

CS/HB 227

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to eligibility of leasehold interests
for homestead exemptions; amending s. 196.041, F.S.;
revising the circumstances under which a person may be
deemed to have legal or beneficial and equitable title
to certain property for homestead exemption purposes;
providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 196.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.041 Extent of homestead exemptions.—

(1) Vendees in possession of real estate under bona fide contracts to purchase when such instruments, under which they claim title, are recorded in the office of the clerk of the circuit court where said properties lie, and who reside thereon in good faith and make the same their permanent residence; persons residing on real estate by virtue of dower or other estates therein limited in time by deed, will, jointure, or settlement; and lessees owning the leasehold interest in a bona fide lease having an original term of 98 years or more in a residential parcel or in a condominium parcel as defined in chapter 718, even if such lease contains a provision terminating the leasehold interest upon the death of the lessees, or persons

26 holding leases of 50 years or more, existing prior to June 19,
27 1973, for the purpose of homestead exemptions from ad valorem
28 taxes and no other purpose, shall be deemed to have legal or
29 beneficial and equitable title to said property. In addition, a
30 tenant-stockholder or member of a cooperative apartment
31 corporation who is entitled solely by reason of ownership of
32 stock or membership in the corporation to occupy for dwelling
33 purposes an apartment in a building owned by the corporation,
34 for the purpose of homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes and
35 for no other purpose, is deemed to have beneficial title in
36 equity to said apartment and a proportionate share of the land
37 on which the building is situated.

38 **Section 2.** The amendment made by this act to s. 196.041,
39 Florida Statutes, is remedial and clarifying in nature.

40 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.