By Senator Baxley

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to legal notices; amending s. 50.011, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to publication of legal notices in newspapers; repealing s. 50.021, F.S., relating to advertisements when no newspaper is published in a county; repealing s. 50.0211, F.S., relating to Internet website publication of legal notices by newspapers; repealing s. 50.031, F.S., relating to newspapers in which legal notices and process may be published; creating s. 50.0311, F.S.; defining the term "publicly accessible website"; authorizing government agencies to publish legal notices on their websites; requiring government agencies to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices; requiring government agencies to provide specified alternative means of receiving legal notices; authorizing counties to publish such notices on governmental access channels; amending s. 50.041, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to publication of legal notices in newspapers; amending s. 50.051, F.S.; deleting references to publication of legal notices in newspapers; revising a form for affidavits of publication; repealing s. 50.061, F.S., relating to amounts chargeable for publication of legal notices; amending s. 50.0711, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the use of court docket funds; amending ss. 11.02, 45.031, 69.081, 121.0511, 121.055, 125.66, 162.12, 166.041, 189.015, 190.005, 194.037, 197.402,

30 200.065, 316.066, 338.223, 373.0397, 373.146, 403.722, 501.059, 712.06, 849.38, 865.09, and 932.704, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Section 50.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

50.011 Publication of Where and in what language legal notices; method to be published. Whenever by statute an official or legal advertisement or a publication, or notice in a newspaper has been or is directed or permitted in the nature of or in lieu of process, or for constructive service, or in initiating, assuming, reviewing, exercising or enforcing jurisdiction or power, or for any purpose, including all legal notices and advertisements of sheriffs and tax collectors, the contemporaneous and continuous intent and meaning of such legislation all and singular, existing or repealed, is and has been and is hereby declared to be and to have been, and the rule of interpretation is and has been, a publication as provided in s. 50.0311 in a newspaper printed and published periodically once a week or oftener, containing at least 25 percent of its words in the English language, entered or qualified to be admitted and entered as periodicals matter at a post office in the county where published, for sale to the public generally, available to the public generally for the publication of official or other notices and customarily containing information of a public character or of interest or of value to the

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residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public.

- Section 2. Section 50.021, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
- Section 3. Section 50.0211, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
- Section 4. Section 50.031, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
- Section 5. Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 50.0311 Publication of advertisements and public notices on a publicly accessible website and governmental access channels.—
- (1) For purposes of notices and advertisements required under s. 50.11, the term "publicly accessible website" means a state or local government agency's official website or a private website that is accessible via the Internet. Notices published on websites must be in a searchable form.
- (2) A government agency may use its website to publish legally required advertisements and public notices.
- (3) A government agency shall provide notice to its residents at least once per year in a newspaper of general circulation, a newsletter or periodical, or another publication that is mailed or delivered to all residents or property owners throughout such government agency's jurisdiction, indicating that residents may receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the agency by first-class mail or e-mail upon registering their name and address or e-mail address with the agency. The government agency shall maintain a registry of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of residents who request in writing to receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the agency by first-class mail or e-mail.
  - (4) A link to advertisements and public notices published

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on a publicly accessible website shall be conspicuously placed on the website's homepage or be accessible through a direct link from the homepage. Each advertisement shall indicate the date on which the advertisement was first published on the publicly accessible website. Notices published on websites must be in a searchable form.

(5) A county government that has a governmental access channel authorized under s. 610.109 may also include on its governmental access channel a summary of all advertisements and public notices published on its website.

Section 6. Section 50.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 50.041 Proof of publication; uniform affidavits required.-
- (1) All affidavits of publishers of newspapers (or their official representatives) made for the purpose of establishing proof of publication of public notices or legal advertisements shall be uniform throughout the state.
- (2) Each such affidavit shall be printed upon white paper and shall be 8 1/2 inches in width and of convenient length, not less than 5 1/2 inches. A white margin of not less than 2 1/2 inches shall be left at the right side of each affidavit form and upon or in this space shall be substantially pasted a clipping which shall be a true copy of the public notice or legal advertisement for which proof is executed. Alternatively, the affidavit may be provided in electronic rather than paper form, provided the notarization of the affidavit complies with the requirements of s. 117.021.
- (3) In all counties having a population in excess of 450,000 according to the latest official decennial census, in

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117 addition to the charges which are now or may hereafter be 118 established by law for the publication of every official notice 119 or legal advertisement, There may be a charge not to exceed \$2 120 levied for the preparation and execution of each such proof of 121 publication or publisher's affidavit. 122 Section 7. Section 50.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to 123 read: 124 50.051 Proof of publication; form of uniform affidavit.-The 125 printed form upon which all such affidavits establishing proof 126 of publication are to be executed shall be substantially as 127 follows: 128 129 NAME OF COUNTY NEWSPAPER 130 131 Published (Weekly or Daily) 132 133 (Town or City) (County) FLORIDA 134 135 STATE OF FLORIDA 136 137 COUNTY OF ....: 138 Before the undersigned authority personally appeared ...., 139 who on oath says that he or she is .... of the ...., a .... newspaper published at .... in .... County, Florida; that the 140 141 attached copy of advertisement, being a .... in the matter of .... in the .... Court, was published on a website publishing 142 143 such notices for that county on in said newspaper in the issues 144 <del>of</del> .... 145 Affiant further says that the said .... is a newspaper

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20191676 146 published at ...., in said .... County, Florida, and that the 147 said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said .... County, Florida, each .... and has been entered as 148 periodicals matter at the post office in ...., in said .... 149 150 County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first 151 publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant 152 further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or 153 154 refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for 155 publication in the said newspaper. 156 157 Sworn to and subscribed before me this .... day of ...., 158 ... (year) ..., by ...., who is personally known to me or who has produced (type of identification) as identification. 159 160 161 ... (Signature of Notary Public) ... 162 163 ...(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)... 164 165 ... (Notary Public)... Section 8. Section 50.061, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 166 167 Section 9. Section 50.0711, Florida Statutes, is amended to 168 read: 169 50.0711 Court docket fund; service charges; publications.-(1) The clerk of the court in each county may establish a 170 171 court docket fund for the purpose of paying the cost of publication of the fact of the filing of any civil case in the 172 173 circuit court of the county by the style and of the calendar relating to such cases. This court docket fund shall be funded 174

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by \$1 mandatory court cost for all civil actions, suits, or proceedings filed in the circuit court of the county. The clerk shall maintain such funds separate and apart, and the proceeds from this court cost shall not be diverted to any other fund or for any purpose other than that established in this section. The clerk of the court shall dispense the fund to the designated record newspaper in the county on a quarterly basis.

- (2) A newspaper qualified under the terms of s. 50.011 shall be designated as the record newspaper for such publication by an order of the majority of the judges in the judicial circuit in which such county is located, and such order shall be filed and recorded with the clerk of the circuit court for such county. The designated record newspaper may be changed at the end of any fiscal year of the county by a majority vote of the judges of the judicial circuit of the county ordering such change 30 days prior to the end of the fiscal year, notice of which order shall be given to the previously designated record newspaper.
- (2) (3) The website publisher publishers of any designated record newspapers receiving payment from this court docket fund shall publish, without additional charge, the fact of the filing of any civil case, suit, or action filed in such county in the circuit. Such publication shall be in accordance with a schedule agreed upon between the website publisher record newspaper and the clerk of the court in such county.
- (3) (4) The website publisher publishers of any designated record newspapers receiving revenues from the court docket fund established in subsection (1) shall, without charge, accept legal advertisements for the purpose of service of process by

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publication under s. 49.011(4), (10), and (11) when such publication is required of persons authorized to proceed as indigent persons under s. 57.081.

Section 10. Section 11.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11.02 Notice of special or local legislation or certain relief acts.—The notice required to obtain special or local legislation or any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall be by publishing the identical notice in each county involved in some newspaper as provided defined in chapter 50 in published in or circulated throughout the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected by such legislation shall be situated one time at least 30 days before introduction of the proposed law into the Legislature or, there being no newspaper circulated throughout or published in the county, by posting for at least 30 days at not less than three public places in the county or each of the counties, one of which places shall be at the courthouse in the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected by such legislation shall be situated. Notice of special or local legislation shall state the substance of the contemplated law, as required by s. 10, Art. III of the State Constitution. Notice of any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall state the name of the claimant, the nature of the injury or loss for which the claim is made, and the amount of the claim against the affected municipality's revenue-sharing trust fund.

Section 11. Subsection (2) of section 45.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

45.031 Judicial sales procedure.—In any sale of real or personal property under an order or judgment, the procedures

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provided in this section and ss. 45.0315-45.035 may be followed as an alternative to any other sale procedure if so ordered by the court.

- (2) PUBLICATION OF SALE.—Notice of sale shall be published once a week for at least 2 consecutive weeks before the sale in a newspaper of general circulation, as provided defined in chapter 50, published in the county where the sale is to be held. The second publication shall be at least 5 days before the sale. The notice shall contain:
  - (a) A description of the property to be sold.
  - (b) The time and place of sale.
- (c) A statement that the sale will be made pursuant to the order or final judgment.
  - (d) The caption of the action.
  - (e) The name of the clerk making the sale.
- (f) A statement that any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

The court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

Section 12. Subsection (9) of section 69.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 69.081 Sunshine in litigation; concealment of public hazards prohibited.—
- (9) A governmental entity, except a municipality or county, that settles a claim in tort which requires the expenditure of

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public funds in excess of \$5,000, shall provide notice, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 50, of such settlement, in the county in which the claim arose, within 60 days of entering into such settlement; provided that no notice shall be required if the settlement has been approved by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 121.0511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

121.0511 Revocation of election and alternative plan.—The governing body of any municipality or independent special district that has elected to participate in the Florida Retirement System may revoke its election in accordance with the following procedure:

(2) At least 7 days, but not more than 15 days, before the hearing, notice of intent to revoke, specifying the time and place of the hearing, must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected, as provided by ss. 50.011-50.031. Proof of publication of the notice must be submitted to the Department of Management Services.

Section 14. Paragraphs (b) and (h) of subsection (1) of section 121.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby established a separate class of membership within the Florida Retirement System to be known as the "Senior Management Service Class," which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

(1)

(b)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., effective January 1, 1990, participation in the Senior Management Service Class is compulsory for the president of each community college,

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the manager of each participating municipality or county, and all appointed district school superintendents. Effective January 1, 1994, additional positions may be designated for inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class if:

- a. Positions to be included in the class are designated by the local agency employer. Notice of intent to designate positions for inclusion in the class must be published once a week for at least 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties affected, as provided in chapter 50.
- b. Up to 10 nonelective full-time positions may be designated for each local agency employer reporting to the department; for local agencies with 100 or more regularly established positions, additional nonelective full-time positions may be designated, not to exceed 1 percent of the regularly established positions within the agency.
- c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial or policymaking position filled by an employee who is not subject to continuing contract and serves at the pleasure of the local agency employer without civil service protection, and who:
  - (I) Heads an organizational unit; or
- (II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel, budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of responsibility.
- 2. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, members of the Senior Management Service Class, pursuant to subparagraph 1., may withdraw from the Florida Retirement System altogether. The decision to withdraw from the system is irrevocable as long as the employee holds the

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position. Any service creditable under the Senior Management Service Class shall be retained after the member withdraws from the system; however, additional service credit in the Senior Management Service Class may not be earned after such withdrawal. Such members are not eligible to participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program.

- 3. Effective January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006, an employee who has withdrawn from the Florida Retirement System under subparagraph 2. has one opportunity to elect to participate in the pension plan or the investment plan.
- a. If the employee elects to participate in the investment plan, membership shall be prospective, and the applicable provisions of s. 121.4501(4) govern the election.
- b. If the employee elects to participate in the pension plan, the employee shall, upon payment to the system trust fund of the amount calculated under sub-sub-subparagraph (I), receive service credit for prior service based upon the time during which the employee had withdrawn from the system.
- (I) The cost for such credit shall be an amount representing the actuarial accrued liability for the affected period of service. The cost shall be calculated using the discount rate and other relevant actuarial assumptions that were used to value the pension plan liabilities in the most recent actuarial valuation. The calculation must include any service already maintained under the pension plan in addition to the period of withdrawal. The actuarial accrued liability attributable to any service already maintained under the pension plan shall be applied as a credit to the total cost resulting from the calculation. The division must ensure that the transfer

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sum is prepared using a formula and methodology certified by an actuary.

- (II) The employee must transfer a sum representing the net cost owed for the actuarial accrued liability in sub-sub-subparagraph (I) immediately following the time of such movement, determined assuming that attained service equals the sum of service in the pension plan and the period of withdrawal.
- (h)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 3., effective January 1, 1994, participation in the Senior Management Service Class shall be compulsory for the State Courts Administrator and the Deputy State Courts Administrators, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, the Executive Director of the Justice Administrative Commission, the capital collateral regional counsel, the clerks of the district courts of appeals, the marshals of the district courts of appeals, and the trial court administrator and the Chief Deputy Court Administrator in each judicial circuit. Effective January 1, 1994, additional positions in the offices of the state attorney and public defender in each judicial circuit may be designated for inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System, provided that:
- a. Positions to be included in the class shall be designated by the state attorney or public defender, as appropriate. Notice of intent to designate positions for inclusion in the class shall be published once a week for at least 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties affected, as provided in chapter 50.
  - b. One nonelective full-time position may be designated for

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each state attorney and public defender reporting to the Department of Management Services; for agencies with 200 or more regularly established positions under the state attorney or public defender, additional nonelective full-time positions may be designated, not to exceed 0.5 percent of the regularly established positions within the agency.

- c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial or policymaking position filled by an employee who serves at the pleasure of the state attorney or public defender without civil service protection, and who:
  - (I) Heads an organizational unit; or
- (II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel, budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of responsibility.
- 2. Participation in this class shall be compulsory, except as provided in subparagraph 3., for any judicial employee who holds a position designated for coverage in the Senior Management Service Class, and such participation shall continue until the employee terminates employment in a covered position. Effective January 1, 2001, participation in this class is compulsory for assistant state attorneys, assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant public defenders, and assistant capital collateral regional counsel. Effective January 1, 2002, participation in this class is compulsory for assistant attorneys general.
- 3. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management Service Class, such members, excluding assistant state attorneys, assistant public defenders, assistant statewide prosecutors, assistant attorneys general, and assistant capital

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collateral regional counsel, may participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in subsection (6).

Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 125.66, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

125.66 Ordinances; enactment procedure; emergency ordinances; rezoning or change of land use ordinances or resolutions.—

- (2) (a) The regular enactment procedure shall be as follows: The board of county commissioners at any regular or special meeting may enact or amend any ordinance, except as provided in subsection (4), if notice of intent to consider such ordinance is given at least 10 days prior to said meeting by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. A copy of such notice shall be kept available for public inspection during the regular business hours of the office of the clerk of the board of county commissioners. The notice of proposed enactment shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting; the title or titles of proposed ordinances; and the place or places within the county where such proposed ordinances may be inspected by the public. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.
- (4) Ordinances or resolutions, initiated by other than the county, that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to subsection (2). Ordinances or resolutions that change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a

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zoning category, or ordinances or resolutions initiated by the county that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to the following procedure:

- (b) In cases in which the proposed ordinance or resolution changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the board of county commissioners shall provide for public notice and hearings as follows:
- 1. The board of county commissioners shall hold two advertised public hearings on the proposed ordinance or resolution. At least one hearing shall be held after 5 p.m. on a weekday, unless the board of county commissioners, by a majority plus one vote, elects to conduct that hearing at another time of day. The first public hearing shall be held at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held at least 10 days after the first hearing and shall be advertised at least 5 days before prior to the public hearing.
- 2. The required advertisements shall be no less than 2 columns wide by 10 inches long in a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community pursuant to chapter 50, not one of limited subject matter. It is the

legislative intent that, whenever possible, the advertisement shall appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the community is published less than 5 days a week. The advertisement shall be in substantially the following form:

## NOTICE OF (TYPE OF) CHANGE

The ... (name of local governmental unit)... proposes to adopt the following by ordinance or resolution:... (title of ordinance or resolution)....

A public hearing on the ordinance or resolution will be held on ...(date and time)... at ... (meeting place)....

Except for amendments which change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, the advertisement shall contain a geographic location map which clearly indicates the area within the local government covered by the proposed ordinance or resolution. The map shall include major street names as a means of identification of the general area. In addition to being published in the newspaper, The map must be part of the online notice required pursuant to <u>s.</u> 50.0311 <u>s. 50.0211</u>.

3. In lieu of publishing the advertisements set out in this paragraph, the board of county commissioners may mail a notice to each person owning real property within the area covered by the ordinance or resolution. Such notice shall clearly explain the proposed ordinance or resolution and shall notify the person of the time, place, and location of both public hearings on the

494 proposed ordinance or resolution.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 162.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

162.12 Notices.-

- (2) In addition to providing notice as set forth in subsection (1), at the option of the code enforcement board or the local government, notice may be served by publication or posting, as follows:
- (a)1. Such notice shall be published once during each week for 4 consecutive weeks (four publications being sufficient) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the code enforcement board is located. The newspaper shall meet such requirements as provided in are prescribed under chapter 50 for legal and official advertisements.
- 2. Proof of publication shall be made as provided in ss. 50.041 and 50.051.

Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 166.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.041 Procedures for adoption of ordinances and resolutions.—

(3)

(c) Ordinances initiated by other than the municipality that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to paragraph (a). Ordinances that change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or ordinances initiated by the municipality that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to the following procedure:

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1. In cases in which the proposed ordinance changes the actual zoning map designation for a parcel or parcels of land involving less than 10 contiguous acres, the governing body shall direct the clerk of the governing body to notify by mail each real property owner whose land the municipality will redesignate by enactment of the ordinance and whose address is known by reference to the latest ad valorem tax records. The notice shall state the substance of the proposed ordinance as it affects that property owner and shall set a time and place for one or more public hearings on such ordinance. Such notice shall be given at least 30 days before prior to the date set for the public hearing, and a copy of the notice shall be kept available for public inspection during the regular business hours of the office of the clerk of the governing body. The governing body shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and may, upon the conclusion of the hearing, immediately adopt the ordinance.

- 2. In cases in which the proposed ordinance changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the governing body shall provide for public notice and hearings as follows:
- a. The local governing body shall hold two advertised public hearings on the proposed ordinance. At least one hearing shall be held after 5 p.m. on a weekday, unless the local governing body, by a majority plus one vote, elects to conduct that hearing at another time of day. The first public hearing shall be held at least 7 days after the day that the first

advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held at least 10 days after the first hearing and shall be advertised at least 5 days before prior to the public hearing.

b. The required advertisements shall be no less than 2 columns wide by 10 inches long in a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the municipality and of general interest and readership in the municipality, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. It is the legislative intent that, whenever possible, the advertisement appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the municipality is published less than 5 days a week. The advertisement shall be in substantially the following form:

## NOTICE OF (TYPE OF) CHANCE

The ...(name of local governmental unit)... proposes to adopt the following ordinance:...(title of the ordinance)....

A public hearing on the ordinance will be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

Except for amendments which change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, the advertisement shall contain a geographic location map which clearly indicates the area covered by the proposed ordinance.

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The map shall include major street names as a means of identification of the general area. In addition to being published in the newspaper, The map must be part of the online notice required pursuant to s. 50.0311 s. 50.0211.

c. In lieu of publishing the advertisement set out in this paragraph, the municipality may mail a notice to each person owning real property within the area covered by the ordinance. Such notice shall clearly explain the proposed ordinance and shall notify the person of the time, place, and location of any public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 189.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.015 Meetings; notice; required reports.-

(1) The governing body of each special district shall file quarterly, semiannually, or annually a schedule of its regular meetings with the local governing authority or authorities. The schedule shall include the date, time, and location of each scheduled meeting. The schedule shall be published quarterly, semiannually, or annually in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the manner required in this subsection. The governing body of an independent special district shall advertise the day, time, place, and purpose of any meeting other than a regular meeting or any recessed and reconvened meeting of the governing body, at least 7 days before such meeting, in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county or counties in which the special district is located, unless a bona fide emergency situation exists, in which case a meeting to deal with the emergency may be held as necessary, with reasonable notice, so long as it is subsequently ratified by the governing body. No

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approval of the annual budget shall be granted at an emergency meeting. The notice shall be posted as provided in advertisement shall be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week, unless the only newspaper in the county is published fewer than 5 days a week. The newspaper selected must be one of general interest and readership in the community and not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, and except in the case of emergency meetings, water management districts may provide reasonable notice of public meetings held to evaluate responses to solicitations issued by the water management district, by publication as provided in chapter 50 in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county where the principal office of the water management district is located, or in the county or counties where the public work will be performed, no less than 7 days before such meeting.

Section 19. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 190.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

190.005 Establishment of district.

- (1) The exclusive and uniform method for the establishment of a community development district with a size of 2,500 acres or more shall be pursuant to a rule, adopted under chapter 120 by the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission, granting a petition for the establishment of a community development district.
- (d) A local public hearing on the petition shall be conducted by a hearing officer in conformance with the

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applicable requirements and procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act. The hearing shall include oral and written comments on the petition pertinent to the factors specified in paragraph (e). The hearing shall be held at an accessible location in the county in which the community development district is to be located. The petitioner shall cause a notice of the hearing to be published in a newspaper at least once a week for the 4 successive weeks immediately before prior to the hearing. Such notice shall give the time and place for the hearing, a description of the area to be included in the district, which description shall include a map showing clearly the area to be covered by the district, and any other relevant information which the establishing governing bodies may require. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. Whenever possible, the advertisement shall appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week, unless the only newspaper in the community is published fewer than 5 days a week. In addition to being published in the newspaper, The map referenced above must be part of the online advertisement required pursuant to s. 50.0311 s. 50.0211. All affected units of general-purpose local government and the general public shall be given an opportunity to appear at the hearing and present oral or written comments on the petition.

Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 194.037, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

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194.037 Disclosure of tax impact.

- (1) After hearing all petitions, complaints, appeals, and disputes, the clerk shall make public notice of the findings and results of the board as provided in in at least a quarter-page size advertisement of a standard size or tabloid size newspaper, and the headline shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county. The newspaper selected shall be one of general interest and readership in the community, and not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. The headline shall read: TAX IMPACT OF VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD. The public notice shall list the members of the value adjustment board and the taxing authorities to which they are elected. The form shall show, in columnar form, for each of the property classes listed under subsection (2), the following information, with appropriate column totals:
- (a) In the first column, the number of parcels for which the board granted exemptions that had been denied or that had not been acted upon by the property appraiser.
- (b) In the second column, the number of parcels for which petitions were filed concerning a property tax exemption.
- (c) In the third column, the number of parcels for which the board considered the petition and reduced the assessment from that made by the property appraiser on the initial assessment roll.
  - (d) In the fourth column, the number of parcels for which

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petitions were filed but not considered by the board because such petitions were withdrawn or settled  $\underline{\text{before}}$   $\underline{\text{prior to}}$  the board's consideration.

- (e) In the fifth column, the number of parcels for which petitions were filed requesting a change in assessed value, including requested changes in assessment classification.
- (f) In the sixth column, the net change in taxable value from the assessor's initial roll which results from board decisions.
- (g) In the seventh column, the net shift in taxes to parcels not granted relief by the board. The shift shall be computed as the amount shown in column 6 multiplied by the applicable millage rates adopted by the taxing authorities in hearings held pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(d) or adopted by vote of the electors pursuant to s. 9(b) or s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution, but without adjustment as authorized pursuant to s. 200.065(6). If for any taxing authority the hearing has not been completed at the time the notice required herein is prepared, the millage rate used shall be that adopted in the hearing held pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(c).

Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 197.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 197.402 Advertisement of real or personal property with delinquent taxes.—
- (1) If advertisements are required, the board of county commissioners shall make such notice select the newspaper as provided in chapter 50. The tax collector shall pay all newspaper charges, and the proportionate cost of the advertisements shall be added to the delinquent taxes collected.

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Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

200.065 Method of fixing millage.-

- (3) The advertisement shall be published no less than onequarter page in size of a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county or in a geographically limited insert of such newspaper. The geographic boundaries in which such insert is circulated shall include the geographic boundaries of the taxing authority. It is the legislative intent that, whenever possible, the advertisement appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the county is published less than 5 days a week, or that the advertisement appear in a geographically limited insert of such newspaper which insert is published throughout the taxing authority's jurisdiction at least twice each week. It is further the legislative intent that the newspaper selected be one of general interest and readership in the community and not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50.
- (a) For taxing authorities other than school districts which have tentatively adopted a millage rate in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed pursuant to subsection (1), the advertisement shall be in the following form:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

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755 756 The ... (name of the taxing authority) ... has tentatively 757 adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy. 758 Last year's property tax levy: 759 A. Initially proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX 760 B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and 761 other assessment changes.....(\$XX,XXX) 762 C. Actual property tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX 763 This year's proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX 764 All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public 765 hearing on the tax increase to be held on ... (date and time) ... 766 at ... (meeting place) .... 767 A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the 768 budget will be made at this hearing. 769 770 (b) In all instances in which the provisions of paragraph 771 (a) are inapplicable for taxing authorities other than school 772 districts, the advertisement shall be in the following form: 773 774 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING 775 776 The ... (name of taxing authority) ... has tentatively 777 adopted a budget for ... (fiscal year).... A public hearing to 778 make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on 779 ... (date and time) ... at ... (meeting place) .... 780 781 (c) For school districts which have proposed a millage rate 782 in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed 783 pursuant to subsection (1) and which propose to levy nonvoted

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784 millage in excess of the minimum amount required pursuant to s. 785 1011.60(6), the advertisement shall be in the following form: 786 787 NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE 788 789 The ... (name of school district) ... will soon consider a 790 measure to increase its property tax levy. 791 Last year's property tax levy: 792 A. Initially proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX 793 B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and 794 other assessment changes.....(\$XX,XXX,XXX) 795 C. Actual property tax levy.....\$XX,XXX 796 This year's proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX 797 A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in state 798 799 education grants. The required portion has ... (increased or 800 decreased)... by ... (amount B)... percent and represents 801 approximately ... (amount C) ... of the total proposed taxes. 802 The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the 803 discretion of the school board. 804 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on 805 the tax increase to be held on ... (date and time) ... at 806 ... (meeting place) .... 807 A DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will 808 be made at this hearing. 809 1. AMOUNT A shall be an estimate, provided by the 810 Department of Education, of the amount to be received in the 811 current fiscal year by the district from state appropriations 812 for the Florida Education Finance Program.

2. AMOUNT B shall be the percent increase over the rolled-back rate necessary to levy only the required local effort in the current fiscal year, computed as though in the preceding fiscal year only the required local effort was levied.

3. AMOUNT C shall be the quotient of required local-effort millage divided by the total proposed nonvoted millage, rounded to the nearest tenth and stated in words; however, the stated amount shall not exceed nine-tenths.

(d) For school districts which have proposed a millage rate in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed pursuant to subsection (1) and which propose to levy as nonvoted millage only the minimum amount required pursuant to s. 1011.60(6), the advertisement shall be the same as provided in paragraph (c), except that the second and third paragraphs shall be replaced with the following paragraph:

This increase is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in state education grants.

(e) In all instances in which the provisions of paragraphs(c) and (d) are inapplicable for school districts, theadvertisement shall be in the following form:

## NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The  $\dots$  (name of school district)  $\dots$  will soon consider a

budget for ...(fiscal year).... A public hearing to make a

DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on ...(date and

time)... at ...(meeting place)....

- (f) In lieu of publishing the notice set out in this subsection, the taxing authority may mail a copy of the notice to each elector residing within the jurisdiction of the taxing authority.
- (g) In the event that the mailing of the notice of proposed property taxes is delayed beyond September 3 in a county, any multicounty taxing authority which levies ad valorem taxes within that county shall advertise its intention to adopt a tentative budget and millage rate in a newspaper of paid general circulation within that county, as provided in this subsection, and shall hold the hearing required pursuant to paragraph (2)(c) not less than 2 days or more than 5 days thereafter, and not later than September 18. The advertisement shall be in the following form, unless the proposed millage rate is less than or equal to the rolled-back rate, computed pursuant to subsection (1), in which case the advertisement shall be as provided in paragraph (e):

## NOTICE OF TAX INCREASE

The ...(name of the taxing authority)... proposes to increase its property tax levy by ...(percentage of increase over rolled-back rate)... percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed tax increase to be held on ...(date and

time) ... at ... (meeting place) ....

- (h) In no event shall any taxing authority add to or delete from the language of the advertisements as specified herein unless expressly authorized by law, except that, if an increase in ad valorem tax rates will affect only a portion of the jurisdiction of a taxing authority, advertisements may include a map or geographical description of the area to be affected and the proposed use of the tax revenues under consideration. In addition, if published in the newspaper, the map must be part of the online advertisement required by s. 50.0211. The advertisements required herein shall not be accompanied, preceded, or followed by other advertising or notices which conflict with or modify the substantive content prescribed herein.
- (i) The advertisements required pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (e) need not be one-quarter page in size or have a headline in type no smaller than 18 point.
- (j) The amounts to be published as percentages of increase over the rolled-back rate pursuant to this subsection shall be based on aggregate millage rates and shall exclude voted millage levies unless expressly provided otherwise in this subsection.
- (k) Any taxing authority which will levy an ad valorem tax for an upcoming budget year but does not levy an ad valorem tax currently shall, in the advertisement specified in paragraph (a), paragraph (c), paragraph (d), or paragraph (g), replace the phrase "increase its property tax levy by ... (percentage of increase over rolled-back rate)... percent" with the phrase "impose a new property tax levy of \$... (amount)... per \$1,000

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value."

(1) Any advertisement required pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by an adjacent notice meeting the budget summary requirements of s. 129.03(3)(b). Except for those taxing authorities proposing to levy ad valorem taxes for the first time, the following statement shall appear in the budget summary in boldfaced type immediately following the heading, if the applicable percentage is greater than zero:

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THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF ... (name of taxing authority)... ARE ... (percent rounded to one decimal place)... MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

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For purposes of this paragraph, "proposed operating budget expenditures" or "operating expenditures" means all moneys of the local government, including dependent special districts, that:

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1. Were or could be expended during the applicable fiscal year, or

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2. Were or could be retained as a balance for future spending in the fiscal year.

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Provided, however, those moneys held in or used in trust, agency, or internal service funds, and expenditures of bond proceeds for capital outlay or for advanced refunded debt principal, shall be excluded.

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Section 23. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 316.066, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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316.066 Written reports of crashes.-

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(b) Crash reports held by an agency under paragraph (a) may be made immediately available to the parties involved in the crash, their legal representatives, their licensed insurance agents, their insurers or insurers to which they have applied for coverage, persons under contract with such insurers to provide claims or underwriting information, prosecutorial authorities, law enforcement agencies, the Department of Transportation, county traffic operations, victim services programs, radio and television stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, newspapers qualified to publish legal notices under ss. 50.011 and 50.031, and, in accordance with paragraph (f), free newspapers of general circulation, published once a week or more often, of which at least 7,500 copies are distributed by mail or by carrier as verified by a postal statement or by a notarized printer's statement of press run, which are intended to be generally distributed and circulated, and which contain news of general interest with at least 10 pages per publication, available and of interest to the public generally for the dissemination of news. For the purposes of this section, the following products or publications are not newspapers as referred to in this section: those intended primarily for members of a particular profession or occupational group; those with the primary purpose of distributing advertising; and those with the primary purpose of publishing names and other personal identifying information concerning parties to motor vehicle crashes. Section 24. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section

338.223, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

338.223 Proposed turnpike projects.-

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- (c) Before Prior to requesting legislative approval of a proposed turnpike project, the environmental feasibility of the proposed project shall be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection. The department shall submit its Project Development and Environmental Report to the Department of Environmental Protection, along with a draft copy of a public notice. Within 14 days of receipt of the draft public notice, the Department of Environmental Protection shall return the draft public notice to the Department of Transportation with an approval of the language or modifications to the language. Upon receipt of the approved or modified draft, or if no comments are provided within 14 days, the Department of Transportation shall publish the notice in a newspaper to provide a 30-day public comment period. The headline of the required notice shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The notice shall be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices appear. The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties of general interest and readership in the community as provided in s. 50.0311 s. 50.031, not one of limited subject matter. Whenever possible, the notice shall appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week. The notice shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:
- 1. The purpose of the notice is to provide for a 30-day period for written public comments on the environmental impacts of a proposed turnpike project.
  - 2. The name and description of the project, along with a

geographic location map clearly indicating the area where the proposed project will be located.

3. The address where such comments must be sent and the date such comments are due.

After a review of the department's report and any public comments, the Department of Environmental Protection shall submit a statement of environmental feasibility to the department within 30 days after the date on which public comments are due. The notice and the statement of environmental feasibility shall not give rise to any rights to a hearing or other rights or remedies provided pursuant to chapter 120 or chapter 403, and shall not bind the Department of Environmental Protection in any subsequent environmental permit review.

Section 25. Section 373.0397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.0397 Floridan and Biscayne aquifers; designation of prime groundwater recharge areas.—Upon preparation of an inventory of prime groundwater recharge areas for the Floridan or Biscayne aquifers, but before prior to adoption by the governing board, the water management district shall publish a legal notice of public hearing on the designated areas for the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers, with a map delineating the boundaries of the areas, as provided in newspapers defined in chapter 50, in each county as having general circulation within the area to be affected. The notice shall be at least one-fourth page and shall read as follows:

NOTICE OF PRIME RECHARGE

AREA DESIGNATION

The ...(name of taxing authority)... proposes to designate specific land areas as areas of prime recharge to the ...(name of aquifer)... Aquifer.

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed designation to be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

A map of the affected areas follows.

The governing board of the water management district shall adopt a designation of prime groundwater recharge areas to the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers by rule within 120 days after the public hearing, subject to the provisions of chapter 120.

Section 26. Section 373.146, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.146 Publication of notices, process, and papers.-

- (1) Whenever in this chapter the publication of any notice, process, or paper is required or provided for, unless otherwise provided by law, the publication thereof in some newspaper or newspapers as provided defined in chapter 50 in each county having general circulation within the area to be affected shall be taken and considered as being sufficient.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and except in the case of emergency meetings, water management districts may provide reasonable notice of public meetings held to evaluate responses to solicitations issued by the water management district, by publication as provided in chapter 50 in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the

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county where the principal office of the water management district is located, or in the county or counties where the public work will be performed, no less than 7 days before such meeting.

Section 27. Subsection (12) of section 403.722, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.722 Permits; hazardous waste disposal, storage, and treatment facilities.—

(12) On the same day of filing with the department of an application for a permit for the construction modification, or operation of a hazardous waste facility, the applicant shall notify each city and county within 1 mile of the facility of the filing of the application and shall publish notice of the filing of the application. The applicant shall publish a second notice of the filing within 14 days after the date of filing. Each notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located or is proposed to be located as provided in. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 50, for purposes of this section, a "newspaper of general circulation" shall be the newspaper within the county in which the installation or facility is proposed which has the largest daily circulation in that county and has its principal office in that county. If the newspaper with the largest daily circulation has its principal office outside the county, the notice shall appear in both the newspaper with the largest daily circulation in that county, and a newspaper authorized to publish legal notices in that county. The notice shall contain:

(a) The name of the applicant and a brief description of the project and its location.

12-01564-19 20191676 1074 (b) The location of the application file and when it is 1075 available for public inspection. 1076 1077 The notice shall be prepared by the applicant and shall comply 1078 with the following format: 1079 1080 Notice of Application The Department of Environmental Protection announces receipt of 1081 an application for a permit from ... (name of applicant)... to 1082 1083 ... (brief description of project) .... This proposed project will 1084 be located at ...(location)... in ...(county)... ...(city).... 1085 1086 This application is being processed and is available for public 1087 inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 1088 Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at ... (name and 1089 address of office) .... 1090 1091 Section 28. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 1092 501.059, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1093 501.059 Telephone solicitation.-1094 (7) 1095 (c) The provisions of This subsection does do not apply to 1096 a transaction: 1097 1. Made in accordance with prior negotiations in the course 1098 of a visit by the consumer to a merchant operating a retail 1099 business establishment which has a fixed permanent location and 1100 where consumer goods are displayed or offered for sale on a 1101 continuing basis; 1102 2. In which the consumer may obtain a full refund for the

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return of undamaged and unused goods or a cancellation of services notice to the seller within 7 days after receipt by the consumer, and the seller will process the refund within 30 days after receipt of the returned merchandise by the consumer;

- 3. In which the consumer purchases goods or services pursuant to an examination of a television, radio, or print advertisement or a sample, brochure, or catalog of the merchant that contains:
  - a. The name, address, and telephone number of the merchant;
  - b. A description of the goods or services being sold; and
- c. Any limitations or restrictions that apply to the offer; or
- 4. In which the merchant is a bona fide charitable organization or a newspaper as defined in chapter 50.
- Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 712.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 712.06 Contents of notice; recording and indexing.
- (3) The person providing the notice referred to in s. 712.05, other than a notice for preservation of a community covenant or restriction, shall:
- (b) Publish once a week, for 2 consecutive weeks, the notice referred to in s. 712.05, with the official record book and page number in which such notice was recorded, in a newspaper as provided defined in chapter 50 in the county in which the property is located.
- Section 30. Subsection (5) of section 849.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1130 849.38 Proceedings for forfeiture; notice of seizure and 1131 order to show cause.—

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(5) If the value of the property seized is shown by the sheriff's return to have an appraised value of \$1,000 or less, the above citation shall be served by posting at three public places in the county, one of which shall be the front door of the courthouse; if the value of the property is shown by the sheriff's return to have an approximate value of more than \$1,000, the citation shall be published at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks as provided in chapter 50. in some newspaper of general publication published in the county, if there be such a newspaper published in the county and if not, then Said notice of such publication shall be made by certificate of the clerk if publication is made by posting, and by affidavit as provided in chapter 50, if made by publication as provided in chapter 50 in a newspaper, which affidavit or certificate shall be filed and become a part of the record in the cause. Failure of the record to show proof of such publication shall not affect any judgment made in the cause unless it shall affirmatively appear that no such publication was made.

Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 865.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

865.09 Fictitious name registration.-

- (3) REGISTRATION. -
- (a) A person may not engage in business under a fictitious name unless the person first registers the name with the division by filing a registration listing:
  - 1. The name to be registered.
  - 2. The mailing address of the business.
  - 3. The name and address of each registrant.

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4. If the registrant is a business entity that was required to file incorporation or similar documents with its state of organization when it was organized, such entity must be registered with the division and in active status with the division; provide its Florida document registration number; and provide its federal employer identification number if the entity has such a number.

- 5. Certification by at least one registrant that the intention to register such fictitious name has been advertised as provided at least once in a newspaper as defined in chapter 50 in the county in which the principal place of business of the registrant is or will be located.
- 6. Any other information the division may reasonably deem necessary to adequately inform other governmental agencies and the public as to the registrant so conducting business.

Section 32. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 932.704, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

932.704 Forfeiture proceedings.-

(6) (a) If the property is required by law to be titled or registered, or if the owner of the property is known in fact to the seizing agency, or if the seized property is subject to a perfected security interest in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code, chapter 679, the attorney for the seizing agency shall serve the forfeiture complaint as an original service of process under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and other applicable law to each person having an ownership or security interest in the property. The seizing agency shall also publish, in accordance with chapter 50, notice of the forfeiture complaint once each week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper

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1190	of general circulation, as defined in s. 165.031, in the county	
1191	where the seizure occurred.	
1192	Section 33. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.	
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