

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	•	House
Comm: RCS		
02/27/2012	•	
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The Committee on Banking and Insurance (Hays) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 95.11, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (h) is added to subsection (5) of that section, to read:

95.11 Limitations other than for the recovery of real property.-Actions other than for recovery of real property shall be commenced as follows: 10

- (2) WITHIN FIVE YEARS.-
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- (b) A legal or equitable action on a contract, obligation,

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13	or liability founded on a written instrument, except for an
14	action to enforce a claim against a payment bond, which shall be
15	governed by the applicable provisions of ss. 255.05(10) and
16	713.23(1)(e), and except for actions for a deficiency judgment
17	governed by paragraph (5)(h).
18	(5) WITHIN ONE YEAR.—
19	(h) An action to enforce a claim of a deficiency related to
20	a note secured by a mortgage against a residential property that
21	is a one-family to four-family dwelling unit. The limitations
22	period shall commence on the 11th day after the foreclosure sale
23	or the day after the mortgagee accepts a deed in lieu of
24	foreclosure.
25	Section 2. The amendment to s. 95.11, Florida Statutes,
26	made by this act shall apply to any action commenced on or after
27	July 1, 2012, regardless of when the cause of action accrued,
28	except that any action that would not have been barred under s.
29	95.11(2)(b), Florida Statutes, prior to the amendments made by
30	this act may be commenced no later than 5 years after the action
31	accrued and in no event later than July 1, 2013, and if the
32	action is not commenced by that date, it is barred by the
33	amendments made by this act.
34	Section 3. Section 702.015, Florida Statutes, is created to
35	read:
36	702.015 Elements of complaint; lost, destroyed, or stolen
37	<u>note affidavit</u>
38	(1) The Legislature intends that the requirements of this
39	section are to expedite the foreclosure process by ensuring
40	initial disclosure of a plaintiff's status and the facts
41	supporting that status and thereby ensuring the availability of

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42	documents necessary to the prosecution of the case. This section
43	is not intended to modify existing law regarding standing or
44	real parties in interest.
45	(2) A complaint that seeks to foreclose a mortgage or other
46	lien on residential real property, including individual units of
47	condominiums and cooperatives, designed principally for
48	occupation by from one to four families, but not including an
49	interest in a timeshare property, which secures a promissory
50	note must:
51	(a) Contain affirmative allegations expressly made by the
52	plaintiff at the time the proceeding is commenced that the
53	plaintiff is the holder of the original note secured by the
54	mortgage; or
55	(b) Allege with specificity the factual basis by which the
56	plaintiff is a person entitled to enforce the note under s.
57	<u>673.3011.</u>
58	(3) If a party has been delegated the authority to
59	institute a mortgage foreclosure action on behalf of the holder
60	of the note, the complaint shall describe the authority of the
61	plaintiff and identify, with specificity, the document that
62	grants the plaintiff the authority to act on behalf of the
63	holder of the note. This subsection is intended to require
64	initial disclosure of status and pertinent facts and not to
65	modify law regarding standing or real parties in interest.
66	(4) If the plaintiff is in physical possession of the
67	original promissory note, the plaintiff must file with the
68	court, contemporaneously with and as a condition precedent to
69	the filing of the complaint for foreclosure, certification,
70	under penalty of perjury, that the plaintiff is in physical

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71possession of the original promissory note. The certification72must set forth the physical location of the note, the name and73title of the individual giving the certification, the name of74the person who personally verified such physical possession, and75the mean date on which the possession was verified. Correct76copies of the note and all allonges to the note must be attached77to the certification. The original note and the allonges must be78filed with the court before the entry of any judgment of79foreclosure or judgment on the note.70(5) If the plaintiff seeks to enforce a lost, destroyed, or71stolen instrument, an affidavit executed under penalty of79perjury must be attached to the complaint. The affidavit must:70(a) Detail a clear chain of all endorsements or assignments71of the promissory note that is the subject of the action.72(b) Set forth facts showing that the plaintiff is entitled73to enforce a lost, destroyed, or stolen instrument pursuant to74s. 673.3091.75(c) Include as exhibits to the affidavit such copies of the76note and the allonges to the note, audit reports showing79physical receipt of the original note, or other evidence of the75acquisition, ownership, and possession of the note as may be76available to the plaintiff.77(6) The court may sanction the plaintiff for failure to76comply with this section, but any noncompliance with this76 </th <th>1</th> <th></th>	1	
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	97	Section 4. Section 702.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to
99 702.06 Deficiency decree; common-law suit to recover	98	read:
	99	702.06 Deficiency decree; common-law suit to recover

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100 deficiency.-In all suits for the foreclosure of mortgages 101 heretofore or hereafter executed the entry of a deficiency decree for any portion of a deficiency, should one exist, may 102 103 not exceed the difference between the judgment amount or, in the 104 case of a short sale, the outstanding debt and the fair market 105 value of the property on the date of sale., shall be within the sound judicial discretion of the court, but The complainant 106 107 shall also have the right to sue at common law to recover such deficiency, unless the court in the foreclosure action has 108 109 granted or denied a claim for a deficiency judgment provided no 110 suit at law to recover such deficiency shall be maintained 111 against the original mortgagor in cases where the mortgage is for the purchase price of the property involved and where the 112 113 original mortgagee becomes the purchaser thereof at foreclosure 114 sale and also is granted a deficiency decree against the 115 original mortgagor.

116 Section 5. Section 702.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to 117 read:

118 702.10 Order to show cause; entry of final judgment of 119 foreclosure; payment during foreclosure.-

120 (1) A lienholder After a complaint in a foreclosure 121 proceeding has been filed, the mortgagee may request an order to 122 show cause for the entry of final judgment in a foreclosure 123 action. For purposes of this section, the term "lienholder" includes the plaintiff and a defendant to the action who holds a 124 125 lien encumbering the property or a defendant who, by virtue of its status as a condominium association, cooperative 126 127 association, or homeowners' association, may file a lien against 128 the real property subject to foreclosure. Upon filing, and the



129 court shall immediately review the request and the court file in chambers and without a hearing complaint. If, upon examination 130 131 of the court file complaint, the court finds that the complaint 132 is verified, complies with s. 702.015, and alleges a cause of action to foreclose on real property, the court shall promptly 133 134 issue an order directed to the other parties named in the action 135 defendant to show cause why a final judgment of foreclosure 136 should not be entered.

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(a) The order shall:

138 1. Set the date and time for a hearing on the order to show 139 cause. However, The date for the hearing may not occur be set 140 sooner than the later of 20 days after the service of the order to show cause or 45 days after the service of the initial 141 142 complaint. When service is obtained by publication, the date for the hearing may not be set sooner than 55 $\frac{30}{30}$ days after the 143 first publication. The hearing must be held within 60 days after 144 the date of service. Failure to hold the hearing within such 145 time does not affect the validity of the order to show cause or 146 147 the jurisdiction of the court to issue subsequent orders.

148 2. Direct the time within which service of the order to149 show cause and the complaint must be made upon the defendant.

3. State that the filing of defenses by a motion,
 responsive pleading, affidavits, or other papers or by a
 verified or sworn answer at or before the hearing to show cause
 <u>may constitute</u> constitutes cause for the court not to enter the
 attached final judgment.

4. State that <u>a</u> the defendant has the right to file
affidavits or other papers <u>before</u> at the time of the hearing <u>to</u>
<u>show cause</u> and may appear personally or by way of an attorney at



158 the hearing.

159 5. State that, if a the defendant files defenses by a motion, a verified or sworn answer, affidavits, or other papers 160 161 or appears personally or by way of an attorney at the time of 162 the hearing, the hearing time will may be used to hear and 163 consider the defendant's motion, answer, affidavits, other 164 papers, and other evidence and argument as may be presented by 165 the defendant or the defendant's attorney. The order shall also 166 state that the court may enter an order of final judgment of 167 foreclosure at the hearing. If such a determination is entered, 168 the court shall enter a final judgment of foreclosure ordering 169 the clerk of the court to conduct a foreclosure sale.

170 6. State that, if a the defendant fails to appear at the 171 hearing to show cause or fails to file defenses by a motion or 172 by a verified or sworn answer or files an answer not contesting the foreclosure, such the defendant may be considered to have 173 174 waived the right to a hearing, and in such case, the court may 175 enter a default against such defendant and, if appropriate, a 176 final judgment of foreclosure ordering the clerk of the court to 177 conduct a foreclosure sale.

178 7. State that if the mortgage provides for reasonable 179 <u>attorney attorney's</u> fees and the requested <u>attorney attorney's</u> 180 fees do not exceed 3 percent of the principal amount owed at the 181 time of filing the complaint, it is unnecessary for the court to 182 hold a hearing or adjudge the requested <u>attorney attorney's</u> fees 183 to be reasonable.

184 8. Attach the <u>form of the proposed</u> final judgment of
185 foreclosure <u>which</u> the <u>movant requests the</u> court <u>to</u> will enter₇
186 if the defendant waives the right to be heard at the hearing on

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187 the order to show cause. <u>The form may contain blanks for the</u> 188 <u>court to enter the amounts due.</u>

9. Require the <u>party seeking final judgment</u> mortgagee to
serve a copy of the order to show cause on <u>the other parties</u> the
mortgagor in the following manner:

a. If <u>a party</u> the mortgagor has been <u>personally</u> served with
the complaint and original process, <u>or the other party is the</u>
<u>plaintiff in the action</u>, service of the <u>order to show cause on</u>
<u>that party</u> order may be made in the manner provided in the
Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

b. If <u>a defendant</u> the mortgagor has not been <u>personally</u> served with the complaint and original process, the order to show cause, together with the summons and a copy of the complaint, shall be served on the <u>party mortgagor</u> in the same manner as provided by law for original process. <u>Service of the</u> <u>complaint and original process by mail or publication is not</u> personal service for purposes of this subparagraph.

Any final judgment of foreclosure entered under this subsection is for in rem relief only. Nothing in This subsection <u>does not</u> shall preclude the entry of a deficiency judgment where otherwise allowed by law. It is the intent of the Legislature that this alternative procedure may run simultaneously with other court procedures.

(b) The right to be heard at the hearing to show cause is waived if <u>a</u> the defendant, after being served as provided by law with an order to show cause, engages in conduct that clearly shows that the defendant has relinquished the right to be heard on that order. The defendant's failure to file defenses by a

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motion or by a sworn or verified answer, affidavits, or other 216 217 papers or to appear personally or by way of an attorney at the 218 hearing duly scheduled on the order to show cause presumptively 219 constitutes conduct that clearly shows that the defendant has 220 relinquished the right to be heard. If a defendant files 221 defenses by a motion, or by a verified or sworn answer, 222 affidavits, or other papers at or before the hearing, such 223 action may constitute constitutes cause and may preclude 224 precludes the entry of a final judgment at the hearing to show 225 cause.

226 (c) In a mortgage foreclosure proceeding, when a final 227 default judgment of foreclosure has been entered against the 228 mortgagor and the note or mortgage provides for the award of 229 reasonable attorney attorney's fees, it is unnecessary for the court to hold a hearing or adjudge the requested attorney 230 231 attorney's fees to be reasonable if the fees do not exceed 3 232 percent of the principal amount owed on the note or mortgage at 233 the time of filing, even if the note or mortgage does not 234 specify the percentage of the original amount that would be paid 235 as liquidated damages.

(d) If the court finds that all defendants have the 236 237 defendant has waived the right to be heard as provided in 238 paragraph (b), the court shall promptly enter a final judgment of foreclosure without the need for further hearing if the 239 240 plaintiff has shown entitlement to a final judgment and upon the 241 filing with the court of the original note, satisfaction of the 242 conditions for establishment of a lost note, or upon a showing 243 to the court that the obligation to be foreclosed is not 244 evidenced by a promissory note or other negotiable instrument.

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245 If the court finds that a the defendant has not waived the right to be heard on the order to show cause, the court shall then 246 247 determine whether there is cause not to enter a final judgment 248 of foreclosure. If the court finds that the defendant has not 249 shown cause, the court shall promptly enter a judgment of 250 foreclosure. If the time allotted for the hearing is 251 insufficient, the court may announce at the hearing a date and 252 time for the continued hearing. Only the parties who appear, 253 individually or through an attorney, at the initial hearing must 254 be notified of the date and time of the continued hearing.

255 (2) This subsection does not apply to foreclosure of an 256 owner-occupied residence. As part of any other In an action for 257 foreclosure, and in addition to any other relief that the court 258 may award other than residential real estate, the plaintiff the 259 mortgagee may request that the court enter an order directing 260 the mortgagor defendant to show cause why an order to make 261 payments during the pendency of the foreclosure proceedings or an order to vacate the premises should not be entered. 262

263 (a)

(a) The order shall:

1. Set the date and time for hearing on the order to show cause. However, the date for the hearing <u>may</u> shall not be set sooner than 20 days after the service of the order. <u>If</u> Where service is obtained by publication, the date for the hearing <u>may</u> shall not be set sooner than 30 days after the first publication.

270 2. Direct the time within which service of the order to
271 show cause and the complaint shall be made upon <u>each</u> the
272 defendant.

273

3. State that \underline{a} the defendant has the right to file



274 affidavits or other papers at the time of the hearing and may 275 appear personally or by way of an attorney at the hearing.

4. State that, if <u>a</u> the defendant fails to appear at the hearing to show cause and fails to file defenses by a motion or by a verified or sworn answer, the defendant <u>is may be</u> deemed to have waived the right to a hearing and in such case the court may enter an order to make payment or vacate the premises.

281 5. Require the <u>movant</u> mortgagee to serve a copy of the 282 order to show cause on the <u>defendant</u> mortgagor in the following 283 manner:

a. If <u>a defendant</u> the mortgagor has been served with the complaint and original process, service of the order may be made in the manner provided in the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

b. If <u>a defendant</u> the mortgagor has not been served with the complaint and original process, the order to show cause, together with the summons and a copy of the complaint, shall be served on the <u>defendant</u> mortgagor in the same manner as provided by law for original process.

292 (b) The right of a defendant to be heard at the hearing to show cause is waived if the defendant, after being served as 293 294 provided by law with an order to show cause, engages in conduct 295 that clearly shows that the defendant has relinquished the right 296 to be heard on that order. A The defendant's failure to file defenses by a motion or by a sworn or verified answer or to 297 298 appear at the hearing duly scheduled on the order to show cause 299 presumptively constitutes conduct that clearly shows that the 300 defendant has relinquished the right to be heard.

301 (c) If the court finds that \underline{a} the defendant has waived the 302 right to be heard as provided in paragraph (b), the court may



303 promptly enter an order requiring payment in the amount provided 304 in paragraph (f) or an order to vacate.

305 (d) If the court finds that the mortgagor has not waived 306 the right to be heard on the order to show cause, the court 307 shall, at the hearing on the order to show cause, consider the 308 affidavits and other showings made by the parties appearing and 309 make a determination of the probable validity of the underlying 310 claim alleged against the mortgagor and the mortgagor's 311 defenses. If the court determines that the plaintiff mortgagee 312 is likely to prevail in the foreclosure action, the court shall 313 enter an order requiring the mortgagor to make the payment 314 described in paragraph (e) to the plaintiff mortgagee and provide for a remedy as described in paragraph (f). However, the 315 316 order shall be stayed pending final adjudication of the claims of the parties if the mortgagor files with the court a written 317 318 undertaking executed by a surety approved by the court in an amount equal to the unpaid balance of the lien being foreclosed 319 the mortgage on the property, including all principal, interest, 320 321 unpaid taxes, and insurance premiums paid by the plaintiff the 322 mortgagee.

323 (e) If In the event the court enters an order requiring the 324 mortgagor to make payments to the plaintiff mortgagee, payments 325 shall be payable at such intervals and in such amounts provided 32.6 for in the mortgage instrument before acceleration or maturity. 327 The obligation to make payments pursuant to any order entered 328 under this subsection shall commence from the date of the motion 329 filed under this section hereunder. The order shall be served upon the mortgagor no later than 20 days before the date 330 331 specified for the first payment. The order may permit, but may

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332 shall not require, the <u>plaintiff</u> mortgagee to take all 333 appropriate steps to secure the premises during the pendency of 334 the foreclosure action.

(f) <u>If</u> In the event the court enters an order requiring payments, the order shall also provide that the <u>plaintiff is</u> mortgagee shall be entitled to possession of the premises upon the failure of the mortgagor to make the payment required in the order unless at the hearing on the order to show cause the court finds good cause to order some other method of enforcement of its order.

(g) All amounts paid pursuant to this section shall be credited against the mortgage obligation in accordance with the terms of the loan documents; provided, however, that any payments made under this section <u>do</u> shall not constitute a cure of any default or a waiver or any other defense to the mortgage foreclosure action.

(h) Upon the filing of an affidavit with the clerk that the premises have not been vacated pursuant to the court order, the clerk shall issue to the sheriff a writ for possession which shall be governed by the provisions of s. 83.62.

(i) For purposes of this subsection, there is a rebuttable
 presumption that a residential property for which a homestead
 exemption for taxation was granted according to the certified
 rolls of the latest assessment by the county property appraiser,
 before the filing of the foreclosure action, is an owner occupied residential property.

358 (3) The Supreme Court is requested to amend the Florida
 359 Rules of Civil Procedure to provide for expedited foreclosure
 360 proceedings in conformity with this section and is requested to

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361	develop and publish forms for use under this section.
362	Section 6. Section 702.11, Florida Statutes, is created to
363	read:
364	702.11 Expedited foreclosure of abandoned residential real
365	property
366	(1) As used in this section, the term "abandoned
367	residential real property" means residential real property that
368	is deemed abandoned upon a showing that:
369	(a) A duly licensed process server unaffiliated with the
370	owner or servicer of any mortgage on the residential real
371	property or with the attorney or law firm representing such
372	owner or servicer has made at least three attempts to locate an
373	occupant of the residential real property. The attempts must
374	have been made at least 72 hours apart, and at least one each of
375	such attempts must have been made before 12 p.m., between 12
376	p.m. and 6 p.m., and between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Each attempt
377	must include physically knocking or ringing at the door of the
378	residential real property and such other efforts as are normally
379	sufficient to obtain a response from an occupant.
380	(b) Two or more of the following conditions exist:
381	1. Windows or entrances to the premises are boarded up or
382	closed off or multiple window panes are broken and unrepaired.
383	2. Doors to the premises are smashed through, broken off,
384	unhinged, or continuously unlocked.
385	3. Rubbish, trash, or debris has accumulated on the
386	mortgaged premises.
387	4. The premises are deteriorating and are below or in
388	imminent danger of falling below minimum community standards for
389	public safety and sanitation.

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390	5. If the premises are a part of a condominium or are
391	governed by a mandatory homeowners' association, the manager or
392	other representative of the association has confirmed that
393	assessments for the unit are at least 90 days delinquent.
394	6. Interviews with at least two neighbors in different
395	households indicate that the residence has been abandoned. The
396	neighbors must be adjoining, across the street in view of the
397	home, or across the hall or adjacent to the unit in a
398	condominium or cooperative.
399	
400	The sheriff or process server making attempts to locate an
401	occupant of the residential real property and to determine the
402	abandoned status of the residential real property may provide,
403	by affidavit and photographic or other documentation, evidence
404	of the condition of the residential real property, and may
405	charge a reasonable fee for the attempts and for any affidavit
406	or other documentation evidencing the condition of the
407	residential real property.
408	(2)(a) The party entitled to enforce the note and mortgage
409	encumbering the residential real property appearing to be
410	abandoned may file a petition before the court seeking to
411	determine the status of the residential real property and to
412	invoke an expedited foreclosure proceeding relating to the
413	property. Upon the filing of an affidavit of diligent search and
414	inquiry and the affidavit or documentary evidence set forth in
415	subsection (1), the court shall, upon request of the petitioner,
416	issue one or more subpoenas to the utility companies serving the
417	residential real property commanding disclosure of the status of
418	utility service to the subject property, including whether
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419	utilities are currently turned off and whether all outstanding
420	utility payments have been made and, if so, by whom.
421	(b) If, after review of the response of the utility
422	companies to the subpoenas and all other matters of record, the
423	court may deem the property to have been abandoned and the
424	plaintiff entitled to expedited foreclosure.
425	Section 7. The amendments to s. 702.10, Florida Statutes,
426	and the creation of s. 702.11, Florida Statutes, by this act are
427	remedial in nature and shall apply to causes of action pending
428	on the effective date of this act. Section 702.015, Florida
429	Statutes, as created by this act, applies to cases filed on or
430	after July 1, 2012.
431	Section 8. The Legislature finds that this act is remedial
432	in nature. Accordingly, it is the intent of the Legislature that
433	this act shall apply to all mortgages encumbering real property
434	and all promissory notes secured by a mortgage, whether executed
435	before, on, or after the effective date of this act.
436	Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
437	
438	======================================
439	And the title is amended as follows:
440	
441	Delete everything before the enacting clause
442	and insert:
443	A bill to be entitled
444	An act relating to mortgage foreclosures; amending s.
445	95.11, F.S.; reducing the limitations period for
446	commencing an action to enforce a claim of a
447	deficiency judgment subsequent to a foreclosure

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448 action; providing for application to existing causes 449 of action; creating s. 702.015, F.S.; providing legislative intent; specifying required contents of a 450 451 complaint seeking to foreclose on certain types of 452 residential properties with respect to the authority 453 of the plaintiff to foreclose on the note and the 454 location of the note; providing that failure to file 455 such documents does not affect title to property 456 subsequent to a foreclosure sale; amending s. 702.06, 457 F.S.; limiting the amount of a deficiency judgment; 458 amending s. 702.10, F.S.; expanding the class of 459 persons authorized to move for expedited foreclosure; 460 defining the term "lienholder"; providing requirements 461 and procedures with respect to an order directed to 462 defendants to show cause why a final judgment of 463 foreclosure should not be entered; providing that 464 certain failures by a defendant to make certain 465 filings or to make certain appearances may have 466 specified legal consequences; requiring the court to 467 enter a final judgment of foreclosure and order a 468 foreclosure sale under certain circumstances; revising 469 a restriction on a mortgagee to request a court to 470 order a mortgagor defendant to make payments or to 471 vacate the premises during an action to foreclose on 472 residential real estate to provide that the 473 restriction applies to all but owner-occupied 474 residential property; providing a presumption 475 regarding owner-occupied residential property; 476 requesting the Supreme Court to adopt rules and forms



477 for use in expedited foreclosure proceedings; creating 478 s. 702.11, F.S.; establishing expedited foreclosure 479 proceedings for abandoned residential real property 480 and procedures and requirements with respect thereto; 481 providing for application of the act; providing an 482 effective date.