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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 903

February 16, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor

March 26, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Civil Justice

March 30, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass

Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to mortgages; modifying provisions relating to foreclosure consultants;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 325N.01.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 325N.01, is amended to read:

1.6 325N.01 DEFINITIONS.

1.7 The definitions in paragraphs (a) to (h) apply to sections 325N.01 to 325N.09.

1.8 (a) "Foreclosure consultant" means any person who, directly or indirectly, makes
1.9 any solicitation, representation, or offer to any owner to perform for compensation or
1.10 who, for compensation, performs any service which the person in any manner represents
1.11 will in any manner do any of the following:

- 1.12 (1) stop or postpone the foreclosure sale;
1.13 (2) obtain any forbearance from any beneficiary or mortgagee;
1.14 (3) assist the owner to exercise the right of reinstatement provided in section 580.30;
1.15 (4) obtain any extension of the period within which the owner may reinstate the
1.16 owner's obligation;
1.17 (5) obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause contained in any promissory note or
1.18 contract secured by a mortgage on a residence in foreclosure or contained in the mortgage;
1.19 (6) assist the owner in foreclosure or loan default to obtain a loan or advance
1.20 of funds;
1.21 (7) avoid or ameliorate the impairment of the owner's credit resulting from the
1.22 recording of a notice of default or the conduct of a foreclosure sale; ~~or~~
1.23 (8) save the owner's residence from foreclosure; or

2.1 (9) negotiate or modify the terms or conditions of an existing residential mortgage
2.2 loan.

2.3 (b) A foreclosure consultant does not include any of the following:

2.4 (1) a person licensed to practice law in this state when the person renders service
2.5 in the course of his or her practice as an attorney-at-law;

2.6 (2) a person licensed as a debt management services provider under chapter 332A,
2.7 when the person is acting as a debt management services provider as defined in that
2.8 chapter;

2.9 (3) a person licensed as a real estate broker or salesperson under chapter 82 when the
2.10 person engages in acts whose performance requires licensure under that chapter unless the
2.11 person is engaged in offering services designed to, or purportedly designed to, enable the
2.12 owner to retain possession of the residence in foreclosure;

2.13 (4) a person licensed as an accountant under chapter 326A when the person is acting
2.14 in any capacity for which the person is licensed under those provisions;

2.15 (5) a person or the person's authorized agent acting under the express authority
2.16 or written approval of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or other
2.17 department or agency of the United States or this state to provide services;

2.18 (6) a person who holds or is owed an obligation secured by a lien on any residence
2.19 in foreclosure when the person performs services in connection with this obligation or lien
2.20 if the obligation or lien did not arise as the result of or as part of a proposed foreclosure
2.21 reconveyance;

2.22 (7) any person or entity doing business under any law of this state, or of the United
2.23 States relating to banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, industrial loan and
2.24 thrift companies, regulated lenders, credit unions, insurance companies, or a mortgagee
2.25 which is a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development approved
2.26 mortgagee and any subsidiary or affiliate of these persons or entities, and any agent or
2.27 employee of these persons or entities while engaged in the business of these persons
2.28 or entities;

2.29 (8) a person licensed as a residential mortgage originator or servicer pursuant to
2.30 chapter 58, when acting under the authority of that license, except that the provisions
2.31 of section 325N.04, clause (1), shall apply to any person operating under a mortgage
2.32 originator license who negotiates or offers to negotiate the terms or conditions of an
2.33 existing residential mortgage loan;

2.34 (9) a nonprofit agency or organization that has tax-exempt status under section
2.35 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that offers counseling or advice to an owner of
2.36 a home in foreclosure or loan default if they do not contract for services with for-profit

3.1 lenders or foreclosure purchasers, except that they shall comply with the provisions of
3.2 section 325N.04, clause (1);

3.3 (10) a judgment creditor of the owner, to the extent that the judgment creditor's claim
3.4 accrued prior to the personal service of the foreclosure notice required by section 580.03,
3.5 but excluding a person who purchased the claim after such personal service; and

3.6 (11) a foreclosure purchaser as defined in section 325N.10.

3.7 (c) "Foreclosure reconveyance" means a transaction involving:

3.8 (1) the transfer of title to real property by a foreclosed homeowner during a
3.9 foreclosure proceeding, either by transfer of interest from the foreclosed homeowner or
3.10 by creation of a mortgage or other lien or encumbrance during the foreclosure process
3.11 that allows the acquirer to obtain title to the property by redeeming the property as
3.12 a junior lienholder; and

3.13 (2) the subsequent conveyance, or promise of a subsequent conveyance, of an interest
3.14 back to the foreclosed homeowner by the acquirer or a person acting in participation with
3.15 the acquirer that allows the foreclosed homeowner to possess either the residence in
3.16 foreclosure or any other real property, which interest includes, but is not limited to, an
3.17 interest in a contract for deed, purchase agreement, option to purchase, or lease.

3.18 (d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability
3.19 company, association, or other group, however organized.

3.20 (e) "Service" means and includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

3.21 (1) debt, budget, or financial counseling of any type;

3.22 (2) receiving money for the purpose of distributing it to creditors in payment or
3.23 partial payment of any obligation secured by a lien on a residence in foreclosure;

3.24 (3) ~~contacting creditors on behalf of an owner of a residence in foreclosure or~~
3.25 servicers to negotiate or offer to negotiate the terms or conditions of an existing residential
3.26 mortgage loan;

3.27 (4) arranging or attempting to arrange for an extension of the period within which
3.28 the owner of a residence in foreclosure may cure the owner's default and reinstate his or
3.29 her obligation pursuant to section 580.30;

3.30 (5) arranging or attempting to arrange for any delay or postponement of the time of
3.31 sale of the residence in foreclosure;

3.32 (6) advising the filing of any document or assisting in any manner in the preparation
3.33 of any document for filing with any bankruptcy court; or

3.34 (7) giving any advice, explanation, or instruction to an owner of a residence in
3.35 foreclosure, which in any manner relates to the cure of a default in or the reinstatement
3.36 of an obligation secured by a lien on the residence in foreclosure, the full satisfaction of

4.1 that obligation, or the postponement or avoidance of a sale of a residence in foreclosure,
4.2 pursuant to a power of sale contained in any mortgage.

4.3 (f) "Residence in foreclosure" means residential real property consisting of one to
4.4 four family dwelling units, one of which the owner occupies as his or her principal place
4.5 of residence, where there is a delinquency or default on any loan payment or debt secured
4.6 by or attached to the residential real property including, but not limited to, contract for
4.7 deed payments.

4.8 (g) "Owner" means the record owner of the residential real property in foreclosure at
4.9 the time the notice of pendency was recorded, or the summons and complaint served.

4.10 (h) "Contract" means any agreement, or any term in any agreement, between
4.11 a foreclosure consultant and an owner for the rendition of any service as defined in
4.12 paragraph (e).

4.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective 30 days after the date of enactment.