Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Peaden

2-1628A-07 See HB 1333 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to property rights; amending s. 70.001, F.S., the "Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private 3 4 Property Rights Protection Act"; revising a 5 definition; shortening a period of notice for б certain actions; providing for the state land 7 planning agency to receive notice of claims; revising procedures for determining a 8 9 governmental entity's final decision 10 identifying the allowable uses for a property; extending a period of time for bringing a cause 11 12 of action; providing that enactment of a law or 13 adoption of a regulation does not constitute applying the law or regulation; providing for a 14 waiver of sovereign immunity for liability; 15 providing an effective date. 16 17 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to clarify its original 18 intent with respect to allowing appropriate compensation for 19 unduly burdened real property and to provide a waiver of 20 sovereign immunity under section 70.001, Florida Statutes, the 21 22 Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act, 23 and WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to make other changes 2.4 to clarify provisions of this act and to improve the reporting 25 of cases filed under the act, NOW, THEREFORE, 26 27 2.8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 29 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3), paragraphs 30 (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (4), paragraph (a) of 31 1

subsection (5), paragraph (c) of subsection (6), and 1 2 subsections (11) and (13) of section 70.001, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 3 4 70.001 Private property rights protection .--(3) For purposes of this section: 5 б (e) The terms "inordinate burden" or "inordinately 7 burdened" mean that an action of one or more governmental 8 entities has directly restricted or limited the use of real 9 property such that the property owner is permanently unable to attain the reasonable, investment-backed expectation for the 10 existing use of the real property or a vested right to a 11 12 specific use of the real property with respect to the real 13 property as a whole, or that the property owner is left with existing or vested uses that are unreasonable such that the 14 property owner bears permanently a disproportionate share of a 15 burden imposed for the good of the public, which in fairness 16 17 should be borne by the public at large. The terms "inordinate burden" or "inordinately burdened" do not include temporary 18 impacts to real property; impacts to real property occasioned 19 by governmental abatement, prohibition, prevention, or 20 21 remediation of a public nuisance at common law or a noxious 22 use of private property; or impacts to real property caused by 23 an action of a governmental entity taken to grant relief to a property owner under this section; however, a moratorium on 2.4 development, as defined in s. 380.04, which is in effect for 25 longer than 1 year is not a temporary impact to real property 26 27 and is included within the terms "inordinate burden" or 2.8 "inordinately burdened". (4)(a) Not less than <u>120</u> 180 days prior to filing an 29 action under this section against a governmental entity, a 30 property owner who seeks compensation under this section must 31

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1 present the claim in writing to the head of the governmental 2 entity, except that if the property is classified as agricultural pursuant to s. 193.461, the notice period is 90 3 days. The property owner must submit, along with the claim, a 4 bona fide, valid appraisal that supports the claim and 5 6 demonstrates the loss in fair market value to the real 7 property. If the action of government is the culmination of a 8 process that involves more than one governmental entity, or if a complete resolution of all relevant issues, in the view of 9 the property owner or in the view of a governmental entity to 10 whom a claim is presented, requires the active participation 11 12 of more than one governmental entity, the property owner shall 13 present the claim as provided in this section to each of the governmental entities. 14 (b) The governmental entity shall provide written 15 notice of the claim to all parties to any administrative 16 17 action that gave rise to the claim, and to owners of real 18 property contiguous to the owner's property at the addresses listed on the most recent county tax rolls. Within 15 days 19 after the claim is being presented, the governmental entity 20 21 shall report the claim in writing to the state land planning 22 agency Department of Legal Affairs, and shall provide the 23 agency department with the name, address, and telephone number of the employee of the governmental entity from whom 2.4 additional information may be obtained about the claim during 25 the pendency of the claim and any subsequent judicial action. 26 27 (c) During the 90-day-notice period or the 2.8 <u>120-day-notice</u> 180 day notice period, unless extended by agreement of the parties, the governmental entity shall make a 29 30 written settlement offer to effectuate: 31

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1 1. An adjustment of land development or permit 2 standards or other provisions controlling the development or 3 use of land. 4 2. Increases or modifications in the density, intensity, or use of areas of development. 5 б 3. The transfer of developmental rights. 7 4. Land swaps or exchanges. 5. Mitigation, including payments in lieu of onsite 8 9 mitigation. 10 6. Location on the least sensitive portion of the 11 property. 12 7. Conditioning the amount of development or use 13 permitted. 8. A requirement that issues be addressed on a more 14 comprehensive basis than a single proposed use or development. 15 9. Issuance of the development order, a variance, 16 17 special exception, or other extraordinary relief. 10. Purchase of the real property, or an interest 18 19 therein, by an appropriate governmental entity or payment of compensation. 20 21 11. No changes to the action of the governmental 22 entity. 23 If the property owner accepts the settlement offer, the 2.4 governmental entity may implement the settlement offer by 25 appropriate development agreement; by issuing a variance, 26 27 special exception, or other extraordinary relief; or by other 2.8 appropriate method, subject to paragraph (d). 29 (5)(a) During the 90-day-notice period or the 120-day-notice 180 day notice period, unless a settlement 30 offer is accepted by the property owner, each of the 31

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1 governmental entities provided notice pursuant to paragraph 2 (4)(a) shall issue a written ripeness decision identifying the allowable uses to which the subject property may be put. The 3 failure of the governmental entity to issue <u>such</u> a written 4 ripeness decision during the applicable 90-day-notice period 5 б or <u>120-day-notice</u> 180 day notice period shall <u>cause</u> be deemed 7 to ripen the prior action of the governmental entity to become 8 its final decision, for purposes of the act, identifying the uses for the subject property, and shall operate as a ripeness 9 decision that has been rejected by the property owner. Whether 10 rendered by submission of a written decision during the 11 12 120-day-notice period or by failure to submit such a written 13 decision, the final decision of the governmental entity produced under this paragraph operates as a final decision 14 that has been rejected by the property owner. This final The 15 ripeness decision, as a matter of law, constitutes the last 16 17 prerequisite to judicial review of the merits, and the matter 18 shall be deemed ripe or final for the purposes of the judicial proceeding created by this section, notwithstanding the 19 availability of other administrative remedies. 2.0 21 (6) 22 (c)1. In any action filed pursuant to this section, 23 the property owner is entitled to recover reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred by the property owner, from the 2.4 governmental entity or entities, according to their 25 26 proportionate share as determined by the court, from the date 27 of the filing of the circuit court action, if the property 2.8 owner prevails in the action and the court determines that the settlement offer, including the ripeness decision, of the 29 governmental entity or entities did not constitute a bona fide 30 offer to the property owner which reasonably would have 31

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1 resolved the claim, based upon the knowledge available to the 2 governmental entity or entities and the property owner during 3 the 90-day-notice period or the <u>120-day-notice</u> 180 day notice 4 period.

5 2. In any action filed pursuant to this section, the б governmental entity or entities are entitled to recover 7 reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred by the 8 governmental entity or entities from the date of the filing of the circuit court action, if the governmental entity or 9 entities prevail in the action and the court determines that 10 the property owner did not accept a bona fide settlement 11 12 offer, including the ripeness decision, which reasonably would 13 have resolved the claim fairly to the property owner if the settlement offer had been accepted by the property owner, 14 based upon the knowledge available to the governmental entity 15 16 or entities and the property owner during the 90-day-notice 17 period or the <u>120-day-notice</u> 180 day notice period. 18 3. The determination of total reasonable costs and

attorney fees pursuant to this paragraph shall be made by the 19 court and not by the jury. Any proposed settlement offer or 20 21 any proposed ripeness decision, except for the final written 22 settlement offer or the final written ripeness decision, and 23 any negotiations or rejections in regard to the formulation either of the settlement offer or the ripeness decision, are 2.4 inadmissible in the subsequent proceeding established by this 25 26 section except for the purposes of the determination pursuant 27 to this paragraph.

(11) A cause of action may not be commenced under this section if the claim is presented more than <u>2 years</u> 1 year after a law or regulation is first applied by the governmental entity to the property at issue. <u>Enacting a law or adopting a</u>

regulation does not constitute applying the law or regulation to a property. If an owner seeks relief from the governmental action through lawfully available administrative or judicial proceedings, the time for bringing an action under this section is tolled until the conclusion of such proceedings. (13) In accordance with s. 13, Art. X of the State Constitution, the state, for itself and for its agencies or political subdivisions, waives sovereign immunity for liability for actions subject to this section, but only to the extent specified in this section. This section does not affect the sovereign immunity of government. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007. 2.4