

By the Committee on Community Affairs; and Senators Justice, Rich, Wilson, Baker, Jones and King

578-2283-07

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
31

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the homestead exemption for persons certified as totally and permanently disabled; amending s. 196.101, F.S.; authorizing a licensed optometrist to certify that a person is totally and permanently disabled solely as a result of legal blindness and therefore entitled to the exemption; specifying a certification form; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section 196.101, Florida Statutes, to read:

196.101 Exemption for totally and permanently disabled persons.--

(6) An optometrist licensed under chapter 463 may certify a person to be totally and permanently disabled solely as a result of legal blindness by issuing a certification in accordance with subsection (7). Certification of total and permanent disability due to legal blindness by a physician and an optometrist licensed in this state may be deemed to meet the requirements of subsection (3).

(7) The optometrist's certification shall read as follows:

OPTOMETRIST'S CERTIFICATION OF
TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY

1 I, (name of optometrist), an optometrist licensed pursuant to
2 chapter 463, Florida Statutes, hereby certify that Mr.
3 Mrs. Miss Ms. (name of totally and permanently disabled
4 person), social security number _____, is totally and
5 permanently disabled as of January 1, (year), due to legal
6 blindness.

7
8 It is my professional belief that the above-named condition
9 renders Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. (name of totally and
10 permanently disabled person) totally and permanently disabled
11 and that the foregoing statements are true, correct, and
12 complete to the best of my knowledge and professional belief.

13
14 Signature _____

15 Address (print) _____

16 Date _____

17 Florida Board of Optometry license number _____

18 Issued on _____

19
20 NOTICE TO TAXPAYER: Each Florida resident applying for a total
21 and permanent disability exemption must present to the county
22 property appraiser, on or before March 1 of each year, a copy
23 of this form or a letter from the United States Department of
24 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. Each form is to be
25 completed by a licensed Florida optometrist.

26
27 NOTICE TO TAXPAYER AND OPTOMETRIST: Section 196.131(2),
28 Florida Statutes, provides that any person who knowingly and
29 willfully gives false information for the purpose of claiming
30 homestead exemption commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
31

1 punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a
2 fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

4
5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
7 Senate Bill 1744

8 The committee substitute provides a form for the
9 "optometrist's certification of total and permanent
10 disability." It changes the effective date to July 1, 2007.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31