

By Senator Saunders

37-57-05

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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
through the performance of a fraudulent act;
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; receipt; false
information; use of funds from fraudulent acts; penalties.--

(1) At the time each taxpayer files claim for a
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 the 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 a 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.

