



Florida House considers plan to speed up foreclosures

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FORT MYERS, Fla. - Lawmakers are taking another look at tackling Florida's backlog of foreclosure cases, by speeding up the process.

"We do have a tremendous delay in foreclosures," said real estate attorney Kevin Jursinski.

He notes Florida's foreclosure process has been riddled with problems for some time.

"There's stuff on both sides, you've got robo-signing and fraudulent documents, there's a big cry about it against the lender, but at the same time the lenders say there are frivolous defenses being raised," Jursinski said.

A bill moving through the Florida house looks to speed up cases, by doing things like cutting the amount of time a lender can go after homeowners for the money they owe after foreclosure-- to two years instead of five years.

It also identifies abandoned homes, to push them through the process faster and get them back on the market.

Naples Republican State Rep. Kathleen Passidomo is co-sponsor of the bill. She denies claims by opponents that the plan takes away a homeowner's right to be heard in court.

"This bill is not a non-judicial foreclosure bill," Passidomo told the House Economic Affairs Committee at a hearing on Wednesday. "This bill gives the courts and the parties to a foreclosure action the tools they need to expedite the judicial proceeding, while at the same time guaranteeing the due process rights of all parties."

We don't need to change the whole system, the system works as is," said foreclosure attorney Carmen Dellutri.

Dellutri believes these types of plans unfairly favor lenders over borrowers.

"What you need to do is look at the system and fund the courts, the courts are the one that have no funding," Dellutri said.

Jursinski agrees the process needs help, but said this is the best plan he's seen so far.

"Something has to be done to clean it up," Jursinski said.

To read the bill for yourself, visit this link on the Florida House of Representatives website:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47321>