

A BILL

entitled

BERMUDA HOUSING AMENDMENT ACT 2011

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Bermuda Housing Act 1980;

Be it enacted by The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title

1 This Act, which amends the Bermuda Housing Act 1980 (the "principal Act"), may be cited as the Bermuda Housing Amendment Act 2011.

Amends section 2

2 Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the definition of "dwelling" and substituting the following definition—

"dwelling" includes—

- (a) a building or part of a building occupied or intended to be occupied as a separate dwelling;
- (b) a building or part of a building which comprises multiple dwelling units, including the common area in such a building; and
- (c) any structure or erection used as temporary accommodation for residents at emergency shelters, camp sites and work camps.

Amends section 3

3 Section 3 of the principal Act is amended by inserting the following subsection—

"(2A) Regulations made under subsection (2) may provide for the punishment of persons guilty of offences against the regulations, so, however, that any such punishment shall not exceed—

- (a) a fine of \$10,000 in respect of a first offence;
- (b) a fine of \$15,000 in respect of a second offence, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years; or

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- (c) a fine of \$500 in respect of each day during which the offence is continued, in the case of a continuing offence.”

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Bermuda Housing Act 1980 (the “principal Act”) to extend the application of the Act to structures that are used for temporary accommodations. The principal Act is amended, furthermore, to provide for penalties against contravention of regulations that prescribe minimum standards to be observed for dwellings to be considered fit for human habitation.

Clause 1 provides a citation for the Act.

Clause 2 seeks to amend section 2 of the principal Act to revise the definition for “dwelling” to extend the definition to cover structures that are used for temporary accommodations.

Clause 3 seeks to amend the principal Act to provide for penalties that may be imposed against the contravention of regulations made in terms of section 3(2) for minimum standards to be observed for dwellings to be considered fit for human habitation.