

By Senator Hooper

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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. ~~3.~~ Structural damage to the covered building, including
 26 the foundation; or ~~and~~

27 b.4. ~~4.~~ The insured structure being:

28 (I) Condemned and ordered to be vacated by the governmental
 29 agency authorized by law to issue such an order for that

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30 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.