

PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Fasano Responds to Citizens' Proposed Premium Increases for Sinkhole Coverage

Senator Mike Fasano responds to proposed premium increases released by Citizens today that will have an incredibly negative impact on policyholders. Statewide homeowners will see an average 443% increase if they carry sinkhole coverage. The ability to raise these raises was paved by the passage of Senate Bill 408 during the recently ended legislative session. **Senator Fasano** was a vocal opponent of the bill who worked hard to defeat it. He voted against the bill during committee and on the Senate floor.

"There are people who live in sinkhole prone areas that could potentially be forced out of their homes due to these rate increases," **Senator Fasano** states. "Homeowners who have lenders that require sinkhole coverage will have to come up with huge amounts of money that will be hard to find, especially during these rough economic times."

In Pasco County the average rate increase is 200%. In coastal Hernando County the increase is 323% and in the remainder of the county it is 471%. Coastal Citrus County will see an 1717% increase and Coastal Pinellas will receive a 2045% increase.

"The sad thing that is this is only the beginning," **Senator Fasano** comments. "The most consumer unfriendly piece of legislation in our lifetime, SB 408, also allows private insurers to do the same. I have no doubt they will quickly follow suit."

The rate increases will be voted on by Citizens Board of Governors on July 27th.