

By the Committee on Business Development & International  
Trade and Representatives Culp, Trovillion and Effman

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to electronic commerce;  
3           amending s. 117.05, F.S.; specifying that  
4           certain seals be used on "paper" documents;  
5           creating s. 117.20, F.S.; providing  
6           application; specifying "electronic  
7           notarization"; providing for the Secretary of  
8           State to provide commissions for notaries  
9           public to perform electronic notarizations;  
10          providing procedures; requiring notice of the  
11          compromise of certain keys; providing for  
12          suspension under certain circumstances;  
13          amending s. 215.322, F.S.; providing for state  
14          use of credit cards, charge cards, or debit  
15          cards under certain circumstances; amending s.  
16          282.20, F.S.; providing a definition; requiring  
17          approval of the Office of Planning and  
18          Budgeting for acceptance of any new customer  
19          other than a state agency that will use more  
20          than a specified percentage of the previous  
21          year's revenue; eliminating the Technology  
22          Resource Center data processing policy board;  
23          creating s. 282.745, F.S.; authorizing the  
24          Secretary of State to establish a voluntary  
25          licensure program for private certification  
26          authorities; providing for fees; providing for  
27          rulemaking; authorizing the Secretary of State  
28          to enter into reciprocity agreements with other  
29          jurisdictions; amending s. 471.025, F.S.;  
30          providing for electronic engineering seals and  
31          digital signatures; prohibiting certain

1 activities relating to digitally sealing or  
2 signing documents; amending s. 471.033, F.S.;  
3 providing for disciplinary action for illegal  
4 use of a digital signature; amending s.  
5 472.025, F.S.; providing for electronic land  
6 surveying and mapping seals; prohibiting  
7 certain activities relating to digitally  
8 sealing or signing certain documents;  
9 authorizing the Secretary of State to  
10 commission Florida international notaries;  
11 providing definitions; providing rulemaking  
12 authority; authorizing the secretary to charge  
13 fees; authorizing the use of authentication  
14 methods by international notaries; providing  
15 for effect of acts of international notaries;  
16 amending ss. 240.289 and 402.18, F.S., to  
17 conform; repealing ss. 118.01, 118.02, 118.03,  
18 and 118.04, F.S., relating to commissioners of  
19 deeds; providing an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 117.05, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 117.05 Use of notary commission; unlawful use; notary  
26 fee; seal; duties; employer liability; name change;  
27 advertising; photocopies; penalties.--

28 (3)(a) A notary public seal shall be affixed to all  
29 notarized paper documents and shall be of the rubber stamp  
30 type and shall include the words "Notary Public-State of  
31 Florida." The seal shall also include the name of the notary

1 public, the date of expiration of the commission of the notary  
2 public, and the commission number. The rubber stamp seal must  
3 be affixed to the notarized paper document in photographically  
4 reproducible black ink. Every notary public shall print, type,  
5 or stamp below his or her signature on a paper document his or  
6 her name exactly as commissioned. An impression-type  
7 ~~impression-type~~ seal may be used in addition to the rubber  
8 stamp seal, but the rubber stamp seal shall be the official  
9 seal for use on a paper document ~~notary public~~, and the  
10 impression-type ~~impression-type~~ seal may not be substituted  
11 therefor.

12 (b) Any notary public whose term of appointment  
13 extends beyond January 1, 1992, is required to use a rubber  
14 stamp type notary public seal on paper documents only upon  
15 reappointment on or after January 1, 1992.

16 Section 2. Section 117.20, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 117.20 Electronic notarization.--

19 (1) The provisions of ss. 117.01, 117.03, and 117.04,  
20 117.05(1)-(14), 117.05(16), 117.105, and 117.107 apply to all  
21 notarizations under this section except as set forth in this  
22 section.

23 (2) An electronic notarization shall include the name  
24 of the notary public, exactly as commissioned, the date of  
25 expiration of the commission of the notary public, the  
26 commission number, and the notary's digital signature.  
27 Neither a rubber stamp seal nor an impression-type seal is  
28 required for an electronic notarization.

29 (3) Any notary public who seeks to perform electronic  
30 notarizations and obtains certification authority, as defined  
31 in s. 282.72(2), shall request an amended commission from the

1 Secretary of State as set forth in s. 117.05(11). The  
2 Secretary of State shall issue an amended commission to the  
3 notary public indicating that the notary is a subscriber to  
4 the certification authority identified in the notary's request  
5 for an amended commission. After requesting an amended  
6 commission, the notary public may continue to perform notarial  
7 acts, but may not use his or her digital signature in the  
8 performance of notarial acts until receipt of the amended  
9 commission. Any fees collected from such amended commissions  
10 shall be used to fund the Secretary of State's administration  
11 of electronic notary commissions.

12 (4) If the notary public's private key corresponding  
13 to his or her public key has been compromised, the notary  
14 public shall immediately notify the Secretary of State in  
15 writing of the breach of security and shall request the  
16 issuing certification authority to suspend or revoke the  
17 certificate.

18 (5) Failure to comply with this section constitutes  
19 grounds for suspension from office by the Governor.

20 Section 3. Section 215.322, Florida Statutes, 1996  
21 Supplement, is amended to read:

22 215.322 Acceptance of credit cards, charge cards, or  
23 debit cards by state agencies, units of local government, and  
24 the judicial branch.--

25 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage  
26 state agencies, the judicial branch, and units of local  
27 government to make their services more convenient to the  
28 public and to reduce the administrative costs of government by  
29 acceptance of payment by credit cards, charge cards, and debit  
30 cards to the maximum extent possible.

31

1           (2)~~(1)~~ A state agency as defined in s. 216.011, or the  
2 judicial branch, may accept credit cards, charge cards, or  
3 debit cards in payment for goods and services upon  
4 recommendation of the Office of Planning and Budgeting and  
5 with the prior approval of the Treasurer.

6           (3)~~(2)~~ The Treasurer shall adopt rules governing the  
7 establishment and acceptance of credit cards, charge cards, or  
8 debit cards by state agencies or the judicial branch,  
9 including, but not limited to, the following:

10           (a) Utilization of a standardized contract between the  
11 financial institution and the agency or judicial branch which  
12 shall be developed by the Treasurer or approval by the  
13 Treasurer of a substitute agreement.

14           ~~(b)1. The types of revenue or collections that may be~~  
15 ~~subject to service fees or surcharges by the financial~~  
16 ~~institution, vending service company, or credit card company.~~  
17 ~~Only taxes, license fees, tuition, and other statutorily~~  
18 ~~prescribed revenues may be subject to a service fee or~~  
19 ~~surcharge. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this section shall~~  
20 ~~not be construed to permit surcharges on any other credit card~~  
21 ~~purchase in violation of s. 501.0117.~~

22           ~~2. The minimum public disclosure requirements to~~  
23 ~~persons who elect to pay taxes, license fees, tuition, and~~  
24 ~~other statutorily prescribed revenues by credit card which are~~  
25 ~~subject to a surcharge pursuant to this section. Any state~~  
26 ~~agency, unit of local government, or the judicial branch that~~  
27 ~~surcharges a person who pays by credit card shall be subject~~  
28 ~~to the minimum public disclosure requirements adopted by the~~  
29 ~~Treasurer pursuant to this subparagraph.~~

30           (b)(c) All service fees payable pursuant to this  
31 section ~~financial institutions~~ when practicable shall be

1 invoiced and paid by state warrant, or such other manner that  
2 is satisfactory to the Comptroller,in accordance with s.  
3 215.422.

4 (c)~~(d)~~ Submission of information to the Treasurer  
5 concerning the acceptance of credit cards, charge cards, or  
6 debit cards by all state agencies or the judicial branch.

7 (4)~~(3)~~ The Treasurer is authorized to establish  
8 contracts with one or more financial institutions or credit  
9 card companies, or other entities that may lawfully provide  
10 such services,in a manner consistent with chapter 287, for  
11 processing credit card, charge card, or debit card collections  
12 for deposit into the State Treasury or another qualified  
13 public depository. Any state agency, or the judicial branch,  
14 which accepts payment by credit card, charge card, or debit  
15 card shall use at least one of the contractors established by  
16 the Treasurer unless the state agency or judicial branch  
17 obtains authorization from the Treasurer to use another  
18 contractor which is more financially advantageous to such  
19 state agency or the judicial branch. Such contracts may  
20 authorize a unit of local government to use the services upon  
21 the same terms and conditions for deposit of credit card,  
22 charge card, or debit card transactions into its qualified  
23 public depositories.

24 (5)~~(4)~~ A unit of local government, which term means a  
25 municipality, special district, or board of county  
26 commissioners or other governing body of a county, however  
27 styled, including that of a consolidated or metropolitan  
28 government, and means any clerk of the circuit court, sheriff,  
29 property appraiser, tax collector, or supervisor of elections,  
30 is authorized to accept payment by use of credit cards, charge  
31 cards,and bank debit cards for financial obligations that are

1 owing to such unit of local government and to surcharge the  
2 person who uses a credit card, charge card, or bank debit card  
3 in payment of taxes, license fees, tuition, fines, civil  
4 penalties, court-ordered payments, or court costs, or other  
5 statutorily prescribed revenues an amount sufficient to pay  
6 the service fee charges by the financial institution, vending  
7 service company, or credit card company for such services. A  
8 unit of local government shall verify both the validity of any  
9 credit card or bank debit card used pursuant to this  
10 subsection and the existence of appropriate credit with  
11 respect to the person using the card. The unit of local  
12 government does not incur any liability as a result of such  
13 verification or any subsequent action taken.

14 ~~(6)(5)~~ Credit card account numbers in the possession  
15 of a state agency, a unit of local government, or the judicial  
16 branch are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
17 119.07(1).

18 (7) Any action required to be performed by a state  
19 officer or agency pursuant to this section shall be performed  
20 within 10 working days after receipt of the request or be  
21 deemed approved if not acted upon within that time.

22 (8) Nothing contained in this section shall be  
23 construed to prohibit a state agency or the judicial branch  
24 from continuing to accept credit cards, charge cards, or debit  
25 cards pursuant to a contract that was lawfully entered into  
26 before the effective date of this subsection unless  
27 specifically directed otherwise in the General Appropriations  
28 Act. However, such contract shall not be extended or renewed  
29 after the effective date of this subsection unless such  
30 renewal and extension conform to the requirements of this  
31 section.

1           Section 4. Section 282.20, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:  
3           282.20 Technology Resource Center.--  
4           (1)(a) The Division of Information Services of the  
5 Department of Management Services shall operate and manage the  
6 Technology Resource Center.  
7           (b) For the purposes of this section, the term:  
8           1. "Department" means the Department of Management  
9 Services.  
10           2. "Division" means the Division of Information  
11 Services of the Department of Management Services.  
12           3. "Information-system utility" means a full-service  
13 information-processing facility offering hardware, software,  
14 operations, integration, networking, and consulting services  
15 ~~to state agencies.~~  
16           4. "Customer" means a state agency or other entity  
17 that is authorized to use the SUNCOM Network pursuant to this  
18 chapter.  
19           (2) The division and the Technology Resource Center  
20 shall:  
21           (a) Serve the department and other customers ~~state~~  
22 agencies as an information-system utility.  
23           (b) Cooperate with the Information Resource Commission  
24 and with other customers ~~state agencies~~ to offer, develop, and  
25 support a wide range of services and applications needed by  
26 users of the Technology Resource Center.  
27           (c) Cooperate with the Florida Legal Resource Center  
28 of the Department of Legal Affairs and other state agencies to  
29 develop and provide access to repositories of legal  
30 information throughout the state.  
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1           (d) Cooperate with the Division of Communications of  
2 the department to facilitate interdepartmental networking and  
3 integration of network services for its customers state  
4 agencies.

5           (e) Assist customers state agencies in testing and  
6 evaluating new and emerging technologies that could be used to  
7 meet the needs of the state.

8           (3) The division may contract with customers state  
9 agencies to provide any combination of services necessary for  
10 agencies to fulfill their responsibilities and to serve their  
11 users.

12           (4)~~(a)~~ Acceptance of any new customer, other than a  
13 state agency, which is expected to pay during the initial 12  
14 months of use more than 5 percent of the previous year's  
15 revenues of the data processing center shall be contingent  
16 upon approval of the Office of Planning and Budgeting in a  
17 manner similar to the budget amendment process in s. 216.181.  
18 ~~There is created for the Technology Resource Center a data~~  
19 ~~processing policy board as provided in s. 282.313.~~

20           ~~(b) In addition to the members of the policy board~~  
21 ~~provided in s. 282.313, the following ex officio members are~~  
22 ~~appointed to the data processing policy board of the~~  
23 ~~Technology Resource Center: the Executive Director of the~~  
24 ~~Information Resource Commission, the Director of the Division~~  
25 ~~of Communications of the Department of Management Services,~~  
26 ~~and the chair of the coordinating council to the Florida~~  
27 ~~Fiscal Accounting Management Information System, as created in~~  
28 ~~s. 215.96, or their respective designees. The ex officio~~  
29 ~~members provided in this subsection shall vote and serve in~~  
30 ~~the same manner as other policy board members.~~

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1           (5) The Technology Resource Center may plan, design,  
2 establish pilot projects for, and conduct experiments with  
3 information technology resources, and may implement  
4 enhancements in services when such implementation is  
5 cost-effective. Funding for experiments and pilot projects  
6 shall be derived from service revenues and may not exceed 5  
7 percent of the service revenues for the Technology Resource  
8 Center for any fiscal year. ~~Any experiment, pilot project,~~  
9 ~~plan, or design must be approved by the data processing policy~~  
10 ~~board of the center.~~

11           (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.272, the  
12 Technology Resource Center may spend the funds in the reserve  
13 account of its working capital trust fund for enhancements to  
14 center operations or for information technology resources. ~~Any~~  
15 ~~expenditure of reserve account funds must be approved by the~~  
16 ~~data processing policy board of the center.~~Any funds  
17 remaining in the reserve account at the end of the fiscal year  
18 may be carried forward ~~and spent as approved by the policy~~  
19 ~~board.~~

20           Section 5. Section 282.745, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           282.745 Voluntary licensure.--

23           (1) The Secretary of State may adopt, amend, or repeal  
24 any rules as necessary, pursuant to chapter 120, to implement,  
25 enforce, and interpret the voluntary licensure of private  
26 certification authorities. Such rules shall provide, at a  
27 minimum, for:

28           (a) Licensing fees sufficient to support the licensing  
29 program.

30           (b) Standards and requirements for voluntary  
31 licensure.

1           (c) Audit procedures and requirements to assure  
2 program compliance.

3           (d) Insurance reserve or bonding requirements.

4           (e) Procedures for license revocation and suspension  
5 for failure to meet licensure requirements or for misconduct.

6           (2) No private certification authority shall be  
7 required to obtain a license from the Secretary of State  
8 pursuant to this section.

9           (3) The Secretary of State may also enter into  
10 reciprocity agreements with other jurisdictions on behalf of  
11 this state to allow for the fullest possible recognition of  
12 digital signatures executed under Florida law and the fullest  
13 possible recognition of certification authorities licensed  
14 under this section.

15           Section 6. Section 471.025, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17           471.025 Seals.--

18           (1) The board shall prescribe, by rule, a form of seal  
19 to be used by registrants holding valid certificates of  
20 registration. Each registrant shall obtain an impression-type  
21 metal seal in the form aforesaid and may, in addition,  
22 register his or her seal electronically in accordance with ss.  
23 282.70-282.75. All final drawings, specifications, plans,  
24 reports, or documents prepared or issued by the registrant and  
25 being filed for public record shall be signed by the  
26 registrant, dated, and stamped with said seal. Such  
27 signature, date, and seal shall be evidence of the  
28 authenticity of that to which they are affixed. Drawings,  
29 specifications, plans, reports, or documents prepared or  
30 issued by a registrant may be transmitted electronically and  
31 may be signed by the registrant, dated, and stamped

1 electronically with said seal in accordance with ss.  
2 282.70-282.75.~~It is unlawful for any person to stamp or seal~~  
3 ~~any document with a seal after his certificate of registration~~  
4 ~~has expired or been revoked or suspended, unless reinstated or~~  
5 ~~reissued.~~

6 (2) It is unlawful for any person to stamp, seal, or  
7 digitally sign any document with a seal or digital signature  
8 after his or her certificate of registration has expired or  
9 been revoked or suspended, unless such certificate of  
10 registration has been reinstated or reissued.When the  
11 certificate of registration of a registrant has been revoked  
12 or suspended by the board, it shall be mandatory that the  
13 registrant, ~~surrender his seal to the secretary of the board~~  
14 within a period of 30 days after the revocation or suspension  
15 has become effective, surrender his or her seal to the  
16 secretary of the board and confirm to the secretary the  
17 cancellation of the registrant's digital signature in  
18 accordance with ss. 282.70-282.75. In the event the  
19 registrant's certificate has been suspended for a period of  
20 time, his seal shall be returned to him upon expiration of the  
21 suspension period.

22 (3) No registrant shall affix or permit to be affixed  
23 his or her seal, or name, or digital signature to any plan,  
24 specification, drawing, or other document which depicts work  
25 which he or she is not licensed to perform or which is beyond  
26 his or her profession or specialty therein.

27 Section 7. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section  
28 471.033, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 471.033 Disciplinary proceedings.--

30 (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which  
31 the disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken:

1           (j) Affixing or permitting to be affixed his or her  
2 seal, ~~or his name,~~ or digital signature to any final drawings,  
3 specifications, plans, reports, or documents that were not  
4 prepared by him or her or under his or her responsible  
5 supervision, direction, or control.

6           Section 8. Section 472.025, Florida Statutes, is  
7 amended to read:

8           472.025 Seals.--

9           (1) The board shall prescribe, by rule, a form of seal  
10 to be used by all registrants holding valid certificates of  
11 registration, whether the registrants are corporations,  
12 partnerships, or individuals. Each registrant shall obtain an  
13 impression-type metal seal in that form; and all final  
14 drawings, plans, specifications, plats, or reports prepared or  
15 issued by the registrant in accordance with minimum technical  
16 standards set by the board shall be signed by the registrant,  
17 dated, and stamped with his or her seal. This signature,  
18 date, and seal shall be evidence of the authenticity of that  
19 to which they are affixed. Each registrant may in addition  
20 register his or her seal electronically in accordance with ss.  
21 282.70-282.75. Drawings, plans, specifications, reports, or  
22 documents prepared or issued by a registrant may be  
23 transmitted electronically and may be signed by the  
24 registrant, dated, and stamped electronically with such seal  
25 in accordance with ss. 282.70-282.75.~~It is unlawful for any~~  
26 ~~person to stamp or seal any document with a seal after his~~  
27 ~~certificate of registration has expired or been revoked or~~  
28 ~~suspended unless reinstated or reissued.~~

29           (2) It is unlawful for any person to stamp, seal, or  
30 digitally sign any document with a seal or digital signature  
31 after his or her certificate of registration has expired or

1 been revoked or suspended, unless such certificate of  
2 registration has been reinstated or reissued.When the  
3 certificate of registration of a registrant has been revoked  
4 or suspended by the board, the registrant shall, ~~surrender his~~  
5 ~~seal to the secretary of the board~~ within a period of 30 days  
6 after the revocation or suspension has become effective,  
7 surrender his or her seal to the secretary of the board and  
8 confirm to the secretary the cancellation of the registrant's  
9 digital signature in accordance with ss. 282.70-282.75. In the  
10 event the registrant's certificate has been suspended for a  
11 period of time, his or her seal shall be returned to him or  
12 her upon expiration of the suspension period.

13 (3) No registrant shall affix or permit to be affixed  
14 his or her seal, ~~or name,~~ or digital signature to any plan,  
15 specification, drawing, or other document which depicts work  
16 which he or she is not licensed to perform or which is beyond  
17 his or her profession or specialty therein.

18 Section 9. (1) As used in this section, the term:

19 (a) "Authentication instrument" means an instrument  
20 executed by a Florida international notary referencing this  
21 section, which includes the particulars and capacities to act  
22 of transacting parties, a confirmation of the full text of the  
23 instrument, the signatures of the parties or legal equivalent  
24 thereof, and the signature and seal of a Florida international  
25 notary as prescribed by the Florida Secretary of State for use  
26 in a jurisdiction outside the borders of the United States.

27 (b) "Florida international notary" means a person who  
28 is admitted to the practice of law in this state, who has  
29 practiced law for at least 5 years, and who has been  
30 commissioned by the Secretary of State as a Florida  
31 international notary.

1           (c) "Protocol" means a registry maintained by a  
2 Florida international notary in which the acts of the Florida  
3 international notary are archived.

4           (2) The Secretary of State shall have the power to  
5 commission Florida international notaries.

6           (3) A Florida international notary is authorized to  
7 issue authentication instruments for use in non-United States  
8 jurisdictions and has the powers of a Commissioner of Deeds  
9 under former ss. 118.01-118.02, Florida Statutes.

10           (4) The authentication instruments of a Florida  
11 international notary shall not be considered authentication  
12 instruments within the borders of the United States and shall  
13 have no consequences or effects as authentication instruments  
14 in the United States.

15           (5) The authentication instruments of a Florida  
16 international notary shall be recorded in the Florida  
17 international notary's protocol in a manner prescribed by the  
18 Secretary of State.

19           (6) The Secretary of State may adopt rules  
20 prescribing:

21           (a) The form and content of signatures and seals or  
22 their legal equivalents for authentication instruments;

23           (b) Procedures for the permanent archiving of  
24 authentication instruments;

25           (c) The charging of reasonable fees to be retained by  
26 the Secretary of State for the purpose of administering this  
27 section;

28           (d) Educational requirements and procedures for  
29 testing applicants' knowledge of the effects and consequences  
30 associated with authentication instruments in jurisdictions  
31 outside the United States;

1       (e) Procedures for the disciplining of Florida  
2 international notaries, including the suspension and  
3 revocation of commissions for misrepresentation or fraud  
4 regarding the Florida international notary's authority, the  
5 effect of the Florida international notary's authentication  
6 instruments, or the identities or acts of the parties to a  
7 transaction; and

8       (f) Other matters necessary for administering this  
9 section.

10       (7) The Secretary of State shall not regulate,  
11 discipline or attempt to discipline, or establish any  
12 educational requirements for any Florida international notary  
13 for, or with regard to, any action or conduct that would  
14 constitute the practice of law in this state. The Secretary  
15 of State shall not establish as a prerequisite to the  
16 commissioning of a Florida international notary any test  
17 containing any question that inquires of the applicant's  
18 knowledge regarding the practice of law in the United States.

19       (8) This section shall not be construed as abrogating  
20 the provisions of any other act relating to notaries public,  
21 attorneys, or the practice of law in this state.

22       Section 10. Section 240.289, Florida Statutes, is  
23 amended to read:

24       240.289 Credit card, charge card, or debit card use in  
25 university system; authority.--The several universities in the  
26 State University System are authorized, pursuant to s.  
27 215.322, to enter into agreements and accept credit card,  
28 charge card, or debit card payments as compensation for goods,  
29 services, tuition, and fees in accordance with rules  
30 established by the Board of Regents.

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1           Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 402.18, Florida  
2 Statutes, is amended to read:  
3           402.18 Welfare trust funds created; use of.--  
4           (6) The department shall maintain accounts in the  
5 welfare trust fund for the sale of goods, services, or  
6 products resulting from sheltered workshop, activity center,  
7 and agricultural project operations carried out in the  
8 rehabilitation of the department's clients, each project being  
9 accounted for separately in accordance with cost standards  
10 established by the department, but the cost of such projects  
11 shall not include any wage or salary expenditures funded by a  
12 general revenue appropriation applicable to such  
13 rehabilitative activities. The cost of materials incorporated  
14 in such products sold, if funded by an appropriation of  
15 general revenue, shall be restored to general revenue  
16 unallocated at the end of the fiscal year of sale from the  
17 proceeds of such sales; provided, however, that the cost of  
18 inventories on hand June 30, 1984, shall be accounted for as  
19 part of the working capital authorized for such activities.  
20 The department may extend credit for the sale of products  
21 produced in such activities, and for those sales made for its  
22 clients through its hobby shops, to purchasers of demonstrated  
23 credit standing sufficient to warrant the amount of credit  
24 extended after prudent evaluation of information relating to  
25 such credit standing. The department may obtain credit  
26 reports from reputable credit reporting agencies to assure  
27 prudence in the extending of credit, except when payment is  
28 made by credit card, charge card, or debit card as authorized  
29 by s. 215.322. The department shall provide an allowance for  
30 doubtful accounts for credit sales and record an expense in a  
31 like amount based on a good faith estimate, such provision

1 being recorded as a cost of such sales. The net revenue after  
2 such provision shall be retained in the welfare trust fund and  
3 used only for the benefit of the department's clients for whom  
4 the trust fund was established.

5 Section 12. Sections 118.01, 118.02, 118.03, and  
6 118.04, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

7 Section 13. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
8 law.

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