First Engrossed

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to financial settlements;
3	amending s. 626.9911, F.S.; revising
4	definitions; amending s. 626.9921, F.S.;
5	providing for approval of forms; amending s.
6	626.99235, F.S.; providing for applicability;
7	amending s. 626.99236, F.S.; requiring certain
8	purchases to be handled by an independent
9	third-party trustee; amending s. 626.9924,
10	F.S.; revising procedures for tracking the
11	insured; amending s. 626.99245, F.S.;
12	clarifying the application of licensing
13	requirements to viatical settlement providers;
14	specifying the purpose of the act; providing
15	definitions; providing requirements for the
16	direct or indirect transfer of
17	structured-settlement-payment rights; requiring
18	that any such transfer be approved by a court;
19	requiring that the court make certain findings
20	with respect to the transfer; authorizing an
21	interested party to file an objection to a
22	proposed transfer; providing requirements for
23	an order approving a transfer; requiring that
24	an obligor make certain disclosures to a
25	claimant in negotiating a settlement of claims;
26	requiring a transferee to provide certain
27	notice with respect to a proposed transfer of
28	structured-settlement-payment rights; providing
29	for penalties to be imposed for certain
30	violations of the act; authorizing an
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interested party to bring an action for 1 2 injunctive relief; providing an effective date. 3 4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 5 6 Section 1. Subsections (8), (9), (10), (14), and (15) 7 of section 626.9911, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 626.9911 Definitions.--As used in this act, the term: 8 9 (8) "Related provider trust" means a titling trust or other trust established by a licensed viatical settlement 10 11 provider or financing entity for the sole purpose of holding 12 the ownership or beneficial interest in purchased policies in 13 connection with a financing transaction entering into or 14 owning viatical settlement contracts. The trust must have a 15 written agreement with a licensed viatical settlement provider or financing entity under which the licensed viatical 16 17 settlement provider or financing entity is responsible for insuring compliance with all statutory and regulatory 18 19 requirements and under which the trust agrees to make all 20 records and files relating to viatical settlement transactions 21 available to the department as if those records and files were maintained directly by the licensed viatical settlement 22 23 provider. This term does not include an independent third-party trustee or escrow agent or a trust that does not 24 enter into agreements with a viator. A related provider trust 25 26 shall be subject to all provisions of this act that apply to the viatical settlement provider who established the related 27 provider trust, except s. 626.9912, which shall not be 28 29 applicable. A viatical settlement provider may establish no more than one related provider trust, and the sole trustee of 30 such related provider trust shall be the viatical settlement 31 2

provider licensed under s. 626.9912. The name of the licensed 1 viatical settlement provider shall be included within the name 2 3 of the related provider trust. 4 (9) "Viatical settlement purchase agreement" means a 5 contract or agreement, entered into by a viatical settlement purchaser, to which the viator is not a party, to purchase a 6 7 life insurance policy or an interest in a life insurance policy, which is entered into for the purpose of deriving an 8 9 economic benefit. The term also includes purchases made by 10 viatical settlement purchasers from any person other than the provider who effectuated the viatical settlement contract. 11 12 (10) "Viatical settlement purchaser" means a person 13 who gives a sum of money as consideration for a life insurance 14 policy or an equitable or legal interest in the death benefits 15 of a life insurance policy that has been or will be the subject of a viatical settlement contract, for the purpose of 16 17 deriving an economic benefit, including purchases made from any person other than the provider who effectuated the 18 19 viatical settlement contract or an entity affiliated with the 20 provider. The term does not include, other than a licensee under this part, an accredited investor as defined in Rule 21 22 501, Regulation D of the Securities Act Rules, or a qualified 23 institutional buyer as defined by Rule 144(a) of the Federal Securities Act, or a special purpose entity, a financing 24 entity, or a contingency insurer who gives a sum of money as 25 26 consideration for a life insurance policy or an equitable or legal interest in the death benefits of a life insurance 27 policy which has been or will be the subject of a viatical 28 29 settlement contract, for the purpose of deriving an economic benefit. The above references to Rule 501, Regulation D and 30 Rule 144(a) of the Federal Securities Act are used strictly 31 3

for defining purposes and shall not be interpreted in any 1 other manner. Any person who claims to be an accredited 2 3 investor shall sign an affidavit stating that he or she is an 4 accredited investor, the basis of that claim, and that he or 5 she understands that as an accredited investor he or she will not be entitled to certain protections of the Viatical Act. 6 7 This affidavit must be kept with other documents required to 8 be maintained by this act. 9 (14) "Special purpose entity" means an entity established by a licensed viatical settlement provider or by a 10 financing entity, which may be a corporation, partnership, 11 12 trust, limited liability company, or other similar entity formed solely to provide, either directly or indirectly, 13 14 access to act as a vehicle to permit a lender to the provider 15 to access institutional capital markets to a viatical settlement for the provider or financing entity. A special 16 17 purpose entity shall not enter into a viatical settlement 18 contract or a viatical settlement purchase agreement. 19 (15) "Financing entity" means an underwriter, 20 placement agent, lender, purchaser of securities, or purchaser 21 of a policy or certificate from a viatical settlement 22 provider, credit enhancer, or any entity person that may be a 23 party to a viatical settlement contract and that has direct ownership in a policy or certificate that is the subject of a 24 viatical settlement contract, but whose principal sole 25 26 activity related to the transaction is providing funds or credit enhancement to effect the viatical settlement or the 27 purchase of one or more viatical policies and who has an 28 29 agreement in writing with one or more licensed viatical settlement providers to finance the acquisition of viatical 30 settlement contracts a licensed viatical settlement provider 31 4

to act as a participant in a financing transaction. The term 1 does not include a nonaccredited investor, a viatical 2 3 settlement purchaser, or other natural person. A financing 4 entity may not enter into a viatical settlement contract. 5 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 626.9921, Florida 6 Statutes, is amended to read: 7 626.9921 Filing of forms; required procedures; 8 approval.--9 (1) A viatical settlement contract form, viatical settlement purchase agreement form, escrow form, or related 10 form may be used in this state only after the viatical 11 12 settlement provider or any related provider trust has filed the form has been filed with the department and only after the 13 14 form has been approved by the department. 15 Section 3. Subsection (3) is added to section 626.99235, Florida Statutes, to read: 16 626.99235 Disclosures to viatical settlement 17 18 purchasers; misrepresentations.--19 (3) The requirements of this section also apply to 20 purchases made from any person other than the provider who 21 effectuated the viatical settlement contract which are the subject of a viatical settlement purchase agreement. 22 23 Section 4. Section 626.99236, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 24 25 626.99236 Further disclosures to viatical settlement 26 purchasers.--27 (1) No later than 5 days prior to the assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of the death benefit or 28 29 ownership of all or a portion of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance to the purchaser, the viatical 30 settlement provider and the viatical settlement sales agent, 31 5

themselves itself or through another person, shall provide in 1 writing the following disclosures to any viatical settlement 2 3 purchaser: 4 (a) All the life expectancy certifications obtained by 5 the provider. 6 (b) The name and address of the insurance company, the 7 policy number, and the date of original issue of the 8 viaticated policy. 9 (c) The experience and qualifications of the person 10 issuing the life expectancy certification, and that person's relationship to the viatical settlement provider, the viatical 11 12 settlement broker, the viatical settlement sales agent, and 13 the viator. 14 (d) The name and address of any person providing 15 escrow services, and that person's relationship to the viatical settlement provider, the viatical settlement broker, 16 17 the viatical settlement sales agent, and the viator. 18 (e) The type of life insurance policy offered or sold, 19 including a statement as to whether the policy is whole life, term life, universal life, or a group policy certificate; a 20 statement as to whether the policy is in lapse status or has 21 22 lapsed in the last 2 years; and a statement as to whether the 23 purchaser is entitled to benefits contained in the policy other than the death benefit of the policy. 24 (f) The procedure to be used by the provider to 25 26 provide the status of the health condition of the insured to a 27 purchaser. 28 (2) The viatical settlement purchase agreement is 29 voidable by the purchaser at any time within 3 days after the disclosures mandated by this section are received by the 30 purchaser. 31 6

1	(3) At the time the disclosures in subsection (1) are
2	made, the viatical settlement purchaser shall be advised to
3	seek independent financial advice from a person not
4	compensated by the viatical settlement provider or viatical
5	settlement broker or the viatical settlement sales agent. The
6	viatical settlement purchaser shall sign an affidavit that he
7	or she has received the disclosures and understands their
8	importance.
9	(4) A viatical settlement purchase transaction, which
10	involves a purchase from any person other than the provider
11	who effectuated the viatical settlement contract that is the
12	subject of a viatical settlement purchase agreement, may be
13	completed only through the use of an independent third-party
14	trustee or escrow agent. All funds to be paid by the purchaser
15	must be deposited by the purchaser with the independent
16	third-party trustee or escrow agent. The independent
17	third-party trustee or escrow agent shall not release the
18	deposited funds to the seller until after the 3-day voidable
19	period established by subsection (2) has expired.
20	(5) The requirements of subsections (1) , (2) , and (3)
21	also apply to purchases made from any person other than the
22	provider who effectuated the viatical settlement contract that
23	are the subject of a viatical settlement purchase agreement.
24	Section 5. Subsection (10) is added to section
25	626.9924, Florida Statutes, to read:
26	626.9924 Viatical settlement contracts; procedures;
27	rescission
28	(10) The viatical settlement provider who effectuated
29	the viatical settlement contract with the viator (the "initial
30	provider") is responsible for tracking the insured, including
31	but not limited to, keeping track of the insured's whereabouts
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and health status, submission of death claims or assisting the 1 2 beneficiary in the submission of death claims, and the status 3 of the payment of premiums until the death of the insured. 4 This responsibility may be contracted out to a third party; 5 however, the ultimate responsibility remains with the initial provider. This responsibility continues with the initial б 7 provider, notwithstanding any transfers of the viaticated policy in the secondary market. This subsection applies only 8 9 to those viaticated policies that are or are to become the subject of viatical settlement purchase agreements. 10 Section 6. Subsection (3) is added to section 11 12 626.99245, Florida Statutes, to read: 626.99245 Conflict of regulation of viaticals .--13 14 (3) This section does not affect the requirement of 15 ss. 626.9911(6) and 626.9912(1) that a viatical settlement provider doing business from this state must obtain a viatical 16 17 settlement license from the department. As used in this subsection, the term "doing business from this state" includes 18 19 effectuating viatical settlement contracts and effectuating 20 viatical settlement purchase agreements from offices in this state, regardless of the state of residence of the viator or 21 22 the viatical settlement purchaser. 23 Section 7. Transfers of structured-settlement-payment 24 rights.--(1) PURPOSE. -- The purpose of this section is to 25 26 protect recipients of structured settlements who are involved 27 in the process of transferring structured-settlement-payment 28 rights. 29 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term: 30 31 8 CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 "Annuity issuer" means an insurer that has issued (a) 2 an annuity contract to be used to fund periodic payments under 3 a structured settlement. 4 (b) "Applicable law" means any of the following, as 5 applicable in interpreting the terms of a structured 6 settlement: 7 1. The laws of the United States; 8 2. The laws of this state, including principles of 9 equity applied in the courts of this state; and 10 3. The laws of any other jurisdiction: a. That is the domicile of the payee or any other 11 12 interested party; 13 b. Under whose laws a structured-settlement agreement 14 was approved by a court; or 15 c. In whose courts a settled claim was pending when 16 the parties entered into a structured-settlement agreement. 17 (c) "Applicable federal rate" means the most recently 18 published applicable rate for determining the present value of 19 an annuity, as issued by the United States Internal Revenue 20 Service pursuant to section 7520 of the United States Internal 21 Revenue Code, as amended. 22 (d) "Assignee" means any party that acquires 23 structured-settlement-payment rights directly or indirectly from a transferee of such rights. 24 25 (e) "Dependents" means a payee's spouse and minor 26 children and all other family members and other persons for 27 whom the payee is legally obligated to provide support, 28 including spousal maintenance. 29 (f) "Discount and finance charge" means the sum of all 30 charges that are payable directly or indirectly from assigned structured-settlement payments and imposed directly or 31 9

indirectly by the transferee and that are incident to a 1 2 transfer of structured-settlement-payment rights, including: 3 1. Interest charges, discounts, or other compensation 4 for the time value of money; 2. All application, origination, processing, 5 6 underwriting, closing, filing, and notary fees and all similar 7 charges, however denominated; and 8 3. All charges for commissions or brokerage, 9 regardless of the identity of the party to whom such charges are paid or payable. 10 11 12 The term does not include any fee or other obligation incurred by a payee in obtaining independent professional advice 13 14 concerning a transfer of structured-settlement-payment rights. 15 (g) "Discounted present value" means, with respect to a proposed transfer of structured-settlement-payment rights, 16 17 the fair present value of future payments, as determined by discounting the payments to the present using the most 18 19 recently published applicable federal rate as the discount 20 rate. 21 (h) "Independent professional advice" means advice of an attorney, certified public accountant, actuary, or other 22 23 licensed professional adviser: 1. Who is engaged by a payee to render advice 24 25 concerning the legal, tax, and financial implications of a 26 transfer of structured-settlement-payment rights; 27 2. Who is not in any manner affiliated with or compensated by the transferee of the transfer; and 28 29 3. Whose compensation for providing the advice is not 30 affected by whether a transfer occurs or does not occur. (i) "Interested parties" means: 31 10

1	1. The payee;
2	2. Any beneficiary irrevocably designated under the
3	annuity contract to receive payments following the payee's
4	death or, if such designated beneficiary is a minor, the
5	designated beneficiary's parent or guardian;
6	3. The annuity issuer;
7	4. The structured-settlement obligor; or
8	5. Any other party who has continuing rights or
9	obligations under the structured settlement.
10	(j) "Payee" means an individual who is receiving
11	tax-free damage payments under a structured settlement and
12	proposes to make a transfer of payment rights under the
13	structured settlement.
14	(k) "Qualified-assignment agreement" means an
15	agreement providing for a qualified assignment, as authorized
16	by Title 26, section 130 of the United States Internal Revenue
17	Code, as amended.
18	(1) "Settled claim" means the original tort claim
19	resolved by a structured settlement.
20	(m) "Structured settlement" means an arrangement for
21	periodic payment of damages for personal injuries established
22	by settlement or judgment in resolution of a tort claim.
23	(n) "Structured-settlement agreement" means the
24	agreement, judgment, stipulation, or release embodying the
25	terms of a structured settlement, including the rights of the
26	payee to receive periodic payments.
27	(o) "Structured-settlement obligor" means the party
28	who is obligated to make continuing periodic payments to the
29	payee under a structured-settlement agreement or a
30	qualified-assignment agreement.
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1	(p) "Structured-settlement-payment rights" means
2	rights to receive periodic payments, including lump-sum
3	payments under a structured settlement, whether from the
4	structured-settlement obligor or the annuity issuer, if:
5	1. The payee or any other interested party is
6	domiciled in this state;
7	2. The structured settlement agreement was approved by
8	a court of this state; or
9	3. The settled claim was pending before the courts of
10	this state when the parties entered into the
11	structured-settlement agreement.
12	(q) "Terms of the structured settlement" means the
13	terms of the structured-settlement agreement; the annuity
14	contract; a qualified-assignment agreement; or an order or
15	approval of a court or other government authority authorizing
16	or approving the structured settlement.
17	(r) "Transfer" means a sale, assignment, pledge,
18	hypothecation, or other form of alienation or encumbrance made
19	by a payee for consideration.
20	(s) "Transfer agreement" means the agreement providing
21	for transfer of structured-settlement-payment rights from a
22	payee to a transferee.
23	(t) "Transferee" means a person who is receiving or
24	who will receive structured-settlement-payment rights
25	resulting from a transfer.
26	(3) CONDITIONS TO TRANSFERS OF
27	STRUCTURED-SETTLEMENT-PAYMENT RIGHTS AND STRUCTURED-SETTLEMENT
28	AGREEMENTS
29	(a) A direct or indirect transfer of
30	structured-settlement-payment rights is not effective and a
31	structured-settlement obligor or annuity issuer is not
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required to make a payment directly or indirectly to a 1 2 transferee of structured-settlement-payment rights unless the 3 transfer is authorized in advance in a final order by a court 4 of competent jurisdiction which is based on the written 5 express findings by the court that: 6 1. The transfer complies with this section and does 7 not contravene other applicable law; 8 2. At least 10 days before the date on which the payee 9 first incurred an obligation with respect to the transfer, the transferee provided to the payee a disclosure statement in 10 bold type, no smaller than 14 points in size, which specifies: 11 12 a. The amounts and due dates of the 13 structured-settlement payments to be transferred; 14 b. The aggregate amount of the payments; 15 c. The discounted present value of the payments, 16 together with the discount rate used in determining the 17 discounted present value; 18 d. The gross amount payable to the payee in exchange 19 for the payments; 20 e. An itemized listing of all brokers' commissions, service charges, application fees, processing fees, closing 21 costs, filing fees, referral fees, administrative fees, legal 22 23 fees, and notary fees and other commissions, fees, costs, 24 expenses, and charges payable by the payee or deductible from the gross amount otherwise payable to the payee; 25 26 f. The net amount payable to the payee after deducting all commissions, fees, costs, expenses, and charges described 27 28 in sub-subparagraph e.; 29 g. The quotient, expressed as a percentage, obtained by dividing the net payment amount by the discounted present 30 value of the payments, which must be disclosed in the 31 13

following statement: "The net amount that you will receive 1 2 from us in exchange for your future structured-settlement 3 payments represent ___ percent of the estimated current value 4 of the payments based upon the discounted value using the 5 applicable federal rate"; 6 h. The effective annual interest rate, which must be 7 disclosed in the following statement: "Based on the net amount that you will receive from us and the amounts and timing of 8 9 the structured-settlement payments that you are turning over to us, you will, in effect, be paying interest to us at a rate 10 of ____ percent per year"; and 11 12 i. The amount of any penalty and the aggregate amount of any liquidated damages, including penalties, payable by the 13 14 payee in the event of a breach of the transfer agreement by 15 the payee; 3. The payee has established that the transfer is in 16 17 the best interests of the payee, taking into account the welfare and support of the payee's dependents; 18 19 4. The payee has received, or waived his or her right 20 to receive, independent professional advice regarding the 21 legal, tax, and financial implications of the transfer; 5. The transferee has given written notice of the 22 23 transferee's name, address, and taxpayer identification number to the annuity issuer and the structured-settlement obligor 24 and has filed a copy of the notice with the court; 25 26 6. The transfer agreement provides that if the payee is domiciled in this state, any disputes between the parties 27 will be governed in accordance with the laws of this state and 28 29 that the domicile state of the payee is the proper venue to bring any cause of action arising out of a breach of the 30 31 agreement; and 14

1	7. The court has determined that the net amount
2	payable to the payee is fair, just, and reasonable under the
3	circumstances then existing.
4	(b) If a proposed transfer would contravene the terms
5	of the structured settlement, upon the filing of a written
6	objection by any interested party and after considering the
7	objection and any response to it, the court may grant, deny,
8	or impose conditions upon the proposed transfer which the
9	court deems just and proper given the facts and circumstances
10	and in accordance with established principles of law. Any
11	order approving a transfer must require that the transferee
12	indemnify the annuity issuer and the structured-settlement
13	obligor for any liability, including reasonable costs and
14	attorney's fees, which arises from compliance by the issuer or
15	obligor with the order of the court.
16	(c) Any provision in a transfer agreement which gives
17	a transferee power to confess judgment against a payee is
18	unenforceable to the extent that the amount of the judgment
19	would exceed the amount paid by the transferee to the payee,
20	less any payments received from the structured-settlement
21	obligor or payee.
22	(d) In negotiating a structured settlement of claims
23	brought by or on behalf of a claimant who is domiciled in this
24	state, the structured-settlement obligor must disclose in
25	writing to the claimant or the claimant's legal representative
26	all of the following information that is not otherwise
27	specified in the structured-settlement agreement:
28	1. The amounts and due dates of the periodic payments
29	to be made under the structured-settlement agreement. In the
30	case of payments that will be subject to periodic percentage
31	increases, the amounts of future payments may be disclosed by
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identifying the base payment amount, the amount and timing of 1 scheduled increases, and the manner in which increases will be 2 3 compounded; 4 2. The amount of the premium payable to the annuity 5 issuer; 6 3. The discounted present value of all periodic 7 payments that are not life-contingent, together with the 8 discount rate used in determining the discounted present 9 value; 4. The nature and amount of any costs that may be 10 deducted from any of the periodic payments; 11 12 5. Where applicable, that any transfer of the periodic 13 payments is prohibited by the terms of the structured 14 settlement and may otherwise be prohibited or restricted under 15 applicable law; and That any transfer of the periodic payments by the 16 6. 17 claimant may subject the claimant to serious adverse tax 18 consequences. 19 (4) JURISDICTION; PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF 20 TRANSFERS. -- At least 20 days before the scheduled hearing on 21 an application for authorizing a transfer of 22 structured-settlement-payment rights under this section, the 23 transferee must file with the court and all interested parties a notice of the proposed transfer and the application for its 24 25 authorization. The notice must include: 26 (a) A copy of the transferee's application to the 27 court; 28 (b) A copy of the transfer agreement; 29 (c) A copy of the disclosure statement required under 30 subsection (3); 31 16

1	(d) Notification that an interested party may support,
2	oppose, or otherwise respond to the transferee's application,
3	in person or by counsel, by submitting written comments to the
4	court or by participating in the hearing; and
5	(e) Notification of the time and place of the hearing
6	and notification of the manner in which and the time by which
7	any written response to the application must be filed in order
8	to be considered by the court. A written response to an
9	application must be filed within 15 days after service of the
10	transferee's notice.
11	(5) WAIVER PROHIBITED; NO PENALTIES INCURRED
12	(a) The provisions of this section may not be waived.
13	(b) If a transfer of structured-settlement-payment
14	rights fails to satisfy the conditions of subsection (3), the
15	payee who proposed the transfer does not incur any penalty,
16	forfeit any application fee or other payment, or otherwise
17	incur any liability to the proposed transferee.
18	(6) NONCOMPLIANCE
19	(a) If a transferee violates the requirements for
20	stipulating the discount and finance charge provided for in
21	subsection (3), neither the transferee nor any assignee may
22	collect from the transferred payments, or from the payee, any
23	amount in excess of the net advance amount, and the payee may
24	recover from the transferee or any assignee:
25	1. A refund of any excess amounts previously received
26	by the transferee or any assignee;
27	2. A penalty in an amount determined by the court, but
28	not in excess of three times the aggregate amount of the
29	discount and finance charge; and
30	3. Reasonable costs and attorney's fees.
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(b) If the transferee violates the disclosure 1 requirements in subsection (3), the transferee and any 2 3 assignee are liable to the payee for: 1. A penalty in an amount determined by the court, but 4 5 not in excess of three times the amount of the discount and 6 finance charge; and 7 2. Reasonable costs and attorney's fees. 8 (c) A transferee or assignee is not liable for any 9 penalty in any action brought under this section if the transferee or assignee establishes by a preponderance of 10 evidence that the violation was not intentional and resulted 11 12 from a bona fide error, notwithstanding the transferee's 13 maintenance of procedures reasonably designed to avoid such 14 errors. 15 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, an action may not 16 be brought under this section more than 1 year after the due 17 date of: 18 1. The last transferred structured-settlement payment, 19 in the case of a violation of the requirements for stipulating 20 the discount and finance charge provided for in subsection 21 (3). 2. The first transferred structured-settlement 22 23 payment, in the case of a violation of the disclosure requirements of subsection (3). 24 (e) When any interested party has reason to believe 25 26 that any transferee has violated this section, any interested 27 party may bring a civil action for injunctive relief, 28 penalties, and any other relief that is appropriate to secure 29 compliance with this section. Section 8. This act shall take effect October 1, 2001. 30 31 18 CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.