

KELLY TO DISCUSS MOBILE HOME PARK BANKRUPTCY WOES

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State Rep. Everett Kelly and an attorney from the state Department of Business Regulation will meet today with Continental Country Club residents in Wildwood about the web of problems caused since the mobile home park filed for bankruptcy.

Owners and residents of the park, which is off Highway 44 east of Wildwood, have been involved in several legal battles since the company filed under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act on Feb. 12. Company officials have until Aug. 12 to offer a plan to reorganize under the act.

About 150 residents already have filed claims with the U.S. District Court's Bankruptcy Division in Jacksonville to recoup down payments of \$200 to \$60,000. The company, which developed and sold mobile homes at the 1,000-acre park, owes almost \$14 million to airline companies, banks, food retailers and others, but has only \$10.9 million in assets.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the home of Buck Atkinson, president of the park's homeowners association.

Kelly said he has received a "file full of complaints" during the last two months from residents and is concerned that company officials were involved in wrongdoing.

"These people put their life savings into that park and they're the last people in line to get their money back," said Kelly, D-Tavares. "Those people are making the whole state look like we're crooks. It borders on being criminal."

Kelly also requested Tom Bell, an attorney with the Division of Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes, to attend the meeting to discuss three complaints residents have filed since late February under Florida's Mobile Home Act of 1984.

Those complaints deal with a company-requested 108 percent increase in maintenance fees, a cancellation of all leases on park lots and a reduction of services, which residents claim they paid for under their contracts, Atkinson said.

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