

1 AN ACT concerning civil law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Code of Civil Procedure is amended by adding
5 Part 18 to Article XV as follows:

6 (735 ILCS 5/Art. XV Pt. 18 heading new)

7 ARTICLE XV Pt. 18. Foreclosure Prevention

8 (735 ILCS 5/15-1801 new)

9 Sec. 15-1801. Part title. This Part may be cited as the
10 Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Law of 2009.

11 (735 ILCS 5/15-1805 new)

12 Sec. 15-1805. Definitions. In this Part:

13 "Part" means the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Law of
14 2009.

15 "Deferment payment" means the monthly amount that is due to
16 the foreclosing lender by an eligible foreclosed borrower under
17 Section 15-1820 to maintain the right to deferment.

18 "Deferment period" means the period that begins on the
19 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General
20 Assembly and expires one year following the effective date of
21 this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

1 "Deferment right" means the relief provided to an eligible
2 foreclosed borrower in Section 15-1810.

3 "Eligible foreclosed loan" means a residential mortgage
4 loan for which a foreclosing lender has scheduled a judicial
5 sale under this Article or schedules a judicial sale during the
6 deferment period if it is a subprime loan or a loan with
7 negative amortization for which the required minimum payment of
8 principal and interest increased after the date the loan was
9 originated. An eligible foreclosed loan does not include a loan
10 originated by a State or federally chartered bank, savings
11 bank, or credit union, or an organization majority owned by one
12 or more credit unions.

13 "Eligible foreclosed borrower" means a borrower who:

14 (1) is a mortgagor under an eligible foreclosed loan;

15 (2) resides at the mortgaged property and intends to
16 reside at the mortgaged property at least until the end of
17 the deferment period;

18 (3) has a household adjusted gross income of less than
19 \$250,000 per year according to the borrower's most recent
20 federal income tax return, provided that if the borrower
21 was not required to file a federal income tax return, the
22 borrower must qualify by providing the return that the
23 borrower would have filed if required; and

24 (4) is a legal United States resident. A borrower does
25 not reside at the property unless the property has been the
26 borrower's primary residence for 6 months prior to the date

1 of the affidavit of deferment.

2 "Foreclosing lender" means the mortgagee who is
3 foreclosing the mortgage of an eligible foreclosed borrower.

4 "Fully indexed rate" equals the index rate prevailing at
5 the time a residential mortgage loan is originated, plus the
6 margin that will apply after the expiration of an introductory
7 interest rate.

8 "Mortgage foreclosure counselor" means an individual who
9 provides mortgage foreclosure counseling on behalf of a
10 nonprofit or government agency.

11 "Negative amortization" occurs when the borrower's
12 compliance with any repayment option offered pursuant to the
13 terms of the residential mortgage loan is insufficient to
14 satisfy the interest accruing on the loan, resulting in an
15 increase in the loan balance. Negative amortization does not
16 occur when a residential mortgage loan is originated,
17 subsidized, or guaranteed by or through a State, local
18 government, or nonprofit organization, and bears one or more of
19 the following nonstandard payment terms that substantially
20 benefit the borrower: payments vary with income; payments of
21 principal and interest are deferred until the maturity date of
22 the loan or the sale of the residence; principal or interest is
23 forgivable under specified conditions; or where no interest or
24 an annual interest rate of 2% or less is charged in connection
25 with the loan.

26 "Residential mortgage loan" means a loan secured primarily

1 by either: (1) a mortgage on residential real property; or (2)
2 certificates of stock or other evidence of ownership interest
3 in and proprietary lease from corporations, partnerships, or
4 other forms of business organizations formed for the purpose of
5 cooperative ownership of residential real property.

6 "Residential mortgage servicer" or "servicer" means a
7 person who engages in the activity of servicing a residential
8 mortgage.

9 "Residential real property" or "residential real estate"
10 means real property improved or intended to be improved by a
11 structure designed principally for the occupancy of from one to
12 4 families, whether or not the owner occupies the real
13 property.

14 "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of
15 Financial and Professional Regulation.

16 "Subprime loan" means, in the case of an adjustable rate
17 loan secured by a first lien on a dwelling that can increase in
18 interest rate but not decrease in interest rate below the fully
19 indexed rate at the time of origination, a loan for which the
20 annual percentage rate (APR) is greater than 2 percentage
21 points above the yield on United States Treasury securities
22 having comparable periods of maturity, as of the 15th day of
23 the preceding month if the rate is set between the first and
24 the 14th day of the month and as of the 15th day of the current
25 month if the rate is set on or after the 15th day.

26 For all other loans secured by a first lien on a dwelling,

1 the term means a loan for which the APR is greater than 3
2 percentage points above the yield on United States Treasury
3 securities having comparable periods of maturity, as of the
4 15th day of the preceding month if the rate is set between the
5 first and the 14th day of the month and as of the 15th day of
6 the current month if the rate is set on or after the 15th day.

7 For loans secured by a subordinate lien on a dwelling, the
8 term means a loan for which the APR is greater than 5
9 percentage points above the yield on United States Treasury
10 securities having comparable periods of maturity, as of the
11 15th day of the preceding month if the rate is set between the
12 first and the 14th day of the month and as of the 15th day of
13 the current month if the rate is set on or after the 15th day.

14 For purposes of this Section, the annual percentage rate
15 has the meaning given in title 12, Code of Federal Regulations,
16 part 226.

17 (735 ILCS 5/15-1810 new)

18 Sec. 15-1810. Right to foreclosure deferment. An eligible
19 foreclosed borrower has the right to defer a judicial sale
20 under this Article until the expiration of the deferment period
21 by providing an affidavit of deferment to the foreclosing
22 lender in accordance with Section 15-1815. A foreclosing lender
23 shall cancel a judicial sale if the eligible foreclosed
24 borrower has submitted to the foreclosing lender an affidavit
25 of deferment prior to or at the time of the judicial sale,

1 unless the lender has served a notice of denial in accordance
2 with Section 15-1825. A foreclosing lender shall also provide
3 written notice of receipt of an affidavit of deferment to all
4 parties with a recorded request for notice of mortgage
5 foreclosure under this Article or who are listed as a holder of
6 a security interest in the subject property in the affidavit of
7 deferment. A lender is not required to cancel a judicial sale
8 if a borrower has previously obtained a deferment under this
9 Part. Upon expiration of the deferment period or the loss of
10 the deferment, a foreclosing lender may schedule a deferred
11 judicial sale by publishing the notice of judicial sale once in
12 the newspaper in which the original advertisement was published
13 and by serving a copy of the notice of judicial sale in a like
14 manner as a summons in a civil action in the circuit court upon
15 the person in possession of the mortgaged premises, if the same
16 are actually occupied, at least 4 weeks prior to the sale.

17 (735 ILCS 5/15-1815 new)

18 Sec. 15-1815. Affidavit of deferment.

19 (a) Affidavit of deferment. The affidavit of deferment
20 shall state the name of the eligible foreclosed borrower, the
21 address of the property in foreclosure, and contain the
22 following statements:

23 "(1) I am the borrower on a mortgage loan on
24 residential property located at [address of property]
25 (hereinafter "subject property").

1 (2) A judicial sale has been scheduled on the subject
2 property.

3 (3) I currently reside at the subject property.

4 (4) I have resided at the subject property as my
5 primary residence for 6 months prior to the date of this
6 affidavit.

7 (5) If permitted to reside at the subject property, I
8 intend to reside at the subject property until at least
9 [end of deferment period].

10 (6) I have sought the assistance of a mortgage
11 foreclosure counselor and during the deferment I agree to
12 continue to use the assistance of a mortgage foreclosure
13 counselor to negotiate in good faith with the foreclosing
14 lender to modify the terms of the mortgage on the subject
15 property.

16 (7) I believe that the mortgage loan on the subject
17 property is either:

18 (i) a subprime loan; or

19 (ii) a loan with negative amortization for which
20 the required minimum payment has increased."

21 The affidavit shall be signed by at least one eligible
22 foreclosed borrower who is the mortgagor of the residential
23 real property being foreclosed. The affidavit also shall be
24 signed by a mortgage foreclosure counselor solely to certify
25 that the borrower has sought the assistance of the mortgage
26 foreclosure counselor.

1 (b) Service on foreclosing lender. An affidavit of
2 deferment shall be served by personal service, United States
3 mail, or other reliable delivery service to the address
4 provided in the notice of right to deferment or to the address
5 of the counsel for the mortgagee in the notice of foreclosure.

6 (c) Acknowledgment by foreclosing lender. Unless the
7 foreclosing lender has served a notice of denial under Section
8 15-1825, the foreclosing lender shall, within 10 days after
9 receiving the affidavit of deferment, provide to the eligible
10 foreclosed borrower a written acknowledgment that it has
11 received the affidavit of deferment. The acknowledgment shall
12 state the following:

13 (1) that the judicial sale has been canceled;

14 (2) the deferment payment amount that is due by the
15 eligible foreclosed borrower;

16 (3) the date that the first deferment payment is due;

17 (4) the date that each subsequent deferment payment is
18 due; and

19 (5) the address to which the borrower should send the
20 deferment payment or the payment delivery methods that are
21 acceptable to the foreclosing lender.

22 The acknowledgment shall be on a single sheet of paper,
23 shall use plain language, and no other documents shall be
24 included with the acknowledgment. The bottom of the
25 acknowledgment shall include the following disclosure in bold,
26 14-point type:

1 "The cancellation of the judicial sale on your property
2 is the result of a law passed by the Illinois General
3 Assembly in 2009. You must make the monthly payment in full
4 by the due dates listed in this letter. If you do not make
5 the payments on time, we will have the right to schedule a
6 judicial sale on your property."

7 (d) Charges prohibited. A foreclosing lender shall not
8 charge an eligible foreclosed borrower any amount other than
9 the deferment payment for exercising the deferment right.

10 (735 ILCS 5/15-1820 new)

11 Sec. 15-1820. Borrower payment and residency requirements.

12 (a) Borrower payment required. An eligible foreclosed
13 borrower who has a deferment right shall make monthly payments
14 to the foreclosing lender. The payment shall be made no later
15 than the 15th day of each month. The first payment is not due
16 until the 15th day of the month that is a minimum of 30 days
17 after the date that the foreclosing lender sends the
18 acknowledgment required by paragraph (c) of Section 15-1815.

19 (b) Amount of payment. For an eligible foreclosed borrower
20 with a subprime loan, the amount of payment shall be the lesser
21 of: (1) the monthly payment of principal and interest on the
22 date the loan was originated; or (2) 65% of the monthly payment
23 of principal and interest at the time the borrower defaulted
24 prior to foreclosure. For an eligible foreclosed borrower with
25 a negative amortization loan that is not also a subprime loan,

1 the amount of payment would be the minimum monthly payment on
2 the date the loan was originated.

3 (c) Payment advice notice. The foreclosing lender shall
4 provide to the eligible foreclosed borrower monthly written
5 payment advice notices. The notice shall be sent by the first
6 day of each month until the expiration of the deferment period
7 or the loss of the deferment under paragraph (d). Each notice
8 shall state (1) the amount of payment owed from the eligible
9 foreclosed borrower; (2) the address to which the borrower
10 should send the deferment payment; and (3) the date that the
11 payment must be received to avoid loss of the deferment right
12 under paragraph (d). The payment advice notice shall be on a
13 single sheet of paper, shall use plain language, and no other
14 documents shall be included with the notice. The bottom of the
15 notice shall include the following disclosure in bold, 14-point
16 type:

17 "The deferment of the judicial sale on your property is
18 the result of a law passed by the Illinois General Assembly
19 in 2009. You must continue to make the monthly payment in
20 full by the 15th day of each month. If you do not make the
21 payments on time, we will have the right to schedule a
22 judicial sale on your property. The deferment period will
23 end on (last day of deferment period). By the end of the
24 deferment period, you will need to pay the entire amount
25 that has been deferred plus other costs allowed by law in
26 order to avoid a judicial sale."

1 (d) Borrower failure to pay. An eligible foreclosed
2 borrower who fails to make payments in the amount required and
3 by the date required under this Section shall lose the
4 deferment right.

5 (e) Borrower residency requirement. An eligible foreclosed
6 borrower loses the right to deferment if the borrower ceases to
7 reside at the mortgaged property during the deferment period.

8 (735 ILCS 5/15-1825 new)

9 Sec. 15-1825. Resolution of disputes; effect of deferral.

10 (a) Dispute as to eligible foreclosed loan status. If the
11 foreclosing lender determines after a reasonable investigation
12 and in good faith that the person submitting an affidavit of
13 deferment is not the mortgagor under an eligible foreclosed
14 loan, the foreclosing lender shall provide a notice of denial
15 of deferment to the person submitting the affidavit of
16 deferment and to all parties with a recorded request for notice
17 of mortgage foreclosure under this Article or who are listed as
18 a holder of a security interest in the subject property in the
19 affidavit of deferment. The foreclosing lender must send a
20 notice of denial by certified mail through the United States
21 mail within 10 business days after receiving the affidavit of
22 deferment. The notice is effective on mailing. The notice of
23 denial shall be on a single sheet of paper and no other
24 documents shall be included with the notice. The notice must
25 include an explanation, in plain language, of the reasons that

1 the loan is not an eligible foreclosed loan. The notice must
2 also inform the person who executed the affidavit of deferment
3 that the person has the right to apply to the court for an
4 order deferring the judicial sale. A copy of the notice also
5 must be sent by any means to the loan counselor who signed the
6 affidavit of deferment.

7 (b) Other disputes. For any other dispute about the
8 deferment right or other rights or requirements under this
9 Part, other than the arbitration of a dispute of good-faith
10 negotiation under Section 15-1830, a person can apply to the
11 circuit court in the county where the property is located for
12 an order establishing the rights of the parties to the dispute.

13 (c) Effect of deferral right. Nothing in this Part shall
14 alter contractual rights of the parties to the mortgage loan
15 other than providing the right to defer a judicial sale. A bona
16 fide purchaser of an interest in real property mortgaged by an
17 eligible foreclosed loan takes the interest in the real
18 property not subject to any claims of ownership by a party
19 based on any rights under this Part. No act, agreement, or
20 deferment granted under this Part alters the rights of other
21 parties or lenders with an interest in the subject property. An
22 order confirming a judicial sale is prima facie evidence of
23 compliance with this Part, provided that the eligible
24 foreclosed homeowner has the remedies for monetary relief under
25 Section 15-1840 for a reckless or bad faith violation of this
26 Part.

1 (d) Mortgage foreclosure counselors. A mortgage
2 foreclosure counselor, and the person employing or paying the
3 mortgage foreclosure counselor, shall not be liable to any
4 person for signing or failing to sign an affidavit of deferment
5 under this Part.

6 (735 ILCS 5/15-1830 new)

7 Sec. 15-1830. Right to revoke deferment following
8 good-faith negotiation.

9 (a) Cancellation of deferment. If the foreclosing lender
10 has negotiated in good faith to modify the eligible foreclosed
11 loan, the foreclosing lender may send a notice of deferment
12 cancellation to the eligible foreclosed borrower and, no less
13 than 30 days after sending the notice, publish a notice of
14 judicial sale in accord with Section 15-1810. The notice shall
15 be on a single sheet of paper and shall include the name and
16 contact information for an employee or representative of the
17 foreclosing lender. The notice must include an explanation, in
18 plain language, of the reasons that the deferment is being
19 canceled. The notice must prominently state the date the notice
20 is mailed to the eligible foreclosed borrower and the bottom of
21 the notice shall include the following disclosure in bold,
22 14-point type:

23 "If you do not agree that we have negotiated in good
24 faith to modify your loan, you may request that an
25 arbitrator be appointed to review your case. The arbitrator

1 will be a volunteer who will work at no cost to you. You
2 have until (insert date 30 days after date of notice) to
3 complete and mail the attached request for arbitration form
4 to the address listed on the form. The State of Illinois
5 encourages you to contact a mortgage foreclosure counselor
6 right away to discuss your options."

7 The foreclosing lender shall include a copy of the written
8 loan modification that the foreclosing lender offered as part
9 of a good-faith negotiation offer under paragraph (b). No
10 documents other than the written loan modification offer and
11 the arbitration request form required by paragraph (b) shall be
12 included with the notice. A copy of the notice also must be
13 sent by any means to the mortgage foreclosure counselor who
14 signed the affidavit of deferment.

15 (b) Arbitration of disputes.

16 (1) The eligible foreclosed borrower may dispute a
17 notice of deferment cancellation by sending to the
18 Secretary a request for arbitration form along with a copy
19 of the notice of deferment cancellation, including a copy
20 of the written loan modification that the foreclosing
21 lender asserts is a good-faith negotiation offer under this
22 paragraph (b). The request for arbitration must be
23 delivered or postmarked within 30 days after the date of
24 the notice of deferment cancellation. The deferment
25 continues pending resolution of the dispute.

26 (2) On receipt of a timely request for arbitration, the

1 Secretary shall appoint a volunteer arbitrator to resolve
2 the dispute as to whether the foreclosing lender negotiated
3 with the eligible foreclosed borrower in good faith. The
4 Secretary may appoint any person the Secretary deems
5 qualified to act as a volunteer arbitrator.

6 (3) The volunteer arbitrator may request additional
7 documents or appearances from either the foreclosing
8 lender or the eligible foreclosed borrower prior to making
9 a determination. The decision of the arbitrator is binding
10 on both the foreclosing lender and the eligible foreclosed
11 borrower.

12 (4) The appointed arbitrator shall act as a volunteer
13 and may not charge any person for the arbitrator's services
14 or costs related to the arbitration.

15 (c) Good-faith negotiation by foreclosing lender.

16 (1) A foreclosing lender has not negotiated in good
17 faith unless it offers in writing to modify the terms of
18 repayment of the eligible foreclosed loan to permit the
19 eligible foreclosed borrower to make monthly payments that
20 the borrower would have had the reasonable ability to pay
21 as of the date the loan was originated or, if the
22 borrower's income and financial resources have increased
23 since the loan was originated, monthly payments that the
24 borrower has the current reasonable ability to pay.

25 (2) For purposes of this Section, "monthly payments"
26 include principal, interest, real estate taxes,

1 homeowner's insurance, assessments, and mortgage insurance
2 premiums, as applicable.

3 (3) For purposes of this Section, "reasonable ability
4 to pay" shall be determined based on the following:

5 (A) the income and financial resources available
6 to the borrower at the time the loan was originated,
7 provided that tax returns, payroll receipts, bank
8 records, or other similarly reliable documents that
9 verify the borrower's income and financial resources
10 at the time of origination shall replace unverified
11 statements of income or financial resources contained
12 in the loan application, and the verified information
13 shall serve as the basis for computing the borrower's
14 reasonable ability to make monthly payments; or

15 (B) if the borrower's income and other financial
16 resources have increased since the loan was
17 originated, the borrower's current income and other
18 financial resources to the extent the information can
19 be verified by tax returns, payroll receipts, bank
20 records, or other similarly reliable documents.

21 (4) There is a presumption that the borrower has the
22 reasonable ability to pay if the monthly payments do not
23 exceed a combined debt-to-income ratio of 41% based on the
24 borrower's documented and verified monthly gross income,
25 provided the borrower has sufficient residual income as
26 defined in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Section

1 36.4337(e).

2 (735 ILCS 5/15-1835 new)

3 Sec. 15-1835. Notice of right to deferment.

4 (a) Notice requirement; form and delivery of notice. Every
5 foreclosing lender shall send to each borrower who has an
6 eligible foreclosed loan a notice of right to deferment. The
7 notice of right to deferment shall be in the form of, and
8 subject to the delivery requirements specified in this Part.
9 The notice of right to deferment must also indicate an address
10 at which the foreclosing lender will accept service of an
11 affidavit of deferment under paragraph (b) of Section 15-1815.
12 No notice is required for a foreclosure commenced on or before
13 the effective date.

14 (b) Content. The notice required by this Section must
15 appear substantially as follows:

16 "Emergency Help For Homeowners in Foreclosure:

17 IMPORTANT: You are eligible to have the foreclosure of
18 your home stopped until at least (end of deferment period).

19 The State of Illinois recently passed a law that lets
20 homeowners stop a judicial sale.

21 To qualify, you must currently live at the home in
22 foreclosure and intend to live at the home until the end of
23 the deferment period. You will also need to complete and
24 sign a special form (called an "affidavit") and provide
25 that affidavit to us at the following address: (insert

1 address in the State of Illinois).

2 There are many government agencies and nonprofit
3 organizations that can help you complete this affidavit.
4 For the name and telephone number of an organization near
5 you, please call the Consumer Hotline of the Illinois
6 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation at
7 (insert telephone number and Web site). The State does not
8 guarantee the advice of these agencies.

9 Do not delay dealing with the foreclosure because your
10 options for foreclosure deferment end with the judicial
11 sale."

12 (735 ILCS 5/15-1840 new)

13 Sec. 15-1840. Bad faith or reckless violation. A
14 foreclosing lender who acts in bad faith or recklessly in
15 violation of Sections 15-1810 to 15-1835 shall be liable to a
16 person injured by the violation for actual damages, statutory
17 damages of up to \$25,000, punitive damages in an amount
18 determined by the court, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect 7 days
20 after becoming law.

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 735 ILCS 5/Art. XV Pt. 18

4 heading new

5 735 ILCS 5/15-1801 new

6 735 ILCS 5/15-1805 new

7 735 ILCS 5/15-1810 new

8 735 ILCS 5/15-1815 new

9 735 ILCS 5/15-1820 new

10 735 ILCS 5/15-1825 new

11 735 ILCS 5/15-1830 new

12 735 ILCS 5/15-1835 new

13 735 ILCS 5/15-1840 new