



# Florida House of Representatives

*Representative Kathleen M. Peters*

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During the 2013 Session of the Florida Legislature, after several attempts to rectify an inherent unfairness in the state's sovereign submerged land lease program as it pertains to docks belonging to multi-family homes, equitable language was passed, and subsequently signed into law by Governor Rick Scott. The language passed as Section 7 of HB 999 and amended Ch. 253.0347 FS by adding new language, (e) and (f), to paragraph (2) which is intended to finally treat multi-family residences the same, not any better or worse, than single family residences when it comes to sovereign submerged land lease exemption eligibility.

Specifically, it was the Legislature's intent in passing this Ch. 253.0347 (2)(e)(f) FS language that:

1. Multi-family residents enjoy the same Sovereign Submerged Land Lease exemption provided to single family residents.
2. If granted the exemption, multi-family residents no longer need to pay the Renewal Fee every 10 years.
3. If granted the exemption, multi-family residents no longer have to pay the 6% Transfer fee. Currently this exemption applies only to Homesteaded property. No single family residents are subject to it.
4. If granted the exemption, multi-family residents no longer have to pay the 6% Rental Income fee to the state.

It is a matter of fairness and equity for all homeowners who chose to invest in Florida's residential property. Common sense finally prevailed. For example, why should one have to pay renewal fees every 10 years on a lease they are now exempt from even having in the first place.

I thank all my colleagues in the Florida Legislature for their overwhelming support of this good language as we passed HB 999 in a bipartisan manner and Governor Scott for signing it into good law.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Peters", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Representative Kathleen Peters