CHAPTER 2025-174

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 669

An act relating to Israeli bonds; amending s. 218.415, F.S.; prohibiting local governments from requiring minimum bond ratings in certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 218.415, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

218.415 Local government investment policies.—Investment activity by a unit of local government must be consistent with a written investment plan adopted by the governing body, or in the absence of the existence of a governing body, the respective principal officer of the unit of local government and maintained by the unit of local government or, in the alternative, such activity must be conducted in accordance with subsection (17). Any such unit of local government shall have an investment policy for any public funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet current expenses as provided in subsections (1)-(16), or shall meet the alternative investment guidelines contained in subsection (17). Such policies shall be structured to place the highest priority on the safety of principal and liquidity of funds. The optimization of investment returns shall be secondary to the requirements for safety and liquidity. Each unit of local government shall adopt policies that are commensurate with the nature and size of the public funds within its custody.

(5) LISTING OF AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS.—The investment policy shall list investments authorized by the governing body of the unit of local government, subject to the provisions of subsection (16). The investment policy authorized by the governing body of the unit of local government may not require a minimum bond rating for investments authorized pursuant to paragraph (16)(f). Investments not listed in the investment policy are prohibited. If the policy authorizes investments in derivative products, the policy must require that the unit of local government's officials responsible for making investment decisions or chief financial officer have developed sufficient understanding of the derivative products and have the expertise to manage them. For purposes of this subsection, a "derivative" is defined as a financial instrument the value of which depends on, or is derived from, the value of one or more underlying assets or index or asset values. If the policy authorizes investments in reverse repurchase agreements or other forms of leverage, the policy must limit the investments to transactions in which the proceeds are intended to provide liquidity and for which the unit of local government has sufficient resources and expertise.

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2025.