

LAND SALES ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 286 of 1972

565.831 Liability to purchaser for violation, deceptive act or practice, untrue statement, or omission; remedies of purchaser; joint and several liability; contribution; tender of reconveyance; limitation of action.

Sec. 31. (1) A person who disposes of subdivided lands in violation of section 6 or who, in disposing of subdivided lands engages in a deceptive act or practice, makes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits a material fact required to be stated in a registration statement or property report or necessary to make the statements made not misleading, is liable as provided in this section to the purchaser unless in the case of an untruth or omission it is proved that the purchaser did not rely on the untruth or omission.

(2) In addition to any other remedies, the purchaser under subsection (1) may recover the consideration paid for the lot, parcel, unit, or interest in subdivided lands together with interest at the rate of 6% per year from the date of payment, property taxes paid, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, less the amount of any income received from the subdivided lands, upon tender of appropriate instruments of reconveyance. If the purchaser no longer owns the lot, parcel, unit, or interest in subdivided lands, he may recover the amount that would be recoverable upon a tender of a reconveyance, less the value of the land when disposed of and less interest at the rate of 6% per year on that amount from the date of disposition.

(3) Every person who directly or indirectly controls a subdivider liable under subsection (1), every general partner, officer, or director of a subdivider, every person occupying a similar status or performing a similar function, every employee of the subdivider who materially aids in the disposition and every agent who materially aids in the disposition is also liable jointly and severally with and to the same extent as the subdivider, unless the person otherwise liable sustains the burden of proof that he did not know and in the exercise of reasonable care could not have known of the existence of the facts by reason of which the liability is alleged to exist. There is a right to contribution as in cases of contract among persons so liable.

(4) Every person whose occupation gives authority to a statement which with his consent has been used in an application for registration or property report, if he is not otherwise associated with the subdivision and development plan in a material way, is liable only for false statements and omissions in his statement and only if it is proved he knew or reasonably should have known of the existence of the true facts by reason of which the liability is alleged to exist. However, if the person is a registered professional licensed by this state whose statement was part of his representation of another person in rendering professional services, liability hereunder shall not exceed that resulting from a duty to exercise a reasonable degree of care and skill ordinarily possessed and exercised by members of that profession similarly situated.

(5) A tender of reconveyance may be made at any time before the entry of judgment.

(6) An action shall not be commenced pursuant to this section later than 3 years from the time performance of all promises, statements, or representations contained in any registration statement, property report, purchase agreement, contract, option, or other evidence of a disposition of subdivided lands is to be completed. Where the cause of action arises out of any deceptive act or practice or the omission to state a material fact, the action shall be commenced no later than 3 years from the date the person discovers or should have reasonably discovered the deceit or omission. An action shall not be commenced by a purchaser more than 6 years after the sale or lease to the purchaser.

History: 1972, Act 286, Eff. Mar. 30, 1973;—Am. 1973, Act 184, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 1974.