H.B. No. 2706

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of manufactured homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 1201.1025, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a-1)  A person is exempt from holding a retailer's license as required by Section 1201.101(b) if all manufactured homes sold or offered for sale by the person are:

(1)  located in a manufactured home community, as defined by Section 94.001, Property Code; and

(2)  sold or offered for sale to the same purchaser in connection with a sale of the real property of the community.

(c)  A person who is eligible for an exemption under this section remains subject to the other applicable provisions of this subchapter and department rules regarding the sale or transfer of manufactured homes.

SECTION 2.  Section 1201.153(c), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  The notice must:

(1)  contain the information required by:

(A)  the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

(B)  the board; and

(2)  be of the type, size, and format required by the director.

SECTION 3.  Section 1201.201(5), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5)  "Inventory":

(A)  has the meaning assigned by Section 9.102, Business & Commerce Code; and

(B)  does not include manufactured homes used by a retailer as equipment, as defined by Section 9.102(a)(33), Business & Commerce Code [~~means new and used manufactured homes that:~~

[~~(A)  a retailer has designated as the retailer's inventory for sale pursuant to the process implemented by the department; and~~

[~~(B)  are not used as residential dwellings when so designated~~].

SECTION 4.  Sections 1201.219(a) and (c), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  A lien on manufactured homes in inventory is perfected only by filing a financing statement in accordance with Section 9.310, Business & Commerce Code, and the other provisions of that code related to security interests for inventory [~~the lien with the department on the required form~~]. Once perfected, the lien applies to the manufactured homes in the inventory as well as to any proceeds from the sale of those homes. The department may suspend or revoke the license of a retailer who fails to satisfy a perfected inventory lien.

(c)  Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other law, the filing of a financing statement to perfect a lien [~~security agreement~~] on the inventory of a retailer as described by Subsection (a) does not prevent a buyer in the ordinary course of business, as defined by Section 1.201, Business & Commerce Code, from acquiring good and marketable title free of that lien, and the department may not consider that lien for the purpose of title issuance.

SECTION 5.  Section 1201.357(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If the manufacturer, retailer, or installer, as applicable, fails or refuses to provide warranty service in accordance with the department order under Section 1201.356, the director may [~~shall~~] hold an informal meeting at which the manufacturer, retailer, or installer must show cause as to why the manufacturer's, retailer's, or installer's license should not be suspended or revoked and at which the consumer may express the person's views. Following the meeting, the director shall either resolve the matter by agreed order, dismiss the matter if no violation is found to have occurred, or institute an administrative action, which may include license suspension or revocation, the assessment of administrative penalties, or a combination of such actions.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2706 was passed by the House on April 14, 2023, by the following vote:  Yeas 120, Nays 23, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2706 on May 25, 2023, by the following vote:  Yeas 127, Nays 12, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2706 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2023, by the following vote:  Yeas 29, Nays 2.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                 Date

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               Governor