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Haggerty, Quintanilla (Senate Sponsor-Armbrister) H.B. No. 2438 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2005; 2, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Business
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            May
            and Commerce; May 13, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
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            May 13, 2005, sent to printer.)
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1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2438

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By: Carona

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to the acquisition and regulation of manufactured homes. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1201.101(f), Occupations SECTION 1. Section amended to read as follows:

(f) A person may not act as a salesperson of manufactured housing unless the person holds a salesperson's license [is a license holder]. A retailer or broker may not employ or otherwise use the services of a salesperson who is not licensed. A licensed salesperson may not participate in a sale of a manufactured home unless the sale is through the retailer who sponsored the salesperson's application as required by Section 1201.103(d).

SECTION 2. Section 1201.103(d), Occupations Code, is

amended to read as follows:

(d) An applicant for a salesperson's license must:

(1) file with the director an application  $\underline{\text{that}}$  [providing] any information the director considers provides necessary and that is sponsored by a licensed, bonded retailer; and

(2) pay the required fee.

SECTION 3. Section 1201.106(a), Occupations Code, amended to read as follows:

- (a) An applicant for a license or a license holder shall file a bond or other security under Section 1201.105 for the issuance or renewal of a license in the following amount:
  - (1)\$100,000 for a manufacturer;
  - (2) \$50,000 for a retailer;
  - (3) \$30,000 for a rebuilder;
  - \$50,000 [\$20,000] for a broker; or (4)

(5) \$10,000 for an installer.
SECTION 4. Section 1201.107, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

- If a retailer or broker offers for sale or participates in any way in the sale of a manufactured home at a location other than an undivided parcel of real property where more than one manufactured home is located and offered for sale, exchange, or lease-purchase by a retailer or broker to the public, the retailer or broker must:

  (1) identify the bond on file with the department in
- conjunction with that person's license; and

(2) provide contractually in the sales transaction

that the identified bond applies to the sale.

SECTION 5. Sections 1201.113(a), (b),
Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows: (e), and (g),

(a) The board shall recognize, prepare, or administer certification and continuing education programs for <u>salespersons</u> [persons] regulated under this chapter.

(b) A person who holds a salesperson's license [holder] must participate in certification and continuing education programs as provided by Subsection (e).

(e) A salesperson must complete eight hours of certification and continuing education programs not later than the 90th day after the date the salesperson's initial license is issued. To renew a salesperson's license, a salesperson [Persons] regulated under this chapter [and directly involved in the sale of manufactured housing] must complete an additional eight hours of

certification and continuing education programs for each renewal [each year]. The programs must be presented by a board-approved organization or educational institution and must include instruction in applicable [address] state and federal law,
[applicable to all manufactured housing retailer practices and
relevant] consumer protection regulations, and ethical standards.

(g) The board shall suspend the license of a salesperson

[person] regulated under this chapter who does not complete the programs as required by this section. The board shall reinstate the license on the <u>salesperson's</u> [<del>person's</del>] completion of the programs. SECTION 6. Section 1201.114(a), Occupations Code, is

amended to read as follows:

(a) A manufacturer's, retailer's, broker's, or installer's license is valid for one year. A salesperson's license is valid for two years. A license [and] may be renewed as provided by the director. A person whose license has been suspended or revoked or whose license has expired may not engage in activities that require a license until the license has been <u>reinstated or</u> renewed.

SECTION 7. Section 1201.151(d), Occupations Code, amended to read as follows:

(d)

- This section does not apply to:
  (1) a deposit held in escrow in a real estate transaction; or
- (2) money stated to be a down payment in an executed retail [installment] sales contract.

SECTION 8. Section 1201.159(a), Occupations Code, amended to read as follows:

(a) A broker shall ensure that the seller gives the buyer the applicable disclosures and warranties that the buyer would have received if the buyer had purchased the manufactured home through a licensed retailer [may but is not required to be the agent of a party involved in the sale, exchange, or lease-purchase of a manufactured home for which a statement of ownership and location has been issued and is outstanding].

SECTION 9. Sections 1201.163(a) and (b), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the disclosure statement required by Section 1201.162, the department shall adopt rules <u>creating a one-page form printed in at least 12-point type that addresses [addressing</u>] consumer protection disclosures required in chattel mortgage transactions and <u>shall</u> prescribe the form for the disclosure statement. A consumer protection disclosure statement under this subsection may not contain any blank lines and must contain only [include] the following:

(1) a statement of the significant differences between

chattel mortgages and real estate mortgages;

(2) an itemization of <u>typical</u> [estimated closing] costs associated with a chattel mortgage purchase of a manufactured  $\frac{\text{home}}{\text{(3)}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\text{if any}}{\text{and}} \end{bmatrix}; \text{ and } \\ \text{(3)} \quad \text{an}$ 

 $\overline{\ \ }$  (3) an  $\underline{\ \ }$  example [estimate of the total amount] of monthly payments in three typical chattel mortgage transactions, including an estimate of the amount of the [+

[<del>(A)</del>] principal<u>, [and]</u> interest<u>, [payments;</u> [<del>(B) costs of any</del>] required insurance

premium,[+] and

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2-67 2-68 2-69 [(C) costs for payment of] ad valorem taxes[7 based on the current tax rate of each taxing unit in which the manufactured home will be located as applied to the sales price of the manufactured home;

(4) a statement of the roles of the retailer and any affiliated parties in the financing of the first retail sale, as defined by Section 1201.201, and the estimated compensation that they will receive for providing or arranging the financing; and

[(5) any other disclosures required by state or federal law, including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. Section 2601 et seq.) and the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1601 et seq.)].

(b) A retailer shall provide the consumer protection

disclosure statement to the consumer [at least 24 hours] before the

completion of the first credit application [installment contract is fully executed, as provided by Section 1201.164].

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SECTION 10. Section 1201.164(a), Occupations Code,

amended to read as follows:

(a) In a chattel mortgage transaction involving an installment contract, a retailer shall deliver to a consumer at least 24 hours before the contract is fully executed [the disclosure statements required by this subchapter and] the contract, with all required information included, signed by the retailer. The delivery of the [disclosure statements and] installment contract, with all required information included, signed by the retailer constitutes a firm offer by the retailer. The consumer may accept the offer not earlier than 24 hours after the delivery of the contract [documents]. If the consumer has not accepted the offer within 72 hours after the delivery of the contract, the retailer may withdraw the offer.

SECTION 11. Section 1201.2055, Occupations Code, is amended by a realizer Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e) (f)

by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

- (d) If [the department issues a statement of ownership and location to] an owner elects [who has elected] to treat a manufactured home as real property, the department shall issue to the owner a certified copy of the statement of ownership and location that on its face reflects that the owner has elected to treat the manufactured home as real property at the location listed on the statement. Not later than the 60th day after the date the department issues a certified copy of the statement of ownership and location to the owner, the owner must:
- (1) file the certified copy in the real property
- records of the county in which the home is located; and
  (2) notify the department that the certified copy has <u>been filed.</u>
- (e) A [<del>the</del>] manufactured home is not considered to be real property until a certified copy of the statement of ownership and location has been filed and the department has been notified of the filing as provided by Subsection (d).

  (f) If the department is notified under Subsection (d), the
- department in a timely manner shall note in its records that a real property election has been perfected. If the department is not notified as described by Subsection (d), the department shall note in its records that a real property election has not been perfected and that the home remains personal property [in the real property records of the county in which the home is located].
- (g) After the <u>department notes in its records that a real</u> property election has been perfected [certified copy has been filed in the real property records of the county], the home is considered to be real property for all purposes [in the form of an improvement to the underlying real property on which the home is located. If a real property election has been made but a certified copy of the statement of ownership and location has not been filed as required by this subsection, the home continues to be treated as personal
- property until the certified copy is filed].

  (h) The provisions of this chapter relating to the construction or installation of a manufactured home or to warranties for a manufactured home apply to a home regardless of whether the home is considered to be real or personal property.

SECTION 12. Section 1201.206(d), Occupations amended to read as follows:

(d) Not later than the 30th day after the date of each [At a] subsequent sale or transfer of a [the] home that is considered to be personal property, the seller [purchaser] or transferor [transferee] shall provide to the department a completed application [apply] for the issuance of a new statement of ownership and location.

SECTION 13. Section 1201.207(a), Occupations Code, amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall process any completed application for the issuance of a statement of ownership and location not later than the 15th [10th] working day after the date the application is

received by the department. If the department rejects an application, the department shall provide a clear and complete explanation of the reason for the rejection and instructions on how to cure any defects, if possible.

SECTION 14. Subchapter E, Chapter 1201, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1201.2076 to read as follows:

Sec. 1201.2076. CONVERSION FROM REAL PROPERTY TO PERSONAL The department may not issue a statement of ownership and location for a manufactured home that is being converted from real property to personal property until:

(1) each lien on the home is released by the

lienh<u>older;</u>

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each lienholder gives written consent, to bе placed on file with the department; or

(3) the department has determined that it is habitable. inspected the home and

SECTION 15. Section 1201.209, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 1201.209. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO ISSUE OR FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND LOCATION. The department may not refuse to issue a statement of ownership and location and may not suspend or revoke a statement of ownership and location unless:
- (1) the application for issuance of the statement of ownership and location contains a false or fraudulent statement, the applicant failed to provide information required by the director, or the applicant is not entitled to issuance of the statement of ownership and location;
- (2) the director has reason to believe that the manufactured home is stolen or unlawfully converted, or the issuance of a statement of ownership and location would defraud the owner or a lienholder of the manufactured home;
- $\,$  (3) the director has reason to believe that the manufactured home is salvaged, and an application for the issuance of a new statement of ownership and location that indicates that the home is salvaged has not been filed;
  - the required fee has not been paid; (4)
- (5) the state sales and use tax has not been paid in accordance with Chapter 158, Tax Code, and Section 1201.208; or
- (6) a [local] tax lien was filed [before September 2001,] and recorded under Section 1201.219 [32.015, Tax Code, that section existed on the date the lien was filed, and the lien has not been extinguished.

SECTION 16. Sections 1201.216(a) and (b), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (a) If the owner of a manufactured home notifies department that the owner intends to treat the home as real property or to reserve its use for a business purpose or salvage, the [<del>The</del>] department shall indicate on the statement of ownership and location for the [a manufactured] home that:
  (1) the owner of the home has elected to treat the home
- as real property or to reserve its use for a business purpose or salvage; and
- (2) except as provided by Section 1201.2055(h), the department no longer considers the home to be a manufactured home for purposes of regulation under this chapter [whether the home has been sold, exchanged, or lease-purchased to a purchaser for the purchaser's business use. For a home sold, exchanged, or lease-purchased as described by this subsection, the department shall issue a new statement of ownership and location that indicates that the home is reserved for business use].
- (b) On application and subject to Sections 1201.2076 and 1201.209, the department shall [may] issue for the structure described in the application a new statement of ownership and location restoring the structure's designation as a manufactured [for the] home only after an inspection and determination that the structure [home] is habitable as provided by Section 1201.453. [The statement must indicate that the home is no longer reserved for business use.

SECTION 17. Subchapter E, Chapter 1201, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1201.217 to read as follows:

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Sec. 1201.217. MANUFACTURED HOME ABANDONED. (a) The owner of real property on which a manufactured home owned by another is located may declare the home abandoned as provided by this section if the home has been continuously unoccupied for at least four months and any indebtedness secured by the manufactured home is also delinquent.

- (b) Before declaring a manufactured home abandoned, the owner of real property on which the home is located must send a notice of intent to declare the home abandoned to the owner of the home and all lienholders at the addresses listed on the home's statement of ownership and location on file with the department. Mailing of the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the persons required to be notified by this subsection constitutes conclusive proof of compliance with this subsection.
- (c) On receipt of a notice of intent to declare a manufactured home abandoned, the owner of the home or a lienholder may freely enter the real property on which the home is located to remove the home.
- (d) If the manufactured home remains on the real property for at least 45 days after the date the notice is postmarked:

(1) all liens on the home are extinguished; and

- (2) the real property owner may declare the home abandoned and may apply to the department for a statement of ownership and location listing the real property owner as the owner of the manufactured home.
- (e) A new statement of ownership and location issued by the department under this section transfers, free of any liens, if there is evidence of United States Postal Service return receipt from all lienholders, title to the manufactured home to the real property owner.

SECTION 18. Section 1201.219(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (a), a lien on a manufactured home is perfected only by filing with the department the notice of lien on a form provided by the department. The recordation of a lien with the department is notice to all persons that the lien exists. Except as expressly provided by Chapter 32, Tax Code, a lien recorded with the department has priority, according to the chronological order of recordation, over another lien or claim against the manufactured home.

SECTION 19. Section 1201.221(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) On written request, the department shall provide information held by the department on:
- (1) the current ownership <u>and location</u> of a manufactured home; and
- (2) the existence of <u>all</u> [<del>any</del>] tax <u>liens</u> [<del>lien</del>] on that home for which notice has been filed with the department.

SECTION 20. Sections 1201.352(c) and ( $\bar{d}$ ), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (c) Before the signing of a binding retail installment sales contract or other binding purchase agreement, the retailer must give the consumer a copy [or a general description] of:
  - (1) the manufacturer's warranty; [and
  - (2) the retailer's warranty.
- [(d) At the time of the initial installation at the consumer's homesite, the retailer shall deliver to the consumer:
  - [(1) the manufacturer's warranty;
  - (2) the retailer's warranty;
- (3) the warranties given by the manufacturers of appliances or equipment included with the home; and
- (4) the name and address of the manufacturer or retailer to whom the consumer is to give notice of a warranty service request.
- SECTION 21. Section 1201.357, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) If the manufacturer or retailer is unable to provide warranty service in accordance with the department order under Section 1201.356 as a result of an action of the consumer, the manufacturer or retailer must make that allegation in the written statement required by Subsection (a). The department shall investigate the allegation, and if the department determines that the allegation is credible, the department shall issue a new order specifying the date and time of the proposed corrective action. department shall send the order to the consumer and manufacturer or retailer, as applicable, by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the consumer refuses to comply with the department's new order, the manufacturer or retailer, as applicable:

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(1)is discharged from the obligations imposed by the relevant department orders;
(2) has no liability to the consumer; and

(3) is not subject to an action by the department for failure to provide warranty service.

SECTION 22. Section 1201.361, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1201.361. INSTALLER'S WARRANTY. (a) For all secondary installations not covered by the retailer's warranty described by Section 1201.352 and for the installation of all used manufactured homes, the installer shall give the manufactured home owner a written warranty that the installation of the home was performed in accordance with all department standards, rules, orders, and requirements.

<u>conspicuousl</u>y warranty must disclose requirement that the consumer notify the installer of any claim in writing in accordance with the terms of the warranty. Unless the warranty provides for a longer period, the installer has no obligation or liability for any defect described in a written notice received from the consumer more than two years after the date of the installation.

SECTION 23. Section 1201.405, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) In determining the amount of actual damages under this section, the director shall make an independent inquiry as to the damages actually incurred, unless the damages have been established by a contested jury trial.

SECTION 24. Section 1201.451(a), Occupations Code, is

amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, a person may not sell, exchange, or lease-purchase a used manufactured home without the appropriate transfer of good and marketable title to the home [unless the sale, exchange, or lease-purchase is to:

[(1) a purchaser for the purchaser's business use; o [(2) a rebuilder for the purpose of rebuilding salvaged manufactured home].

SECTION 25. Section 1201.455, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1201.455. WARRANTY OF HABITABILITY REQUIRED. Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, a person may not sell, exchange, or lease-purchase a used manufactured home to a consumer for use as a dwelling without providing a written warranty that the home is <u>and will remain</u> habitable <u>until the 60th day after</u> the later of the installation date or the date of the purchase agreement.

(b) Unless, not later than the  $\underline{65th}$  [ $\underline{60th}$ ] day after the later of the installation date or the date of the sale, exchange, or lease-purchase agreement, the consumer notifies the seller in writing of a defect that makes the home not habitable, any obligation or liability of the seller under this subchapter is terminated. The warranty must conspicuously disclose that notice requirement to the consumer.

SECTION 26. The heading to Section 1201.457, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1201.457. HABITABILITY: CHANGE TO OR FROM BUSINESS USE

OR SALVAGE.

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SECTION 27. Section 1201.457(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The purchaser of a used manufactured home for business use <u>or the purchaser of a salvaged manufactured home</u> may not sell, exchange, or lease-purchase the home for use as a dwelling <u>or knowingly allow any person to occupy or use the home as a dwelling</u> unless the director issues a new statement of ownership and location indicating that the home is no longer reserved for business use or salvage. On the purchaser's application to the department for issuance of a new statement of ownership and location, the department shall inspect the home and, if the department determines that the home is habitable, issue the statement of ownership and location.

SECTION 28. Subchapter Z, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2306.591 to read as follows:

Sec. 2306.591. MANUFACTURED HOMES INSTALLED IN COLONIAS. For a manufactured home to be approved for installation and use as a dwelling in a colonia:

(1) the home must be a HUD-code manufactured home, as defined by Section 1201.003, Occupations Code;

(2) the home must be habitable, as described by Section 1201.453, Occupations Code; and

(3) ownership of the home must be properly recorded

with the manufactured housing division of the department.

(b) An owner of a manufactured home is not eligible to participate in a grant loan program offered by the department, including the single-family mortgage revenue bond program under

Section 2306.142, unless the owner complies with Subsection (a).

SECTION 29. Section 1.04, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (3-a) to read as follows:

(3-a) Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, a manufactured home is an improvement to real property only if the owner of the home has elected to treat the manufactured home as real property pursuant to Section 1201.2055, Occupations Code, and a certified copy of the statement of ownership and location has been filed with the real property records of the county in which the home is located as provided in Section 1201.2055(d), Occupations Code.

SECTION 30. Section 32.014, Tax Code, is amended to read as

follows:

Sec. 32.014. TAX LIEN ON MANUFACTURED HOME. (a) If the owner of a manufactured home has elected to treat the home as real property [is listed together with the land on which the manufactured home is located] under Section 25.08, the tax lien shall be attached [attaches] to the land on which the manufactured home is located.

- (b) If the owner of a manufactured home does not elect to treat the home as real property with [is listed separately from] the land on which the manufactured home is located, the tax lien on the manufactured home does not attach to the land on which the home is located.
- (c) In this section, "manufactured home" has the meaning assigned by Section 1201.003, Occupations Code.
- [If a manufactured home is listed together with the land on which the manufactured home is located, a taxing unit with jurisdiction to impose taxes on the land may place a lien on the manufactured home to secure payment of those taxes to the same extent that it can place a lien on the land. If a home is moved from its location and a new statement of ownership and location is not issued under Societies 1201 207 occurrent. issued under Section 1201.207, Occupations Code, a taxing unit with jurisdiction to impose taxes on the land on which the manufactured home was located retains the right to record and enforce liens on that home to secure the payment of taxes, regardless of where the home is currently located.

 $[\frac{(e)}{(e)}]$  This section prevails over Chapter 1201, Occupations Code, to the extent of any conflict.

SECTION 31. Section 32.015(a), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) On payment of the taxes, penalties, and interest for a year for which a valid tax lien [filed before September 1, 2001,] has been recorded on the title records of the department, the collector for the taxing unit shall issue a tax certificate showing no taxes due or a tax paid receipt for such year to the person making payment. When the tax certificate showing no taxes due or tax paid receipt is filed with the department, the tax lien is extinguished and canceled and shall be removed from the title records of the manufactured home. The collector for a taxing unit may not refuse to issue a tax paid receipt to the person who offers to pay the taxes, penalties, and interest for a particular year or years, even though taxes may also be due for another year or other years.

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8-59 8-60 SECTION 32. Section 32.03, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

- (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), a [A] tax lien may not be enforced against personal property transferred to a buyer in ordinary course of business as defined by Section 1.201(9) of the Business & Commerce Code for value who does not have actual notice of the existence of the lien [or, if the personal property is a manufactured home, who does not have constructive notice of the existence of the lien].
- (a-1) A tax lien against a manufactured home may not be enforced unless it has been recorded with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs as provided by Section 1201.219, Occupations Code:

(1) before October 1, 2005; or

(2) not later than six months after the end of the year for which the tax was owed.

(a-2) A person may not transfer title of a manufactured home until all tax liens perfected on the home have been extinguished or satisfied and released. This subsection does not apply to the sale

of a manufactured home in inventory.

(b) A bona fide purchaser for value or the holder of a lien recorded on the manufactured home statement of ownership and location [document of title] is not required to pay any taxes that have not been recorded with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs [imposed in a tax year that begins before January 1, 2001, or penalties or interest on those taxes except for each year for which a valid tax lien was duly filed and recorded under Section 32.015, as that section existed on the date the lien was filed, and each year for which the owner of the manufactured home had constructive notice of the taxes under Section 32.015(e), as that section existed before September 1, 2001. The effect and priority of a tax lien that attaches to secure the payment of taxes imposed on a manufactured home in a tax year that begins on or after January 1, 2001, are those established by Sections 32.01 and 32.05]. In this section, "manufactured home" has the meaning assigned by Section 32.015(b).

SECTION 33. The following laws are repealed:

(1) Sections 1201.164(b), 1201.165, 1201.206(a), 1201.216(c) and (d), 1201.219(d), and 1201.222(b), 1201.215, Occupations Code;

(2) Sections 32.03(c)-(j), Tax Code; and
(3) Section 623.093(d), Transportation Code.
SECTION 34. This Act takes effect immediately receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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