1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to taxation; amending s. 3 95.091, F.S.; specifying the time period within 4 which the Department of Revenue and Department 5 of Business and Professional Regulation may 6 determine and assess the amount of certain 7 taxes, penalties, or interest due beginning July 1, 2002; conforming a cross-reference; 8 9 amending s. 106.265, F.S.; providing that the Florida Elections Commission, rather than the 10 Department of Revenue, shall have 11 12 responsibility for collecting civil penalties for violation of ch. 104 or ch. 106, F.S.; 13 14 amending ss. 175.111, 185.09, F.S.; removing a 15 requirement that insurers subject to a premium tax for a municipal or special district 16 17 firefighter pension plan or a municipal police 18 pension plan file an annual premium receipt 19 report with the Division of Retirement; 20 amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the 21 Department of Revenue to share information 22 regarding such reports with the Department of Management Services and to share certain 23 identifying information with the Department of 24 25 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending s. 26 203.01, F.S.; authorizing the Department of 27 Revenue to require quarterly, semiannual, or 28 annual returns for the tax on gross receipts 29 for utility services under certain conditions; amending ss. 206.09, 206.095, F.S.; authorizing 30 31 the department to suspend a requirement for

certain reports from carriers transporting, or 1 2 terminal operators handling, motor fuel and 3 similar products, under certain conditions; 4 amending s. 212.051, F.S.; including specialty 5 chemicals and bioaugmentation products within 6 the exemption for equipment and machinery used 7 for pollution control in connection with the manufacture of items of tangible personal 8 9 property for sale; providing definitions; 10 amending s. 212.08, F.S.; providing an exemption for use of a specified percentage of 11 12 nonresidual fuel to produce electrical or steam 13 energy; applying the exemption for certain 14 repair and labor charges to an additional SIC 15 Industry Major Group Number; providing that such exemption is remedial; amending s. 212.06, 16 17 F.S.; clarifying the exemption from the indexed tax on manufactured asphalt for asphalt used 18 19 for government public works projects; specifying that the exemption includes federal 20 21 projects; amending s. 213.015, F.S., relating to the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; providing a 22 23 right to be treated in a professional manner by the Department of Revenue; providing a right to 24 an explanation for the reason for audit 25 26 selection; amending s. 213.21, F.S., relating 27 to conferences; specifying the circumstances 28 under which a taxpayer is deemed to have shown 29 reasonable cause for noncompliance when relying on written advice from the Department of 30 Revenue; repealing s. 213.235(6), F.S., which 31

relates to application of the annual rate of 1 2 interest applicable to tax payment deficiencies 3 as determined under that section; amending s. 4 213.27, F.S.; authorizing the department to 5 contract with public or private vendors to 6 develop and implement a voluntary system for 7 sales and use tax collection and administration; providing for compensation; 8 9 requiring reports; providing for application of 10 provisions of ch. 212, F.S., to system users; providing for maintenance of confidentiality of 11 12 certain information; providing a penalty; amending s. 220.62, F.S.; adding savings 13 14 association holding companies to the definition 15 of the term "savings association"; providing that section 1 of chapter 98-187, Laws of 16 17 Florida, applies retroactively to certain term 18 obligations; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 95.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

95.091 Limitation on actions to collect taxes.--

(3)(a) With the exception of taxes levied under chapter 198 and tax adjustments made pursuant to s. 220.23, the Department of Revenue may determine and assess the amount of any tax, penalty, or interest due under any tax enumerated in s. 72.011 which it has authority to administer and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation may determine and assess the amount of any tax, penalty, or

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interest due under any tax enumerated in s. 72.011 which it has authority to administer:

- 1.a. For taxes due before July 1, 1999, within 5 years after the date the tax is due, any return with respect to the tax is due, or such return is filed, whichever occurs later; and for taxes due on or after July 1, 1999, within 3 years after the date the tax is due, any return with respect to the tax is due, or such return is filed, whichever occurs later;
- b. Effective July 1, 2002, notwithstanding sub-subparagraph a., within 3 years after the date the tax is due, any return with respect to the tax is due, or such return is filed, whichever occurs later;
- 2. For taxes due before July 1, 1999, within 6 years after the date the taxpayer either makes a substantial underpayment of tax, or files a substantially incorrect return;
- 3. At any time while the right to a refund or credit of the tax is available to the taxpayer;
- 4. For taxes due before July 1, 1999, at any time after the taxpayer has filed a grossly false return;
- 5. At any time after the taxpayer has failed to make any required payment of the tax, has failed to file a required return, or has filed a fraudulent return, except that for taxes due on or after July 1, 1999, the limitation prescribed in subparagraph 1.sub-subparagraph a.applies if the taxpayer has disclosed in writing the tax liability to the department before the department has contacted the taxpayer; or
- 6. In any case in which there has been a refund of tax erroneously made for any reason:
- a. For refunds made before July 1, 1999, within 5 years after making such refund; and

b. For refunds made on or after July 1, 1999, within 3 years after making such refund,

or at any time after making such refund if it appears that any part of the refund was induced by fraud or the misrepresentation of a material fact.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 106.265, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106.265 Civil penalties.--

(2) If any person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party fails or refuses to pay to the commission any civil penalties assessed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the <u>commission</u> Department of Revenue shall be responsible for collecting the civil penalties resulting from such action.

Section 3. Section 175.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

175.111 Certified copy of ordinance or resolution filed; insurance companies' annual report of premiums; duplicate files; book of accounts.--For any municipality, special fire control district, chapter plan, local law municipality, local law special fire control district, or local law plan under this chapter, whenever any municipality passes an ordinance or whenever any special fire control district passes a resolution establishing a chapter plan or local law plan assessing and imposing the taxes authorized in s. 175.101, a certified copy of such ordinance or resolution shall be deposited with the division. Thereafter every insurance company, association, corporation, or other insurer carrying on the business of property insurance on real or personal property, on or before the succeeding March 1 after

amended to read:

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date of the passage of the ordinance or resolution, shall report fully in writing and under oath to the division and the 2 3 Department of Revenue a just and true account of all premiums 4 by such insurer received for property insurance policies 5 covering or insuring any real or personal property located within the corporate limits of each such municipality or 6 7 special fire control district during the period of time 8 elapsing between the date of the passage of the ordinance or 9 resolution and the end of the calendar year. The report shall include the code designation as prescribed by the division for 10 each piece of insured property, real or personal, located 11 12 within the corporate limits of each municipality and within the legally defined boundaries of each special fire control 13 14 district. The aforesaid insurer shall annually thereafter, on 15 March 1, file with the division and the Department of Revenue 16 a similar report covering the preceding year's premium 17 receipts, and every such insurer at the same time of making such reports shall pay to the Department of Revenue the amount 18 19 of the tax hereinbefore mentioned. Every insurer engaged in carrying on such insurance business in the state shall keep 20 accurate books of accounts of all such business done by it 21 22 within the corporate limits of each such municipality and 23 within the legally defined boundaries of each such special fire control district, and in such manner as to be able to 24 comply with the provisions of this chapter. Based on the 25 26 insurers' reports of premium receipts, the division shall 27 prepare a consolidated premium report and shall furnish to any municipality or special fire control district requesting the 28 29 same a copy of the relevant section of that report. Section 4. Section 185.09, Florida Statutes, is 30

185.09 Report of premiums paid; date tax payable. -- For 1 2 any municipality, chapter plan, local law municipality, or 3 local law plan under this chapter, whenever any municipality 4 passes an ordinance establishing a chapter plan or local law 5 plan and assessing and imposing the tax authorized in s. 6 185.08, a certified copy of such ordinance shall be deposited 7 with the division; and thereafter every insurance company, corporation, or other insurer carrying on the business of 8 9 casualty insuring, on or before the succeeding March 1 after 10 date of the passage of the ordinance, shall report fully in writing to the division and the Department of Revenue a just 11 12 and true account of all premiums received by such insurer for casualty insurance policies covering or insuring any property 13 14 located within the corporate limits of such municipality 15 during the period of time elapsing between the date of the passage of the ordinance and the end of the calendar year. The 16 17 aforesaid insurer shall annually thereafter, on March 1, file with the division and the Department of Revenue a similar 18 19 report covering the preceding year's premium receipts. Every such insurer shall, at the time of making such report, pay to 20 the Department of Revenue the amount of the tax heretofore 21 22 mentioned. Every insurer engaged in carrying on a general 23 casualty insurance business in the state shall keep accurate books of account of all such business done by it within the 24 limits of such incorporated municipality in such a manner as 25 26 to be able to comply with the provisions of this chapter. 27 Based on the insurers' reports of premium receipts, the division shall prepare a consolidated premium report and shall 28 29 furnish to any municipality requesting the same a copy of the relevant section of that report. 30

Section 5. Paragraphs (r) and (s) are added to 1 2 subsection (7) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, to read: 3 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.--4 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this 5 section, the department may provide: 6 (r) Information relative to the returns required by 7 ss. 175.111 and 185.09 to the Department of Management 8 Services in the conduct of its official duties. The Department 9 of Management Services is, in turn, authorized to disclose 10 payment information to a governmental agency as necessary in the administration of chapters 175 and 185. 11 12 (s) Names, addresses, and federal employer identification numbers, or similar identifiers, to the 13 14 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for use in the 15 conduct of its official duties. 16 Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be 17 18 pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director 19 and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of 20 confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of 21 22 confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, 23 punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Section 6. Effective January 1, 2001, (1) of section 24 25 203.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 26 203.01 Tax on gross receipts for utility services.--27 (1)(a) Every person that receives payment for any utility service shall report by the last day of each month to 28 29 the Department of Revenue, under oath of the secretary or some other officer of such person, the total amount of gross 30

receipts derived from business done within this state, or

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between points within this state, for the preceding month and, at the same time, shall pay into the State Treasury an amount equal to a percentage of such gross receipts at the rate set forth in paragraph (b). Such collections shall be certified by the Comptroller upon the request of the State Board of Education.

- (b) Beginning July 1, 1992, and thereafter, the rate shall be 2.5 percent.
- (c) Any person who purchases, installs, rents, or leases a telephone system or telecommunication system for his or her own use to provide that person with telephone service or telecommunication service which is a substitute for any telephone company switched service or a substitute for any dedicated facility by which a telephone company provides a communication path shall register with the Department of Revenue and pay into the State Treasury a yearly amount equal to a percentage of the actual cost of operating such system at the rate set forth in paragraph (b). "Actual cost" includes, but is not limited to, depreciation, interest, maintenance, repair, and other expenses directly attributable to the operation of such system. For purposes of this paragraph, the depreciation expense to be included in actual cost shall be the depreciation expense claimed for federal income tax purposes. The total amount of any payment required by a lease or rental contract or agreement shall be included within the actual cost. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the use by any local telephone company or any telecommunication carrier of its own telephone system or telecommunication system to conduct a telecommunication service for hire or to the use of any radio system operated by any county or municipality or by the state or any political

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subdivision thereof. If a system described in this paragraph is located in more than one state, the actual cost of such system for purposes of this paragraph shall be the actual cost of the system's equipment located in Florida. The term "telecommunications carrier" specifically includes cellular telephone carriers and other radio common carriers.

- (d) Electricity produced by cogeneration or by small power producers which is transmitted and distributed by a public utility between two locations of a customer of the utility pursuant to s. 366.051 is subject to the tax imposed by this section. The tax shall be applied to the cost price of such electricity as provided in s. 212.02(4) and shall be paid each month by the producer of such electricity.
- (e) Electricity produced by cogeneration or by small power producers during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year which is in excess of nontaxable electricity produced during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1990, is subject to the tax imposed by this section. The tax shall be applied to the cost price of such electricity as provided in s. 212.02(4) and shall be paid each month, beginning with the month in which total production exceeds the production of nontaxable electricity for the 12-month period ending June 30, 1990. For purposes of this paragraph, "nontaxable electricity" means electricity produced by cogeneration or by small power producers which is not subject to tax under paragraph (d). Taxes paid pursuant to paragraph (d) may be credited against taxes due under this paragraph. Electricity generated as part of an industrial manufacturing process which manufactures products from phosphate rock, raw wood fiber, paper, citrus or any agricultural product shall not be subject to the tax imposed by this paragraph. "Industrial

manufacturing process" means the entire process conducted at the location where the process takes place.

- (f) Any person other than a cogenerator or small power producer described in paragraph (e) who produces for his or her own use electrical energy which is a substitute for electrical energy produced by an electric utility as defined in s. 366.02 is subject to the tax imposed by this section. The tax shall be applied to the cost price of such electrical energy as provided in s. 212.02(4) and shall be paid each month. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to any electrical energy produced and used by an electric utility.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, with the exception of a telephone or telecommunication system described in paragraph (c), the department may require:
- 1. A quarterly return and payment when the tax remitted for the preceding four calendar quarters did not exceed \$1,000;
- 2. A semiannual return and payment when the tax remitted for the preceding four calendar quarters did not exceed \$500; or
- 3. An annual return and payment when the tax remitted for the preceding four calendar quarters did not exceed \$100.
- Section 7. Effective July 1, 2000, section 206.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 206.09 Reports from carriers transporting motor fuel or similar products.--
- (1) Every railroad company, pipeline company, water transportation company, private carrier, and common carrier transporting motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural gasoline, naphtha, or diesel fuel distillate, either in

interstate or intrastate or foreign commerce, to points within Florida, and every person transporting motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural gasoline, naphtha, or diesel fuel distillate, by whatever manner, to a point in Florida from any point outside of said state, shall file monthly returns setting forth:

- (a) The name under which such person is transacting business within the state.
- (b) The location with street number address of such person's principal office or place of business within the state.
- (c) The name, federal employer identification number or, if such number is not available, the social security number, and business address of the owner or the names and addresses of the partners, if such person is a partnership, or the principal officers, if such person is a corporation or association.
- (2) Such person or company shall report under oath to the department on forms prescribed by the department all deliveries of motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural gasoline, naphtha, or diesel fuel distillate so made to points within the state.
- (3) Such reports shall cover monthly periods and be submitted within 20 days after the close of the month covered by the report and shall show:
- (a) The name, federal employer identification number or, if such number is not available, the social security number, and complete business address of the person to whom the deliveries of motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural gasoline, naphtha, or diesel fuel distillate have actually and in fact been made;

consignee;

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- 1 (b) The name, federal employer identification number
 2 or, if such number is not available, the social security
 3 number, and complete business address of the originally named
 4 consignee, if motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural
 5 gasoline, naphtha, or diesel fuel distillate has been
 6 delivered to any person other than the originally named
 - (c) The municipality and state of origin, the municipality, county, and state of delivery, the date of delivery, and the number and initials of each tank car and the number of gallons contained therein, if shipped by rail;
 - (d) The name of the boat, barge, or vessel and the number of gallons contained therein, if shipped by water;
 - (e) The company unit number of each tank truck and the number of gallons contained therein, if transported by motor truck;
 - (f) If delivered by other means, the manner in which such delivery is made; and
 - (g) Such other additional information relative to shipments of motor fuel as the department may require.
 - (4) The department may suspend the reporting requirements of this section if substantially the same data is filed with the Internal Revenue Service and provided to the department through a national information reporting system.
 - (5)(4) If any such person or company required to file under this section fails to make a complete report, the department shall impose, in addition to any other penalty or interest due, a penalty in the amount of \$200.
 - Section 8. Effective July 1, 2000, section 206.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 206.095 Reports from terminal operators.--

- (1) Every terminal operator who stores, handles, or transfers motor fuel, casinghead gasoline, natural gasoline, naphtha, diesel fuel, kerosene, or other middle distillates shall file a report on forms prescribed by the department. The report shall be filed on a monthly basis within 20 days after the close of the month covered by the report and shall show:
 - (a) The name, address, and license number of the terminal supplier, importer, or exporter storing or transferring such product.
 - (b) The name of the boat, barge, or vessel transporting the product to the terminal.
 - (c) The number of gallons and type of product which is being stored.
 - (d) Such other additional information relative to shipments and storage of products as the department may require.
 - (2) The department may suspend the reporting requirements of this section if substantially the same data is filed with the Internal Revenue Service and provided to the department through a national information reporting system.
 - (3) (2) If any terminal operator fails to make a complete report, the department shall impose, in addition to any other penalty and interest due, a penalty in the amount of \$100.
 - Section 9. Effective July 1, 2000, section 212.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 212.051 Equipment, or machinery, and other materials for pollution control; not subject to sales or use tax.--
 - (1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, sales, use, or privilege taxes shall not be collected with

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respect to any facility, device, fixture, equipment, or machinery, specialty chemical, or bioaugmentation product used primarily for the control or abatement of pollution or contaminants in manufacturing, processing, compounding, or producing for sale items of tangible personal property at a fixed location, or any structure, machinery, or equipment installed in the reconstruction or replacement of such facility, device, fixture, equipment, or machinery. To qualify, such facility, device, fixture, equipment, or structure, specialty chemical, or bioaugmentation product must be used, installed, or constructed to meet a law implemented by, or a condition of a permit issued by, the Department of Environmental Protection; however, such exemption shall not be allowed unless the purchaser signs a certificate stating that the facility, device, fixture, equipment, or structure, specialty chemical, or bioaugmentation product to be exempted is required to meet such law or condition.

(2) Equipment, machinery, or materials required to meet any law implemented by, or any condition of a permit issued by, the Department of Environmental Protection that are purchased for the monitoring, prevention, abatement, or control of pollution or contaminants at privately owned or operated landfills or construction and demolition debris disposal facilities shall be exempt from taxation as otherwise imposed by this chapter; however, such exemption shall not be allowed unless the purchaser signs a certificate stating that the equipment, machinery, or materials to be exempted are required to meet such law or condition. This exemption does not include solid waste collection vehicles, compactors, graders, or other earthmoving equipment. For the purposes of this section, the term "specialty chemicals" means those

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chemicals used to enhance or further treat waste water including, but not limited to, defoamers, nutrients, and polymers, and the term "bioaugmentation products" means the micro-organisms used in waste treatment plants to break down solids and consume organic matter.

Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 212.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.06 Sales, storage, use tax; collectible from dealers; "dealer" defined; dealers to collect from purchasers; legislative intent as to scope of tax.--

(1)

(c)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b), the use tax on asphalt manufactured for one's own use shall be calculated with respect to paragraph (b) only upon the cost of materials which become a component part or which are an ingredient of the finished asphalt and upon the cost of the transportation of such components and ingredients. In addition, an indexed tax of 38 cents per ton of such manufactured asphalt shall be due at the same time and in the same manner as taxes due pursuant to paragraph (b). Beginning July 1, 1989, the indexed tax shall be adjusted each July 1 to an amount, rounded to the nearest cent, equal to the product of 38 cents multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the annual average of the "materials and components for construction" series of the producer price index, as calculated and published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, for the previous calendar year, and the denominator of which is the annual average of said series for calendar year 1988.

2. <u>Beginning July 1, 1999</u>, the indexed tax imposed by this paragraph on shall not apply to manufactured asphalt

which is used for any <u>federal</u>, state, or local government public works project <u>shall be reduced by 20 percent</u>. Beginning July 1, 1999, 20 percent of such amount is exempt.

Section 11. It is the intent of the Legislature that the amendment to section 212.06(1)(c), Florida Statutes, made by this act is remedial in nature and merely clarifies existing law.

Section 12. Effective July 1, 2000, paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraph (eee) of subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.--
- (c) Machinery and equipment used in production of electrical or steam energy.--
- 1. The purchase of machinery and equipment for use at a fixed location which machinery and equipment are necessary in the production of electrical or steam energy resulting from the burning of boiler fuels other than residual oil is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. Such electrical or steam energy must be primarily for use in manufacturing, processing, compounding, or producing for sale items of tangible personal property in this state. Use of a de minimis amount of residual fuel to facilitate the burning of nonresidual fuel shall not reduce the exemption otherwise available under this paragraph.

- 2. In facilities where machinery and equipment are necessary to burn both residual and nonresidual fuels, the exemption shall be prorated. Such proration shall be based upon the production of electrical or steam energy from nonresidual fuels as a percentage of electrical or steam energy from all fuels. If it is determined that 15 percent or less of all electrical or steam energy generated was produced by burning residual fuel, the full exemption shall apply. Purchasers claiming a partial exemption shall obtain such exemption by refund of taxes paid, or as otherwise provided in the department's rules.
- 3. The department may adopt rules that provide for implementation of this exemption. Purchasers of machinery and equipment qualifying for the exemption provided in this paragraph shall furnish the department with an affidavit stating that the item or items to be exempted are for the use designated herein. Any person furnishing a false affidavit to the vendor for the purpose of evading payment of any tax imposed under this chapter shall be subject to the penalty set forth in s. 212.085 and as otherwise provided by law. Purchasers with self-accrual authority shall maintain all documentation necessary to prove the exempt status of purchases.
 - (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.--
 - (eee) Certain repair and labor charges.--
- 1. Subject to the provisions of subparagraphs 2. and 3., there is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter all labor charges for the repair of, and parts and materials used in the repair of and incorporated into, industrial machinery and equipment that which is used for the manufacture, processing, compounding, or production, or production and

shipping of items of tangible personal property at a fixed location within this state.

- 2. This exemption applies only to industries classified under SIC Industry Major Group Numbers 10, 12, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35,36, 37, 38, and 39 and Industry Group Number 212. As used in this subparagraph, "SIC" means those classifications contained in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987, as published by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.
 - 3. This exemption shall be applied as follows:
- a. Beginning July 1, 1999, 25 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
- b. Beginning July 1, 2000, 50 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
- c. Beginning July 1, 2001, 75 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
- d. Beginning July 1, 2002, 100 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.

Exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection shall not inure to any transaction otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of such entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by such entity.

Section 13. The amendment to section 212.08(7)(eee)2., Florida Statutes, is remedial in nature and shall have the force and effect as if SIC Code 35 had been included from July 1, 1999.

Section 14. Effective July 1, 2000, subsections (3) and (5) of section 213.015, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

213.015 Taxpayer rights.--There is created a Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of Florida taxpayers are adequately safeguarded and protected during tax assessment, collection, and enforcement processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but comprehensive statements which explain, in simple, nontechnical terms, the rights and obligations of the Department of Revenue and taxpayers. The rights afforded taxpayers to assure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected during tax assessment and collection are available only insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so guaranteed Florida taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the departmental rules are:

or other qualified representatives at any time in administrative interactions with the department, the right to procedural safeguards with respect to recording of interviews during tax determination or collection processes conducted by the department, the right to be treated in a professional manner by the Department of Revenue personnel, and the right to have audits, inspections of records, and interviews conducted at a reasonable time and place except in criminal and internal investigations (see ss. 198.06, 199.218, 201.11(1), 203.02, 206.14, 211.125(3), 211.33(3), 212.0305(3), 212.12(5)(a), (6)(a), and (13), 212.13(5), 213.05, 213.21(1)(a) and (c), and 213.34).

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statements that which explain the reason for audit selection and the procedures, remedies, and rights available during audit, appeals, and collection proceedings, including, but not limited to, the rights pursuant to this Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and the right to be provided with a narrative description which explains the basis of audit changes, proposed assessments, assessments, and denials of refunds; identifies any amount of tax, interest, or penalty due; and states the consequences of the taxpayer's failure to comply with the notice.

Section 15. Effective July 1, 2000, subsections (2) and (3) of section 213.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

213.21 Informal conferences; compromises.--

(2)(a) The executive director of the department or his or her designee is authorized to enter into closing agreements with any taxpayer settling or compromising the taxpayer's liability for any tax, interest, or penalty assessed under any of the chapters specified in s. 72.011(1). Such agreements shall be in writing when the amount of tax, penalty, or interest compromised exceeds \$30,000 or for lesser amounts when the department deems it appropriate or when requested by the taxpayer. When a written closing agreement has been approved by the department and signed by the executive director or his or her designee and the taxpayer, it shall be final and conclusive; and, except upon a showing of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact or except as to adjustments pursuant to ss. 198.16 and 220.23, no additional assessment may be made by the department against the taxpayer for the tax, interest, or penalty specified in the closing agreement

for the time period specified in the closing agreement, and the taxpayer shall not be entitled to institute any judicial or administrative proceeding to recover any tax, interest, or penalty paid pursuant to the closing agreement. The department is authorized to delegate to the executive director the authority to approve any such closing agreement resulting in a tax reduction of \$250,000 or less.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), for the purpose of facilitating the settlement and distribution of an estate held by a personal representative, the executive director of the department may, on behalf of the state, agree upon the amount of taxes at any time due or to become due from such personal representative under the provisions of chapter 198; and payment in accordance with such agreement shall be full satisfaction of the taxes to which the agreement relates.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for the purpose of compromising the liability of any taxpayer for tax or interest on the grounds of doubt as to liability based on the taxpayer's reasonable reliance on a written determination issued by the department as described in paragraph (3)(b), the department may compromise the amount of such tax or interest liability resulting from such reasonable reliance.
- (3)(a) A taxpayer's liability for any tax or interest specified in s. 72.011(1) may be compromised by the department upon the grounds of doubt as to liability for or collectibility of such tax or interest. A taxpayer's liability for penalties under any of the chapters specified in s. 72.011(1) may be settled or compromised if it is determined by the department that the noncompliance is due to reasonable cause and not to willful negligence, willful neglect, or

fraud. A taxpayer who establishes reasonable reliance on the written advice issued by the department to the taxpayer will be deemed to have shown reasonable cause for the noncompliance. In addition, a taxpayer's liability for penalties under any of the chapters specified in s. 72.011(1) in excess of 25 percent of the tax shall be settled or compromised if the department determines that the noncompliance is due to reasonable cause and not to willful negligence, willful neglect, or fraud. The department shall maintain records of all compromises, and the records shall state the basis for the compromise. The records of compromise under this paragraph shall not be subject to disclosure pursuant to s. 119.07(1) and shall be considered confidential information governed by the provisions of s. 213.053.

- (b) Doubt as to liability of a taxpayer for tax and interest exists if the taxpayer demonstrates that he or she reasonably relied on a written determination of the department in the following circumstances:
- 1. The audit workpapers clearly show that the same issue was considered in a prior audit of the taxpayer conducted by or on behalf of the department and, after consideration of the issue, the department's auditor determined that no assessment was appropriate in regard to that issue.
- 2. The same issue was raised in a prior audit of the taxpayer and during the informal protest of the proposed assessment the department issued a notice of decision withdrawing the issue from the assessment.
- 3. The taxpayer received a technical assistance advisement pursuant to s. 213.22 in regard to the issue.

The circumstances listed in this paragraph are not intended to be the only circumstances in which doubt as to liability exists. Nothing contained in this section shall interfere with the state's ability to structure a remedy to cure a judicially determined constitutional defect in a tax law.

- (c) A taxpayer shall not be deemed to have reasonably relied on a written determination of the department under any of the following circumstances:
- 1. The taxpayer misrepresented material facts or did not fully disclose material facts at the time the written determination was issued.
- 2. The specific facts and circumstances have changed in such a material manner that the written determination no longer applies.
- 3. The statutes or regulations on which the determination was based have been materially revised or a published judicial opinion constituting precedent in the taxpayer's jurisdiction has overruled the department's determination on the issue.
- 4. The department has informed the taxpayer in writing that its previous written determination has been revised and should no longer be relied upon.
- (d)(b) A taxpayer's liability for the service fee required by s. 215.34(2) may be settled or compromised if it is determined that the dishonored check, draft, or order was returned due to an error committed by the issuing financial institution, and the error is substantiated by the department. The department shall maintain records of all compromises, and the records shall state the basis for the compromise.
- Section 16. The amendments to section 213.21(2) and (3), Florida Statutes, made by this act shall apply only to

notices of intent to conduct an audit issued on or after 2 October 1, 2000. Section 17. Subsection (6) of section 213.235, Florida 3 4 Statutes, is repealed. 5 Section 18. Subsection (9) is added to section 213.27, 6 Florida Statutes, to read: 7 213.27 Contracts with debt collection agencies and 8 certain vendors. --9 (9)(a) The department may enter into contracts with 10 public or private vendors to develop and implement a voluntary system for sales and use tax collection and administration. 11 12 The amount of compensation paid to vendors shall be 13 established by the executive director of the department and 14 shall be based upon a percentage of the sales and use tax 15 collections made through the system or on a per transaction basis; however, if the amount of compensation is based upon a 16 17 percentage of the sales and use tax collections made through 18 the system, the percentage shall not exceed the negotiated 19 percentage provided in s. 212.12(1). The department shall 20 provide quarterly reports to the Speaker of the House of 21 Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, and Minority Leader 22 23 of the Senate on the amount of compensation paid pursuant to these contracts. The system shall have the capability to 24 determine the taxability of a transaction, the appropriate tax 25 26 rate to be applied to a taxable transaction, and the total tax 27 due on a transaction, and shall provide a method for remitting the tax to the department. The department shall be responsible 28 29 for testing and certifying the accuracy of the system. (b) A seller of goods or services subject to sales and 30 31 use tax who utilizes the system for purposes of computation

and remittance of sales and use tax shall not be subject to the reporting and remittance requirements of ss. 212.11 and 212.15(1) for those transactions handled through the system and shall not be entitled to the credit provided in s. 212.12(1). A seller of goods or services subject to sales and use tax who utilizes the system for purposes of computation and remittance of sales and use tax shall not be subject to audit for those transactions handled through the system, unless there are indicia that fraud has been committed by the seller.

- (c) Disclosure of information necessary under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director of the department and the vendor. The vendor shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the department. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (d) On or before January 1 annually, the department shall provide recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, and Minority Leader of the Senate for provisions to be adopted for inclusion within the system that will make sales and use tax collection and administration simplified and uniform.

Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 220.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.62 Definitions.--For purposes of this part:

(2) The term "savings association" means <u>a savings</u> association holding company registered under the Homeowners' Loan Act (HOLA) of 1933, 12 U.S.C. 1467a, as amended, or any savings association, building and loan association, savings

and loan association, or mutual savings bank not having capital stock, whether subject to the laws of this or any other jurisdiction. Section 20. Section 1 of chapter 98-187, Laws of Florida, applies retroactively to the renewal of any promissory note evidencing a term obligation executed on or after January 1, 1990, for which the tax under section 201.09, Florida Statutes, has not been paid and which was the subject of a pending protest that was initiated prior to January 1, 1998. Section 21. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.