



WATCHDOG

Guarding manufactured/mobile home owner rights

Action Needed for Mobile Home Tie-Down Program

January 21, 2022

In early 2020 YOU made the difference in avoiding a bad mobile/manufactured home bill! In early 2021 your actions kept the **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** alive for another year! Please ENGAGE again!! **TODAY!!**

The **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** is scheduled to **END** on June 30, 2022. We **MUST** pass a law to keep this very important **Program** in the Florida Statutes. Especially, if your community is on the **Wait List**, please write or call to continue this **Program**. Details about the **Program** are **below** for your letters and calls.

Senator Ed Hooper, (Palm Harbor), has filed **Senate Bill 578** and **Representative Matt Willhite**, (Wellington), has filed **House Bill 837**. These bills will extend the **Program** for 10 years. They need FMO's help!

****FMO ACTION NEEDED IMMEDIATELY****

1. **Senate President Wilton Simpson** needs to know you **SUPPORT SB 578 and the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program**: simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov
2. **House Speaker Chris Sprowls** needs to know you **SUPPORT HB 837 and the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program**: chris.sprowls@myfloridahouse.gov
3. The following **Chairs in the House** need to hear from you. Please tell them:
 - It is important to continue the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program in HB 837.
 - Part of this Program is the **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** which will replace the anchoring system in homes built prior to 1999. About 122 communities are on the WAIT LIST.
 - Funding is from the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, NOT General Revenue.
 - Please agenda HB 837 as quickly as possible to extend this **Program!!**

Chair Nick DiCeglie, (Largo), House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; 850-717-5066,
nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov

Chair Daniel Perez, (Miami), House Pandemics & Public Emergencies; 850-717-5116,
daniel.perez@myfloridahouse.gov

Chair Jay Williamson, (Pace), House Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee; 850-717-5003
jayer.williamson@myfloridahouse.gov

Chair Blaise Ingoglia, (Spring Hill), House Commerce Committee; 850-717-5035,
blaise.ingoglia@myfloridahouse.gov

4. The following **Chairs in the Senate** need to hear from you. Please tell them:

- It is important to continue the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program in CS/SB 578.
- Part of this Program is the **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** which will replace the anchoring system in homes built prior to 1999. About 122 communities are on the WAIT LIST.
- Funding is from the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, NOT General Revenue.
- Please agenda CS/SB 578 as quickly as possible to extend the **Program!!**

Chair Senator Kelli Stargel, (Lakeland), Senate Appropriations Committee, 850-487-5022,
stargel.kelli.web@flsenate.gov

Chair Senator Jennifer Bradley, (Orange Park) Senate Community Affairs Committee, 850-487-5005,
bradley.jennifer.web@flsenate.gov

5. AND! Please contact YOUR OWN Senator and Representative! Go to www.myfloridahouse.gov Click on **Representatives** tab and then the **Find Your Representative** box. Input your address. **YOUR** Senator and Representative are listed with the Tallahassee contact information! Ask them to vote YES!!

****The Need to Support SB 578 and HB 837 in 2022****

- The Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program has assisted manufactured/mobile home owners to strengthen their homes through the inspection and improvement or replacement of their anchoring systems through the **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program**. Between 1999-2019, **346** communities have been served and **51,565** homes have been strengthened to improve wind resistance and mitigate loss.
- The HLMP, (s. 215.559, F.S.), **ends** on June 30, 2022. There are **122 communities** on the wait list. It will take approximately 6 years to address the current wait list.

Explanation of the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program:

Current law requires an annual appropriation of \$10 million from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, (Cat Fund), to provide funding for several hurricane mitigation programs.

The “Cat Fund” is considered a trust fund under state law. The State Board of Administration administers this trust fund. (Funding is NOT from General Revenue)

By statute, the specified \$10 million is allocated as follows:

- \$3.5 million to “to improve the wind resistance of residences and mobile homes, including loans, subsidies, grants, demonstration projects, and direct assistance; educating persons concerning the Florida Building Code cooperative programs with local governments and the Federal Government; and other efforts to prevent or reduce losses or reduce the cost of rebuilding after a disaster.”
- \$3 million for public hurricane shelters
- **\$2.8 million “to inspect and improve tie-downs for mobile homes”**
- \$700,000 “to the Florida International University center dedicated to hurricane research”

The **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** is administered by Tallahassee Community College.

The **Mobile Home Tie-Down Program** now includes manufactured and mobile homes on private property as well as those within parks and communities.