



HB 0039

2003

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to homestead exemption; amending s.  
196.131, F.S.; providing a penalty for claiming homestead  
exemption if the source of the funds for the home came  
from fraudulent sources; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 196.131, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
read:

196.131 Homestead exemptions; claims.--

(1) At the time each taxpayer files claim for homestead  
exemption, the property appraiser shall deliver to the taxpayer a  
receipt over his or her signature, or that of a duly authorized  
deputy, which shall appropriately identify the property covered  
in the application, shall bear date as of the day such  
application is received by the property appraiser, and shall  
include any serial number or other identifying data desired by  
said property appraiser. The possession of such receipt shall  
constitute conclusive proof of the timely filing of such  
application.

(2) Any person who knowingly and willfully gives false  
information for the purpose of claiming homestead exemption as  
provided for in this chapter commits ~~is guilty of~~ a misdemeanor  
of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by  
fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.

(3) Any person who knowingly and willfully claims homestead  
exemption on a home which has been paid for, in part or in whole  
with funds which are derived from a fraudulent source such as  
corporate fraud commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,



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31 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by fine not exceeding  
32 \$5,000, or both.

33       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.