HB 391 2008

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transfer fee covenants; creating s. 689.28, F.S.; providing legislative intent regarding transfer fee covenants; providing definitions; providing that certain transfer fee covenants are unenforceable against subsequent owners, purchasers, and mortgagees; providing that a presumption is not created in favor of transfer fee covenants recorded before the effective date of the act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection 689.28, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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689.28 Prohibition against transfer fee covenants.--

public policy of this state favors the marketability of real

INTENT. -- The Legislature finds and declares that the

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property and the transferability of interests in real property free of title defects, unreasonable restraints on alienation, 19

and covenants and servitudes that do not touch and concern the 20 21

property. The Legislature further finds and declares that transfer fee covenants violate this public policy by impairing

the marketability and transferability of real property, 23

24 constituting an unreasonable restraint on alienation regardless 25 of the duration of such covenants or the amount of such transfer

26 fees, and do not touch and concern the real property for the

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purposes of running with the title to the property or for

binding subsequent owners of the property under common law or

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

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equitable principles.

- (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Environmental covenant" means a covenant or servitude that imposes limitations on the use of real property pursuant to an environmental remediation project pertaining to the property. An environmental covenant is not a transfer fee covenant.
- (b) "Transfer" means the sale, gift, conveyance, assignment, inheritance, or other transfer of an ownership interest in real property located in this state.
- (c) "Transfer fee" means a fee or charge payable upon the transfer of an interest in real property, or payable for the right to make or accept such transfer, regardless of whether the fee or charge is a fixed amount or is determined as a percentage of the value of the property, the purchase price, or other consideration given for the transfer. The following are not transfer fees for purposes of this section:
- 1. Any consideration payable by the grantee to the grantor for the interest in real property being transferred, including any subsequent additional consideration for the property payable by the grantee based upon any subsequent appreciation, development, or sale of the property.
- 2. Any commission payable to a licensed real estate broker for the transfer of real property pursuant to an agreement between the broker and the grantor or the grantee, including any subsequent additional commission for that transfer payable by the grantor or the grantee based upon any subsequent appreciation, development, or sale of the property.
  - 3. Any interest, charges, fees, or other amounts payable

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by a borrower to a lender pursuant to a loan secured by a mortgage against real property, including, but not limited to, any fee payable to the lender for consenting to an assumption of the loan or a transfer of the real property subject to the mortgage, any fees or charges payable to the lender for estoppel letters or certificates, and any shared appreciation interest or profit participation or other consideration described in s.

687.03(4) and payable to the lender in connection with the loan.

- 4. Any rent, reimbursement, charge, fee, or other amount payable by a lessee to a lessor under a lease, including, but not limited to, any fee payable to the lessor for consenting to an assignment, subletting, encumbrance, or transfer of the lease.
- 5. Any consideration payable to the holder of an option to purchase an interest in real property or the holder of a right of first refusal or first offer to purchase an interest in real property for waiving, releasing, or not exercising the option or right upon the transfer of the property to another person.
- 6. Any tax, fee, charge, assessment, fine, or other amount payable to or imposed by a governmental authority.
- 7. Any fee, charge, assessment, fine, or other amount payable to a homeowners', condominium, cooperative, mobile home, or property owners' association pursuant to a declaration or covenant or law applicable to such association, including, but not limited to, fees or charges payable for estoppel letters or certificates issued by or on behalf of the association.
- 8. Any fee, charge, assessment, dues, contribution, or other amount imposed pursuant to a declaration or covenant

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encumbering four or more parcels in a community, as defined in s. 720.301, and payable to a nonprofit organization for the purpose of supporting cultural, educational, charitable, recreational, or other similar activities benefiting the community that is subject to the declaration or covenant.

9. Any payment required pursuant to an environmental covenant.

- (d) "Transfer fee covenant" means a declaration or covenant purporting to affect real property which requires or purports to require the payment of a transfer fee to the declarant or other person specified in the declaration or covenant or to their successors or assigns upon a subsequent transfer of an interest in the real property.
- (3) PROHIBITION.--A transfer fee covenant recorded in this state on or after July 1, 2008, does not run with the title to real property and is not binding on or enforceable at law or in equity against any subsequent owner, purchaser, or mortgagee of any interest in real property as an equitable servitude or otherwise. Any lien purporting to secure the payment of a transfer fee under a transfer fee covenant recorded in this state on or after July 1, 2008, is void and unenforceable. This subsection does not mean that transfer fee covenants or transfer fee liens recorded in this state before July 1, 2008, are presumed valid and enforceable.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.