

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to sinkhole and catastrophic ground
 3 cover collapse insurance; amending s. 627.706, F.S.;
 4 revising the definition of the term "catastrophic
 5 ground cover collapse" for insurance coverage
 6 purposes; providing circumstances under which damage
 7 of a structure or building constitutes a specified
 8 loss; defining the term "dangerous"; providing
 9 applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 14 627.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 627.706 Sinkhole insurance; catastrophic ground cover
 16 collapse; definitions.—

17 (2) As used in ss. 627.706-627.7074, and as used in
 18 connection with any policy providing coverage for a catastrophic
 19 ground cover collapse or for sinkhole losses, the term:

20 (a) "Catastrophic ground cover collapse" means geological
 21 activity that results in ~~all~~ the following:

22 1. The imminent ~~abrupt~~ collapse of the ground cover or
 23 ~~2.~~ a depression in the ground cover clearly visible to the
 24 naked eye; and

25 2.a.3. Structural damage to the covered building,

26 | including the foundation; or ~~and~~
27 | b.4. The insured structure being:
28 | (I) Condemned and ordered to be vacated by the
29 | governmental agency authorized by law to issue such an order for
30 | that structure; or
31 | (II) Declared dangerous and a real and imminent threat to
32 | public safety by a professional engineer licensed in this state
33 | in a written notice to the governmental agency authorized by law
34 | with code enforcement for that structure.

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36 | Contents coverage applies if there is a loss resulting from a
37 | catastrophic ground cover collapse. Damage consisting merely of
38 | the settling or cracking of a foundation, structure, or building
39 | does not constitute a loss resulting from a catastrophic ground
40 | cover collapse unless the structure or building has been ordered
41 | to be vacated or the structure or building has been declared
42 | dangerous by a professional engineer licensed in this state or
43 | by the governmental agency authorized by law with code
44 | enforcement for that structure or building. As used in this
45 | paragraph, the term "dangerous" has the same meaning as provided
46 | in the Florida Building Code, Building Volume.

47 | Section 2. The amendment made by this act to s. 627.706,
48 | Florida Statutes, applies to new and renewal property insurance
49 | policies issued on or after July 1, 2020.

50 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.