~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 22, 2018

**H. 3846**

Introduced by Rep. G.M. Smith

S. Printed 3/22/18--H.

Read the first time February 23, 2017.

**THE COMMITTEE ON**

**LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3846) to amend Section 40‑59‑260, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to exceptions from homebuilders licensure requirements for certain residential property improvements made by property, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by deleting all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 59, Title 40 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 40‑59‑265. (A) This chapter does not apply to an owner of residential property who makes general cosmetic improvements, inside or outside the home including, but not limited to, the installation or repair of interior and exterior paint or trim, flooring, toilets, showers, tubs, sinks, fixtures, cabinetry, shelving, appliances, doors, windows, drywall, driveways, landscaping, external storage buildings, decks, patios, porches, and fencing if the owner does the work himself.

(B) An owner of residential property meeting the requirements of subsection (A) is exempt from building permit application requirements for those cosmetic improvements identified in subsection (A) where the owner does the work himself.”

SECTION 2. Section 40‑59‑20(7) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(7) ‘Residential specialty contractor’ means an independent contractor ~~who is not a licensed residential builder~~~~,~~ who contracts with a licensed residential builder, general contractor, or individual property owner to do construction work, repairs, improvement, or reimprovement which requires special skills and involves the use of specialized construction trades or craft, when the undertakings exceed two hundred dollars and are not regulated by the provisions of Chapter 11. The provisions of this chapter do not preclude a licensed residential builder from also obtaining licensure as a residential specialty contractor in an area of contracting identified in statute or recognized by the commission. Residential specialty contracting includes the following areas of contracting and other areas as the commission may recognize by regulation:

(a) plumbers;

(b) electricians;

(c) heating and air conditioning installers and repairers;

(d) vinyl and aluminum siding installers;

(e) insulation installers;

(f) roofers;

(g) floor covering installers;

(h) masons;

(i) dry wall installers;

(j) carpenters;

(k) stucco installers;

(l) painters/wall paperers.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

WILLIAM E. SANDIFER III for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 40‑59‑260, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO EXCEPTIONS FROM HOMEBUILDERS LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY PROPERTY OWNERS FOR PERSONAL USE, SO AS TO REMOVE A PROVISION WHICH DISQUALIFIES PROPERTY OWNERS WHO SELL OR RENT SUCH AN IMPROVED PROPERTY WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE FROM THIS EXCEPTION, AND TO MAKE A CONFORMING CHANGE IN A RELATED DISCLOSURE GIVEN TO PROPERTY OWNERS SEEKING TO QUALIFY FOR THE EXCEPTION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 40‑59‑260 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑59‑260. (A) This chapter does not apply to an owner of residential property who improves the property or who builds or improves structures or appurtenances on the property if:

(1) the owner does the work himself, with his own employees, or with licensed contractors or registered entities or individuals;

(2) the structure, group of structures, or appurtenances, including the improvements, are intended for the owner’s sole occupancy or occupancy by the owner’s family and are not intended for sale or rent; and

(3) the general public does not have access to this structure.

(B) ~~In an action brought under this chapter, proof of the sale or rent or the offering for sale or rent of the structure by the owner‑builder within two years after completion or issuance of a certificate or occupancy is prima facie evidence that the project was undertaken for the purpose of sale or rent, unless otherwise approved by the commission, and is subject to the penalties provided in this chapter. As used in this section, "sale" or "rent" includes an arrangement by which an owner receives compensation in money, provisions, chattel, or labor from the occupancy, or the transfer of the property or the structures on the property. This section does not exempt a person who is employed by the owner and who acts in the capacity of a builder or a specialty contractor of any kind.~~

~~(C)~~ To qualify for exemption under this section, an owner must personally appear and sign the building permit application. The local permitting agency shall provide the person with a disclosure statement, provided by the department, in substantially the following form:

‘Disclosure Statement

State law requires residential construction to be done by licensed residential builders and specialty contractors. You have applied for a permit under an exemption to that law. The exemption allows you, as the owner of your property, to act as your own builder even though you do not have a license. You must supervise the construction yourself. You may build or improve a one‑family or two‑family residence. The building must be for your own use and occupancy. It may not be built for sale or rent. ~~If you sell or rent a building you have built yourself within two years after the construction is complete, the law will presume that you built it for sale or rent, which is a violation of this exemption.~~ You may not hire an unlicensed person as your residential builder or specialty contractor. It is your responsibility to make sure that people employed by you have licenses required by state law and by county or municipal licensing ordinances. Your construction must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, building codes, and zoning regulations.’

(~~D~~C) At the time an owner personally appears and signs the building permit application as required by subsection (~~C~~B) ~~of this section~~, the local permitting agency shall provide the owner with all forms necessary to comply with subsection (~~E~~D) ~~of this section~~.

(~~E~~D) If a residential building or structure has been constructed by an owner under the exemption provided for in this section, the owner of the residential building or structure ~~must~~ promptly must file as a matter of public record a notice with the register of deeds, indexed under the owner’s name in the grantor’s index, stating that the residential building or structure was constructed by the owner as an unlicensed builder. Failure to do so revokes the statutory exemption.

(~~F~~E) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to authorize an owner of a residential building or structure to hire a person or entity that is not licensed or registered in accordance with this chapter.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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