

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Floor: WD/2R 04/25/2013 11:22 AM

Senator Soto moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. (1) The nonrecurring sum of \$58,580,474 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

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assistance plan.

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- (2) All funding appropriated in this section must be used for the following strategies that assist households and communities that have been affected by foreclosures, using existing housing stock:
- (a) Approximately \$28 million must be used in assisting with purchases of existing housing, with or without rehabilitation.
- (b) Approximately \$20 million must be used toward rental deposit assistance for homeowners who have lost their home in foreclosure.
- (c) Approximately \$10 million must be used toward providing rental deposit assistance for seniors who have lost their home due to foreclosure.
- (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.

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Section 2. 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 to fund the rehabilitation and preservation of public housing units provided under chapter 421 and to specifically target the units of lowincome and very-low-income persons affected by foreclosure for upgrades and improvements. The funding must be administered as a grant program.

Section 3. (1) The nonrecurring sum of \$40 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 the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL). This appropriation must be spent over the next 3 years for administrative expenses associated with implementing this act, as follows: \$16.67 million in each of the first two years and \$16.66 million in the third year.

- (2) Each SAIL development that receives funds under this section must include up to 15 percent but not less than 5 percent of its units designed, constructed, and targeted for individuals with developmental, hearing, visual, or mobility disabilities. Each development shall be required to enter into agreements with the local Center for Independent Living, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or other such agency approved by FHFC, for the purpose of coordinating services and housing for individuals with disabilities.
- (3) Affordable housing units in each development which are in addition to those required under subsection (2) shall provide

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reduced-rent units to serve tenants who are elderly, as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes, and tenants who are extremelylow-income persons (ELI), as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes. To the extent possible, ELI units should be part of FHFC's existing Link Initiative in which developers set aside units for special needs households, including households with persons affected by foreclosure, persons with disabilities, homeless families, youth aging out of foster care, frail elders, and survivors of domestic violence who are receiving communitybased supportive services and who are referred by a supportive services agency in the community where the property is located.

Section 4. The nonrecurring sum of \$9 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. This appropriation must be spent in annual \$3 million increments over the next 3 years for administrative expenses associated with implementing this act.

Section 5. The nonrecurring sum of \$12 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 for the Florida Hardest-Hit Fund. This appropriation must be spent in annual \$4 million increments over the next 3 years for administrative expenses associated with implementing this section.

Section 6. The nonrecurring sum of \$15 million is appropriated from the State Housing Trust Fund to the Department of Economic Opportunity for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for

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transfer to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to fund a competitive grant program to provide housing for homeless persons affected by the foreclosure crisis. 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 persons who have been affected by the foreclosure crisis. Funds may also be awarded to private nonprofit organizations to construct small specialty housing of 10 units or fewer for homeless families affected by the foreclosure crisis. This appropriation must be spent in annual \$5 million increments over the next 3 years for administrative expenses associated with implementing this section.

Section 7. The nonrecurring sum of \$18 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 for foreclosure counseling programs. This appropriation must be spent in annual \$6 million increments over the next 3 years.

Section 8. The nonrecurring sum of \$36 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. This appropriation must be spent in annual \$12 million increments over the next 3 years.

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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: \$58,580,474 shall be deposited into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund in the Department of Economic Opportunity; \$104 million shall be deposited into the State Housing Trust Fund in the Department of Economic Opportunity; and \$38 million shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

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

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And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to funding from the National Mortgage Settlement; providing appropriations 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 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.