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**Citizens' statement on House passage of HB 7015 relating to assignment of benefit reforms**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The Florida House on Friday by a vote approved HB 7015, which makes significant changes to state law relating to assignment of benefits and the award of legal fees in property insurance cases.

In response, Christine Ashburn, Citizens Chief of Communication, Legislative and External Affairs, issued the following statement:

“We’re encouraged by the House’s swift action on this important piece of legislation,” said Christine Ashburn, Citizens Chief of Communications, Legislative and External Affairs. “It provides meaningful reforms to address the issues of skyrocketing litigation and assignment of benefit abuse that raise rates for our customers. We urge the Senate to consider this bill or similar versions introduced in that chamber.”

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In 2002, the Florida Legislature created Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens), a not-for-profit alternative insurer, whose public purpose is to provide insurance to, and serve the needs of, property owners who cannot find coverage in the private insurance market.

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