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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to relief for persons whose primary
 residences were damaged by a named tropical system;
 providing for reimbursement of a portion of the ad valorem
 tax levied on a house or other residential building if the
 building is rendered uninhabitable due to a named tropical
 system; requiring that application for such reimbursement
 be made with the property appraiser; providing application
 requirements; requiring that the property owner provide
 documentation that the property was uninhabitable;
 requiring each property appraiser to determine an
 applicant's entitlement to reimbursement and the
 reimbursement amount; providing a formula for calculating
 the reimbursement amount; limiting the reimbursement
 amount; requiring property appraisers to submit
 reimbursement lists to the Chief Financial Officer by a
 specified date; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to
 calculate reimbursements in conformance with the amount
 appropriated and disburse reimbursement checks
 accordingly; providing a definition; providing a penalty
 for giving false information; providing an appropriation;
 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Reimbursement for ad valorem taxes levied on
 residential property rendered uninhabitable due to a named
 tropical system.--

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words underlined are additions.

29 (1) If a house or other residential building or structure
 30 that has been granted the homestead exemption under section
 31 196.031, Florida Statutes, is damaged so that it is rendered
 32 uninhabitable due to a named tropical system during 2004, the ad
 33 valorem taxes levied for that house or other residential
 34 building for the 2004 tax year shall be partially reimbursed in
 35 the following manner:

36 (a) An application must be filed by the owner, on or
 37 before March 1, 2005, with the property appraiser in the county
 38 in which the property is located. Failure to file such
 39 application on or before March 1, 2005, constitutes a waiver of
 40 any claim for partial reimbursement under this section. The
 41 application must be filed in the manner and form prescribed by
 42 the property appraiser.

43 (b) The application, attested to under oath, must identify
 44 the property rendered uninhabitable by a named tropical system,
 45 the date the damage occurred, and the number of days the
 46 property was uninhabitable. Documentation supporting the claim
 47 that the property was uninhabitable must accompany the
 48 application. Such documentation may include, but is not limited
 49 to, utility bills, insurance information, contractors'
 50 statements, building permit applications, or building inspection
 51 certificates of occupancy.

52 (c) Upon receipt of the application, the property
 53 appraiser shall investigate the statements contained therein to
 54 determine whether the applicant is entitled to a partial
 55 reimbursement under this section. If the property appraiser
 56 determines that the applicant is entitled to such reimbursement,

57 the property appraiser shall calculate the reimbursement amount.
58 The reimbursement shall be an amount equal to the total ad
59 valorem taxes levied on the homestead property for the 2004 tax
60 year, multiplied by a ratio equal to the number of days the
61 property was uninhabitable in 2004 divided by 366. However, the
62 amount of reimbursement may not exceed \$1,500.

63 (d) The property appraiser shall compile a list of
64 property owners entitled to a partial reimbursement. The list
65 shall be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer by April 1,
66 2005, in the manner and form prescribed by the Chief Financial
67 Officer.

68 (e) Upon receipt of the reimbursement lists from the
69 property appraisers, the Chief Financial Officer shall disburse
70 reimbursement checks from general revenue in the amounts and to
71 the persons indicated in the reimbursement lists received from
72 the property appraisers. Before disbursing any reimbursement
73 checks, the Chief Financial Officer shall determine the total of
74 all reimbursement requests submitted by the property appraisers.
75 If the total amount of reimbursement requested exceeds the
76 amount appropriated for that purpose in section 2, the Chief
77 Financial Officer shall reduce all reimbursement checks by a
78 percentage sufficient to reduce total reimbursement payments to
79 an amount equal to the appropriation.

80 (f) As used in this section, the term "uninhabitable"
81 means that a building or structure cannot be used during a
82 period of 60 days or more for the purpose for which it was
83 constructed. However, if a property owner is living in an
84 uninhabitable structure because alternative living quarters are

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85 unavailable, the owner is eligible for reimbursement as provided
86 in this section.

87 (2) Any person who knowingly and willfully gives false
88 information for the purpose of claiming reimbursement under this
89 section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
90 provided in s. 775.082, Florida Statutes, or by a fine not
91 exceeding \$5,000, or both.

92 Section 2. The sum of \$20 million is appropriated from the
93 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Financial Services for
94 purposes of paying a partial reimbursement of property taxes as
95 provided in this act.

96 Section 3. This act shall tax effect upon becoming a law.