



HB 0139A

2003

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to homestead exemption; amending s.
 196.131, F.S.; providing a value-based sliding scale of
 criminal penalties for claiming homestead exemption if the
 funds for the homestead were unlawfully obtained from the
 performance of a fraudulent act; providing for
 construction of the act in pari materia with laws enacted
 during the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature;
 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.



HB 0139A

2003

31 (3) Any person who knowingly and willfully claims
 32 homestead exemption on a home which has been paid for, in part
 33 or in whole, with funds which are unlawfully obtained through
 34 the performance of a fraudulent act commits, if the assessed
 35 value of the homestead is:

36 (a) At least \$200,000 but less than \$500,000, a felony of
 37 the third degree;

38 (b) At least \$500,000 but less than \$1.5 million, a felony
 39 of the second degree; or

40 (c) At least \$1.5 million, a felony of the first degree,
 41
 42 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

43 Section 2. If any law amended by this act was also amended
 44 by a law enacted at the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature,
 45 such laws shall be construed as if they had been enacted at the
 46 same session of the Legislature, and full effect shall be given
 47 to each if possible.

48 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.