A bill to be entitled
An act relating to funding from the National Mortgage
Settlement; providing an appropriation from the Local
Government Housing Trust Fund and the State Housing
Trust Fund to the Department of Economic Opportunity
for specified purposes; providing appropriations from
the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for
specified purposes; providing appropriations from the
General Revenue Fund to the Department of Legal
Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, for specified
purposes and providing legislative findings; providing
that the appropriations of this act are contingent
upon the deposit of a specified sum into the state
treasury as a result of a specified consent judgment;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The nonrecurring sum of $70 million is
appropriated from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the
Department of Economic Opportunity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year
for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC)
to fund the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP). The FHFC
shall allocate the funding to all eligible counties and cities.
Except as otherwise specified in this section, local governments
must use this funding according to the SHIP statute and rules
and within the parameters of their adopted local housing
assistance plan.

(2) All funding appropriated in this section must be
targeted for one or more of the following strategies:

(a) Rehabilitating or modifying owner-occupied houses, including blighted homes or neighborhoods.

(b) Assisting with purchases of existing housing, with or without rehabilitation.

(c) Providing housing counseling services.

(d) Providing lease-purchase assistance.

(e) Implementing strategies approved by FHFC which are related to assisting households and communities impacted by foreclosures, using existing housing stock.

(3) Of the funding provided in this section, each local government must use a minimum of 20 percent of its allocation to serve persons with special needs as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes. Before this portion of the allocation is released by FHFC, a local government must submit an existing or new local housing assistance plan strategy for this purpose to the FHFC for approval to ensure that it meets these specifications. The first priority of these special needs funds must be to use them for persons with developmental, hearing, visual, or mobility disabilities, with an emphasis on home modifications, including technological enhancements and devices, which will allow homeowners to remain independent in their own homes and maintain their homeownership.

(4) Local governments may not use more than 3 percent of their allocations under this section for administrative costs.

Section 2. (1) The nonrecurring sum of $65 million is appropriated from the State Housing Trust Fund to the Department of Economic Opportunity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to
576-03532-13

59 fund the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL).
60 (2) Each SAIL development that receives funds under this
61 section must include up to 15 percent but not less than 5
62 percent of its units designed, constructed, and targeted for
63 individuals with developmental, hearing, visual, or mobility
64 disabilities. Each development shall be required to enter into
65 agreements with the local Center for Independent Living, Agency
66 for Persons with Disabilities, or other such agency approved by
67 FHFC, for the purpose of coordinating services and housing for
68 individuals with disabilities.
69 (3) Affordable housing units in each development which are
70 in addition to those required under subsection (2) shall provide
71 reduced-rent units to serve tenants who are elderly, as defined
72 in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes, and tenants who are extremely-
73 low-income persons (ELI), as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida
74 Statutes. To the extent possible, ELI units should be part of
75 FHFC’s existing Link Initiative in which developers set aside
76 units for special needs households, including households with
77 persons with disabilities, homeless families, youth aging out of
78 foster care, frail elders, and survivors of domestic violence
79 who are receiving community-based supportive services and who
80 are referred by a supportive services agency in the community
81 where the property is located.
82
83 Section 3. The nonrecurring sum of $3 million is
84 appropriated from the State Housing Trust Fund to the Department
85 of Economic Opportunity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for
86 transfer to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for
87 administrative expenses associated with implementing the
88 provisions of this act.
Section 4. The nonrecurring sum of $10 million is appropriated from the State Housing Trust Fund to the Department of Economic Opportunity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for transfer to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to fund a competitive grant program to provide housing for homeless persons. The FHFC shall award funds on a competitive basis to private nonprofit organizations to purchase and renovate existing houses to be used by extremely-low-income homeless individuals. Funds may also be awarded to private nonprofit organizations to construct small specialty housing of 10 units or fewer for homeless families.

Section 5. The nonrecurring sum of $5,262,579 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to provide technology solutions that expedite foreclosure cases through the judicial process. Such technology solutions must enable judges and staff to effectively use electronic documents when disposing of foreclosure cases, produce orders electronically, provide for electronic calendaring, serve orders electronically, and generate case management reports. All technology enhancements to expedite the mortgage foreclosure cases must be completed in accordance with standards set by the Florida Court Technology Commission regarding functionality as outlined in the Case Processing Application Standards.

Section 6. The nonrecurring sum of $9,908,948 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to provide supplemental resources, including, but not limited to, additional senior judge days and temporary case management staff in the trial
courts to reduce the backlog of pending foreclosure cases. The nonrecurring sum of $9,908,947 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the same purpose.

Section 7. The nonrecurring sum of $7.5 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for the clerks of the court for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to enhance levels of service to assist and support the courts in expediting the processing of backlogged foreclosure cases. The nonrecurring sum of $7.5 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the State Court System for the clerks of the court for the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the same purpose.

Section 8. The nonrecurring sum of $10 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to contract with regional legal aid service providers to provide legal aid services to low-income and moderate-income homeowners facing foreclosure. Administrative costs or fees may not be collected or used by the Office of the Attorney General, any association, or any foundation for providing such services with the funds appropriated in this section.

Section 9. The Legislature finds that there is a need for a promotional campaign to increase consumer awareness of affordable housing availability and housing assistance opportunities as outlined in this act. To this end, the Office of the Attorney General may establish, coordinate, and promote such an advertising campaign, which may include public relations activities and contracting with media representatives for the
purpose of dispersing promotional materials and providing
opportunities for consumer assistance. The nonrecurring sum of
$2 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the
Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, for
the 2013-2014 fiscal year for this purpose.

Section 10. The appropriations in this act are contingent
upon the deposit of $200,080,474 into the state treasury from
the escrow account created as a result of the consent judgment
entered into by the Florida Attorney General on April 4, 2012,
in the case of United States of America v. Bank of America
Corp., No. 305 12-0361-RMC, in the United States District Court
for the District of Columbia. Of the $200,080,474, the following
amounts shall be deposited into the specified funds in the state
treasury: $70 million shall be deposited into the Local
Government Housing Trust Fund in the Department of Economic
Opportunity; $78 million shall be deposited into the State
Housing Trust Fund in the Department of Economic Opportunity;
and $52,080,474 shall be deposited into the General Revenue
Fund.

Section 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.