

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate		House
Comm: RS		
05/18/2011		
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The Committee on Judiciary (Joyner) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of the electors in the general election held in November 2012, section 193.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 193.155 Homestead assessments. Homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1, 1994. Property receiving the homestead exemption after January 1, 1994, shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year in which the property receives the exemption unless the provisions of subsection (8)

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14 apply.

(1) Beginning in <del>1995, or</del> the year following the year the property receives <u>a</u> homestead exemption<del>, whichever is later</del>, the property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. <u>Except for</u> <u>changes</u>, <u>additions</u>, <u>reductions</u>, <u>or improvements to homestead</u> <u>property assessed as provided in subsection (4):</u>

20 (a) Any change resulting from such reassessment shall not 21 exceed the lower of the following:

22 1.(a) Three percent of the assessed value of the property 23 for the prior year; or

24 <u>2.(b)</u> The percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for 25 All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or 26 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially 27 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of 28 Labor Statistics.

(b) The Legislature may provide by general law an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1.

33 (2) If the assessed value of the property as calculated 34 under subsection (1) exceeds the just value, the assessed value 35 of the property shall be lowered to the just value of the 36 property.

(3) (a) Except as provided in this subsection or subsection (8), property assessed under this section shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following a change of ownership. Thereafter, the annual changes in the assessed value of the property are subject to the limitations in subsections (1) and (2). For the purpose of this section, a change of



43 ownership means any sale, foreclosure, or transfer of legal
44 title or beneficial title in equity to any person, except as
45 provided in this subsection. There is no change of ownership if:

1. Subsequent to the change or transfer, the same person is entitled to the homestead exemption as was previously entitled and:

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a. The transfer of title is to correct an error;

b. The transfer is between legal and equitable title or
equitable and equitable title and no additional person applies
for a homestead exemption on the property; or

53 c. The change or transfer is by means of an instrument in 54 which the owner is listed as both grantor and grantee of the 55 real property and one or more other individuals are additionally 56 named as grantee. However, if any individual who is additionally 57 named as a grantee applies for a homestead exemption on the 58 property, the application shall be considered a change of 59 ownership;

2. Legal or equitable title is changed or transferred
between husband and wife, including a change or transfer to a
surviving spouse or a transfer due to a dissolution of marriage;

3. The transfer occurs by operation of law to the survivingspouse or minor child or children under s. 732.401; or

4. Upon the death of the owner, the transfer is between the
owner and another who is a permanent resident and is legally or
naturally dependent upon the owner.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, a leasehold interest that qualifies for the homestead exemption under s. 196.031 or s. 196.041 shall be treated as an equitable interest in the property.



(4) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), changes, additions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of the first January 1 after the changes, additions, or improvements are substantially completed.

76 (b) Changes, additions, or improvements that replace all or 77 a portion of homestead property damaged or destroyed by 78 misfortune or calamity shall not increase the homestead 79 property's assessed value when the square footage of the 80 homestead property as changed or improved does not exceed 110 81 percent of the square footage of the homestead property before 82 the damage or destruction. Additionally, the homestead 83 property's assessed value shall not increase if the total square 84 footage of the homestead property as changed or improved does 85 not exceed 1,500 square feet. Changes, additions, or 86 improvements that do not cause the total to exceed 110 percent 87 of the total square footage of the homestead property before the damage or destruction or that do not cause the total to exceed 88 89 1,500 total square feet shall be reassessed as provided under 90 subsection (1). The homestead property's assessed value shall be 91 increased by the just value of that portion of the changed or 92 improved homestead property which is in excess of 110 percent of 93 the square footage of the homestead property before the damage or destruction or of that portion exceeding 1,500 square feet. 94 95 Homestead property damaged or destroyed by misfortune or 96 calamity which, after being changed or improved, has a square footage of less than 100 percent of the homestead property's 97 98 total square footage before the damage or destruction shall be 99 assessed pursuant to subsection (5). This paragraph applies to 100 changes, additions, or improvements commenced within 3 years

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101 after the January 1 following the damage or destruction of the 102 homestead.

(c) Changes, additions, or improvements that replace all or a portion of real property that was damaged or destroyed by misfortune or calamity shall be assessed upon substantial completion as if such damage or destruction had not occurred and in accordance with paragraph (b) if the owner of such property:

108 1. Was permanently residing on such property when the 109 damage or destruction occurred;

110 2. Was not entitled to receive homestead exemption on such 111 property as of January 1 of that year; and

112 3. Applies for and receives homestead exemption on such 113 property the following year.

(d) Changes, additions, or improvements include improvements made to common areas or other improvements made to property other than to the homestead property by the owner or by an owner association, which improvements directly benefit the homestead property. Such changes, additions, or improvements shall be assessed at just value, and the just value shall be apportioned among the parcels benefiting from the improvement.

(5) When property is destroyed or removed and not replaced, the assessed value of the parcel shall be reduced by the assessed value attributable to the destroyed or removed property.

(6) Only property that receives a homestead exemption is subject to this section. No portion of property that is assessed solely on the basis of character or use pursuant to s. 193.461 or s. 193.501, or assessed pursuant to s. 193.505, is subject to this section. When property is assessed under s. 193.461, s.



130 193.501, or s. 193.505 and contains a residence under the same 131 ownership, the portion of the property consisting of the 132 residence and curtilage must be assessed separately, pursuant to 133 s. 193.011, for the assessment to be subject to the limitation 134 in this section.

(7) If a person received a homestead exemption limited to that person's proportionate interest in real property, the provisions of this section apply only to that interest.

138 (8) Property assessed under this section shall be assessed 139 at less than just value when the person who establishes a new 140 homestead has received a homestead exemption as of January 1 of 141 either of the 2 immediately preceding years. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled 142 143 to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 144 145 2007, and only if this subsection applies retroactive to January 1, 2008. For purposes of this subsection, a husband and wife who 146 owned and both permanently resided on a previous homestead shall 147 each be considered to have received the homestead exemption even 148 though only the husband or the wife applied for the homestead 149 150 exemption on the previous homestead. The assessed value of the 151 newly established homestead shall be determined as provided in 152 this subsection.

(a) If the just value of the new homestead as of January 1
is greater than or equal to the just value of the immediate
prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the
immediate prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of
the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead
minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the



difference between the just value and the assessed value of the immediate prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this section.

163 (b) If the just value of the new homestead as of January 1 164 is less than the just value of the immediate prior homestead as 165 of January 1 of the year in which the immediate prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be 166 167 equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just 168 value of the immediate prior homestead and multiplied by the 169 assessed value of the immediate prior homestead. However, if the 170 difference between the just value of the new homestead and the 171 assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this 172 paragraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between 173 174 the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. 175 Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this 176 section.

177 (c) If two or more persons who have each received a 178 homestead exemption as of January 1 of either of the 2 179 immediately preceding years and who would otherwise be eligible 180 to have a new homestead property assessed under this subsection establish a single new homestead, the reduction from just value 181 182 is limited to the higher of the difference between the just 183 value and the assessed value of either of the prior eligible 184 homesteads as of January 1 of the year in which either of the 185 eligible prior homesteads was abandoned, but may not exceed \$500,000. 186

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(d) If two or more persons abandon jointly owned and

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188 jointly titled property that received a homestead exemption as 189 of January 1 of either of the 2 immediately preceding years, and one or more such persons who were entitled to and received a 190 191 homestead exemption on the abandoned property establish a new 192 homestead that would otherwise be eligible for assessment under 193 this subsection, each such person establishing a new homestead 194 is entitled to a reduction from just value for the new homestead 195 equal to the just value of the prior homestead minus the 196 assessed value of the prior homestead divided by the number of 197 owners of the prior homestead who received a homestead 198 exemption, unless the title of the property contains specific 199 ownership shares, in which case the share of reduction from just value shall be proportionate to the ownership share. In 200 201 calculating the assessment reduction to be transferred from a prior homestead that has an assessment reduction for living 202 203 quarters of parents or grandparents pursuant to s. 193.703, the 204 value calculated pursuant to s. 193.703(6) must first be added 205 back to the assessed value of the prior homestead. The total 206 reduction from just value for all new homesteads established 207 under this paragraph may not exceed \$500,000. There shall be no 208 reduction from just value of any new homestead unless the prior 209 homestead is reassessed at just value or is reassessed under this subsection as of January 1 after the abandonment occurs. 210

(e) If one or more persons who previously owned a single homestead and each received the homestead exemption qualify for a new homestead where all persons who qualify for homestead exemption in the new homestead also qualified for homestead exemption in the previous homestead without an additional person qualifying for homestead exemption in the new homestead, the

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217 reduction in just value shall be calculated pursuant to 218 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), without application of paragraph 219 (c) or paragraph (d).

220 (f) For purposes of receiving an assessment reduction 221 pursuant to this subsection, a person entitled to assessment 222 under this section may abandon his or her homestead even though 223 it remains his or her primary residence by notifying the 224 property appraiser of the county where the homestead is located. 225 This notification must be in writing and delivered at the same 226 time as or before timely filing a new application for homestead 227 exemption on the property.

228 (g) In order to have his or her homestead property assessed 229 under this subsection, a person must file a form provided by the 230 department as an attachment to the application for homestead 231 exemption. The form, which must include a sworn statement 232 attesting to the applicant's entitlement to assessment under 233 this subsection, shall be considered sufficient documentation 234 for applying for assessment under this subsection. The 235 department shall require by rule that the required form be 236 submitted with the application for homestead exemption under the 237 timeframes and processes set forth in chapter 196 to the extent 238 practicable.

(h)1. If the previous homestead was located in a different county than the new homestead, the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located must transmit a copy of the completed form together with a completed application for homestead exemption to the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located. If the previous homesteads of applicants for transfer were in more than one



246 county, each applicant from a different county must submit a 247 separate form.

2. The property appraiser in the county where the previous 248 249 homestead was located must return information to the property 250 appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located by 251 April 1 or within 2 weeks after receipt of the completed application from that property appraiser, whichever is later. As 252 253 part of the information returned, the property appraiser in the 254 county where the previous homestead was located must provide 255 sufficient information concerning the previous homestead to 256 allow the property appraiser in the county where the new 257 homestead is located to calculate the amount of the assessment 258 limitation difference which may be transferred and must certify 259 whether the previous homestead was abandoned and has been or 260 will be reassessed at just value or reassessed according to the 261 provisions of this subsection as of the January 1 following its 262 abandonment.

3. Based on the information provided on the form from the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located, the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall calculate the amount of the assessment limitation difference which may be transferred and apply the difference to the January 1 assessment of the new homestead.

4. All property appraisers having information-sharing
agreements with the department are authorized to share
confidential tax information with each other pursuant to s.
195.084, including social security numbers and linked
information on the forms provided pursuant to this section.



275 5. The transfer of any limitation is not final until any 276 values on the assessment roll on which the transfer is based are 277 final. If such values are final after tax notice bills have been 278 sent, the property appraiser shall make appropriate corrections 279 and a corrected tax notice bill shall be sent. Any values that 280 are under administrative or judicial review shall be noticed to 281 the tribunal or court for accelerated hearing and resolution so 282 that the intent of this subsection may be carried out.

6. If the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located has not provided information sufficient to identify the previous homestead and the assessment limitation difference is transferable, the taxpayer may file an action in circuit court in that county seeking to establish that the property appraiser must provide such information.

7. If the information from the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located is provided after the procedures in this section are exercised, the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall make appropriate corrections and a corrected tax notice and tax bill shall be sent.

8. This subsection does not authorize the consideration or adjustment of the just, assessed, or taxable value of the previous homestead property.

9. The property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall promptly notify a taxpayer if the information received, or available, is insufficient to identify the previous homestead and the amount of the assessment limitation difference which is transferable. Such notification shall be sent on or before July 1 as specified in s. 196.151.

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10. The taxpayer may correspond with the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located to further seek to identify the homestead and the amount of the assessment limitation difference which is transferable.

308 11. If the property appraiser in the county where the 309 previous homestead was located supplies sufficient information 310 to the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead 311 is located, such information shall be considered timely if 312 provided in time for inclusion on the notice of proposed 313 property taxes sent pursuant to ss. 194.011 and 200.065(1).

12. If the property appraiser has not received information sufficient to identify the previous homestead and the amount of the assessment limitation difference which is transferable before mailing the notice of proposed property taxes, the taxpayer may file a petition with the value adjustment board in the county where the new homestead is located.

320 (i) Any person who is qualified to have his or her property assessed under this subsection and who fails to file an 321 322 application by March 1 may file an application for assessment 323 under this subsection and may, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), file a 324 petition with the value adjustment board requesting that an 325 assessment under this subsection be granted. Such petition may 326 be filed at any time during the taxable year on or before the 327 25th day following the mailing of the notice by the property 328 appraiser as provided in s. 194.011(1). Notwithstanding s. 329 194.013, such person must pay a nonrefundable fee of \$15 upon 330 filing the petition. Upon reviewing the petition, if the person is qualified to receive the assessment under this subsection and 331 demonstrates particular extenuating circumstances judged by the 332



333 property appraiser or the value adjustment board to warrant 334 granting the assessment, the property appraiser or the value 335 adjustment board may grant an assessment under this subsection. 336 For the 2008 assessments, all petitioners for assessment under 337 this subsection shall be considered to have demonstrated 338 particular extenuating circumstances.

(j) Any person who is qualified to have his or her property assessed under this subsection and who fails to timely file an application for his or her new homestead in the first year following eligibility may file in a subsequent year. The assessment reduction shall be applied to assessed value in the year the transfer is first approved, and refunds of tax may not be made for previous years.

346 (k) The property appraisers of the state shall, as soon as practicable after March 1 of each year and on or before July 1 347 348 of that year, carefully consider all applications for assessment 349 under this subsection which have been filed in their respective 350 offices on or before March 1 of that year. If, upon 351 investigation, the property appraiser finds that the applicant 352 is entitled to assessment under this subsection, the property 353 appraiser shall make such entries upon the tax rolls of the 354 county as are necessary to allow the assessment. If, after due 355 consideration, the property appraiser finds that the applicant is not entitled under the law to assessment under this 356 357 subsection, the property appraiser shall immediately make out a notice of such disapproval, giving his or her reasons therefor, 358 359 and a copy of the notice must be served upon the applicant by the property appraiser either by personal delivery or by 360 registered mail to the post office address given by the 361

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362 applicant. The applicant may appeal the decision of the property 363 appraiser refusing to allow the assessment under this subsection to the value adjustment board, and the board shall review the 364 365 application and evidence presented to the property appraiser 366 upon which the applicant based the claim and shall hear the 367 applicant in person or by agent on behalf of his or her right to 368 such assessment. Such appeal shall be heard by an attorney 369 special magistrate if the value adjustment board uses special 370 magistrates. The value adjustment board shall reverse the 371 decision of the property appraiser in the cause and grant 372 assessment under this subsection to the applicant if, in its 373 judgment, the applicant is entitled to be granted the assessment 374 or shall affirm the decision of the property appraiser. The 375 action of the board is final in the cause unless the applicant, 376 within 15 days following the date of refusal of the application by the board, files in the circuit court of the county in which 377 378 the homestead is located a proceeding against the property 379 appraiser for a declaratory judgment as is provided by chapter 86 or other appropriate proceeding. The failure of the taxpayer 380 381 to appear before the property appraiser or value adjustment 382 board or to file any paper other than the application as 383 provided in this subsection does not constitute any bar to or 384 defense in the proceedings.

385 (9) Erroneous assessments of homestead property assessed 386 under this section may be corrected in the following manner:

(a) If errors are made in arriving at any assessment under
this section due to a material mistake of fact concerning an
essential characteristic of the property, the just value and
assessed value must be recalculated for every such year,

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391 including the year in which the mistake occurred.

(b) If changes, additions, or improvements are not assessed at just value as of the first January 1 after they were substantially completed, the property appraiser shall determine the just value for such changes, additions, or improvements for the year they were substantially completed. Assessments for subsequent years shall be corrected, applying this section if applicable.

(c) If back taxes are due pursuant to s. 193.092, the corrections made pursuant to this subsection shall be used to calculate such back taxes.

402 (10) If the property appraiser determines that for any year or years within the prior 10 years a person who was not entitled 403 404 to the homestead property assessment limitation granted under 405 this section was granted the homestead property assessment 406 limitation, the property appraiser making such determination 407 shall record in the public records of the county a notice of tax lien against any property owned by that person in the county, 408 409 and such property must be identified in the notice of tax lien. 410 Such property that is situated in this state is subject to the 411 unpaid taxes, plus a penalty of 50 percent of the unpaid taxes 412 for each year and 15 percent interest per annum. However, when a 413 person entitled to exemption pursuant to s. 196.031 414 inadvertently receives the limitation pursuant to this section 415 following a change of ownership, the assessment of such property 416 must be corrected as provided in paragraph (9)(a), and the 417 person need not pay the unpaid taxes, penalties, or interest. Section 2. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint 418

419 Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of



420 the electors in a special election held concurrent with the 421 presidential preference primary in 2012, of section 193.155, 422 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

423 193.155 Homestead assessments. Homestead property shall be 424 assessed at just value as of January 1, 1994. Property receiving 425 the homestead exemption after January 1, 1994, shall be assessed 426 at just value as of January 1 of the year in which the property 427 receives the exemption unless the provisions of subsection (8) 428 apply.

(1) Beginning in 1995, or the year following the year the
property receives <u>a</u> homestead exemption, whichever is later, the
property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Except for
<u>changes</u>, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead
property assessed as provided in subsection (4):

434 (a) Any change resulting from such reassessment shall not
 435 exceed the lower of the following:

436 1. (a) Three percent of the assessed value of the property 437 for the prior year; or

438 <u>2.(b)</u> The percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for 439 All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or 440 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially 441 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of 442 Labor Statistics.

(b) The Legislature may provide by general law that an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1.

447 (2) If the assessed value of the property as calculated448 under subsection (1) exceeds the just value, the assessed value



449 of the property shall be lowered to the just value of the 450 property.

(3) (a) Except as provided in this subsection or subsection 451 452 (8), property assessed under this section shall be assessed at 453 just value as of January 1 of the year following a change of 454 ownership. Thereafter, the annual changes in the assessed value 455 of the property are subject to the limitations in subsections 456 (1) and (2). For the purpose of this section, a change of 457 ownership means any sale, foreclosure, or transfer of legal 458 title or beneficial title in equity to any person, except as 459 provided in this subsection. There is no change of ownership if:

460 1. Subsequent to the change or transfer, the same person is 461 entitled to the homestead exemption as was previously entitled 462 and:

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a. The transfer of title is to correct an error;

b. The transfer is between legal and equitable title or
equitable and equitable title and no additional person applies
for a homestead exemption on the property; or

467 c. The change or transfer is by means of an instrument in 468 which the owner is listed as both grantor and grantee of the 469 real property and one or more other individuals are additionally 470 named as grantee. However, if any individual who is additionally 471 named as a grantee applies for a homestead exemption on the 472 property, the application shall be considered a change of 473 ownership;

474 2. Legal or equitable title is changed or transferred
475 between husband and wife, including a change or transfer to a
476 surviving spouse or a transfer due to a dissolution of marriage;
477 3. The transfer occurs by operation of law to the surviving



478 spouse or minor child or children under s. 732.401; or

479 4. Upon the death of the owner, the transfer is between the 480 owner and another who is a permanent resident and is legally or 481 naturally dependent upon the owner.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, a leasehold interest that qualifies for the homestead exemption under s. 196.031 or s. 196.041 shall be treated as an equitable interest in the property.

(4) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), changes,
additions, or improvements to homestead property shall be
assessed at just value as of the first January 1 after the
changes, additions, or improvements are substantially completed.

490 (b) Changes, additions, or improvements that replace all or 491 a portion of homestead property damaged or destroyed by 492 misfortune or calamity shall not increase the homestead 493 property's assessed value when the square footage of the 494 homestead property as changed or improved does not exceed 110 495 percent of the square footage of the homestead property before 496 the damage or destruction. Additionally, the homestead 497 property's assessed value shall not increase if the total square 498 footage of the homestead property as changed or improved does 499 not exceed 1,500 square feet. Changes, additions, or 500 improvements that do not cause the total to exceed 110 percent 501 of the total square footage of the homestead property before the 502 damage or destruction or that do not cause the total to exceed 503 1,500 total square feet shall be reassessed as provided under 504 subsection (1). The homestead property's assessed value shall be 505 increased by the just value of that portion of the changed or 506 improved homestead property which is in excess of 110 percent of



507 the square footage of the homestead property before the damage or destruction or of that portion exceeding 1,500 square feet. 508 509 Homestead property damaged or destroyed by misfortune or 510 calamity which, after being changed or improved, has a square footage of less than 100 percent of the homestead property's 511 512 total square footage before the damage or destruction shall be 513 assessed pursuant to subsection (5). This paragraph applies to 514 changes, additions, or improvements commenced within 3 years 515 after the January 1 following the damage or destruction of the 516 homestead.

(c) Changes, additions, or improvements that replace all or a portion of real property that was damaged or destroyed by misfortune or calamity shall be assessed upon substantial completion as if such damage or destruction had not occurred and in accordance with paragraph (b) if the owner of such property:

522 1. Was permanently residing on such property when the523 damage or destruction occurred;

524 2. Was not entitled to receive homestead exemption on such 525 property as of January 1 of that year; and

526 3. Applies for and receives homestead exemption on such 527 property the following year.

528 Changes, additions, or improvements include (d) 529 improvements made to common areas or other improvements made to 530 property other than to the homestead property by the owner or by 531 an owner association, which improvements directly benefit the 532 homestead property. Such changes, additions, or improvements 533 shall be assessed at just value, and the just value shall be apportioned among the parcels benefiting from the improvement. 534 535 (5) When property is destroyed or removed and not replaced,

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536 the assessed value of the parcel shall be reduced by the 537 assessed value attributable to the destroyed or removed 538 property.

539 (6) Only property that receives a homestead exemption is subject to this section. No portion of property that is assessed 540 541 solely on the basis of character or use pursuant to s. 193.461 or s. 193.501, or assessed pursuant to s. 193.505, is subject to 542 543 this section. When property is assessed under s. 193.461, s. 544 193.501, or s. 193.505 and contains a residence under the same 545 ownership, the portion of the property consisting of the 546 residence and curtilage must be assessed separately, pursuant to 547 s. 193.011, for the assessment to be subject to the limitation 548 in this section.

(7) If a person received a homestead exemption limited to that person's proportionate interest in real property, the provisions of this section apply only to that interest.

552 (8) Property assessed under this section shall be assessed 553 at less than just value when the person who establishes a new 554 homestead has received a homestead exemption as of January 1 of 555 either of the 2 immediately preceding years. A person who 556 establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled 557 to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only 558 if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 559 2007, and only if this subsection applies retroactive to January 560 1, 2008. For purposes of this subsection, a husband and wife who 561 owned and both permanently resided on a previous homestead shall 562 each be considered to have received the homestead exemption even though only the husband or the wife applied for the homestead 563 564 exemption on the previous homestead. The assessed value of the

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565 newly established homestead shall be determined as provided in 566 this subsection.

(a) If the just value of the new homestead as of January 1 567 568 is greater than or equal to the just value of the immediate 569 prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the 570 immediate prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of 571 the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead 572 minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the 573 difference between the just value and the assessed value of the 574 immediate prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which 575 the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead 576 shall be assessed as provided in this section.

577 (b) If the just value of the new homestead as of January 1 578 is less than the just value of the immediate prior homestead as 579 of January 1 of the year in which the immediate prior homestead 580 was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be 581 equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just 582 value of the immediate prior homestead and multiplied by the 583 assessed value of the immediate prior homestead. However, if the 584 difference between the just value of the new homestead and the 585 assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this 586 paragraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the 587 new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between 588 the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. 589 Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this 590 section.

(c) If two or more persons who have each received a
homestead exemption as of January 1 of either of the 2
immediately preceding years and who would otherwise be eligible

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to have a new homestead property assessed under this subsection establish a single new homestead, the reduction from just value is limited to the higher of the difference between the just value and the assessed value of either of the prior eligible homesteads as of January 1 of the year in which either of the eligible prior homesteads was abandoned, but may not exceed \$500,000.

601 (d) If two or more persons abandon jointly owned and 602 jointly titled property that received a homestead exemption as 603 of January 1 of either of the 2 immediately preceding years, and 604 one or more such persons who were entitled to and received a 605 homestead exemption on the abandoned property establish a new 606 homestead that would otherwise be eligible for assessment under 607 this subsection, each such person establishing a new homestead 608 is entitled to a reduction from just value for the new homestead 609 equal to the just value of the prior homestead minus the 610 assessed value of the prior homestead divided by the number of owners of the prior homestead who received a homestead 611 612 exemption, unless the title of the property contains specific 613 ownership shares, in which case the share of reduction from just 614 value shall be proportionate to the ownership share. In 615 calculating the assessment reduction to be transferred from a prior homestead that has an assessment reduction for living 616 617 quarters of parents or grandparents pursuant to s. 193.703, the 618 value calculated pursuant to s. 193.703(6) must first be added 619 back to the assessed value of the prior homestead. The total 620 reduction from just value for all new homesteads established under this paragraph may not exceed \$500,000. There shall be no 621 622 reduction from just value of any new homestead unless the prior



homestead is reassessed at just value or is reassessed underthis subsection as of January 1 after the abandonment occurs.

625 (e) If one or more persons who previously owned a single 626 homestead and each received the homestead exemption qualify for 627 a new homestead where all persons who qualify for homestead 628 exemption in the new homestead also qualified for homestead 629 exemption in the previous homestead without an additional person 630 qualifying for homestead exemption in the new homestead, the 631 reduction in just value shall be calculated pursuant to 632 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), without application of paragraph 633 (c) or paragraph (d).

634 (f) For purposes of receiving an assessment reduction 635 pursuant to this subsection, a person entitled to assessment 636 under this section may abandon his or her homestead even though 637 it remains his or her primary residence by notifying the 638 property appraiser of the county where the homestead is located. 639 This notification must be in writing and delivered at the same time as or before timely filing a new application for homestead 640 641 exemption on the property.

642 (g) In order to have his or her homestead property assessed 643 under this subsection, a person must file a form provided by the 644 department as an attachment to the application for homestead 645 exemption. The form, which must include a sworn statement 646 attesting to the applicant's entitlement to assessment under 647 this subsection, shall be considered sufficient documentation 648 for applying for assessment under this subsection. The 649 department shall require by rule that the required form be 650 submitted with the application for homestead exemption under the 651 timeframes and processes set forth in chapter 196 to the extent

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652 practicable.

653 (h)1. If the previous homestead was located in a different 654 county than the new homestead, the property appraiser in the 655 county where the new homestead is located must transmit a copy 656 of the completed form together with a completed application for 657 homestead exemption to the property appraiser in the county 658 where the previous homestead was located. If the previous 659 homesteads of applicants for transfer were in more than one 660 county, each applicant from a different county must submit a 661 separate form.

662 2. The property appraiser in the county where the previous 663 homestead was located must return information to the property 664 appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located by 665 April 1 or within 2 weeks after receipt of the completed 666 application from that property appraiser, whichever is later. As 667 part of the information returned, the property appraiser in the 668 county where the previous homestead was located must provide 669 sufficient information concerning the previous homestead to 670 allow the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located to calculate the amount of the assessment 671 672 limitation difference which may be transferred and must certify 673 whether the previous homestead was abandoned and has been or 674 will be reassessed at just value or reassessed according to the 675 provisions of this subsection as of the January 1 following its 676 abandonment.

3. Based on the information provided on the form from the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located, the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall calculate the amount of the

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681 assessment limitation difference which may be transferred and 682 apply the difference to the January 1 assessment of the new 683 homestead.

4. All property appraisers having information-sharing
agreements with the department are authorized to share
confidential tax information with each other pursuant to s.
195.084, including social security numbers and linked
information on the forms provided pursuant to this section.

689 5. The transfer of any limitation is not final until any 690 values on the assessment roll on which the transfer is based are 691 final. If such values are final after tax notice bills have been 692 sent, the property appraiser shall make appropriate corrections and a corrected tax notice bill shall be sent. Any values that 693 694 are under administrative or judicial review shall be noticed to 695 the tribunal or court for accelerated hearing and resolution so 696 that the intent of this subsection may be carried out.

697 6. If the property appraiser in the county where the 698 previous homestead was located has not provided information 699 sufficient to identify the previous homestead and the assessment 700 limitation difference is transferable, the taxpayer may file an 701 action in circuit court in that county seeking to establish that 702 the property appraiser must provide such information.

703 7. If the information from the property appraiser in the 704 county where the previous homestead was located is provided 705 after the procedures in this section are exercised, the property 706 appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall 707 make appropriate corrections and a corrected tax notice and tax 708 bill shall be sent.

709

8. This subsection does not authorize the consideration or



710 adjustment of the just, assessed, or taxable value of the 711 previous homestead property.

9. The property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located shall promptly notify a taxpayer if the information received, or available, is insufficient to identify the previous homestead and the amount of the assessment limitation difference which is transferable. Such notification shall be sent on or before July 1 as specified in s. 196.151.

718 10. The taxpayer may correspond with the property appraiser 719 in the county where the previous homestead was located to 720 further seek to identify the homestead and the amount of the 721 assessment limitation difference which is transferable.

11. If the property appraiser in the county where the previous homestead was located supplies sufficient information to the property appraiser in the county where the new homestead is located, such information shall be considered timely if provided in time for inclusion on the notice of proposed property taxes sent pursuant to ss. 194.011 and 200.065(1).

12. If the property appraiser has not received information sufficient to identify the previous homestead and the amount of the assessment limitation difference which is transferable before mailing the notice of proposed property taxes, the taxpayer may file a petition with the value adjustment board in the county where the new homestead is located.

(i) Any person who is qualified to have his or her property
assessed under this subsection and who fails to file an
application by March 1 may file an application for assessment
under this subsection and may, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), file a
petition with the value adjustment board requesting that an



739 assessment under this subsection be granted. Such petition may 740 be filed at any time during the taxable year on or before the 741 25th day following the mailing of the notice by the property appraiser as provided in s. 194.011(1). Notwithstanding s. 742 743 194.013, such person must pay a nonrefundable fee of \$15 upon 744 filing the petition. Upon reviewing the petition, if the person 745 is qualified to receive the assessment under this subsection and 746 demonstrates particular extenuating circumstances judged by the 747 property appraiser or the value adjustment board to warrant 748 granting the assessment, the property appraiser or the value adjustment board may grant an assessment under this subsection. 749 750 For the 2008 assessments, all petitioners for assessment under 751 this subsection shall be considered to have demonstrated 752 particular extenuating circumstances.

(j) Any person who is qualified to have his or her property assessed under this subsection and who fails to timely file an application for his or her new homestead in the first year following eligibility may file in a subsequent year. The assessment reduction shall be applied to assessed value in the year the transfer is first approved, and refunds of tax may not be made for previous years.

760 (k) The property appraisers of the state shall, as soon as 761 practicable after March 1 of each year and on or before July 1 762 of that year, carefully consider all applications for assessment 763 under this subsection which have been filed in their respective 764 offices on or before March 1 of that year. If, upon 765 investigation, the property appraiser finds that the applicant is entitled to assessment under this subsection, the property 766 767 appraiser shall make such entries upon the tax rolls of the

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768 county as are necessary to allow the assessment. If, after due 769 consideration, the property appraiser finds that the applicant 770 is not entitled under the law to assessment under this 771 subsection, the property appraiser shall immediately make out a 772 notice of such disapproval, giving his or her reasons therefor, 773 and a copy of the notice must be served upon the applicant by 774 the property appraiser either by personal delivery or by 775 registered mail to the post office address given by the 776 applicant. The applicant may appeal the decision of the property 777 appraiser refusing to allow the assessment under this subsection 778 to the value adjustment board, and the board shall review the 779 application and evidence presented to the property appraiser 780 upon which the applicant based the claim and shall hear the 781 applicant in person or by agent on behalf of his or her right to 782 such assessment. Such appeal shall be heard by an attorney 783 special magistrate if the value adjustment board uses special 784 magistrates. The value adjustment board shall reverse the 785 decision of the property appraiser in the cause and grant 786 assessment under this subsection to the applicant if, in its 787 judgment, the applicant is entitled to be granted the assessment 788 or shall affirm the decision of the property appraiser. The 789 action of the board is final in the cause unless the applicant, 790 within 15 days following the date of refusal of the application by the board, files in the circuit court of the county in which 791 792 the homestead is located a proceeding against the property 793 appraiser for a declaratory judgment as is provided by chapter 794 86 or other appropriate proceeding. The failure of the taxpayer 795 to appear before the property appraiser or value adjustment 796 board or to file any paper other than the application as



797 provided in this subsection does not constitute any bar to or 798 defense in the proceedings.

(9) Erroneous assessments of homestead property assessedunder this section may be corrected in the following manner:

(a) If errors are made in arriving at any assessment under
this section due to a material mistake of fact concerning an
essential characteristic of the property, the just value and
assessed value must be recalculated for every such year,
including the year in which the mistake occurred.

(b) If changes, additions, or improvements are not assessed at just value as of the first January 1 after they were substantially completed, the property appraiser shall determine the just value for such changes, additions, or improvements for the year they were substantially completed. Assessments for subsequent years shall be corrected, applying this section if applicable.

(c) If back taxes are due pursuant to s. 193.092, the corrections made pursuant to this subsection shall be used to calculate such back taxes.

816 (10) If the property appraiser determines that for any year 817 or years within the prior 10 years a person who was not entitled 818 to the homestead property assessment limitation granted under 819 this section was granted the homestead property assessment 820 limitation, the property appraiser making such determination 821 shall record in the public records of the county a notice of tax 822 lien against any property owned by that person in the county, 823 and such property must be identified in the notice of tax lien. 824 Such property that is situated in this state is subject to the unpaid taxes, plus a penalty of 50 percent of the unpaid taxes 825

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2011 Bill No. SB 1722



826 for each year and 15 percent interest per annum. However, when a 827 person entitled to exemption pursuant to s. 196.031 828 inadvertently receives the limitation pursuant to this section 829 following a change of ownership, the assessment of such property 830 must be corrected as provided in paragraph (9)(a), and the 831 person need not pay the unpaid taxes, penalties, or interest. Section 3. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint 832 833 Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of 8.34 the electors in the general election held in November 2012, 835 subsection (3) of section 193.1554, Florida Statutes, is amended 836 to read: 837 193.1554 Assessment of nonhomestead residential property.-838 (3) Beginning in 2013 2009, or the year following the year 839 the property is placed on the tax roll, whichever is later, the property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Except for 840 841 changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to nonhomestead 842 property assessed as provided in subsection (6): 843 (a) Any change resulting from such reassessment may not 844 exceed 3 10 percent of the assessed value of the property for 845 the prior year. 846 (b) The Legislature may provide by general law that an 847 assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is

848 <u>less than the just value of the property on the preceding</u> 849 January 1.

Section 4. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of the electors in a special election held concurrent with the presidential preference primary in 2012, subsection (3) of section 193.1554, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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855	193.1554 Assessment of nonhomestead residential property
856	(3) Beginning in $2012$ $2009$ , or the year following the year
857	the property is placed on the tax roll, whichever is later, the
858	property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Except for
859	changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to nonhomestead
860	property assessed as provided in subsection (6):
861	(a) Any change resulting from such reassessment may not
862	exceed $3 \ 10$ percent of the assessed value of the property for
863	the prior year.
864	(b) The Legislature may provide by general law that an
865	assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is
866	less than the just value of the property on the preceding
867	January 1.
868	Section 5. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint
869	Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of
870	the electors in the general election held in November 2012,
871	subsection (3) of section 193.1555, Florida Statutes, is amended
872	to read:
873	193.1555 Assessment of certain residential and
874	nonresidential real property
875	(3) Beginning in <u>2013</u> <del>2009</del> , or the year following the year
876	the property is placed on the tax roll, whichever is later, the
877	property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Except for
878	changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to nonhomestead
879	property assessed as provided in subsection (6):
880	(a) Any change resulting from such reassessment may not
881	exceed $3 \ 10$ percent of the assessed value of the property for
882	the prior year.
883	(b) The Legislature may provide by general law that an

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884 assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is 885 less than the just value of the property on the preceding 886 January 1. 887 Section 6. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint 888 Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of 889 the electors in a special election held concurrent with the 890 presidential preference primary in 2012, subsection (3) of 891 section 193.1555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 193.1555 Assessment of certain residential and 892 893 nonresidential real property.-894 (3) Beginning in 2012 2009, or the year following the year 895 the property is placed on the tax roll, whichever is later, the 896 property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Except for 897 changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to nonhomestead 898 property assessed as provided in subsection (6): 899 (a) Any change resulting from such reassessment may not 900 exceed 3  $\frac{10}{10}$  percent of the assessed value of the property for 901 the prior year. 902 (b) The Legislature may provide by general law that an 903 assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is 904 less than the just value of the property on the preceding 905 January 1. 906 Section 7. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint 907 Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of 908 the electors in the general election held in November 2012, 909 section 196.078, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 910 196.078 Additional homestead exemption for a first-time 911 Florida homesteader.-912 (1) As used in this section, the term "first-time Florida

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913 homesteader" means a person who establishes the right to receive 914 the homestead exemption provided in s. 196.031 within 1 year 915 after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned 916 property in the previous 3 years to which the homestead 917 exemption provided in s. 196.031(1)(a) applied. 918 (2) Every first-time Florida homesteader is entitled to an 919 additional homestead exemption in an amount equal to 50 percent 920 of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year 921 the homestead is established for all levies other than school 922 district levies. The additional exemption applies for a period 923 of 5 years or until the year the property is sold, whichever 924 occurs first. The amount of the additional exemption may not 925 exceed \$200,000 and shall be reduced in each subsequent year by 926 an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional 927 exemption received in the year the homestead was established or 928 by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of 929 the property and the assessed value of the property determined 930 under s. 193.155, whichever is greater. Not more than one 931 exemption provided under this subsection is allowed per 932 homestead property. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, but is not available in 933 934 the sixth and subsequent years after the additional exemption is 935 first received. 936 (3) The property appraiser shall require a first-time

937 <u>(3) The property appraiser shall require a first-time</u> 937 <u>Florida homesteader claiming an exemption under this section to</u> 938 <u>submit, not later than March 1 on a form prescribed by the</u> 939 <u>Department of Revenue, a sworn statement attesting that the</u> 940 <u>taxpayer, and each other person who holds legal or equitable</u> 941 <u>title to the property, has not owned property in the prior 3</u>

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942	years that received the homestead exemption provided by s.
943	196.031. In order for the exemption to be retained upon the
944	addition of another person to the title to the property, the
945	person added must also submit, not later than the subsequent
946	March 1 on a form prescribed by the department, a sworn
947	statement attesting that he or she has not owned property in the
948	prior 3 years that received the homestead exemption provided by
949	<u>s. 196.031.</u>
950	(4) Sections 196.131 and 196.161 apply to the exemption
951	provided in this section.
952	Section 8. If House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint
953	Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of
954	the electors in a special election held concurrent with the
955	presidential preference primary in 2012, section 196.078,
956	Florida Statutes, is created to read:
957	196.078 Additional homestead exemption for a first-time
958	Florida homesteader
959	(1) As used in this section, the term "first-time Florida
960	homesteader" means a person who establishes the right to receive
961	the homestead exemption provided in s. 196.031 within 1 year
962	after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned
963	property in the previous 3 years to which the homestead
964	exemption provided in s. 196.031(1)(a) applied.
965	(2) Every first-time Florida homesteader is entitled to an
966	additional homestead exemption in an amount equal to 50 percent
967	of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year
968	the homestead is established for all levies other than school
969	district levies. The additional exemption applies for a period
970	of 5 years or until the year the property is sold, whichever
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971	occurs first. The amount of the additional exemption may not
972	exceed \$200,000 and shall be reduced in each subsequent year by
973	an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional
974	exemption received in the year the homestead was established or
975	by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of
976	the property and the assessed value of the property determined
977	under s. 193.155, whichever is greater. Not more than one
978	exemption provided under this subsection is allowed per
979	homestead property. The additional exemption applies to property
980	purchased on or after January 1, 2011, but is not available in
981	the sixth and subsequent years after the additional exemption is
982	first received.
983	(3) The property appraiser shall require a first-time
984	Florida homesteader claiming an exemption under this section to
985	submit, not later than March 1 on a form prescribed by the
986	Department of Revenue, a sworn statement attesting that the
987	taxpayer, and each other person who holds legal or equitable
988	title to the property, has not owned property in the prior 3
989	years that received the homestead exemption provided by s.
990	196.031. In order for the exemption to be retained upon the
991	addition of another person to the title to the property, the
992	person added must also submit, not later than the subsequent
993	March 1 on a form prescribed by the department, a sworn
994	statement attesting that he or she has not owned property in the
995	prior 3 years that received the homestead exemption provided by
996	<u>s. 196.031.</u>
997	(4) Sections 196.131 and 196.161 apply to the exemption
998	provided in this section.
999	Section 9. (1) In anticipation of implementing this act,
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1000 the executive director of the Department of Revenue is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, to make necessary changes and preparations so that forms, methods, and data records, electronic or otherwise, are ready and in place if sections 2, 4, 6, and 8 or sections 1, 3, 5, and 7 of this act become law.

1007 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such 1008 emergency rules shall remain in effect for 18 months after the 1009 date of adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of 1010 procedures to adopt rules addressing the subject of the 1011 emergency rules.

1012 Section 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, 1013 except that the sections of this act that take effect upon the 1014 approval of House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint 1015 Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, by a vote of the electors 1016 in a special election held concurrent with the presidential preference primary in 2012 shall apply retroactively to the 2012 1017 1018 tax roll if the revision of the State Constitution contained in House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate Joint Resolution 658, 2011 1019 1020 Regular Session, is approved by a vote of the electors in a 1021 special election held concurrent with the presidential 1022 preference primary in 2012; or the sections of this act that 1023 take effect upon the approval of House Joint Resolution 381 or 1024 Senate Joint Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, by a vote of 1025 the electors in the general election held in November 2012 shall 1026 apply to the 2013 tax roll if the revision of the State Constitution contained in House Joint Resolution 381 or Senate 1027 Joint Resolution 658, 2011 Regular Session, is approved by a 1028

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1029	wate of the electors in the menousl election held in Nerrombon
	vote of the electors in the general election held in November
1030	2012.
1031	
1032	======================================
1033	And the title is amended as follows:
1034	
1035	Delete everything before the enacting clause
1036	and insert:
1037	A bill to be entitled
1038	An act relating to ad valorem taxation; amending s.
1039	193.155, F.S.; revising provisions relating to annual
1040	reassessment of property; providing that an assessment
1041	may not increase if the just value of the property is
1042	less than the just value of the property on the
1043	preceding January 1; deleting an obsolete provision;
1044	amending s. 193.1554, F.S.; providing exceptions to
1045	reducing the amount that any change in the value of
1046	nonhomestead residential property resulting from an
1047	annual reassessment may exceed the assessed value of
1048	the property for the prior year; providing exceptions;
1049	providing that an assessment may not increase if the
1050	just value of the property is less than the just value
1051	of the property on the preceding date of assessment
1052	provided by law; amending s. 193.1555, F.S.; reducing
1053	the amount that any change in the value of certain
1054	residential and nonresidential real property resulting
1055	from an annual reassessment may exceed the assessed
1056	value of the property for the prior year; providing
1057	exceptions; providing that an assessment may not



1058 increase if the just value of the property is less 1059 than the just value of the property on the preceding 1060 date of assessment provided by law; creating s. 1061 196.078, F.S.; providing a definition; providing a 1062 first-time Florida homesteader with an additional 1063 homestead exemption; providing for calculation of the 1064 exemption; providing for the applicability period of 1065 the exemption; providing for an annual reduction in 1066 the exemption during the applicability period; 1067 providing application procedures; providing for 1068 applicability of specified provisions; providing for 1069 contingent effect of provisions and varying dates of 1070 application depending on the adoption and adoption 1071 date of specified joint resolutions; authorizing the 1072 Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules; 1073 providing for application and renewal of emergency 1074 rules; providing for certain contingent effect and 1075 retroactive application; providing an effective date.