

By Representative Rodriguez-Chomat

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to homestead exemption;
3 amending s. 196.031, F.S.; exempting an
4 additional amount of the assessed value of
5 certain homesteads under certain circumstances;
6 providing a contingent effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (3) of
11 section 196.031, Florida Statutes, to read:

12 196.031 Exemption of homesteads.--

13 (1) Every person who, on January 1, has the legal
14 title or beneficial title in equity to real property in this
15 state and who resides thereon and in good faith makes the same
16 his or her permanent residence, or the permanent residence of
17 another or others legally or naturally dependent upon such
18 person, is entitled to an exemption from all taxation, except
19 for assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed
20 valuation of \$5,000 on the residence and contiguous real
21 property, as defined in s. 6, Art. VII of the State
22 Constitution. Such title may be held by the entireties,
23 jointly, or in common with others, and the exemption may be
24 apportioned among such of the owners as shall reside thereon,
25 as their respective interests shall appear. If only one of the
26 owners of an estate held by the entireties or held jointly
27 with the right of survivorship resides on the property, that
28 owner is allowed an exemption of up to the assessed valuation
29 of \$5,000 on the residence and contiguous real property.
30 However, no such exemption of more than \$5,000 is allowed to
31 any one person or on any one dwelling house, except that an

1 exemption up to the assessed valuation of \$5,000 may be
2 allowed on each apartment or mobile home occupied by a
3 tenant-stockholder or member of a cooperative corporation and
4 on each condominium parcel occupied by its owner. Except for
5 owners of an estate held by the entirety or held jointly
6 with the right of survivorship, the amount of the exemption
7 may not exceed the proportionate assessed valuation of all
8 owners who reside on the property. Before such exemption may
9 be granted, the deed or instrument shall be recorded in the
10 official records of the county in which the property is
11 located. The property appraiser may request the applicant to
12 provide additional ownership documents to establish title.

13 (3)

14 (f) For every person who is entitled to the exemption
15 provided in subsection (1), who is a permanent resident of
16 this state, who is 65 years of age or older, and whose
17 combined family gross annual income is \$36,000 or less, the
18 exemption is increased by an additional \$25,000 of assessed
19 valuation for levies of all taxing authorities.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect on the effective
21 date of an amendment to the State Constitution approved by the
22 electors at the general election to be held in November 1998
23 which authorizes, or removes impediment to, enactment by the
24 Legislature of the provisions of this act.

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27 HOUSE SUMMARY

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29 Provides an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption to
30 persons who are 65 years of age or older and whose
31 combined family gross annual income is \$36,000 or less,
contingent on approval of a constitutional amendment
authorizing such exemption.