

## **MAHARASHTRA APARTMENT OWNERSHIP ACT, 1970**

**15 of 1971**

**[19th February, 1971]**

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### **SCHEDULE 1 :- SCHEDULE**

# **MAHARASHTRA APARTMENT OWNERSHIP ACT, 1970**

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An Act to provide for the ownership of an individual apartment in a building and to make such apartment heritable and transferable property. Preamble While construing a statute, it is permissible for the Court to look at the preamble to understand the conditions prevailing at the time when the enactment was brought into operation, but it cannot take the aid of a preamble to control or limit the meaning or the effect of a section. The court, cannot start with the preamble for construing the provisions of an Act, though they would be justified in resorting to it, may, they will be required to do so if they find that the language used by Parliament is ambiguous or is too general, though in point of fact Parliament intended that it should have a limited application.- AIR 1961 SC 954. WHEREAS, it is expedient to provide for the ownership of an individual apartment in a building and to make such apartment heritable and transferable property, and to provide for matters connected with the purposes aforesaid ; It is hereby enacted in the Twenty-first year of the Republic of India as follows :

## **1. Short title, extent and commencement :-**

(1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Apartment Ownership Act, 1970.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Maharashtra.

(3) This section shall come into force at once ; and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in such areas, and on such dates<sup>1</sup> as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different areas.

1. 10th day of August 1972 in the area of (1) Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay. (2) New Bombay, (3) Municipal Corporation of the City of Pune, (4) Corporation of the City of Nagpur, (5) Municipal Corporation of the City of Solapur, and (6) Municipal Councils of Akola, Amravati Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Nanded. Malegaon, Nashik, Latur, Osmanabad, Udgir, Basmatnagar, Parbhani, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Islampur, Ambernath, Dombivali, Thane, Hinganghat and Pulgaon. (Vide G. N., U.D., P.M. and H.D., No. FOB. 1071/26752-J, dated the 10th August 1972).

## **2. Application of Act :-**

This Act applies only to property, the sole owner or all the owners of which submit the same to the provisions of this Act by duly executing and registering a declaration as hereinafter provided : Provided that, no property shall be submitted to the provisions of this Act, <sup>1</sup>[unless it is used or proposed to be used for residence, office, practice of any profession or for carrying on any occupation, trade or business or for any other type of independent use :]

<sup>2</sup> [Provided further that the sole owner or all the owners of the land may submit such land to the provisions of this Act with a condition that he or they shall grant a lease of such land to the apartment owners, terms and conditions of the lease being disclosed in the Declaration either by annexing a copy of the instrument of lease to be executed to the Declaration or otherwise.]

1. These words were substituted for the words "unless it is mainly used, or proposed to be used for residential purposes" by Mah. 53 of 1974, s. 2

2. This proviso was deemed always to have been added by Mah. VI of 1974, s. 2.

## **3. Definitions :-**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "apartment" means a part of the property intended for any type of independent use, including one or more rooms or enclosed spaces located on one or more floors (or part or parts thereof) in a building, <sup>1</sup>[intended to be used for residence, office, practice of any profession, or for carrying on any occupation, trade or business or for any other type of independent use ] and with a direct exit to a public street, road or highway or to a common area leading to such street, road or highway ;

(b) "apartment owner" means the person or persons owning an apartment and an undivided interest in the common areas and facilities in the percentage specified and established in the Declaration ;

(c) "apartment number" means the number, letter, or combination thereof designating the apartment in the Declaration ;

(d) " Association of Apartment Owners" means all of the apartment owners acting as a group in accordance with the bye-laws and Declaration ;

(e) "building " means a building containing five or more apartments, or two or more buildings, each containing two or more apartments, with a total of five or more apartments for all such buildings, and comprising a part of the property ;

(f) " common areas and facilities ", unless otherwise provided in the Declaration or lawful amendments thereto, means -

(1) the land on which the building is located ;

(2) the foundations, columns, girders, beams, support, main walls, roofs, halls, corridors, lobbies, stairs, stair-ways, fire-escapes and entrances and exits of the building ;

(3) the basements, cellars, yards, gardens, parking areas and storage spaces ;

(4) the premises for the lodging of janitors or persons employed for the management of the property ;

(5) installations of central services, such as power, light, gas, hot and cold water, heating, refrigeration, air conditioning and incinerating ;

(6) the elevators, tanks, pumps, motors, fans, compressors, ducts and in general all apparatus and installations existing for common use ;

(7) such community and commercial facilities as may be provided for in the declaration ; and

(8) all other parts of the property necessary or convenient to its existence, maintenance and safety, or normally in common use;

(g) "common expenses " means,-

(1) all sums lawfully assessed against the apartment owners by the Association of Apartment Owners;

(2) expenses of administration, maintenance, repair or replacement of the common areas and facilities ;

(3) expenses agreed upon as common expenses by the Association of Apartment Owners ;

(4) expenses declared as common expenses by the provision of this Act, or by the Declaration or the bye-laws ;

(h) "common profits" means the balance of all income, rents, profits

and revenues from the common areas and facilities remaining after the deduction of the common expenses ;

**2** (i) "competent authority" :-

(1) in relation to buildings constructed or to be constructed by the Housing and Area Development Authority established under section 3, or a Housing and Area Development Board established under section 18 of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976, or by a company, means the Deputy Chief Engineer or the officer referred to in sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the promotion of construction, sale, management and transfer) Act, 1963 ; and

(2) in any other case, means the Registrar of Co-operative Societies as defined in the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 ;]

(j) "Declaration" means the instrument by which the property is submitted to the provisions of this Act, [as provided by section 2] and such Declaration as from time to time may be lawfully amended;

\*\*\*\*\*

(m) "joint family" means an undivided Hindu family, and in the case of other persons, a group or unit, the members of which are by custom joint in possession or residence ;

(n) "limited common areas and facilities" means those common areas and facilities designated in the Declaration as reserved for use of certain apartment or apartments to the exclusion of the other apartments ;

(o) "majority" or "majority of apartment owners" means the apartment owners with 51 per cent, or more of the votes in accordance with the percentages assigned in the Declaration to the apartments for voting purposes ;

(p) "person" includes a joint family ;

(q) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(r) "property" means the land, the building, all improvements and structures thereon, 9[\* \* \*] and all easements, rights and appurtenances belonging thereto, and all articles of personal property intended for use in connection therewith, which have been, or are intended to be, submitted to the provisions of this Act.

1. These words were substituted for the words " intended to be used for residential purposes" by Mah. 53 of 1974, s. 3(1)
2. Clause (i) was substituted for the original by Mah. 14 of 1986, s. 2 (a).

#### **4. Status of apartment :-**

<sup>1</sup> [Subject to the provisions of the second proviso to section 2 of this Act, each apartment] together with its undivided interest in the common areas and facilities, appurtenant to such apartment, shall for all purposes constitute heritable and transferable immovable property within the meaning of any law for the time being in force in the State ; and accordingly, an apartment owner may transfer his apartment and the percentage of undivided interest, in the common area and facilities appurtenant to such apartment by way of sale, mortgage, lease, gift, exchange or in any other manner whatsoever in the same manner, to the same extent and subject to the same rights, privileges, obligations, liabilities, investigation, legal proceedings, remedies and to penalty, forfeiture and punishment as any other immovable property, or make a bequest of the same under the laws applicable to the transfer and succession of immovable property.

1. These words and figures were deemed always to have been substituted for the words "Bach apartment", *ibid.*, s. 4.

#### **5. Ownership of apartments :-**

(1) Each apartment owner shall be entitled to the exclusive ownership and possession of his apartment <sup>1</sup>[in accordance with the Declaration executed and registered as required by section 2 of this Act.]

(2) each apartment owner <sup>2</sup> [shall execute a Deed of Apartment] in relation to his apartment in the manner prescribed for the purpose .

1. These words were deemed always to have been added, *ibid.*, s. 5.
2. These words were substituted for the words " shall execute a declaration that he submits his apartment to the provisions of this Act and a Deed of Apartment" by Mah. 53 of 1974. s. 4.

#### **6. Common areas and facilities :-**

(1) Each apartment owner shall be entitled to an interest in the common areas and facilities in the percentage expressed in the declaration. Such percentage shall be computed by taking as a basis the value of the apartment in relation to the value of the

property ; and such percentage shall reflect the limited common areas and facilities.

(2) The percentage of the undivided interest of each apartment owner in the common areas and facilities as expressed in the Declaration shall have a permanent character, and shall not be altered without the consent of all of the apartment owners expressed in an amended Declaration duly executed and registered as provided in this Act. The percentage of the undivided interest in the common areas and facilities shall not be separated from the apartment to which it appertains, and shall be deemed to be conveyed or encumbered with the apartment even though such interest is not expressly mentioned in the conveyance or other instrument.

(3) The common areas and facilities shall remain undivided, and no apartment owner or any other person shall bring any action for partition or division of any part thereof unless the property has been removed from the provision of this Act as provided in sections 14 and 22. Any covenant to the contrary shall be null and void.

(4) Each apartment owner may use the common areas and facilities in accordance with the purpose for which they are intended without hindering or encroaching upon the lawful rights of the other apartment owners.

(5) The necessary work of maintenance, repair and replacement of the common areas and facilities and the making of any additions or improvements thereto shall be carried out only as provided herein and in the bye-laws.

(6) The Association of Apartment Owners shall have the irrevocable right, to be exercised by the Manager or Board of Managers, to have access to each apartment from time to time during reasonable hours as may be necessary for the maintenance repairs and replacement of any of the common areas and facilities therein or accessible therefrom, or for making emergency repairs therein necessary to prevent damage to the common areas and facilities or to another apartment or apartments.

## **7. Compliance with covenants bye-laws and administrative provisions :-**

Each apartment owner shall comply strictly with the bye-laws and with the administrative rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, as either of the same may be lawfully amended from time

to time, and with the covenants, conditions and restrictions set forth in the declaration or in the Deed to his Apartment. Failure to comply with any of the same shall be a ground for an action to recover sums due, for damages or injunctive relief or both maintainable by the Manager or Board of Managers on behalf of the Association of Apartment Owners or, in a proper case, by an aggrieved apartment owner.

**8. Certain works prohibited :-**

No apartment owner shall do any work which would jeopardize the soundness or safety of the property, reduce the value thereof or impair any easement or hereditament nor may any apartment owner add any material structure or excavate any additional basement or cellar without in every such case the unanimous consent of all the other apartment owners being first obtained.

**9. Encumbrances against apartments Removal from encumbrances effect of part payment :-**

(1) Subsequent to recording the Declaration as provided in this Act, and while the property remains subject to this Act, no encumbrance of any nature shall thereafter arise or be effective against the property. During such period encumbrances may arise or be created only against each apartment and the percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant to such apartment in the same manner and under the same conditions in every respect as encumbrances may arise or be created upon or against any other separate parcel of property subject to individual ownership:

Provided that, if during the period any encumbrance has arisen or been created against such apartment and the percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities, appurtenant to such apartment, no apartment and such percentage of undivided interest shall be partitioned or sub-divided in interest:

Provided further that, no labour performed or material furnished with the consent or at the request of an apartment owner or his agent or his contractor or sub-contractor shall be the basis for a charge or any encumbrance under the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, against the apartment of any other property or any other apartment owner not expressly consenting to or requesting the same, except that such express consent shall be deemed to be given by the owner of any apartment in the case of



emergency repairs thereto Labour performed and material furnished for the common areas and facilities if duly authorised by the Association of Apartment Owners, the Manager or board of Managers in accordance with this Act. The Declaration or bye-laws, shall be deemed to be performed or furnished with the express consent of each apartment owner and shall be the basis for a charge or encumbrance under the Act aforesaid against each of the apartments and shall be subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section.

(2) In the event of a charge or any encumbrance against two or more apartments becoming effective, the apartment owners of the separate apartments may remove their apartments and the percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant to each apartments from the charge or encumbrance by payment of the fractional or proportional amounts attributable to each of the apartments affected. Such individual payment shall be computed by reference to the percentages appearing in the Declaration. Subsequent to any such payment, discharge or other satisfaction, the apartment and the percentages of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant thereto shall thereafter be free and clear of the charge or encumbrance so paid, satisfied or discharged. Such partial payment, satisfaction or discharges shall not prevent the person having a charge or any other encumbrance from proceeding to enforce his rights against any apartment and the percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant thereto not so paid, satisfied or discharged.

#### **10. Common profits and expenses :-**

The common profits of the property shall be distributed among, and the common expenses shall be charged to ,the apartment owners according to the percentage of the undivided interest in the common areas and facilities .

#### **11. Contents of Declaration :-**

(1) The Declaration shall contain the following particulars, namely ;-

(a) Description of the land on which the building and improvements are or are to be located ; and whether the land is freehold or leasehold [and whether any lease of the land is to be granted in accordance with the second proviso to section 2 of this Act;]

- (b) Description of the building stating the number of storeys and basements, the number of apartment and the principal materials of which it is or is to be constructed ;
  - (c) The apartment number of each apartment, and a statement of its location, approximate area, number of rooms, and immediate common area to which it has access, and any other data necessary for its proper identification ;
  - (d) Description of the common areas and facilities ;
  - (e) Description of the limited common areas and facilities, if any, stating to which apartments their use is reserved ;
  - (f) Value of the property and of each apartment, and the percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appertaining to each apartment and its owner for all purposes, including voting ; and a statement that the apartment and such percentage of undivided interest are not encumbered in any manner whatsoever on the date of the Declaration ;
  - (g) Statement of the purposes for which the building and each of the apartment are intended and restricted as to use ;
  - (h) The name of a person to receive service of process in the cases hereinafter provided, together with the residence or place of business of such persons which shall be within the city, town or village in which the building is located ;
  - (i) Provision as to the percentage of votes by the apartment owners which shall be determinative of whether to re-build, repair, restore or sell the property in the event of damage or distinction of all or part of the property ;
  - (j) Any other detail in connection with the property which the person executing the Declaration may seem desirable to set forth. Consistent with this Act;
  - (k) The method by which the declaration may be amended, consistent with the provisions of this Act. These words were deemed always to have been added by Mah. VI of 1974. S. 6.
- (2) A true copy of each of the declaration and bye-laws and all amendments to the Declaration or the bye-laws shall be filed in the office of the competent authority.

## **12. Contents of deeds of apartments :-**

(1) Deeds of apartments shall include the followings particulars,namely :-

(a) Description of the land as provided in section 11 of this Act or the post office address of the property, including in either case the liber, page and date of executing the Declaration, the date and serial number of its registration under the <sup>1</sup> [Registration Act, 1908], and the date and other reference, if any, of its filing with the competent authority .

(b) The apartment number of the apartment in the Declaration and any other data necessary for its proper identification.

(c) Statement of the use for which the apartment is intended and restrictions on its use, if any.

(d) The percentage of undivided interest appertaining to the apartment in the common areas and facilities.

(e) Any further details which the parties to the Deed may deem desirable to set forth consistent with the Declaration and this Act.

(2) A true copy of every Deed of Apartment shall be filed in the office of the competent authority .

1. These words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "Indian Registration Act, 1908" by Mah.14 of 1986, s. 3.

**13. Declarations, deeds of apartments and Copies of floor plans to be registered :-**

(1) The Declaration and all amendments thereto and the Deed of Apartments in respect of each apartment and the floor plans of the buildings referred to in sub-section (2) shall all be registered under the <sup>1</sup>[Registration Act, 1908.]

(2) Simultaneously with the registration of the Declaration there shall be filed along with it a set of the floor plans of the building showing the layout, location apartment numbers and dimensions of the apartments stating the name of the building or that it has no name, and bearing the verified statement of an architect certifying that it is an accurate copy of portions of the plans of the buildings as filed with and approved by the local authority within whose jurisdiction the building is located. If such plans do not include a verified statement by such architect that such plans fully and accurately depict the layout, location, apartment numbers and

dimensions of the apartments as built, these shall be recorded prior to the first conveyance of any apartment, an amendment to the Declaration to which shall be attached a verified statement of an architect certifying that the plans theretofore filed, or being filed simultaneously with such amendment, fully and accurately depict

(3) In all registration offices a book called "Register of Declarations and Deeds of Apartment under the Maharashtra Apartment Ownership Act, 1970" and Index relating thereto shall be kept. The book and the Index shall be kept in such form and shall contain such particulars as the State Government may prescribe.

(4) It shall be the duty of every Manager of Board of Manager to send to the Sub-Register of the sub-district in which the property containing the apartments situate, or if there is no Sub-register for the area, to the Registrar of the district in which such property is situate, a certified copy of the Declaration and Deed of Apartment made in respect of every apartment contained in the building forming part of the property together with a memorandum containing such particulars as the State Government may prescribe.

(5) The Sub-Register, or as the case may be, the Registrar shall register the Declaration along with floor plans of the building and the Deed of Apartments in the Register of Declarations and Deeds of Apartment under the Maharashtra Apartment Ownership Act, 1970 and shall also enter particulars in the Index kept under sub-section (3). Any person acquiring any apartment of any apartment owner shall be deemed to have notice" of the Declaration and of the Deed of Apartment as from the date of its registration under this section.

(6) Except as provided in this section, the provisions of the <sup>2</sup> [Registration Act, 1908], shall mutatis mutandis apply to the registration of such Declaration and Deeds of Apartment, and the words and expressions used in this section but not defined in this Act shall have the meanings assigned to them in the 16[Registration Act, 1908].

1. These words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "Indian Registration Act, 1908"ibid., s. 4.

2. These words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "Indian Registration Act, 1908"ibid.,s. 4.

#### **14. Removal from provisions of Act :-**

(1) All the apartment owners may remove a property from the

provisions of this Act by an Instrument to that effect duly executed : Provided that, the holders of all charges and other encumbrances affecting any of the apartments consent thereto or agree, in either case by instrument duly executed, that their charges or encumbrances be transferred to the percentage of the undivided interest of the apartment owner in the property as herein after provided.

(2) Upon removal of the property from the provision of this Act, the property shall be deemed to be owned in common by the apartment owner. The undivided interest in the property owned in common which shall appertain to each apartment owner shall be the percentage of undivided interest previously owned by such owner in the common areas and facilities.

**15. Removal on bar to subsequent re-submission of property to Act :-**

The removal provided for in the preceding section shall in no way bar the subsequent re-submission of the property to the provision of this Act.

**16. Bye laws, their contents :-**

(1) The administration of every property shall be governed by bye-laws a true copy of which shall be annexed to the Declaration. No modification of or amendment to the bye-laws shall be valid, unless set forth in an amendment to the Declaration, and such amendment is duly recorded, and a copy thereof is duly filed with the competent authority.

(2) The bye-laws shall provide for the following matters, namely :-

(a) The election from among the apartment owners of a Board of Managers, the number of persons constituting the same, and that the terms of at least one-third of the members of such Board shall expire annually ; the powers and duties of the Board; the compensation, if any of the members of the Board ; the method of removal from office of members of the Board ; and whether or not the Board may engage the services of a Secretary, a Manager or Managing Agent and specifying which of the powers and duties granted to the Board by this Act, or otherwise may be delegated by the board to either or both of them ;

(b) Method of calling meetings of the apartment owners ; what percentage, if other than a majority of apartment owners, shall

constitute a quorum;

(c) Election of a President from among the members of the Board of Managers who shall preside over the meeting of such Board and of the Association of Apartment Owners ;

(d) Election of a Secretary who shall keep a minute book wherein resolutions shall be recorded ;

(e) Election of a Treasurer who shall keep the financial records and books of accounts ;

(f) Maintenance, repair and replacement of the common area and facilities and payments therefor ;

(g) Manner of collecting from the apartment owners their share of the common expenses ;

(h) Designation and removal of persons employed for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the common areas and facilities ;

(i) The method of adopting and of amending administrative rules and regulations governing the details of the operation and use of the common areas and facilities ;

(j) Such restrictions on the requirements respecting the use and maintenance of the apartments and the use of the common areas and facilities not set forth in the Declaration, as are designed to prevent unreasonable interference with the use of their respective apartments and of the common areas and facilities by the several apartment owners ;

(k) The percentage of the votes required to amend the bye-laws.

(3) The bye-laws may also provide for the following matters, namely :-

(a) Subject to the provisions of this Act, provision for regulating transfer or partition of any apartment and percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant to such apartment, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified in the bye-laws;

(b) Provisions enabling the Board of Managers to retain certain areas of the building and lease to non residents for commercial purposes and for distribution of resulting proceeds to the apartment

owners as income or application thereof in reduction of their common charges for maintaining the building ;

(c) Any other provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, relating to the audit and accounts and administration of the property and annual and special general meetings, annual report and the like.

**17. Waiver of use of common areas and facilities abandonment of apartments :-**

No apartment owner may exempt himself from liability for his contribution towards the common expenses by waiver of the use of enjoyment of any of the common areas and facilities, or by abandonment of his apartment.

**18. Separate assessment :-**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any law relating to local authorities, each apartment and its percentage of undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant to such apartment (being an apartment submitted to the provision of this Act) shall be deemed to be separate property for the purpose of assessment to tax on lands and buildings leviable under such law and shall be assessed and taxed accordingly; and for this purpose, a local authority shall make all suitable rules to carry out the provisions of this section. Neither the building, the property nor any of the common areas and facilities shall be deemed to be separate property for the purposes of the levy of such tax.

**19. Charge for property of common expenses :-**

All sums assessed by the Association of Apartment Owners but unpaid for the share of the common expenses chargeable to any apartment shall constitute a charge on such apartment prior to all other charges except; only (i) charge, if any, on the apartment for payment of Government and municipal taxes, and (ii) all sums unpaid on a first mortgage of the apartment.

**20. Joint and several liability of vendor etc.for unpaid common expenses :-**

Upon the sale of an apartment, the purchaser of the apartment shall be jointly and severally liable with the vendor for all unpaid assessments against the latter for his share of the common expenses upto the time of the sale without prejudice to the purchaser's or grantee's right to recover from the vendor the amount paid by the purchaser or grantee therefor. Any such

purchaser shall be entitled to a statement from the Secretary of Board of Managers, setting forth the amount of the unpaid assessment against the vendor and such purchaser or grantee shall not be liable for, nor shall the apartment sold, be subject to a charge for any unpaid share of common expenses against such apartment accrued prior to such sale or bequest in excess of the amount therein set forth.

**21. Insurance :-**

The Manager or Board of Managers, if required by the Declaration or the bye-laws by a majority of the apartment owners, or at the request of the mortgagee having a first mortgage covering an apartment, shall have the authority to, and shall obtain insurance for the property against loss or damage by fire, and such other hazards under such terms and for such amounts as shall be required, or requested. Such insurance coverage shall be written on the property in the name of such Manager or of the Board of Managers of the Association of the Apartment Owners as trustee for each of the apartment owners in the percentages established in the Declaration. Premiums shall be common expenses. Provisions for such insurance shall be without prejudice to the right of each apartment owner to insure his own apartment for his benefit.

**22. Disposition of property, destruction or damage :-**

If within sixty days of the date of damage or destruction to all or part of the property, it is not determined by the Association of Apartment Owners to repair, reconstruct or rebuild, then and in that event, -

(a) the property shall be deemed to be owned in common by the apartment owners;

(b) the undivided interest in the property owned in common which shall appertain to each apartment owner shall be the percentage of the undivided interest previously owned by such owner in the common areas and facilities;

(c) any encumbrances affecting any of the apartments shall be deemed to be transferred in accordance with the existing priority to the percentage of the undivided interest of the apartment owner in the property as provided herein;

(d) the property shall be subject to an action for partition at the suit of any apartment owner, in which event the net proceeds of sale together with the net proceeds of the insurance on the



property, if any, shall be considered as one fund and shall be divided among all the apartment owners in percentage equal to the percentage of undivided interest owned by each owner in the property after first paying out, all the respective shares of the apartment owners to the extent sufficient for the purpose and all charges on the undivided interest in the property owned by each apartment owner.

**23. Action :-**

Without limiting the rights of any apartment owner, actions may be brought by the Manager or Board of Managers, in either case in the discretion of the Board of Managers, on behalf of two or more of the apartment owners as their respective interest may appear, with respect to any cause of action relating to the common areas and facilities or more than one apartment. Service of process on two or more apartment owners in any action relating to the common areas and facilities or more than one apartment may be made on the person designated in the Declaration to receive service of process.

**24. Act to be binding on apartment owners, tenants etc :-**

(1) All apartment owners, tenants of such owners, employees of owners and tenants, or any other person that may in any manner use property or any part thereof submitted to the provisions of this Act shall be subject to this Act and to the Declaration and the by-laws of the Association of Apartment Owners adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

(2) All agreements, decisions and determinations lawfully made by the Association of Apartment Owners in accordance with the voting percentages established under this Act, Declaration or bye-laws, shall be deemed to be binding on all apartment owners.

**24A. Power to exempt from stamp duty, registration fee and court fee, power to refund :-**

**1**

(1) The State Government by notification in the Official Gazette, may reduce or remit whether prospectively or retrospectively-

(a) the stamp duty with which under any law relating to stamp duty for the time being in force, instruments or documents executed by or on behalf of a promoter, an apartment -owner or association of apartment owners relating to any of the purposes of the Act are respectively chargeable;

(b) any fee payable by or on behalf of any promoter, apartment - owner or association of apartment owners in relation to instruments or documents referred to in clause(a) under any law relating to the registration of documents or to Court fees, for the time being in force which the State Government is competent to levy.

(2) The State Government may refund the amount of any duty or fee paid in pursuance of any law referred to in sub-section (1) in such circumstances, to such extent and subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as the State Government may by order determine.]

1. Section 24-A was inserted by Mali, 53 of 1974, s. 5.

## **25. Power to make rules :-**

(1) The State Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Government Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following both Houses agree in making any modification in the rules or both Houses agree that the rules should not be made and notify such decision in the Official Gazette, the rules shall, from the date of publication of such notification have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done or omitted to be done under that rule.

## **26. Removal of doubts :-**

For the removal of doubt, it is hereby declared that the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, shall, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, apply to every apartment together with its undivided interest in the common areas and facilities appurtenant to such apartment as those provisions apply in relation to any immovable property, and the provision of this Act shall take effect, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any contract.

## **27. Amendment to Certain Acts :-**

The <sup>1</sup> [enactment] specified in the Schedule hereto shall be amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the third column thereof.

1. This word was substituted for the word "enactments" by Mah. 14 of 1986, s. 5.

**28. Severability :-**

If any provision of this Act or any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word or application thereof in any circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Act and of the application of any such provision, section, sentence, clause, phrase or word, in any other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SCHEDULE 1

SCHEDULE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHEDULE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(See section 27)</p>		
Number and year of enactment	Subject or title	Extent of amendment
1	2	3
Mah. XLV of 1963.	The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the promotion of construction, sale, management and transfer) Act, 1963. Mah. XV of 1971	(1) In section 2-
		(a) in clause (a), after the words "part of a building" the words "and includes an apartment" shall be added ;
		(b) in clause (c), after the words "building of flats" the words "or apartments" shall be inserted;
		(c) in clause (e), after the word "flats" at both the places where it occurs, the words "or apartment" shall be inserted;
		(d) after clause (e), the following shall be added, namely :-
		"(f) the expressions 'apartment' and 'apartment owner' shall have the meanings, respectively assigned to them in the Maharashtra Apartment Ownership Act, 1970."

Number and year of enactment	Subject or title	Extent of amendment
1	2	3
	Mah. XV of 1971. Mah. XXIV of 1961	(2) Section 10 shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of the section and after sub-section (2) so renumbered, the following sub-section shall be added, namely;-
		" (2) If any property consisting of building or buildings is constructed or to be constructed and the apartment takes propose to submit the apartments to the provisions of the Maharashtra Apartment Ownership Act, 1970, by executing Declarations and Deeds of Apartments as required by that Act, then the promoter shall inform the Registrar as defined in the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 accordingly; and in such cases, it shall not be lawful to form any co-operative society or company, and each apartment owner shall be entitled to the exclusive ownership and possession of his apartment as provided in the first mentioned Act."
		(3) In section 11, after the word "flat takers" the words "or apartment owners" shall be inserted.