### CHAPTER 2025-199

## Senate Bill No. 2502

An act implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act; providing legislative intent; incorporating by reference certain calculations; amending s. 1011.45, F.S.; requiring a carry forward spending plan to commit certain excess reserve balances to specified projects in a specified manner; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 1009.26. F.S.; requiring a state university to waive a student's out-of-pocket expenses under certain conditions; deleting a requirement for a certain fee waiver; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 1004.89, F.S.; revising the duties of the Institute for Freedom in the Americas at Miami Dade College; deleting a provision requiring the college to approve a direct-support organization for a specified purpose; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; authorizing certain state university board of trustees to accept a health care provider's procurement methods and construction contracts under certain circumstances: authorizing the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University board of trustees to expend available reserves or carryforward certain balances for a specified purpose; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment to realign Medicaid funding for specified purposes, subject to certain limitations; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health to each submit a budget amendment to realign funding within the Florida Kidcare program appropriation categories or to increase budget authority for certain purposes; specifying the time period within which each budget amendment must be submitted; amending s. 381.986, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the exemption of certain rules pertaining to the medical use of marijuana from certain rulemaking requirements; amending s. 14(1), chapter 2017-232, Laws of Florida; exempting certain rules pertaining to medical marijuana adopted to replace emergency rules from specified rulemaking requirements; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement specified programs and payments; requiring institutions participating in a specified workforce expansion and education program to provide quarterly reports to the agency; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment for a specified purpose; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement the Low Income Pool component of the Florida Managed Medical Assistance Demonstration up to a certain amount; requiring that the amendment include a signed attestation and acknowledgment for entities relating to the Low Income Pool; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement certain payments and specified programs; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement a certified expenditure program for emergency medical transportation services; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program; requiring such amendment to include specified information; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement fee-for-service inpatient and outpatient supplemental payments for specialty hospitals; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority to support the Florida School-Based Services program; amending s. 409.908, F.S.; revising the Quality Incentive Program payment pool percentage for the reimbursement of Medicaid providers; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; authorizing the Department of Children and Families to submit a budget amendment to realign funding within specified areas of the department based on implementation of the Guardianship Assistance Program; authorizing the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, and the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority to support certain refugee programs; requiring the Department of Children and Families to submit quarterly reports to the Executive Office of the Governor and the Legislature; authorizing the Department of Children and Families to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority to support specified federal grant programs; authorizing the Department of Children and Families to submit budget amendments to transfer funds between certain appropriation categories to support the operations of the Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency system; amending s. 393.066, F.S.; authorizing certain persons or entities to maintain an alternate data system that meets specified standards; prohibiting the Agency for Persons with Disabilities from requiring training on a specified system in certain circumstances; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to amend the Florida Medicaid Developmental Disabilities Individual Budgeting Waiver Services Provider Rate Table for a specified purpose; requiring providers to be reimbursed at the existing hourly rate for certain recipients; requiring the agency to develop a methodology to monitor and evaluate the fiscal impact of the revised reimbursement methodology and submit quarterly reports to the Legislature and the Executive Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 394.9082, F.S.; authorizing a managing entity to carry forward certain unexpended funds; providing construction; amending s. 409.9913, F.S.; requiring core services funding to be allocated as provided in the General Appropriations Act; requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop and report on an alternative tiered funding methodology and to provide certain information; providing requirements for the methodology; requiring lead agencies

and providers to submit detailed cost and expenditure data as requested by the department for a specified purpose; providing reporting requirements; authorizing the Department of Health to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Child Care Food Program if a certain condition is met; authorizing the Department of Health to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Program if a certain condition is met; authorizing the Department of Health to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the department if additional federal revenues specific to COVID-19 relief funds become available; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to replace the Florida Medicaid Management Information System (FMMIS) and fiscal agent operations with a specified new system; specifying items that may not be included in the new system; providing directives to the Agency for Health Care Administration related to the new Florida Health Care Connection (FX) system; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to meet certain requirements in replacing FMMIS and the current Medicaid fiscal agent; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to implement a specified program governance structure that includes an executive steering committee composed of specified members; providing the duties of the executive steering committee; requiring the establishment of specified working groups; providing the composition of such groups; providing requirements for such groups; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Corrections, to competitively procure a contract with a vendor to negotiate prices for certain prescribed drugs and biological products; providing specifications for such contract; authorizing the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to submit budget amendments to transfer funding from the Salaries and Benefits appropriation categories for a specified purpose; authorizing the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to submit budget amendments to request funds from the Lump Sum-Home and Community Based Waiver category for a specified purpose; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to submit budget amendments within a specified timeframe for a specified purpose; authorizing the Department of Veterans' Affairs to submit a budget amendment, subject to Legislative Budget Commission approval, requesting certain authority for certain purposes relating to veterans' nursing homes; amending s. 409.915, F.S.; extending for 1 year the expiration of an exception for certain funds used for the hospital directed payment program; authorizing the Department of Veterans' Affairs to submit budget amendments, subject to certain approval, for the development and construction of a new State Veterans Nursing Home and Adult Day Health Care Center in a specified county; authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs to submit a budget amendment requesting certain authority for an Adult Care Food Program under certain circumstances; amending s. 766.314, F.S.; authorizing the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association to

accept new claims during a specified fiscal year under certain circumstances; amending s. 216.262, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the authority of the Department of Corrections to submit a budget amendment for additional positions and appropriations under certain circumstances; amending s. 215.18, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the authority and related repayment requirements for temporary trust fund loans to the state court system which are sufficient to meet the system's appropriation; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to review county juvenile detention payments to determine whether a county has met specified financial responsibilities; requiring that amounts owed by a certain county for such financial responsibilities be deducted from certain county funds; requiring the Department of Revenue to transfer withheld funds to a specified trust fund; requiring the Department of Revenue to ensure that such reductions in amounts distributed do not reduce distributions below amounts necessary for certain payments due on bonds and to comply with bond covenants; requiring the Department of Revenue to notify the Department of Juvenile Justice if bond payment requirements mandate a reduction in deductions for amounts owed by a county; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to take certain actions; reenacting s. 27.40(1), (2)(a), (3)(a), (5), (6), and (7), F.S., relating to court-appointed counsel; extending for 1 fiscal year provisions governing the appointment of court-appointed counsel; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; reenacting and amending s. 27.5304, F.S., relating to the extension for 1 fiscal year limitations on compensation for representation in criminal proceedings; revising the maximum compensation for certain proceedings; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 934.50, F.S.; providing how certain appropriated funds may be used; extending for 1 year the expiration of a certain grant program; amending s. 908.1033, F.S.; authorizing local law enforcement agencies to apply to the State Board of Immigration Enforcement to provide bonus payments for certain certified correctional officers; specifying a maximum amount for such bonus per officer; requiring the local law enforcement agency to certify certain information; requiring the Department of Management Services, with the cooperation of certain agencies, to use tenant broker services to renegotiate or reprocure certain private lease agreements for office or storage space; requiring the Department of Management Services to provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; prohibiting an agency from transferring funds from a data processing category to another category other than another data processing category; authorizing the Executive Office of the Governor to transfer funds appropriated in certain categories between departments for purposes of aligning amounts paid for risk management insurance and for human resources services purchased per statewide contract; authorizing the Department of Management Services to use certain facility disposition funds from the Architects Incidental Trust Fund to pay for certain relocation expenses; authorizing the Department of Management Services to submit budget amendments for an increase in appropriation under certain circumstances; requiring that such amendments include specified

information; authorizing all agencies to continue to purchase productivity and cybersecurity tools and services; requiring the Department of Management Services to maintain the state master agreement; requiring the Department of Financial Services to replace specified components of the Florida Accounting Information Resource Subsystem (FLAIR) and the Cash Management Subsystem (CMS) with a specified integrated enterprise system; prohibiting the Department of Financial Services from including certain components in the replacement of FLAIR and CMS; providing requirements for the Department of Financial services related to replacing FLAIR and CMS; providing for the composition of an executive steering committee to oversee FLAIR and CMS replacement; providing requirements for the executive steering committee chair; providing duties and responsibilities of the executive steering committee; reenacting s. 282.709(3), F.S., relating to the state agency law enforcement radio system and interoperability network; providing for future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; authorizing state agencies and other eligible users of the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System to use the Department of Management Services contract to purchase equipment and services; requiring that a specified transaction fee percentage for use of the online procurement system be collected for a specified fiscal year; amending s. 24.105, F.S.; specifying requirements for the adoption of rules of the Department of the Lottery, excluding certain rules for 1 fiscal year regarding the commission for lottery ticket sales; limiting additional retailer compensation in a specified manner; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; reenacting and amending s. 627.351, F.S.; extending for 1 year the specified authority of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; authorizing the Division of Treasury within the Department of Financial Services to allow employee contributions into the state deferred compensation plan on a specified basis under a specified program; providing requirements for such employee contributions; amending s. 110.116, F.S.; requiring the Department of Management Services to contract with an independent software quality assurance and testing provider for specified purposes; deleting legislative findings and contracting and reporting requirements; amending s. 215.5586, F.S.; revising homeowner eligibility criteria for a hurricane mitigation grant from the My Safe Florida Home Program; providing that certain funds appropriated to the Department of Financial Services may be carried forward through a specified fiscal year; authorizing the Executive Office of the Governor to transfer funds between departments to align the budget authority granted based on the estimated costs for data processing services for a specified fiscal year; limiting the auxiliary assessments that may be charged to state agencies related to contract management services provided to the Northwest Regional Data Center; amending s. 284.51, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "first responder" as used in the electroencephalogram combined Transactional Magnetic Stimulation (eTMS) treatment pilot program; extending the pilot program for 1 year; requiring the Department of Financial Services to renew, for a specified timeframe, its existing contract for the establishment of the eTMS pilot program for veterans and first responders;

Ch. 2025-199

requiring the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to submit a final report on certain child support guidelines to the Legislature by a specified date; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority for the National School Lunch Program; amending s. 215.18, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year certain authority to transfer funds from certain trust funds in the State Treasury to other trust funds in certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to transfer designated proportions of the revenues deposited in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the department to land acquisition trust funds in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission according to specified parameters and calculations; defining the term "department"; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to make transfers to land acquisition trust funds monthly; specifying the method of determining transfer amounts; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to advance funds from its land acquisition trust fund to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's land acquisition trust fund for specified purposes; amending s. 259.105, F.S.; requiring that proceeds from a specified trust fund be distributed as provided in the General Appropriations Act for a specified fiscal year; amending s. 376.91. F.S.; extending for 1 year the date by which the Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS under certain circumstances; providing for future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending ss. 376.3071 and 376.3072, F.S.; prohibiting certain deductibles and copays; prohibiting enforcement of certain monetary caps; requiring that certain costs be absorbed at the expense of the Inland Protection Trust Fund; providing exceptions; reenacting s. 376.3071(15)(g), F.S., relating to the Inland Protection Trust Fund; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; requiring the Department of Citrus to enter into agreements for specified purposes by a certain date; requiring the Department of Citrus to file certain information with the department's Inspector General; reenacting and amending s. 380.5105, F.S., relating to the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts; revising the intent of the program; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 10, ch. 2022-272, Laws of Florida; extending the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program for 1 fiscal year; authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to use specified funds to provide grants for a specified purpose; amending s. 403.0673, F.S.; requiring that funds appropriated for the water quality improvement grant program be used for a specified fiscal year as provided in the General Appropriations Act; amending s. 375.041, F.S.; requiring funds for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be appropriated in a specified manner; amending s. 288.80125, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year a requirement that the use of funds in the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund be related to Hurricane Michael recovery; amending s. 339.135, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the authority for the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission to approve certain work program

amendments under specified circumstances; authorizing the Department of Transportation to rebalance funds within the Work Program for specified purposes; providing requirements for such rebalancing; authorizing the department to request a specified amount of budget authority to the extent necessary to advance or defer certain projects in the Work Program and align resources for a specified purpose; amending s. 288.0655, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year a requirement that certain appropriated funds relating to the Rural Infrastructure Fund be distributed in a specified manner; authorizing the Division of Emergency Management to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority for certain expenditures; amending s. 282.201, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the Division of Emergency Management's exemption from the use of the state data center; amending s. 251.001, F.S.; providing that the Florida State Guard aircraft is assigned to a specified department for certain uses; requiring the Florida State Guard to sign a certain memorandum of understanding; amending s. 443.1113, F.S.; providing that certain improvements to the Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System are subject to appropriation; revising the date a certain report from the Department of Commerce is required to be submitted; revising the report requirements; providing for the future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; amending s. 445.08, F.S.; requiring a law enforcement officer to provide documentation justifying a break in service for purposes of the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program; defining the term "break in service"; providing that the time period for such a break in service does not count toward satisfying certain requirements; extending the program for 1 fiscal year; amending s. 420.5096, F.S.; revising eligibility for the Florida Hometown Hero Program for a specified fiscal year; requiring the Department of Management Services to assess an administrative health insurance assessment on each state agency; providing the rate of such assessment; defining the term "state agency"; requiring the Department of Management Services to take certain actions in case of delinquencies; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to transfer funds under specified circumstances; requiring state agencies to provide a list of positions that qualify for a certain exception by a specified date and to update the list monthly thereafter; requiring state agencies to include the administrative health insurance assessment in their indirect cost plan beginning for a specified fiscal year and annually thereafter; requiring agencies to notify the Department of Management Services, the Executive Office of the Governor, and the Legislature regarding the approval of their updated indirect cost plans; authorizing the Executive Office of the Governor to transfer budget authority between agencies in specified circumstances; providing that the annual salaries of the members of the Legislature be maintained at a specified level for a specified fiscal year; reenacting s. 215.32(2)(b), F.S., relating to the authorization for transferring unappropriated cash balances from selected trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and General Revenue Fund; providing for future expiration and reversion of specific statutory text; specifying the type of travel which may be used with state employee travel funds for a specified fiscal year;

providing exceptions; providing applicability; providing a monetary cap on lodging costs for state employee travel to certain meetings organized or sponsored by a state agency or the judicial branch; authorizing employees to expend their own funds for lodging expenses that exceed the monetary caps; providing construction; amending s. 216.181, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the authority of the Legislative Budget Commission to approve budget amendments for certain fixed capital outlay projects; amending s. 216.292, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year the requirements for certain transfers; authorizing state agencies to purchase vehicles from nonstate term contract vendors without prior approval from the Department of Management Services under certain circumstances; amending s. 11.52, F.S.; extending for 1 year certain state agency reporting requirements regarding implementation of legislation; amending s. 216.013, F.S.; extending for 1 fiscal year an exception from certain planning requirements; amending s. 216.023, F.S.; extending for 1 year a requirement that certain entities include a specified inventory in their legislative budget requests; providing that the use of state funds must be consistent with specified principles of individual freedom; prohibiting a state agency from using state funds to contract with an advertising agency or other contractor who acts as or uses the services of media reliability and bias monitors; defining the term "media reliability and bias monitor"; amending s. 440.13, F.S.; providing a percentage for reimbursement for emergency services and care under certain circumstances; providing for future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; authorizing the Office of Policy and Budget within the Executive Office of the Governor to conduct a review of the functions, procedures, and policies in effect for certain local entities to identify specified information; specifying the records that the office may review; requiring certain local governments to provide the office with access to specified information within a specified timeframe after a request from the office; providing construction; providing for civil fines against the local government, not its employees, for noncompliance; requiring such fines to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund; requiring the office to submit an initial report to the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the report; providing construction; amending s. 551.118, F.S.; specifying the contract timeframe for the Florida Gaming Control Commission's contract for the provision of services related to the prevention of compulsive and addictive gambling; amending s. 373.0421, F.S.; providing that agricultural producers who implement specified best management practices are presumed to be in compliance with certain recovery and prevention strategies; providing for future expiration and reversion of specified statutory text; providing that the Governor, the Cabinet officers, and the Legislature are permanent tenants of the Capitol Complex; prohibiting the interior space allotted to each tenant as of a specified date from being reduced or moved without the tenant's express consent; requiring the Department of Management Services to offer for lease to the House of Representatives certain office space by a specified date; requiring the department to coordinate with specified entities before planning or scheduling any projects in the Capitol

Center; requiring the office to solicit specified feedback in carrying out the provisions of the Capitol Center long-range planning; prohibiting certain parking spaces from being reduced or reassigned without the express consent of the Legislature; providing conditions under which the veto of certain appropriations or proviso language in the General Appropriations Act voids language that implements such appropriation; providing for the continued operation of certain provisions notwithstanding a future repeal or expiration provided by the act; providing for severability; providing for contingent retroactivity; providing effective dates.

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

- Section 1. <u>It is the intent of the Legislature that the implementing and administering provisions of this act apply to the General Appropriations Act for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.</u>
- Section 2. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 5, 6, 88, and 89 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the calculations of the Florida Education Finance Program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year included in the document titled "Public School Funding: The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Fiscal Year 2025-2026," dated June 13, 2025, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate, are incorporated by reference for the purpose of displaying the calculations used by the Legislature, consistent with the requirements of state law, in making appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 3. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 81 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the school readiness reimbursement rates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year included in the document titled "School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates Fiscal Year 2025-2026," dated June 13, 2025, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate, are incorporated by reference, consistent with the requirements of state law, in making appropriations for the school readiness program allocation. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 4. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 147 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, present subsection (5) of section 1011.45, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), a new subsection (5) is added to that section, and subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:
- 1011.45 End of year balance of funds.—Unexpended amounts in any fund in a university current year operating budget shall be carried forward and included as the balance forward for that fund in the approved operating budget for the following year.
- (3) A university's carry forward spending plan must include the estimated cost per planned expenditure and a timeline for completion of the expenditure. A carry forward spending plan may include retention of the carry forward balance as a reserve fund to be used for authorized expenses in subsequent years. For any annual reserve balance in excess of the 7 percent

minimum carry forward balance pursuant to subsection (1), the authorized expenditures in a carry forward spending plan must include a commitment of 12 percent of the university's 2025-2026 fiscal year state operating fund carry forward balance to fund a public education capital outlay project for which an appropriation has previously been provided which requires additional funds for completion and which is included in the list required by s. 1001.706(12)(d) or for deferred building maintenance expenses. The carry forward spending plan must identify the specific public education capital outlay project and the amount the university will contribute toward the fixed capital outlay project pursuant to s. 1001.706(12)(d) or specific deferred maintenance project. Authorized expenditures in a carry forward spending plan may include:

- (a) Commitment of funds to a public education capital outlay project for which an appropriation has previously been provided that requires additional funds for completion and which is included in the list required by s. 1001.706(12)(d);
- (b) Completion of a renovation, repair, or maintenance project that is consistent with s. 1013.64(1) or replacement of a minor facility;
- (c) Completion of a remodeling or infrastructure project, including a project for a developmental research school, if such project is survey recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31;
- (d) Completion of a repair or replacement project necessary due to damage caused by a natural disaster for buildings included in the inventory required pursuant to s. 1013.31;
  - (e) Operating expenditures that support the university's mission;
- (f) Any purpose specified by the board or in the General Appropriations Act, including the requirements in s. 1001.706(12)(c) or similar requirements pursuant to Board of Governors regulations; and
- (g) A commitment of funds to a contingency reserve for expenses incurred as a result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to s. 252.36; and
- (h) Deferred building maintenance expenses for the maintenance, repair, and renovation of projects to improve the health and safety of such facilities.
- (5) A university's carry forward spending plan pursuant to subsection (1) must provide detailed documentation of expenditures that the university applied toward the prior year carry forward spending plan.
- Section 5. The amendments to s. 1011.45, Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that section shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to

the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 6. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 147 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 20 of chapter 2025-109, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

#### 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

- (18)(a) For every course in a Program of Strategic Emphasis, or in a state-approved teacher preparation program identified by the Board of Governors, as identified in subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled and has out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and fees after all other federal, state, and institutional gift aid is applied, a state university shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees of the student's out-of-pocket expenses for an equivalent course in such program for a student who:
  - 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.
- 2. Has earned at least 60 semester credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree within 2 academic years after initial enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution.
- 3. Enrolls in one of 10 Programs of Strategic Emphasis as adopted by the Board of Governors or a state-approved teacher preparation program. The Board of Governors shall adopt eight Programs of Strategic Emphasis in science, technology, engineering, or math; beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, two Programs of Strategic Emphasis in the critical workforce gap analysis category; and beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, two state-approved teacher preparation programs for which a student may be eligible to receive the tuition and fee waiver authorized by this subsection. The programs identified by the board must reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at a majority of state universities at the time the Board of Governors approves the list.
- (b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for which the student is enrolled. A student granted a waiver under this subsection shall continue receiving the waiver until the student graduates, exceeds the number of allowable credit hours, or withdraws from an eligible program, regardless of whether the program is removed from the approved list of eligible programs subsequent to the student's enrollment.
- (c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The amount

disbursed to the student must be equal to the award amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(3) or s. 1009.535(2).

- (d) Each state university shall report to the Board of Governors the number and value of all waivers granted annually under this subsection. A state university in compliance with this subsection may earn incentive funding, subject to appropriation, in addition to the funding provided under s. 1001.92.
- (d)(e) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to administer this subsection.
- Section 7. The amendments to s. 1009.26(18), Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that subsection shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.
- Section 8. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 130 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, section 1004.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 1004.89 Institute for Freedom in the Americas.—
- (1) The Institute for Freedom in the Americas is hereby created at Miami Dade College to preserve the ideals of a free society and promote democracy in the Americas. The institute shall be located at the Freedom Tower and shall:
- (1)(a) Partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to Hold workshops, symposiums, and conferences that provide networking opportunities for leaders throughout the region to gain new insights and ideas for promoting democracy, including knowledge of and insight into the intellectual, political, and economic freedoms that are foundational to a democratic society.
- (2)(b) Enter into an agreement with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to provide participants with academic coursework and programs that advance democratic practices and economic and legal reforms.
- (3)(e) Provide educational and experiential opportunities for regional leaders committed to careers in democracy and governance.
- (2) Miami Dade College, in accordance with s. 1004.70, shall approve a direct-support organization to support the institute in its mission to develop partnerships throughout the Americas. Notwithstanding s. 1004.70(2), the board of the direct-support organization shall be composed of five members, as follows: one member appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

three members appointed by the Governor, including a representative from Miami Dade College and a representative from the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.

Section 9. The amendments to s. 1004.89, Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that section shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 10. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 17 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, a state university board of trustees that is beginning an approved capital outlay project with a health care provider may accept the health care provider's procurement methods and construction contracts entered thereunder and may reimburse the health care provider for its expenses using the proceeds from a bond issuance approved by the Board of Governors. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 11. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 147 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 1011.45 and 1012.975, Florida Statutes, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University board of trustees may expend available reserves or carry forward balances from previous years' operational and programmatic appropriations, or other available reserves or balances from funds not appropriated from the General Revenue Fund, from state trust funds, or tuition and fees, for the remuneration of the president of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 12. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 197 through 225 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to realign funding within the Medicaid program appropriation categories to address projected surpluses and deficits within the program and to maximize the use of state trust funds. A single budget amendment shall be submitted in the last quarter of the 2025-2026 fiscal year only. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 13. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 179 through 184 and 530 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwith-standing ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health may each submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to realign funding within the Florida Kidcare program appropriation categories, or to increase budget authority in the Children's Medical Services network category, to address projected surpluses and deficits within the program or to maximize the use of state trust funds. A single budget amendment must be submitted by each agency in the

last quarter of the 2025-2026 fiscal year only. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 14. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 461 through 469A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (17) of section 381.986, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.986 Medical use of marijuana.—

(17) Rules adopted pursuant to this section before July 1,  $\underline{2026}$   $\underline{2025}$ , are not subject to ss. 120.54(3)(b) and 120.541. This subsection expires July 1, 2026  $\underline{2025}$ .

Section 15. Effective July 1, 2025, upon the expiration and reversion of the amendments made to subsection (1) of section 14 of chapter 2017-232, Laws of Florida, pursuant to section 10 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, and in order to implement Specific Appropriations 461 through 469A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (1) of section 14 of chapter 2017-232, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 14. Department of Health; authority to adopt rules; cause of action.—

### (1) EMERGENCY RULEMAKING.—

- (a) The Department of Health and the applicable boards shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, and this section necessary to implement s. 381.986 ss. 381.986 and 381.988, Florida Statutes. If an emergency rule adopted under this section is held to be unconstitutional or an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority, and becomes void, the department or the applicable boards may adopt an emergency rule pursuant to this section to replace the rule that has become void. If the emergency rule adopted to replace the void emergency rule is also held to be unconstitutional or an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority and becomes void, the department and the applicable boards must follow the nonemergency rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act to replace the rule that has become void.
- (b) For emergency rules adopted under this section, the department and the applicable boards need not make the findings required by s. 120.54(4)(a), Florida Statutes. Emergency rules adopted under this section are exempt from ss. 120.54(3)(b) and 120.541, Florida Statutes. The department and the applicable boards shall meet the procedural requirements in s. 120.54(4)(a) s. 120.54(a), Florida Statutes, if the department or the applicable boards have, before July 1, 2019 the effective date of this act, held any public workshops or hearings on the subject matter of the emergency rules adopted under this subsection. Challenges to emergency rules adopted under this subsection are subject to the time schedules provided in s. 120.56(5), Florida Statutes.

- (c) Emergency rules adopted under this section are exempt from s. 120.54(4)(c), Florida Statutes, and shall remain in effect until replaced by rules adopted under the nonemergency rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act. Rules adopted under the nonemergency rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act to replace emergency rules adopted under this section are exempt from ss. 120.54(3)(b) and 120.541, Florida Statutes. By September 1, 2025 January 1, 2018, the department and the applicable boards shall initiate nonemergency rulemaking pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act to replace all emergency rules adopted under this section by publishing a notice of rule development in the Florida Administrative Register. Except as provided in paragraph (a), after December 31, 2025 January 1, 2018, the department and applicable boards may not adopt rules pursuant to the emergency rulemaking procedures provided in this section.
- Section 16. The amendments to subsection (1) of section 14 of chapter 2017-232, Laws of Florida, made by this act expire January 1, 2026, and the text of that subsection shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2019, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.
- Section 17. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 203, 204, 207, and 211 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program for hospitals statewide providing inpatient and outpatient services to Medicaid managed care enrollees, the Indirect Medical Education (IME) Program, and a nursing workforce expansion and education program for certain institutions participating in a graduate medical education or nursing education program. For institutions participating in the nursing workforce expansion and education program, the budget amendment must identify the educational institutions partnering with the teaching hospital. Institutions participating in the nursing workforce expansion and education program shall provide quarterly reports to the agency detailing the number of nurses participating in the program. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 18. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 204, 207, and 211 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program and fee-for-service supplemental payments for cancer hospitals that meet the criteria in 42 U.S.C. s. 1395ww(d)(1)(B)(v). This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 19. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 197 through 225 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter

216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement the Low Income Pool component of the Florida Managed Medical Assistance Demonstration up to the total computable funds authorized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The budget amendment must include the final terms and conditions of the Low Income Pool, a proposed distribution model by entity, and a listing of entities contributing intergovernmental transfers to support the state match required. In addition, for each entity included in the distribution model, a signed attestation must be provided that includes the charity care cost upon which the Low Income Pool payment is based and an acknowledgment that should the distribution result in an overpayment based on the Low Income Pool cost limit audit, the entity is responsible for returning that overpayment to the agency for return to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 20. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 210 and 211 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement fee-for-service supplemental payments and a directed payment program for physicians and subordinate licensed health care practitioners employed by or under contract with a Florida medical or dental school, or a public hospital. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 21. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 208, 211, and 223 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement a certified expenditure program for emergency medical transportation services. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 22. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 197 through 225 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program. The budget amendment must include a proposed distribution model by entity and a listing of entities contributing intergovernmental transfers and certified public expenditures to support the state match required. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 23. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 204 and 207 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting additional spending authority to implement fee-for-service inpatient and outpatient supplemental payments for specialty hospitals as defined in s. 395.002(28), Florida Statutes, providing comprehensive acute care services to children with Medicaid inpatient utilization equal to or greater than 50 percent and located in a county with

greater than 250,000 Medicaid enrollees in 2023. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 24. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 190 and 216 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority to support the Florida School-Based Services program. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 25. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 208, 222, and 223 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 409.908, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.908 Reimbursement of Medicaid providers.—Subject to specific appropriations, the agency shall reimburse Medicaid providers, in accordance with state and federal law, according to methodologies set forth in the rules of the agency and in policy manuals and handbooks incorporated by reference therein. These methodologies may include fee schedules, reimbursement methods based on cost reporting, negotiated fees, competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, and other mechanisms the agency considers efficient and effective for purchasing services or goods on behalf of recipients. If a provider is reimbursed based on cost reporting and submits a cost report late and that cost report would have been used to set a lower reimbursement rate for a rate semester, then the provider's rate for that semester shall be retroactively calculated using the new cost report, and full payment at the recalculated rate shall be effected retroactively. Medicaregranted extensions for filing cost reports, if applicable, shall also apply to Medicaid cost reports. Payment for Medicaid compensable services made on behalf of Medicaid-eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216. Further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent or limit the agency from adjusting fees, reimbursement rates, lengths of stay, number of visits, or number of services, or making any other adjustments necessary to comply with the availability of moneys and any limitations or directions provided for in the General Appropriations Act, provided the adjustment is consistent with legislative intent.

(2)

(b) Subject to any limitations or directions in the General Appropriations Act, the agency shall establish and implement a state Title XIX Long-Term Care Reimbursement Plan for nursing home care in order to provide care and services in conformance with the applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and quality and safety standards and to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance have reasonable geographic access to such care.

- 1. The agency shall amend the long-term care reimbursement plan and cost reporting system to create direct care and indirect care subcomponents of the patient care component of the per diem rate. These two subcomponents together shall equal the patient care component of the per diem rate. Separate prices shall be calculated for each patient care subcomponent, initially based on the September 2016 rate setting cost reports and subsequently based on the most recently audited cost report used during a rebasing year. The direct care subcomponent of the per diem rate for any providers still being reimbursed on a cost basis shall be limited by the cost-based class ceiling, and the indirect care subcomponent may be limited by the lower of the cost-based class ceiling, the target rate class ceiling, or the individual provider target. The ceilings and targets apply only to providers being reimbursed on a cost-based system. Effective October 1, 2018, a prospective payment methodology shall be implemented for rate setting purposes with the following parameters:
  - a. Peer Groups, including:
- (I) North-SMMC Regions 1-9, less Palm Beach and Okeechobee Counties; and
- (II) South-SMMC Regions 10-11, plus Palm Beach and Okeechobee Counties.
- b. Percentage of Median Costs based on the cost reports used for September 2016 rate setting:

  - (II) Indirect Care Costs......92 percent.
  - (III) Operating Costs......86 percent.
  - c. Floors:

  - (II) Indirect Care Component......92.5 percent.
  - (III) Operating Component......None.
- d. Pass-through Payments......Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes and Property Insurance.
- f. Quality Score Threshold to Qualify Quality for Quality Incentive Payment.......33 percent of all available points in the Medicaid Quality Incentive Program 20th percentile of included facilities.
  - g. Fair Rental Value System Payment Parameters:

(XI)

- Building Value per Square Foot based on 2018 RS Means. (II) Land Valuation...... 10 percent of Gross Building value. Facility Square Footage...... Actual Square Footage. (III)(IV) Fair Rental Rate of Return......8 percent. (VI) (VII) Minimum Square Footage per Bed......350. (IX)  $(\mathbf{X})$
- h. Ventilator Supplemental payment of \$200 per Medicaid day of 40,000 ventilator Medicaid days per fiscal year.

Minimum Cost of a renovation/replacements......\$500 per bed.

- 2. The direct care subcomponent shall include salaries and benefits of direct care staff providing nursing services including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants who deliver care directly to residents in the nursing home facility, allowable therapy costs, and dietary costs. This excludes nursing administration, staff development, the staffing coordinator, and the administrative portion of the minimum data set and care plan coordinators. The direct care subcomponent also includes medically necessary dental care, vision care, hearing care, and podiatric care.
- 3. All other patient care costs shall be included in the indirect care cost subcomponent of the patient care per diem rate, including complex medical equipment, medical supplies, and other allowable ancillary costs. Costs may not be allocated directly or indirectly to the direct care subcomponent from a home office or management company.
- 4. On July 1 of each year, the agency shall report to the Legislature direct and indirect care costs, including average direct and indirect care costs per resident per facility and direct care and indirect care salaries and benefits per category of staff member per facility.
- 5. Every fourth year, the agency shall rebase nursing home prospective payment rates to reflect changes in cost based on the most recently audited cost report for each participating provider.
- 6. A direct care supplemental payment may be made to providers whose direct care hours per patient day are above the 80th percentile and who

provide Medicaid services to a larger percentage of Medicaid patients than the state average.

7. Pediatric, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, and government-owned facilities are exempt from the pricing model established in this subsection and shall remain on a cost-based prospective payment system. Effective October 1, 2018, the agency shall set rates for all facilities remaining on a cost-based prospective payment system using each facility's most recently audited cost report, eliminating retroactive settlements.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the reimbursement plan achieve the goal of providing access to health care for nursing home residents who require large amounts of care while encouraging diversion services as an alternative to nursing home care for residents who can be served within the community. The agency shall base the establishment of any maximum rate of payment, whether overall or component, on the available moneys as provided for in the General Appropriations Act. The agency may base the maximum rate of payment on the results of scientifically valid analysis and conclusions derived from objective statistical data pertinent to the particular maximum rate of payment. The agency shall base the rates of payments in accordance with the minimum wage requirements as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 26. The amendments to s. 409.908(2)(b), Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 27. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 316, 318, 347, and 348 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to realign funding within the department based on the implementation of the Guardianship Assistance Program, between the specific appropriations for guardianship assistance payments, foster care Level 1 room and board payments, relative caregiver payments, and nonrelative caregiver payments. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 28. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 197 through 199, 204, 207, 208, 210 through 212, 342, 351, 447, 451 through 452, 458, 471, 472, 478, and 482 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, and the Agency for Health Care Administration may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority to support refugee programs administered by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement due to the ongoing instability of

federal immigration policy and the resulting inability of the state to reasonably predict, with certainty, the budgetary needs of this state with respect to the number of refugees relocated to the state as part of those federal programs. The Department of Children and Families shall submit quarterly reports to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the number of refugees entering the state, the nations of origin of such refugees, and current expenditure projections. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 29. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 276 through 370 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority to support the following federal grant programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Grant Program, the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, the American Rescue Plan Grant, the State Opioid Response Grant, the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, the Chafee Grant for Independent Living Services, Education and Traditional Voucher Grant, Title IV-B Subparts 1 and 2 Grants, Elder Justice Act, STOP Violence Against Women Grant, the Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing Grant, and the Mental Health Block Grant. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 30. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 276 through 370 of the 2025–2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Children and Families may submit budget amendments pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to transfer funds between appropriation categories and to increase budget authority as necessary to support the operations of the Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency system. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 31. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 238, 242, and 250 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (2) of section 393.066, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

# 393.066 Community services and treatment.—

(2) Necessary services shall be purchased, rather than provided directly by the agency, when the purchase of services is more cost-efficient than providing them directly. All purchased services must be approved by the agency. As a condition of payment and before billing, persons or entities under contract with the agency to provide services shall use agency data management systems to document service provision to clients or shall maintain such information in its own data management system and electronically transmit it to the agency data management system in an industry standard electronic format designated by the agency. The agency

may not require training on the use of agency data management systems by persons or entities that choose to maintain data in their own data management system, provided that they electronically transmit required information in a format and frequency designated by the agency and shall use such systems to bill for services. Contracted persons and entities shall meet the minimum hardware and software technical requirements established by the agency for the use of such systems. Such persons or entities shall also meet any requirements established by the agency for training and professional development of staff providing direct services to clients.

- (9) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall amend the Florida Medicaid Developmental Disabilities Individual Budgeting Waiver Services Provider Rate Table to establish a monthly reimbursement rate, effective October 1, 2025, for Life Skills Development Levels 3 and 4 services provided to recipients who attend such services for at least 16 days during a calendar month. Providers shall continue to be reimbursed at the existing hourly rate for recipients who attend fewer than 16 days during the calendar month. The agency shall develop a methodology to monitor and evaluate the fiscal impact of the revised reimbursement methodology and shall submit quarterly reports to the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the chair of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, and the Executive Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget detailing the fiscal impacts realized.
- Section 32. The amendments to s. 393.066(2) and (9), Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of those subsections shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.
- Section 33. Effective upon this act becoming a law, and in order to implement Specific Appropriations 354 through 370A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 394.9082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

394.9082 Behavioral health managing entities.—

#### (9) FUNDING FOR MANAGING ENTITIES.—

- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for the  $\underline{2025-2026}$   $\underline{2023-2024}$  fiscal year and the  $\underline{2024-2025}$  fiscal year, a managing entity may carry forward documented unexpended funds appropriated from the State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund from  $\underline{1}$  one fiscal year to the next. Funds carried forward pursuant to this paragraph are not included in the 8 percent cumulative cap that may be carried forward. This paragraph expires July 1,  $\underline{2026}$   $\underline{2025}$ .
- Section 34. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 302, 316 through 318, and 364 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (9) is added to section 409.9913, Florida Statutes, to read:

409.9913 Funding methodology to allocate funding to lead agencies.—

- (9) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, core services funding shall be allocated as provided in the General Appropriations Act. The department shall develop and report on an alternative tiered funding methodology to allocate funding to lead agencies. The department shall provide additional data and analysis to strengthen the existing proposed funding framework. This enhancement will aim to maximize transparency, drive performance and quality measures, and build on prior provisions and innovative practices.
- (a) The methodology must include, but is not limited to, the following components:
- 1. Administration tier.—A distinct allocation reflecting actual, allowable operational and fixed costs, consistent with federal and state guidelines, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Salaries and benefits.
  - b. Information technology.
  - c. Lease payments.
  - d. Asset depreciation.
  - e. Utilities.
  - f. Administrative components of case management.
- g. Mandated activities such as training, quality improvement, or contract management.
- 2. Prevention tier.—A dedicated prevention tier to incorporate early intervention strategies and services that reduce the need for higher-intensity system involvement which includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Family support services.
  - b. Family-focused prevention programs.
  - c. Hotline referrals and nonjudicial services.
  - d. Differential response/child protection team coordination.
  - 3. Core services tier.—A base funding allocation that includes:
- a. Direct service delivery costs for case management, foster care, and post-placement services.
  - b. Pass-through obligations, including, but not limited to:
  - (I) Funds appropriated for independent living services.

- (II) Funds appropriated for maintenance adoption subsidies.
- (III) Funds allocated by the department for child protective investigation service training.
  - (IV) Nonrecurring funds.
  - (V) Designated mental health wrap-around service funds.
  - (VI) Funds for special projects for a designated lead agency.
- (VII) Funds appropriated for the Guardianship Assistance Program established under s. 39.6225.
- 4. Performance and quality measures tier.—Funding adjustments or incentives based on performance against outcome-based metrics, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Maintaining or increasing sibling group placements together.
- b. Average yearly caseload of case managers, including only filled positions, at or below 1:14.
- c. Increasing finalized adoptions by at least 3 percent over the prior fiscal year.
  - d. Reducing reentry into foster care within 12 months of case closure.
  - e. Placement stability and least-restrictive placement rates.
- f. Other department-defined measures aligned with federal Child and Family Services Reviews.
- 5. Innovation tier.—A competitive or direct grant mechanism that allows lead agencies to propose and implement innovative, evidence-informed practices aimed at improving family preservation, child well-being, community partnerships, or service delivery models. Funded projects under this tier must be time-limited and subject to performance benchmarks, be evaluated independently for effectiveness and scalability, and support goals not currently funded through core allocations.
  - (b) At a minimum, the methodology must be:
  - 1. Cost-based.
  - 2. Actuarially sound.
- 3. Designed to incentivize efficient and effective lead agency operation, prevention, family preservation, and permanency.
  - 4. Regionally scaled for cost-of-living factors.

- (c) The lead agencies and providers shall submit any detailed cost and expenditure data that the department requests for the development of the funding methodology.
- (d) By December 1, 2025, the department shall submit a detailed report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must include:
  - 1. A proposed structure and funding methodology for each tier;
  - 2. A summary of stakeholder input;
  - 3. Projected fiscal impacts by community-based care region;
- 4. Recommended statutory or budgetary changes needed to implement the new methodology; and
- 5. A plan for phased implementation, including performance tracking and reporting.
- (e) The department shall provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives monthly reports beginning July 2025 through November 2025 which provide updates on activities and progress in developing the funding methodology.
  - (f) This subsection expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 35. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 439 and 441 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Health may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Child Care Food Program if additional federal revenues will be expended in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 36. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 448 and 496 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Health may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Program if additional federal revenues specific to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment become available in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 37. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 409 through 556A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Health may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority for the department if additional federal revenues specific to COVID-19 relief

funds become available in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 38. <u>In order to implement Specific Appropriation 192 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act:</u>

- (1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall replace the current Florida Medicaid Management Information System (FMMIS) and fiscal agent operations with a system that is modular, interoperable, and scalable for the Florida Medicaid program and that complies with all applicable federal and state laws and requirements. The agency may not include in the program to replace the current FMMIS and fiscal agent contract:
- (a) Functionality that duplicates any of the information systems of the other health and human services state agencies;
- (b) Procurement for agency requirements external to Medicaid programs with the intent to leverage the Medicaid technology infrastructure for other purposes without legislative appropriation or legislative authorization to procure these requirements. The new system, the Florida Health Care Connection (FX) system, must provide better integration with subsystems supporting Florida's Medicaid program; uniformity, consistency, and improved access to data; and compatibility with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) as the system matures and expands its functionality; or
- (c) Any contract executed after July 1, 2022, not including staff augmentation services purchased off the Department of Management Services Information Technology staff augmentation state term contract that are not deliverables based fixed price contracts.
- (2) For purposes of replacing FMMIS and the current Medicaid fiscal agent, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall:
- (a) Prioritize procurements for the replacement of the current functions of FMMIS and the responsibilities of the current Medicaid fiscal agent, to minimize the need to extend all or portions of the current fiscal agent contract.
- (b) Comply with and not exceed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services funding authorizations for the FX system.
- (c) Develop and mature an enterprise architecture framework to align the requirements of the FX project phases and overarching program objectives, including completing and maintaining key components such as the Business Capability Model and Business Value Model.
- (d) Apply value-based measures to support informed decisionmaking around release readiness and go-live criteria. These measures must be tracked and reported quarterly to the FX Executive Steering Committee

post-implementation to support performance monitoring and continuous improvement.

- (e) Through documented FX architecture governance practices, ensure that the Medicaid business needs and the business architecture are the primary drivers of information and technical architecture design decisions. All such decisions must be documented with traceable rationale to promote transparency and accountability across the program. The business, information, and technical architectures must align with the MITA framework where applicable. In areas where MITA guidance is not available, alignment will be maintained through adherence to The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF).
- (f) Ensure compliance and uniformity with the published MITA framework and guidelines. The agency shall:
- 1. Implement an Enterprise Architecture (EA) management tool that supports an integrated approach to FX program architecture. The EA tool must serve as a centralized repository for the FX Business Process Inventory and support the integrated management and oversight of the FX business, technical, and information architectures.
- 2. Establish governance structures and define user roles within the EA tool for the business, technical, and information architecture components.
- 3. Ensure all documentation and artifacts related to meeting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Conditions for Enhanced Funding (CEF) are reviewed, validated, and approved by the designated MITA/CERT vendor to ensure they sufficiently address the applicable CEF requirements. This review by the MITA/CERT vendor shall be incorporated into the deliverable acceptance process for payment to FX vendors.
- 4. Conduct, with the MITA/CERT vendor, quarterly governance reviews to assess conformance with MITA, TOGAF, and the FX Business Architecture framework and submit a quarterly governance report to the FX Executive Steering Committee detailing key decisions, compliance status, deviations, and corrective actions.
- (g) Ensure that all business requirements and technical specifications have been provided to all affected state agencies for their review and input and approved by the executive steering committee established in paragraph (k).
- (h) Consult with the Executive Office of the Governor's working group for interagency information technology integration for the development of competitive solicitations that provide for data interoperability and shared information technology services across the state's health and human services agencies.
- (i) Implement a data governance structure for the program to coordinate data sharing and interoperability across state health care entities.

- (j) Establish a continuing oversight team for each contract pursuant to s. 287.057(26), Florida Statutes. The teams must provide quarterly reports to the executive steering committee, summarizing the status of the contract, the pace of deliverables, the quality of deliverables, contractor responsiveness, and contractor performance.
- (k) Implement a program governance structure that includes an executive steering committee composed of:
- 1. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or the executive sponsor of the program.
- 2. A representative of the Division of Health Care Finance and Data of the Agency for Health Care Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 3. Two representatives from the Division of Medicaid Policy, Quality, and Operations of the Agency for Health Care Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 4. A representative of the Division of Health Care Policy and Oversight of the Agency for Health Care Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 5. A representative of the Florida Center for Health Information and Transparency of the Agency for Health Care Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 6. The Chief Information Officer of the Agency for Health Care Administration, or his or her designee.
- (3)(a) The Secretary of Health Care Administration or the executive sponsor of the program shall serve as chair of the executive steering committee, and the committee shall take action by a vote of at least 5 affirmative votes with the chair voting on the prevailing side. A quorum of the executive steering committee consists of at least 5 members.
- (b)1. The chair shall establish a program finance and contracting working group composed of:
  - a. The FX program director.
  - b. A representative from the agency's Office of the General Counsel.
  - c. A representative from the agency's Division of Administration.
  - d. Representatives from each continuing oversight team.
  - e. The FX program strategic roadmap manager.
  - f. The FX program project managers.

- g. The FX program risk manager.
- h. Any other personnel deemed necessary by the chair.
- 2. The working group shall meet at least monthly to review the program status and all contract and program operations, policies, risks, and issues related to the budget, spending plans and contractual obligations, and shall develop recommendations to the executive steering committee for improvement. The working group shall review all change requests that impact the program's scope, schedule, or budget related to contract management and vendor payments and submit those recommended for adoption to the executive steering committee. The chair shall request input from the working group on agenda items for each scheduled meeting. The program shall make available program staff to the group, as needed, for the group to fulfill its duties.
- (c)1. The chair shall establish a state agency stakeholder working group composed of:
  - a. The executive sponsor of the FX program.
- b. A representative of the Department of Children and Families, appointed by the Secretary of Children and Families.
- c. A representative of the Department of Health, appointed by the State Surgeon General.
- d. A representative of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, appointed by the director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
  - e. A representative from the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation.
- f. A representative from the Department of Elderly Affairs, appointed by the Secretary of Elderly Affairs.
  - g. The state chief information officer, or his or her designee.
- h. A representative of the Department of Financial Services who has experience with the state's financial processes, including development of the PALM system, appointed by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 2. The working group shall meet at least quarterly to review the program status and all program operations, policies, risks, and issues that may impact the operations external to the Agency for Health Care Administration FX program, and shall develop recommendations to the executive steering committee for improvement. The chair shall request input from the working group on agenda items for each scheduled meeting. The program shall make available program staff to the group to provide system demonstrations and any program documentation, as needed, for the group to fulfill its duties.

- (4) The executive steering committee has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the program to replace FMMIS and the Medicaid fiscal agent meets its primary business objectives and shall:
- (a) Identify and recommend to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives any statutory changes needed to implement the modular replacement to standardize, to the fullest extent possible, the state's health care data and business processes.
- (b) Review and approve any changes to the program's scope, schedule, and budget.
  - (c) Review and approve any changes to the program's strategic roadmap.
- (d) Review and approve change requests that impact the program's scope, schedule, or budget recommended for adoption by the program finance and contracting working group.
  - (e) Review recommendations provided by the program working groups.
- (f) Review vendor scorecards, reports, and notifications produced by the continuing oversight teams.
- (g) Ensure that adequate resources are provided throughout all phases of the program.
  - (h) Approve all major program deliverables.
- (i) Review and verify that all procurement and contractual documents associated with the replacement of the current FMMIS and Medicaid fiscal agent align with the scope, schedule, and anticipated budget for the program.
  - (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 39. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 211, 212, 262, 272, 328, 472, 496, and 699 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Corrections, shall competitively procure a contract with a vendor to negotiate, for these agencies, prices for prescribed drugs and biological products excluded from the program established under s. 381.02035, Florida Statutes, and ineligible under 21 U.S.C. s. 384, including, but not limited to, insulin and epinephrine. The contract may allow the vendor to directly purchase these products for participating agencies when feasible and advantageous. The contracted vendor must be compensated on a contingency basis, paid from a portion of the savings achieved by its price negotiation or purchase of the prescription drugs and products. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 40. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 254, 260, 261, 265, 270, and 271 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to transfer funding from the Salaries and Benefits appropriation categories to categories used for contractual services in order to support additional staff augmentation resources needed at the Developmental Disability Centers. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 41. In order to implement section 80 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to request the appropriation of funds from the Lump Sum-Home and Community-Based Services Waiver category to address any deficits or funding shortfalls. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 42. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 219 and 242 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, at least 3 days before the effective date of the action, to increase budget authority to support the implementation of the home and community-based services Medicaid waiver program of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 43. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 557 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding chapter 216, Florida Statutes, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may submit a budget amendment, subject to Legislative Budget Commission approval, requesting the authority to establish positions in excess of the number authorized by the Legislature, increase appropriations from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, or provide a necessary salary rate sufficient to provide for essential staff for veterans' nursing homes, if the department projects that additional direct care staff are needed to meet its established staffing ratio. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 44. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 211 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (1) of section 409.915, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.915 County contributions to Medicaid.—Although the state is responsible for the full portion of the state share of the matching funds required for the Medicaid program, the state shall charge the counties an annual contribution in order to acquire a certain portion of these funds.

- (1)(a) As used in this section, the term "state Medicaid expenditures" means those expenditures used as matching funds for the federal Medicaid program.
- (b) The term does not include funds specially assessed by any local governmental entity and used as the nonfederal share for the hospital directed payment program after July 1, 2021. This paragraph expires July 1,  $2026 \ 2025$ .
- Section 45. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 557 through 581B of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may submit budget amendments pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, subject to federal approval, requesting additional spending authority to support the development and construction of a new State Veterans' Nursing Home and Adult Day Health Care Center in Collier County. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 46. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 386 and 396 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Elderly Affairs may submit a budget amendment, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority for the United States Department of Agriculture's Adult Care Food Program if additional federal revenues will be expended in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 47. In order to implement appropriations of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 766.314, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

766.314 Assessments; plan of operation.—

(9)

- (c)1. If the total of all current estimates equals or exceeds 100 percent of the funds on hand and the funds that will become available to the association within the next 12 months from all sources described in subsection (4) and paragraph (5)(a), the association may not accept any new claims without express authority from the Legislature. This section does not preclude the association from accepting any claim if the injury occurred 18 months or more before the effective date of this suspension. Within 30 days after the effective date of this suspension, the association shall notify the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Office of Insurance Regulation, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Department of Health of this suspension.
- 2. Notwithstanding this paragraph, the association is authorized to accept new claims during the 2025-2026 fiscal year if the total of all current estimates exceeds the limits described in subparagraph 1. during that fiscal year. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026.

Section 48. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 584 through 669 and 692 through 723 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (4) of section 216.262, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

# 216.262 Authorized positions.—

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter relating to increasing the number of authorized positions, and for the 2025-2026 2024-2025 fiscal year only, if the actual inmate population of the Department of Corrections exceeds the inmate population projections of the February 21, 2025 December 15, 2023, Criminal Justice Estimating Conference by 1 percent for 2 consecutive months or 2 percent for any month, the Executive Office of the Governor, with the approval of the Legislative Budget Commission, shall immediately notify the Criminal Justice Estimating Conference, which shall convene as soon as possible to revise the estimates. The Department of Corrections may then submit a budget amendment requesting the establishment of positions in excess of the number authorized by the Legislature and additional appropriations from unallocated general revenue sufficient to provide for essential staff, fixed capital improvements, and other resources to provide classification, security, food services, health services, and other variable expenses within the institutions to accommodate the estimated increase in the inmate population. All actions taken pursuant to this subsection are subject to review and approval by the Legislative Budget Commission. This subsection expires July 1, 2026 <del>2025</del>.

Section 49. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2956 through 3018A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (2) of section 215.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

### 215.18 Transfers between funds; limitation.—

(2) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may receive one or more trust fund loans to ensure that the state court system has funds sufficient to meet its appropriations in the 2025-2026 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act. If the Chief Justice accesses the loan, he or she must notify the Governor and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees in writing. The loan must come from other funds in the State Treasury which are for the time being or otherwise in excess of the amounts necessary to meet the just requirements of such last-mentioned funds. The Governor shall order the transfer of funds within 5 days after the written notification from the Chief Justice. If the Governor does not order the transfer, the Chief Financial Officer shall transfer the requested funds. The loan of funds from which any money is temporarily transferred must be repaid by the end of the 2025-2026 2024-2025 fiscal year. This subsection expires July 1, 2026 2025.

Section 50. <u>In order to implement Specific Appropriations 1051 through 1061 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act:</u>

(1) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall review county juvenile detention payments to ensure that counties fulfill their financial

responsibilities required in s. 985.6865, Florida Statutes. If the Department of Juvenile Justice determines that a county has not met its obligations, the department shall direct the Department of Revenue to deduct the amount owed to the Department of Juvenile Justice from the funds provided to the county under s. 218.23, Florida Statutes. The Department of Revenue shall transfer the funds withheld to the Shared County/State Juvenile Detention Trust Fund.

(2) As an assurance to holders of bonds issued by counties before July 1, 2025, for which distributions made pursuant to s. 218.23, Florida Statutes, are pledged, or bonds issued to refund such bonds which mature no later than the bonds they refunded and which result in a reduction of debt service payable in each fiscal year, the amount available for distribution to a county shall remain as provided by law and continue to be subject to any lien or claim on behalf of the bondholders. The Department of Revenue must ensure, based on information provided by an affected county, that any reduction in amounts distributed pursuant to subsection (1) does not reduce the amount of distribution to a county below the amount necessary for the timely payment of principal and interest when due on the bonds and the amount necessary to comply with any covenant under the bond resolution or other documents relating to the issuance of the bonds. If a reduction to a county's monthly distribution must be decreased in order to comply with this section, the Department of Revenue must notify the Department of Juvenile Justice of the amount of the decrease, and the Department of Juvenile Justice must send a bill for payment of such amount to the affected county.

# (3) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 51. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 733 through 754A, 880 through 1002A, and 1020 through 1050A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 41 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section 27.40, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

27.40 Court-appointed counsel; circuit registries; minimum requirements; appointment by court.—

(1) Counsel shall be appointed to represent any individual in a criminal or civil proceeding entitled to court-appointed counsel under the Federal or State Constitution or as authorized by general law. The court shall appoint a public defender to represent indigent persons as authorized in s. 27.51. The office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel shall be appointed to represent persons in those cases in which provision is made for court-appointed counsel, but only after the public defender has certified to the court in writing that the public defender is unable to provide representation due to a conflict of interest or is not authorized to provide representation. The public defender shall report, in the aggregate, the specific basis of all conflicts of interest certified to the court. On a quarterly basis, the public

defender shall submit this information to the Justice Administrative Commission.

- (2)(a) Private counsel shall be appointed to represent persons in those cases in which provision is made for court-appointed counsel but only after the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel has been appointed and has certified to the court in writing that the criminal conflict and civil regional counsel is unable to provide representation due to a conflict of interest. The criminal conflict and civil regional counsel shall report, in the aggregate, the specific basis of all conflicts of interest certified to the court. On a quarterly basis, the criminal conflict and civil regional counsel shall submit this information to the Justice Administrative Commission.
  - (3) In using a registry:
- (a) The chief judge of the circuit shall compile a list of attorneys in private practice, by county and by category of cases, and provide the list to the clerk of court in each county. The chief judge of the circuit may restrict the number of attorneys on the general registry list. To be included on a registry, an attorney must certify that he or she:
- 1. Meets any minimum requirements established by the chief judge and by general law for court appointment;
- 2. Is available to represent indigent defendants in cases requiring court appointment of private counsel; and
- 3. Is willing to abide by the terms of the contract for services, s. 27.5304, and this section.

To be included on a registry, an attorney must enter into a contract for services with the Justice Administrative Commission. Failure to comply with the terms of the contract for services may result in termination of the contract and removal from the registry. Each attorney on the registry is responsible for notifying the clerk of the court and the Justice Administrative Commission of any change in his or her status. Failure to comply with this requirement is cause for termination of the contract for services and removal from the registry until the requirement is fulfilled.

(5) The Justice Administrative Commission shall approve uniform contract forms for use in procuring the services of private court-appointed counsel and uniform procedures and forms for use by a court-appointed attorney in support of billing for attorney's fees, costs, and related expenses to demonstrate the attorney's completion of specified duties. Such uniform contracts and forms for use in billing must be consistent with s. 27.5304, s. 216.311, and the General Appropriations Act and must contain the following statement: "The State of Florida's performance and obligation to pay under this contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature."

- (6) After court appointment, the attorney must immediately file a notice of appearance with the court indicating acceptance of the appointment to represent the defendant and of the terms of the uniform contract as specified in subsection (5).
- (7)(a) A private attorney appointed by the court from the registry to represent a client is entitled to payment as provided in s. 27.5304 so long as the requirements of subsection (1) and paragraph (2)(a) are met. An attorney appointed by the court who is not on the registry list may be compensated under s. 27.5304 only if the court finds in the order of appointment that there were no registry attorneys available for representation for that case and only if the requirements of subsection (1) and paragraph (2)(a) are met.
- The flat fee established in s. 27.5304 and the General Appropriations Act shall be presumed by the court to be sufficient compensation. The attorney shall maintain appropriate documentation, including contemporaneous and detailed hourly accounting of time spent representing the client. If the attorney fails to maintain such contemporaneous and detailed hourly records, the attorney waives the right to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304 and the General Appropriations Act. These records and documents are subject to review by the Justice Administrative Commission and audit by the Auditor General, subject to the attorney-client privilege and work-product privilege. The attorney shall maintain the records and documents in a manner that enables the attorney to redact any information subject to a privilege in order to facilitate the commission's review of the records and documents and not to impede such review. The attorney may redact information from the records and documents only to the extent necessary to comply with the privilege. The Justice Administrative Commission shall review such records and shall contemporaneously document such review before authorizing payment to an attorney. Objections by or on behalf of the Justice Administrative Commission to records or documents or to claims for payment by the attorney shall be presumed correct by the court unless the court determines, in writing, that competent and substantial evidence exists to justify overcoming the presumption.
- 2. If an attorney fails, refuses, or declines to permit the commission or the Auditor General to review documentation for a case as provided in this paragraph, the attorney waives the right to seek, and the commission may not pay, compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304 and the General Appropriations Act for that case.
- 3. A finding by the commission that an attorney has waived the right to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304 and the General Appropriations Act, as provided in this paragraph, shall be presumed to be correct, unless the court determines, in writing, that competent and substantial evidence exists to justify overcoming the presumption.
- Section 52. The text of s. 27.40(1), (2)(a), (3)(a), (5), (6), and (7), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2019-116, Laws of Florida, by this

act, expires July 1, 2026, and the text of those subsections and paragraphs, as applicable, shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2019, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 53. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 733 through 754A, 880 through 1002A, and 1020 through 1050A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 43 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, subsection (13) of section 27.5304, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (1), (3), (6), (7), and (11), and paragraphs (a) through (e) of subsection (12) of that section are reenacted, to read:

# 27.5304 Private court-appointed counsel; compensation; notice.—

- (1) Private court-appointed counsel appointed in the manner prescribed in s. 27.40(1) and (2)(a) shall be compensated by the Justice Administrative Commission only as provided in this section and the General Appropriations Act. The flat fees prescribed in this section are limitations on compensation. The specific flat fee amounts for compensation shall be established annually in the General Appropriations Act. The attorney also shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses in accordance with s. 29.007. If the attorney is representing a defendant charged with more than one offense in the same case, the attorney shall be compensated at the rate provided for the most serious offense for which he or she represented the defendant. This section does not allow stacking of the fee limits established by this section.
- (3) The court retains primary authority and responsibility for determining the reasonableness of all billings for attorney fees, costs, and related expenses, subject to statutory limitations and the requirements of s. 27.40(7). Private court-appointed counsel is entitled to compensation upon final disposition of a case.
- (6) For compensation for representation pursuant to a court appointment in a proceeding under chapter 39:
- (a) At the trial level, compensation for representation for dependency proceedings shall not exceed \$1,450 for the first year following the date of appointment and shall not exceed \$700 each year thereafter. Compensation shall be paid based upon representation of a parent irrespective of the number of case numbers that may be assigned or the number of children involved, including any children born during the pendency of the proceeding. Any appeal, except for an appeal from an adjudication of dependency, shall be completed by the trial attorney and is considered compensated by the flat fee for dependency proceedings.
- 1. Counsel may bill the flat fee not exceeding \$1,450 following disposition or upon dismissal of the petition.

- 2. Counsel may bill the annual flat fee not exceeding \$700 following the first judicial review in the second year following the date of appointment and each year thereafter as long as the case remains under protective supervision.
- 3. If the court grants a motion to reactivate protective supervision, the attorney shall receive the annual flat fee not exceeding \$700 following the first judicial review and up to an additional \$700 each year thereafter.
- 4. If, during the course of dependency proceedings, a proceeding to terminate parental rights is initiated, compensation shall be as set forth in paragraph (b). If counsel handling the dependency proceeding is not authorized to handle proceedings to terminate parental rights, the counsel must withdraw and new counsel must be appointed.
- (b) At the trial level, compensation for representation in termination of parental rights proceedings shall not exceed \$1,800 for the first year following the date of appointment and shall not exceed \$700 each year thereafter. Compensation shall be paid based upon representation of a parent irrespective of the number of case numbers that may be assigned or the number of children involved, including any children born during the pendency of the proceeding. Any appeal, except for an appeal from an order granting or denying termination of parental rights, shall be completed by trial counsel and is considered compensated by the flat fee for termination of parental rights proceedings. If the individual has dependency proceedings ongoing as to other children, those proceedings are considered part of the termination of parental rights proceedings as long as that termination of parental rights proceeding is ongoing.
- 1. Counsel may bill the flat fee not exceeding \$1,800 30 days after rendition of the final order. Each request for payment submitted to the Justice Administrative Commission must include the trial counsel's certification that:
- a. Counsel discussed grounds for appeal with the parent or that counsel attempted and was unable to contact the parent; and
- b. No appeal will be filed or that a notice of appeal and a motion for appointment of appellate counsel, containing the signature of the parent, have been filed.
- 2. Counsel may bill the annual flat fee not exceeding \$700 following the first judicial review in the second year after the date of appointment and each year thereafter as long as the termination of parental rights proceedings are still ongoing.
- (c) For appeals from an adjudication of dependency, compensation may not exceed \$1,800.
- 1. Counsel may bill a flat fee not exceeding \$1,200 upon filing the initial brief or the granting of a motion to withdraw.

- 2. If a brief is filed, counsel may bill an additional flat fee not exceeding \$600 upon rendition of the mandate.
- (d) For an appeal from an adjudication of termination of parental rights, compensation may not exceed \$3,500.
- 1. Counsel may bill a flat fee not exceeding \$1,750 upon filing the initial brief or the granting of a motion to withdraw.
- 2. If a brief is filed, counsel may bill an additional flat fee not exceeding \$1,750 upon rendition of the mandate.
- (7) Counsel eligible to receive compensation from the state for representation pursuant to court appointment made in accordance with the requirements of s. 27.40(1) and (2)(a) in a proceeding under chapter 384, chapter 390, chapter 392, chapter 393, chapter 394, chapter 397, chapter 415, chapter 743, chapter 744, or chapter 984 shall receive compensation not to exceed the limits prescribed in the General Appropriations Act. Any such compensation must be determined as provided in s. 27.40(7).
- (11) It is the intent of the Legislature that the flat fees prescribed under this section and the General Appropriations Act comprise the full and complete compensation for private court-appointed counsel. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the fees in this section are prescribed for the purpose of providing counsel with notice of the limit on the amount of compensation for representation in particular proceedings and the sole procedure and requirements for obtaining payment for the same.
- (a) If court-appointed counsel moves to withdraw prior to the full performance of his or her duties through the completion of the case, the court shall presume that the attorney is not entitled to the payment of the full flat fee established under this section and the General Appropriations Act.
- (b) If court-appointed counsel is allowed to withdraw from representation prior to the full performance of his or her duties through the completion of the case and the court appoints a subsequent attorney, the total compensation for the initial and any and all subsequent attorneys may not exceed the flat fee established under this section and the General Appropriations Act, except as provided in subsection (12).

This subsection constitutes notice to any subsequently appointed attorney that he or she will not be compensated the full flat fee.

- (12) The Legislature recognizes that on rare occasions an attorney may receive a case that requires extraordinary and unusual effort.
- (a) If counsel seeks compensation that exceeds the limits prescribed by law, he or she must file a motion with the chief judge for an order approving payment of attorney fees in excess of these limits.

- 1. Before filing the motion, the counsel shall deliver a copy of the intended billing, together with supporting affidavits and all other necessary documentation, to the Justice Administrative Commission.
- 2. The Justice Administrative Commission shall review the billings, affidavit, and documentation for completeness and compliance with contractual and statutory requirements and shall contemporaneously document such review before authorizing payment to an attorney. If the Justice Administrative Commission objects to any portion of the proposed billing, the objection and supporting reasons must be communicated in writing to the private court-appointed counsel. The counsel may thereafter file his or her motion, which must specify whether the commission objects to any portion of the billing or the sufficiency of documentation, and shall attach the commission's letter stating its objection.
- (b) Following receipt of the motion to exceed the fee limits, the chief judge or a single designee shall hold an evidentiary hearing. The chief judge may select only one judge per circuit to hear and determine motions pursuant to this subsection, except multicounty circuits and the eleventh circuit may have up to two designees.
- 1. At the hearing, the attorney seeking compensation must prove by competent and substantial evidence that the case required extraordinary and unusual efforts. The chief judge or single designee shall consider criteria such as the number of witnesses, the complexity of the factual and legal issues, and the length of trial. The fact that a trial was conducted in a case does not, by itself, constitute competent substantial evidence of an extraordinary and unusual effort. In a criminal case, relief under this section may not be granted if the number of work hours does not exceed 75 or the number of the state's witnesses deposed does not exceed 20.
- 2. Objections by or on behalf of the Justice Administrative Commission to records or documents or to claims for payment by the attorney shall be presumed correct by the court unless the court determines, in writing, that competent and substantial evidence exists to justify overcoming the presumption. The chief judge or single designee shall enter a written order detailing his or her findings and identifying the extraordinary nature of the time and efforts of the attorney in the case which warrant exceeding the flat fee established by this section and the General Appropriations Act.
- (c) A copy of the motion and attachments shall be served on the Justice Administrative Commission at least 20 business days before the date of a hearing. The Justice Administrative Commission has standing to appear before the court, and may appear in person or telephonically, including at the hearing under paragraph (b), to contest any motion for an order approving payment of attorney fees, costs, or related expenses and may participate in a hearing on the motion by use of telephonic or other communication equipment. The Justice Administrative Commission may contract with other public or private entities or individuals to appear before the court for the purpose of contesting any motion for an order approving

payment of attorney fees, costs, or related expenses. The fact that the Justice Administrative Commission has not objected to any portion of the billing or to the sufficiency of the documentation is not binding on the court.

- (d) If the chief judge or a single designee finds that counsel has proved by competent and substantial evidence that the case required extraordinary and unusual efforts, the chief judge or single designee shall order the compensation to be paid to the attorney at a percentage above the flat fee rate, depending on the extent of the unusual and extraordinary effort required. The percentage must be only the rate necessary to ensure that the fees paid are not confiscatory under common law. The percentage may not exceed 200 percent of the established flat fee, absent a specific finding that 200 percent of the flat fee in the case would be confiscatory. If the chief judge or single designee determines that 200 percent of the flat fee would be confiscatory, he or she shall order the amount of compensation using an hourly rate not to exceed \$75 per hour for a noncapital case and \$100 per hour for a capital case. However, the compensation calculated by using the hourly rate shall be only that amount necessary to ensure that the total fees paid are not confiscatory, subject to the requirements of s. 27.40(7).
- (e) Any order granting relief under this subsection must be attached to the final request for a payment submitted to the Justice Administrative Commission and must satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (b)2.
- (13) Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in subsection (5) and for the  $\underline{2025-2026}$   $\underline{2024-2025}$  fiscal year only, the compensation for representation in a criminal proceeding may not exceed the following:
- (a) For misdemeanors and juveniles represented at the trial level: \$2,000.
- (b) For noncapital, nonlife felonies represented at the trial level: \$15,000.
  - (c) For life felonies represented at the trial level: \$15,000.
- (d) For capital cases represented at the trial level: \$25,000. For purposes of this paragraph, a "capital case" is any offense for which the potential sentence is death and the state has not waived seeking the death penalty.
  - (e) For representation on appeal: \$9,000.
  - (f) This subsection expires July 1, <u>2026</u> <del>2025</del>.
- Section 54. The text of s. 27.5304(1), (3), (7), (11), and (12)(a)-(e), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2019-116, Laws of Florida, and the text of s. 27.5304(6), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2023-240, Laws of Florida, by this act, expire July 1, 2026, and the text of those subsections and paragraphs, as applicable, shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2019, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that

such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 55. In order to implement section 132 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (f) of subsection (7) of section 934.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 934.50 Searches and seizure using a drone.—
- (7) SECURITY STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY DRONE USE.—
  - (f) Notwithstanding this subsection:
- 1. Subject to appropriation, the drone replacement grant program is created within the Department of Law Enforcement. The program shall provide funds to law enforcement agencies, fire service providers, ambulance crews, or other first responders that turn in drones that are not in compliance with this section or that apply for funding to acquire new drones that comply with this section. To be eligible for replacement, the drone must have not reached its end of life and must still be in working condition. To be eligible to acquire a new drone, the applicant must provide the department with any information the department deems necessary. Funds shall be provided per drone based upon the drone's replacement costs. Grant funds may only be used to purchase drones that are in compliance with this section. The Department of Law Enforcement shall expeditiously develop an application process based on grant type, and funds shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the date the department receives the application. For applications received on the same day, the department shall prioritize applicants located in rural counties and applicants which have not received funding under the program. The department may adopt rules to implement this program. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in this section.
- 2. The Department of Law Enforcement shall provide the first two functional drones of each unique make and model received through the drone grant replacement program to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity within the University of South Florida. The Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall analyze each drone received from the Department of Law Enforcement to determine whether the drones presented a cybersecurity concern during its time of use and shall provide a report of its findings and a list of any specific security vulnerabilities found in the drone to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The center must return any drone received through the drone replacement grant program to the Department of Law Enforcement for destruction pursuant to subparagraph 3., following the completion of the cybersecurity analysis.

- 3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall ensure the destruction of all drones received through the drone replacement grant program after ensuring that the first two functional drones of each unique make and model received have been transmitted to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity for analysis. The Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall return to the department for destruction any duplicate model drones in their possession which were previously transmitted to the center, and which are not being retained for analysis.
- 4. From the funds appropriated to the drone replacement grant program, the Department of Law Enforcement:
- a. May expend funds to directly cause, or contract for, the secure destruction of all drones received under the program during fiscal years 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 which are not being retained for analysis or retained by the department following a completed analysis.
- b. Must provide to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity \$25,000 to cover the center's expenses associated with the analysis, transport, secure storage, reporting, and other related costs necessary to comply with the requirements of this subsection.
- c. May increase the awards previously provided in fiscal year  $\underline{2024-2025}$   $\underline{2023-2024}$ , which were based on the drone's value, to award the value to reflect the drone's replacement cost.
- 5. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under s. 120.54(4) for the purpose of implementing the drone replacement grant program. Notwithstanding any other law, emergency rules adopted under this section are effective for 12 months after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules.

This paragraph expires July 1, 2026 2025.

Section 56. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 1188B through 1188G of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (3) of section 908.1033, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

908.1033 Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program.—

(3)(a) A local law enforcement agency may apply to the State Board of Immigration Enforcement to provide bonus payments for the agency's local law enforcement officers who participate in United States Department of Homeland Security at-large task force operations. The local law enforcement agency may apply for a bonus of up to \$1,000 for each local law enforcement officer employed within that agency. The local law enforcement agency must certify to the board that the local law enforcement officer participated in one or more operations and provide any information required by the board.

Eligible participation does not include operations occurring solely at state correctional facilities or county detention facilities.

- (b) The bonus payment shall be adjusted to include 7.65 percent for the officers' share of Federal Insurance Contribution Act tax on the bonus.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), and for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, a local law enforcement agency may apply to the State Board of Immigration Enforcement to provide bonus payments for the agency's certified correctional officers under s. 943.10(2), who are a warrant service officer under 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. s. 1357 or an immigration officer under the jail enforcement model under 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. s. 1357. The local law enforcement agency may apply for a bonus of up to \$1,000 for each certified correctional officer employed with that county detention facility. The local law enforcement agency must certify to the board that the certified correctional officer acted in such capacity as a warrant service officer or an immigration officer under the jail enforcement model for at least 6 months preceding the application and provide any information required by the board. Eligible participation does not include operations occurring solely at state correctional facilities. This paragraph expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 57. In order to implement appropriations used to pay existing lease contracts for private lease space in excess of 2,000 square feet in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Management Services, with the cooperation of the agencies having the existing lease contracts for office or storage space, shall use tenant broker services to renegotiate or reprocure all private lease agreements for office or storage space which are expiring between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2028, in order to reduce costs in future years. The department shall incorporate this initiative into its 2025 master leasing report required under s. 255.249(7), Florida Statutes, and may use tenant broker services to explore the possibilities of collocating office or storage space, to review the space needs of each agency, and to review the length and terms of potential renewals or renegotiations. The department shall provide a report to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2025, which lists each lease contract for private office or storage space, the status of renegotiations, and the savings achieved. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 58. In order to implement appropriations authorized in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for data center services, and notwith-standing s. 216.292(2)(a), Florida Statutes, an agency may not transfer funds from a data processing category to a category other than another data processing category or a cloud computing category for information technology resources hosted outside an agency. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 59. In order to implement the appropriation of funds in the appropriation category "Special Categories-Risk Management Insurance" in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and pursuant to the notice,

review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may transfer funds appropriated in that category between departments in order to align the budget authority granted with the premiums paid by each department for risk management insurance. This section expires July 1, 2026.

- Section 60. In order to implement the appropriation of funds in the appropriation category "Special Categories-Transfer to Department of Management Services-Human Resources Services Purchased per Statewide Contract" in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and pursuant to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may transfer funds appropriated in that category between departments in order to align the budget authority granted with the assessments that must be paid by each agency to the Department of Management Services for human resource management services. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 61. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2602 in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act in the Building Relocation appropriation category from the Architects Incidental Trust Fund of the Department of Management Services, and in accordance with s. 215.196, Florida Statutes:
- (1) Upon the final disposition of a state-owned building, the Department of Management Services may use up to 5 percent of facility disposition funds from the Architects Incidental Trust Fund to defer, offset, or otherwise pay for all or a portion of relocation expenses, including furniture, fixtures, and equipment for state agencies impacted by the disposition of the department's managed facilities in the Florida Facilities Pool. The extent of the financial assistance provided to impacted state agencies shall be determined by the department.
- (2) The Department of Management Services may submit budget amendments for an increase in appropriation if necessary for the implementation of this section pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. Budget amendments for an increase in appropriation shall include a detailed plan providing all estimated costs and relocation proposals.
  - (3) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 62. Effective upon this act becoming a law, and in order to implement the appropriation of funds in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding part I of chapter 287, Florida Statutes, in order to ensure continued operations, all agencies as defined in s. 287.012(1), Florida Statutes, may continue to purchase, subject to appropriation, the current productivity and cybersecurity tools and services from a qualified provider under the state master agreement. The Department of Management Services shall ensure that the state master agreement for the current tools and services remains active and available for agencies to use when negotiating enterprise agreements. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 63. <u>In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2217 through 2220B of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act:</u>

Ch. 2025-199

- (1) The Department of Financial Services shall replace the four main components of the Florida Accounting Information Resource Subsystem (FLAIR), which include central FLAIR, departmental FLAIR, payroll, and information warehouse, and shall replace the cash management and accounting management components of the Cash Management Subsystem (CMS) with an integrated enterprise system that allows the state to organize, define, and standardize its financial management business processes and that complies with ss. 215.90-215.96, Florida Statutes. The department may not include in the replacement of FLAIR and CMS:
- (a) Functionality that duplicates any of the other information subsystems of the Florida Financial Management Information System; or
- (b) Agency business processes related to any of the functions included in the Personnel Information System, the Purchasing Subsystem, or the Legislative Appropriations System/Planning and Budgeting Subsystem.
- (2) For purposes of replacing FLAIR and CMS, the Department of Financial Services shall:
- (a) Take into consideration the cost and implementation data identified for Option 3 as recommended in the March 31, 2014, Florida Department of Financial Services FLAIR Study, version 031.
- (b) Ensure that all business requirements and technical specifications have been provided to all state agencies for their review and input and approved by the executive steering committee established in paragraph (c), including any updates to these documents.
- (c) Implement a project governance structure that includes an executive steering committee composed of:
  - 1. The Chief Financial Officer or the executive sponsor of the project.
- 2. A representative of the Division of Treasury of the Department of Financial Services, appointed by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 3. The Chief Information Officers of the Department of Financial Services and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 4. Two employees from the Division of Accounting and Auditing of the Department of Financial Services, appointed by the Chief Financial Officer. Each employee must have experience relating to at least one of the four main components that compose FLAIR.
- 5. Two employees from the Executive Office of the Governor, appointed by the Governor. One employee must have experience relating to the Legislative Appropriations System/Planning and Budgeting Subsystem.

- 6. One employee from the Department of Revenue, appointed by the executive director, who has experience using or maintaining the department's finance and accounting systems.
- 7. Two employees from the Department of Management Services, appointed by the Secretary of Management Services. One employee must have experience relating to the department's personnel information subsystem and one employee must have experience relating to the department's purchasing subsystem.
- 8. A state agency administrative services director, appointed by the Governor.
- 9. The executive sponsor of the Florida Health Care Connection (FX) System or his or her designee, appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 10. The State Chief Information Officer, or his or her designee, as a nonvoting member. The State Chief Information Officer, or his or her designee, shall provide monthly status reports to the executive steering committee pursuant to the oversight responsibilities in s. 282.0051, Florida Statutes.
- 11. One employee from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation who has experience in finance and accounting and FLAIR, appointed by the Secretary of Business and Professional Regulation.
- 12. One employee from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission who has experience using or maintaining the commission's finance and accounting systems, appointed by the Chair of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 13. The budget director of the Department of Education, or his or her designee.
- (3)(a) The Chief Financial Officer or the executive sponsor of the project shall serve as chair of the executive steering committee, and the committee shall take action by a vote of at least eight affirmative votes with the Chief Financial Officer or the executive sponsor of the project voting on the prevailing side. A quorum of the executive steering committee composed of at least 10 members.
- (b) No later than 14 days before a meeting of the executive steering committee, the chair shall request input from committee members on agenda items for the next scheduled meeting.
- (c) The chair shall establish a working group composed of FLAIR users, state agency technical staff who maintain applications that integrate with FLAIR, and no less than four state agency finance and accounting or budget directors. The working group shall meet at least monthly to review PALM functionality, assess project impacts to state financial business processes

and agency staff, and develop recommendations to the executive steering committee for improvements. The chair shall request input from the working group on agenda items for each scheduled meeting. The PALM project team shall dedicate a staff member to the group and provide system demonstrations and any project documentation, as needed, for the group to fulfill its duties.

- (d) The chair shall request all agency project sponsors to provide bimonthly status reports to the executive steering committee. The form and format of the bimonthly status reports shall be developed by the Florida PALM project and provided to the executive steering committee meeting for approval. Such agency status reports shall provide information to the executive steering committee on the activities and ongoing work within the agency to prepare their systems and impacted employees for the deployment of the Florida PALM System. The first bimonthly status report is due September 1, 2025, and bimonthly thereafter.
- (4) The executive steering committee has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the project to replace FLAIR and CMS meets its primary business objectives and shall:
- (a) Identify and recommend to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives any statutory changes needed to implement the replacement subsystem that will standardize, to the fullest extent possible, the state's financial management business processes.
- (b) Review and approve any changes to the project's scope, schedule, and budget which do not conflict with the requirements of subsection (1).
- (c) Ensure that adequate resources are provided throughout all phases of the project.
- (d) Approve all major project deliverables and any cost changes to each deliverable over \$250,000.
- (e) Approve contract amendments and changes to all contract-related documents associated with the replacement of FLAIR and CMS.
- (f) Review, and approve as warranted, the format of the bimonthly agency status reports to include objective and quantifiable information on each agency's progress in planning for the Florida PALM Major Implementation, covering the agency's people, processes, technology, and data transformation activities.
- (g) Ensure compliance with ss. 216.181(16), 216.311, 216.313, 282.318(4)(h), and 287.058, Florida Statutes.
  - (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 64. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2698 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 53 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, subsection (3) of section 282.709, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

282.709  $\,$  State agency law enforcement radio system and interoperability network.—

- (3) In recognition of the critical nature of the statewide law enforcement radio communications system, the Legislature finds that there is an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare, and that it is in the best interest of the state to continue partnering with the system's current operator. The Legislature finds that continuity of coverage is critical to supporting law enforcement, first responders, and other public safety users. The potential for a loss in coverage or a lack of interoperability between users requires emergency action and is a serious concern for officers' safety and their ability to communicate and respond to various disasters and events.
- (a) The department, pursuant to s. 287.057(11), shall enter into a 15-year contract with the entity that was operating the statewide radio communications system on January 1, 2021. The contract must include:
  - 1. The purchase of radios;
  - 2. The upgrade to the Project 25 communications standard;
  - 3. Increased system capacity and enhanced coverage for system users;
  - 4. Operations, maintenance, and support at a fixed annual rate;
  - 5. The conveyance of communications towers to the department; and
  - 6. The assignment of communications tower leases to the department.
- (b) The State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund is established in the department and funded from surcharges collected under ss. 318.18, 320.0802, and 328.72. Upon appropriation, moneys in the trust fund may be used by the department to acquire the equipment, software, and engineering, administrative, and maintenance services it needs to construct, operate, and maintain the statewide radio system. Moneys in the trust fund from surcharges shall be used to help fund the costs of the system. Upon completion of the system, moneys in the trust fund may also be used by the department for payment of the recurring maintenance costs of the system.
- Section 65. The text of s. 282.709(3), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2021-37, Laws of Florida, by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that subsection, shall revert to that in existence on June 1, 2021, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act, shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such

amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 66. In order to implement appropriations relating to the purchase of equipment and services related to the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) as authorized in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding s. 287.057, Florida Statutes, state agencies and other eligible users of the SLERS network may use the Department of Management Services SLERS contract for purchase of equipment and services. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 67. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2616 through 2626 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding rule 60A-1.031, Florida Administrative Code, the transaction fee as identified in s. 287.057(24)(c), Florida Statutes, shall be collected for use of the online procurement system and is 0.7 percent for the 2025-2026 fiscal year only. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 68. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2542 through 2564 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and upon the expiration and reversion of the amendments made by section 57 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, paragraph (i) of subsection (9) of section 24.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 24.105 Powers and duties of department.—The department shall:
- (9) Adopt rules governing the establishment and operation of the state lottery, including:
- (i) The manner and amount of compensation of retailers, except for the 2025-2026 fiscal year only, effective July 1, 2025, the commission for lottery ticket sales shall be 6 percent of the purchase price of each ticket sold or issued as a prize by a retailer. Any additional retailer compensation is limited to the Florida Lottery Retailer Bonus Commission program appropriated in Specific Appropriation 2561 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act.
- Section 69. The amendment to s. 24.105(9)(i), Florida Statutes, made by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2023, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.
- Section 70. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2733 through 2740A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (ll) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.—
  - (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION.—

- (ll)1. In addition to any other method of alternative dispute resolution authorized by state law, the corporation may adopt policy forms that provide for the resolution of disputes regarding its claim determinations, including disputes regarding coverage for, or the scope and value of, a claim, in a proceeding before the Division of Administrative Hearings. Any such policies are not subject to s. 627.70154. All proceedings in the Division of Administrative Hearings pursuant to such policies are subject to ss. 57.105 and 768.79 as if filed in the courts of this state and are not considered chapter 120 administrative proceedings. Rule 1.442, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, applies to any offer served pursuant to s. 768.79, except that, notwithstanding any provision in Rule 1.442, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, to the contrary, an offer shall not be served earlier than 10 days after filing the request for hearing with the Division of Administrative Hearings and shall not be served later than 10 days before the date set for the final hearing. The administrative law judge in such proceedings shall award attorney fees and other relief pursuant to ss. 57.105 and 768.79. The corporation may not seek, and the office may not approve, a maximum hourly rate for attorney fees.
- 2. The corporation may contract with the division to conduct proceedings to resolve disputes regarding its claim determinations as may be provided for in the applicable policies of insurance. This subparagraph expires July 1,  $2026 \ 2025$ .
- Section 71. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2193 through 2199A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding s. 112.215(6), Florida Statutes, which limits the contributions to the state deferred compensation plan to tax-deferred compensation, the Division of Treasury within the Department of Financial Services is authorized and approved, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year only, to allow employee contributions into the state deferred compensation plan on an after-tax basis under a qualified program pursuant to section 402A of the Internal Revenue Code. Such employee contributions may be made by only those employees who made similar contributions prior to July 1, 2025. The division shall submit to the Legislature by December 1, 2025, a plan to transition any after-tax contributions and earnings thereon out of the state deferred compensation plan. The division must implement such plan the day after sine die of the 2026 Regular Session unless the Legislature enacts during the 2026 Regular Session a law authorizing and approving such after-tax contributions on a permanent basis. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 72. Effective upon this act becoming law, and in order to implement Specific Appropriations 2665 through 2671A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the proviso language for Specific Appropriation 2966 in chapter 2023-239, Laws of Florida, subsection (2) of section 110.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 110.116 Personnel information system; payroll procedures.—

- (2)(a) The department shall contract with an independent software quality assurance and testing provider to work with all stakeholders to:
- 1. Conduct a comprehensive business process analysis to document current workflows, identify inefficiencies, and develop recommendations to streamline business processes to improve service delivery, reduce redundancy, and enhance operational efficiency.
- 2. Develop detailed current and future state business, functional, and technical requirements, including, but not limited to:
  - a. System capabilities and user requirements;
  - b. Security, accessibility, and compliance standards;
  - c. Data migration and conversion requirements;
- d. Integration points with existing enterprise systems and third-party applications; and
  - e. Verifiable acceptance criteria for each requirement.
- 3. Conduct a complete system integration assessment to identify dependencies, interoperability challenges, and strategies for seamless data exchange.
- 4. Deliver a streamlined transparent process to track, test, and update all system requirements.
- 5. Submit a report detailing these requirements, process improvements, and any related statutory change recommendations to the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the chair of the House Budget Committee, and the Executive Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget by June 30, 2026. In recognition of the critical nature of the statewide personnel and payroll system commonly known as People First, the Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the state to continue partnering with the current People First third-party operator. The People First System annually processes 500,000 employment applications, 455,000 personnel actions, and the state's \$9.5-billion payroll. The Legislature finds that the continuity of operations of the People First System and the critical functions it provides such as payroll, employee health insurance benefit records, and other critical services must not be interrupted. Presently, the Chief Financial Officer is undertaking the development of a new statewide accounting and financial management system, commonly known as the Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) system, scheduled to be operational in the year 2026. The procurement and implementation of an entire replacement of the People First System will impede the timeframe needed to successfully integrate the state's payroll system with the PALM System. In order to maintain continuity of operations and to ensure the successful completion of the PALM System, the Legislature directs that:

- (a) The department, pursuant to s. 287.057(11), shall enter into a 3-year contract extension with the entity operating the People First System by on January 1, 2024. The contract extension must:
- 1. Provide for the integration of the current People First System with PALM.
- 2. Exclude major functionality updates or changes to the People First System prior to completion of the PALM System. This does not include:
- a. Routine system maintenance such as code updates following open enrollment; or
- b. The technical remediation necessary to integrate the system with PALM within the PALM project's planned implementation schedule.
  - 3. Include project planning and analysis deliverables necessary to:
  - a. Detail and document the state's functional requirements.
- b. Estimate the cost of transitioning the current People First System to a cloud computing infrastructure within the contract extension and after the successful integration with PALM. The project cost evaluation shall estimate the annual cost and capacity growth required to host the system in a cloud environment.

The department shall develop these system specifications in conjunction with the Department of Financial Services and the Auditor General.

- 4. Include technical support for state agencies that may need assistance in remediating or integrating current financial shadow systems with People First in order to integrate with PALM or the cloud version of People First.
- 5. Include organizational change management and training deliverables needed to support the implementation of PALM payroll functionality and the People First System cloud upgrade. Responsibilities of the operator and the department shall be outlined in a project role and responsibility assignment chart within the contract.
  - 6. Include an option to renew the contract for one additional year.
- (b) The department shall submit, no later than June 30, 2026, its project planning and detailed cost estimate to upgrade the current People First System to the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the chair of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, and the Executive Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, for preliminary review and consideration of funding the department's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 legislative budget request to update the system.
  - (b)(c) This subsection expires July 1, 2026 2025.

Section 73. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2139 through 2141 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 215.5586, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 215.5586 My Safe Florida Home Program.—There is established within the Department of Financial Services the My Safe Florida Home Program. The department shall provide fiscal accountability, contract management, and strategic leadership for the program, consistent with this section. This section does not create an entitlement for property owners or obligate the state in any way to fund the inspection or retrofitting of residential property in this state. Implementation of this program is subject to annual legislative appropriations. It is the intent of the Legislature that, subject to the availability of funds, the My Safe Florida Home Program provide licensed inspectors to perform hurricane mitigation inspections of eligible homes and grants to fund hurricane mitigation projects on those homes. The department shall implement the program in such a manner that the total amount of funding requested by accepted applications, whether for inspections, grants, or other services or assistance, does not exceed the total amount of available funds. If, after applications are processed and approved, funds remain available, the department may accept applications up to the available amount. The program shall develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach for hurricane damage mitigation pursuant to the requirements provided in this section.
- (2) HURRICANE MITIGATION GRANTS.—Financial grants shall be used by homeowners to make improvements recommended by an inspection which increase resistance to hurricane damage.
- (a) A homeowner is eligible for a hurricane mitigation grant if all of the following criteria are met:
  - 1. The home must be eligible for an inspection under subsection (1).
- 2. The home must be a dwelling with an insured value of \$700,000 or less. Homeowners who are low-income persons, as defined in s. 420.0004(11), are exempt from this requirement.
- 3. The home must undergo an acceptable hurricane mitigation inspection as provided in subsection (1).
- 4. The building permit application for initial construction of the home must have been made before January 1, 2008.
- 5. The homeowner must agree to make his or her home available for inspection once a mitigation project is completed.
- 6. The homeowner must agree to provide to the department information received from the homeowner's insurer identifying the discounts realized by the homeowner because of the mitigation improvements funded through the program.

- 7.a. The homeowner must be a low-income person or moderate-income person as defined in s. 420.0004.
- b. The hurricane mitigation inspection must have occurred within the previous 24 months from the date of application.
- c. Notwithstanding subparagraph 2., homeowners who are low-income persons, as defined in s. 420.0004(11), are not exempt from the requirement that the home must be a dwelling with an insured value of \$700,000 or less.
  - d. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 74. Effective upon this act becoming a law, in order to implement Specific Appropriation 2245A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, the funds appropriated to the Department of Financial Services in Specific Appropriation 2489A or section 179 of the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act will not revert and may be carried forward through the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 75. In order to implement the appropriation of funds in the appropriation category "Northwest Regional Data Center" in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and pursuant to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may transfer funds appropriated in that category between departments in order to align the budget authority granted based on the estimated costs for data processing services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 76. In order to implement appropriations authorized in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for state data center services, auxiliary assessments charged to state agencies related to contract management services provided to Northwest Regional Data Center may not exceed 3 percent. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 77. In order to implement section 189 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, section 284.51, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:
- 284.51 Electroencephalogram combined transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment pilot program.—
  - (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Division" means the Division of Risk Management of the Department of Financial Services.
- (b) "Electroencephalogram combined Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation" or "eTMS" means treatment in which transcranial magnetic stimulation frequency pulses are tuned to the patient's physiology and biometric data.

- (c) "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a part-time law enforcement officer, or an auxiliary law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a firefighter as defined in s. 633.102, a 911 public safety telecommunicator as defined in s. 401.465, or an emergency medical technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 employed by state or local government. The term also includes a volunteer or retired law enforcement officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician or paramedic engaged, or previously engaged, by the state or a local government has the same meaning as provided in s. 112.1815(1).
  - (d) "Veteran" means:
  - 1. A veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. s. 101(2);
- 2. A person who served in a reserve component as defined in 38 U.S.C. s. 101(27); or
  - 3. A person who served in the National Guard of any state.
- (2) The division shall select a provider to establish a statewide pilot program to make eTMS available for veterans, first responders, and immediate family members of veterans and first responders with:
  - (a) Substance use disorders.
  - (b) Mental illness.
  - (c) Sleep disorders.
  - (d) Traumatic brain injuries.
  - (e) Sexual trauma.
  - (f) Posttraumatic stress disorder and accompanying comorbidities.
  - (g) Concussions.
  - (h) Other brain trauma.
- (i) Quality of life issues affecting human performance, including issues related to or resulting from problems with cognition and problems maintaining attention, concentration, or focus.
- (3) The provider must display a history of serving veteran and first responder populations at a statewide level. The provider shall establish a network for in-person and offsite care with the goal of providing statewide access. Consideration shall be provided to locations with a large population of first responders and veterans. In addition to traditional eTMS devices, the provider may utilize nonmedical Portable Magnetic Stimulation devices to improve access to underserved populations in remote areas or to be used to serve as a pre-post treatment or a stand-alone device. The provider shall be

required to establish and operate a clinical practice and to evaluate outcomes of such clinical practice.

- (4) The pilot program shall include:
- (a) The establishment of a peer-to-peer support network by the provider made available to all individuals receiving treatment under the program.
- (b) The requirement that each individual who receives treatment under the program also must receive neurophysiological monitoring, monitoring for symptoms of substance use and other mental health disorders, and access to counseling and wellness programming. Each individual who receives treatment must also participate in the peer-to-peer support network established by the provider.
- (c) The establishment of protocols which include the use of adopted stimulation frequency and intensity modulation based on EEGs done on days 0, 10, and 20 and motor threshold testing, as well as clinical symptoms, signs, and biometrics.
- (d) The requirement that protocols and outcomes of any treatment provided by the clinical practice shall be collected and reported by the provider quarterly to the division, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Such report shall include the biodata metrics and all expenditures and accounting of the use of funds received from the department.
- (e) The requirement that protocols and outcomes of any treatment provided by the clinical practice shall be collected and reported to the University of South Florida and may be provided by the provider to any relevant Food and Drug Administration studies or trials.
  - (5) The division may adopt rules to implement this section.
  - (6) This section expires July 1, 2026 2025.
- Section 78. In order to implement section 189 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Financial Services shall renew, for a period of 2 years, its existing contract for the establishment of the Electroencephalogram Combined Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment pilot program for veterans and first responders. The department's existing contract, and all funds paid by the department pursuant to that contract, do not constitute state financial assistance as provided in s. 215.97, Florida Statutes. At the time of contract renewal, the department shall amend the existing contract, as needed, to clarify that funds paid pursuant to the contract do not constitute state financial assistance. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 79. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2849 through 2862 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the deadline in chapter 2024-231, Laws of Florida, for submission of the

economic data necessary to review the child support guidelines, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall submit a final report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2025. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 80. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1456 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority to support the National School Lunch Program. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 81. In order to implement specific appropriations from the land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which are contained in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (3) of section 215.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

### 215.18 Transfers between funds; limitation.—

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) and only with respect to a land acquisition trust fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, whenever there is a deficiency in a land acquisition trust fund which would render that trust fund temporarily insufficient to meet its just requirements, including the timely payment of appropriations from that trust fund, and other trust funds in the State Treasury have moneys that are for the time being or otherwise in excess of the amounts necessary to meet the just requirements, including appropriated obligations, of those other trust funds, the Governor may order a temporary transfer of moneys from one or more of the other trust funds to a land acquisition trust fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Any action proposed pursuant to this subsection is subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, and the Governor shall provide notice of such action at least 7 days before the effective date of the transfer of trust funds, except that during July 2025 2024, notice of such action shall be provided at least 3 days before the effective date of a transfer unless such 3day notice is waived by the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission. Any transfer of trust funds to a land acquisition trust fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission must be repaid to the trust funds from which the moneys were loaned by the end of the 2025-2026 2024-2025 fiscal year. The Legislature has determined that the repayment of the other trust fund moneys temporarily loaned to a land acquisition trust fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission pursuant to this subsection is an allowable use of the moneys in a land acquisition trust fund because the moneys from other trust funds temporarily loaned to a land acquisition trust fund shall be expended solely and exclusively in accordance with s. 28, Art. X of the State Constitution. This subsection expires July 1, 2026 2025.

- Section 82. (1) In order to implement specific appropriations from the land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission which are contained in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Environmental Protection shall transfer revenues from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the department to the land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as provided in this section. As used in this section, the term "department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.
- (2) After subtracting any required debt service payments, the proportionate share of revenues to be transferred to each land acquisition trust fund shall be calculated by dividing the appropriations from each of the land acquisition trust funds for the fiscal year by the total appropriations from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the department and the land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the fiscal year. The department shall transfer the proportionate share of the revenues in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the department on a monthly basis to the appropriate land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and shall retain its proportionate share of the revenues in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the department. Total distributions to a land acquisition trust fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may not exceed the total appropriations from such trust fund for the fiscal year.
- (3) In addition, the department shall transfer from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to land acquisition trust funds within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission amounts equal to the difference between the amounts appropriated in chapter 2024-231, Laws of Florida, to the department's Land Acquisition Trust Fund and the other land acquisition trust funds, and the amounts actually transferred between those trust funds during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- (4) The department may advance funds from the beginning unobligated fund balance in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission needed

for cash flow purposes based on a detailed expenditure plan. The department shall prorate amounts transferred quarterly to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to recoup the amount of funds advanced by June 30, 2026.

# (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 83. In order to implement specific appropriations from the Florida Forever Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection, which are contained in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (m) of subsection (3) of section 259.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

#### 259.105 The Florida Forever Act.—

- (3) Less the costs of issuing and the costs of funding reserve accounts and other costs associated with bonds, the proceeds of cash payments or bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Florida Forever Trust Fund created by s. 259.1051. The proceeds shall be distributed by the Department of Environmental Protection in the following manner:
- (m) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(j) and for the <u>2025-2026</u> <del>2024-2025</del> fiscal year, the proceeds shall be distributed as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This paragraph expires July 1, <u>2026</u> <del>2025</del>.
- Section 84. In order to implement section 171 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 376.91, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 376.91 Statewide cleanup of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.—

#### (2) STATEWIDE CLEANUP TARGET LEVELS.—

(a) If the United States Environmental Protection Agency has not finalized its standards for PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, and soil by January 1, 2026 2025, the department shall adopt by rule statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, and soil using criteria set forth in s. 376.30701, with priority given to PFOA and PFOS. The rules for statewide cleanup target levels may not take effect until ratified by the Legislature.

Section 85. The amendments to s. 376.91(2)(a), Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 86. In order to implement section 171 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (i) is added to subsection (13) of section 376.3071, Florida Statutes, to read:

376.3071 Inland Protection Trust Fund; creation; purposes; funding.—

- (13) PETROLEUM CLEANUP PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.—To encourage detection, reporting, and cleanup of contamination caused by discharges of petroleum or petroleum products, the department shall, within the guidelines established in this subsection, implement a cleanup program to provide rehabilitation funding assistance for all property contaminated by discharges of petroleum or petroleum products from a petroleum storage system occurring before January 1, 1995. Eligibility is subject to an annual appropriation from the fund. Additionally, funding for eligible sites is contingent upon annual appropriation in subsequent years. Such continued state funding is not an entitlement or a vested right under this subsection. Eligibility shall be determined in the program, notwithstanding any other provision of law, consent order, order, judgment, or ordinance to the contrary.
- (i) Notwithstanding this section, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, program deductibles and copayments may not be assessed, monetary caps may not be enforced, and all costs for activities described in this subsection must be absorbed at the expense of the Inland Protection Trust Fund, without recourse to reimbursement or recovery, with the following exceptions:
- 1. This paragraph does not apply to a site where the department has been denied site access to implement this section.
- 2. This paragraph does not authorize or require reimbursement from the fund for costs expended before the beginning of the grace period.
- 3. Upon discovery by the department that the owner or operator of a petroleum storage system has been grossly negligent in the maintenance of such petroleum storage system; has, with willful intent to conceal the existence of a serious discharge, falsified inventory or reconciliation records maintained with respect to the site at which such system is located; or has intentionally damaged such petroleum storage system, the site at which such system is located is ineligible for participation in the incentive program and the owner is liable for all costs due to discharges from petroleum storage systems at that site.

This paragraph expires July 1, 2026.

Section 87. In order to implement section 171 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, present subsection (5) of section 376.3072, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

 $376.3072\,$  Florida Petroleum Liability and Restoration Insurance Program.—

- (5) Notwithstanding subsections (1)-(4), for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, program deductibles or copayments may not be assessed, monetary caps may not be enforced, and all costs for activities described in this section must be absorbed at the expense of the Inland Protection Trust Fund, without recourse to reimbursement or recovery, with the following exceptions:
- (a) This subsection does not apply to a site where the department has been denied site access to implement this section.
- (b) This subsection does not authorize or require reimbursement from the fund for costs expended before the beginning of the grace period.
- (c) Upon discovery by the department that the owner or operator of a petroleum storage system has been grossly negligent in the maintenance of such petroleum storage system; has, with willful intent to conceal the existence of a serious discharge, falsified inventory or reconciliation records maintained with respect to the site at which such system is located; or has intentionally damaged such petroleum storage system, the site at which such system is located is ineligible for participation in the incentive program and the owner is liable for all costs due to discharges from petroleum storage systems at that site.

This subsection expires July 1, 2026.

Section 88. In order to implement section 171 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 66 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, paragraph (g) of subsection (15) of section 376.3071, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

376.3071 Inland Protection Trust Fund; creation; purposes; funding.—

- (15) ETHANOL OR BIODIESEL DAMAGE; PREVENTIVE MEA-SURES.—The department shall pay, pursuant to this subsection, up to \$10 million each fiscal year from the fund for the costs of labor and equipment to repair or replace petroleum storage systems that may have been damaged due to the storage of fuels blended with ethanol or biodiesel, or for preventive measures to reduce the potential for such damage.
  - (g) Payments may not be made for the following:
- 1. Proposal costs or costs related to preparation of the application and required documentation;
  - 2. Certified public accountant costs;
- 3. Except as provided in paragraph (j), any costs in excess of the amount approved by the department under paragraph (b) or which are not in substantial compliance with the purchase order;

- 4. Costs associated with storage tanks, piping, or ancillary equipment that has previously been repaired or replaced for which costs have been paid under this section;
- 5. Facilities that are not in compliance with department storage tank rules, until the noncompliance issues have been resolved; or
- 6. Costs associated with damage to petroleum storage systems caused in whole or in part by causes other than the storage of fuels blended with ethanol or biodiesel.
- Section 89. The text of s. 376.3071(15)(g), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2020-114, Laws of Florida, by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on July 1, 2020, but not including any amendments made by this act or chapter 2020-114, Laws of Florida, and any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portion of text which expires pursuant to this section.
- Section 90. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2052 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding chapter 287, Florida Statutes, the Department of Citrus shall enter into agreements for the purpose of increasing production of trees that show tolerance or resistance to citrus greening and to commercialize technologies that produce tolerance or resistance to citrus greening in trees. The department shall enter into these agreements no later than January 1, 2026, and shall file with the department's Inspector General a certification of conditions and circumstances justifying each agreement entered into without competitive solicitation. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 91. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1502 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 71 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, section 380.5105, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:
- $380.5105\,$  The Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts; Florida Forever program.—
- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is the intent of the Legislature that the trust shall administer the working waterfronts land acquisition program as set forth in this section.
- (a) The trust and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall jointly develop rules specifically establishing an application process and a process for the evaluation, scoring and ranking of working waterfront projects. The proposed rules jointly developed pursuant to this paragraph shall be promulgated by the trust. Such rules shall establish a system of weighted criteria to give increased priority to projects:
  - 1. Within a municipality with a population less than 30,000;

- Ch. 2025-199
- 2. Within a municipality or area under intense growth and development pressures, as evidenced by a number of factors, including a determination that the municipality's growth rate exceeds the average growth rate for the state:
- 3. Within the boundary of a community redevelopment agency established pursuant to s. 163.356;
- 4. Adjacent to state-owned submerged lands designated as an aquatic preserve identified in s. 258.39; or
  - That provide a demonstrable benefit to the local economy.
- (b) For projects that will require more than the grant amount awarded for completion, the applicant must identify in their project application funding sources that will provide the difference between the grant award and the estimated project completion cost. Such rules may be incorporated into those developed pursuant to s. 380.507(11).
- (c) The trust shall develop a ranking list based on criteria identified in paragraph (a) for proposed fee simple and less-than-fee simple acquisition projects developed pursuant to this section. The trust shall, by the first Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund meeting in February, present the ranking list pursuant to this section to the board of trustees for final approval of projects for funding. The board of trustees may remove projects from the ranking list but may not add projects.
- (d) Grant awards, acquisition approvals, and terms of less-than-fee acquisitions shall be approved by the trust. Waterfront communities that receive grant awards must submit annual progress reports to the trust identifying project activities which are complete, and the progress achieved in meeting the goals outlined in the project application. The trust must implement a process to monitor and evaluate the performance of grant recipients in completing projects that are funded through the working waterfronts program.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Environmental Protection shall administer the working waterfronts capital outlay grant program as set forth in this section to support the commercial fishing and marine aquaculture industries industry, including the infrastructure for receiving or unloading seafood for the purpose of supporting the seafood economy.
- (a) The working waterfronts capital outlay grant program is created to provide funding to assist commercial saltwater products or commercial saltwater wholesale dealer or retailer license holders and seafood houses in maintaining their operations.
- Eligible costs and expenditures include fixed capital outlay and operating capital outlay, including, but not limited to, the repair and maintenance or replacement of equipment, the repair and maintenance or

replacement of water-adjacent facilities or infrastructure, and the construction or renovation of shoreside facilities.

- (c) The applicant must demonstrate a benefit to the local economy.
- (d) Grant recipients must submit annual progress reports to the department identifying project activities that are complete and the progress achieved in meeting the goals outlined in the project application.
- (e) The department shall implement a process to monitor and evaluate the performance of grant recipients in completing projects funded through the program.
- Section 92. The text of s. 380.5105, Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that section shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2024, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.
- Section 93. In order to implement section 167 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, section 10 of chapter 2022-272, Laws of Florida, as amended by section 72 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

# Section 10. Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program.—

- (1) There is hereby created within the Department of Environmental Protection the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to mitigate coastal beach erosion for coastal homeowners whose property was significantly impacted by Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole in 2022. The department is authorized to provide financial assistance grants to eligible recipients located in Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Nassau, Palm Beach, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, and Volusia Counties.
- (2) The department may provide grants to property owners to mitigate for coastal beach erosion caused by Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole during 2022. Grant funding may only be used to reimburse a property owner for construction costs:
- (a) Related to sand placement and temporary or permanent coastal armoring construction projects to mitigate coastal beach erosion and may not be used for the repair of residential structures.
- (b) Incurred as a result of preparation for or damage sustained from Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole in 2022.
  - (c) Incurred after September 23, 2022.

- (d) Related to a project that has been permitted, is exempt from permitting requirements, or is otherwise authorized by law.
- (3) Financial assistance grants may only be provided to mitigate damage to property located in Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Nassau, Palm Beach, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, and Volusia Counties that is a:
  - (a) Residential property that meets the following requirements:
- 1. The parcel must be a single-family, site-built, residential property or a multi-family, site-built, residential property not to exceed four units; and
- 2. The homeowner must have been granted a homestead exemption on the home under chapter 196, Florida Statutes;
- (b) Residential condominium, as defined in chapter 718, Florida Statutes; or
  - (c) Cooperative, as defined in chapter 719, Florida Statutes.
- (4)(a) The department shall reimburse 100 percent of the cost of eligible sand placement projects. For armoring projects on residential properties eligible under paragraph (3)(a), the department shall cost-share with \$1 provided by the property owner for every \$1 provided by the state with a maximum of \$300,000 in state funding toward the actual cost of an eligible project. For armoring projects on properties eligible under paragraphs (3)(b) and (c), the department shall cost-share with \$1 provided by the property owner for every \$1 provided by the state with a maximum of \$600,000 in state funding toward the actual cost of an eligible project. The department shall prioritize applicants who are low-income or moderate-income persons, as defined in s. 420.0004, Florida Statutes. Grants will be awarded to property owners for eligible projects following the receipt of a completed application on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.
  - 1. Applications may be submitted beginning February 1, 2023.
- 2. Applicants must include evidence that the project meets the criteria in subsections (2) and (3).
- (b) If the department determines that an application meets the requirements of this section, the department shall enter into a cost-share grant agreement with the applicant consistent with this section.
- (c) The department shall disburse grant funds on a reimbursement basis. In order to receive reimbursement, property owners must submit, at a minimum:
- 1. If applicable, the permit issued under chapter 161, Florida Statutes, or applicable statute, and evidence that the project complies with all permitting requirements.

- 2. All invoices and payment receipts for eligible projects.
- 3. If applicable, documentation that the eligible project was completed by a licensed professional or contractor.
- (5) Beginning July 1, 2024, local governments and municipalities may apply for program funds to implement large scale sand placement projects located in a county listed in subsection (1). Impacted counties and municipalities may request funding for such projects that protect upland structures and provide benefits to property owners at large. Funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 100 percent of costs are eligible. Projects must be able to be completed by July 1, 2026 2025. No more than 50 percent of remaining funds will be used for this purpose.
- (6) No later than January 31, 2023, the department shall adopt emergency rules prescribing the procedures, administration, and criteria for approving the applications for the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program. The department is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, to implement this section. The Legislature finds that such emergency rulemaking authority is necessary to address critical shoreline erosion which may result in the loss of property by homeowners in those areas of the state that sustained damage due to Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole during 2022. Such rules shall remain effective until the funding in the grant program is exhausted or this section expires for 6 months after the date of adoption.
  - (7) This section expires July 1, <u>2026</u> <del>2025</del>.
- Section 94. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1725 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act and notwithstanding s. 823.11(4)(c), Florida Statutes, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may use funds appropriated for the derelict vessel removal program for grants to local governments or to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, or to pay private contractors to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance pursuant to s. 327.73(1)(aa), Florida Statutes. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 95. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1555 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (9) of section 403.0673, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 403.0673 Water quality improvement grant program.—A grant program is established within the Department of Environmental Protection to address wastewater, stormwater, and agricultural sources of nutrient loading to surface water or groundwater.
- (9) For the <u>2025-2026</u> <u>2024-2025</u> fiscal year, and notwithstanding the requirements of this section and s. 403.890, funds appropriated from the <u>Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund may be used as</u>

provided in the General Appropriations Act subsections (4)-(6), the department shall dedicate at least \$25 million of the revenues transferred from s. 201.15(4)(h), for priority projects to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. This subsection expires July 1, 2026 2025.

Section 96. In order to implement appropriations from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

# 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

- (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:
- (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated, pledged, or dedicated for other uses:
- A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project subject to congressional authorization; the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595. From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District shall give preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

- 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration, protection, and management projects. For the purpose of performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this subparagraph.
- 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.
- 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.
- 5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s. 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this subparagraph.
- 6. The sum of \$100 million shall be appropriated annually to the Department of Environmental Protection for the acquisition of land pursuant to s. 259.105.
- 7. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 3. and 6., for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, funds shall be appropriated as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 97. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2059 through 2065 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (3) of section 288.80125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.80125 Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund.—

(3) For the <u>2025-2026 2024-2025</u> fiscal year, funds shall be used for the Rebuild Florida Revolving Loan Fund program to provide assistance to businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This subsection expires July 1, <u>2026</u> <del>2025</del>.

Section 98. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 1822 through 1835, 1840, 1841, 1853 through 1858, 1860 through 1864, 1866 through 1874, and 1905 through 1914C of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (h) of subsection (7) of section 339.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

339.135 Work program; legislative budget request; definitions; preparation, adoption, execution, and amendment.—

### (7) AMENDMENT OF THE ADOPTED WORK PROGRAM.—

- (h)1. Any work program amendment that also adds a new project, or phase thereof, to the adopted work program in excess of \$3 million is subject to approval by the Legislative Budget Commission. Any work program amendment submitted under this paragraph must include, as supplemental information, a list of projects, or phases thereof, in the current 5-year adopted work program which are eligible for the funds within the appropriation category being used for the proposed amendment. The department shall provide a narrative with the rationale for not advancing an existing project, or phase thereof, in lieu of the proposed amendment.
- 2. If the department submits an amendment to the Legislative Budget Commission and the commission does not meet or consider the amendment within 30 days after its submittal, the chair and vice chair of the commission may authorize the amendment to be approved pursuant to s. 216.177. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026 2025.
- Section 99. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 1822 through 1835, 1840 and 1841, 1853 through 1864, 1866 through 1874, and 1905 through 1914C of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Transportation is authorized to:
- (1) Notwithstanding applicable provisions of chapters 206, 212, 215, 320, 334, and 339, and section 201.15(4)(a), Florida Statutes, rebalance funds within the Work Program to account for lower projected revenues due to laws enacted which reduce the department's statutory revenue distributions. The department's rebalancing must also preserve, to the maximum extent feasible, executed contracts, debt service payments, planned safety projects, and planned preservation-related projects.
- (2) Notwithstanding s. 339.135(7)(b), Florida Statutes, request up to \$200,000,000 of budget authority to the extent necessary to advance or defer projects programmed in the Work Program and realign resources to safeguard district allocations and ensure projects programmed in the Work Program are balanced to the finance plan.

The department may submit budget amendments to realign budget authority consistent with this section and pursuant to section 339.135(7), Florida Statutes. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 100. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2113 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (6) of section 288.0655, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

### 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

- (6) For the <u>2025-2026 2024-2025</u> fiscal year, the funds appropriated for the grant program for Florida Panhandle counties shall be distributed pursuant to and for the purposes described in the proviso language associated with Specific Appropriation <u>2113</u> <u>2348</u> of the <u>2025-2026</u> <u>2024-2025</u> General Appropriations Act. This subsection expires July 1, <u>2026</u> <u>2025</u>.
- Section 101. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2446 through 2455 and section 247 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, Florida Statutes, the Division of Emergency Management may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, to increase budget authority for projected expenditures due to reimbursements from federally declared disasters. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 102. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2432 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations act, subsection (2) of section 282.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 282.201 State data center.—The state data center is established within the department. The provision of data center services must comply with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and policies, including all applicable security, privacy, and auditing requirements. The department shall appoint a director of the state data center who has experience in leading data center facilities and has expertise in cloud-computing management.

#### (2) USE OF THE STATE DATA CENTER.—

- (a) The following are exempt from the use of the state data center: the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Lottery's Gaming System, Systems Design and Development in the Office of Policy and Budget, the regional traffic management centers as described in s. 335.14(2) and the Office of Toll Operations of the Department of Transportation, the State Board of Administration, state attorneys, public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, capital collateral regional counsel, and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
- (b) The Division of Emergency Management is exempt from the use of the state data center. This paragraph expires July 1, 2026 2025.

Section 103. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2791 through 2798A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (12) is added to section 251.001, Florida Statutes, to read:

### 251.001 Florida State Guard Act.—

- (12) Pursuant to s. 287.16(4), unless the Governor has issued a declaration of a state of emergency due to a natural emergency, as those terms are defined in s. 252.34, in the previous 30 days, Florida State Guard aircraft shall be assigned to the Department of Law Enforcement for daily training activity and operational use by the department. No later than July 31, 2025, the Florida State Guard and the department must sign a Memorandum of Understanding implementing the terms of the assignment of aircraft. This subsection expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 104. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2089 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsections (4) and (5) of section 443.1113, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 443.1113 Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System.—
- (4)(a) The Department of Commerce shall perform an annual review of the system and identify enhancements or modernization efforts that improve the delivery of services to claimants and employers and reporting to state and federal entities. These improvements are subject to appropriation, and must include, but need not be limited to:
  - 1. Infrastructure upgrades through cloud services.
  - 2. Software improvements.
  - 3. Enhanced data analytics and reporting.
  - 4. Increased cybersecurity pursuant to s. 282.318.
- (b) The department shall seek input on recommended enhancements from, at a minimum, the following entities:
- 1. The Florida Digital Service within the Department of Management Services.
- 2. The General Tax Administration Program Office within the Department of Revenue.
- 3. The Division of Accounting and Auditing within the Department of Financial Services.
- (5) By <u>September 1, 2025</u> October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the Department of Commerce shall submit a Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System report to the Governor, the President of

the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must, at a minimum, include:

- (a) A summary of <u>clearly defined deliverables and measurable outcomes</u>  $\underline{of}$  maintenance, enhancement, and modernization efforts over the last fiscal year.
- (b) A plan for the next 2 fiscal years 3-year outlook of recommended enhancements or modernization efforts that includes projected nonrecurring project costs, clear deliverables, and timeframes for completion of each enhancement or modernization effort in priority order, and the projected recurring operations and maintenance costs after the completion of each enhancement or modernization effort.
- Section 105. The amendments to s. 443.1113(4) and (5), Florida Statutes, made by this act expire July 1, 2026, and the text of those subsections shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 106. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2083 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsections (2), (4), and (9) of section 445.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 445.08 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.
- (2)(a) There is created within the department the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program to aid in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state. The purpose of the program is to administer one-time bonus payments of up to \$5,000 to each newly employed officer within the state.
- (b) Bonus payments provided to eligible newly employed officers are contingent upon legislative appropriations and shall be prorated subject to the amount appropriated for the program.
- (4) The department shall develop an annual plan for the administration of the program and distribution of bonus payments. Applicable employing agencies shall assist the department with the collection of any data necessary to determine bonus payment amounts and to distribute the bonus payments, and shall otherwise provide the department with any information or assistance needed to fulfill the requirements of this section. At a minimum, the plan must include:
- (a) The method for determining the estimated number of newly employed officers to gain or be appointed to full-time employment during the applicable fiscal year.
- (b) The minimum eligibility requirements a newly employed officer must meet to receive and retain a bonus payment, which must include:

- 1. Obtaining certification for employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer pursuant to s. 943.1395.
  - 2. Gaining full-time employment with a Florida criminal justice agency.
- 3. Maintaining continuous full-time employment as a law enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice agency for at least 2 years from the date on which the officer obtained certification. The required 2-year employment period may be satisfied by maintaining full-time employment at one or more employing agencies, but such period must not contain any break in service longer than 180 15 calendar days.
- (c) The standards by which the department will determine under what circumstances a break in service is acceptable. A law enforcement officer must provide documentation to the department justifying a break in service. For purposes of this section, the term "break in service" means a period of time during which the person is employed with a Florida criminal justice agency but is not employed as a full-time law enforcement officer or a period of time during which the person is in between employment as a full-time law enforcement officer for no longer than 15 days. The time period for any break in service does not count toward satisfying the 2-year full-time employment requirement of this section.
- (d)(e) The method that will be used to determine the bonus payment amount to be distributed to each newly employed officer.
- (e)(d) The method that will be used to distribute bonus payments to applicable employing agencies for distribution to eligible officers. Such method should prioritize distributing bonus payments to eligible officers in the most efficient and quickest manner possible.
- (f)(e) The estimated cost to the department associated with developing and administering the program and distributing bonus payment funds.
- (g)(f) The method by which an officer must reimburse the state if he or she received a bonus payment under the program, but failed to maintain continuous employment for the required 2-year period. Reimbursement shall not be required if an officer is discharged by his or her employing agency for a reason other than misconduct as designated on the affidavit of separation completed by the employing agency and maintained by the commission.

The department may establish other criteria deemed necessary to determine bonus payment eligibility and distribution.

(9) This section expires July 1, 2026 <del>2025</del>.

Section 107. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2116 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (6) is added to section 420.5096, Florida Statutes, to read:

420.5096 Florida Hometown Hero Program.—

- (6)(a) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, eligibility for financial assistance through the program appropriated in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act shall be limited to the following borrowers:
- 1. A person employed full-time by a Florida-based employer as a health care worker, school staff member, first responder, public safety or court employee, or child care worker;
- 2. A servicemember of the United States military or military reserves, the United State Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; or
  - 3. A veteran employed full-time by a Florida-based employer.
- (b) The corporation shall publish a list of eligible occupations pursuant to subparagraph (a)1. All borrowers must otherwise meet the requirements of this section.
  - (c) This subsection expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 108. (1) In order to implement section 8 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, beginning July 1, 2025, and on the first day of each month thereafter, the Department of Management Services shall assess an administrative health insurance assessment on each state agency equal to the employer's cost of individual employee health care coverage for each vacant position within such agency eligible for coverage through the Division of State Group Insurance. As used in this section, the term "state agency" means an agency within the State Personnel System, the Department of the Lottery, the Justice Administrative Commission and all entities administratively housed in the Justice Administrative Commission, and the state courts system.
- (2) Each state agency shall remit the assessed administrative health insurance assessment under subsection (1) to the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund, for the State Group Insurance Program, as provided in ss. 110.123 and 110.1239, Florida Statutes, from currently allocated monies for salaries and benefits within 30 days after receipt of the assessment from the Department of Management Services. Should any state agency become more than 60 days delinquent in payment of this obligation, the Department of Management Services shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the amount due and the Chief Financial Officer shall transfer the amount due to the Department of Management Services.
- (3) The administrative health insurance assessment shall apply to all vacant positions funded with state funds whether fully or partially funded with state funds. Vacant positions partially funded with state funds shall pay a percentage of the assessment imposed in subsection (1) equal to the percentage share of state funds provided for such vacant positions. No assessment shall apply to vacant positions fully funded with federal funds.

Each state agency shall provide the Department of Management Services with a complete list of position numbers that are funded, or partially funded, with federal funding, and include the percentage of federal funding for each position no later than July 31, 2025, and shall update the list on the last day of each month thereafter. For federally funded vacant positions, or partially funded vacant positions, each state agency shall immediately take steps to include the administrative health insurance assessment in its indirect cost plan for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter. A state agency shall notify the Department of Management Services, the Executive Office of the Governor, the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the chair of the House of Representatives Budget Committee upon approval of the updated indirect cost plan. If the state agency is not able to obtain approval from its federal awarding agency, the state agency must notify the Department of Management Services, the Executive Office of the Governor, and the appropriation and budget chairs no later than January 15, 2026.

- (4) Pursuant to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may transfer budget authority appropriated in the Salaries and Benefits appropriation category between agencies in order to align the appropriations granted with the assessments that must be paid by each agency to the Department of Management Services for the administrative health insurance assessment.
  - (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 109. <u>In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2530 and 2531 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding s. 11.13(1)</u>, Florida Statutes, the authorized salaries for members of the Legislature for the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall be set at the same level in effect on July 1, 2010. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 110. In order to implement the transfer of funds from the General Revenue Fund from trust funds for the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding the expiration date in section 91 of chapter 2024-228, Laws of Florida, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 215.32, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 215.32 State funds; segregation.—
- (2) The source and use of each of these funds shall be as follows:
- (b)1. The trust funds shall consist of moneys received by the state which under law or under trust agreement are segregated for a purpose authorized by law. The state agency or branch of state government receiving or collecting such moneys is responsible for their proper expenditure as provided by law. Upon the request of the state agency or branch of state government responsible for the administration of the trust fund, the Chief Financial Officer may establish accounts within the trust fund at a level considered necessary for proper accountability. Once an account is

established, the Chief Financial Officer may authorize payment from that account only upon determining that there is sufficient cash and releases at the level of the account.

- 2. In addition to other trust funds created by law, to the extent possible, each agency shall use the following trust funds as described in this subparagraph for day-to-day operations:
- a. Operations or operating trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for program operations funded by program revenues, with the exception of administrative activities when the operations or operating trust fund is a proprietary fund.
- b. Operations and maintenance trust fund, for use as a depository for client services funded by third-party payors.
- c. Administrative trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for management activities that are departmental in nature and funded by indirect cost earnings and assessments against trust funds. Proprietary funds are excluded from the requirement of using an administrative trust fund.
- d. Grants and donations trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for allowable grant or donor agreement activities funded by restricted contractual revenue from private and public nonfederal sources.
- e. Agency working capital trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used pursuant to s. 216.272.
- f. Clearing funds trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to account for collections pending distribution to lawful recipients.
- g. Federal grant trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for allowable grant activities funded by restricted program revenues from federal sources.

To the extent possible, each agency must adjust its internal accounting to use existing trust funds consistent with the requirements of this subparagraph. If an agency does not have trust funds listed in this subparagraph and cannot make such adjustment, the agency must recommend the creation of the necessary trust funds to the Legislature no later than the next scheduled review of the agency's trust funds pursuant to s. 215.3206.

- 3. All such moneys are hereby appropriated to be expended in accordance with the law or trust agreement under which they were received, subject always to the provisions of chapter 216 relating to the appropriation of funds and to the applicable laws relating to the deposit or expenditure of moneys in the State Treasury.
- 4.a. Notwithstanding any provision of law restricting the use of trust funds to specific purposes, unappropriated cash balances from selected trust

funds may be authorized by the Legislature for transfer to the Budget Stabilization Fund and General Revenue Fund in the General Appropriations Act.

This subparagraph does not apply to trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the Division of Licensing Trust Fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the State Transportation Trust Fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lotteries; the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund; trust funds under the management of the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors of the State University System, where such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises, self-insurance, and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the Chief Financial Officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by the State Constitution.

Section 111. The text of s. 215.32(2)(b), Florida Statutes, as carried forward from chapter 2011-47, Laws of Florida, by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2011, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 112. In order to implement appropriations in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for state employee travel, the funds appropriated to each state agency which may be used for travel by state employees are limited during the 2025-2026 fiscal year to travel for activities that are critical to each state agency's mission. Funds may not be used for travel by state employees to foreign countries, other states, conferences, staff training activities, or other administrative functions unless the agency head has approved, in writing, that such activities are critical to the agency's mission. The agency head shall consider using teleconferencing and other forms of electronic communication to meet the needs of the proposed activity before approving mission-critical travel. This section does not apply to travel for law enforcement purposes, military purposes, emergency management activities, or public health activities. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 113. In order to implement appropriations in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for state employee travel and notwithstanding s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, costs for lodging associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized or sponsored in whole or in part by a state agency or the judicial branch may not exceed \$225 per day. An employee may expend his or her own funds for any lodging expenses in

excess of \$225 per day. For purposes of this section, a meeting does not include travel activities for conducting an audit, examination, inspection, or investigation or travel activities related to a litigation or emergency response. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 114. In order to implement the appropriations and reappropriations authorized in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (d) of subsection (11) of section 216.181, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

216.181 Approved budgets for operations and fixed capital outlay.—

(11)

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) and paragraph (2)(b), and for the 2025-2026 2024-2025 fiscal year only, the Legislative Budget Commission may approve budget amendments for new fixed capital outlay projects or increase the amounts appropriated to state agencies for fixed capital outlay projects. This paragraph expires July 1, 2026 2025.

The provisions of this subsection are subject to the notice and objection procedures set forth in s. 216.177.

Section 115. In order to implement the salaries and benefits, expenses, other personal services, contracted services, special categories, and operating capital outlay categories of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 216.292, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 216.292 Appropriations nontransferable; exceptions.—
- (2) The following transfers are authorized to be made by the head of each department or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court whenever it is deemed necessary by reason of changed conditions:
- (a) The transfer of appropriations funded from identical funding sources, except appropriations for fixed capital outlay, and the transfer of amounts included within the total original approved budget and plans of releases of appropriations as furnished pursuant to ss. 216.181 and 216.192, as follows:
- 1. Between categories of appropriations within a budget entity, if no category of appropriation is increased or decreased by more than 5 percent of the original approved budget or \$250,000, whichever is greater, by all action taken under this subsection.
- 2. Between budget entities within identical categories of appropriations, if no category of appropriation is increased or decreased by more than 5 percent of the original approved budget or \$250,000, whichever is greater, by all action taken under this subsection.

- 3. Any agency exceeding salary rate established pursuant to s. 216.181(8) on June 30th of any fiscal year shall not be authorized to make transfers pursuant to subparagraphs 1. and 2. in the subsequent fiscal year.
- 4. Notice of proposed transfers under subparagraphs 1. and 2. shall be provided to the Executive Office of the Governor and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees at least 3 days prior to agency implementation in order to provide an opportunity for review. The review shall be limited to ensuring that the transfer is in compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.
- 5. For the <u>2025-2026</u> <u>2024-2025</u> fiscal year, the review shall ensure that transfers proposed pursuant to this paragraph comply with this chapter, maximize the use of available and appropriate trust funds, and are not contrary to legislative policy and intent. This subparagraph expires July 1, 2026 <u>2025</u>.
- Section 116. In order to implement appropriations in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for the acquisitions of motor vehicles, and notwithstanding chapter 287, Florida Statutes, relating to the purchase of motor vehicles from a state term contract, state agencies may purchase vehicles from nonstate term contract vendors without prior approval from the Department of Management Services, provided the cost of the motor vehicle is equal to or less than the cost of a similar class of vehicle found on a state term contract and provided the funds for the purchase have been specifically appropriated. This section expires July 1, 2026.
- Section 117. In order to implement appropriations for state agencies in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, section 11.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 11.52 Implementation of enacted legislation.—Each state agency shall provide the Legislature and the Executive Office of the Governor with information about the status of implementation of recently enacted legislation. The implementation status must be provided 90 days following the effective date of the legislation and updated each August 1 thereafter until all provisions of the legislation have been fully implemented. The implementation status report must include, at a minimum, for each enacted legislation, the actions or steps taken to implement the legislation and planned actions or steps for implementation, such as any rules proposed for implementation, any procurements required, any contract executed to assist the agency in the implementation, any contracts executed to implement or administer the legislation, programs started, offices established, or other organization administrative changes made including personnel changes, or federal waivers requested; any expenditures made directly related to the implementation; and any impediments or delays in implementation, including, but not limited to, challenges of administrative rules. No later than 14 days prior to the next regular legislative session, the state agency shall provide an update of any changes to the implementation status, notify

the Legislature of any protests of rulemaking or other communications regarding the implementation of the legislation and the status of any litigation related to the legislation, and identify any policy issues that need to be resolved by the Legislature to ensure timely and effective implementation of the legislation. This section expires July 1, 2026 2025.

- Section 118. In order to implement appropriations for state agencies and the judicial branch in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (7) of section 216.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 216.013 Long-range program plan.—State agencies and the judicial branch shall develop long-range program plans to achieve state goals using an interagency planning process that includes the development of integrated agency program service outcomes. The plans shall be policy based, priority driven, accountable, and developed through careful examination and justification of all agency and judicial branch programs.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, each state executive agency and the judicial branch are not required to develop or post a long-range program plan by September 30,  $\underline{2025}$   $\underline{2024}$ , for the  $\underline{2026}$ - $\underline{2027}$   $\underline{2025}$ - $\underline{2026}$  fiscal year, except in circumstances outlined in any updated written instructions prepared by the Executive Office of the Governor in consultation with the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees. This subsection expires July 1,  $\underline{2026}$   $\underline{2025}$ .
- Section 119. In order to implement appropriations for state agencies and the judicial branch in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (7) of section 216.023, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 216.023 Legislative budget requests to be furnished to Legislature by agencies.—
- (7) As part of the legislative budget request, each state agency and the judicial branch shall include an inventory of all ongoing technology-related projects that have a cumulative estimated or realized cost of more than \$1 million. The inventory must, at a minimum, contain all of the following information:
  - (a) The name of the technology system.
  - (b) A brief description of the purpose and function of the system.
  - (c) A brief description of the goals of the project.
  - (d) The initiation date of the project.
  - (e) The key performance indicators for the project.
- (f) Any other metrics for the project evaluating the health and status of the project.

- (g) The original and current baseline estimated end dates of the project.
- (h) The original and current estimated costs of the project.
- (i) Total funds appropriated or allocated to the project and the current realized cost for the project by fiscal year.

For purposes of this subsection, an ongoing technology-related project is one which has been funded or has had or is expected to have expenditures in more than one fiscal year. An ongoing technology-related project does not include the continuance of existing hardware and software maintenance agreements, the renewal of existing software licensing agreements, or the replacement of desktop units with new technology that is substantially similar to the technology being replaced. This subsection expires July 1, 2026 2025.

- Section 120. <u>In order to implement appropriations in the 2025-2026</u> General Appropriations Act, the use of state funds must be consistent with the following principles of individual freedom:
- (1) No person is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex.
  - (2) No race is inherently superior to another race.
- (3) No person should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or sex.
- (4) Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are not racist but fundamental to the right to pursue happiness and be rewarded for industry.
- (5) A person, by virtue of his or her race or sex, does not bear responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- (6) A person should not be instructed that he or she must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress for actions, in which he or she played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.

This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 121. In order to implement appropriations for state agencies in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, a state agency may not use state funds to contract with an advertising agency or other contractor who acts as or uses the services of media reliability and bias monitors. The term "media reliability and bias monitor" means any contractor whose primary or principal function is to rate or rank news and information services for the factual accuracy of their content, whether the content is published online, in print, by audio, or digitally, or by broadcasting via radio, television, cable,

streaming service, or any other way news is delivered to the public; or to provide ratings or a subjective evaluation of news and information services regarding misinformation, bias, adherence to journalistic standards, or ethics. The term includes, but is not limited to, organizations that engage in fact checking. The term does not include any contractor that rates media outlets for audience size, viewership, and demographic information; or that monitors media outlets for the purpose of compiling press or video clippings or aggregating news sources for the purpose of public relations and public awareness. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 122. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2295 through 2308A of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (d) of subsection (12) of section 440.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 440.13 Medical services and supplies; penalty for violations; limitations.
- (12) CREATION OF THREE-MEMBER PANEL; GUIDES OF MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCES.—
- (d)1. Outpatient reimbursement for scheduled surgeries shall be 60 percent of charges.
- 2. Reimbursement for emergency services and care as defined in s. 395.002 which have not been assigned which does not include a maximum reimbursement allowance must be 250 percent of Medicare, unless there is a contract, in which case the contract governs reimbursement. Upon this subparagraph taking effect, the department shall engage with an actuarial services firm to begin development of maximum reimbursement allowances for services subject to the reimbursement provisions of this subparagraph. Until the three-member panel adopts a schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances, reimbursement for emergency services and care that have not been assigned a maximum reimbursement allowance and for which there is no Medicare billing code must be 75 percent of usual and customary charges, unless there is a contract, in which case the contract governs reimbursement. This subparagraph expires June 30, 2026.

The department, as requested, shall provide data to the panel, including, but not limited to, utilization trends in the workers' compensation health care delivery system. The department shall provide the panel with an annual report regarding the resolution of medical reimbursement disputes and any actions pursuant to subsection (8). The department shall provide administrative support and service to the panel to the extent requested by the panel. The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection. For prescription medication purchased under the requirements of this subsection, a dispensing practitioner shall not possess such medication unless payment has been made by the practitioner, the practitioner's professional practice, or the practitioner's practice management company or employer to the supplying manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, or drug repackager within 60 days of the dispensing practitioner taking possession of that medication.

Section 123. The amendment to s. 440.13(12)(d), Florida Statutes, made by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 124. <u>In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2423 and 2424 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act:</u>

- (1) The Office of Policy and Budget within the Executive Office of the Governor may:
- (a) Conduct a review of the functions, procedures, and policies currently in effect for any local governmental entity, local governing authority, or unit of local general-purpose government, as those terms are defined in s. 218.31, Florida Statutes, and any expenditures by such bodies pertaining to local fiscal years ending on September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025, to identify:
- 1. Any use of resources to support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives inconsistent with law.
- 2. Any evidence of potential gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources.
  - 3. Duplicative or redundant government functions.
  - (b) For the purpose of these reviews, review the following records:
- 1. Any personnel costs, administrative overhead costs, contracts and subcontracts, programs, grants and subgrants, any outsourcing with a nongovernment organization, and any other expenditures.
- 2. Any financial documents, including, but not limited to, annual financial audits; annual budgets; millage reports; annual financial reports; audits of any financial accounts or records, including reports on compliance, internal controls, and management letters; and financial statements, audits, accountability, or status reports for local projects funded by any source.
- 3. Any document setting forth personnel standards and expectations, position responsibilities, and employee training and development standards and materials.
- (2)(a) Each local government that received state funding during the current or previous fiscal year must, within 7 business days after the request, provide the personnel of the Office of Policy and Budget access to:
  - 1. Its responsive personnel and subject matter experts.
  - 2. Its physical premises, subject to appropriate security considerations.

- 3. Its data systems and related data, subject to appropriate security considerations.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require access to records that are confidential under federal or state laws.
- (c) Failure to provide access as required in paragraph (a) may subject the local government to a fine of \$1,000 per day for noncompliance. The Executive Office of the Governor may assess a fine, if such action is recommended by the Office of Policy and Budget and approved by a three-fourths vote of the Administration Commission. The assessment of a fine pursuant to this section constitutes final agency action pursuant to chapter 120, Florida Statutes. Fines collected under this subsection must be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Fines imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be enforced against the local government and not its employees.
- (d) Any request for public records by the Office of Policy and Budget to a local governmental entity, a local governing authority, or a unit of local general-purpose government shall be deemed a request to inspect its public records. Enforcement of these requests shall be subject to ss. 119.11 and 119.12, Florida Statutes.
  - (3) The Office of Policy and Budget shall:
- (a) Compile and submit an initial report to the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 13, 2026. The report must, at a minimum:
  - 1. Identify each local government reviewed.
  - 2. Summarize each review.
- 3. Provide any specific instances of the use of resources for initiatives supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion inconsistent with law.
- 4. Provide any specific evidence of potential gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources.
  - 5. Identify duplicative or redundant government functions.
- 6. Recommend any opportunities for good governance and methods to improve fiscal responsibility and streamline government services.
- (b) Provide the Legislative Auditing Committee any information described in subparagraph (a)4.

Nothing shall preclude the Office of Policy and Budget from engaging in additional activities in support of its duties under this section, including encouraging or receiving cooperation from a local government. This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 125. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1311 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, subsection (2) of section 551.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 551.118 Compulsive or addictive gambling prevention program.—
- (2)(a) The commission shall, subject to competitive bidding, contract for provision of services related to the prevention of compulsive and addictive gambling. The contract shall provide for an advertising program to encourage responsible gaming practices and to publicize a gambling telephone help line. Such advertisements must be made both publicly and inside the designated slot machine gaming areas of the licensee's facilities. The terms of any contract for the provision of such services shall include accountability standards that must be met by any private provider. The failure of any private provider to meet any material terms of the contract, including the accountability standards, shall constitute a breach of contract or grounds for nonrenewal. The commission may consult with the Department of the Lottery in the development of the program and the development and analysis of any procurement for contractual services for the compulsive or addictive gambling prevention program.
- (b) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the commission's contract for the provision of services related to the prevention of compulsive and addictive gambling shall be for 1 year. This paragraph expires July 1, 2026.

Section 126. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 1325 through 1329B of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 373.0421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 373.0421 Establishment and implementation of minimum flows and minimum water levels.—
- (2) If, at the time a minimum flow or minimum water level is initially established for a water body pursuant to s. 373.042 or is revised, the existing flow or water level in the water body is below, or is projected to fall within 20 years below, the applicable minimum flow or minimum water level, the department or governing board, as part of the regional water supply plan described in s. 373.709, shall concurrently adopt or modify and implement a recovery or prevention strategy. If a minimum flow or minimum water level has been established for a water body pursuant to s. 373.042, and the existing flow or water level in the water body falls below, or is projected to fall within 20 years below, the applicable minimum flow or minimum water level, the department or governing board shall expeditiously adopt a recovery or prevention strategy. A recovery or prevention strategy shall include the development of additional water supplies and other actions, consistent with the authority granted by this chapter, to:
- (b) Prevent the existing flow or water level from falling below the established minimum flow or minimum water level.

The recovery or prevention strategy must include a phased-in approach or a timetable which will allow for the provision of sufficient water supplies for all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses, including development of additional water supplies and implementation of conservation and other efficiency measures concurrent with and, to the maximum extent practical, to offset reductions in permitted withdrawals, consistent with this chapter. The recovery or prevention strategy may not depend solely on water shortage restrictions declared pursuant to s. 373.175 or s. 373.246. Agricultural producers who implement best management practices adopted in s. 403.067(7)(c)2. shall be presumed to be in compliance with the recovery or prevention strategy.

Section 127. The amendment to s. 373.0421(2)(b), Florida Statutes, made by this act expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that paragraph shall revert to that in existence on June 30, 2025, except that any amendments to such text enacted other than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

Section 128. In order to implement Specific Appropriations 2576 through 2596 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act, and notwithstanding any other law:

- (1)(a) The Governor, the Cabinet officers, and the Legislature are permanent tenants of the Capitol Complex. The interior space allocated to each tenant on June 1, 2025, may not be reduced or moved without express consent of the tenant. For purposes of determining the interior space allocated to the House of Representatives, the total square footage shall include the contiguous office space described in paragraph (b). If additional interior space becomes vacant, the Legislature has the first right of refusal for use of the space.
- (b) No later than November 1, 2025, the Department of Management Services must offer for lease to the House of Representatives a minimum of 886 square feet of contiguous office space acceptable to the House of Representatives located on any floor from the Lower Level to the 21st floor of the Capitol Building. The space must be available for occupancy by the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2025.
- (2)(a) Before the Department of Management Services may plan for or schedule any project in the Capitol Center that impacts space occupied by a permanent tenant of the Capitol Complex other than the Governor, the Department of Management Services must coordinate with the tenant and receive the tenant's approval on the scope, design, and timeline of the project. For purposes of space in which the Legislature is the tenant, the Department of Management Services must coordinate with and receive approval from the President of the Senate for space allocated to the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives for space allocated to the House of Representatives, or both the President and the Speaker for space allocated jointly to both chambers. For any project that impacts space in which the

<u>Legislature</u> is the tenant, the <u>Department of Management Services must</u> consider the schedule and time constraints of the <u>Legislature</u>, as well as the <u>Legislature</u>'s needs.

- (b) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may design, redesign, renovate, or upgrade any space allocated to their respective chambers in which the Senate or the House of Representatives is the tenant without approval by the Department of Management Services.
- (c) The Department of Management Services must consult with and receive approval from the President of the Senate for space allocated to the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives for space allocated to the House of Representatives, or both the President and the Speaker for space allocated jointly to both chambers before including in the report required under s. 272.09(3), Florida Statutes, any project that impacts any space in the Capitol Complex in which the Legislature is the tenant.
- (3) In carrying out the provisions of the Capitol Center long-range planning specified in s. 272.121, Florida Statutes, the Department of Management Services must solicit feedback from all permanent tenants of the Capitol Center, including the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) The parking spaces within the Capitol Center area allocated to the Legislature on June 1, 2025, may not be reduced or reassigned without the express consent of the Legislature. If additional parking spaces become available for assignment, the Legislature has the first right of refusal for the use of the parking spaces.
  - (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

Section 129. Any section of this act which implements a specific appropriation or specifically identified proviso language in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act is void if the specific appropriation or specifically identified proviso language is vetoed. Any section of this act which implements more than one specific appropriation or more than one portion of specifically identified proviso language in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act is void if all the specific appropriations or portions of specifically identified proviso language are vetoed.

Section 130. If any other act passed during the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature contains a provision that is substantively the same as a provision in this act, but that removes or is otherwise not subject to the future repeal applied to such provision by this act, the Legislature intends that the provision in the other act takes precedence and continues to operate, notwithstanding the future repeal provided by this act.

Section 131. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 132. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025, or, if this act fails to become a law until after that date, it shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 30, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 30, 2025.