37-57-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to homestead exemption;
3	amending s. 196.131, F.S.; providing a
4	value-based sliding scale of criminal penalties
5	for claiming homestead exemption if the funds
6	for the homestead were unlawfully obtained
7	through the performance of a fraudulent act;
8	providing an effective date.
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10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12	Section 1. Section 196.131, Florida Statutes, is
13	amended to read:
14	196.131 Homestead exemptions; claims; receipt; false
15	information; use of funds from fraudulent acts; penalties
16	(1) At the time each taxpayer files claim for \underline{a}
17	homestead exemption, the property appraiser shall deliver to
18	the taxpayer a receipt over his or her signature, or that of a
19	duly authorized deputy, which shall appropriately identify the
20	property covered in the application, shall bear date as of the
21	day such application is received by the property appraiser,
22	and shall include any serial number or other identifying data
23	desired by $\underline{\text{the}}$ $\underline{\text{said}}$ property appraiser. The possession of such
24	receipt shall constitute conclusive proof of the timely filing
25	of such application.
26	(2) Any person who knowingly and willfully gives false
27	information for the purpose of claiming \underline{a} homestead exemption
28	as provided for in this chapter <u>commits</u> is guilty of a
29	misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
30	775.082 or by fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.
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1	(3) Any person who knowingly and willfully claims
2	homestead exemption on a home that has been paid for, in a
3	part or in whole, with funds that are unlawfully obtained
4	through the performance of a fraudulent act commits, if the
5	assessed value of the homestead is:
6	(a) At least \$200,000 but less than \$500,000, a felony
7	of the third degree;
8	(b) At least \$500,000 but less than \$1.5 million, a
9	felony of the second degree; or
10	(c) At least \$1.5 million, a felony of the first
11	degree,
12	
13	punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
14	<u>775.084.</u>
15	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.
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17	SENATE SUMMARY Makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully claim a
17 18	SENATE SUMMARY Makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully claim a homestead exemption on a home bought with funds unlawfully obtained through a fraudulent act. Provides
17 18 19	SENATE SUMMARY Makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully claim a homestead exemption on a home bought with funds
17 18 19 20	SENATE SUMMARY Makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully claim a homestead exemption on a home bought with funds unlawfully obtained through a fraudulent act. Provides
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