Builders’ clout keeps regulations weak

Homeowner concerns often take back seat in state law

By BARB MCCAFFREY
Correspondent

Our bill would have provided to home builders $1,000 for every day a house was late in delivering homes to the buyer — up to a maximum of $5,000.

The first died on the Senate calendar in the 2002 legislative session. The second passed both houses but died in the Senate — with both parties voting for it.

The format of the lawsuit is not clear. It is not all of the time, but when it is not made public, it is more convenient tokaty serve on the Board of Directors. But the builders never had to make those points in front of either chamber of the Legislature. When the bill was passed, it was about the size of a five-page document. It was never even read in the Senate committee.

“It’s obvious this law was written not just to protect builders, but to protect the builders when they do not have quality homes and are not able to defend their work, ” said Barry Ansbacher, a member Florida Home Builders Association in Tallahassee.

They always have access to the Legislature’s influence, said Richard Spears, former association president. “They never have access,” he said. “That’s one of the keys. They always have access.”

Downtown Brick, director of governmental affairs for the NAHB, said the builders have no control over any industry, “It’s not a public display of their specialized expertise,” he said.

The legislation passed both the Senate and House, with bipartisan support. Heroes of the moment were the senators and representatives who introduced and passed the legislation.

The builders have always had access to the Legislature. When the bill was introduced in the 2002 legislative session, the House rejected it for lack of a quorum. It was later reintroduced and passed both chambers...
Builders group defends industry activism

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Code was 'unfair' in 2000

The Florida Building Code sets the rules — and the rules are adjustable to make new construction easier. But builders say they are a "very" formidable force to work against. The state's power to regulate the home-building industry is extremely limited.

State's powers are limited


Builders oppose impact fees

The builders say they are actively lobbying on local and state levels. They say they want to make it easier for people to build new homes and想过...