2010

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship 3 Program; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 4 220.187, F.S.; revising definitions; making operation of 5 the program contingent upon available funds; revising 6 certain eligibility criteria; revising tax credit grant 7 provisions; specifying a tax credit cap; providing for 8 increasing the tax credit cap under certain circumstances; 9 providing application procedures and requirements; 10 providing for unused amounts of tax credits to be carried 11 forward; providing application requirements; providing limitations on conveying, assigning, or transferring tax 12 credits; revising provisions governing the rescission of 13 14 taxpayer tax credits; deleting a prohibition against 15 claiming certain multiple tax credits; specifying 16 additional obligations for eligible nonprofit scholarshipfunding organizations relating to development and review 17 of certain accounting procedures and guidelines; providing 18 19 reporting requirements; limiting private school participation eligibility to certain grades; requiring 20 21 private schools to annually contract with accountants to 22 perform certain procedures; providing reporting and 23 procedural requirements; revising certain obligations of 24 the Department of Education; specifying additional 25 requirements for certain independent research 26 organizations; providing responsibilities of the 27 Department of Education; deleting certain requirements for 28 independent research organizations; authorizing the

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29 Commissioner of Education to deny, suspend, or revoke 30 private school program participation under certain 31 circumstances; providing requirements and criteria; 32 revising limitations on annual amounts of scholarships provided; deleting certain corporate tax credit 33 34 carryforward authority; revising certain rulemaking 35 authority; providing for severability and for preserving 36 certain additional tax credits; creating s. 211.0251, 37 F.S.; providing for a credit against the oil and gas 38 production tax for certain program contributions; 39 requiring the Department of Revenue to disregard certain tax credits for certain purposes; providing for 40 application; creating s. 212.1831, F.S.; providing for a 41 42 credit against sales and use tax for certain program 43 contributions; requiring the Department of Revenue to 44 disregard certain tax credits for certain purposes; 45 providing for application; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; expanding the authority of the Department of Revenue to 46 47 disclose certain information; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; revising the determination of additions to adjusted 48 49 federal income; providing intent; providing for 50 construction of certain provisions; providing for 51 retroactive application; creating s. 220.1875, F.S.; 52 providing for a credit against the corporate income tax 53 for certain program contributions; providing limitations; 54 providing for adjustments; providing for application; 55 creating s. 561.1211, F.S.; providing for a credit against 56 certain alcoholic beverage taxes for certain

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57 contributions; requiring the Department of Revenue to 58 disregard certain tax credits for certain purposes; providing for application; amending ss. 220.02, 220.186, 59 60 624.51055, 1001.10, 1002.20, 1002.23, 1002.39, 1002.421, 1006.061, 1012.315, and 1012.796, F.S.; conforming cross-61 62 references to changes made by the act; authorizing the 63 Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules; providing 64 an appropriation to the Department of Revenue to implement 65 the act; providing effective dates. 66 67 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 68 Section 1. Section 220.187, Florida Statutes, is 69 70 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, 71 and amended to read: 72 1002.395 220.187 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program 73 Credits for contributions to nonprofit scholarship-funding 74 organizations.-75 (1)FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.-76 The Legislature finds that: (a) 77 It has the inherent power to determine subjects of 1. 78 taxation for general or particular public purposes. 79 Expanding educational opportunities and improving the 2. 80 quality of educational services within the state are valid 81 public purposes that the Legislature may promote using its sovereign power to determine subjects of taxation and exemptions 82 83 from taxation. 84 Ensuring that all parents, regardless of means, may 3. Page 3 of 53

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85 exercise and enjoy their basic right to educate their children 86 as they see fit is a valid public purpose that the Legislature 87 may promote using its sovereign power to determine subjects of 88 taxation and exemptions from taxation.

89 4. Expanding educational opportunities and the healthy 90 competition they promote are critical to improving the quality 91 of education in the state and to ensuring that all children 92 receive the high-quality education to which they are entitled.

93

(b) The purpose of this section is to:

Enable taxpayers to make private, voluntary
 contributions to nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations in
 order to promote the general welfare.

97 2. Provide taxpayers who wish to help parents with limited
98 resources exercise their basic right to educate their children
99 as they see fit with a means to do so.

100 3. Promote the general welfare by expanding educational 101 opportunities for children of families that have limited 102 financial resources.

103 4. Enable children in this state to achieve a greater104 level of excellence in their education.

105 5. Improve the quality of education in this state, both by 106 expanding educational opportunities for children and by creating 107 incentives for schools to achieve excellence.

108	(2)	DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
109	<u>(a)</u>	"Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal
110	year, the	e sum of the amount of tax credits approved under
111	paragraph	n (5)(b), including tax credits to be taken under s.
112	220.1875	or s. 624.51055, which are approved for a taxpayer

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113 whose taxable year begins on or after January 1 of the calendar 114 year preceding the start of the applicable state fiscal year. 115 (b) (a) "Department" means the Department of Revenue. 116 (c) (b) "Direct certification list" means the certified 117 list of children who qualify for the Food Stamp Program, the 118 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program, or the Food 119 Distribution Program on Indian Reservations provided to the 120 Department of Education by the Department of Children and Family 121 Services. (d) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages 122 123 and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional 124 Regulation. 125 (e) (c) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary 126 contribution from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this section, to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-127 128 funding organization. The taxpayer making the contribution may 129 not designate a specific child as the beneficiary of the 130 contribution. 131 (f) (d) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 132 organization" means a charitable organization that: 133 Is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to s. 1. 134 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; 135 Is a Florida entity formed under chapter 607, chapter 2. 608, or chapter 617 and whose principal office is located in the 136 137 state; and 3. Complies with the provisions of subsection (6). 138 (q) (e) "Eligible private school" means a private school, 139 140 as defined in s. 1002.01(2), located in Florida which offers an Page 5 of 53

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141 education to students in any grades K-12 and that meets the 142 requirements in subsection (8).

143 <u>(h) (f)</u> "Owner or operator" includes: 144 1. An owner, president, officer, or director of an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization or a person with equivalent decisionmaking authority over an eligible 147 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

148 2. An owner, operator, superintendent, or principal of an
149 eligible private school or a person with equivalent
150 decisionmaking authority over an eligible private school.

151 (i) "Tax credit cap amount" means the maximum annual tax 152 credit amount that the department may approve in a state fiscal 153 year.

(j) "Unweighted FTE funding amount" means the statewide
 average total funds per unweighted full-time equivalent funding
 amount that is incorporated by reference in the General
 Appropriations Act, or any subsequent special appropriations
 act, for the applicable state fiscal year.

(3) PROGRAM; SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.-

160 (a) The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program is
 161 established.

162

159

(b) Contingent upon available funds:

163 <u>1.</u> A student is eligible for a Florida tax credit 164 scholarship under this section or s. 624.51055 if the student 165 qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunches under the 166 National School Lunch Act or is on the direct certification list 167 and:

168 <u>a.(a)</u> Was counted as a full-time equivalent student during Page 6 of 53

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169 the previous state fiscal year for purposes of state per-student 170 funding;

b.(b) Received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit 171 172 scholarship-funding organization or from the State of Florida 173 during the previous school year;

174

c.(c) Is eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade; or 175 d. (d) Is currently placed, or during the previous state 176 fiscal year was placed, in foster care as defined in s. 39.01.

177 2. Contingent upon available funds, A student may continue in the scholarship program as long as the student's household 178 income level does not exceed 230 200 percent of the federal 179 180 poverty level.

3. A sibling of a student who is continuing in the 181 182 scholarship program and who resides in the same household as the 183 student shall also be eligible as a first-time tax credit 184 scholarship recipient if the sibling meets one or more of the 185 criteria specified in subparagraph 1. and as long as the 186 student's and sibling's household income level does not exceed 187 230 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

188 Household income for purposes of a student who is (C) 189 currently in foster care as defined in s. 39.01 shall consist only of the income that may be considered in determining whether 190 191 he or she qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunches 192 under the National School Lunch Act.

193 SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.-A student is not eligible (4) for a scholarship while he or she is: 194

Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of 195 (a) 196 providing educational services to youth in Department of

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197 Juvenile Justice commitment programs; 198 (b) Receiving a scholarship from another eligible 199 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under this section; 200 Receiving an educational scholarship pursuant to (C) 201 chapter 1002; 202 Participating in a home education program as defined (d) 203 in s. 1002.01(1); 204 Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant (e) 205 to s. 1002.43; (f) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence 206 207 school, or distance learning program that receives state funding 208 pursuant to the student's participation unless the participation 209 is limited to no more than two courses per school year; or 210 Enrolled in the Florida School for the Deaf and the (a) 211 Blind. AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TAX 212 (5) 213 CREDITS; LIMITATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL AND TOTAL CREDITS.-214 (a)1. The tax credit cap amount is \$140 million in the 215 2010-2011 state fiscal year. 216 2. In the 2011-2012 state fiscal year and each state 217 fiscal year thereafter, the tax credit cap amount is the tax 218 credit cap amount in the prior state fiscal year. However, in 219 any state fiscal year when the annual tax credit amount for the 220 prior state fiscal year is equal to or greater than 90 percent 221 of the tax credit cap amount applicable to that state fiscal 222 year, the tax credit cap amount shall increase by 25 percent. 223 The department shall publish on its website information 224 identifying the tax credit cap amount when it is increased

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225	pursuant to this subparagraph. There is allowed a credit of 100
226	percent of an eligible contribution against any tax due for a
227	taxable year under this chapter. However, such a credit may not
228	exceed 75 percent of the tax due under this chapter for the
229	taxable year, after the application of any other allowable
230	credits by the taxpayer. The credit granted by this section
231	shall be reduced by the difference between the amount of federal
232	corporate income tax taking into account the credit granted by
233	this section and the amount of federal corporate income tax
234	without application of the credit granted by this section.
235	(b) A taxpayer may submit an application to the department
236	for a tax credit or credits under one or more of s. 211.0251, s.
237	212.1831, s. 220.1875, s. 561.1211, or s. 624.51055. The
238	taxpayer shall specify in the application each tax for which the
239	taxpayer requests a credit and the applicable taxable year for a
240	credit under s. 220.1875 or s. 624.51055 or the applicable state
241	fiscal year for a credit under s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, or s.
242	561.1211. The department shall approve tax credits on a first-
243	come, first-served basis and must obtain the division's approval
244	prior to approving a tax credit under s. 561.1211. For each
245	state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits and
246	carryforward of tax credits which may be granted under this
247	section and s. 624.51055 is \$118 million.
248	(c) If a tax credit approved under paragraph (b)is not
249	fully used within the specified state fiscal year for credits
250	under s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, or s. 561.1211 or against taxes
251	due for the specified taxable year for credits under s. 220.1875
252	or s. 624.51055 because of insufficient tax liability on the
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253 part of the taxpayer, the unused amount may be carried forward 254 for a period not to exceed 3 years. However, any taxpayer that 255 seeks to carry forward an unused amount of tax credit must 256 submit an application to the department for approval of the 257 carryforward tax credit in the year that the taxpayer intends to 258 use the carryforward. The department must obtain the division's 259 approval prior to approving the carryforward of a tax credit 260 under s. 561.1211. A taxpayer who files a Florida consolidated 261 return as a member of an affiliated group pursuant to s. 262 220.131(1) may be allowed the credit on a consolidated return 263 basis; however, the total credit taken by the affiliated group 264 is subject to the limitation established under paragraph (a). 265 (d) A taxpayer may not convey, assign, or transfer an 266 approved tax credit or a carryforward tax credit to another 267 entity unless all of the assets of the taxpayer are conveyed, 268 assigned, or transferred in the same transaction. 269 (e)(d) Within any state fiscal year Effective for tax 270 years beginning January 1, 2006, a taxpayer may rescind all or part of <u>a</u> its allocated tax credit approved under paragraph (b) 271 272 this section. The amount rescinded shall become available for 273 purposes of the cap for that state fiscal year under this 274 section to another an eligible taxpayer as approved by the 275 department if the taxpayer receives notice from the department

that the rescindment has been accepted by the department and the taxpayer has not previously rescinded any or all of its tax <u>credits approved credit allocation</u> under <u>paragraph (b)</u> this section more than once in the previous 3 tax years. <u>The</u> <u>department must obtain the division's approval prior to</u>

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281 accepting the rescindment of a tax credit under s. 561.1211. Any 282 amount rescinded under this paragraph shall become available to 283 an eligible taxpayer on a first-come, first-served basis based 284 on tax credit applications received after the date the 285 rescindment is accepted by the department.

286 (e) A taxpayer who is eligible to receive the credit
287 provided for in s. 624.51055 is not eligible to receive the
288 credit provided by this section.

(6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING
 ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 organization:

(a) Must comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of
42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.

(b) Must comply with the following background checkrequirements:

296 1. All owners and operators as defined in subparagraph 297 (2) (h) (f) are, upon employment or engagement to provide 298 services, subject to level 2 background screening as provided 299 under chapter 435. The fingerprints for the background screening 300 must be electronically submitted to the Department of Law 301 Enforcement and can be taken by an authorized law enforcement 302 agency or by an employee of the eligible nonprofit scholarship-303 funding organization or a private company who is trained to take 304 fingerprints. However, the complete set of fingerprints of an 305 owner or operator may not be taken by the owner or operator. The results of the state and national criminal history check shall 306 be provided to the Department of Education for screening under 307 308 chapter 435. The cost of the background screening may be borne

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309 by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization or 310 the owner or operator.

2. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to 311 312 provide services or association with an eligible nonprofit 313 scholarship-funding organization, each owner or operator must 314 meet level 2 screening standards as described in s. 435.04, at 315 which time the nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall 316 request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the 317 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 318 screening. If the fingerprints of an owner or operator are not 319 retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 320 3., the owner or operator must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon 321 322 submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall request that 323 324 the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to 325 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and 326 the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law 327 Enforcement under subparagraph 3.

328 Beginning July 1, 2007, all fingerprints submitted to 3. 329 the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this paragraph 330 must be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement in a 331 manner approved by rule and entered in the statewide automated 332 fingerprint identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). The fingerprints must thereafter be available for all purposes 333 and uses authorized for arrest fingerprint cards entered in the 334 335 statewide automated fingerprint identification system pursuant 336 to s. 943.051.

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337 Beginning July 1, 2007, the Department of Law 4. 338 Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprint cards received 339 under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the 340 statewide automated fingerprint identification system under 341 subparagraph 3. Any arrest record that is identified with an 342 owner's or operator's fingerprints must be reported to the 343 Department of Education. The Department of Education shall 344 participate in this search process by paying an annual fee to 345 the Department of Law Enforcement and by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change in the employment, 346 engagement, or association status of the owners or operators 347 348 whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 3. The 349 Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a rule setting the 350 amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon the Department of 351 Education for performing these services and establishing the 352 procedures for the retention of owner and operator fingerprints 353 and the dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by 354 the owner or operator of the nonprofit scholarship-funding 355 organization.

356 5. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization whose
357 owner or operator fails the level 2 background screening shall
358 not be eligible to provide scholarships under this section.

359 6. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization whose
360 owner or operator in the last 7 years has filed for personal
361 bankruptcy or corporate bankruptcy in a corporation of which he
362 or she owned more than 20 percent shall not be eligible to
363 provide scholarships under this section.

364

(c) Must not have an owner or operator who owns or

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365 operates an eligible private school that is participating in the 366 scholarship program.

367 (d) Must provide scholarships, from eligible368 contributions, to eligible students for the cost of:

369

1. Tuition and fees for an eligible private school; or

370 2. Transportation to a Florida public school that is
371 located outside the district in which the student resides or to
372 a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32.

(e) Must give priority to eligible students who received a
scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
organization or from the State of Florida during the previous
school year.

(f) Must provide a scholarship to an eligible student on a first-come, first-served basis unless the student qualifies for priority pursuant to paragraph (e).

(g) May not restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a particular private school or provide scholarships to a child of an owner or operator.

(h) Must allow an eligible student to attend any eligible private school and must allow a parent to transfer a scholarship during a school year to any other eligible private school of the parent's choice.

(i)1. May use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions received during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the organization has operated under this section for at least 3 state fiscal years and did not have any negative financial findings in its most recent audit under paragraph (1). Such

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393 administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the 394 organization's management and distribution of eligible 395 contributions under this section. No more than one-third of the 396 funds authorized for administrative expenses under this 397 subparagraph may be used for expenses related to the recruitment 398 of contributions from taxpayers.

399 2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an 400 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible 401 contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the 402 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No 403 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be 404 carried forward to the following state fiscal year. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for annual or partial-year 405 406 scholarships in the following state fiscal year. Net eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that are in 407 408 excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward shall be 409 returned to the State Treasury for deposit in the General 410 Revenue Fund.

3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic
year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that
academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant
multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

(j) Must maintain separate accounts for scholarship fundsand operating funds.

(k) With the prior approval of the Department of Education, may transfer funds to another eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization if additional funds are required to meet scholarship demand at the receiving nonprofit

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421 scholarship-funding organization. A transfer shall be limited to 422 the greater of \$500,000 or 20 percent of the total contributions 423 received by the nonprofit scholarship-funding organization 424 making the transfer. All transferred funds must be deposited by 425 the receiving nonprofit scholarship-funding organization into 426 its scholarship accounts. All transferred amounts received by 427 any nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be 428 separately disclosed in the annual financial and compliance 429 audit required in this section.

(1) Must provide to the Auditor General and the Department 430 431 of Education an annual financial and compliance audit of its 432 accounts and records conducted by an independent certified 433 public accountant and in accordance with rules adopted by the 434 Auditor General. The audit must be conducted in compliance with 435 generally accepted auditing standards and must include a report 436 on financial statements presented in accordance with generally 437 accepted accounting principles set forth by the American 438 Institute of Certified Public Accountants for not-for-profit 439 organizations and a determination of compliance with the 440 statutory eligibility and expenditure requirements set forth in 441 this section. Audits must be provided to the Auditor General and 442 the Department of Education within 180 days after completion of 443 the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization's fiscal 444 year.

(m) Must prepare and submit quarterly reports to the Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (9) (m). In addition, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must submit in a timely manner any information requested by the

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449 Department of Education relating to the scholarship program. 450 (n)1.a. Must participate in the joint development of 451 agreed-upon procedures to be performed by an independent 452 certified public accountant as required under paragraph (8) (e) 453 if the scholarship-funding organization provided more than 454 \$250,000 in scholarship funds to an eligible private school 455 under this section during the 2009-2010 state fiscal year. The 456 agreed-upon procedures must uniformly apply to all private 457 schools and must determine, at a minimum, whether the private 458 school has been verified as eligible by the Department of 459 Education under paragraph (9)(c); has an adequate accounting 460 system, system of financial controls, and process for deposit 461 and classification of scholarship funds; and has properly 462 expended scholarship funds for education-related expenses. 463 During the development of the procedures, the participating 464 scholarship-funding organizations shall specify guidelines 465 governing the materiality of exceptions that may be found during the accountant's performance of the procedures. The procedures 466 467 and guidelines shall be provided to private schools and the 468 Commissioner of Education by March 15, 2011. 469 Must participate in a joint review of the agreed-upon b. 470 procedures and guidelines developed under sub-subparagraph a., 471 by February 2013 and biennially thereafter, if the scholarship-472 funding organization provided more than \$250,000 in scholarship 473 funds to an eligible private school under this section during 474 the state fiscal year preceding the biennial review. If the 475 procedures and quidelines are revised, the revisions must be 476 provided to private schools and the Commissioner of Education by

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477	March 15, 2013, and biennially thereafter.
478	c. Must monitor the compliance of a private school with
479	paragraph (8)(e) if the scholarship-funding organization
480	provided the majority of the scholarship funding to the school.
481	For each private school subject to paragraph (8)(e), the
482	appropriate scholarship-funding organization shall notify the
483	Commissioner of Education by October 30, 2011, and annually
484	thereafter of:
485	(I) A private school's failure to submit a report required
486	under paragraph (8)(e); or
487	(II) Any material exceptions set forth in the report
488	required under paragraph (8)(e).
489	2. Must seek input from the accrediting associations that
490	are members of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic
491	Schools when jointly developing the agreed-upon procedures and
492	guidelines under sub-subparagraph 1.a. and conducting a review
493	of those procedures and guidelines under sub-subparagraph 1.b.
494	
495	Any and all information and documentation provided to the
496	Department of Education and the Auditor General relating to the
497	identity of a taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution
498	under this section shall remain confidential at all times in
499	accordance with s. 213.053.
500	(7) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
501	PARTICIPATION
502	(a) The parent must select an eligible private school and
503	apply for the admission of his or her child.
504	(b) The parent must inform the child's school district
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505 when the parent withdraws his or her child to attend an eligible 506 private school.

507 (c) Any student participating in the scholarship program 508 must remain in attendance throughout the school year unless 509 excused by the school for illness or other good cause.

510 (d) Each parent and each student has an obligation to the 511 private school to comply with the private school's published 512 policies.

513 (e) The parent shall ensure that the student participating 514 in the scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment 515 offered by the private school. The parent may also choose to 516 have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student 517 518 participating in the scholarship program take statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible 519 for transporting the student to the assessment site designated 520 521 by the school district.

522 Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant from the (f) 523 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, the parent 524 to whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the 525 warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of 526 the private school. The parent may not designate any entity or 527 individual associated with the participating private school as 528 the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant. A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits 529 530 the scholarship.

531 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—An
532 eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and

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533 must:

(a) Comply with all requirements for private schools
participating in state school choice scholarship programs
pursuant to s. 1002.421.

(b) Provide to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization, upon request, all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and student's fee schedules.

541 (c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting 542 the educational needs of the student by:

543 1. At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a 544 written explanation of the student's progress.

545 Annually administering or making provision for students 2. 546 participating in the scholarship program in grades 3 through 10 547 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified 548 by the Department of Education. Students with disabilities for 549 whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from 550 this requirement. A participating private school must report a 551 student's scores to the parent and to the independent research 552 organization selected by the Department of Education as 553 described in paragraph (9) (j).

3. Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent chooses to have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.

(d) Employ or contract with teachers who have regular and direct contact with each student receiving a scholarship under this section at the school's physical location.

560

(e) Annually contract with an independent certified public

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561 accountant to perform the agreed-upon procedures developed under 562 paragraph (6)(n) and produce a report of the results if the 563 private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from 564 scholarships awarded under this section in the 2010-2011 state 565 fiscal year or a state fiscal year thereafter. A private school 566 subject to this paragraph must submit the report by September 567 15, 2011, and annually thereafter to the scholarship-funding 568 organization that awarded the majority of the school's 569 scholarship funds. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted 570 in accordance with attestation standards established by the 571 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. 572 573 The inability of a private school to meet the requirements of 574 this subsection shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility 575 of the private school to participate in the scholarship program 576 as determined by the Department of Education. 577 (9)DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.-The Department of Education shall: 578 579 (a) Annually submit to the department and division, by 580 March 15, a list of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 581 organizations that meet the requirements of paragraph (2) (f) (d). 582 Annually verify the eligibility of nonprofit (b) 583 scholarship-funding organizations that meet the requirements of 584 paragraph (2)(f) - (d). 585 Annually verify the eligibility of private schools (C) that meet the requirements of subsection (8). 586 587 Annually verify the eligibility of expenditures as (d) 588 provided in paragraph (6) (d) using the audit required by Page 21 of 53

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589 paragraph (6)(1).

(e) Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents
and private schools with information on participation in the
scholarship program.

593 Establish a process by which individuals may notify (f) 594 the Department of Education of any violation by a parent, 595 private school, or school district of state laws relating to 596 program participation. The Department of Education shall conduct 597 an inquiry of any written complaint of a violation of this section, or make a referral to the appropriate agency for an 598 599 investigation, if the complaint is signed by the complainant and 600 is legally sufficient. A complaint is legally sufficient if it 601 contains ultimate facts that show that a violation of this 602 section or any rule adopted by the State Board of Education has 603 occurred. In order to determine legal sufficiency, the 604 Department of Education may require supporting information or 605 documentation from the complainant. A department inquiry is not 606 subject to the requirements of chapter 120.

607 (g) Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance
608 statement by participating private schools certifying compliance
609 with state laws and shall retain such records.

610 (h) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship
611 students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid
612 duplication.

(i) Maintain a list of nationally norm-referenced tests
identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement in
subparagraph (8) (c) 2. The tests must meet industry standards of
quality in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

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617 Select an independent research organization, which may (j) 618 be a public or private entity or university, to which 619 participating private schools must report the scores of 620 participating students on the nationally norm-referenced tests 621 administered by the private school in grades 3 through 10. 622 1. The independent research organization must annually 623 report to the Department of Education on the year-to-year 624 learning gains improvements of participating students: 625 a. On a statewide basis. The report shall also include, to the extent possible, a comparison of these learning gains to the 626 627 statewide learning gains of public school students with 628 socioeconomic backgrounds similar to those of students 629 participating in the scholarship program. The independent 630 research organization must analyze and report student 631 performance data in a manner that protects the rights of 632 students and parents as mandated in 20 U.S.C. s. 1232q, the 633 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and must not 634 disaggregate data to a level that will disclose the academic level of individual students or of individual schools. To the 635 636 extent possible, the independent research organization must 637 accumulate historical performance data on students from the 638 Department of Education and private schools to describe baseline 639 performance and to conduct longitudinal studies. To minimize 640 costs and reduce time required for the independent research organization's third-party analysis and evaluation, the 641 Department of Education shall conduct analyses of matched 642 students from public school assessment data and calculate 643 644 control group learning gains using an agreed-upon methodology Page 23 of 53

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645 outlined in the contract with the <u>independent research</u> 646 organization; and third-party evaluator

b. According to each participating private school in which
 there are at least 30 participating students who have scores for
 tests administered during or after the 2009-2010 school year for
 2 consecutive years at that private school.

651 The sharing and reporting of student learning gain data 2. 652 under this paragraph must be in accordance with requirements of 653 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy 654 Act, and shall be for the sole purpose of creating the annual 655 report required by subparagraph 1 conducting the evaluation. All 656 parties must preserve the confidentiality of such information as 657 required by law. The annual report must not disaggregate data to 658 a level that will identify individual participating schools, 659 except as required under sub-subparagraph 1.b., or disclose the 660 academic level of individual students.

3. The annual report required by subparagraph 1. shall be
 published by the Department of Education on its website.

(k) Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of any of the organization's identified students who are receiving educational scholarships pursuant to chapter 1002.

667 (1) Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
668 organization of any of the organization's identified students
669 who are receiving tax credit scholarships from other eligible
670 nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.

671 (m) Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit672 scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of

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students participating in the scholarship program, the private
schools at which the students are enrolled, and other
information deemed necessary by the Department of Education.

676 (n)1. Conduct random site visits to private schools 677 participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The 678 purpose of the site visits is solely to verify the information 679 reported by the schools concerning the enrollment and attendance 680 of students, the credentials of teachers, background screening 681 of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results. The 682 Department of Education may not make more than seven random site 683 visits each year and may not make more than one random site 684 visit each year to the same private school.

685 Annually, by December 15, report to the Governor, the 2. 686 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the Department of Education's actions with 687 688 respect to implementing accountability in the scholarship 689 program under this section and s. 1002.421, any substantiated 690 allegations or violations of law or rule by an eligible private 691 school under this program concerning the enrollment and 692 attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background 693 screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results and 694 the corrective action taken by the Department of Education.

(o) Provide a process to match the direct certification
list with the scholarship application data submitted by any
nonprofit scholarship-funding organization eligible to receive
the 3-percent administrative allowance under paragraph (6)(i).
(10) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.-Upon

700 the request of any eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding

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701 organization, a school district shall inform all households 702 within the district receiving free or reduced-priced meals under 703 the National School Lunch Act of their eligibility to apply for 704 a tax credit scholarship. The form of such notice shall be 705 provided by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 706 organization, and the district shall include the provided form, 707 if requested by the organization, in any normal correspondence 708 with eligible households. If an eligible nonprofit scholarship-709 funding organization requests a special communication to be issued to households within the district receiving free or 710 711 reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act, the 712 organization shall reimburse the district for the cost of postage. Such notice is limited to once a year. 713

714

(11) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-

(a)1. The Commissioner of Education shall deny, suspend, 715 716 or revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship 717 program if it is determined that the private school has failed 718 to comply with the provisions of this section. However, in 719 instances in which the noncompliance is correctable within a 720 reasonable amount of time and in which the health, safety, or 721 welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may 722 issue a notice of noncompliance that shall provide the private 723 school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of 724 compliance prior to taking action to suspend or revoke the 725 private school's participation in the scholarship program.

The Commissioner of Education may deny, suspend, or
 revoke a private school's participation in the scholarship
 program if the commissioner determines that an owner or operator

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729	of the private school is operating or has operated an
730	educational institution in this state or another state or
731	jurisdiction in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or
732	welfare of the public. In making this determination, the
733	commissioner may consider factors that include, but are not
734	limited to, acts or omissions by an owner or operator that led
735	to a previous denial or revocation of participation in an
736	education scholarship program; an owner's or operator's failure
737	to reimburse the Department of Education for scholarship funds
738	improperly received or retained by a school; imposition of a
739	prior criminal or civil administrative sanction related to an
740	owner's or operator's management or operation of an educational
741	institution; or other types of criminal proceedings in which the
742	owner or operator was found guilty of, regardless of
743	adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to,
744	any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or moral
745	turpitude.
746	(b) The commissioner's determination is subject to the
747	following:
748	1. If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke
749	a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the
750	Department of Education shall notify the private school of such
751	proposed action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to
752	the private school's address of record with the Department of
753	Education. The notification shall include the reasons for the
754	proposed action and notice of the timelines and procedures set
755	forth in this paragraph.
756	2. The private school that is adversely affected by the
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757 proposed action shall have 15 days from receipt of the notice of 758 proposed action to file with the Department of Education's 759 agency clerk a request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 760 and 120.57. If the private school is entitled to a hearing under 761 s. 120.57(1), the Department of Education shall forward the 762 request to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

763 3. Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this 764 paragraph, the director of the Division of Administrative 765 Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the 766 767 receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter 768 a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within 769 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is 770 later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall 771 772 be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a 773 recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be 774 waived upon stipulation by all parties.

(c) The commissioner may immediately suspend payment of scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable cause to believe that there is:

778 1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare779 of the students; or

780 2. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school. 781 Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent 782 activity pursuant to this section, the Department of Education's 783 Office of Inspector General is authorized to release personally 784 identifiable records or reports of students to the following

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785 persons or organizations:

a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an
order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with
a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family
Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

795 c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for 796 law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency 797 has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena 798 or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be 799 disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and 800 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in paragraph (b).

806

801

(12) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.-

(a) <u>1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2.</u>, the amount of
a scholarship provided to any student for any single school year
by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from
eligible contributions shall be for total costs authorized under
paragraph (6) (d), not to exceed the following annual limits,

812 which shall be determined as follows:

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813 a.1. Three thousand nine hundred fifty dollars For a 814 scholarship awarded to a student enrolled in an eligible private 815 school: for 816 (I) For the 2009-2010 state fiscal year, the limit shall 817 be \$3,950 the 2008-2009 state fiscal year and each fiscal year 818 thereafter. 819 (II) For the 2010-2011 state fiscal year, the limit shall 820 be 60 percent of the unweighted FTE funding amount for that 821 year. 822 (III) For the 2011-2012 state fiscal year and thereafter, 823 the limit shall be determined by multiplying the unweighted FTE 824 funding amount in that state fiscal year by the percentage used 825 to determine the limit in the prior state fiscal year. However, 826 in each state fiscal year that the tax credit cap amount 827 increases pursuant to subparagraph (5)(a)2., the prior year 828 percentage shall be increased by 4 percentage points and the 829 increased percentage shall be used to determine the limit for 830 that state fiscal year. If the percentage so calculated reaches 831 80 percent in a state fiscal year, no further increase in the 832 percentage is allowed and the limit shall be 80 percent of the 833 unweighted FTE funding amount for that state fiscal year and 834 thereafter. 835 b.2. Five hundred dollars For a scholarship awarded to a 836 student enrolled in a Florida public school that is located 837 outside the district in which the student resides or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32, the limit shall be \$500. 838 839 2. The annual limit for a scholarship under sub-840 subparagraph 1.a. shall be reduced by:

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a. Twenty-five percent if the student's household income
 level is equal to or greater than 200 percent, but less than 215
 percent, of the federal poverty level.

844 b. Fifty percent if the student's household income level
845 is equal to or greater than 215 percent, but equal to or less
846 than 230 percent, of the federal poverty level.

847 (b) Payment of the scholarship by the eligible nonprofit 848 scholarship-funding organization shall be by individual warrant 849 made payable to the student's parent. If the parent chooses that 850 his or her child attend an eligible private school, the warrant 851 must be delivered by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 852 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and 853 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the 854 private school. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 855 organization shall ensure that the parent to whom the warrant is 856 made restrictively endorsed the warrant to the private school 857 for deposit into the account of the private school.

(c) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall obtain verification from the private school of a student's continued attendance at the school for each period covered by a scholarship payment.

862 (d) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the
863 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less
864 frequently than on a quarterly basis.

865

(13) ADMINISTRATION; RULES.-

866 (a) If the credit granted pursuant to this section is not 867 fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability 868 on the part of the corporation, the unused amount may be carried Page 31 of 53

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869	forward for a period not to exceed 3 years; however, any
870	taxpayer that seeks to carry forward an unused amount of tax
871	credit must submit an application for allocation of tax credits
872	or carryforward credits as required in paragraph (d) in the year
873	that the taxpayer intends to use the carryforward. This
874	carryforward applies to all approved contributions made after
875	January 1, 2002. A taxpayer may not convey, assign, or transfer
876	the credit authorized by this section to another entity unless
877	all of the assets of the taxpayer are conveyed, assigned, or
878	transferred in the same transaction.
879	(b) An application for a tax credit pursuant to this
880	section shall be submitted to the department on forms
881	established by rule of the department.
882	(a) (c) The department, the division, and the Department of
883	Education shall develop a cooperative agreement to assist in the
884	administration of this section.
885	(b) (d) The department shall adopt rules necessary to
886	administer this section and ss. 211.0251, 212.1831, 220.1875,
887	561.1211, and 624.51055, including rules establishing
888	application forms <u>,</u> and procedures and governing the <u>approval</u>
889	allocation of tax credits and carryforward tax credits under
890	subsection (5), and procedures to be followed by taxpayers when
891	claiming approved tax credits on their returns this section on a
892	first-come, first-served basis.
893	(c) The division shall adopt rules necessary to administer
894	its responsibilities under this section and s. 561.1211.
895	<u>(d)</u> The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
896	pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer <u>the</u>
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897 <u>responsibilities</u> this section as it relates to the roles of the 898 Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education <u>under</u> 899 this section.

900 (14) DEPOSITS OF ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.—All eligible 901 contributions received by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-902 funding organization shall be deposited in a manner consistent 903 with s. 17.57(2).

904 (15) PRESERVATION OF CREDIT.-If any provision or portion 905 of this section, s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, s. 220.1875, s. 561.1211, or s. 624.51055 subsection (5) or the application 906 907 thereof to any person or circumstance is held unconstitutional 908 by any court or is otherwise declared invalid, the 909 unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any credit 910 earned under s. 211.0251, s. 212.1831, s. 220.1875, s. 561.1211, 911 or s. 624.51055 subsection (5) by any taxpayer with respect to 912 any contribution paid to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-913 funding organization before the date of a determination of 914 unconstitutionality or invalidity. Such credit shall be allowed 915 at such time and in such a manner as if a determination of 916 unconstitutionality or invalidity had not been made, provided 917 that nothing in this subsection by itself or in combination with 918 any other provision of law shall result in the allowance of any 919 credit to any taxpayer in excess of one dollar of credit for 920 each dollar paid to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 921 organization.

922 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2011, section 211.0251,
923 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

924

211.0251 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit Page 33 of 53

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925	scholarship-funding organizationsThere is allowed a credit of
926	100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible
927	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395
928	against any tax due under s. 211.02 or s. 211.025. However, a
929	credit allowed under this section may not exceed 50 percent of
930	the tax due on the return the credit is taken. For purposes of
931	the distributions of tax revenue under s. 211.06, the department
932	shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to
933	ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received which is
934	attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in
935	distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s.
936	1002.395 apply to the credit authorized by this section.
937	Section 3. Effective January 1, 2011, section 212.1831,
938	Florida Statutes, is created to read:
939	212.1831 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit
940	scholarship-funding organizationsThere is allowed a credit of
941	100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible
942	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395
943	against any tax imposed by the state and due under this chapter
944	from a direct pay permit holder as a result of the direct pay
945	permit held pursuant to s. 212.183. For purposes of the
946	distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department
947	shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to
948	ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received that is
949	attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in
950	distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s.
951	1002.395 apply to the credit authorized by this section.
952	Section 4. Paragraph (u) of subsection (8) of section
Ĩ	Page 34 of 53

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953 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 954 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-955 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, (8) 956 the department may provide: 957 Information relative to ss. 211.0251, 212.1831, (u) 958 220.1875, 561.1211, 624.51055, and 1002.395 s. 220.187 to the 959 Department of Education and the Division of Alcoholic Beverages 960 and Tobacco in the conduct of its official business. 961 Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be 962 963 pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director 964 and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, 965 shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as 966 the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a 967 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. 968 969 Section 5. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida 970 Statutes, is amended to read: 971 220.02 Legislative intent.-972 It is the intent of the Legislature that credits (8) 973 against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be 974 applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828, 975 those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181, 976 those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182, 977 those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 221.02, those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186, 978 those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19, 979 980 those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.1875 Page 35 of 53

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981 220.187, those enumerated in s. 220.192, those enumerated in s. 982 220.193, and those enumerated in s. 288.9916. 983 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 984 220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 985 220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined.-986 The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount (1)987 equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection 988 (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as 989 provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as 990 follows: (a) Additions.-There shall be added to such taxable 991 992 income: 993 The amount of any tax upon or measured by income, 1. 994 excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or 995 accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state 996 of the United States which is deductible from gross income in 997 the computation of taxable income for the taxable year. 998 2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable 999 income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other 1000 federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the 1001 computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal 1002 Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any 1003 amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as 1004 defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the 1005 taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3). 1006 3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real 1007 estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the

1008 net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount

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1009 of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.

1010 4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred
1011 for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit
1012 allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This
1013 subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016
1014 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

1020 6. The amount of emergency excise tax paid or accrued as a
1021 liability to this state under chapter 221 which tax is
1022 deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable
1023 income for the taxable year.

1024 7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty 1025 association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the 1026 amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.

8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the attributable expenses for the taxable year.

1032 9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under1033 s. 220.1895.

1034 10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any 1035 designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for 1036 the taxable year under s. 220.185.

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1037	11. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year
1038	under s. <u>220.1875</u> 220.187 . The addition in this subparagraph is
1039	intended to ensure that the same amount is not allowed for the
1040	tax purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a
1041	credit against the tax. This addition is not intended to result
1042	in adding the same expense back to income more than once.
1043	12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year
1044	under s. 220.192.
1045	13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year
1046	under s. 220.193.
1047	14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in
1048	s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and
1049	taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.
1050	Section 7. The amendment to s. 220.13(1)(a)11., Florida
1051	Statutes, made by this act is intended to be clarifying and
1052	remedial in nature and shall apply retroactively to tax credits
1053	under s. 220.187, Florida Statutes, between January 1, 2002, and
1054	June 30, 2010, for taxes due under chapter 220, Florida
1055	Statutes, and prospectively to tax credits under s. 220.1875,
1056	Florida Statutes.
1057	Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 220.186, Florida
1058	Statutes, is amended to read:
1059	220.186 Credit for Florida alternative minimum tax
1060	(2) The credit pursuant to this section shall be the
1061	amount of the excess, if any, of the tax paid based upon taxable
1062	income determined pursuant to s. 220.13(2)(k) over the amount of
1063	tax which would have been due based upon taxable income without
1064	application of s. 220.13(2)(k), before application of this
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1065 credit without application of any credit under s. <u>220.1875</u> 1066 <u>220.187</u>.

1067 Section 9. Section 220.1875, Florida Statutes, is created 1068 to read:

1069 <u>220.1875 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit</u> 1070 scholarship-funding organizations.-

1071 (1) There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an 1072 eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarshipfunding organization under s. 1002.395 against any tax due for a 1073 taxable year under this chapter. However, such a credit may not 1074 1075 exceed 75 percent of the tax due under this chapter for the 1076 taxable year, after the application of any other allowable 1077 credits by the taxpayer. The credit granted by this section 1078 shall be reduced by the difference between the amount of federal 1079 corporate income tax taking into account the credit granted by this section and the amount of federal corporate income tax 1080 1081 without application of the credit granted by this section. 1082 A taxpayer who files a Florida consolidated return as (2) 1083 a member of an affiliated group pursuant to s. 220.131(1) may be 1084 allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis; however, the 1085 total credit taken by the affiliated group is subject to the 1086 limitation established under subsection (1). 1087 The provisions of s. 1002.395 apply to the credit (3) 1088 authorized by this section. 1089 Section 10. Section 561.1211, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 1090 1091 561.1211 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit 1092 scholarship-funding organizations.-There is allowed a credit of

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1093 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible 1094 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395 1095 against any tax due under s. 563.05, s. 564.06, or s. 565.12, 1096 except excise taxes imposed on wine produced by manufacturers in 1097 this state from products grown in this state. However, a credit 1098 allowed under this section may not exceed 90 percent of the tax 1099 due on the return the credit is taken. For purposes of the 1100 distributions of tax revenue under ss. 561.121 and 564.06(10), 1101 the division shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this 1102 section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received 1103 that is attributable to the tax credits results only in a 1104 reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The 1105 provisions of s. 1002.395 apply to the credit authorized by this 1106 section.

1107 Section 11. Section 624.51055, Florida Statutes, is
1108 amended to read:

1109 624.51055 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit 1110 scholarship-funding organizations.-

1111 (1)There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an 1112 eligible contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-1113 funding organization under s. 1002.395 as provided in s. 220.187 1114 against any tax due for a taxable year under s. 624.509(1). 1115 However, such a credit may not exceed 75 percent of the tax due 1116 under s. 624.509(1) after deducting from such tax deductions for assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid 1117 1118 under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; credits for income taxes paid 1119 under chapter 220; credits for the emergency excise tax paid under chapter 221; and the credit allowed under s. 624.509(5), 1120

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1121 as such credit is limited by s. 624.509(6). An insurer claiming 1122 a credit against premium tax liability under this section shall 1123 not be required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied 1124 pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit. 1125 Section 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.

(2) The provisions of s. <u>1002.395</u> 220.187 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

1128 Section 12. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1001.10, 1129 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1130 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and 1131 duties.-

1132 The Department of Education shall provide technical (4)1133 assistance to school districts, charter schools, the Florida 1134 School for the Deaf and the Blind, and private schools that 1135 accept scholarship students under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 or s. 1136 1002.395 in the development of policies, procedures, and training related to employment practices and standards of 1137 1138 ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school 1139 administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01.

(5) The Department of Education shall provide authorized staff of school districts, charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and private schools that accept scholarship students under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 <u>or s.</u> 1144 <u>1002.395</u> with access to electronic verification of information from the following employment screening tools:

(a) The Professional Practices' Database of DisciplinaryActions Against Educators; and

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(b)

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The Department of Education's Teacher Certification

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1149 Database. 1150 This subsection does not require the department to provide these 1151 1152 staff with unlimited access to the databases. However, the 1153 department shall provide the staff with access to the data 1154 necessary for performing employment history checks of the 1155 instructional personnel and school administrators included in 1156 the databases. 1157 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1158 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1159 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.-Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information 1160 1161 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed 1162 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 1163 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory 1164 rights including, but not limited to, the following: 1165 EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.-(6) Private school choices.-Parents of public school 1166 (b) 1167 students may seek private school choice options under certain 1168 programs. 1169 Under the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the parent 1. 1170 of a student in a failing public school may request and receive an opportunity scholarship for the student to attend a private 1171 school in accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.38. 1172 1173 2. Under the McKay Scholarships for Students with 1174 Disabilities Program, the parent of a public school student with 1175 a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may

request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to

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1177 attend a private school in accordance with the provisions of s. 1178 1002.39.

1179 3. Under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the 1180 parent of a student who qualifies for free or reduced-price 1181 school lunch may seek a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit 1182 scholarship-funding organization in accordance with the 1183 provisions of s. 1002.395 220.187.

1184Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section11851002.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1186 1002.23 Family and School Partnership for Student 1187 Achievement Act.-

(2) To facilitate meaningful parent and family involvement, the Department of Education shall develop guidelines for a parent guide to successful student achievement which describes what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to:

1195 (e) Educational choices, as provided for in s. 1002.20(6), 1196 and Florida tax credit scholarships, as provided for in s. 1197 1002.395 220.187;

1198 Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1199 1002.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1200 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with 1201 Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is 1202 separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program 1203 and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with 1204 Disabilities Program.

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1205 (3) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is
1206 not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship while he or she is:
1207 (b) Receiving a Florida tax credit scholarship under s.

1208 <u>1002.395</u> 220.187;

1209 Section 16. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 1002.421, 1210 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1211 1002.421 Accountability of private schools participating 1212 in state school choice scholarship programs.-

1213 (1)A Florida private school participating in the Florida 1214 Tax Credit Scholarship Program established pursuant to s. 1215 1002.395 220.187 or an educational scholarship program 1216 established pursuant to this chapter must comply with all requirements of this section in addition to private school 1217 1218 requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements 1219 identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other 1220 provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools.

1221 (4) A private school that accepts scholarship students 1222 under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395 must:

(a) Disqualify instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, from employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if the personnel or administrators are ineligible for such employment under s. 1012.315.

(b) Adopt policies establishing standards of ethical
conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators.
The policies must require all instructional personnel and school
administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training
on the standards; establish the duty of instructional personnel

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1233 and school administrators to report, and procedures for 1234 reporting, alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel 1235 and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or 1236 welfare of a student; and include an explanation of the 1237 liability protections provided under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. A 1238 private school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a 1239 confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed 1240 instructional personnel or school administrators, or personnel 1241 or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in 1242 whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, 1243 or welfare of a student, and may not provide the instructional 1244 personnel or school administrators with employment references or discuss the personnel's or administrators' performance with 1245 1246 prospective employers in another educational setting, without 1247 disclosing the personnel's or administrators' misconduct. Any 1248 part of an agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect 1249 of concealing misconduct by instructional personnel or school 1250 administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a 1251 student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be 1252 enforced.

1253 Before employing instructional personnel or school (C) 1254 administrators in any position that requires direct contact with 1255 students, conduct employment history checks of each of the 1256 personnel's or administrators' previous employers, screen the 1257 personnel or administrators through use of the educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the 1258 findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the private 1259 1260 school must document efforts to contact the employer.

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1261 1262 The department shall suspend the payment of funds under ss. 1263 220.187 and 1002.39 and 1002.395 to a private school that 1264 knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall 1265 prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for 1266 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. 1267 Section 17. Section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, is amended 1268 to read: 1269 1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect policy.-1270 Each district school board, charter school, and private school 1271 that accepts scholarship students under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 1272 or s. 1002.395 shall: Post in a prominent place in each school a notice 1273 (1)1274 that, pursuant to chapter 39, all employees and agents of the 1275 district school board, charter school, or private school have an 1276 affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of 1277 child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; have immunity from 1278 liability if they report such cases in good faith; and have a 1279 duty to comply with child protective investigations and all 1280 other provisions of law relating to child abuse, abandonment, 1281 and neglect. The notice shall also include the statewide toll-1282 free telephone number of the central abuse hotline. 1283 Post in a prominent place at each school site and on (2)1284 each school's Internet website, if available, the policies and 1285 procedures for reporting alleged misconduct by instructional 1286 personnel or school administrators which affects the health, 1287 safety, or welfare of a student; the contact person to whom the 1288 report is made; and the penalties imposed on instructional

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1289 personnel or school administrators who fail to report suspected 1290 or actual child abuse or alleged misconduct by other 1291 instructional personnel or school administrators.

1292 Require the principal of the charter school or private (3) 1293 school, or the district school superintendent, or the 1294 superintendent's designee, at the request of the Department of 1295 Children and Family Services, to act as a liaison to the 1296 Department of Children and Family Services and the child 1297 protection team, as defined in s. 39.01, when in a case of 1298 suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or an unlawful sexual offense involving a child the case is referred to such a 1299 1300 team; except that this does not relieve or restrict the 1301 Department of Children and Family Services from discharging its 1302 duty and responsibility under the law to investigate and report 1303 every suspected or actual case of child abuse, abandonment, or 1304 neglect or unlawful sexual offense involving a child.

1306 The Department of Education shall develop, and publish on the 1307 department's Internet website, sample notices suitable for 1308 posting in accordance with subsections (1) and (2).

Section 18. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1311 1012.315 Disqualification from employment.—A person is 1312 ineligible for educator certification, and instructional 1313 personnel and school administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, 1314 are ineligible for employment in any position that requires 1315 direct contact with students in a district school system, 1316 charter school, or private school that accepts scholarship

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1317 students under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395, if the 1318 person, instructional personnel, or school administrator has 1319 been convicted of: 1320 Any felony offense prohibited under any of the (1)1321 following statutes: 1322 Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with (a) 1323 certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such 1324 sexual misconduct. Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with 1325 (b) 1326 certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual misconduct. 1327 1328 Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect, or (C) 1329 exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults. 1330 (d) Section 782.04, relating to murder. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated 1331 (e) 1332 manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated 1333 manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an 1334 officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a 1335 paramedic. Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault. 1336 (f) 1337 Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery. (q) 1338 (h) Section 784.075, relating to battery on a detention or 1339 commitment facility staff member or a juvenile probation 1340 officer. 1341 Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping. (i) Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment. 1342 (j) 1343 (k) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 1344 child.

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Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking,

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(1)

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1346 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 1347 1348 custody proceedings. 1349 Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, (m) 1350 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or 1351 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 1352 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse 1353 or neglect of a minor. Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or 1354 (n) 1355 weapons at a school-sponsored event, on school property, or 1356 within 1,000 feet of a school. 1357 Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an (0)1358 electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon 1359 at a school-sponsored event or on school property. 1360 (p) Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery. 1361 Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or (a) 1362 solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial 1363 authority. 1364 Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity (r) 1365 with certain minors. 1366 (s) Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation. 1367 Chapter 796, relating to prostitution. (t) 1368 Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent (u) 1369 exposure. Section 806.01, relating to arson. 1370 (V) Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism. 1371 (w) 1372 Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism. (X) Page 49 of 53

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1373 Section 812.014(6), relating to coordinating the (y) 1374 commission of theft in excess of \$3,000. 1375 Section 812.0145, relating to theft from persons 65 (Z) 1376 years of age or older. 1377 Section 812.019, relating to dealing in stolen (aa) 1378 property. 1379 (bb) Section 812.13, relating to robbery. 1380 Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden (CC)1381 snatching. Section 812.133, relating to carjacking. 1382 (dd) (ee) Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery. 1383 1384 (ff) Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of 1385 controlled substances. 1386 Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse, (qq) 1387 or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult. 1388 (hh) Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an 1389 elderly person or disabled adult. 1390 Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious (ii) 1391 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person. 1392 1393 Section 826.04, relating to incest. (††) 1394 (kk) Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated 1395 child abuse, or neglect of a child. 1396 Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the (11)1397 delinquency or dependency of a child. 1398 (mm) Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a child. 1399 1400 Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with (nn) Page 50 of 53

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1401 violence. Chapter 847, relating to obscenity. 1402 (00)1403 Section 874.05, relating to causing, encouraging, (pp) 1404 soliciting, or recruiting another to join a criminal street 1405 gang. 1406 Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and (qq) 1407 control, if the offense was a felony of the second degree or 1408 greater severity. 1409 Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with (rr) 1410 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual misconduct. 1411 1412 Section 944.47, relating to introduction, removal, or (ss) possession of contraband at a correctional facility. 1413 1414 (tt) Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in 1415 juvenile justice programs. 1416 (uu) Section 985.711, relating to introduction, removal, 1417 or possession of contraband at a juvenile detention facility or 1418 commitment program. 1419 (2)Any misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the 1420 following statutes: 1421 Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of (a) 1422 the offense was a minor. 1423 Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a (b) child. 1424 1425 Any criminal act committed in another state or under (3)1426 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an 1427 offense prohibited under any statute listed in subsection (1) or 1428 subsection (2).

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(4) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any
delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under
federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an
individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender
List under s. 943.0435(1) (a)1.d.

1434 Section 19. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1435 1012.796, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1436 1012.796 Complaints against teachers and administrators; 1437 procedure; penalties.-

1438

(1)

1439 If allegations arise against an employee who is (e) 1440 certified under s. 1012.56 and employed in an educatorcertificated position in any public school, charter school or 1441 governing board thereof, or private school that accepts 1442 1443 scholarship students under s. 220.187 or s. 1002.39 or s. 1444 1002.395, the school shall file in writing with the department a legally sufficient complaint within 30 days after the date on 1445 1446 which the subject matter of the complaint came to the attention 1447 of the school. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains 1448 ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in 1449 s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. The school shall include all known information relating to the 1450 1451 complaint with the filing of the complaint. This paragraph does 1452 not limit or restrict the power and duty of the department to investigate complaints, regardless of the school's untimely 1453 filing, or failure to file, complaints and followup reports. 1454 1455 Section 20. The Department of Revenue is authorized and 1456 all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant

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1457 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, to administer 1458 the provisions of this act. The emergency rules shall remain in 1459 effect for 6 months after the rules are adopted and the rules 1460 may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt 1461 permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules. 1462 Section 21. For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the sum of 1463 \$140,494 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is 1464 appropriated to the Department of Revenue for purposes of 1465 implementing the provisions of this act. 1466 Section 22. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this

1467 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

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