

## Senate Bill No. 1550

An act relating to the sale of liquefied petroleum gas; amending s. 527.01, F.S.; revising definitions; defining the terms “category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer” and “wholesaler”; amending s. 527.02, F.S.; including category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispensers and recreational vehicle services within licensure and examination provisions of ch. 527, F.S.; providing a penalty for operating without a license; setting application and renewal fees for a category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange unit operator and a category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer; providing for prorating of license fees under specified circumstances; providing for transfer of licenses under specified conditions; providing for license transfer fee; providing period of validity for qualifier cards issued to category I liquefied petroleum gas dealers and liquefied petroleum gas installers; providing for renewal of qualification; requiring category I liquefied petroleum gas dealers and liquefied petroleum gas installers to identify to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services a designated master qualifier; establishing examination and certification requirements for master qualifiers; requiring dealers to report to the department any vacancy in a qualifier or master qualifier position; providing for suspension of a dealer’s license under specified circumstances; providing grounds for revocation of license or eligibility; providing for transfer of competency qualifications; amending s. 527.04, F.S.; increasing minimum requirements for insurance coverage; amending s. 527.06, F.S.; increasing civil penalties for violation of department rules; amending s. 527.11, F.S.; increasing minimum storage requirements for bulk storage filling plants; requiring that such plants be located in specified proximity to a licensee’s business location; revising exemptions to such requirements; eliminating an exemption; removing a definition; amending s. 527.22, F.S.; revising provisions with respect to the Florida Propane Gas Education, Safety, and Research Council; revising provisions with respect to audits of account records of the council and review and inspection of council records; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 527.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

(1) “Liquefied petroleum gas” means any material which is composed predominantly of any of the following hydrocarbons, or mixtures of the same: propane, propylene, butanes (normal butane or isobutane), and butylenes.

(2) “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, organization, or cooperative.

(3) “Ultimate consumer” means the person last purchasing liquefied petroleum gas in its liquid or vapor state for industrial, commercial, or domestic use.

(4) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(5) “Qualifier” means any person who has passed a competency examination administered by the department and is employed by a licensed business in one or more of the following classifications:

- (a) Category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer.
- (b) Category II liquefied petroleum gas dispenser.
- (c) LP gas installer.
- (d) Specialty installer.
- (e) Requalifier of cylinders.
- (f) Fabricator, repairer, and tester of vehicles and cargo tanks.

(g) Category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispensing unit operator and recreational vehicle servicer.

(6) “Category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer” means any person selling or offering to sell by delivery or at a stationary location any liquefied petroleum gas to the ultimate consumer for industrial, commercial, or domestic use; any person leasing or offering to lease, or exchanging or offering to exchange, any apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas; any person installing, servicing, altering, or modifying apparatus, piping, tubing, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas; any person installing carburetion equipment; or any person requalifying cylinders.

(7) “Category II liquefied petroleum gas dispenser” means any person engaging in the business of operating a liquefied petroleum gas dispensing unit for the purpose of serving liquid products to the ultimate consumer for industrial, commercial, or domestic use, and selling or offering to sell, or leasing or offering to lease, apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas, including engaging in the business of operating a cylinder exchange unit.

(8) “Category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange operator” means any person operating a storage facility used for the purpose of storing filled propane cylinders of not more than 43.5 pounds propane capacity or 104 pounds water capacity, while awaiting sale to the ultimate consumer, or a facility used for the storage of empty or filled containers which have been offered for exchange.

(9) “Category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer” means any person engaging in the business of operating a liquefied petroleum gas dispensing unit for the purpose of serving liquid

product to the ultimate consumer for industrial, commercial, or domestic use, and selling or offering to sell, leasing or offering to lease, apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas, and whose services include the installation, service, or repair of recreational vehicle liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment.

(10)(9) “LP gas installer” means any person who is engaged in the liquefied petroleum gas business and whose services include the installation, servicing, altering, or modifying of apparatus, piping, tubing, tanks, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas and selling or offering to sell, or leasing or offering to lease, apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas.

(11)(40) “Specialty installer” means any person involved in the installation, service, or repair of liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment, and selling or offering to sell, or leasing or offering to lease, apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas, whose activities are limited to specific types of appliances and equipment as designated by department rule.

(12)(44) “Dealer in appliances and equipment for use of liquefied petroleum gas” means any person selling or offering to sell, or leasing or offering to lease, apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas.

(13)(42) “Manufacturer of liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment” means any person in this state manufacturing and offering for sale or selling tanks, cylinders, or other containers and necessary appurtenances for use in the storage, transportation, or delivery of such gas to the ultimate consumer, or manufacturing and offering for sale or selling apparatus, appliances, and equipment for the use of liquefied petroleum gas to the ultimate consumer.

(14) “Wholesaler” means any person, as defined by s. 527.01(2), selling or offering to sell any liquefied petroleum gas for industrial, commercial, or domestic use to any person except the ultimate consumer.

(15)(43) “Requalifier of cylinders” means any person involved in the retesting, repair, qualifying, or requalifying of liquefied petroleum gas tanks or cylinders manufactured under specifications of the United States Department of Transportation or former Interstate Commerce Commission.

(16)(44) “Fabricator, repairer, and tester of vehicles and cargo tanks” means any person involved in the hydrostatic testing, fabrication, repair, or requalifying of any motor vehicles or cargo tanks used for the transportation of liquefied petroleum gases, when such tanks are permanently attached to or forming a part of the motor vehicle.

(17)(45) “Recreational vehicle” means a motor vehicle designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use, which has its own propulsion or is mounted on or towed by another motor vehicle.

(18)(46) “Pipeline system operator” means any person who owns or operates a liquefied petroleum gas pipeline system that is used to transmit

liquefied petroleum gas from a common source to the ultimate customer and that serves 10 or more customers.

Section 2. Section 527.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527.02 License; penalty; fees.—

(1)(a) It is unlawful for any person to engage in this state in the activities of a pipeline system operator, category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer, category II liquefied petroleum gas dispenser, category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange operator, category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer, LP gas installer, specialty installer, dealer in liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment, manufacturer of liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment, requalifier of cylinders, or fabricator, repairer, and tester of vehicles and cargo tanks without first obtaining from the department a license to engage in one or more of these businesses. The sale of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders with a volume of 10 pounds water capacity or 4.2 pounds liquefied petroleum gas capacity or less is exempt from the requirements of this chapter. It is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, to intentionally or willfully engage in any of said activities without first obtaining appropriate licensure from the department. Each business location of a person having multiple locations shall be separately licensed and must meet the requirements of this section. Such license shall be granted to any applicant determined by the department to be competent, qualified, and trustworthy who files with the department a surety bond, insurance affidavit, or other proof of insurance, as hereinafter specified, and pays for such license the following original application fee for new licenses and annual renewal fees for existing licenses:

License Category	Original Application Fee	Renewal Fee
Category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer . . . . .	\$525	\$425
Category II liquefied petroleum gas dispenser . . . . .	525	375
<u>Category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange unit operator . . . . .</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>Category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer . . . . .</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>400</u>
LP gas installer . . . . .	300	200
Specialty installer . . . . .	300	200
Dealer in appliances and equipment for use of liquefied petroleum gas . . . . .	50	45
Manufacturer of liquefied petroleum gas appliances and equipment . . . . .	525	375
Requalifier of cylinders . . . . .	525	375
Fabricator, repairer, and tester of vehicles and cargo tanks . . . . .	525	375

Any applicant for original license whose application is submitted during the last 6 months of the license year may have the original license fee reduced by one-half for the 6-month period. This provision shall apply only to those companies applying for an original license and shall not be applied to licensees who held a license during the previous license year and failed to renew the license. The department may refuse to issue an initial license to any applicant who is under investigation in any jurisdiction for an action that would constitute a violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation is complete.

~~(b) The license fee for a category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange operator shall be \$100 per location for an original application and an annual renewal fee of \$65 for each of the first 30 locations. An operator having more than 30 cylinder exchange units shall pay a renewal fee of \$65 for the first 30 locations and \$50 for each of the remaining locations as long as the renewal applications are submitted together as a single packet.~~

~~(b)(c)~~ Any person applying for a liquefied petroleum gas license as a specialty installer, as defined by s. 527.01(11)(10), shall upon application to the department identify the specific area of work to be performed. Upon completion of all license requirements set forth in this chapter, the department shall issue the applicant a license specifying the scope of work, as identified by the applicant and defined by rule of the department, for which the person is authorized.

~~(c)(d)~~ The license fee for a pipeline system operator shall be \$100 per system owned or operated by the person, not to exceed \$400 per license year. Such license fee applies only to a pipeline system operator who owns or operates a liquefied petroleum gas pipeline system that is used to transmit liquefied petroleum gas from a common source to the ultimate customer and that serves 10 or more customers.

~~(d)(e)~~ The department shall promulgate rules specifying acts deemed by the department to demonstrate a lack of trustworthiness to engage in activities requiring a license or qualifier identification card under this section.

(e) Any license issued by the department may be transferred to any person, firm, or corporation for the remainder of the current license year upon written request to the department by the original licenseholder. Prior to approval of any transfer, all licensing requirements of this chapter must be met by the transferee. A license transfer fee of \$50 shall be charged for each such transfer.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), any person applying for a license to engage in the activities of a pipeline system operator, category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer, category II liquefied petroleum gas dispenser, category IV liquefied petroleum gas dispenser and recreational vehicle servicer, LP gas installer, specialty installer, requalification of cylinders, or fabricator, repairer, and tester of vehicles and cargo tanks, must prove competency by passing a written examination administered by the department or its agent with a grade of 75 percent or above. Each applicant for examination shall submit a \$20 nonrefundable fee. The department shall

by rule specify the general areas of competency to be covered by each examination and the relative weight to be assigned in grading each area tested.

(a) Application for examination for competency may be made by an individual or by an owner, a partner, or any person in a supervisory capacity of the license applicant. Upon successful completion of the competency examination, the department shall issue a qualifier identification card to the examinee. Qualifier identification cards, except those issued to category I liquefied petroleum gas dealers and liquefied petroleum gas installers, Such card shall remain in effect as long as the individual shows to the department proof of active employment in the area of examination and all continuing education requirements are met. Should the individual terminate active employment in the area of examination for a period exceeding 24 months, or fail to provide documentation of continuing education, the individual's qualifier status shall expire. The individual may reapply for examination by the department in order to reestablish qualifier status. Every business organization shall possess such a full-time qualifier at all times who has successfully completed an examination in the corresponding category of the license held by the business organization.

(b) Qualifier cards issued to category I liquefied petroleum gas dealers and liquefied petroleum gas installers shall expire 3 years after the date of issuance. All category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer qualifiers and liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifiers holding a valid qualifier card upon the effective date of this act shall retain their qualifier status until July 1, 2003, and may sit for the master qualifier examination at any time during that time period. Alternatively, all category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer qualifiers and liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifiers may renew their qualification on or before July 1, 2003, upon application to the department, payment of a \$20 renewal fee, and documentation of the completion of a minimum of 12 hours approved continuous education courses, as defined by department rule, during the previous 3-year period. Applications for renewal must be made 30 calendar days prior to expiration. Persons failing to renew prior to the expiration date must reapply and take a qualifier competency examination in order to reestablish category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer qualifier and liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifier status. In the event a category I liquefied petroleum gas qualifier or liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifier becomes a master qualifier at any time during the effective date of the qualifier card, the card shall remain in effect until expiration of the master qualifier certification. A vacancy in a qualifier position in a business organization which results from the departure of the qualifier shall be immediately reported to the department. In the event a business organization no longer possesses a duly designated qualifier, as required by this section, its liquefied petroleum gas licenses shall be suspended by order of the department after 20 working days and shall remain suspended until a competent qualifier has been retained. A vacancy in the qualifier position for a period of over 20 working days shall be deemed to constitute an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Failure to obtain a replacement qualifier within 60 days of the vacancy shall be grounds for revocation of licensure or eligibility for licensure.

~~(c) Any individual's competency qualifications on file with the department may be transferred to any existing licenseholder, by written request to the department from the person so qualified. By request in writing to the department, any individual who has on file the competency examination requirement may use this evidence on file for a new license application. Effective June 30, 1993, all examinations are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).~~

(3) A qualifier for a business organization involved in installation, repair, maintenance, or service of liquefied petroleum gas appliances, equipment, or systems must actually function in a supervisory capacity of other company employees installing, repairing, maintaining, or servicing liquefied petroleum gas appliances, equipment, or systems. A separate qualifier shall be required for every 10 such employees. Additional qualifiers are required for those business organizations employing more than 10 employees that install, repair, maintain, or service liquefied petroleum gas equipment and systems.

(4) In addition to all other licensing requirements, each category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer and liquefied petroleum gas installer must, at the time of application for licensure, identify to the department one master qualifier who is a full-time employee at the licensed location. This person shall be a manager, owner, or otherwise primarily responsible for overseeing the operations of the licensed location and must provide documentation to the department as provided by rule. The master qualifier requirement shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (2).

(a) In order to apply for certification as a master qualifier, each applicant must be a category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer qualifier or liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifier, must be employed by a licensed category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer, liquefied petroleum gas installer, or applicant for such license, and must pass a master qualifier competency examination. Master qualifier examinations shall be based on Florida's laws, rules, and adopted codes governing liquefied petroleum gas safety, general industry safety standards, and administrative procedures. The examination must be successfully completed by the applicant with a grade of 75 percent or more. Each applicant for master qualifier status shall submit to the department a nonrefundable \$30 examination fee prior to the examination.

(b) Upon successful completion of the master qualifier examination, the department shall issue the examinee a certificate of master qualifier status which shall include the name of the licensed company for which the master qualifier is employed. A master qualifier may transfer from one licenseholder to another upon becoming employed by the company and providing a written request to the department.

(c) Master qualifier status shall expire 3 years after the date of issuance of the certificate and may be renewed by submission to the department of documentation of completion of at least 12 hours of approved continuing education courses during the 3-year period, proof of employment with a licensed category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer, liquefied petroleum gas installer, or applicant, and a \$30 certificate renewal fee. The department shall define, by rule, approved courses of continuing education.

(d) Each category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer or liquefied petroleum gas installer licensed as of August 31, 2000, shall identify to the department one current category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer qualifier or liquefied petroleum gas installer qualifier who will be the designated master qualifier for the licenseholder. Such individual must provide proof of employment for 3 years or more within the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and shall, upon approval of the department, be granted a master qualifier certificate. All other requirements with regard to master qualifier certificate expiration, renewal, and continuing education shall apply.

(5) A vacancy in a qualifier or master qualifier position in a business organization which results from the departure of the qualifier shall be immediately reported to the department. In the event a business organization no longer possesses a duly designated qualifier, as required by this section, its liquefied petroleum gas licenses shall be suspended by order of the department after 20 working days and shall remain suspended until a competent qualifier has been retained. A vacancy in the qualifier position for a period of more than 20 working days shall be deemed to constitute an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Failure to obtain a replacement qualifier within 60 days of the vacancy shall be grounds for revocation of licensure or eligibility for licensure.

(6) Any individual having competency qualifications on file with the department may request the transfer of such qualifications to any existing licenseholder by making a written request to the department for such transfer. Any individual having a competency examination on file with the department may use such examination for a new license application after making application in writing to the department. All examinations are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

(7)(4) If a duplicate license, or qualifier card, or master qualifier certificate is requested by the licensee, a fee of \$10 must be received before issuance of the duplicate license or card. If a facsimile transmission of an original license is requested, upon completion of the transmission a fee of \$10 must be received by the department before the original license may be mailed to the requester.

(8)(5) All revenues collected herein shall be deposited in the General Inspection Trust Fund for the purpose of administering the provisions of this chapter.

Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 527.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

527.04 Proof of insurance required.—

(1) Before any license is issued, except to a dealer in appliances and equipment for use of liquefied petroleum gas or a category III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange operator, the applicant must deliver to the department a good and sufficient bond in the amount of \$1 million ~~\$300,000~~, payable to the Governor of Florida, with the applicant as principal and a surety company authorized to do business in this state as surety. The bond must be conditioned upon the principal's compliance with the provisions of



this chapter and the rules of the department with respect to the conduct of such business and shall indemnify and hold harmless all persons from loss or damage by reason of the principal's failure to comply. However, the aggregated liability of the surety may not exceed \$1 million ~~\$300,000~~. If the bond becomes insufficient, the department may require a new bond to be filed, and if the principal fails to do so, the department shall cancel the license issued and give the principal written notice that it is unlawful to engage in business without a license. If the applicant furnishes satisfactory evidence that he or she is covered by a primary policy of bodily injury liability and property damage liability insurance covering the products and operations with respect to such business, issued by an insurer authorized to do business in the state, for an amount not less than \$1 million ~~\$300,000~~ and that the premiums on such insurance are paid, an insurance affidavit or other satisfactory evidence of acceptable insurance coverage shall be accepted in lieu of the bond. A new bond is not required as long as the original bond remains sufficient and in force. If the licenseholder's insurance coverages as required by this subsection are canceled or otherwise terminated, the insurer must notify the department within 30 days after such cancellation or termination.

(2) Before any license is issued to a class III liquefied petroleum gas cylinder exchange operator, the applicant must deliver to the department a good and sufficient bond in the amount of \$300,000 ~~\$100,000~~, payable to the Governor, with the applicant as principal and a surety company authorized to do business in this state as surety. The bond must be conditioned upon the principal's compliance with this chapter and the rules of the department with respect to the conduct of such business and must indemnify and hold harmless all persons from loss or damage by reason of the principal's failure to comply. However, the aggregated liability of the surety may not exceed \$300,000 ~~\$100,000~~. If the bond becomes insufficient, the department may require a new bond to be filed, and if the principal fails to do so, the department shall cancel the license and give the principal written notice that it is unlawful to engage in business without a license. If the applicant furnishes satisfactory evidence that he or she is covered by a primary policy of bodily injury liability and property damage liability insurance covering the products and operations with respect to such business, issued by an insurer authorized to do business in the state, for an amount not less than \$300,000 ~~\$100,000~~ and that the premiums on such insurance are paid, an insurance affidavit or other satisfactory evidence of acceptable insurance coverage shall be accepted in lieu of the bond. A new bond is not required as long as the original bond remains sufficient and in force. If the licenseholder's insurance coverages required by this subsection are canceled or otherwise terminated, the insurer must notify the department within 30 days after such cancellation or termination.

Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 527.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527.06 Rules.—

(4) Rules in substantial conformity with the published standards in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations relative to liquefied petroleum gas

pipelines shall be deemed to be in substantial conformity with the generally accepted standards of safety concerning the same subject matter. Violation of any provision of the rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may be enjoined under the provisions of s. 527.09. Any person who violates any provision of the rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ~~\$25,000~~ \$1,000 for each such violation for each day that such violation persists, except that the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed \$500,000 ~~\$200,000~~, in aggregate, for any related series of violations. Any such civil penalty may be compromised by the department. In determining the amount of such penalty or the amount agreed upon in compromise, the appropriateness of such penalty to the size of the business of the person charged, the gravity of the violation, and the good faith of the person charged in attempting to achieve compliance after notification of a violation shall be considered. Each penalty shall be a lien upon the real and personal property of such person and enforceable by the department as statutory liens under chapter 85, the proceeds of which shall be deposited in the General Inspection Trust Fund, as provided in s. 527.02.

Section 5. Section 527.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527.11 Minimum storage.—

(1) Every person who engages in the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas for resale to domestic, commercial, or industrial consumers as a prerequisite to obtaining a liquefied petroleum gas license shall install a bulk storage filling plant of not less than 18,000 ~~12,000~~ gallons (water capacity) within the state and shall be located within a 75-mile radius of the licensed company's business location.

(2) A dealer in liquefied petroleum gas licensed as of August 31, 2000, category I liquefied petroleum gas dealer who has entered or who enters into a written agreement with a wholesaler that the wholesaler will provide liquefied petroleum gas to the dealer for a period of 12 continuous months is exempt from the requirements of subsection (1), if the wholesaler has at least 18,000 ~~12,000~~ gallons (water capacity) of bulk storage within this state permanently connected for storage, which is and used as such for each such dealer to whom gas is sold, and if the wholesaler has loading and unloading provisions. Such dealer must provide certification of this agreement on a form provided by the department a copy of the written agreement to the department before her or his license may be issued, and The form agreement must be signed by both the wholesaler or his or her agent and the dealer or his or her agent and must be submitted annually with the license renewal application. A dealer who does not provide written proof of minimum storage may have her or his license denied, suspended, or revoked. No wholesaler may enter into written agreements that allocate an amount of storage that exceeds the wholesaler's total storage capacity minus 18,000 gallons (water capacity). However, no wholesaler shall be required under this section to have more than 300,000 gallons (water capacity) of permanent bulk storage for her or his entire operations in the state.

(3) ~~An independent dealer who does not have a written contract with a supplier or wholesaler is exempt from the requirement of subsection (1);~~

~~however, in lieu of the requirement set forth in subsection (1), such independent dealer must install a bulk storage tank with a capacity (water gallons) of not less than the total of liquefied petroleum gas sold by such dealer during the peak month of the preceding calendar year.~~

~~(3)(4) A dealer in liquefied petroleum gas operating a single dispensing unit for the sole purpose of direct product sale to customers (no deliveries) or an operator of a cylinder exchange unit with a total capacity of 2,000 gallons (water capacity) or less is exempt from the requirements of this section.~~

~~(5) A "wholesaler" as used in this section is any person, as defined by s. 527.01(2), selling or offering to sell any liquefied petroleum gas for industrial, commercial, or domestic use to any person except the ultimate consumer.~~

Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 527.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527.22 Florida Propane Gas Education, Safety, and Research Council established; membership; duties and responsibilities. —

(4) The council shall keep minutes, accounting records, and other records as necessary to clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the council and regularly report such information to the commissioner, along with such other information as the commissioner requires. The accounting records of the council shall be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other times as the council or the department designates. Copies of such audit shall be provided to the commissioner, to all members of the council, to each qualified industry organization upon request, and to the Auditor General. Copies shall be provided to other producers and dealers upon request. All records of the council shall be kept on file with the department, and these records and other documents about matters within the jurisdiction of the council shall be subject to the review and inspection of the department's Inspector General, the Auditor General, and inspection by the members of the council, or other interested parties upon request. All records of the council are subject to the provisions of s. 119.07.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor June 14, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 14, 2000.