

Citrus senator must pay \$7,000 in fees on house he called barn

By Times Staff Writer

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LECANTO — State Sen. Charles Dean will have to pay nearly \$7,000 in impact fees on a two-story barn he converted into a home along the Withlacoochee River, the Citrus County administrator has determined.

The 5,502-square-foot structure, built in 2007, has at least two bedrooms, bathrooms and a kitchen. Dean's neighbors complained that the former sheriff and longtime legislator received special treatment from Citrus officials when they exempted the structure from impact fees, building inspections and other costs.

In June, an opinion by Attorney General Bill McCollum stated that the structure indeed is a residence and not exempt from state and local codes.

The Inverness Republican then sought to have the impact fees waived because he claimed that vested rights had been transferred to it from an old mobile home on the same 25-acre property.

In a ruling released Friday, County Administrator Brad Thorpe said evidence does not show that the mobile home has historically been used as a residence, and thus Dean is not eligible for an impact fee exemption.

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