

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 440

(SENATE AUTHORS: JOHNSON and Latz)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/28/2021	191	Introduction and first reading Referred to Civil Law and Data Practices Policy
02/11/2021	344	Author added Latz
02/15/2021	357a	Comm report: To pass as amended
	385	Second reading
03/08/2021	440	Special Order
	740	Third reading Passed
03/22/2021	1082	Returned from House Presentment date 03/22/2021
	1138	Governor's action Approval 03/23/2021
	1138	Secretary of State Chapter 7 03/23/2021 Effective date 07/01/21

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to real property; clarifying ownership definitions; requiring the record

1.3 owner to be listed as grantee in tax-forfeited land sales; amending Minnesota

1.4 Statutes 2020, sections 282.301; 325N.01; 325N.02; 325N.03; 325N.04; 325N.06;

1.5 325N.10, subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

1.6 Statutes, chapter 282.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 282.301, is amended to read:

1.9 **282.301 RECEIPTS FOR PAYMENTS; CERTIFICATION BY COUNTY**

1.10 **AUDITOR.**

1.11 When any sale has been made under sections 282.012 and 282.241 to 282.324, the

1.12 purchaser shall receive from the county auditor at the time of repurchase a receipt, in such

1.13 form as may be prescribed by the attorney general. When the purchase price of a parcel of

1.14 land shall be paid in full, the following facts shall be certified by the county auditor to the

1.15 commissioner of revenue of the state of Minnesota: the description of land, ~~the date of sale,~~

1.16 ~~the name of the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee,~~ and the date when the final installment

1.17 of the purchase price was paid. ~~Upon payment in full of the purchase price, the purchaser~~

1.18 ~~or the assignee shall receive a quitclaim deed from the state, to be executed by the~~

1.19 ~~commissioner of revenue. The deed must be sent to the county auditor who shall have it~~

1.20 ~~recorded before it is forwarded to the purchaser. Failure to make any payment herein required~~

1.21 ~~shall constitute default and upon such default and cancellation in accord with section 282.40,~~

1.22 ~~the right, title and interest of the purchaser or the purchaser's heirs, representatives, or assigns~~

1.23 ~~in such parcel shall terminate.~~

2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to repurchases
2.2 approved on or after that date.

2.3 **Sec. 2. [282.302] CONVEYANCE OF DEED UPON CERTIFICATION.**

2.4 Subdivision 1. **Conveyance to record owner.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, upon
2.5 receipt of the certification by the county auditor required under section 282.301, the
2.6 commissioner of revenue must issue a quitclaim deed in the name of the state, as grantor,
2.7 to the record owner of the property at the time of the expiration of the redemption period
2.8 established under section 281.23.

2.9 Subd. 2. **Sales to personal representatives, heirs, or devisees.** Notwithstanding
2.10 subdivision 1, the state deed must name the record owner's estate as grantee if a sale
2.11 conducted under section 282.01 is made to a personal representative, heir, or devisee of the
2.12 record owner, and the record owner is either deceased at the time of the expiration of
2.13 redemption period established under section 281.23 or is deceased at the time the certification
2.14 of payment under section 282.301 is made. If the record owner's estate has not been opened
2.15 in a probate court of this state at the time of execution of the state deed, the state deed to
2.16 the record owner's estate is deemed an effective conveyance to the estate upon opening of
2.17 the estate.

2.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to repurchases
2.19 approved on or after that date.

2.20 **Sec. 3. [282.303] ASSIGNMENT OF INSTALLMENT CONTRACT.**

2.21 If the record owner at the time of the expiration of redemption assigns an installment
2.22 contract used to repurchase, and the assignment was registered or recorded, the state deed
2.23 must name the assignee as the grantee.

2.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to repurchases
2.25 approved on or after that date.

2.26 **Sec. 4. [282.304] RECORDATION OF DEED; DEFAULT.**

2.27 (a) The quitclaim deed issued under section 282.302 must be electronically recorded or
2.28 sent to the county auditor who must have it recorded before it is forwarded to the grantee.
2.29 Recording of the deed by the county auditor is deemed delivery to the grantee.

2.30 (b) Failure to make any payment required by this chapter will constitute default and
2.31 upon such default, the sale will be subject to the cancellation provisions of section 282.40.

3.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to repurchases
3.2 approved on or after that date.

3.3 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.01, is amended to read:

3.4 **325N.01 DEFINITIONS.**

3.5 The definitions in paragraphs (a) to (h) apply to sections 325N.01 to 325N.09.

3.6 (a) ~~"Foreclosure consultant"~~ "Solicitor" means any person who, directly or indirectly,
3.7 makes any solicitation, representation, or offer to any owner to perform for compensation
3.8 or who, for compensation, performs any service which the person in any manner represents
3.9 will in any manner do any of the following:

3.10 (1) stop or postpone ~~the~~ a foreclosure sale, a tax forfeiture sale, or a contract for deed
3.11 termination;

3.12 (2) obtain any forbearance from any beneficiary, local unit of government, association
3.13 of apartment owners, contract for deed seller, or mortgagee regarding:

3.14 (i) taxes;

3.15 (ii) dues owed to an association of apartment owners; or

3.16 (iii) contract for deed, mortgage, or any other payments;

3.17 (3) assist the owner to:

3.18 (i) exercise the right of reinstatement provided in section 580.30 or the right of redemption
3.19 provided in section 580.25;

3.20 (ii) exercise the right of redemption under chapter 281 or the right to repurchase under
3.21 sections 282.241 to 282.324;

3.22 (iii) cure a default that has resulted in a termination notice issued under section 559.21,
3.23 subdivision 2a; or

3.24 (iv) cure a default that resulted in a lien secured by a common interest community or a
3.25 master association;

3.26 (4) obtain any extension of the period within which the owner may reinstate the owner's
3.27 obligation;

3.28 (5) obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause contained in any promissory note or
3.29 contract secured by a mortgage on a residence in foreclosure or contained in the mortgage;

4.1 (6) assist the owner in foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or loan default on a loan, contract for
4.2 deed payments, or dues owed to an association of apartment owners, to obtain a loan or
4.3 advance of funds;

4.4 (7) avoid or ameliorate the impairment of the owner's credit resulting from the recording
4.5 of a notice of default on taxes or any debt secured by the covered residence or the conduct
4.6 of a foreclosure or tax forfeiture sale;

4.7 (8) save the owner's residence from foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or contract for deed
4.8 termination; or

4.9 (9) negotiate or modify the terms or conditions of an existing residential mortgage loan,
4.10 a repayment agreement on taxes owed, a repurchase agreement of tax-forfeited real property,
4.11 or a contract for deed.

4.12 (b) A ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor does not include any of the following:

4.13 (1) a person licensed to practice law in this state when the person renders service in the
4.14 course of the person's practice as an attorney-at-law;

4.15 (2) a person licensed as a debt management services provider under chapter 332A, when
4.16 the person is acting as a debt management services provider as defined in that chapter;

4.17 (3) a person licensed as a real estate broker or salesperson under chapter 82 when the
4.18 person engages in acts whose performance requires licensure under that chapter unless the
4.19 person is engaged in offering services designed to, or purportedly designed to, enable the
4.20 owner to retain possession of the covered residence in foreclosure;

4.21 (4) a person licensed as an accountant under chapter 326A when the person is acting in
4.22 any capacity for which the person is licensed under those provisions;

4.23 (5) a person or the person's authorized agent acting under the express authority or written
4.24 approval of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or other department or
4.25 agency of the United States or this state to provide services;

4.26 (6) a person who holds or is owed an obligation secured by a lien on any covered
4.27 residence in foreclosure when the person performs services in connection with this obligation
4.28 or lien if the obligation or lien did not arise as the result of or as part of a proposed ~~foreclosure~~
4.29 property reconveyance;

4.30 (7) any person or entity doing business under any law of this state, or of the United States
4.31 relating to banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, industrial loan and thrift
4.32 companies, regulated lenders, credit unions, insurance companies, or a mortgagee which is

5.1 a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development approved mortgagee and
 5.2 any subsidiary or affiliate of these persons or entities, and any agent or employee of these
 5.3 persons or entities while engaged in the business of these persons or entities;

5.4 (8) a person licensed as a residential mortgage originator or servicer pursuant to chapter
 5.5 58, when acting under the authority of that license, except that the provisions of sections
 5.6 325N.01 to 325N.06, 325N.08, and 325N.09 shall apply to any person operating under a
 5.7 mortgage originator license who negotiates or offers to negotiate the terms or conditions of
 5.8 an existing residential mortgage loan;

5.9 (9) a nonprofit agency or organization that has tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3)
 5.10 of the Internal Revenue Code that offers counseling or advice to an owner of a home in
 5.11 foreclosure or loan default if they do not contract for services with for-profit lenders or
 5.12 ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchasers, except that they shall comply with the provisions of section
 5.13 325N.04, clause (1);

5.14 (10) a judgment creditor of the owner, to the extent that the judgment creditor's claim
 5.15 accrued prior to the personal service of the foreclosure notice required by section 580.03,
 5.16 but excluding a person who purchased the claim after such personal service; ~~and~~

5.17 (11) ~~a foreclosure~~ an equity purchaser as defined in section 325N.10; and

5.18 (12) any common interest community association or master association that holds or is
 5.19 owed an obligation secured by a lien on any residence in foreclosure and any employee or
 5.20 agent of either while performing services within the scope of the employment or agency.

5.21 (c) ~~Foreclosure~~ "Property reconveyance" means a transaction involving:

5.22 (1) ~~the transfer of title to real property by a foreclosed homeowner during a foreclosure~~
 5.23 ~~proceeding, either by transfer of interest from the foreclosed homeowner or by creation of~~
 5.24 ~~a mortgage or other lien or encumbrance during the foreclosure process~~ an owner, either
 5.25 by transfer of interest from the owner or by creation of a mortgage or other lien or
 5.26 encumbrance that allows the acquirer to obtain title to the property by redeeming the property
 5.27 as a junior lienholder or by other legal process, prior to the expiration of:

5.28 (i) the right of reinstatement provided in section 580.30 or the right of redemption of a
 5.29 property provided in section 580.25;

5.30 (ii) the right of redemption under chapter 281 or the right to repurchase under sections
 5.31 282.241 to 282.324;

5.32 (iii) the period to cure a default that has resulted in a termination notice issued under
 5.33 section 559.21, subdivision 2a; or

6.1 (iv) the period to cure a default that resulted in a lien assessed by a common interest
 6.2 community or a master association; and

6.3 (2) the subsequent conveyance, or promise of a subsequent conveyance, of an interest
 6.4 back to the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner by the acquirer or a person acting in participation
 6.5 with the acquirer that allows the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to possess either the covered
 6.6 residence ~~in foreclosure~~ or any other real property, which interest includes, but is not limited
 6.7 to, an interest in a contract for deed, purchase agreement, option to purchase, or lease.

6.8 (d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company,
 6.9 association, or other group, however organized.

6.10 (e) "Service" means and includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

6.11 (1) debt, budget, or financial counseling of any type;

6.12 (2) receiving money for the purpose of distributing it to creditors, vendors, or association
 6.13 of apartment owners in payment or partial payment of any obligation secured by ~~a lien on~~
 6.14 a covered residence in foreclosure;

6.15 (3) contacting creditors, vendors, association of apartment owners, or servicers to
 6.16 negotiate or offer to negotiate the terms or conditions of an existing residential mortgage
 6.17 loan, a tax forfeiture redemption or repurchase agreement, or a contract for deed;

6.18 (4) arranging or attempting to arrange for an extension of the period within which the
 6.19 owner of a covered residence in foreclosure may:

6.20 (i) cure the owner's default and reinstate the owner's obligation pursuant to section
 6.21 580.30;

6.22 (ii) cure the owner's property tax default and redeem the property;

6.23 (iii) cure the owner's default on dues owed to an association of apartment owners and
 6.24 release the common interest community or master association's lien; or

6.25 (iv) cure the default on a contract for deed and void the purchaser's ability to terminate
 6.26 the contract;

6.27 (5) arranging or attempting to arrange for any delay or postponement of the time of sale
 6.28 of the covered residence in foreclosure;

6.29 (6) advising the filing of any document or assisting in any manner in the preparation of
 6.30 any document for filing with any bankruptcy court; or

7.1 (7) giving any advice, explanation, or instruction to an owner of a covered residence ~~in~~
 7.2 ~~foreclosure~~, which in any manner relates to the cure of a default in or the reinstatement of
 7.3 an obligation secured by a lien on the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~, the full satisfaction
 7.4 of that obligation, or the postponement or avoidance of a sale of a covered residence ~~in~~
 7.5 ~~foreclosure~~, pursuant to a power of sale contained in any mortgage.

7.6 (f) ~~"Residence in foreclosure"~~ "Covered residence" means residential real property
 7.7 ~~consisting of one to four family dwelling units, one of which the owner occupies as the~~
 7.8 ~~owner's principal place of residence, or real property that is principally used for farming,~~
 7.9 ~~as defined in section 500.24, subdivision 2, whether or not parcels are contiguous, so long~~
 7.10 ~~as the owner occupies one of the parcels as the owner's principal place of residence, where~~
 7.11 ~~there is a delinquency or default on any loan payment or debt secured by or attached to the~~
 7.12 ~~residential real property including, but not limited to, contract for deed payments where~~
 7.13 ~~there is a delinquency or default on any loan, tax, or contract for deed payment, association~~
 7.14 ~~of apartment owner or master association dues, or other debt secured by or attached to the~~
 7.15 ~~residential real property that:~~

7.16 (i) consists of one to four family dwelling units, one of which the owner occupies as the
 7.17 owner's principal place of residence;

7.18 (ii) is an apartment, as that term is defined in section 515.02, subdivision 2;

7.19 (iii) is the subject of a contract for deed; or

7.20 (iv) is real property that is principally used for farming, as defined in section 500.24,
 7.21 subdivision 2, whether or not parcels are contiguous, so long as the owner occupies one of
 7.22 the parcels as the owner's principal place of residence.

7.23 (g) "Owner" means the record owner of ~~the residential real property in foreclosure a~~
 7.24 ~~covered residence. For the purposes of this chapter, if the residence in foreclosure is subject~~
 7.25 ~~to a mortgage foreclosure, an owner is the record owner~~ at the time the notice of pendency
 7.26 was recorded, or the summons and complaint served.

7.27 (h) "Contract" means any agreement, or any term in any agreement, between a ~~foreclosure~~
 7.28 ~~consultant~~ solicitor and an owner for the rendition of any service as defined in paragraph
 7.29 (e).

7.30 (i) "Association of apartment owners" has the meaning given in section 515.02,
 7.31 subdivision 5.

7.32 (j) "Common interest community" has the meaning given in section 515B.1-103, clause
 7.33 (10).

8.1 (k) "Master association" has the meaning given in section 515B.1-103, clause (21).

8.2 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

8.3 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.02, is amended to read:

8.4 **325N.02 RESCISSION OF ~~FORECLOSURE CONSULTANT~~ SOLICITOR**
8.5 **CONTRACT.**

8.6 (a) In addition to any other right under law to rescind a contract, an owner has the right
8.7 to cancel ~~such~~ a solicitor contract until midnight of the third business day after the day on
8.8 which the owner signs a contract which complies with section 325N.03.

8.9 (b) Cancellation occurs when the owner gives written notice of cancellation to the
8.10 ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor at the address specified in the contract.

8.11 (c) Notice of cancellation, if given by mail, is effective when deposited in the mail
8.12 properly addressed with postage prepaid.

8.13 (d) Notice of cancellation given by the owner need not take the particular form as
8.14 provided with the contract and, however expressed, is effective if it indicates the intention
8.15 of the owner not to be bound by the contract.

8.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
8.17 executed on or after that date.

8.18 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.03, is amended to read:

8.19 **325N.03 CONTRACT.**

8.20 (a) Every contract must be in writing and must fully disclose the exact nature of the
8.21 ~~foreclosure consultant's~~ solicitor's services and the total amount and terms of compensation.

8.22 (b) The following notice, printed in at least 14-point boldface type and completed with
8.23 the name of the ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor, must be printed immediately above the
8.24 statement required by paragraph (c):

8.25 "NOTICE REQUIRED BY MINNESOTA LAW

8.26 (Name) or anyone working for him or
8.27 her CANNOT:

8.28 (1) Take any money from you or ask you for money
8.29 until (Name) has completely finished
8.30 doing everything he or she said he or she would do; and

8.31 (2) Ask you to sign or have you sign any lien, mortgage,
8.32 or deed."

9.1 (c) The contract must be written in the same language as principally used by the
 9.2 ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor to describe his or her services or to negotiate the contract,
 9.3 must be dated and signed by the owner, and must contain in immediate proximity to the
 9.4 space reserved for the owner's signature a conspicuous statement in a size equal to at least
 9.5 10-point boldface type, as follows:

9.6 "You, the owner, may cancel this transaction at any time prior to midnight of the third
 9.7 business day after the date of this transaction. See the attached notice of cancellation
 9.8 form for an explanation of this right."

9.9 (d) The notice of cancellation must contain, and the contract must contain on the first
 9.10 page, in a type size no smaller than that generally used in the body of the document, each
 9.11 of the following:

9.12 (1) the name and physical address of the ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor to which the
 9.13 notice of cancellation is to be mailed or otherwise delivered. A post office box does not
 9.14 constitute a physical address. A post office box may be designated for delivery by mail only
 9.15 if it is accompanied by a physical address at which the notice could be delivered by a method
 9.16 other than mail. An e-mail address may be included, in addition to the physical address;
 9.17 and

9.18 (2) the date the owner signed the contract.

9.19 (e) Cancellation occurs when the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner delivers, by any means,
 9.20 written notice of cancellation to the address specified in the contract. If cancellation is
 9.21 mailed, delivery is effective upon mailing. If e-mailed, cancellation is effective upon
 9.22 transmission. The contract must be accompanied by a completed form in duplicate, captioned
 9.23 "notice of cancellation," which must be attached to the contract, must be easily detachable,
 9.24 and must contain in at least 10-point type the following statement written in the same
 9.25 language as used in the contract:

9.26 "NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

9.27

9.28 (Enter date of transaction) (Date)

9.29 You may cancel this transaction, without any penalty
 9.30 or obligation, within three business days from the above
 9.31 date.

9.32 To cancel this transaction, you may use any of the
 9.33 following methods: (1) mail or otherwise deliver a
 9.34 signed and dated copy of this cancellation notice, or any
 9.35 other written notice of cancellation; or (2) e-mail a notice
 9.36 of cancellation

9.37 to

10.1 (Name of ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor)
 10.2 at
 10.3 (Physical address of ~~foreclosure consultant's~~ solicitor's
 10.4 place of business)
 10.5
 10.6 (E-mail address of ~~foreclosure consultant's~~ solicitor's
 10.7 place of business)
 10.8 NOT LATER THAN MIDNIGHT OF
 10.9 (Date)
 10.10 I hereby cancel this transaction
 10.11 (Date)
 10.12
 10.13 (Owner's signature)"

10.14 (f) The ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor shall provide the owner with a copy of the contract
 10.15 and the attached notice of cancellation immediately upon execution of the contract.

10.16 (g) The three business days during which the owner may cancel the contract shall not
 10.17 begin to run until the ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor has complied with this section.

10.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
 10.19 executed on or after that date.

10.20 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.04, is amended to read:

10.21 **325N.04 VIOLATIONS.**

10.22 It is a violation for a ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor to:

10.23 (1) claim, demand, charge, collect, or receive any compensation until after the ~~foreclosure~~
 10.24 ~~consultant~~ solicitor has fully performed each and every service the ~~foreclosure consultant~~
 10.25 solicitor contracted to perform or represented he or she would perform;

10.26 (2) claim, demand, charge, collect, or receive any fee, interest, or any other compensation
 10.27 for any reason which exceeds eight percent per annum of the amount of any loan which the
 10.28 ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor may make to the owner. Such a loan must not, as provided
 10.29 in clause (3), be secured by the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~ or any other real or personal
 10.30 property;

10.31 (3) take any wage assignment, any lien of any type on real or personal property, or other
 10.32 security to secure the payment of compensation. Any such security is void and unenforceable;

10.33 (4) receive any consideration from any third party in connection with services rendered
 10.34 to an owner unless the consideration is first fully disclosed to the owner;

11.1 (5) acquire any interest, directly or indirectly, or by means of a subsidiary or affiliate in
 11.2 a covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~ from an owner with whom the ~~foreclosure consultant~~
 11.3 solicitor has contracted;

11.4 (6) take any power of attorney from an owner for any purpose, except to inspect
 11.5 documents as provided by law; or

11.6 (7) induce or attempt to induce any owner to enter a contract which does not comply in
 11.7 all respects with sections 325N.02 and 325N.03.

11.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

11.9 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.05, is amended to read:

11.10 **325N.05 WAIVER NOT ALLOWED.**

11.11 Any waiver by an owner of the provisions of sections 325N.01 to 325N.09 is void and
 11.12 unenforceable as contrary to public policy. Any attempt by a ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor
 11.13 to induce an owner to waive the owner's rights is a violation of sections 325N.01 to 325N.09.

11.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

11.15 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.06, is amended to read:

11.16 **325N.06 REMEDIES.**

11.17 (a) A violation of sections 325N.01 to 325N.09 is considered to be a violation of section
 11.18 325F.69, and all remedies of section 8.31 are available for such an action. A private cause
 11.19 of action under section 8.31 by a ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner is in the public interest. An
 11.20 owner may bring an action against a ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor for any violation of
 11.21 sections 325N.01 to 325N.09. Judgment must be entered for actual damages, reasonable
 11.22 attorney fees and costs, and appropriate equitable relief.

11.23 (b) The rights and remedies provided in paragraph (a) are cumulative to, and not a
 11.24 limitation of, any other rights and remedies provided by law. Any action brought pursuant
 11.25 to this section must be commenced within ~~four~~ six years from the date of the alleged
 11.26 violation.

11.27 (c) The court may award exemplary damages up to 1-1/2 times the compensation charged
 11.28 by the ~~foreclosure consultant~~ solicitor if the court finds that the ~~foreclosure consultant~~
 11.29 solicitor violated the provisions of section 325N.04, clause (1), (2), or (4), and the ~~foreclosure~~
 11.30 ~~consultant's~~ solicitor's conduct was in bad faith.

12.1 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no action may be brought on
 12.2 the basis of a violation of sections 325N.01 to 325N.09, except by an owner against whom
 12.3 the violation was committed or by the attorney general. This limitation does not apply to
 12.4 administrative action by the commissioner of commerce.

12.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

12.6 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.10, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

12.7 Subd. 2. ~~Foreclosed homeowner~~ Owner. "Foreclosed homeowner" means an owner
 12.8 of residential real property, including a condominium, or an owner of real property that is
 12.9 principally used for farming as defined in section 500.24, subdivision 2, that is the primary
 12.10 residence of the owner and whose mortgage on the real property is or was in foreclosure
 12.11 "Owner" has the meaning given in section 325N.01, paragraph (g).

12.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

12.13 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.10, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

12.14 Subd. 3. ~~Foreclosure~~ Property reconveyance. "~~Foreclosure~~ Property reconveyance"
 12.15 means a transaction involving:

12.16 ~~(1) the transfer of title to real property by a foreclosed homeowner during a foreclosure~~
 12.17 ~~proceeding, either by transfer of interest from the foreclosed homeowner or by creation of~~
 12.18 ~~a mortgage or other lien or encumbrance during the foreclosure process that allows the~~
 12.19 ~~acquirer to obtain title to the property by redeeming the property as a junior lienholder; and~~

12.20 ~~(2) the subsequent conveyance, or promise of a subsequent conveyance, of an interest~~
 12.21 ~~back to the foreclosed homeowner by the acquirer or a person acting in participation with~~
 12.22 ~~the acquirer that allows the foreclosed homeowner to possess either the residence in~~
 12.23 ~~foreclosure or other real property, which interest includes, but is not limited to, an interest~~
 12.24 ~~in a contract for deed, purchase agreement, option to purchase, or lease~~ has the meaning
 12.25 given in section 325N.01, paragraph (c).

12.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

12.27 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.10, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

12.28 Subd. 4. ~~Foreclosure~~ Equity purchaser. "~~Foreclosure~~ Equity purchaser" means a
 12.29 person that has acted as the acquirer in a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance. ~~Foreclosure~~
 12.30 Equity purchaser also includes a person that has acted in joint venture or joint enterprise
 12.31 with one or more acquirers in a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance. ~~A foreclosure~~ An equity

13.1 purchaser does not include: (i) a natural person who shows that the natural person is not in
 13.2 the business of ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchasing and has a prior personal relationship with the
 13.3 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ of the covered residence, unless a showing of fraud under section
 13.4 325F.69, subdivision 1, has been made, or (ii) a federal or state chartered bank, savings
 13.5 bank, thrift, or credit union.

13.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

13.7 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.10, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

13.8 Subd. 5. **Resale.** "Resale" means a bona fide market sale of the property subject to the
 13.9 ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance by the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser to an unaffiliated
 13.10 third party.

13.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

13.12 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.10, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

13.13 Subd. 7. **Covered residence in foreclosure.** ~~"Residence in foreclosure" means residential~~
 13.14 ~~real property consisting of one to four family dwelling units, one of which the owner occupies~~
 13.15 ~~as the owner's principal place of residence, or real property that is principally used for~~
 13.16 ~~farming, as defined in section 500.24, subdivision 2, whether or not parcels are contiguous,~~
 13.17 ~~so long as the owner occupies one of the parcels as the owner's principal place of residence,~~
 13.18 ~~where there is a delinquency or default on any loan payment or debt secured by or attached~~
 13.19 ~~to the real property, including, but not limited to, contract for deed payments~~ "Covered
 13.20 residence" has the meaning given in section 325N.01, paragraph (f).

13.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

13.22 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.11, is amended to read:

13.23 **325N.11 CONTRACT REQUIREMENT; FORM AND LANGUAGE.**

13.24 A ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser shall enter into every ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance
 13.25 in the form of a written contract. Every contract must be written in letters of a size equal to
 13.26 at least 12-point boldface type, in the same language principally used by the ~~foreclosure~~
 13.27 equity purchaser and ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to negotiate the sale of the covered
 13.28 ~~residence in foreclosure~~ and must be fully completed and signed and dated by the ~~foreclosed~~
 13.29 ~~homeowner~~ owner and ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser before the execution of any instrument
 13.30 of conveyance of the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~.

14.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
 14.2 executed on or after that date.

14.3 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.12, is amended to read:

14.4 **325N.12 CONTRACT TERMS.**

14.5 Every contract required by section 325N.11 must contain the entire agreement of the
 14.6 parties and must include the following terms:

14.7 (1) the name, business address, and the telephone number of the ~~foreclosure~~ equity
 14.8 purchaser;

14.9 (2) the address of the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~;

14.10 (3) the total consideration to be given by the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser in connection
 14.11 with or incident to the sale;

14.12 (4) a complete description of the terms of payment or other consideration including, but
 14.13 not limited to, any services of any nature that the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser represents
 14.14 he or she will perform for the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner before or after the sale;

14.15 (5) the time at which possession is to be transferred to the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser;

14.16 (6) a complete description of the terms of any related agreement designed to allow the
 14.17 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to remain in the home, such as a rental agreement, repurchase
 14.18 agreement, contract for deed, or lease with option to buy;

14.19 (7) a notice of cancellation as provided in section 325N.14, paragraph (b); and

14.20 (8) the following notice in at least 14-point boldface type, if the contract is printed or in
 14.21 capital letters if the contract is typed, and completed with the name of the ~~foreclosure~~ equity
 14.22 purchaser, immediately above the statement required by section 325N.14, paragraph (a):

14.23 "NOTICE REQUIRED BY MINNESOTA LAW

14.24 Until your right to cancel this contract has ended, (Name) or anyone working for
 14.25 (Name) CANNOT ask you to sign or have you sign any deed or any other
 14.26 document."

14.27 The contract required by this section survives delivery of any instrument of conveyance
 14.28 of the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~, and has no effect on persons other than the parties
 14.29 to the contract.

14.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
 14.31 executed on or after that date.

15.1 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.13, is amended to read:

15.2 **325N.13 CONTRACT CANCELLATION.**

15.3 (a) In addition to any other right of rescission, the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner has the
15.4 right to cancel any contract with a ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser until midnight of the fifth
15.5 business day following the day on which the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner signs a contract
15.6 that complies with sections 325N.10 to 325N.15 or until 8:00 a.m. on the last day of the
15.7 period during which the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner has a right of redemption, whichever
15.8 occurs first.

15.9 (b) Cancellation occurs when the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner delivers, by any means,
15.10 written notice of cancellation, provided that, at a minimum, the contract and the notice of
15.11 cancellation must contain a physical address to which notice of cancellation may be mailed
15.12 or otherwise delivered. A post office box does not constitute a physical address. A post
15.13 office box may be designated for delivery by mail only if it is accompanied by a physical
15.14 address at which the notice could be delivered by a method other than mail. An e-mail
15.15 address may be provided in addition to the physical address. If cancellation is mailed,
15.16 delivery is effective upon mailing. If e-mailed, cancellation is effective upon transmission.

15.17 (c) A notice of cancellation given by the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner need not take
15.18 the particular form as provided with the contract.

15.19 (d) Within ten days following receipt of a notice of cancellation given in accordance
15.20 with this section, the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser shall return without condition any original
15.21 contract and any other documents signed by the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner.

15.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
15.23 executed on or after that date.

15.24 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.14, is amended to read:

15.25 **325N.14 NOTICE OF CANCELLATION.**

15.26 (a) The contract must contain in immediate proximity to the space reserved for the
15.27 ~~foreclosed homeowner's~~ owner's signature a conspicuous statement in a size equal to at least
15.28 14-point boldface type, if the contract is printed, or in capital letters, if the contract is typed,
15.29 as follows:

15.30 "You may cancel this contract for the sale of your house
15.31 without any penalty or obligation at any time before

15.32

16.1 (Date and time of day)

16.2 See the attached notice of cancellation form for an
16.3 explanation of this right."

16.4 The ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser shall accurately enter the date and time of day on which
16.5 the cancellation right ends.

16.6 (b) The contract must be accompanied by a completed form in duplicate, captioned
16.7 "notice of cancellation" in a size equal to a 12-point boldface type if the contract is printed,
16.8 or in capital letters, if the contract is typed, followed by a space in which the ~~foreclosure~~
16.9 equity purchaser shall enter the date on which the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner executes
16.10 the contract. This form must be attached to the contract, must be easily detachable, and must
16.11 contain in type of at least 10 points, if the contract is printed or in capital letters if the contract
16.12 is typed, the following statement written in the same language as used in the contract:

16.13 "NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

16.14

16.15 (Enter date contract signed)

16.16 You may cancel this contract for the sale of your house,
16.17 without any penalty or obligation, at any time before

16.18

16.19 (Enter date and time of day)

16.20 To cancel this transaction, you may use any of the
16.21 following methods: (1) mail or otherwise deliver a
16.22 signed and dated copy of this cancellation notice; or (2)
16.23 e-mail a notice of cancellation to

16.24

16.25 (Name of purchaser)

16.26 at

16.27 (Physical address of purchaser's place of business)

16.28

16.29 (E-mail address of foreclosure consultant's place of
16.30 business)

16.31 NOT LATER THAN

16.32 (Enter date and time of day)

16.33 I hereby cancel this transaction

16.34 (Date)

16.35

16.36 (Seller's signature)"

17.1 (c) The ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser shall provide the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner
 17.2 with a copy of the contract and the attached notice of cancellation at the time the contract
 17.3 is executed by all parties.

17.4 (d) The five business days during which the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner may cancel
 17.5 the contract must not begin to run until all parties to the contract have executed the contract
 17.6 and the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser has complied with this section.

17.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to contracts
 17.8 executed on or after that date.

17.9 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.15, is amended to read:

17.10 **325N.15 WAIVER.**

17.11 Any waiver of the provisions of sections 325N.10 to 325N.18 is void and unenforceable
 17.12 as contrary to public policy except a consumer may waive the five-day right to cancel
 17.13 provided in section 325N.13 if the property is subject to a foreclosure sale within the five
 17.14 business days, and the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner agrees to waive his or her right to
 17.15 cancel in a handwritten statement signed by all parties holding title to the foreclosed property.

17.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

17.17 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.17, is amended to read:

17.18 **325N.17 PROHIBITED PRACTICES.**

17.19 ~~A foreclosure~~ An equity purchaser shall not:

17.20 (a) enter into, or attempt to enter into, a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance with a
 17.21 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner unless:

17.22 (1) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser verifies and can demonstrate that the ~~foreclosed~~
 17.23 ~~homeowner~~ owner has a reasonable ability to pay for the subsequent conveyance of an
 17.24 interest back to the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner. In the case of a lease with an option to
 17.25 purchase, payment ability also includes the reasonable ability to make the lease payments
 17.26 and purchase the property within the term of the option to purchase. There is a rebuttable
 17.27 presumption that a ~~homeowner~~ an owner is reasonably able to pay for the subsequent
 17.28 conveyance if the owner's payments for primary housing expenses and regular principal
 17.29 and interest payments on other personal debt, on a monthly basis, do not exceed 60 percent
 17.30 of the owner's monthly gross income. For the purposes of this section, "primary housing
 17.31 expenses" means the sum of payments for regular principal, interest, rent, utilities, hazard
 17.32 insurance, real estate taxes, and association dues. There is a rebuttable presumption that the

18.1 ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser has not verified reasonable payment ability if the ~~foreclosure~~
18.2 equity purchaser has not obtained documents other than a statement by the ~~foreclosed~~
18.3 ~~homeowner~~ owner of assets, liabilities, and income;

18.4 (2) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser and the ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ owner complete a
18.5 closing for any ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance in which the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser
18.6 obtains a deed or mortgage from a ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ an owner. For purposes of this
18.7 section, "closing" means an in-person meeting to complete final documents incident to the
18.8 sale of the real property or creation of a mortgage on the real property conducted by a closing
18.9 agent, as defined in section 82.55, who is not employed by or an affiliate of the ~~foreclosure~~
18.10 equity purchaser, or employed by such an affiliate, and who does not have a business or
18.11 personal relationship with the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser other than the provision of real
18.12 estate settlement services;

18.13 (3) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser obtains the written consent of the ~~foreclosed~~
18.14 ~~homeowner~~ owner to a grant by the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser of any interest in the
18.15 property during such times as the ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ owner maintains any interest in
18.16 the property; and

18.17 (4) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser complies with the requirements for disclosure, loan
18.18 terms, and conduct in the federal Home Ownership Equity Protection Act, United States
18.19 Code, title 15, section 1639, or its implementing regulation, Code of Federal Regulations,
18.20 title 12, sections 226.31, 226.32, and 226.34, for any ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance in
18.21 which the ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ owner obtains a vendee interest in a contract for deed,
18.22 regardless of whether the terms of the contract for deed meet the annual percentage rate or
18.23 points and fees requirements for a covered loan in Code of Federal Regulations, title 12,
18.24 sections 226.32 (a) and (b);

18.25 (b) fail to either:

18.26 (1) ensure that title to the subject dwelling has been reconveyed to the ~~foreclosed~~
18.27 ~~homeowner~~ owner; or

18.28 (2) make a payment to the ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ owner such that the ~~foreclosed~~
18.29 ~~homeowner~~ owner has received consideration in an amount of at least 82 percent of the fair
18.30 market value of the property within 150 days of either the eviction or voluntary
18.31 relinquishment of possession of the dwelling by the ~~foreclosed-homeowner~~ owner. The
18.32 ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser shall make a detailed accounting of the basis for the payment
18.33 amount, or a detailed accounting of the reasons for failure to make a payment, including
18.34 providing written documentation of expenses, within this 150-day period. The accounting

19.1 shall be on a form prescribed by the attorney general, in consultation with the commissioner
19.2 of commerce, without being subject to the rulemaking procedures of chapter 14. For purposes
19.3 of this provision, the following applies:

19.4 (i) there is a rebuttable presumption that an appraisal by a person licensed or certified
19.5 by an agency of the federal government or this state to appraise real estate constitutes the
19.6 fair market value of the property;

19.7 (ii) the time for determining the fair market value amount shall be determined in the
19.8 ~~foreclosure property~~ reconveyance contract as either at the time of the execution of the
19.9 ~~foreclosure property~~ reconveyance contract or at resale. If the contract states that the fair
19.10 market value shall be determined at the time of resale, the fair market value shall be the
19.11 resale price if it is sold within 120 days of the eviction or voluntary relinquishment of the
19.12 property by the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner. If the contract states that the fair market
19.13 value shall be determined at the time of resale, and the resale is not completed within 120
19.14 days of the eviction or voluntary relinquishment of the property by the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~
19.15 owner, the fair market value shall be determined by an appraisal conducted during this
19.16 120-day period and payment, if required, shall be made to the ~~homeowner~~ owner, but the
19.17 fair market value shall be recalculated as the resale price on resale and an additional payment
19.18 amount, if appropriate based on the resale price, shall be made to the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~
19.19 owner within 15 days of resale, and a detailed accounting of the basis for the payment
19.20 amount, or a detailed accounting of the reasons for failure to make additional payment, shall
19.21 be made within 15 days of resale, including providing written documentation of expenses.
19.22 The accounting shall be on a form prescribed by the attorney general, in consultation with
19.23 the commissioner of commerce, without being subject to the rulemaking procedures of
19.24 chapter 14;

19.25 (iii) "consideration" shall mean any payment or thing of value provided to the ~~foreclosed~~
19.26 ~~homeowner~~ owner, including unpaid rent or contract for deed payments owed by the
19.27 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner prior to the date of eviction or voluntary relinquishment of
19.28 the property, reasonable costs paid to third parties necessary to complete the ~~foreclosure~~
19.29 ~~property~~ reconveyance transaction, payment of money to satisfy a debt or legal obligation
19.30 of the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner, or the reasonable cost of repairs for damage to the
19.31 dwelling caused by the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner; or a penalty imposed by a court for
19.32 the filing of a frivolous claim under section 325N.18, subdivision 6, but

19.33 (iv) "consideration" shall not include amounts imputed as a down payment or fee to the
19.34 ~~foreclosure equity~~ purchaser, or a person acting in participation with the ~~foreclosure equity~~
19.35 purchaser, incident to a contract for deed, lease, or option to purchase entered into as part

20.1 of the ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance, except for reasonable costs paid to third parties
 20.2 necessary to complete the ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance;

20.3 (c) enter into repurchase or lease terms as part of the subsequent conveyance that are
 20.4 unfair or commercially unreasonable, or engage in any other unfair conduct;

20.5 (d) represent, directly or indirectly, that:

20.6 (1) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser is acting as an advisor or a consultant, or in any
 20.7 other manner represents that the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser is acting on behalf of the
 20.8 ~~homeowner~~ owner;

20.9 (2) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser has certification or licensure that the ~~foreclosure~~
 20.10 equity purchaser does not have, or that the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser is not a member of
 20.11 a licensed profession if that is untrue;

20.12 (3) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser is assisting the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to
 20.13 "save the house" or substantially similar phrase; or

20.14 (4) the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser is assisting the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner in
 20.15 preventing a completed foreclosure or forfeiture if the result of the transaction is that the
 20.16 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner will not complete a redemption of the property;

20.17 (e) make any other statements, directly or by implication, or engage in any other conduct
 20.18 that is false, deceptive, or misleading, or that has the likelihood to cause confusion or
 20.19 misunderstanding, including, but not limited to, statements regarding the value of the covered
 20.20 residence ~~in foreclosure~~, the amount of proceeds the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner will
 20.21 receive after a ~~foreclosure~~ sale of the covered residence, any contract term, or the ~~foreclosed~~
 20.22 ~~homeowner's~~ owner's rights or obligations incident to or arising out of the ~~foreclosure~~
 20.23 property reconveyance; or

20.24 (f) do any of the following until the time during which the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner
 20.25 may cancel the transaction has fully elapsed:

20.26 (1) accept from any ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner an execution of, or induce any
 20.27 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to execute, any instrument of conveyance of any interest in
 20.28 the covered residence ~~in foreclosure~~;

20.29 (2) record with the county recorder or file with the registrar of titles any document,
 20.30 including but not limited to, any instrument of conveyance, signed by the ~~foreclosed~~
 20.31 ~~homeowner~~ owner;

21.1 (3) transfer or encumber or purport to transfer or encumber any interest in the covered
 21.2 residence ~~in foreclosure~~ to any third party, provided no grant of any interest or encumbrance
 21.3 is defeated or affected as against a bona fide purchaser or encumbrance for value and without
 21.4 notice of a violation of sections 325N.10 to 325N.18, and knowledge on the part of any
 21.5 such person or entity that the property was "~~real~~ covered property ~~in foreclosure~~" does not
 21.6 constitute notice of a violation of sections 325N.10 to 325N.18. This section does not
 21.7 abrogate any duty of inquiry which exists as to rights or interests of persons in possession
 21.8 of the ~~real~~ covered property ~~in foreclosure~~; or

21.9 (4) pay the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner any consideration.

21.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

21.11 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.18, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

21.12 Subdivision 1. **Remedies.** A violation of sections 325N.10 to 325N.17 is considered to
 21.13 be a violation of section 325F.69, and all the remedies of section 8.31 are available for such
 21.14 an action. A private right of action under section 8.31 by a ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ an owner
 21.15 is in the public interest.

21.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

21.17 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.18, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

21.18 Subd. 2. **Exemplary damages.** In a private right of action under section 8.31 for a
 21.19 violation of section 325N.17, the court may award exemplary damages of any amount. In
 21.20 the event the court determines that an award of exemplary damages is appropriate, the
 21.21 amount of exemplary damages awarded shall not be less than 1-1/2 times the ~~foreclosed~~
 21.22 ~~homeowner's~~ owner's actual damages. Any claim for exemplary damages brought pursuant
 21.23 to this section must be commenced within four years after the date of the alleged violation.

21.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

21.25 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.18, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

21.26 Subd. 4. **Criminal penalty.** Any ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser who engages in any
 21.27 practice which would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ an owner
 21.28 may, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$50,000 or imprisoned not more than one
 21.29 year, or both. Prosecution or conviction for any one of the violations does not bar prosecution
 21.30 or conviction for any other offenses.

21.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

22.1 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.18, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

22.2 Subd. 5. **Failure of transaction.** Failure of the parties to complete the reconveyance
 22.3 transaction, in the absence of additional misconduct, shall not subject a ~~foreclosure~~ an equity
 22.4 purchaser to the criminal penalties under this section or section 325N.07.

22.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

22.6 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325N.18, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

22.7 Subd. 6. **Stay of eviction action.** (a) A court hearing an eviction action against a
 22.8 ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ an owner must issue an automatic stay, without imposition of a bond,
 22.9 if a defendant makes a prima facie showing that the defendant:

22.10 (1) has (i) commenced an action concerning a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance; (ii)
 22.11 asserts a defense under section 504B.121 that the property that is the subject of the eviction
 22.12 action is also the subject of a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance in violation of sections
 22.13 325N.10 to 325N.17; or (iii) asserts a claim or affirmative defense of fraud, false pretense,
 22.14 false promise, misrepresentation, misleading statement, or deceptive practice, in connection
 22.15 with a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance;

22.16 (2) owned the ~~foreclosed~~ covered residence;

22.17 (3) conveyed title to the ~~foreclosed~~ covered residence to a third party upon a promise
 22.18 that the defendant would be allowed to occupy the ~~foreclosed~~ covered residence or other
 22.19 real property in which the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser or a person acting in participation
 22.20 with the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser has an interest and that the ~~foreclosed~~ covered residence
 22.21 or other real property would be the subject of a ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance; and

22.22 (4) since the conveyance, has continuously occupied the ~~foreclosed~~ covered residence
 22.23 or other real property in which the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser or a person acting in
 22.24 participation with the ~~foreclosure~~ equity purchaser has an interest.

22.25 For purposes of this subdivision, notarized affidavits are acceptable means of proof to
 22.26 meet the defendant's burden. Upon good cause shown, a defendant may request and the
 22.27 court may grant up to an additional two weeks to produce evidence required to make the
 22.28 prima facie showing.

22.29 (b) A court may award to a plaintiff a \$500 penalty upon a showing that the defendant
 22.30 filed a frivolous claim or asserted a frivolous defense.

22.31 (c) The automatic stay expires upon the later of:

23.1 (1) the failure of the ~~foreclosed homeowner~~ owner to commence an action in a court of
23.2 competent jurisdiction in connection with a ~~foreclosed~~ property reconveyance transaction
23.3 within 90 days after the issuance of the stay; or

23.4 (2) the issuance of an order lifting the stay by a court hearing claims related to the
23.5 ~~foreclosure~~ property reconveyance.

23.6 (d) If, after the expiration of the stay or an order lifting the stay, a court finds that the
23.7 defendant's claim or defense was asserted in bad faith and wholly without merit, the court
23.8 may impose a sanction against the defendant of \$500 plus reasonable attorney fees.

23.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.