



**For Immediate Release**

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**Passage of Legislation to Protect Tenants in Foreclosed Rentals**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid are pleased to announce the passage of legislation to provide protections to tenants renting apartments and homes that are foreclosed. HB 779, sponsored by Rep. Mia Jones, D-Jacksonville, and Sen. Darren Soto, D-Orlando provides tenants in rentals a 30-day notice after a foreclosure to sign new lease with the purchaser or find a new home. Under current Florida law, since the expiration of the federal Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act, tenants could be evicted after 24 hours notice.

Rep. Mia Jones in presenting the bill on the Florida House floor, said “in the last year Florida has had the distinction of completing more foreclosures than any other state in the country. These foreclosure issues were nationwide, leading Congress to pass the Protection Tenants at Foreclosure Act. This Act provided protection for bona fide tenants with 90 days notice after foreclosure before they would have to leave the premises. The protections, however, expired on December 31, 2014.” HB 779 will provide this much needed protection.

In filing the bill Sen. Soto said, “Right now Florida law fails to protect renting families. We can and must do better.” Passage of the bill ensures Florida will do better.

“The total upheaval in tenants’ lives when a landlord fails to pay the mortgage, including disrupting parents’ jobs and children’s schooling, is unacceptable. Thanks to the efforts of Rep. Mia Jones and Sen. Soto, HB 779 will provide basic protections for Florida’s renters,” said Jeffrey Haynie with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Inc.

This legislation, which will take immediate effect after the governor approves the bill, will insure families who rent, and are the innocent victims in the foreclosure process, at least have a reasonable period of time to find a new home after a foreclosure.

*Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection is a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates on behalf of tenants and consumers.*

*Jacksonville Area Legal Aid is a non-profit law firm specializing in providing civil legal assistance to low-income and special-needs individuals and groups.*