

CHAPTER 2024-140

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 989

An act relating to the Chief Financial Officer; creating s. 17.69, F.S.; creating the Federal Tax Liaison position within the Department of Financial Services; providing the duties and authority of the liaison; amending s. 20.121, F.S.; renaming a division in the department; removing provisions relating to duties of such division and to bureaus and offices in such division; removing a division; amending s. 112.1816, F.S.; providing that, upon a diagnosis of cancer, firefighters are entitled to certain benefits under specified circumstances; amending s. 121.0515, F.S.; revising requirements for the Special Risk Class membership; amending s. 284.44, F.S.; removing provisions relating to certain quarterly reports prepared by the Division of Risk Management; amending s. 440.13, F.S.; providing the reimbursement schedule requirements for emergency services and care under workers' compensation under certain circumstances; providing rulemaking authority; amending s. 440.385, F.S.; providing requirements for certain contracts entered into and purchases made by the Florida Self-Insurers Guaranty Association, Incorporated; providing duties of the department and the association relating to such contracts and purchases; providing exemptions; amending s. 497.101, F.S.; revising the requirements for appointing and nominating members of the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services; revising the members' terms; revising the authority to remove board members; providing for vacancy appointments; providing that board members are subject to the code of ethics; providing requirements for board members' conduct; prohibiting certain acts by the board; providing penalties; providing requirements for board meetings, books, and records; requiring notices of board meetings; providing requirements for such notices; amending s. 497.153, F.S.; authorizing services by electronic mail of administrative complaints against certain licensees under certain circumstances; amending s. 497.155, F.S.; authorizing services of citations by electronic mail under certain circumstances; amending s. 497.172, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the department may disclose certain information that is confidential and exempt from public records requirements; amending s. 497.386, F.S.; authorizing the department to enter and secure certain establishments, facilities, and morgues and remove certain remains under specified circumstances; requiring the department to make certain determinations; prohibiting certain licensees and facilities from being held liable under certain circumstances; providing penalties; creating s. 497.469, F.S.; authorizing preneed licensees to withdraw certain amounts of money under certain circumstances; providing documents that show that a preneed contract has been fulfilled; providing recordkeeping requirements; amending s. 624.307, F.S.; requiring eligible surplus lines insurers to respond to the department or the Office of Insurance Regulation after receipt of requests for documents and

information concerning consumer complaints; providing penalties for failure to comply; requiring authorized insurers and eligible surplus lines insurers to file e-mail addresses with the department and to designate contact persons for specified purposes; authorizing changes of designated contact information; amending s. 626.171, F.S.; requiring the department to make provisions for certain insurance license applicants to submit cellular telephone numbers for a specified purpose; amending s. 626.221, F.S.; providing a qualification for all-lines adjuster licenses; amending s. 626.601, F.S.; revising construction; amending s. 626.7351, F.S.; providing a qualification for customer representative's licenses; amending s. 626.878, F.S.; providing duties and prohibited acts for adjusters; amending s. 626.929, F.S.; specifying that licensed and appointed general lines agents, rather than general lines agents, may engage in certain activities while also licensed and appointed as surplus lines agents; authorizing general lines agents that are also licensed as surplus lines agents to make certain appointments; authorizing such agents to originate specified businesses and accept specified businesses; prohibiting such agents from being appointed by or transacting certain insurance on behalf of specified insurers; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; providing requirements for certain contracts entered into and purchases made by the Florida Joint Underwriting Association; providing duties of the department and the association associated with such contracts and purchases; amending s. 631.59, F.S.; providing requirements for certain contracts entered into and purchases made by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Incorporated; providing duties of the department and the association associated with such contracts and purchases; providing nonapplicability; amending ss. 631.722, 631.821, and 631.921, F.S.; providing requirements for certain contracts entered into and purchases made by the Florida Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association, the board of directors of the Florida Health Maintenance Organization Consumer Assistance Plan, and the board of directors of the Florida Workers' Compensation Insurance Guaranty Association, respectively; providing duties of the department and of the association and boards associated with such contracts and purchases; amending s. 633.124, F.S.; updating the edition of a manual for the use of pyrotechnics; amending s. 633.202, F.S.; revising the duties of the State Fire Marshal; amending s. 633.206, F.S.; revising the requirements for uniform fire-safety standards established by the department; amending s. 634.041, F.S.; specifying the conditions under which service agreement companies do not have to establish and maintain unearned premium reserves; amending s. 634.081, F.S.; specifying the conditions under which service agreement companies' licenses are not suspended or revoked under certain circumstances; amending s. 634.3077, F.S.; specifying requirements for certain contractual liability insurance obtained by home warranty associations; providing that such associations are not required to establish unearned premium reserves or maintain contractual liability insurance; authorizing such associations to allow their premiums to exceed certain limitations under certain circumstances; amending s. 634.317, F.S.; providing that certain entities, employees, and agents are

exempt from sales representative licenses and appointments under certain circumstances; amending s. 648.25, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 648.26, F.S.; revising the types of investigatory records of the department which are confidential and exempt from public records requirements; revising the circumstances under which investigatory records are confidential and exempt from public records requirements; revising construction; amending s. 648.30, F.S.; revising circumstances under which a person or entity may act in the capacity of a bail bond agent or bail bond agency and perform certain functions, duties, and powers; amending s. 648.355, F.S.; revising the requirements for limited surety agents and professional bail bond agent license applications; amending s. 655.0323, F.S.; providing that certain actions are included as an unsafe and unsound practice for financial institutions; making a technical change; authorizing certain aggrieved customers or members to make a complaint to the Office of Financial Regulation on a specified form within a specified timeframe; providing that complaints are barred if not timely submitted; requiring the office to take certain actions, make certain determinations, and begin an investigation within a specified timeframe after receiving a complaint; requiring a financial institution to provide certain information to the office after being notified that a complaint has been filed; requiring that certain claims be handled in accordance with certain provisions; requiring the office to take certain actions after an investigation is completed or ceases to be active; authorizing the Financial Services Commission to adopt rules to administer this section; amending s. 280.02, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 717.101, F.S.; providing and revising definitions; amending s. 717.102, F.S.; providing a rebuttal to a presumption of unclaimed property; providing requirements for such rebuttal; providing circumstances under which a property is presumed unclaimed; providing construction; amending s. 717.106, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 717.1065, F.S.; providing circumstances under which virtual currency held or owing by banking organizations are not presumed unclaimed; prohibiting virtual currency holders from deducting certain charges from amounts of specified virtual currency under certain circumstances; providing an exception; amending s. 717.1101, F.S.; revising the date on which stocks and other equity interests in business associations are presumed unclaimed; amending s. 717.112, F.S.; providing that certain intangible property held by attorneys in fact and by agents in a fiduciary capacity are presumed unclaimed under certain circumstances; revising the requirements for claiming such property; providing construction; amending s. 717.1125, F.S.; providing construction; amending s. 717.117, F.S.; removing the paper option for reports by holders of unclaimed funds and property; revising the requirements for reporting the owners of unclaimed property and funds; authorizing the department to extend reporting dates under certain circumstances; revising the circumstances under which the department may impose and collect penalties; requiring holders of inactive accounts to notify apparent owners; revising the manner of sending such notices; providing requirements for such notices; amending s. 717.119, F.S.; requiring certain virtual currency to be

remitted to the department; providing requirements for the liquidation of such virtual currency; providing that holders of such virtual currency are relieved of all liability upon delivery of the virtual currency to the department; prohibiting holders from assigning or transferring certain obligations or from complying with certain provisions; providing that certain entities are responsible for meeting holders' obligations and complying with certain provisions under certain circumstances; providing construction; amending s. 717.1201, F.S.; providing that the state assumes custody and responsibility for the safekeeping of unclaimed property upon good faith payments or deliveries of property to the department; providing that the department relieves holders of certain liability under specified circumstances; providing construction; requiring the department to defend holders against certain claims and indemnify holders against certain liability under specified circumstances; revising circumstances under which payments or deliveries of unclaimed property are considered to be made in good faith; authorizing the department to refund and redeliver certain money and property under certain circumstances; amending s. 727.1242, F.S.; revising legislative intent; amending s. 717.1243, F.S.; revising applicability of certain provisions relating to unclaimed small estate accounts; amending s. 717.129, F.S.; revising the prohibition of department enforcement relating to duties of holders of unclaimed funds and property; revising the tolling for the periods of limitation relating to duties of holders of unclaimed funds and property; amending s. 717.1301, F.S.; revising the department's authorities on the disposition of unclaimed funds and property for specified purposes; prohibiting certain materials from being disclosed or made public under certain circumstances; revising the basis for the department's cost assessment against holders of unclaimed funds and property; amending s. 717.1311, F.S.; revising the recordkeeping requirements for funds and property holders; amending s. 717.1322, F.S.; revising acts that are violations of specified provisions and constitute grounds for administrative enforcement actions and civil enforcement by the department; providing that claimants' representatives, rather than registrants, are subject to civil enforcement and disciplinary actions for certain violations; amending s. 717.1333, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 717.134, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 717.135, F.S.; revising the information that certain agreements relating to unclaimed property must disclose; removing a requirement for Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement; providing nonapplicability; amending s. 717.1400, F.S.; removing a circumstance under which certain persons must register with the department; amending s. 766.302, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s. 766.314, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan may not accept new claims; amending ss. 197.582 and 717.1382, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing reporting requirements for the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association; amending s. 17.57, F.S.; providing certain requirements for credit unions designated as qualified public depositories relating to the

National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund; amending s. 17.68, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 280.02, F.S.; revising definitions; adding credit unions to a list of financial institutions that are eligible to be qualified public depositories; amending s. 280.025, F.S.; providing applicability of qualified public depository provisions to credit unions; amending s. 280.03, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; creating s. 280.042, F.S.; prohibiting the Chief Financial Officer from designating credit unions as qualified public depositories unless certain conditions are met; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to withdraw from a collateral agreement with a credit union under certain circumstances; specifying a requirement for and a restriction on a credit union that is a party to a withdrawn collateral agreement; providing limits on public deposits held by credit unions; amending ss. 280.05, 280.052, 280.053, and 280.055, F.S.; providing applicability of qualified public depository provisions to credit unions; amending s. 280.07, F.S.; specifying the losses against which certain solvent banks, savings banks, savings associations, and credit unions must guarantee public depositors; amending ss. 280.08 and 280.085, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 280.09, F.S.; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to segregate and separately account for proceeds, assessments, and administrative penalties attributable to a credit union from those attributable to other specified financial institutions; revising a condition for the payment of losses to public depositors; amending s. 280.10, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 280.13, F.S.; providing that a specified limit on securities eligible to be pledged as collateral applies to qualified public depositories, rather than to banks and savings associations; amending s. 280.17, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; reenacting ss. 280.17(1)(a), 24.114(1), 125.901(3)(e), 136.01, 159.608(11), 175.301, 175.401(8), 185.30, 185.50(8), 190.007(3), 191.006(16), 215.34(2), 218.415(16)(c), (17)(c), and (23)(a), 255.502(4)(h), 280.051(15), 280.18(1), 331.309(1) and (2), 373.553(2), 631.221, and 723.06115(3)(c), F.S., relating to requirements for public depositors; deposits and investments of state money; bank deposits and control of lottery transactions; children's services and independent special districts; county depositories; powers of housing finance authorities; depositories for pension funds; retiree health insurance subsidies; depositories for retirement funds; retiree health insurance subsidies; boards of supervisors; general powers; state funds and noncollectible items; local government investment policies; definitions; grounds for suspension or disqualification of a qualified public depository; protection of public depositors and liability of the state; treasurer, depositories, and fiscal agent for Space Florida; treasurer of the board, payment of funds, and depositories; deposit of moneys collected; and the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund, respectively, to incorporate the amendments made by this act to s. 280.02, F.S., in references thereto; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 17.69, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

17.69 Federal Tax Liaison.—

(1) The Federal Tax Liaison position is created within the department. The purpose of the position is to assist the taxpayers of the state.

(2) The Chief Financial Officer shall appoint a Federal Tax Liaison. The Federal Tax Liaison reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer but is not otherwise under the authority of the department or of any employee of the department.

(3) The Federal Tax Liaison may:

(a) Assist taxpayers by answering taxpayer questions.

(b) Direct taxpayers to the proper division or office within the Internal Revenue Service in order to facilitate timely resolution to taxpayer issues.

(c) Prepare recommendations for the Internal Revenue Service of any actions that will help resolve problems encountered by taxpayers.

(d) Provide information about the policies, practices, and procedures that the Internal Revenue Service uses to ensure compliance with the tax laws.

(e) With the consent of the taxpayer, request records from the Internal Revenue Service to assist the liaison in responding to taxpayer inquiries.

Section 2. Paragraphs (g) through (n) of subsection (2) of section 20.121, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) through (m), respectively, and paragraph (e) and present paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of that section are amended to read:

20.121 Department of Financial Services.—There is created a Department of Financial Services.

(2) DIVISIONS.—The Department of Financial Services shall consist of the following divisions and office:

(e) The Division of Criminal Investigations ~~Investigative and Forensic Services~~, which shall function as a criminal justice agency for purposes of ss. 943.045-943.08. The division may initiate and conduct investigations into any matter under the jurisdiction of the Chief Financial Officer and Fire Marshal within or outside of this state as it deems necessary. ~~If, during an investigation, the division has reason to believe that any criminal law of this state or the United States has or may have been violated, it shall refer any records tending to show such violation to state law enforcement and, if applicable, federal prosecutorial agencies and shall provide investigative assistance to those agencies as appropriate. The division shall include the following bureaus and office:~~

- ~~1. The Bureau of Forensic Services;~~
- ~~2. The Bureau of Fire, Arson, and Explosives Investigations;~~
- ~~3. The Office of Fiscal Integrity, which shall have a separate budget;~~
- ~~4. The Bureau of Insurance Fraud; and~~
- ~~5. The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Fraud.~~

~~(f) The Division of Public Assistance Fraud, which shall function as a criminal justice agency for purposes of ss. 943.045-943.08. The division shall conduct investigations pursuant to s. 414.411 within or outside of the state as it deems necessary. If, during an investigation, the division has reason to believe that any criminal law of the state has or may have been violated, it shall refer any records supporting such violation to state or federal law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies and shall provide investigative assistance to those agencies as required.~~

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 112.1816, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.1816 Firefighters; cancer diagnosis.—

(2) Upon a diagnosis of cancer, a firefighter is entitled to the following benefits, as an alternative to pursuing workers' compensation benefits under chapter 440, if the firefighter has been employed by his or her employer for at least 5 continuous years, has not used tobacco products for at least the preceding 5 years, and has not been employed in any other position in the preceding 5 years which is proven to create a higher risk for any cancer:

(a) Cancer treatment covered within an employer-sponsored health plan or through a group health insurance trust fund. The employer must timely reimburse the firefighter for any out-of-pocket deductible, copayment, or coinsurance costs incurred due to the treatment of cancer.

(b) A one-time cash payout of \$25,000, upon the firefighter's initial diagnosis of cancer.

(c) Leave time and employee retention benefits equivalent to those provided for other injuries or illnesses incurred in the line of duty.

If the firefighter elects to continue coverage in the employer-sponsored health plan or group health insurance trust fund after he or she terminates employment, the benefits specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) must be made available by the former employer of a firefighter for 10 years following the date on which the firefighter terminates employment so long as the firefighter otherwise met the criteria specified in this subsection when he or she terminated employment and was not subsequently employed as a firefighter following that date. ~~For purposes of determining leave time and~~

~~employee retention policies, the employer must consider a firefighter's cancer diagnosis as an injury or illness incurred in the line of duty.~~

Section 4. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) and paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section 121.0515, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

121.0515 Special Risk Class.—

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(f) Effective July 1, 2008, the member must be employed by the Department of Law Enforcement in the crime laboratory or by the Department of Financial Services ~~Division of State Fire Marshal~~ in the forensic laboratory and meet the special criteria set forth in paragraph (3)(h).

(3) CRITERIA.—A member, to be designated as a special risk member, must meet the following criteria:

(h) Effective July 1, 2008, the member must be employed by the Department of Law Enforcement in the crime laboratory or by the Department of Financial Services ~~Division of State Fire Marshal~~ in the forensic laboratory in one of the following classes:

1. Forensic technologist (class code 8459);
2. Crime laboratory technician (class code 8461);
3. Crime laboratory analyst (class code 8463);
4. Senior crime laboratory analyst (class code 8464);
5. Crime laboratory analyst supervisor (class code 8466);
6. Forensic chief (class code 9602); or
7. Forensic services quality manager (class code 9603);

Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 284.44, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

284.44 Salary indemnification costs of state agencies.—

~~(6) The Division of Risk Management shall prepare quarterly reports to the Executive Office of the Governor and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees indicating for each state agency the total amount of salary indemnification benefits paid to claimants and the total amount of reimbursements from state agencies to the State Risk Management Trust Fund for initial costs for the previous quarter. These reports shall also include information for each state agency indicating the number of cases and amounts of initial salary indemnification costs for which reimbursement~~

requirements were waived by the Executive Office of the Governor pursuant to this section.

Section 6. 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.—

(a) A three-member panel is created, consisting of the Chief Financial Officer, or the Chief Financial Officer's designee, and two members to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, one member who, on account of present or previous vocation, employment, or affiliation, shall be classified as a representative of employers, the other member who, on account of previous vocation, employment, or affiliation, shall be classified as a representative of employees. The panel shall determine statewide schedules of maximum reimbursement allowances for medically necessary treatment, care, and attendance provided by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. The maximum reimbursement allowances for inpatient hospital care shall be based on a schedule of per diem rates, to be approved by the three-member panel no later than March 1, 1994, to be used in conjunction with a precertification manual as determined by the department, including maximum hours in which an outpatient may remain in observation status, which shall not exceed 23 hours. All compensable charges for hospital outpatient care shall be reimbursed at 75 percent of usual and customary charges, except as otherwise provided by this subsection. Annually, the three-member panel shall adopt schedules of maximum reimbursement allowances for hospital inpatient care, hospital outpatient care, and ambulatory surgical centers. A hospital or an ambulatory surgical center shall be reimbursed either the agreed-upon contract price or the maximum reimbursement allowance in the appropriate schedule.

(b) Payments for outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy provided by hospitals shall be the schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances for these services which applies to nonhospital providers.

(c) Payments for scheduled outpatient nonemergency radiological and clinical laboratory services that are not provided in conjunction with a surgical procedure shall be the schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances for these services which applies to nonhospital providers.

(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 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. This subparagraph expires June 30, 2026.

(e)1. By July 1 of each year, the department shall notify carriers and self-insurers of the physician and nonhospital services schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances. The notice must include publication of this schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances on the division's website. This schedule is not subject to approval by the three-member panel and does not include reimbursement for prescription medication.

2. Subparagraph 1. shall take effect January 1, following the July 1, 2024, notice of the physician and nonhospital services schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances that the department provides to carriers and self-insurers.

(f) Maximum reimbursement for a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 shall be 110 percent of the reimbursement allowed by Medicare, using appropriate codes and modifiers or the medical reimbursement level adopted by the three-member panel as of January 1, 2003, whichever is greater.

(g) Maximum reimbursement for surgical procedures shall be 140 percent of the reimbursement allowed by Medicare or the medical reimbursement level adopted by the three-member panel as of January 1, 2003, whichever is greater.

(h) As to reimbursement for a prescription medication, the reimbursement amount for a prescription shall be the average wholesale price plus \$4.18 for the dispensing fee. For repackaged or relabeled prescription medications dispensed by a dispensing practitioner as provided in s. 465.0276, the fee schedule for reimbursement shall be 112.5 percent of the average wholesale price, plus \$8.00 for the dispensing fee. For purposes of this subsection, the average wholesale price shall be calculated by multiplying the number of units dispensed times the per-unit average wholesale price set by the original manufacturer of the underlying drug dispensed by the practitioner, based upon the published manufacturer's average wholesale price published in the Medi-Span Master Drug Database as of the date of dispensing. All pharmaceutical claims submitted for repackaged or relabeled prescription medications must include the National Drug Code of the original manufacturer. Fees for pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical services shall be reimbursable at the applicable fee schedule amount except where the employer or carrier, or a service company, third party administrator, or any entity acting on behalf of the employer or carrier directly contracts with the provider seeking reimbursement for a lower amount.

(i) Reimbursement for all fees and other charges for such treatment, care, and attendance, including treatment, care, and attendance provided by any hospital or other health care provider, ambulatory surgical center, work-hardening program, or pain program, must not exceed the amounts provided by the uniform schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances as determined by the panel or as otherwise provided in this section. This subsection also applies to independent medical examinations performed by health care providers under this chapter. In determining the uniform schedule, the panel shall first approve the data which it finds representative of prevailing charges in the state for similar treatment, care, and attendance of injured persons. Each health care provider, health care facility, ambulatory surgical center, work-hardening program, or pain program receiving workers' compensation payments shall maintain records verifying their usual charges. In establishing the uniform schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances, the panel must consider:

1. The levels of reimbursement for similar treatment, care, and attendance made by other health care programs or third-party providers;

2. The impact upon cost to employers for providing a level of reimbursement for treatment, care, and attendance which will ensure the availability of treatment, care, and attendance required by injured workers; and

3. The financial impact of the reimbursement allowances upon health care providers and health care facilities, including trauma centers as defined in s. 395.4001, and its effect upon their ability to make available to injured workers such medically necessary remedial treatment, care, and attendance. The uniform schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances must be reasonable, must promote health care cost containment and efficiency with respect to the workers' compensation health care delivery system, and must be sufficient to ensure availability of such medically necessary remedial treatment, care, and attendance to injured workers.

(j) In addition to establishing the uniform schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances, the panel shall:

1. Take testimony, receive records, and collect data to evaluate the adequacy of the workers' compensation fee schedule, nationally recognized fee schedules and alternative methods of reimbursement to health care providers and health care facilities for inpatient and outpatient treatment and care.

2. Survey health care providers and health care facilities to determine the availability and accessibility of workers' compensation health care delivery systems for injured workers.

3. Survey carriers to determine the estimated impact on carrier costs and workers' compensation premium rates by implementing changes to the carrier reimbursement schedule or implementing alternative reimbursement methods.

4. Submit recommendations on or before January 15, 2017, and biennially thereafter, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on methods to improve the workers' compensation health care delivery system.

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 7. Subsections (9) through (13) of section 440.385, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (10) through (14), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to that section to read:

440.385 Florida Self-Insurers Guaranty Association, Incorporated.—

(9) CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.—

(a) After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the association pursuant to this section which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny the contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

(b) All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the association. The association must undergo a formal bid solicitation process. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

1. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the association contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

2. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

(c) Evaluation of bids by the association must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The association must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation

conducted by the association must be made available, upon request, to the department via electronic delivery.

(d) Contracts that are required by law are exempt from this section.

Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 497.101, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (11), subsections (1) through (4) are amended, and a new subsection (7) and subsections (8), (9), and (10) are added to that section, to read:

497.101 Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services; membership; appointment; terms.—

(1) The Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services is created within the Department of Financial Services and shall consist of 10 members, 9 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from nominations ~~made by the Chief Financial Officer and confirmed by the Senate. The Chief Financial Officer shall nominate one to three persons for each of the nine vacancies on the board, and the Governor shall fill each vacancy on the board by appointing one of the persons nominated by the Chief Financial Officer to fill that vacancy. If the Governor objects to each of the nominations for a vacancy, she or he shall inform the Chief Financial Officer in writing. Upon notification of an objection by the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer shall submit one to three additional nominations for that vacancy until the vacancy is filled.~~ One member must be the State Health Officer or her or his designee.

(2) Two members of the board must be funeral directors licensed under part III of this chapter who are associated with a funeral establishment. One member of the board must be a funeral director licensed under part III of this chapter who is associated with a funeral establishment licensed under part III of this chapter which has a valid preneed license issued pursuant to this chapter and who owns or operates a ~~cinerator facility approved under chapter 403 and licensed under part VI of this chapter.~~ Two members of the board must be persons whose primary occupation is associated with a cemetery company licensed pursuant to this chapter. Two members of the board must be consumers who are residents of this state, have never been licensed as funeral directors or embalmers, are not connected with a cemetery or cemetery company licensed pursuant to this chapter, and are not connected with the death care industry or the practice of embalming, funeral directing, or direct disposition. One of the two consumer members must be at least 60 years of age. One member of the board must be a consumer who is a resident of this state; is licensed as a certified public accountant under chapter 473; has never been licensed as a funeral director or an embalmer; is not a principal or an employee of any licensee licensed under this chapter; and does not otherwise have control, as defined in s. 497.005, over any licensee licensed under this chapter. One member of the board must be a principal of a monument establishment licensed under this chapter as a monument builder. One member must be the State Health Officer or her or his designee. There may not be two or more board members

who are principals or employees of the same company or partnership or group of companies or partnerships under common control.

(3) Board members shall be appointed for terms of 4 years and may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for more than 8 consecutive years., and The State Health Officer shall serve as long as that person holds that office. The designee of the State Health Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Financial Officer ~~Governor~~.

(4) The Chief Financial Officer ~~Governor~~ may suspend and the Senate may remove any board member for malfeasance or misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, substantial inability to perform official duties, commission of a crime, or other substantial cause as determined by the Chief Financial Officer ~~Governor or Senate~~, as applicable, to evidence a lack of fitness to sit on the board. A board member shall be deemed to have resigned her or his board membership, and that position shall be deemed vacant, upon the failure of the member to attend three consecutive meetings of the board or at least half of the meetings of the board during any 12-month period, unless the Chief Financial Officer determines that there was good and adequate justification for the absences and that such absences are not likely to continue. Any vacancy so created shall be filled as provided in subsection (1).

(7) Members of the board are subject to the code of ethics under part III of chapter 112. For purposes of applying part III of chapter 112 to activities of the members of the board, those persons are considered public officers, and the department is considered their agency. A board member may not vote on any measure that would inure to his or her special private gain or loss and, in accordance with s. 112.3143(2), may not vote on any measure that he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by which he or she is retained, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312; or that he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of his or her relative or business associate. Before the vote is taken, such member shall publicly state to the board the nature of his or her interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.

(8) In accordance with ss. 112.3148 and 112.3149, a board member may not knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift or expenditure from a person or entity, or an employee or representative of such person or entity, which has a contractual relationship with the department or the board, which is under consideration for a contract, or which is licensed by the department.

(9) A board member who fails to comply with subsection (7) or subsection (8) is subject to the penalties provided under ss. 112.317 and 112.3173.

(10)(a) All meetings of the board are subject to the requirements of s. 286.011, and all books and records of the board are open to the public for reasonable inspection except as otherwise provided by s. 497.172 or other applicable law.

(b) Except for emergency meetings, the department shall give notice of any board meeting by publication on the department's website at least 7 days before the meeting. The department shall publish a meeting agenda on its website at least 7 days before the meeting. The agenda must contain the items to be considered in order of presentation. After the agenda has been made available, a change may be made only for good cause, as determined by the person designated to preside, and must be stated in the record. Notification of such change must be at the earliest practicable time.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 497.153, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.153 Disciplinary procedures and penalties.—

(4) ACTION AFTER PROBABLE CAUSE FOUND.—

(a) Service of an administrative complaint may be in person by department staff or any person authorized to make service of process under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. Service upon a licensee may in the alternative be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of record provided by the licensee to the department. If service by certified mail cannot be made at the last address provided by the licensee to the department, service may be made by e-mail, delivery receipt required, sent to the most recent e-mail address provided by the licensee to the department in accordance with s. 497.146.

Section 10. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 497.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.155 Disciplinary citations and minor violations.—

(1) CITATIONS.—

(e) Service of a citation may be made by personal service or certified mail, restricted delivery, to the subject at the subject's last known address in accordance with s. 497.146. If service by certified mail cannot be made at the last address provided by the subject to the department, service may be made by e-mail, delivery receipt required, sent to the most recent e-mail address provided by the subject to the department in accordance with s. 497.146.

Section 11. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 497.172, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.172 Public records exemptions; public meetings exemptions.—

(3) EXAMINATIONS, INSPECTIONS, AND INVESTIGATIONS.—

(d) Information made confidential and exempt pursuant to this subsection may be disclosed by the department as follows:

1. To the probable cause panel of the board, for the purpose of probable cause proceedings pursuant to s. 497.153.
2. To any law enforcement agency or other government agency in the performance of its official duties and responsibilities.
3. If the department uncovers information of immediate and serious concern to the public health, safety, or welfare, it may disseminate such information as it deems necessary for the public health, safety, or welfare.
4. If the department issues an emergency order pursuant to s. 497.156.

Section 12. Section 497.386, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.386 Storage, preservation, and transportation of human remains.

(1) A person may not store or maintain human remains at any establishment or facility except an establishment or facility licensed under this chapter or a health care facility, medical examiner's facility, morgue, or cemetery holding facility.

(2) A dead human body may not be held in any place or in transit over 24 hours after death or pending final disposition unless the body is maintained under refrigeration at a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below or is embalmed or otherwise preserved in a manner approved by the licensing authority in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(3) A dead human body transported by common carrier or any agency or individual authorized to carry dead human bodies must be placed in a carrying container adequate to prevent the seepage of fluids and escape of offensive odors. A dead human body may be transported only when accompanied by a properly completed burial-transit permit issued in accordance with the provisions of chapter 382.

(4) The licensing authority shall establish by rule the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practices for the handling and storing of dead human bodies, provided that all human remains transported or stored must be completely covered and at all times treated with dignity and respect.

(5) In the event of an emergency situation, including the abandonment of any establishments or facilities licensed under this chapter or any medical examiner's facility, morgue, or cemetery holding facility, the department may enter and secure such establishment, facility, or morgue during or outside of normal business hours and remove human remains and cremated remains from the establishment, facility, or morgue. For purposes of this subsection, the department shall determine if a facility is abandoned and if there is an emergency situation. A licensee or licensed facility that accepts transfer of human remains and cremated remains from the department

pursuant to this subsection may not be held liable for the condition of any human remains or cremated remains at the time of transfer.

~~(6)(5)~~ A person who violates subsection (1) or subsection (3) ~~any provision of this section~~ commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(7) A person who violates subsection (2) or subsection (4) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 13. Section 497.469, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

497.469 Fulfillment of preneed contracts.—

(1) Upon delivery of merchandise or performance of services in fulfillment of a preneed contract, either in part or in whole, a preneed licensee may withdraw the amount deposited in trust plus income earned on such amount for the merchandise delivered or services performed, when adequate documentation is submitted to the trustee.

(2) The following documentation is satisfactory evidence that a preneed contract has been fulfilled:

(a) A certified copy of death certificate;

(b) An invoice for merchandise which reflects the name of the purchaser or beneficiary and the contract number;

(c) An acknowledgment signed by the purchaser or legally authorized person, acknowledging that merchandise was delivered or services performed; or

(d) A burial permit or other documentation provided to another governmental agency.

(3) For purposes of fulfillment of a preneed cemetery contract, the documentation set forth in subsection (2) or a certificate signed by an officer, manager, or designee that the merchandise was delivered or services were performed is satisfactory evidence to show that a preneed cemetery contract has been fulfilled.

(4) The preneed licensee shall maintain documentation that supports fulfillment of a particular contract until such records are examined by the department.

Section 14. Paragraphs (c) and (d) subsection (10) of section 624.307, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, paragraph (b) is amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection (10) of that section, to read:

624.307 General powers; duties.—

(10)

(b) Any person licensed or issued a certificate of authority or made an eligible surplus lines insurer by the department or the office shall respond, in writing or electronically, to the division within 14 days after receipt of a written request for documents and information from the division concerning a consumer complaint. The response must address the issues and allegations raised in the complaint and include any requested documents concerning the consumer complaint not subject to attorney-client or work-product privilege. The division may impose an administrative penalty for failure to comply with this paragraph of up to \$5,000 per violation upon any entity licensed by the department or the office and up to \$1,000 per violation by any individual licensed by the department or the office.

(c) Each insurer issued a certificate of authority or made an eligible surplus lines insurer shall file with the department an e-mail address to which requests for response to consumer complaints shall be directed pursuant to paragraph (b). Such insurer shall also designate a contact person for escalated complaint issues and shall provide the name, e-mail address, and telephone number of such person. A licensee of the department, including an agency or a firm, may elect to designated an e-mail address to which requests for response to consumer complaints shall be directed pursuant to paragraph (b). If a licensee, including an agency or a firm, elects not to designate an e-mail address, the department shall direct requests for response to consumer complaints to the e-mail address of record for the licensee in the department's licensing system. An insurer or a licensee, including an agency or a firm, may change a designated contact information at any time by submitting the new information to the department using the method designated by rule by the department.

Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 626.171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.171 Application for license as an agent, customer representative, adjuster, service representative, or reinsurance intermediary.—

(2) In the application, the applicant shall set forth:

(a) His or her full name, age, social security number, residence address, business address, mailing address, contact telephone numbers, including a business telephone number, and e-mail address.

(b) A statement indicating the method the applicant used or is using to meet any required preclicensing education, knowledge, experience, or instructional requirements for the type of license applied for.

(c) Whether he or she has been refused or has voluntarily surrendered or has had suspended or revoked a license to solicit insurance by the department or by the supervising officials of any state.

(d) Whether any insurer or any managing general agent claims the applicant is indebted under any agency contract or otherwise and, if so, the name of the claimant, the nature of the claim, and the applicant's defense thereto, if any.

(e) Proof that the applicant meets the requirements for the type of license for which he or she is applying.

(f) The applicant's gender (male or female).

(g) The applicant's native language.

(h) The highest level of education achieved by the applicant.

(i) The applicant's race or ethnicity (African American, white, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, or other).

(j) Such other or additional information as the department may deem proper to enable it to determine the character, experience, ability, and other qualifications of the applicant to hold himself or herself out to the public as an insurance representative.

However, the application must contain a statement that an applicant is not required to disclose his or her race or ethnicity, gender, or native language, that he or she will not be penalized for not doing so, and that the department will use this information exclusively for research and statistical purposes and to improve the quality and fairness of the examinations. The department shall make provisions for applicants to submit cellular telephone numbers as part of the application process on a voluntary basis only for the purpose of two-factor authentication of secure login credentials only.

Section 16. Paragraph (j) of subsection (2) of section 626.221, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.221 Examination requirement; exemptions.—

(2) However, an examination is not necessary for any of the following:

(j) An applicant for license as an all-lines adjuster who has the designation of Accredited Claims Adjuster (ACA) from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution in this state; Certified All Lines Adjuster (CALA) from Kaplan Financial Education; Associate in Claims (AIC) from the Insurance Institute of America; Professional Claims Adjuster (PCA) from the Professional Career Institute; Professional Property Insurance Adjuster (PPIA) from the HurriClaim Training Academy; Certified Adjuster (CA) from ALL LINES Training; Certified Claims Adjuster (CCA) from AE21 Incorporated; Claims Adjuster Certified Professional (CACP) from WebCE, Inc.; Accredited Insurance Claims Specialist (AICS) from Encore Claim Services; Professional in Claims (PIC) from 2021 Training, LLC; Registered Claims Adjuster (RCA) from American Insurance College; or Universal Claims Certification (UCC) from Claims and Litigation

Management Alliance (CLM) whose curriculum has been approved by the department and which includes comprehensive analysis of basic property and casualty lines of insurance and testing at least equal to that of standard department testing for the all-lines adjuster license. The department shall adopt rules establishing standards for the approval of curriculum.

Section 17. Subsection (6) of section 626.601, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.601 Improper conduct; inquiry; fingerprinting.—

(6) The complaint and any information obtained pursuant to the investigation by the department or office are confidential and are exempt from s. 119.07 unless the department or office files a formal administrative complaint, emergency order, or consent order against the individual or entity. This subsection does not prevent the department or office from disclosing the complaint or such information as it deems necessary to conduct the investigation, to update the complainant as to the status and outcome of the complaint, to review the details of the investigation with the individual or entity being investigated or their representative, or to share such information with any law enforcement agency or other regulatory body.

Section 18. Subsection (3) of section 626.7351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.7351 Qualifications for customer representative's license.—The department shall not grant or issue a license as customer representative to any individual found by it to be untrustworthy or incompetent, or who does not meet each of the following qualifications:

(3) Within 4 years preceding the date that the application for license was filed with the department, the applicant has earned the designation of Accredited Advisor in Insurance (AAI), Associate in General Insurance (AINS), or Accredited Customer Service Representative (ACSR) from the Insurance Institute of America; the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) from the Society of Certified Insurance Service Counselors; the designation of Certified Professional Service Representative (CPSR) from the National Foundation for CPSR; the designation of Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) from the Society of Certified Insurance Service Representatives; the designation of Certified Insurance Representative (CIR) from All-Lines Training; the designation of Chartered Customer Service Representative (CCSR) from American Insurance College; the designation of Professional Customer Service Representative (PCSR) from the Professional Career Institute; the designation of Insurance Customer Service Representative (ICSR) from Statewide Insurance Associates LLC; the designation of Registered Customer Service Representative (RCSR) from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution in the state whose curriculum is approved by the department and includes comprehensive analysis of basic property and casualty lines of insurance and testing which demonstrates mastery of the subject; or a degree from an accredited

institution of higher learning approved by the department when the degree includes a minimum of 9 credit hours of insurance instruction, including specific instruction in the areas of property, casualty, and inland marine insurance. The department shall adopt rules establishing standards for the approval of curriculum.

Section 19. Section 626.878, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.878 Rules; code of ethics.—

(1) An adjuster shall subscribe to the code of ethics specified in the rules of the department. The rules shall implement the provisions of this part and specify the terms and conditions of contracts, including a right to cancel, and require practices necessary to ensure fair dealing, prohibit conflicts of interest, and ensure preservation of the rights of the claimant to participate in the adjustment of claims.

(2) A person licensed as an adjuster must identify himself or herself in any advertisement, solicitation, or written document based on the adjuster appointment type held.

(3) An adjuster who has had his or her licensed revoked or suspended may not participate in any part of an insurance claim or in the insurance claims adjusting process, including estimating, completing, filing, negotiating, appraising, mediating, umpiring, or effecting settlement of a claim for loss or damage covered under an insurance contract. A person who provides these services while the person's license is revoked or suspended acts as an unlicensed adjuster.

Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 626.929, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

626.929 Origination, acceptance, placement of surplus lines business.

(1) A licensed and appointed general lines agent while also licensed and appointed as a surplus lines agent under this part may originate surplus lines business and may accept surplus lines business from any other originating Florida-licensed general lines agent appointed and licensed as to the kinds of insurance involved and may compensate such agent therefor.

(4) A general lines agent while licensed as a surplus lines agent under this part may appoint these licenses with a single surplus license agent appointment pursuant to s. 624.501. Such agent may only originate surplus lines business and accept surplus lines business from other originating Florida-licensed general lines agents appointed and licensed as to the kinds of insurance involved and may compensate such agent therefor. Such agent may not be appointed by or transact general lines insurance on behalf of an admitted insurer.

Section 21. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (4) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, to read:

627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.—

(4) MEDICAL MALPRACTICE RISK APPORTIONMENT; ASSOCIATION CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.—

(j)1. After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the association pursuant to this subsection which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny a contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

2. All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the association. The association must undergo a formal bid solicitation process by a minimum of three vendors. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

a. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the association contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

b. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

3. Evaluation of bids by the association must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The association must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation conducted by the association must be made available, upon request, to the department by electronic delivery.

Section 22. Subsection (5) is added to section 631.59, Florida Statutes, to read:

631.59 Duties and powers of department and office; association contracts and purchases.—

(5)(a) After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the association pursuant to this section which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny the contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

(b) All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the association. The association must undergo a formal bid solicitation process. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

1. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the association contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

2. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

(c) Evaluation of bids by the association must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The association must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation conducted by the association must be made available, upon request, to the department via electronic delivery.

(d) Paragraphs (b) and (c) do not apply to claims defense counsel or claims vendors if contracts with all vendors which may exceed \$100,000 are provided to the department for prior approval in accordance with paragraph (a).

Section 23. Subsection (6) is added to section 631.722, Florida Statutes, to read:

631.722 Powers and duties of department and office; association contracts and purchases.—

(6)(a) After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the association pursuant to this section which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny the contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

(b) All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the association. The association must undergo a formal bid solicitation process. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

1. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the association contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

2. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

(c) Evaluation of bids by the association must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The association must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation conducted by the association must be made available, upon request, to the department via electronic delivery.

Section 24. Subsection (5) is added to section 631.821, Florida Statutes, to read:

631.821 Powers and duties of the department; board contracts and purchases.—

(5)(a) After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the board pursuant to this section which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny the contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

(b) All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the board. The board must undergo a formal bid solicitation process. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

1. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the board contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

2. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

(c) Evaluation of bids by the board must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The plan must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation conducted by the board must be made available, upon request, to the department via electronic delivery.

Section 25. Section 631.921, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

631.921 Department powers; board contracts and purchases.—

(1) The corporation shall be subject to examination by the department. By March 1 of each year, the board of directors shall cause a financial report to be filed with the department for the immediately preceding calendar year in a form approved by the department.

(2)(a) After July 1, 2024, all contracts entered into, and all purchases made by, the board pursuant to this section which are valued at or more than \$100,000 must first be approved by the department. The department has 10 days to approve or deny the contract or purchase upon electronic receipt of the approval request. The contract or purchase is automatically approved if the department is nonresponsive.

(b) All contracts and purchases valued at or more than \$100,000 require competition through a formal bid solicitation conducted by the board. The board must undergo a formal bid solicitation process. The formal bid solicitation process must include all of the following:

1. The time and date for the receipt of bids, the proposals, and whether the board contemplates renewal of the contract, including the price for each year for which the contract may be renewed.

2. All the contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.

(c) Evaluation of bids by the board must include consideration of the total cost for each year of the contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the vendor. The association must award the contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor. Any formal bid solicitation conducted by the association must be made available, upon request, to the department via electronic delivery.

Section 26. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 633.124, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.124 Penalty for violation of law, rule, or order to cease and desist or for failure to comply with corrective order.—

(3)

(b) A person who initiates a pyrotechnic display within any structure commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, unless:

1. The structure has a fire protection system installed in compliance with s. 633.334.

2. The owner of the structure has authorized in writing the pyrotechnic display.

3. If the local jurisdiction requires a permit for the use of a pyrotechnic display in an occupied structure, such permit has been obtained and all conditions of the permit complied with or, if the local jurisdiction does not require a permit for the use of a pyrotechnic display in an occupied structure, the person initiating the display has complied with National Fire Protection Association, Inc., Standard 1126, 2021 ~~2001~~ Edition, Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience.

Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 633.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.202 Florida Fire Prevention Code.—

(2) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt the current edition of the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 1, Fire Prevention Code but may not adopt a building, mechanical, accessibility, or plumbing code. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt the current edition of the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, current editions, by reference. The State Fire Marshal may modify the selected codes and standards as needed to accommodate the

specific needs of the state. Standards or criteria in the selected codes shall be similarly incorporated by reference. The State Fire Marshal shall incorporate within sections of the Florida Fire Prevention Code provisions that address uniform firesafety standards as established in s. 633.206. The State Fire Marshal shall incorporate within sections of the Florida Fire Prevention Code provisions addressing regional and local concerns and variations.

Section 28. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 633.206, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.206 Uniform firesafety standards.—The Legislature hereby determines that to protect the public health, safety, and welfare it is necessary to provide for firesafety standards governing the construction and utilization of certain buildings and structures. The Legislature further determines that certain buildings or structures, due to their specialized use or to the special characteristics of the person utilizing or occupying these buildings or structures, should be subject to firesafety standards reflecting these special needs as may be appropriate.

(1) The department shall establish uniform firesafety standards that apply to:

(b) All new, existing, and proposed hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, correctional facilities, public schools, transient public lodging establishments, public food service establishments, mobile food dispensing vehicles, elevators, migrant labor camps, mobile home parks, lodging parks, recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, residential and nonresidential child care facilities, facilities for the developmentally disabled, motion picture and television special effects productions, tunnels, energy storage systems, and self-service gasoline stations, of which standards the State Fire Marshal is the final administrative interpreting authority.

In the event there is a dispute between the owners of the buildings specified in paragraph (b) and a local authority requiring a more stringent uniform firesafety standard for sprinkler systems, the State Fire Marshal shall be the final administrative interpreting authority and the State Fire Marshal's interpretation regarding the uniform firesafety standards shall be considered final agency action.

Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 634.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

634.041 Qualifications for license.—To qualify for and hold a license to issue service agreements in this state, a service agreement company must be in compliance with this part, with applicable rules of the commission, with related sections of the Florida Insurance Code, and with its charter powers and must comply with the following:

(8)

(b) A service agreement company does not have to establish and maintain an unearned premium reserve if it secures and maintains contractual liability insurance in accordance with the following:

1. Coverage of 100 percent of the claim exposure is obtained from an insurer or insurers approved by the office, which hold ~~holds~~ a certificate of authority under s. 624.401 to do business within this state, or secured through a risk retention groups ~~group~~, which are ~~is~~ authorized to do business within this state under s. 627.943 or s. 627.944. Such insurers ~~insurer~~ or risk retention groups ~~group~~ must maintain a surplus as regards policyholders of at least \$15 million.

2. If the service agreement company does not meet its contractual obligations, the contractual liability insurance policy binds its issuer to pay or cause to be paid to the service agreement holder all legitimate claims and cancellation refunds for all service agreements issued by the service agreement company while the policy was in effect. This requirement also applies to those service agreements for which no premium has been remitted to the insurer.

3. If the issuer of the contractual liability policy is fulfilling the service agreements covered by the contractual liability policy and the service agreement holder cancels the service agreement, the issuer must make a full refund of unearned premium to the consumer, subject to the cancellation fee provisions of s. 634.121(3). The sales representative and agent must refund to the contractual liability policy issuer their unearned pro rata commission.

4. The policy may not be canceled, terminated, or nonrenewed by the insurer or the service agreement company unless a 90-day written notice thereof has been given to the office by the insurer before the date of the cancellation, termination, or nonrenewal.

5. The service agreement company must provide the office with the claims statistics.

6. A policy issued in compliance with this paragraph may either pay 100 percent of claims as they are incurred, or pay 100 percent of claims due in the event of the failure of the service agreement company to pay such claims when due.

All funds or premiums remitted to an insurer by a motor vehicle service agreement company under this part shall remain in the care, custody, and control of the insurer and shall be counted as an asset of the insurer; provided, however, this requirement does not apply when the insurer and the motor vehicle service agreement company are affiliated companies and members of an insurance holding company system. If the motor vehicle service agreement company chooses to comply with this paragraph but also maintains a reserve to pay claims, such reserve shall only be considered an asset of the covered motor vehicle service agreement company and may not be simultaneously counted as an asset of any other entity.

Section 30. Subsection (5) of section 634.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

634.081 Suspension or revocation of license; grounds.—

(5) The office shall suspend or revoke the license of a company if it finds that the ratio of gross written premiums written to net assets exceeds 10 to 1 unless the company has in excess of \$750,000 in net assets and is utilizing contractual liability insurance which cedes 100 percent of the service agreement company's claims liabilities to the contractual liability insurers ~~insurer~~ or is utilizing contractual liability insurance which reimburses the service agreement company for 100 percent of its paid claims. However, if a service agreement company has been licensed by the office in excess of 10 years, is in compliance with all applicable provisions of this part, and has net assets at all times in excess of \$3 million that comply with the provisions of part II of chapter 625, such company may not exceed a ratio of gross written premiums written to net assets of 15 to 1.

Section 31. Subsection (5) of section 634.3077, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), subsection (3) is amended, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

634.3077 Financial requirements.—

(3) An association ~~may~~ shall not be required to set up an unearned premium reserve if it has purchased contractual liability insurance which demonstrates to the satisfaction of the office that 100 percent of its claim exposure is covered by such insurance. Such contractual liability insurance shall be obtained from an insurer or insurers that hold ~~holds~~ a certificate of authority to do business within the state or from an insurer or insurers approved by the office as financially capable of meeting the obligations incurred pursuant to the policy. For purposes of this subsection, the contractual liability policy shall contain the following provisions:

(a) In the event that the home warranty association is unable to fulfill its obligation under its contracts issued in this state for any reason, including insolvency, bankruptcy, or dissolution, the contractual liability insurer will pay losses and unearned premiums under such plans directly to persons making claims under such contracts.

(b) The insurer issuing the policy shall assume full responsibility for the administration of claims in the event of the inability of the association to do so.

(c) The policy may not be canceled or not renewed by ~~either~~ the insurer or the association unless 60 days' written notice thereof has been given to the office by the insurer before the date of such cancellation or nonrenewal.

(d) The contractual liability insurance policy shall insure all home warranty contracts that were issued while the policy was in effect whether or not the premium has been remitted to the insurer.

(5) An association licensed under this part is not required to establish an unearned premium reserve or maintain contractual liability insurance and may allow its premiums to exceed the ratio to net assets limitation of this section if the association complies with the following:

(a) The association or, if the association is a direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of a parent corporation, its parent corporation has, and maintains at all times, a minimum net worth of at least \$100 million and provides the office with the following:

1. A copy of the association's annual audited financial statements or the audited consolidated financial statements of the association's parent corporation, prepared by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which clearly demonstrate the net worth of the association or its parent corporation to be \$100 million, and a quarterly written certification to the office that the association or its parent corporation continues to maintain the net worth required under this paragraph.

2. The association's or its parent corporation's Form 10-K, Form 10-Q, or Form 20-F as filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or such other documents required to be filed with a recognized stock exchange, which shall be provided on a quarterly and annual basis within 10 days after the last date each such report must be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation system, or other recognized stock exchange.

Failure to timely file the documents required under this paragraph may, at the discretion of the office, subject the association to suspension or revocation of its license under this part.

(b) If the net worth of a parent corporation is used to satisfy the net worth provisions of paragraph (a), the following provisions must be met:

1. The parent corporation must guarantee all service warranty obligations of the association, wherever written, on a form approved in advance by the office. A cancellation, termination, or modification of the guarantee does not become effective unless the parent corporation provides the office written notice at least 90 days before the effective date of the cancellation, termination, or modification and the office approves the request in writing. Before the effective date of the cancellation, termination, or modification of the guarantee, the association must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the office compliance with all applicable provisions of this part, including whether the association will meet the requirements of this section by the purchase of contractual liability insurance, establishing required reserves, or other method allowed under this section. If the association or parent corporation does not demonstrate to the satisfaction of the office compliance with all applicable provisions of this part, the association or parent association shall immediately cease writing new and renewal business upon the effective date of the cancellation, termination, or modification.

2. The association must maintain at all times net assets of at least \$750,000.

Section 32. Section 634.317, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

634.317 License and appointment required.—No person may solicit, negotiate, or effectuate home warranty contracts for remuneration in this state unless such person is licensed and appointed as a sales representative. A licensed and appointed sales representative shall be directly responsible and accountable for all acts of the licensee’s employees. A municipality, a county government, a special district, an entity operated by a municipality or county government, or an employee or agent of a municipality, county government, special district, or entity operated by a municipality or county government is exempt from the licensing and appointing requirements under this section.

Section 33. Subsection (9) of section 648.25, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new subsection (9) and subsection (11) are added to that section to read:

648.25 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(9) “Referring bail bond agent” is the limited surety agent who is requesting the transfer bond. The referring bail bond agent is the agent held liable for the transfer bond, along with the issuing surety company.

(11) “Transfer bond” means the appearance bond and power of attorney form posted by a limited surety agent who is registered in the county where the defendant is being held in custody.

Section 34. Subsection (3) of section 648.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

648.26 Department of Financial Services; administration.—

(3) The papers, documents, reports, or any other investigatory records of the department are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) until such investigation is completed or ceases to be active, unless the department or office files a formal administrative complaint, emergency order, or consent order against the individual or entity. For the purpose of this section, an investigation is considered active while the investigation is being conducted by the department with a reasonable, good faith belief that it may lead to the filing of administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. An investigation does not cease to be active if the department is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and there is good faith belief that action may be initiated by the department or other administrative or law enforcement agency. This subsection does not prevent the department or office from disclosing the content of a complaint or such information as it deems necessary to conduct the investigation, to update the complainant as to the status and outcome of the complaint, to review the details of the investigation with the subject or

the subject's representative, or to share such information with any law enforcement agency or other regulatory body.

Section 35. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 648.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

648.30 Licensure and appointment required; prohibited acts; penalties.

(1)(a) A person or entity may not act in the capacity of a bail bond agent or bail bond agency or perform any of the functions, duties, or powers prescribed for bail bond agents or bail bond agencies under this chapter unless that person or entity is qualified, licensed, and appointed as provided in this chapter ~~and employed by a bail bond agency~~.

Section 36. Subsection (1) of section 648.355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

648.355 Limited surety agents and professional bail bond agents; qualifications.—

(1) The applicant shall furnish, with the application for license, a complete set of the applicant's fingerprints in accordance with s. 626.171(4) ~~and a recent credential-sized, fullface photograph of the applicant~~. The department may not issue a license under this section until the department has received a report from the Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation relative to the existence or nonexistence of a criminal history report based on the applicant's fingerprints.

Section 37. Effective July 1, 2024, section 655.0323, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

655.0323 Unsafe and unsound practices.—

(1) Financial institutions must make determinations about the provision or denial of services based on an analysis of risk factors unique to each current or prospective customer or member and may not engage in an unsafe and unsound practice as provided in subsection (2). This subsection does not restrict a financial institution that claims a religious purpose from making such determinations based on the current or prospective customer's or member's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.

(2) It is an unsafe and unsound practice for a financial institution to deny, ~~or cancel, suspend, or terminate~~ its services to a person, or to otherwise discriminate against a person in making available such services, or in the terms or conditions of such services, on the basis of:

(a) The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations;

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1), the person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;

(c) Any factor if it is not a quantitative, impartial, and risk-based standard, including any such factor related to the person's business sector; or

(d) The use of any rating, scoring, analysis, tabulation, or action that considers a social credit score based on factors including, but not limited to:

1. The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations.
2. The person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.
3. The person's lawful ownership of a firearm.
4. The person's engagement in the lawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, or use of firearms or ammunition.
5. The person's engagement in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacture of fossil fuel-based energy, timber, mining, or agriculture.
6. The person's support of the state or Federal Government in combating illegal immigration, drug trafficking, or human trafficking.
7. The person's engagement with, facilitation of, employment by, support of, business relationship with, representation of, or advocacy for any person described in this paragraph.
8. The person's failure to meet or commit to meet, or expected failure to meet, any of the following as long as such person is in compliance with applicable state or federal law:
 - a. Environmental standards, including emissions standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures;
 - b. Social governance standards, benchmarks, or requirements, including, but not limited to, environmental or social justice;
 - c. Corporate board or company employment composition standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures based on characteristics protected under the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; or
 - d. Policies or procedures requiring or encouraging employee participation in social justice programming, including, but not limited to, diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2023, and by July 1 of each year thereafter, financial institutions ~~as defined in s. 655.005~~ subject to the financial institutions codes must attest, under penalty of perjury, on a form prescribed by the commission whether the entity is acting in compliance with subsections (1) and (2).

(4) If a person who is a customer or member of a financial institution suspects that such financial institution has acted in violation of subsection (2), the aggrieved customer or member may submit a complaint to the office on a form prescribed by the commission within 30 days after such action. A complaint is barred if not timely submitted. The complaint must, at a minimum, contain the name and address of the customer or member; the name of the financial institution; and the facts upon which the customer or member bases his or her allegation.

(5) After receipt of a customer's or member's complaint under subsection (4):

(a) The office must notify the financial institution that a complaint has been filed.

(b) Within 90 calendar days after receiving the notice from the office, the financial institution must file with the office a complaint response report containing such information as the commission requires by rule, unless precluded by law.

(c) If the complaint response report indicates that the financial institution took action due to suspicious activity, as defined in s. 655.50(3), the initial investigation by the office must be handled in accordance with s. 655.50. If the office determines that the financial institution's action was taken without any basis under s. 655.50, the office must continue to investigate the financial institution's action and determine whether the financial institution has acted in violation of subsection (2).

(d) Within 90 calendar days after receiving the complaint submitted pursuant to this subsection, the office shall begin an investigation of the alleged violation.

(e) After the investigation is completed or ceases to be active, the office shall:

1. Within 30 calendar days after the completion or cessation of the investigation, create a report on the findings of the investigation. Such report, however, may not contain or must redact any information that remains confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1). If the office determines that no violation of subsection (2) has occurred, the report must only:

a. Identify the complaint for which the report is made; and

b. State that a determination has been made that no violation of subsection (2) has occurred.

2. Except as otherwise provided or prohibited by law, within 45 calendar days after the completion or cessation of the investigation, send such report to the customer or member who submitted the complaint pursuant to this subsection, via certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to the addressee; and to the subject financial institution.

(f) Except as otherwise provided or prohibited by law, if the office determines that a violation of subsection (2) has occurred, the office must provide notice of such violation to the customer or member and to the Department of Financial Services and the enforcing authority, as defined in s. 501.203(2), and provide a copy of the report created pursuant to this subsection.

~~(6)~~(4) Engaging in a practice described in subsection (2) or failing to timely provide the attestation under subsection (3) is a failure to comply with this chapter, constitutes a violation of the financial institutions codes, and is subject to the applicable sanctions and penalties provided for in the financial institutions codes.

~~(7)~~(5) Notwithstanding ss. 501.211 and 501.212, a failure to comply with subsection (1) or engaging in a practice described in subsection (2) constitutes a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under part II of chapter 501. Violations must be enforced only by the enforcing authority, as defined in s. 501.203(2), and subject the violator to the sanctions and penalties provided for in that part. If such action is successful, the enforcing authority is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.

~~(8)~~(6) The office and the commission may not exercise authority pursuant to s. 655.061 in relation to this section.

(9) The commission may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 38. Paragraph (f) of subsection (26) of section 280.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.02 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(26) “Qualified public depository” means a bank, savings bank, or savings association that:

(f) Does not engage in the unsafe and unsound practice of denying, ~~or canceling,~~ suspending, or terminating its services to a person, or otherwise discriminating against a person in making available such services or in the terms or conditions of such services, on the basis of:

1. The person’s political opinions, speech, or affiliations;
2. Except as provided in paragraph (e), the person’s religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;
3. Any factor if it is not a quantitative, impartial, and risk-based standard, including any such factor related to the person’s business sector; or
4. The use of any rating, scoring, analysis, tabulation, or action that considers a social credit score based on factors including, but not limited to:

- a. The person's political opinions, speech, or affiliations.
- b. The person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.
- c. The person's lawful ownership of a firearm.
- d. The person's engagement in the lawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, or use of firearms or ammunition.
- e. The person's engagement in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacture of fossil fuel-based energy, timber, mining, or agriculture.
- f. The person's support of the state or Federal Government in combating illegal immigration, drug trafficking, or human trafficking.
- g. The person's engagement with, facilitation of, employment by, support of, business relationship with, representation of, or advocacy for any person described in this subparagraph.
- h. The person's failure to meet or commit to meet, or expected failure to meet, any of the following as long as such person is in compliance with applicable state or federal law:
 - (I) Environmental standards, including emissions standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures;
 - (II) Social governance standards, benchmarks, or requirements, including, but not limited to, environmental or social justice;
 - (III) Corporate board or company employment composition standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures based on characteristics protected under the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; or
 - (IV) Policies or procedures requiring or encouraging employee participation in social justice programming, including, but not limited to, diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

Section 39. Section 717.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.101 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Aggregate" means the amounts reported for owners of unclaimed property of less than \$10 ~~\$50~~ or where there is no name for the individual or entity listed on the holder's records, regardless of the amount to be reported.
- (2) "Apparent owner" means the person whose name appears on the records of the holder as the person entitled to property held, issued, or owing by the holder.

(3) “Audit” means an action or proceeding to examine and verify a person’s records, books, accounts, and other documents to ascertain and determine compliance with this chapter.

(4) “Audit agent” means a person with whom the department enters into a contract with to conduct an audit or examination. The term includes an independent contractor of the person and each individual participating in the audit on behalf of the person or contractor.

(5)(3) “Banking organization” means any and all banks, trust companies, private bankers, savings banks, industrial banks, safe-deposit companies, savings and loan associations, credit unions, and investment companies in this state, organized under or subject to the laws of this state or of the United States, including entities organized under 12 U.S.C. s. 611, but does not include federal reserve banks. The term also includes any corporation, business association, or other organization that:

(a) Is a wholly or partially owned subsidiary of any banking, banking corporation, or bank holding company that performs any or all of the functions of a banking organization; or

(b) Performs functions pursuant to the terms of a contract with any banking organization state or national bank, international banking entity or similar entity, trust company, savings bank, industrial savings bank, land bank, safe-deposit company, private bank, or any organization otherwise defined by law as a bank or banking organization.

(6)(4) “Business association” means any for-profit or nonprofit corporation other than a public corporation; joint stock company; investment company; unincorporated association or association of two or more individuals for business purposes, whether or not for profit; partnership; joint venture; limited liability company; sole proprietorship; business trust; trust company; land bank; safe-deposit company; safekeeping depository; financial organization; insurance company; federally chartered entity; utility company; or other business entity, whether or not for profit corporation (other than a public corporation), joint stock company, investment company, business trust, partnership, limited liability company, or association of two or more individuals for business purposes, whether for profit or not for profit.

(7)(5) “Claimant” means the person on whose behalf a claim is filed.

(8) “Claimant’s representative” means an attorney who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, a certified public accountant licensed in this state, or private investigator who is duly licensed to do business in the state, registered with the department, and authorized by the claimant to claim unclaimed property on the claimant’s behalf. The term does not include a person acting in a representative capacity, such as a personal representative, guardian, trustee, or attorney, whose representation is not contingent upon the discovery or location of unclaimed property; provided,

however, that any agreement entered into for the purpose of evading s. 717.135 is invalid and unenforceable.

~~(9)~~(6) “Credit balance” means an account balance in the customer’s favor.

~~(10)~~(7) “Department” means the Department of Financial Services.

~~(11)~~(8) “Domicile” means the state of incorporation for a corporation; the state of filing for a business association, other than a corporation, whose formation or organization requires a filing with a state; the state of organization for a business association, other than a corporation, whose formation or organization does not require a filing with a state; the state of home office for a federally chartered entity incorporated under the laws of a state, or, for an unincorporated business association, the state where the business association is organized.

~~(12)~~(9) “Due diligence” means the use of reasonable and prudent methods under particular circumstances to locate apparent owners of inactive accounts using the taxpayer identification number or social security number, if known, which may include, but are not limited to, using a nationwide database, cross-indexing with other records of the holder, mailing to the last known address unless the last known address is known to be inaccurate, providing written notice as described in this chapter by electronic mail if an apparent owner has elected such delivery, or engaging a licensed agency or company capable of conducting such search and providing updated addresses.

~~(13)~~ “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

~~(14)~~(10) “Financial organization” means a ~~state or federal~~ savings association, savings and loan association, savings bank, industrial bank, bank, banking organization, trust company, international bank agency, cooperative bank, building and loan association, or credit union.

~~(15)~~(11) “Health care provider” means any state-licensed entity that provides and receives payment for health care services. These entities include, but are not limited to, hospitals, outpatient centers, physician practices, and skilled nursing facilities.

~~(16)~~(12) “Holder” means:

~~(a) A person, wherever organized or domiciled, who is in possession or control or has custody of property or the rights to property belonging to another; is indebted to another on an obligation; or is obligated to hold for the account of, or to deliver or pay to, the owner, property subject to this chapter; or;~~

~~(a) In possession of property belonging to another;~~

~~(b) A trustee in case of a trust; or~~

~~(e) —Indebted to another on an obligation.~~

~~(17)(13)~~ “Insurance company” means an association, corporation, or fraternal or mutual benefit organization, whether for profit or not for profit, which is engaged in providing insurance coverage.

~~(18)(14)~~ “Intangible property” includes, by way of illustration and not limitation:

(a) Moneys, checks, virtual currency, drafts, deposits, interest, dividends, and income.

(b) Credit balances, customer overpayments, security deposits and other instruments as defined by chapter 679, refunds, unpaid wages, unused airline tickets, and unidentified remittances.

(c) Stocks, and other intangible ownership interests in business associations.

(d) Moneys deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, bearer bonds, original issue discount bonds, coupons, and other securities, or to make distributions.

(e) Amounts due and payable under the terms of insurance policies.

(f) Amounts distributable from a trust or custodial fund established under a plan to provide any health, welfare, pension, vacation, severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefit.

~~(19)(15)~~ “Last known address” means a description of the location of the apparent owner sufficient for the purpose of the delivery of mail. For the purposes of identifying, reporting, and remitting property to the department which is presumed to be unclaimed, “last known address” includes any partial description of the location of the apparent owner sufficient to establish the apparent owner was a resident of this state at the time of last contact with the apparent owner or at the time the property became due and payable.

~~(20)(16)~~ “Lawful charges” means charges against dormant accounts that are authorized by statute for the purpose of offsetting the costs of maintaining the dormant account.

~~(21)(17)~~ “Managed care payor” means a health care plan that has a defined system of selecting and limiting health care providers as evidenced by a managed care contract with the health care providers. These plans include, but are not limited to, managed care health insurance companies and health maintenance organizations.

~~(22)(18)~~ “Owner” means a person, or the person’s legal representative, entitled to receive or having a legal or equitable interest in or claim against property subject to this chapter; a depositor in the case of a deposit; a

~~beneficiary in the case of a trust or a deposit in trust; or a payee in the case of a negotiable instrument or other intangible property a depositor in the case of a deposit, a beneficiary in the case of a trust or a deposit in trust, or a payee in the case of other intangible property, or a person having a legal or equitable interest in property subject to this chapter or his or her legal representative.~~

~~(23) “Person” means an individual; estate; business association; corporation; firm; association; joint adventure; partnership; government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; or any other legal or commercial entity.~~

~~(24)(19) “Public corporation” means a corporation created by the state, founded and owned in the public interest, supported by public funds, and governed by those deriving their power from the state.~~

~~(25) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.~~

~~(26)(20) “Reportable period” means the calendar year ending December 31 of each year.~~

~~(27)(21) “State,” when applied to a part of the United States, includes any state, district, commonwealth, territory, insular possession, and any other area subject to the legislative authority of the United States.~~

~~(28)(22) “Trust instrument” means a trust instrument as defined in s. 736.0103.~~

~~(23) “Ultimate equitable owner” means a natural person who, directly or indirectly, owns or controls an ownership interest in a corporation, a foreign corporation, an alien business organization, or any other form of business organization, regardless of whether such natural person owns or controls such ownership interest through one or more natural persons or one or more proxies, powers of attorney, nominees, corporations, associations, partnerships, trusts, joint stock companies, or other entities or devices, or any combination thereof.~~

~~(29) “Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement” means the form adopted by the department pursuant to s. 717.135 which must be used, without modification or amendment, by a claimant’s representative to purchase unclaimed property from an owner.~~

~~(30) “Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement” means the form adopted by the department pursuant to s. 717.135 which must be used, without modification or amendment, by a claimant’s representative to obtain an owner’s consent and authority to recover unclaimed property on the owner’s behalf.~~

~~(31)~~(24) “United States” means any state, district, commonwealth, territory, insular possession, and any other area subject to the legislative authority of the United States of America.

~~(32)~~(25) “Utility” means a person who owns or operates, for public use, any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale, delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water, steam, or gas.

(33)(a) “Virtual currency” means digital units of exchange that:

1. Have a centralized repository or administrator;
2. Are decentralized and have no centralized repository or administrator; or
3. May be created or obtained by computing or manufacturing effort.

(b) The term does not include any of the following:

1. Digital units that:
 - a. Are used solely within online gaming platforms;
 - b. Have no market or application outside of the online gaming platforms in sub-subparagraph a.;
 - c. Cannot be converted into, or redeemed for, fiat currency or virtual currency; and
 - d. Can or cannot be redeemed for real-world goods, services, discounts, or purchases.

2. Digital units that can be redeemed for:

- a. Real-world goods, services, discounts, or purchases as part of a customer affinity or rewards program with the issuer or other designated merchants; or
- b. Digital units in another customer affinity or rewards program, but cannot be converted into, or redeemed for, fiat currency or virtual currency.

3. Digital units used as part of prepaid cards.

Section 40. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section 717.102, Florida Statutes, to read:

717.102 Property presumed unclaimed; general rule.—

(3) A presumption that property is unclaimed is rebutted by an apparent owner’s expression of interest in the property. An owner’s expression of interest in property includes:

(a) A record communicated by the apparent owner to the holder or agent of the holder concerning the property or the account in which the property is held;

(b) An oral communication by the apparent owner to the holder or agent of the holder concerning the property or the account in which the property is held, if the holder or its agent contemporaneously makes and preserves a record of the fact of the apparent owner's communication;

(c) Presentment of a check or other instrument of payment of a dividend, interest payment, or other distribution, with respect to an account, underlying security, or interest in a business association;

(d) Activity directed by an apparent owner in the account in which the property is held, including accessing the account or information concerning the account, or a direction by the apparent owner to increase, decrease, or otherwise change the amount or type of property held in the account;

(e) A deposit into or withdrawal from an account at a financial organization, excluding an automatic deposit or withdrawal previously authorized by the apparent owner or an automatic reinvestment of dividends or interest, which does not constitute an expression of interest; or

(f) Any other action by the apparent owner which reasonably demonstrates to the holder that the apparent owner knows that the property exists.

(4) If a holder learns or receives confirmation of an apparent owner's death, the property shall be presumed unclaimed 2 years after the date of death, unless a fiduciary appointed to represent the estate of the apparent owner has made an expression of interest in the property before the expiration of the 2-year period. This subsection may not be construed to extend the otherwise applicable dormancy period prescribed by this chapter.

Section 41. Subsection (5) of section 717.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.106 Bank deposits and funds in financial organizations.—

(5) If the documents establishing a deposit described in subsection (1) state the address of a beneficiary of the deposit, and the account has a value of at least \$50, notice shall be given to the beneficiary as provided for notice to the apparent owner under s. 717.117(6) ~~s. 717.117(4)~~. This subsection shall apply to accounts opened on or after October 1, 1990.

Section 42. Section 717.1065, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

717.1065 Virtual currency.—

(1) Any virtual currency held or owing by a banking organization, corporation, custodian, exchange, or other entity engaged in virtual currency business activity is presumed unclaimed unless the owner, within 5 years,

has communicated in writing with the banking organization, corporation, custodian, exchange, or other entity engaged in virtual currency business activity concerning the virtual currency or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file with the banking organization, corporation, custodian, exchange, or other entity engaged in virtual currency business activity.

(2) A holder may not deduct from the amount of any virtual currency subject to this section any charges imposed by reason of the virtual currency unless there is a valid and enforceable written contract between the holder and the owner of the virtual currency pursuant to which the holder may impose those charges and the holder does not regularly reverse or otherwise cancel those charges with respect to the virtual currency.

Section 43. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 717.1101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1101 Unclaimed equity and debt of business associations.—

(1)(a) Stock or other equity interest in a business association is presumed unclaimed on the date of 3 years ~~after the earliest of the following:~~

1. Three years after The date of the most recent of any owner-generated activity or communication related to the account, as recorded and maintained in the holder's database and records systems sufficient enough to demonstrate the owners continued awareness or interest in the property dividend, stock split, or other distribution unclaimed by the apparent owner;

2. Three years after the date of the death of the owner, as evidenced by: The date of a statement of account or other notification or communication that was returned as undeliverable; or

a. Notice to the holder of the owner's death by an administrator, beneficiary, relative, or trustee, or by a personal representative or other legal representative of the owner's estate;

b. Receipt by the holder of a copy of the death certificate of the owner;

c. Confirmation by the holder of the owner's death though other means;
or

d. Other evidence from which the holder may reasonably conclude that the owner is deceased; or

3. One year after the date on which the holder receives notice under subparagraph 2. if the notice is received 2 years or less after the owner's death and the holder lacked knowledge of the owner's death during that period of 2 years or less The date the holder discontinued mailings, notifications, or communications to the apparent owner.

Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 717.112, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

717.112 Property held by agents and fiduciaries.—

(1) ~~Except as provided in ss. 717.1125 and 733.816,~~ All intangible property and any income or increment thereon held in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of another person, including property held by an attorney in fact or an agent, except as provided in ss. 717.1125 and 733.816, is presumed unclaimed unless the owner has within 5 years after it has become payable or distributable increased or decreased the principal, accepted payment of principal or income, communicated in writing concerning the property, or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file with the fiduciary.

(6) This section does not relieve a fiduciary of his or her duties under applicable general law.

Section 45. Section 717.1125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1125 Property held by fiduciaries under trust instruments.—All intangible property and any income or increment thereon held in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of another person under a trust instrument is presumed unclaimed unless the owner has, within 2 years after it has become payable or distributable, increased or decreased the principal, accepted payment of principal or income, communicated concerning the property, or otherwise indicated an interest as evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file with the fiduciary. This section does not relieve a fiduciary of his or her duties under the Florida Trust Code.

Section 46. Effective January 1, 2025, section 717.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.117 Report of unclaimed property.—

(1) Every person holding funds or other property, tangible or intangible, presumed unclaimed and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this chapter shall report to the department ~~on such forms as the department may prescribe by rule. In lieu of forms, a report identifying 25 or more different apparent owners must be submitted by the holder via electronic medium as the department may prescribe by rule.~~ The report must include:

(a) Except for traveler's checks and money orders, the name, social security number or taxpayer identification number, ~~and~~ date of birth, if known, and last known address, if any, of each person appearing from the records of the holder to be the owner of any property which is presumed unclaimed and which has a value of \$10 ~~\$50~~ or more.

(b) For unclaimed funds ~~that which~~ have a value of \$10 ~~\$50~~ or more held or owing under any life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract, the identifying information provided in paragraph (a) for both full name,

~~taxpayer identification number or social security number, date of birth, if known, and last known address of the insured or annuitant and of the beneficiary according to records of the insurance company holding or owing the funds.~~

(c) For all tangible property held in a safe-deposit box or other safe-keeping repository, a description of the property and the place where the property is held and may be inspected by the department, and any amounts owing to the holder. Contents of a safe-deposit box or other safekeeping repository which consist of documents or writings of a private nature and which have little or no apparent value shall not be presumed unclaimed.

(d) ~~The nature or type of property, any accounting or~~ identifying number associated with the property, a ~~if any, or~~ description of the property, and the amount appearing from the records to be due. Items of value of less than \$10 ~~under \$50~~ each may be reported in the aggregate.

(e) The date the property became payable, demandable, or returnable, and the date of the last transaction with the apparent owner with respect to the property.

(f) Any other information the department may prescribe by rule as necessary for the administration of this chapter.

(2) If the total value of all presumed unclaimed property, whether tangible or intangible, held by a person is less than \$10, a zero balance report may be filed for that reporting period.

~~(f) Any person or business association or public corporation holding funds presumed unclaimed and having a total value of \$10 or less may file a zero balance report for that reporting period. The balance brought forward to the new reporting period is zero.~~

~~(g) Such other information as the department may prescribe by rule as necessary for the administration of this chapter.~~

~~(3)(h)~~ Credit balances, customer overpayments, security deposits, and refunds having a value of less than \$10 shall not be presumed unclaimed.

~~(4)~~(2) If the holder of property presumed unclaimed and subject to custody as unclaimed property is a successor holder or if the holder has changed the holder's name while in possession of the property, the holder shall file with the holder's report all known names and addresses of each prior holder of the property. Compliance with this subsection means the holder exercises reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the names of all prior holders.

~~(5)~~(3) The report must be filed before May 1 of each year. The report applies ~~shall apply~~ to the preceding calendar year. Upon written request by any person required to file a report, and upon a showing of good cause, the department may extend the reporting date. The department may impose and

collect a penalty of \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$500 for the failure to timely report, ~~if an extension was not provided or if the holder of the property failed the failure~~ to include in a report information required by this chapter ~~which was in the holder's possession at the time of reporting~~. The penalty shall be remitted to the department within 30 days after the date of the notification to the holder that the penalty is due and owing. As necessary for proper administration of this chapter, the department may waive any penalty due with appropriate justification. ~~On written request by any person required to file a report and upon a showing of good cause, the department may postpone the reporting date.~~ The department must provide information contained in a report filed with the department to any person requesting a copy of the report or information contained in a report, to the extent the information requested is not confidential, within 45 days after ~~the department determines that the report has been processed and added to the unclaimed property database subsequent to a determination that the report is accurate and acceptable~~ and that the reported property is the same as the remitted property.

(6)(4) Holders of inactive accounts having a value of \$50 or more shall use due diligence to locate and notify apparent owners ~~that the entity is holding unclaimed property available for them to recover~~. Not more than 120 days and not less than 60 days prior to filing the report required by this section, the holder in possession of property presumed unclaimed and subject to custody as unclaimed property under this chapter shall send written notice by first-class United States mail to the apparent owner at the apparent owner's last known address from the holder's records or from other available sources, or via electronic mail if the apparent owner has elected this method of delivery, informing the apparent owner that the holder is in possession of property subject to this chapter, if the holder has in its records a mailing or electronic an address for the apparent owner which the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate. These two means of contact are not mutually exclusive; if the mailing address is determined to be inaccurate, electronic mail may be used if so elected by the apparent owner.

(7) The written notice to the apparent owner required under this section must:

(a) Contain a heading that reads substantially as follows: "Notice. The State of Florida requires us to notify you that your property may be transferred to the custody of the Florida Department of Financial Services if you do not contact us before (insert date that is at least 30 days after the date of notice)."

(b) Identify the type, nature, and, except for property that does not have a fixed value, value of the property that is the subject of the notice.

(c) State that the property will be turned over to the custody of the department as unclaimed property if no response to this letter is received.

(d) State that any property that is not legal tender of the United States may be sold or liquidated by the department.

(e) State that after the property is turned over to the department, an apparent owner seeking return of the property may file a claim with the department.

(f) State that the property is currently with a holder and provide instructions that the apparent owner must follow to prevent the holder from reporting and paying for the property or from delivering the property to the department.

~~(8)(5)~~ Any holder of intangible property may file with the department a petition for determination that the property is unclaimed requesting the department to accept custody of the property. The petition shall state any special circumstances that exist, contain the information required by subsection ~~(4)~~ (2), and show that a diligent search has been made to locate the owner. If the department finds that the proof of diligent search is satisfactory, it shall give notice as provided in s. 717.118 and accept custody of the property.

~~(9)(6)~~ Upon written request by any entity or person required to file a report, stating such entity's or person's justification for such action, the department may place that entity or person in an inactive status as an unclaimed property "holder."

~~(10)(7)(a)~~ This section does not apply to the unclaimed patronage refunds as provided for by contract or through bylaw provisions of entities organized under chapter 425 or that are exempt from ad valorem taxation pursuant to s. 196.2002.

(b) This section does not apply to intangible property held, issued, or owing by a business association subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Surface Transportation Board or its successor federal agency if the apparent owner of such intangible property is a business association. The holder of such property does not have any obligation to report, to pay, or to deliver such property to the department.

(c) This section does not apply to credit balances, overpayments, refunds, or outstanding checks owed by a health care provider to a managed care payor with whom the health care provider has a managed care contract, provided that the credit balances, overpayments, refunds, or outstanding checks become due and owing pursuant to the managed care contract.

~~(11)(8)(a)~~ As used in this subsection, the term "property identifier" means the descriptor used by the holder to identify the unclaimed property.

(b) Social security numbers and property identifiers contained in reports required under this section, held by the department, are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(c) This exemption applies to social security numbers and property identifiers held by the department before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.

Section 47. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 717.119, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5), (6), and (7), respectively, and a new subsection (4) and subsection (8) are added to that section, to read:

717.119 Payment or delivery of unclaimed property.—

(4) All virtual currency reported under this chapter on the annual report filing required in s. 717.117 shall be remitted to the department with the report. The holder shall liquidate the virtual currency and remit the proceeds to the department. The liquidation must occur within 30 days before the filing of the report. Upon delivery of the virtual currency proceeds to the department, the holder is relieved of all liability of every kind in accordance with the provisions of s. 717.1201 to every person for any losses or damages resulting to the person by the delivery to the department of the virtual currency proceeds.

(8) A holder may not assign or otherwise transfer its obligation to report, pay, or deliver property or to comply with the provisions of this chapter, other than to a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of the holder.

(a) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties to a transaction, the holder's successor by merger or consolidation, or any person or entity that acquires all or substantially all of the holder's capital stock or assets, is responsible for fulfilling the holder's obligation to report, pay, or deliver property or to comply with the duties of this chapter regarding the transfer of property owed to the holder's successor and being held for an owner resulting from the merger, consolidation, or acquisition.

(b) This subsection does not prohibit a holder from contracting with a third party for the reporting of unclaimed property, but the holder remains responsible to the department for the complete, accurate, and timely reporting of the property.

Section 48. Section 717.1201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1201 Custody by state; holder ~~relieved from~~ liability; reimbursement of holder paying claim; reclaiming for owner; ~~defense of holder~~; payment of safe-deposit box or repository charges.—

(1) Upon the good faith payment or delivery of unclaimed property to the department, the state assumes custody and responsibility for the safe-keeping of the property. Any person who pays or delivers unclaimed property to the department in good faith is relieved of all liability to the extent of the value of the property paid or delivered for any claim then existing or which thereafter may arise or be made in respect to the property.

(a) A holder's substantial compliance with s. 717.117(6) and good faith payment or delivery of unclaimed property to the department releases the holder from liability that may arise from such payment or delivery, and such delivery and payment may be plead as a defense in any suit or action brought by reason of such delivery or payment. This section does not relieve a fiduciary of his or her duties under the Florida Trust Code or Florida Probate Code.

(b) If the holder pays or delivers property to the department in good faith and thereafter any other person claims the property from the holder paying or delivering, or another state claims the money or property under that state's laws relating to escheat or abandoned or unclaimed property, the department, upon written notice of the claim, shall defend the holder against the claim and indemnify the holder against any liability on the claim, except that a holder may not be indemnified against penalties imposed by another state.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a payment or delivery of unclaimed property is made in good faith if:

(a) The payment or delivery was made in conjunction with an accurate and acceptable report.

(b) The payment or delivery was made in a reasonable attempt to comply with this chapter and other applicable general law.

(c) The holder had a reasonable basis for believing, based on the facts then known, that the property was unclaimed and subject to this chapter.

(d) There is no showing that the records pursuant to which the delivery was made did not meet reasonable commercial standards of practice in the industry.

(3)(2) Any holder who has paid money to the department pursuant to this chapter may make payment to any person appearing to be entitled to payment and, upon filing proof that the payee is entitled thereto, the department shall forthwith repay the holder without deduction of any fee or other charges. If repayment is sought for a payment made on a negotiable instrument, including a traveler's check or money order, the holder must be repaid under this subsection upon filing proof that the instrument was duly presented and that the payee is entitled to payment. The holder shall be repaid for payment made under this subsection even if the payment was made to a person whose claim was barred under s. 717.129(1).

(4)(3) Any holder who has delivered property, including a certificate of any interest in a business association, other than money to the department pursuant to this chapter may reclaim the property if still in the possession of the department, without payment of any fee or other charges, upon filing proof that the owner has claimed the property from the holder.

~~(5)(4)~~ The department may accept an affidavit of the holder stating the facts that entitle the holder to recover money and property under this section as sufficient proof.

~~(5)—If the holder pays or delivers property to the department in good faith and thereafter any other person claims the property from the holder paying or delivering, or another state claims the money or property under that state’s laws relating to escheat or abandoned or unclaimed property, the department, upon written notice of the claim, shall defend the holder against the claim and indemnify the holder against any liability on the claim.~~

~~(6)—For the purposes of this section, “good faith” means that:~~

~~(a)—Payment or delivery was made in a reasonable attempt to comply with this chapter.~~

~~(b)—The person delivering the property was not a fiduciary then in breach of trust in respect to the property and had a reasonable basis for believing, based on the facts then known to that person, that the property was unclaimed for the purposes of this chapter.~~

~~(c)—There is no showing that the records pursuant to which the delivery was made did not meet reasonable commercial standards of practice in the industry.~~

~~(6)(7)~~ Property removed from a safe-deposit box or other safekeeping repository is received by the department subject to the holder’s right under this subsection to be reimbursed for the actual cost of the opening and to any valid lien or contract providing for the holder to be reimbursed for unpaid rent or storage charges. The department shall make the reimbursement to the holder out of the proceeds remaining after the deduction of the department’s selling cost.

(7) If it appears to the satisfaction of the department that, because of some mistake of fact, error in calculation, or erroneous interpretation of a statute, a person has paid or delivered to the department pursuant to any provision of this chapter any money or other property not required by this chapter to be so paid or delivered, the department may, within 5 years after such erroneous payment or delivery, refund or redeliver such money or other property to the person, provided that such money or property has not been paid or delivered to a claimant or otherwise disposed of in accordance with this chapter.

Section 49. Subsection (1) of section 717.1242, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1242 Restatement of jurisdiction of the circuit court sitting in probate and the department.—

(1) It is and has been the intent of the Legislature that, pursuant to s. 26.012(2)(b), circuit courts have jurisdiction of proceedings relating to the

settlement of the estates of decedents and other jurisdiction usually pertaining to courts of probate. It is and has been the intent of the Legislature that, pursuant to this chapter s. 717.124, the department determines the merits of claims and entitlement to unclaimed ~~for~~ property paid or delivered to the department under this chapter. Consistent with this legislative intent, any ~~estate or beneficiary, devisee, heir, personal representative, or other interested person~~, as those terms are defined in the Florida Probate Code and the Florida Trust Code s. 731.201, of an estate seeking to obtain property paid or delivered to the department under this chapter must file a claim with the department as provided in s. 717.124.

Section 50. Subsection (4) of section 717.1243, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1243 Small estate accounts.—

(4) This section ~~only~~ applies only if all of the unclaimed property held by the department on behalf of the owner has an aggregate value of \$20,000 ~~\$10,000~~ or less and no probate proceeding is pending.

Section 51. Subsection (2) of section 717.129, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.129 Periods of limitation.—

(2) ~~The department may not commence an~~ No action or proceeding to enforce this chapter with respect to the reporting, payment, or delivery of property or any other duty of a holder under this chapter may be commenced by the department with respect to any duty of a holder under this chapter more than 10 years after the duty arose. The period of limitation established under this subsection is tolled by the earlier of the department's or audit agent's delivery of a notice that a holder is subject to an audit or examination under s. 717.1301 or the holder's written election to enter into an unclaimed property voluntary disclosure agreement.

Section 52. Section 717.1301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1301 Investigations; examinations; subpoenas.—

(1) To carry out the chapter's purpose of protecting the interest of missing owners through the safeguarding of their property and to administer and enforce this chapter, the department may:

(a) Investigate, examine, inspect, request, or otherwise gather information or evidence on, claim documents from a claimant or a claimant's representative during its review of a claim.

(b) Audit the records of a person or the records in the possession of an agent, representative, subsidiary, or affiliate of the person subject to this chapter to determine whether the person complied with this chapter. Such records may include information to verify the completeness or accuracy of

the records provided, even if such records may not identify property reportable to the department.

(c) Take testimony of a person, including the person's employee, agent, representative, subsidiary, or affiliate, to determine whether the person complied with this chapter.

(d) Issue an administrative subpoena to require that the records specified in paragraph (b) be made available for examination or audit and that the testimony specified in paragraph (c) be provided.

(e) Bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking enforcement of an administrative subpoena issued under this section, which the court shall consider under procedures that will lead to an expeditious resolution of the action.

(f) Bring an administrative action or an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce this chapter.

(2) If a person is subject to reporting property under this chapter, the department may require the person to file a verified report in a form prescribed by the department. The verified report must:

(a) State whether the person is holding property reportable under this chapter;

(b) Describe the property not previously reported, the property about which the department has inquired, or the property that is in dispute as to whether it is reportable under this chapter; and

(c) State the amount or value of the property.

(3) The department may authorize a compliance review of a report for a specified reporting year. The review must be limited to the contents of the report filed, as required by s. 717.117 and subsection (2), and all supporting documents related to the reports. If the review results in a finding of a deficiency in unclaimed property due and payable to the department, the department shall notify the holder in writing of the amount of deficiency within 1 year after the authorization of the compliance review. If the holder fails to pay the deficiency within 90 days, the department may seek to enforce the assessment under subsection (1). The department is not required to conduct a review under this section before initiating an audit.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a contract providing for the location or collection of unclaimed property, the department may authorize the contractor to deduct its fees and expenses for services provided under the contract from the unclaimed property that the contractor has recovered or collected under the contract. The department shall annually report to the Chief Financial Officer the total amount collected or recovered by each contractor during the previous fiscal year and the total fees and expenses deducted by each contractor.

~~(1) The department may make investigations and examinations within or outside this state of claims, reports, and other records as it deems necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. In such investigations and examinations the department may administer oaths, examine witnesses, issue subpoenas, and otherwise gather evidence. The department may request any person who has not filed a report under s. 717.117 to file a verified report stating whether or not the person is holding any unclaimed property reportable or deliverable under this chapter.~~

~~(2) Subpoenas for witnesses whose evidence is deemed material to any investigation or examination under this section may be issued by the department under seal of the department, or by any court of competent jurisdiction, commanding such witnesses to appear before the department at a time and place named and to bring such books, records, and documents as may be specified or to submit such books, records, and documents to inspection. Such subpoenas may be served by an authorized representative of the department.~~

~~(3) If any person shall refuse to testify, produce books, records, and documents, or otherwise refuse to obey a subpoena issued under this section, the department may present its petition to a court of competent jurisdiction in or for the county in which such person resides or has its principal place of business, whereupon the court shall issue its rule nisi requiring such person to obey forthwith the subpoena issued by the department or show cause for failing to obey said subpoena. Unless said person shows sufficient cause for failing to obey the subpoena, the court shall forthwith direct such person to obey the same subject to such punishment as the court may direct including, but not limited to, the restraint, by injunction or by appointment of a receiver, of any transfer, pledge, assignment, or other disposition of such person's assets or any concealment, alteration, destruction, or other disposition of subpoenaed books, records, or documents as the court deems appropriate, until such person has fully complied with such subpoena and the department has completed its investigation or examination. The department is entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011, and the court shall advance the cause on its calendar. Costs incurred by the department to obtain an order granting, in whole or in part, its petition shall be taxed against the subpoenaed person, and failure to comply with such order shall be a contempt of court.~~

~~(4) Witnesses shall be entitled to the same fees and mileage as they may be entitled by law for attending as witnesses in the circuit court, except where such examination or investigation is held at the place of business or residence of the witness.~~

~~(5) The material compiled by the department in an investigation or examination under this chapter is confidential until the investigation or examination is complete. If any such material contains a holder's financial or proprietary information, it may not be disclosed or made public by the department after the investigation or audit is completed, except as required by a court of competent jurisdiction in the course of a judicial proceeding in~~

which the state is a party, or pursuant to an agreement with another state allowing joint audits. Such material may be considered trade secret and exempt from s. 119.07(1) as provided for in s. 119.0715. The records, data, and information gathered ~~material compiled~~ by the department in an investigation or ~~audit examination~~ under this chapter ~~remain~~ remains confidential ~~after the department's investigation or examination is complete~~ if the department has submitted the material or any part of it to any law enforcement agency or other administrative agency for further investigation or for the filing of a criminal or civil prosecution and such investigation has not been completed or become inactive.

(6) If an investigation or an audit examination of the records of any person results in the disclosure of property reportable and deliverable under this chapter, the department may assess the cost of the investigation or audit the examination against the holder at the rate of \$100 per 8-hour day for each investigator or examiner. Such fee shall be calculated on an hourly basis and shall be rounded to the nearest hour. The person shall also pay the travel expense and per diem subsistence allowance provided for state employees in s. 112.061. ~~The person shall not be required to pay a per diem fee and expenses of an examination or investigation which shall consume more than 30 worker-days in any one year unless such examination or investigation is due to fraudulent practices of the person, in which case such person shall be required to pay the entire cost regardless of time consumed. The fee for the costs of the investigation or audit shall be remitted to the department within 30 days after the date of the notification that the fee is due and owing. Any person who fails to pay the fee within 30 days after the date of the notification that the fee is due and owing shall pay to the department interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum on such fee from the date of the notification.~~

Section 53. Subsection (1) of section 717.1311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1311 Retention of records.—

(1) Every holder required to file a report under s. 717.117 shall maintain a record of the specific type of property, amount, name, and last known address of the owner for 10 5 years after the property becomes reportable, except to the extent that a shorter time is provided in subsection (2) or by rule of the department.

Section 54. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 717.1322, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

717.1322 Administrative and civil enforcement.—

(1) The following acts are violations of this chapter and constitute grounds for an administrative enforcement action by the department in accordance with the requirements of chapter 120 and for civil enforcement by the department in a court of competent jurisdiction:

(j) Requesting or receiving compensation for notifying a person of his or her unclaimed property or assisting another person in filing a claim for unclaimed property, unless the person is an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, a Florida-certified public accountant, or a private investigator licensed under chapter 493, or entering into, or making a solicitation to enter into, an agreement to file a claim for unclaimed property owned by another, ~~or a contract or agreement to purchase unclaimed property,~~ unless such person is registered with the department under this chapter and an attorney licensed to practice law in this state in the regular practice of her or his profession, a Florida-certified public accountant who is acting within the scope of the practice of public accounting as defined in chapter 473, or a private investigator licensed under chapter 493. This paragraph does not apply to a person who has been granted a durable power of attorney to convey and receive all of the real and personal property of the owner, is the court-appointed guardian of the owner, has been employed as an attorney or qualified representative to contest the department's denial of a claim, or has been employed as an attorney to probate the estate of the owner or an heir or legatee of the owner.

(3) A claimant's representative ~~registrant~~ is subject to civil enforcement and the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) for violations of subsection (1) by an agent or employee of the registrant's employer if the claimant's representative ~~registrant~~ knew or should have known that such agent or employee was violating any provision of this chapter.

Section 55. Subsection (1) of section 717.1333, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1333 Evidence; estimations; audit reports and worksheets, investigator examiner's worksheets, ~~investigative reports and worksheets~~, other related documents.—

(1) In any proceeding involving a holder under ss. 120.569 and 120.57 in which an audit agent ~~auditor, examiner,~~ or investigator acting under authority of this chapter is available for cross-examination, any official written report, worksheet, or other related paper, or copy thereof, compiled, prepared, drafted, or otherwise made or received by the audit agent ~~auditor, examiner,~~ or investigator, after being duly authenticated by the audit agent ~~auditor, examiner,~~ or investigator, may be admitted as competent evidence upon the oath of the audit agent ~~auditor, examiner,~~ or investigator that the report, worksheet, or related paper was prepared or received as a result of an audit, examination, or investigation of the books and records of the person audited, examined, or investigated, or the agent thereof.

Section 56. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 717.134, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

717.134 Penalties and interest.—

(1) ~~For any person who willfully fails to render any report required under this chapter,~~ the department may impose and collect a penalty of \$500 per day up to a maximum of \$5,000 and 25 percent of the value of property not reported until an appropriate a report is provided ~~rendered for any person who willfully fails to render any report required under this chapter.~~ Upon a holder's showing of good cause, the department may waive said penalty or any portion thereof. If the holder acted in good faith and without negligence, the department shall waive the penalty provided herein.

(2) ~~For any person who willfully refuses to pay or deliver unclaimed property to the department as required under this chapter,~~ the department may impose and collect a penalty of \$500 per day up to a maximum of \$5,000 and 25 percent of the value of property not paid or delivered until the property is paid or delivered ~~for any person who willfully refuses to pay or deliver abandoned property to the department as required under this chapter.~~

Section 57. Section 717.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.135 Recovery agreements and purchase agreements for claims filed by a claimant's representative; fees and costs, or total net gain.—

(1) In order to protect the interests of owners of unclaimed property, the department shall adopt by rule a form entitled "Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement" and a form entitled "Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement."

(2) The Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement and the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement must include and disclose all of the following:

(a) The total dollar amount of unclaimed property accounts claimed or sold.

(b) The total percentage of all authorized fees and costs to be paid to the claimant's representative or the percentage of the value of the property to be paid as net gain to the purchasing claimant's representative.

(c) The total dollar amount to be deducted and received from the claimant as fees and costs by the claimant's representative or the total net dollar amount to be received by the purchasing claimant's representative.

(d) The net dollar amount to be received by the claimant or the seller.

(e) For each account claimed, the unclaimed property account number.

(f) For the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement, a statement that the amount of the purchase price will be remitted to the seller by the purchaser within 30 days after the execution of the agreement by the seller.

(g) The name, address, e-mail address, phone number, and license number of the claimant's representative.

(h)1. The manual signature of the claimant or seller and the date signed, affixed on the agreement by the claimant or seller.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, the department may allow an apparent owner, who is also the claimant or seller, to sign the agreement electronically ~~for claims of \$2,000 or less~~. All electronic signatures on the Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement and the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement must be affixed on the agreement by the claimant or seller using the specific, exclusive eSignature product and protocol authorized by the department.

(i) The social security number or taxpayer identification number of the claimant or seller, if a number has been issued to the claimant or seller.

(j) The total fees and costs, or the total discount in the case of a purchase agreement, which may not exceed 30 percent of the claimed amount. In the case of a recovery agreement, if the total fees and costs exceed 30 percent, the fees and costs shall be reduced to 30 percent and the net balance shall be remitted directly by the department to the claimant. In the case of a purchase agreement, if the total net gain of the claimant's representative exceeds 30 percent, the claim will be denied.

(3) For an Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement form, proof that the purchaser has made payment must be filed with the department along with the claim. If proof of payment is not provided, the claim is void.

(4) A claimant's representative must use the Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement or the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement as the exclusive means of entering into an agreement or a contract with a claimant or seller to file a claim with the department.

(5) Fees and costs may be owed or paid to, or received by, a claimant's representative only after a filed claim has been approved and if the claimant's representative used an agreement authorized by this section.

(6) A claimant's representative may not use or distribute any other agreement of any type, conveyed by any method, with respect to the claimant or seller which relates, directly or indirectly, to unclaimed property accounts held by the department or the Chief Financial Officer other than the agreements authorized by this section. Any engagement, authorization, recovery, or fee agreement that is not authorized by this section is void. A claimant's representative is subject to administrative and civil enforcement under s. 717.1322 if he or she uses an agreement that is not authorized by this section and if the agreement is used to apply, directly or indirectly, to unclaimed property held by this state. This subsection does not prohibit lawful nonagreement, noncontractual, or advertising communications between or among the parties.

(7) The Unclaimed Property Recovery Agreement ~~and the Unclaimed Property Purchase Agreement~~ may not contain language that makes the agreement irrevocable or that creates an assignment of any portion of unclaimed property held by the department.

(8) When a claim is approved, the department may pay any additional account that is owned by the claimant but has not been claimed at the time of approval, provided that a subsequent claim has not been filed or is not pending for the claimant at the time of approval.

(9) This section does not supersede s. 717.1241.

(10) This section does not apply to the sale and purchase of Florida-held unclaimed property accounts through a bankruptcy estate representative or other person or entity authorized pursuant to Title XI of the United States Code or an order of a bankruptcy court to act on behalf or for the benefit of the debtor, its creditors, and its bankruptcy estate.

Section 58. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 717.1400, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

717.1400 Registration.—

(1) In order to file claims as a claimant's representative, ~~acquire ownership of or entitlement to unclaimed property,~~ receive a distribution of fees and costs from the department, and obtain unclaimed property dollar amounts and numbers of reported shares of stock held by the department, a private investigator holding a Class "C" individual license under chapter 493 must register with the department on such form as the department prescribes by rule and must be verified by the applicant. To register with the department, a private investigator must provide:

(a) A legible copy of the applicant's Class "A" business license under chapter 493 or that of the applicant's firm or employer which holds a Class "A" business license under chapter 493.

(b) A legible copy of the applicant's Class "C" individual license issued under chapter 493.

(c) The business address and telephone number of the applicant's private investigative firm or employer.

(d) The names of agents or employees, if any, who are designated to act on behalf of the private investigator, together with a legible copy of their photo identification issued by an agency of the United States, or a state, or a political subdivision thereof.

(e) Sufficient information to enable the department to disburse funds by electronic funds transfer.

(f) The tax identification number of the private investigator's firm or employer which holds a Class "A" business license under chapter 493.

(2) In order to file claims as a claimant's representative, ~~acquire ownership of or entitlement to unclaimed property~~, receive a distribution of fees and costs from the department, and obtain unclaimed property dollar amounts and numbers of reported shares of stock held by the department, a Florida-certified public accountant must register with the department on such form as the department prescribes by rule and must be verified by the applicant. To register with the department, a Florida-certified public accountant must provide:

(a) The applicant's Florida Board of Accountancy number.

(b) A legible copy of the applicant's current driver license showing the full name and current address of such person. If a current driver license is not available, another form of identification showing the full name and current address of such person or persons shall be filed with the department.

(c) The business address and telephone number of the applicant's public accounting firm or employer.

(d) The names of agents or employees, if any, who are designated to act on behalf of the Florida-certified public accountant, together with a legible copy of their photo identification issued by an agency of the United States, or a state, or a political subdivision thereof.

(e) Sufficient information to enable the department to disburse funds by electronic funds transfer.

(f) The tax identification number of the accountant's public accounting firm employer.

(3) In order to file claims as a claimant's representative, ~~acquire ownership of or entitlement to unclaimed property~~, receive a distribution of fees and costs from the department, and obtain unclaimed property dollar amounts and numbers of reported shares of stock held by the department, an attorney licensed to practice in this state must register with the department on such form as the department prescribes by rule and must be verified by the applicant. To register with the department, such attorney must provide:

(a) The applicant's Florida Bar number.

(b) A legible copy of the applicant's current driver license showing the full name and current address of such person. If a current driver license is not available, another form of identification showing the full name and current address of such person or persons shall be filed with the department.

(c) The business address and telephone number of the applicant's firm or employer.

(d) The names of agents or employees, if any, who are designated to act on behalf of the attorney, together with a legible copy of their photo identification issued by an agency of the United States, or a state, or a political subdivision thereof.

(e) Sufficient information to enable the department to disburse funds by electronic funds transfer.

(f) The tax identification number of the attorney’s firm or employer.

Section 59. Paragraph (c) of subsection (10) of section 766.302, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

766.302 Definitions; ss. 766.301-766.316.—As used in ss. 766.301-766.316, the term:

(10) “Family residential or custodial care” means care normally rendered by trained professional attendants which is beyond the scope of child care duties, but which is provided by family members. Family members who provide nonprofessional residential or custodial care may not be compensated under this act for care that falls within the scope of child care duties and other services normally and gratuitously provided by family members. Family residential or custodial care shall be performed only at the direction and control of a physician when such care is medically necessary. Reasonable charges for expenses for family residential or custodial care provided by a family member shall be determined as follows:

~~(e) The award of family residential or custodial care as defined in this section shall not be included in the current estimates for purposes of s. 766.314(9)(e).~~

Section 60. Paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 766.314, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

766.314 Assessments; plan of operation.—

(9)

(c) If the total of all current estimates equals or exceeds 100 ~~80~~ 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 subsections (4) and (5) and paragraph (5)(a) (7)(a), the association may not accept any new claims without express authority from the Legislature. ~~Nothing in~~ This section does not preclude ~~precludes~~ 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.

Section 61. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 197.582, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

197.582 Disbursement of proceeds of sale.—

(2)(a) If the property is purchased for an amount in excess of the statutory bid of the certificateholder, the surplus must be paid over and disbursed by the clerk as set forth in subsections (3), (5), and (6). If the opening bid included the homestead assessment pursuant to s. 197.502(6)(c), that amount must be treated as surplus and distributed in the same manner. The clerk shall distribute the surplus to the governmental units for the payment of any lien of record held by a governmental unit against the property, including any tax certificates not incorporated in the tax deed application and omitted taxes, if any. If there remains a balance of undistributed funds, the balance must be retained by the clerk for the benefit of persons described in s. 197.522(1)(a), except those persons described in s. 197.502(4)(h), as their interests may appear. The clerk shall mail notices to such persons notifying them of the funds held for their benefit at the addresses provided in s. 197.502(4). Such notice constitutes compliance with the requirements of s. 717.117(6) ~~s. 717.117(4)~~. Any service charges and costs of mailing notices shall be paid out of the excess balance held by the clerk. Notice must be provided in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF SURPLUS FUNDS
FROM TAX DEED SALE

CLERK OF COURT

..... COUNTY, FLORIDA

Tax Deed #.....

Certificate #.....

Property Description:

Pursuant to chapter 197, Florida Statutes, the above property was sold at public sale on ...(date of sale)..., and a surplus of \$...(amount)... (subject to change) will be held by this office for 120 days beginning on the date of this notice to benefit the persons having an interest in this property as described in section 197.502(4), Florida Statutes, as their interests may appear (except for those persons described in section 197.502(4)(h), Florida Statutes).

To the extent possible, these funds will be used to satisfy in full each claimant with a senior mortgage or lien in the property before distribution of any funds to any junior mortgage or lien claimant or to the former property owner. To be considered for funds when they are distributed, you must file a notarized statement of claim with this office within 120 days of this notice. If

you are a lienholder, your claim must include the particulars of your lien and the amounts currently due. Any lienholder claim that is not filed within the 120-day deadline is barred.

A copy of this notice must be attached to your statement of claim. After the office examines the filed claim statements, it will notify you if you are entitled to any payment.

Dated:

Clerk of Court

Section 62. Subsection (1) of section 717.1382, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1382 United States savings bond; unclaimed property; escheatment; procedure.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a United States savings bond in possession of the department or registered to a person with a last known address in the state, including a bond that is lost, stolen, or destroyed, is presumed abandoned and unclaimed 5 years after the bond reaches maturity and no longer earns interest and shall be reported and remitted to the department by the financial institution or other holder in accordance with ss. 717.117(1) and ~~(5)~~ (3) and 717.119, if the department is not in possession of the bond.

Section 63. The Division of Law Revision is directed to prepare a reviser’s bill for the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature to change the term “Division of Investigative and Forensic Services” wherever the term appears in the Florida Statutes to “Division of Criminal Investigations.”

Section 64. By September 1, 2024, the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association shall, in consultation with the Office of Insurance Regulation and the Agency for Health Care Administration, submit a report to the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which must include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Recommendations for defining actuarial soundness for the association, including options for phase-in, if appropriate.

(2) Recommendations for timing of reporting actuarial soundness and to whom the soundness should be reported.

(3) Recommendations for ensuring a revenue level to maintain actuarial soundness, including options for phase-in, if appropriate.

Section 65. Effective July 1, 2024, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (7) of section 17.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17.57 Deposits and investments of state money.—

(1)(b) The Chief Financial Officer, or other parties with the permission of the Chief Financial Officer, shall deposit the money of the state or any money in the State Treasury in such qualified public depositories of the state as will offer satisfactory collateral security for such deposits, pursuant to chapter 280. It is the duty of the Chief Financial Officer, consistent with the cash requirements of the state, to keep such money fully invested or deposited as provided herein in order that the state may realize maximum earnings and benefits. Nothing in this section shall preclude credit unions designated as public depositories from participation.

(7) In addition to the deposits authorized under this section and notwithstanding any other provisions of law, funds that are not needed to meet the disbursement needs of the state may be deposited by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the following conditions:

(a) The funds are initially deposited in a qualified public depository, as defined in s. 280.02, selected by the Chief Financial Officer.

(b) The selected depository arranges for depositing the funds in financial deposit instruments insured by:

1. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in one or more federally insured banks or savings and loan associations, wherever located, for the account of the state.

2. For credit unions designated as qualified public depositories, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(c) The full amount of the principal and accrued interest of each financial deposit instrument is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or, for credit unions designated as qualified public depositories, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(d) The selected depository acts as custodian for the state with respect to each financial deposit instrument issued for its account.

Section 66. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (4) of section 17.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17.68 Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.—

(4) Within 90 days after the department establishes the website clearinghouse and publishes the brochure, each bank, credit union, savings association, and savings bank that is a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 shall:

(a) Make copies of the department's brochures available, upon the request of the consumer, at its principal place of business and each branch

office located in this state which has in-person teller services by having copies of the brochure available or having the capability to print a copy of the brochure from the department's website. Upon request, the department shall provide copies of the brochure to a bank, credit union, savings association, or savings bank.

(b) Provide on its website a hyperlink to the department's website clearinghouse. If the department changes the website address for the clearinghouse, the bank, credit union, savings association, or savings bank must update the hyperlink within 90 days after notification by the department of such change.

Section 67. Effective July 1, 2024, subsections (6), (10), (21), (23), and (26) of section 280.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

280.02 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(6) “Capital account” or “tangible equity capital” means total equity capital, as defined on the balance-sheet portion of the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (call report), or net worth, as described in the National Credit Union Administration 5300 Call Report, less intangible assets, as submitted to the regulatory financial banking authority.

(10) “Custodian” means the Chief Financial Officer or a bank, credit union, savings association, or trust company that:

(a) Is organized and existing under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States;

(b) Has executed all forms required under this chapter or any rule adopted hereunder;

(c) Agrees to be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state, or of the courts of the United States which are located within this state, for the purpose of any litigation arising out of this chapter; and

(d) Has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer to act as a custodian.

(21) “Pool figure” means the total average monthly balances of public deposits held by all banks, savings banks, or savings associations or held separately by all credit unions qualified public depositories during the immediately preceding 12-month period.

(23) “Public deposit” means the moneys of the state or of any state university, county, school district, community college district, special district, metropolitan government, or municipality, including agencies, boards, bureaus, commissions, and institutions of any of the foregoing, or of any court, and includes the moneys of all county officers, including constitutional officers, which are placed on deposit in a bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association. This includes, but is not limited to,

time deposit accounts, demand deposit accounts, and nonnegotiable certificates of deposit. Moneys in deposit notes and in other nondeposit accounts such as repurchase or reverse repurchase operations are not public deposits. Securities, mutual funds, and similar types of investments are not public deposits and are not subject to this chapter.

(26) “Qualified public depository” means a bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association that:

(a) Is organized and exists under the laws of the United States, ~~or~~ the laws of this state, or the laws of any other state or territory of the United States.

(b) Has its principal place of business in this state or has a branch office in this state which is authorized under the laws of this state or of the United States to receive deposits in this state.

(c) Is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund ~~Has deposit insurance pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, 12 U.S.C. ss. 1811 et seq.~~

(d) Has procedures and practices for accurate identification, classification, reporting, and collateralization of public deposits.

(e) Makes determinations about the provision of services or the denial of services based on an analysis of risk factors unique to each customer or member. This paragraph does not restrict a qualified public depository that claims a religious purpose from making such determinations based on the religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations of a customer or member.

(f) Does not engage in the unsafe and unsound practice of denying or canceling its services to a person, or otherwise discriminating against a person in making available such services or in the terms or conditions of such services, on the basis of:

1. The person’s political opinions, speech, or affiliations;
2. Except as provided in paragraph (e), the person’s religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations;
3. Any factor if it is not a quantitative, impartial, and risk-based standard, including any such factor related to the person’s business sector; or
4. The use of any rating, scoring, analysis, tabulation, or action that considers a social credit score based on factors including, but not limited to:
 - a. The person’s political opinions, speech, or affiliations.

b. The person's religious beliefs, religious exercise, or religious affiliations.

c. The person's lawful ownership of a firearm.

d. The person's engagement in the lawful manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, or use of firearms or ammunition.

e. The person's engagement in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacture of fossil fuel-based energy, timber, mining, or agriculture.

f. The person's support of the state or Federal Government in combating illegal immigration, drug trafficking, or human trafficking.

g. The person's engagement with, facilitation of, employment by, support of, business relationship with, representation of, or advocacy for any person described in this subparagraph.

h. The person's failure to meet or commit to meet, or expected failure to meet, any of the following as long as such person is in compliance with applicable state or federal law:

(I) Environmental standards, including emissions standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures;

(II) Social governance standards, benchmarks, or requirements, including, but not limited to, environmental or social justice;

(III) Corporate board or company employment composition standards, benchmarks, requirements, or disclosures based on characteristics protected under the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; or

(IV) Policies or procedures requiring or encouraging employee participation in social justice programming, including, but not limited to, diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

(g) Meets all the requirements of this chapter.

(h) Has been designated by the Chief Financial Officer as a qualified public depository.

Section 68. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (1) of section 280.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.025 Attestation required.—

(1) Beginning July 1, 2024 ~~2023~~, the following entities must attest, under penalty of perjury, on a form prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer, whether the entity is in compliance with s. 280.02(26)(e) and (f):

(a) A bank, savings bank, credit union, or savings association, upon application or reapplication for designation as a qualified public depository.

(b) A qualified public depository, upon filing the report required by s. 280.16(1)(d).

Section 69. Effective July 1, 2024, paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 280.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.03 Public deposits to be secured; prohibitions; exemptions.—

(3) The following are exempt from the requirements of, and protection under, this chapter:

(a) Public deposits deposited in a bank, credit union, or savings association by a trust department or trust company which are fully secured under trust business laws.

Section 70. Effective July 1, 2024, section 280.042, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

280.042 Credit union designations as qualified public depositories; withdrawal by the Chief Financial Officer from collateral agreements; limits on public deposits.—

(1) The Chief Financial Officer may not designate a credit union as a qualified public depository unless, at the time the credit union submits its agreement of contingent liability and its collateral agreement. The credit union submits a signed statement from a public depositor indicating that if the credit union is designated as a qualified public depository, the public depositor intends to deposit public funds with the credit union.

(2) Within 10 business days after the Chief Financial Officer notifies the credit union that the Chief Financial Officer has withdrawn from the collateral agreement, the credit union must return all public deposits that the credit union holds to the public depositor who deposited the funds. The notice provided for in this subsection may be sent to a credit union by regular mail or by e-mail.

(3)(a) All credit unions designated as qualified public depositories may hold only the following public deposits:

1. A total combined amount of not more than 7 percent of the total funds held in the state treasury.

2. A total combined amount of not more than 7 percent of all public deposits of any state university or any state college.

(b) A credit union may not hold public deposits of more than 10 percent of its total institution's assets.

Section 71. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (11) of section 280.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.05 Powers and duties of the Chief Financial Officer.—In fulfilling the requirements of this act, the Chief Financial Officer has the power to take the following actions he or she deems necessary to protect the integrity of the public deposits program:

(11) Sell securities for the purpose of paying losses to public depositors not covered by deposit or share insurance.

Section 72. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (1) of section 280.052, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.052 Order of suspension or disqualification; procedure.—

(1) The suspension or disqualification of a bank, credit union, or savings association as a qualified public depository must be by order of the Chief Financial Officer and must be mailed to the qualified public depository by registered or certified mail.

Section 73. Effective July 1, 2024, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 280.053, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

280.053 Period of suspension or disqualification; obligations during period; reinstatement.—

(1)

(c) Upon expiration of the suspension period, the bank, credit union, or savings association may, by order of the Chief Financial Officer, be reinstated as a qualified public depository, unless the cause of the suspension has not been corrected or the bank, credit union, or savings association is otherwise not in compliance with this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(2)

(c) Upon expiration of the disqualification period, the bank, credit union, or savings association may reapply for qualification as a qualified public depository. If a disqualified bank, credit union, or savings association is purchased or otherwise acquired by new owners, it may reapply to the Chief Financial Officer to be a qualified public depository before ~~prior to~~ the expiration date of the disqualification period. Redesignation as a qualified public depository may occur only after the Chief Financial Officer has determined that all requirements for holding public deposits under the law have been met.

Section 74. Effective July 1, 2024, section 280.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.055 Cease and desist order; corrective order; administrative penalty.—

(1) The Chief Financial Officer may issue a cease and desist order and a corrective order upon determining that:

(a) A qualified public depository has requested and obtained a release of pledged collateral without approval of the Chief Financial Officer;

(b) A bank, credit union, savings association, or other financial institution is holding public deposits without a certificate of qualification issued by the Chief Financial Officer;

(c) A qualified public depository pledges, deposits, or arranges for the issuance of unacceptable collateral;

(d) A custodian has released pledged collateral without approval of the Chief Financial Officer;

(e) A qualified public depository or a custodian has not furnished to the Chief Financial Officer, when the Chief Financial Officer requested, a power of attorney or bond power or bond assignment form required by the bond agent or bond trustee for each issue of registered certificated securities pledged and registered in the name, or nominee name, of the qualified public depository or custodian;

(f) A qualified public depository; a bank, credit union, savings association, or other financial institution; or a custodian has committed any other violation of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter that the Chief Financial Officer determines may be remedied by a cease and desist order or corrective order; or

(g) A qualified public depository no longer meets the definition of a qualified public depository under s. 280.02.

(2) Any qualified public depository or other bank, credit union, savings association, or financial institution or custodian that violates a cease and desist order or corrective order of the Chief Financial Officer is subject to an administrative penalty not exceeding \$1,000 for each violation of the order. Each day the violation of the order continues constitutes a separate violation.

Section 75. Effective July 1, 2024, section 280.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.07 Mutual responsibility and contingent liability.—

(1) ~~Any~~ Any bank, savings bank, or savings association that is designated as a qualified public depository and that is not insolvent shall guarantee public depositors against loss caused by the default or insolvency of other

banks, savings banks, or savings associations that are designated as qualified public depositories.

(2) A credit union that is designated as a qualified public depository and that is not insolvent shall guarantee public depositors against loss caused by the default or insolvency of other credit unions that are designated as qualified public depositories.

Each qualified public depository shall execute a form prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer for such guarantee which must shall be approved by the board of directors and must shall become an official record of the institution.

Section 76. Effective July 1, 2024, subsections (1) and (3) of section 280.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

280.08 Procedure for payment of losses.—When the Chief Financial Officer determines that a default or insolvency has occurred, he or she shall provide notice as required in s. 280.085 and implement the following procedures:

(1) The Division of Treasury, in cooperation with the Office of Financial Regulation of the Financial Services Commission or the receiver of the qualified public depository in default, shall ascertain the amount of funds of each public depositor on deposit at such depository and the amount of deposit or share insurance applicable to such deposits.

(3)(a) The loss to public depositors shall be satisfied, insofar as possible, first through any applicable deposit or share insurance and then through demanding payment under letters of credit or the sale of collateral pledged or deposited by the defaulting depository. The Chief Financial Officer may assess qualified public depositories as provided in paragraph (b), subject to the segregation of contingent liability in s. 280.07, for the total loss if the demand for payment or sale of collateral cannot be accomplished within 7 business days.

(b) The Chief Financial Officer shall provide coverage of any remaining loss by assessment against the other qualified public depositories. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine such assessment for each qualified public depository by multiplying the total amount of any remaining loss to all public depositors by a percentage which represents the average monthly balance of public deposits held by each qualified public depository during the previous 12 months divided by the total average monthly balances of public deposits held by all qualified public depositories, excluding the defaulting depository, during the same period. The assessment calculation must shall be computed to six decimal places.

Section 77. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (4) of section 280.085, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (1) of that section is republished, to read:

280.085 Notice to claimants.—

(1) Upon determining the default or insolvency of a qualified public depository, the Chief Financial Officer shall notify, by first-class mail, all public depositors that have complied with s. 280.17 of such default or insolvency. The notice must direct all public depositors having claims or demands against the Public Deposits Trust Fund occasioned by the default or insolvency to file their claims with the Chief Financial Officer within 30 days after the date of the notice.

(4) The notice required in subsection (1) is not required if the default or insolvency of a qualified public depository is resolved in a manner in which all Florida public deposits are acquired by another insured bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association.

Section 78. Effective July 1, 2024, section 280.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.09 Public Deposits Trust Fund.—

(1) In order to facilitate the administration of this chapter, there is created the Public Deposits Trust Fund, hereafter in this section designated “the fund.” The proceeds from the sale of securities or draw on letters of credit held as collateral or from any assessment pursuant to s. 280.08 must ~~shall~~ be deposited into the fund. The Chief Financial Officer must segregate and separately account for any collateral proceeds, assessments, or administrative penalties attributable to a credit union from any collateral proceeds, assessments, or administrative penalties attributable to any bank, savings bank, or savings association. Any administrative penalty collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the Treasury Administrative and Investment Trust Fund.

(2) The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to pay any losses to public depositors from the fund, subject to the limitations provided in subsection (1), and there are hereby appropriated from the fund such sums as may be necessary from time to time to pay the losses. The term “losses,” for purposes of this chapter, must ~~shall~~ also include losses of interest or other accumulations to the public depositor as a result of penalties for early withdrawal required by Depository Institution Deregulatory Commission Regulations or applicable successor federal laws or regulations because of suspension or disqualification of a qualified public depository by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to s. 280.05 or because of withdrawal from the public deposits program pursuant to s. 280.11. In that event, the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to assess against the suspended, disqualified, or withdrawing public depository, in addition to any amount authorized by any other provision of this chapter, an administrative penalty equal to the amount of the early withdrawal penalty and to pay that amount over to the public depositor as reimbursement for such loss. Any money in the fund estimated not to be needed for immediate cash requirements shall be invested pursuant to s. 17.61.

Section 79. Effective July 1, 2024, subsections (1) and (3) of section 280.10, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

280.10 Effect of merger, acquisition, or consolidation; change of name or address.—

(1) When a qualified public depository is merged into, acquired by, or consolidated with a bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association that is not a qualified public depository:

(a) The resulting institution shall automatically become a qualified public depository subject to the requirements of the public deposits program.

(b) The contingent liability of the former institution shall be a liability of the resulting institution.

(c) The public deposits and associated collateral of the former institution shall be public deposits and collateral of the resulting institution.

(d) The resulting institution shall, within 90 calendar days after the effective date of the merger, acquisition, or consolidation, deliver to the Chief Financial Officer:

1. Documentation in its name as required for participation in the public deposits program; or

2. Written notice of intent to withdraw from the program as provided in s. 280.11 and a proposed effective date of withdrawal which shall be within 180 days after the effective date of the acquisition, merger, or consolidation of the former institution.

(e) If the resulting institution does not meet qualifications to become a qualified public depository or does not submit required documentation within 90 calendar days after the effective date of the merger, acquisition, or consolidation, the Chief Financial Officer shall initiate mandatory withdrawal actions as provided in s. 280.11 and shall set an effective date of withdrawal that is within 180 days after the effective date of the acquisition, merger, or consolidation of the former institution.

(3) If the default or insolvency of a qualified public depository results in acquisition of all or part of its Florida public deposits by a bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association that is not a qualified public depository, the bank, credit union, savings bank, or savings association acquiring the Florida public deposits is subject to subsection (1).

Section 80. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (1) of section 280.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280.13 Eligible collateral.—

(1) Securities eligible to be pledged as collateral by qualified public depositories ~~banks and savings associations~~ shall be limited to:

- (a) Direct obligations of the United States Government.
- (b) Obligations of any federal agency that are fully guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by the United States Government.
- (c) Obligations of the following federal agencies:
 1. Farm credit banks.
 2. Federal land banks.
 3. The Federal Home Loan Bank and its district banks.
 4. Federal intermediate credit banks.
 5. The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.
 6. The Federal National Mortgage Association.
 7. Obligations guaranteed by the Government National Mortgage Association.
- (d) General obligations of a state of the United States, or of Puerto Rico, or of a political subdivision or municipality thereof.
- (e) Obligations issued by the Florida State Board of Education under authority of the State Constitution or applicable statutes.
- (f) Tax anticipation certificates or warrants of counties or municipalities having maturities not exceeding 1 year.
- (g) Public housing authority obligations.
- (h) Revenue bonds or certificates of a state of the United States or of a political subdivision or municipality thereof.
- (i) Corporate bonds of any corporation that is not an affiliate or subsidiary of the qualified public depository.

Section 81. Effective July 1, 2024, paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 280.17, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of that section is reenacted, to read:

280.17 Requirements for public depositories; notice to public depositories and governmental units; loss of protection.—In addition to any other requirement specified in this chapter, public depositories shall comply with the following:

- (1)(a) Each official custodian of moneys that meet the definition of a public deposit under s. 280.02 shall ensure such moneys are placed in a

qualified public depository unless the moneys are exempt under the laws of this state.

(4) If public deposits are in a qualified public depository that has been declared to be in default or insolvent, each public depositor shall:

(b) Submit to the Chief Financial Officer for each public deposit, within 30 days after the date of official notification from the Chief Financial Officer, the following:

1. A claim form and agreement, as prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer, executed under oath, accompanied by proof of authority to execute the form on behalf of the public depositor.

2. A completed public deposit identification and acknowledgment form, as described in subsection (2).

3. Evidence of the insurance afforded the deposit pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act or the Federal Credit Union Act, as appropriate.

Section 82. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 24.114, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

24.114 Bank deposits and control of lottery transactions.—

(1) All moneys received by each retailer from the operation of the state lottery, including, but not limited to, all ticket sales, interest, gifts, and donations, less the amount retained as compensation for the sale of the tickets and the amount paid out as prizes, shall be remitted to the department or deposited in a qualified public depository, as defined in s. 280.02, as directed by the department. The department shall have the responsibility for all administrative functions related to the receipt of funds. The department may also require each retailer to file with the department reports of the retailer's receipts and transactions in the sale of lottery tickets in such form and containing such information as the department may require. The department may require any person, including a qualified public depository, to perform any function, activity, or service in connection with the operation of the lottery as it may deem advisable pursuant to this act and rules of the department, and such functions, activities, or services shall constitute lawful functions, activities, and services of such person.

Section 83. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

125.901 Children's services; independent special district; council; powers, duties, and functions; public records exemption.—

(3)

(e)1. All moneys received by the council on children's services shall be deposited in qualified public depositories, as defined in s. 280.02, with separate and distinguishable accounts established specifically for the council and shall be withdrawn only by checks signed by the chair of the council and countersigned by either one other member of the council on children's services or by a chief executive officer who shall be so authorized by the council.

2. Upon entering the duties of office, the chair and the other member of the council or chief executive officer who signs its checks shall each give a surety bond in the sum of at least \$1,000 for each \$1 million or portion thereof of the council's annual budget, which bond shall be conditioned that each shall faithfully discharge the duties of his or her office. The premium on such bond may be paid by the district as part of the expense of the council. No other member of the council shall be required to give bond or other security.

3. No funds of the district shall be expended except by check as aforesaid, except expenditures from a petty cash account which shall not at any time exceed \$100. All expenditures from petty cash shall be recorded on the books and records of the council on children's services. No funds of the council on children's services, excepting expenditures from petty cash, shall be expended without prior approval of the council, in addition to the budgeting thereof.

Section 84. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 136.01, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

136.01 County depositories.—Each county depository shall be a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 for the following funds: county funds; funds of all county officers, including constitutional officers; funds of the school board; and funds of the community college district board of trustees. This enumeration of funds is made not by way of limitation, but of illustration; and it is the intent hereof that all funds of the county, the board of county commissioners or the several county officers, the school board, or the community college district board of trustees be included.

Section 85. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (11) of section 159.608, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

159.608 Powers of housing finance authorities.—A housing finance authority shall constitute a public body corporate and politic, exercising the public and essential governmental functions set forth in this act, and shall exercise its power to borrow only for the purpose as provided herein:

(11) To invest and reinvest surplus funds of the housing finance authority in accordance with s. 218.415. However, in addition to the investments expressly authorized in s. 218.415(16)(a)-(g) and (17)(a)-(d), a housing finance authority may invest surplus funds in interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regardless of whether the bank or financial institution in which the deposit or investment is made is a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02. This subsection is supplementary to and may not be construed as limiting any powers of a housing finance authority or providing or implying a limiting construction of any other statutory provision.

Section 86. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 175.301, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

175.301 Depository for pension funds.—For any municipality, special fire control district, chapter plan, local law municipality, local law special fire control district, or local law plan under this chapter, all funds of the firefighters' pension trust fund of any chapter plan or local law plan under this chapter may be deposited by the board of trustees with the treasurer of the municipality or special fire control district, acting in a ministerial capacity only, who shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as he or she is liable for the safekeeping of funds for the municipality or special fire control district. However, any funds so deposited with the treasurer of the municipality or special fire control district shall be kept in a separate fund by the treasurer or clearly identified as such funds of the firefighters' pension trust fund. In lieu thereof, the board of trustees shall deposit the funds of the firefighters' pension trust fund in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, which depository with regard to such funds shall conform to and be bound by all of the provisions of chapter 280.

Section 87. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (8) of section 175.401, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

175.401 Retiree health insurance subsidy.—For any municipality, special fire control district, chapter plan, local law municipality, local law special fire control district, or local law plan under this chapter, under the broad grant of home rule powers under the State Constitution and chapter 166, municipalities have the authority to establish and administer locally funded health insurance subsidy programs. In addition, special fire control districts may, by resolution, establish and administer locally funded health insurance subsidy programs. Pursuant thereto:

(8) DEPOSIT OF HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY FUNDS.—All funds of the health insurance subsidy fund may be deposited by the board of trustees with the treasurer of the municipality or special fire control district, acting in a ministerial capacity only, who shall be liable in the same

manner and to the same extent as he or she is liable for the safekeeping of funds for the municipality or special fire control district. Any funds so deposited shall be segregated by the treasurer in a separate fund, clearly identified as funds of the health insurance subsidy fund. In lieu thereof, the board of trustees shall deposit the funds of the health insurance subsidy fund in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, which shall conform to and be bound by the provisions of chapter 280 with regard to such funds. In no case shall the funds of the health insurance subsidy fund be deposited in any financial institution, brokerage house trust company, or other entity that is not a public depository as provided by s. 280.02.

Section 88. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 185.30, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

185.30 Depository for retirement fund.—For any municipality, chapter plan, local law municipality, or local law plan under this chapter, all funds of the municipal police officers' retirement trust fund of any municipality, chapter plan, local law municipality, or local law plan under this chapter may be deposited by the board of trustees with the treasurer of the municipality acting in a ministerial capacity only, who shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as he or she is liable for the safekeeping of funds for the municipality. However, any funds so deposited with the treasurer of the municipality shall be kept in a separate fund by the municipal treasurer or clearly identified as such funds of the municipal police officers' retirement trust fund. In lieu thereof, the board of trustees shall deposit the funds of the municipal police officers' retirement trust fund in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, which depository with regard to such funds shall conform to and be bound by all of the provisions of chapter 280.

Section 89. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (8) of section 185.50, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

185.50 Retiree health insurance subsidy.—For any municipality, chapter plan, local law municipality, or local law plan under this chapter, under the broad grant of home rule powers under the State Constitution and chapter 166, municipalities have the authority to establish and administer locally funded health insurance subsidy programs. Pursuant thereto:

(8) DEPOSIT OF PENSION FUNDS.—All funds of the health insurance subsidy fund may be deposited by the board of trustees with the treasurer of the municipality, acting in a ministerial capacity only, who shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as he or she is liable for the safekeeping of funds for the municipality. Any funds so deposited shall be segregated by said treasurer in a separate fund, clearly identified as funds of the health insurance subsidy fund. In lieu thereof, the board of trustees shall deposit the funds of the health insurance subsidy fund in a qualified public

depository as defined in s. 280.02, which shall conform to and be bound by the provisions of chapter 280 with regard to such funds. In no case shall the funds of the health insurance subsidy fund be deposited in any financial institution, brokerage house trust company, or other entity that is not a public depository as provided by s. 280.02.

Section 90. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 190.007, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

190.007 Board of supervisors; general duties.—

(3) The board is authorized to select as a depository for its funds any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 which meets all the requirements of chapter 280 and has been designated by the Chief Financial Officer as a qualified public depository, upon such terms and conditions as to the payment of interest by such depository upon the funds so deposited as the board may deem just and reasonable.

Section 91. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (16) of section 191.006, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

191.006 General powers.—The district shall have, and the board may exercise by majority vote, the following powers:

(16) To select as a depository for its funds any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 which meets all the requirements of chapter 280 and has been designated by the Chief Financial Officer as a qualified public depository, upon such terms and conditions as to the payment of interest upon the funds deposited as the board deems just and reasonable.

Section 92. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 215.34, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

215.34 State funds; noncollectible items; procedure.—

(2) Whenever a check, draft, or other order for the payment of money is returned by the Chief Financial Officer, or by a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, to a state officer, a state agency, or the judicial branch for collection, the officer, agency, or judicial branch shall add to the amount due a service fee of \$15 or 5 percent of the face amount of the check, draft, or order, whichever is greater. An agency or the judicial branch may adopt a rule which prescribes a lesser maximum service fee, which shall be added to the amount due for the dishonored check, draft, or other order tendered for a particular service, license, tax, fee, or other charge, but in no event shall the fee be less than \$15. The service fee shall be in addition to all other penalties

imposed by law, except that when other charges or penalties are imposed by an agency related to a noncollectible item, the amount of the service fee shall not exceed \$150. Proceeds from this fee shall be deposited in the same fund as the collected item. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorization to deposit moneys outside the State Treasury unless specifically authorized by law.

Section 93. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (16), paragraph (c) of subsection (17), and paragraph (a) of subsection (23) of section 218.415, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

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

(16) AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS; WRITTEN INVESTMENT POLICIES.—Those units of local government electing to adopt a written investment policy as provided in subsections (1)-(15) may by resolution invest and reinvest any surplus public funds in their control or possession in:

(c) Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories as defined in s. 280.02.

(17) AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS; NO WRITTEN INVESTMENT POLICY.—Those units of local government electing not to adopt a written investment policy in accordance with investment policies developed as provided in subsections (1)-(15) may invest or reinvest any surplus public funds in their control or possession in:

(c) Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories, as defined in s. 280.02.

The securities listed in paragraphs (c) and (d) shall be invested to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due.

(23) AUTHORIZED DEPOSITS.—In addition to the investments authorized for local governments in subsections (16) and (17) and notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a unit of local government may deposit any portion of surplus public funds in its control or possession in accordance with the following conditions:

(a) The funds are initially deposited in a qualified public depository, as defined in s. 280.02, selected by the unit of local government.

Section 94. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (h) of subsection (4) of section 255.502, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

255.502 Definitions; ss. 255.501-255.525.—As used in this act, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

(4) “Authorized investments” means and includes without limitation any investment in:

(h) Savings accounts in, or certificates of deposit of, qualified public depositories as defined in s. 280.02, in an amount that does not exceed 15 percent of the net worth of the institution, or a lesser amount as determined by rule by the State Board of Administration, provided such savings accounts and certificates of deposit are secured in the manner prescribed in chapter 280.

Investments in any security authorized in this subsection may be under repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreements.

Section 95. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (15) of section 280.051, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

280.051 Grounds for suspension or disqualification of a qualified public depository.—A qualified public depository may be suspended or disqualified or both if the Chief Financial Officer determines that the qualified public depository has:

(15) No longer meets the definition of a qualified public depository under s. 280.02.

Section 96. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 280.18, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

280.18 Protection of public depositors; liability of the state.—

(1) When public deposits are made in accordance with this chapter, there shall be protection from loss to public depositors, as defined in s. 280.02, in the absence of negligence, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance on the part of the public depositor or on the part of his or her agents or employees.

Section 97. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (1) and (2) of section 331.309, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

331.309 Treasurer; depositories; fiscal agent.—

(1) The board shall designate an individual who is a resident of the state, or a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, as treasurer of Space Florida, who shall have charge of the funds of Space Florida. Such funds shall be disbursed only upon the order of or pursuant to the resolution of the board by warrant, check, authorization, or direct deposit pursuant to s. 215.85, signed or authorized by the treasurer or his or her representative or by such other persons as may be authorized by the board. The board may give the treasurer such other or additional powers and duties as the board may deem appropriate and shall establish the treasurer's compensation. The board may require the treasurer to give a bond in such amount, on such terms, and with such sureties as may be deemed satisfactory to the board to secure the performance by the treasurer of his or her powers and duties. The board shall audit or have audited the books of the treasurer at least once a year.

(2) The board is authorized to select as depositories in which the funds of the board and of Space Florida shall be deposited any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, upon such terms and conditions as to the payment of interest by such depository upon the funds so deposited as the board may deem just and reasonable. The funds of Space Florida may be kept in or removed from the State Treasury upon written notification from the chair of the board to the Chief Financial Officer.

Section 98. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 373.553, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

373.553 Treasurer of the board; payment of funds; depositories.—

(2) The board is authorized to select as depositories in which the funds of the board and of the district shall be deposited in any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, and such deposits shall be secured in the manner provided in chapter 280.

Section 99. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 631.221, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

631.221 Deposit of moneys collected.—The moneys collected by the department in a proceeding under this chapter shall be deposited in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, which depository with regards to such funds shall conform to and be bound by all the provisions of chapter 280, or invested with the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to chapter 18. For the purpose of accounting for the assets and transactions of the estate, the receiver shall use such accounting books, records, and systems as the court directs after it hears and considers the recommendations of the receiver.

Section 100. Effective July 1, 2024, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 280.02, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 723.06115, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

723.06115 Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund.—

(3) The department shall distribute moneys in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund to the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation in accordance with the following:

(c) Funds transferred from the trust fund to the corporation shall be transferred electronically and shall be transferred to and maintained in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 which is specified by the corporation.

Section 101. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 2, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 2, 2024.