By Senator Dean

5-01460-13 20131168

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to mobile home park lot tenancies; amending s. 723.059, F.S.; providing for a mobile home park owner to increase the lot rental of the purchaser of a mobile home on a leased lot in the mobile home park; providing limitations on the amount of rent increase; providing guidelines for determining the amount of the adjustment; requiring a disclosure statement to be executed before or at the time of purchase; limiting the amount of lot rental increase on a lot that was previously subject to a lifetime lease; providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 723.059, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

723.059 Rights of purchaser.—

- (1) The purchaser of a mobile home within a mobile home park may become a tenant of the park if such purchaser would otherwise qualify with the requirements of entry into the park under the park rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the park owner, but such approval may not be unreasonably withheld.
- (2) Properly adopted promulgated rules may provide for the screening of \underline{a} any prospective purchaser to determine whether or not \underline{the} such purchaser is qualified to become a tenant of the park.

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(3) The purchaser of a mobile home who becomes a resident of the mobile home park in accordance with this section has the right to assume the remainder of the term of \underline{a} any rental agreement then in effect between the mobile home park owner and the seller and \underline{is} shall be entitled to rely on the terms and conditions of the prospectus or offering circular as delivered to the initial recipient.

- (4) The section does not However, nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a mobile home park owner from increasing the rental amount to be paid by the purchaser upon the expiration of the assumed rental agreement. However, the initial increase is limited to a one-time market rent adjustment based upon the September Consumer Price Index in the year of purchase. The adjustment may not take effect until January 1 of the next calendar year or the time of the next scheduled annual rent increase after January 1. However, if the purchase date follows the publication date of the Consumer Price Index for September, the rent increase may not take effect until the date of the next scheduled annual rent increase that provides at least 90 days notice of the rent increase in an amount deemed appropriate by the mobile home park owner, so long as such increase is disclosed to the purchaser prior to his or her occupancy and is imposed in a manner consistent with the initial offering circular or prospectus and this act.
- (5) At the time of purchase, the purchaser and the mobile home park owner must sign a disclosure statement affirming that the provisions required by this section and the terms of the market rent adjustment were explained to the purchaser before or at the time of the transaction. The mobile home park owner shall

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give the purchaser a signed copy, maintain a copy, and forward a copy to the department within 15 days after the sales transaction.

- (6) (5) Lifetime leases, both those existing and those entered into after July 1, 1986, are shall be nonassumable unless otherwise provided in the lot rental agreement or unless the transferee is the home owner's spouse. The mobile home park owner may increase the rent due under such lease to an amount no greater than the lowest monthly rental in the mobile home park at the time of the sale. The renewal provisions in automatically renewable leases, both those existing and those entered into after July 1, 1986, are not assumable unless otherwise provided in the lease agreement.
- (7) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall impose a penalty of up to \$5,000 on a mobile home park owner who fails to comply with the requirements of this section.

 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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