provide the following to the prospective purchaser:

(1) A copy of the governing documents of the common interest development, including any operating rules, and including a copy of the association's articles of incorporation, or, if not incorporated, a statement in writing from an authorized representative of the association that the association is not incorporated.

(2) If there is a restriction in the governing documents limiting the occupancy, residency, or use of a separate interest on the basis of age in a manner different from that provided in Section 51.3, a statement that the restriction is only enforceable to the extent permitted by Section 51.3 and a statement specifying the applicable provisions of Section 51.3.

(3) A copy of the most recent documents distributed pursuant to Section 1365.

(4) A true statement in writing obtained from an authorized representative of the association as to the amount of the association's current regular and special assessments and fees, any assessments levied upon the owner's interest in the common interest development that are unpaid on the date of the statement, and any monetary fines or penalties levied upon the owner's interest and unpaid on the date of the statement. The statement obtained from an authorized representative shall also include true information on late charges, interest, and costs of collection which, as of the date of the statement, are or may be made a lien upon the owner's interest in a common interest development pursuant to Section 1367 or 1367.1.

(5) A copy or a summary of any notice previously sent to the owner pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1363 that sets forth any alleged violation of the governing documents that remains unresolved at the time of the request. The notice shall not be deemed a waiver of the association's right to enforce the governing

documents against the owner or the prospective purchaser of the separate interest with respect to any violation. This paragraph shall not be construed to require an association to inspect an owner's separate interest.

(6) A copy of the preliminary list of defects provided to each member of the association pursuant to Section 1375, unless the association and the builder subsequently enter into a settlement agreement or otherwise resolve the matter and the association complies with Section 1375.1. Disclosure of the preliminary list of defects pursuant to this paragraph does not waive any privilege attached to the document. The preliminary list of defects shall also include a statement that a final determination as to whether the list of defects is accurate and complete has not been made.

(7) A copy of the latest information provided for in Section 1375.1.

(8) Any change in the association's current regular and special assessments and fees which have been approved by the association's board of directors, but have not become due and payable as of the date disclosure is provided pursuant to this subdivision.

(9) If there is a provision in the governing documents that prohibits the rental or leasing of all or any of the separate interests in the common interest development to a renter, lessee, or tenant, a statement describing the prohibition.

(b) Upon written request, an association shall, within 10 days of the mailing or delivery of the request, provide the owner of a separate interest with a copy of the requested items specified in paragraphs (1) to (8), inclusive, of subdivision (a). The items required to be made available pursuant to this section may be maintained in electronic form and requesting parties shall have the option of receiving them by electronic transmission or machine readable storage media if the association maintains these items in electronic form. The association may charge a reasonable fee for this service based upon the association's actual cost to procure, prepare, and reproduce the requested items.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), neither an association nor a community service organization or similar entity may impose or collect any assessment, penalty, or fee in connection with a transfer of title or any other interest except for the following:

(A) An amount not to exceed the association's actual costs to change its records.

(B) An amount authorized by subdivision (b).

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) does not apply to a community service organization or similar entity, or to a nonprofit entity that provides services to a common interest development under a declaration of trust, that is described in subparagraph (A) or (B):

(A) The community service organization or similar entity satisfies both of the following requirements:

(i) The community service organization or similar entity was established prior to February 20, 2003.

(ii) The community service organization or similar entity exists and operates, in whole or in part, to fund or perform environmental mitigation or to restore or maintain wetlands or native habitat, as required by the state or local government as an express written condition of development.

(B) The community service organization or similar entity, or a nonprofit entity that provides services to a common interest development under a declaration of trust, satisfies all of the following requirements:

(i) The organization or entity is not an organization or entity described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) The organization or entity was established and received a transfer fee prior to January 1, 2004.

(iii) On and after January 1, 2006, the organization or entity offers a purchaser the following payment options for the fee or charge it collects at time of transfer:

(I) Paying the fee or charge at the time of transfer.

(II) Paying the fee or charge pursuant to an installment payment plan for a period of not less than seven years. If the purchaser elects to pay the fee or charge in installment payments, the organization or entity may also collect additional amounts that do not exceed the actual costs for billing and financing on the amount owed. If the purchaser sells the separate interest before the end of the installment payment plan period, he or she shall pay the remaining balance prior to transfer.

(3) For the purposes of this subdivision, a "community service organization or similar entity" means a nonprofit entity, other than an association, that is organized to provide services to residents

of the common interest development or to the public in addition to the residents, to the extent community common areas or facilities are available to the public. A “community service organization or similar entity” does not include an entity that has been organized solely to raise moneys and contribute to other nonprofit organizations that are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that provide housing or housing assistance.

(d) Any person or entity who willfully violates this section is liable to the purchaser of a separate interest that is subject to this section for actual damages occasioned thereby and, in addition, shall pay a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). In an action to enforce this liability, the prevailing party shall be awarded reasonable attorneys’ fees.

(e) Nothing in this section affects the validity of title to real property transferred in violation of this section.

(f) In addition to the requirements of this section, an owner transferring title to a separate interest shall comply with applicable requirements of Sections 1133 and 1134.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a person who acts as a community association manager is an agent, as defined in Section 2297, of the association.

SEC. 4. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 1368 of the Civil Code proposed by both this bill and SB 1128. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2011, (2) each bill amends Section 1368 of the Civil Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 1128, in which case Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.

Approved _____, 2010

Governor