A bill to be entitled

An act relating to local government

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An act relating to local government accountability; amending s. 11.40, F.S.; revising duties of the Legislative Auditing Committee; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; revising reporting requirements of the Auditor General; amending s. 75.05, F.S.; deleting a requirement for an independent special district to submit a copy of a complaint to the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration; amending s. 112.625, F.S.; revising the definition of "governmental entity" to include counties and district school boards; amending s. 112.63, F.S.; providing for additional information to be provided to the Department of Management Services in actuarial reports with regard to retirement systems and plans and providing procedures therefor; providing for notification of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance, or the Chief Financial Officer on or after January 1, 2003, in cases of noncompliance and authorizing the withholding of certain funds; requiring the Department of Management Services to notify the Department of Community Affairs in the case of affected special districts; amending s. 130.04, F.S.; revising provisions governing notice of bids and disposition of bonds; amending s. 132.02, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the authorization to issue refund bonds; amending s. 132.09, F.S.; revising provisions

relating to the notice of sale, bids, and awards and private sale of bonds; amending s. 163.05, F.S.; revising provisions governing the Small County Technical Assistance Program; amending s. 166.121, F.S.; revising provisions governing the issuance of bonds by a municipality; amending s. 166.241, F.S.; providing a municipal budget amendment process and requirements; amending s. 189.4044, F.S.; revising special procedures for determination of inactive special districts; amending s. 189.412, F.S.; revising duties of the Special District Information Program of the Department of Community Affairs; amending s. 189.418, F.S.; revising reporting requirements of newly created special districts; authorizing the governing body of a special district to amend its budget; amending s. 189.419, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the failure of special districts to file required reports; amending s. 189.421, F.S.; revising provisions governing the failure of special districts to disclose financial reports; providing for extension of time for the filing of said reports; providing remedies for noncompliance; providing for attorney's fees and costs; amending s. 189.428, F.S.; revising provisions governing the special district oversight review process; amending s. 189.439, F.S.; revising provisions governing the issuance of bonds by special districts; amending s. 215.981, F.S.; exempting state

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1 agency direct-support organizations and citizen 2 support organizations meeting specified expense 3 levels from audit requirements; amending s. 4 218.075, F.S.; revising provisions governing 5 the reduction or waiver of permit processing 6 fees for certain counties; amending s. 218.32, 7 F.S., relating to annual financial reports; requiring the Department of Banking and Finance 8 9 to notify the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate 10 of any municipality that has not had financial 11 12 activity for a specified period of time; providing that such notice is sufficient to 13 14 initiate dissolution procedures; amending s. 15 218.36, F.S.; revising reporting requirements for boards of county commissioners relating to 16 17 the failure of a county officer to comply with the provisions of the section; amending s. 18 19 218.369, F.S.; revising the definition of "unit of local government" to include district school 20 boards; renaming pt. V of ch. 218, F.S., as 21 "Local Governmental Entity and District School 22 23 Board Financial Emergencies"; amending s. 218.50, F.S.; renaming ss. 218.50-218.504, 24 F.S., as the "Local Governmental Entity and 25 26 District School Board Act"; amending s. 27 218.501, F.S.; revising the stated purposes of 28 pt. V of ch. 218, F.S.; amending s. 218.502, 29 F.S.; revising the definition of "local governmental entity"; amending s. 218.503, 30 F.S.; revising provisions governing the 31

determination of financial emergency for local governments and district school boards; amending s. 218.504, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the authority of the Governor and authorizing the Commissioner of Education to terminate all state actions pursuant to ss. 218.50-218.504, F.S.; amending s. 236.43, F.S.; revising provisions governing receipt of bids and sale of bonds; amending ss. 237.40, 240.299, and 240.331, F.S.; exempting district school board direct-support organizations and citizen support organizations meeting specified expense levels from audit requirements; repealing ch. 131, F.S., consisting of ss. 131.01, 131.02, 131.03, 131.04, 131.05, and 131.06, F.S., relating to refunding bonds of counties, municipalities, and special districts; repealing s. 132.10, F.S., relating to minimum sale price of bonds; repealing s. 165.052, F.S., relating to special dissolution procedures for municipalities; repealing s. 189.409, F.S., relating to determination of financial emergencies of special districts; repealing s. 189.422, F.S., relating to actions of the Department of Community Affairs and special districts; repealing s. 200.0684, F.S., relating to an annual compliance report of the Department of Community Affairs regarding special districts; repealing s. 218.37(1)(h), F.S., relating to the requirement that the Division of Bond Finance use a served copy of

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the complaint for bond validation to verify compliance by special districts with the requirements in s. 218.38, F.S.; amending s. 215.195, F.S.; providing responsibilities of the Comptroller, or the Chief Financial Officer effective January 1, 2003, with regard to preparation of the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan and the monitoring of compliance therewith; amending s. 215.97, F.S.; revising and adding definitions relating to the Florida Single Audit Act; revising duties of the Executive Office of the Governor and the Comptroller, or the Chief Financial Officer effective January 1, 2003, relating to the Florida Single Audit Act; providing duties of state agencies; requiring state agencies to review the audit report of state financial award recipients; revising duties of the Auditor General relating to the Florida Single Audit Act; transferring a position from the Executive Office of the Governor to the Comptroller; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (5) of section 11.40, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

28 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.--

(5) Following notification by the Auditor General, the Department of Banking and Finance, or the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration of the failure of

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

a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), or s. 218.38, the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, the committee shall determine if the entity should be subject to further state action. If the committee determines that the entity should be subject to further state action, the committee shall:

- district school board, direct request the Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance to withhold any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction which are payable to such entity until the entity complies with the law. The committee, in its request, shall specify the date such action shall begin, and the request must be received by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance 30 days before the date of the distribution mandated by law. The Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance are authorized to implement the provisions of this paragraph.
- (b) In the case of a special district, notify the Department of Community Affairs that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Community Affairs shall proceed pursuant to the provisions specified in s.ss.189.421 and 189.422.

Section 2. Subsection (5), paragraph (e) of subsection (7), and subsection (8) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.--

(5) PETITION FOR AN AUDIT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL. -- The Legislative Auditing Committee shall direct the Auditor General to make an a financial audit of any municipality whenever petitioned to do so by at least 20 percent of the electors of that municipality. The supervisor of elections of the county in which the municipality is located shall certify whether or not the petition contains the signatures of at least 20 percent of the electors of the municipality. After the completion of the audit, the Auditor General shall determine whether the municipality has the fiscal resources necessary to pay the cost of the audit. The municipality shall pay the cost of the audit within 90 days after the Auditor General's determination that the municipality has the available resources. If the municipality fails to pay the cost of the audit, the Department of Revenue shall, upon certification of the Auditor General, withhold from that portion of the distribution pursuant to s. 212.20(6)(e)6. which is distributable to such municipality, a sum sufficient to pay the cost of the audit and shall deposit that sum into the General Revenue Fund of the state.

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- (7) AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. --
- the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, and the Legislative Auditing Committee of any audit report reviewed by the Auditor General pursuant to paragraph (b) that which contains a statement that a the local governmental entity or district school board has met one or more of the conditions specified is in a state of financial emergency as provided in s. 218.503. If the Auditor General requests a clarification regarding information included in an audit report to determine whether a local governmental entity or district school board

has met one or more of the conditions specified in s. 218.503 is in a state of financial emergency, the requested clarification must be provided within 45 days after the date of the request. If the local governmental entity or district school board does not comply with the Auditor General's request, the Auditor General shall notify the Legislative Auditing Committee. If, after obtaining the requested clarification, the Auditor General determines that the local governmental entity or district school board has met one or more of the conditions specified in s. 218.503 is in a state of financial emergency, he or she shall notify the Governor or the Commissioner of Education and the Legislative Auditing Committee.

(8) RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.--The Auditor General, in consultation with the Board of Accountancy, shall adopt rules for the form and conduct of all financial audits performed by independent certified public accountants pursuant to ss. 215.981, 218.39, 237.40, 240.299, and 240.331. The rules for audits of local governmental entities and district school boards must include, but are not limited to, requirements for the reporting of information necessary to carry out the purposes of the Local Governmental Entity and District School Board Government Financial Emergencies Act as stated in s. 218.501.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 75.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

75.05 Order and service.--

(3) In the case of independent special districts as defined in s. 218.31(7), a copy of the complaint shall be served on the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,

whether a general law or special act, validation of bonds to be issued by a special district, other than a community development district established pursuant to chapter 190, as provided in s. 190.016(12), is not mandatory, but is at the option of the issuer. However, the validation of bonds issued by such community development districts shall not be required on refunding issues.

Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 112.625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.625 Definitions.--As used in this act:

(5) "Governmental entity" means the state, for the Florida Retirement System, and the <u>county</u>, municipality, or special district, or <u>district school board</u> which is the employer of the member of a local retirement system or plan.

Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 112.63, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.63 Actuarial reports and statements of actuarial impact; review.--

(4) Upon receipt, pursuant to subsection (2), of an actuarial report, or upon receipt, pursuant to subsection (3), of a statement of actuarial impact, the Department of Management Services shall acknowledge such receipt, but shall only review and comment on each retirement system's or plan's actuarial valuations at least on a triennial basis. If the department finds that the actuarial valuation is not complete, accurate, or based on reasonable assumptions or otherwise fails to satisfy the requirements of this part, the department requires additional information necessary to complete its review of the actuarial valuation of a system or plan or information necessary to satisfy the duties of the department pursuant to s. 112.665(1), or if the department does not

receive the actuarial report or statement of actuarial impact, 2 the department shall notify the administrator of the affected retirement system or plan and the affected governmental entity 3 4 local government and request appropriate adjustment, the 5 additional information, or the required report or statement. 6 The notification shall inform the administrator of the 7 affected retirement system or plan and the affected 8 governmental entity of the consequences for failure to comply 9 with the requirements of this subsection. If, after a 10 reasonable period of time, a satisfactory adjustment is not made or the report, statement, or additional information is 11 12 not provided, the department may notify the Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance of such 13 14 noncompliance, in which case the Department of Revenue and the 15 Department of Banking and Finance shall withhold any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction that are payable to 16 17 the affected governmental entity until the adjustment is made or the report, statement, or additional information is 18 19 provided to the department. The department shall specify the 20 date such action is to begin and notification by the department must be received by the Department of Revenue, the 21 Department of Banking and Finance, and the affected 22 23 governmental entity 30 days before the date the action is to 24 begin. (a) Within 21 days after receipt of the notice, the 25 26 affected governmental entity local government or the 27 department may petition for a hearing under the provisions of ss. 120.569 and 120.57 with the Department of Management 28 29 Services. The Department of Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance shall not be parties to any such hearing 30 but may request to intervene if requested by the Department of 31

Management Services or if either the Department of Revenue or 2 the Department of Banking and Finance determines its interests 3 may be adversely affected by the hearing. If the 4 administrative law judge recommends in favor of the 5 department, the department shall perform an actuarial review, 6 or prepare the statement of actuarial impact, or collect the 7 requested information. The cost to the department of 8 performing such actuarial review, or preparing such statement, 9 or collecting the requested information shall be charged to the affected governmental entity of which the employees are 10 11 covered by the retirement system or plan. If payment of such costs is not received by the department within 60 days after 12 receipt by the affected governmental entity of the request for 13 14 payment, the department shall certify to the Department of 15 Revenue and the Department of Banking and Finance Comptroller 16 the amount due, and the Department of Revenue and the 17 Department of Banking and Finance Comptroller shall pay such amount to the Department of Management Services from any funds 18 19 not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction that are 20 payable to the affected governmental entity of which the 21 employees are covered by the retirement system or plan. If the 22 administrative law judge recommends in favor of the affected governmental entity local retirement system and the department 23 performs an actuarial review, prepares the statement of 24 25 actuarial impact, or collects the requested information, the 26 cost to the department of performing the actuarial review, preparing the statement, or collecting the requested 27 28 information shall be paid by the Department of Management 29 Services. 30 (b) In the case of an affected special district, the Department of Management Services shall also notify the 31

Department of Community Affairs. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Community Affairs shall proceed pursuant to the provisions of s. 189.421 with regard to the special district.

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Section 6. Effective January 1, 2003, subsection (4) of section 112.63, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, is amended to read:

112.63 Actuarial reports and statements of actuarial impact; review.--

(4) Upon receipt, pursuant to subsection (2), of an actuarial report, or upon receipt, pursuant to subsection (3), of a statement of actuarial impact, the Department of Management Services shall acknowledge such receipt, but shall only review and comment on each retirement system's or plan's actuarial valuations at least on a triennial basis. department finds that the actuarial valuation is not complete, accurate, or based on reasonable assumptions or otherwise fails to satisfy the requirements of this part, the department requires additional information necessary to complete its review of the actuarial valuation of a system or plan or information necessary to satisfy the duties of the department pursuant to s. 112.665(1), or the department does not receive the actuarial report or statement of actuarial impact, the department shall notify the administrator of the affected retirement system or plan and the affected governmental entity and request appropriate adjustment, the additional information, or the required report or statement. The notification shall inform the administrator of the affected retirement system or plan and the affected governmental entity of the consequences for failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection. If, after a reasonable period of time, a satisfactory adjustment is not made or the report, statement, or additional information is not provided, the department may notify the Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance of such noncompliance, in which case the Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance shall withhold any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction that are payable to the affected governmental entity until the adjustment is made or the report, statement, or additional information is provided to the department. The department shall specify the date such action is to begin and notification by the department must be received by the Department of Revenue, the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance, and the affected governmental entity 30 days before the date the action is to begin.

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(a) Within 21 days after receipt of the notice, the affected governmental entity may petition for a hearing under the provisions of ss. 120.569 and 120.57 with the Department of Management Services. The Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance shall not be parties to any such hearing but may request to intervene if requested by the Department of Management Services or if either the Department of Revenue or the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance determines the respective its interests of either may be adversely affected by the hearing. If the administrative law judge recommends in favor of the department, the department shall perform an actuarial review, prepare the statement of actuarial impact, or collect the requested information. The cost to the department of performing such actuarial review, preparing such statement, or collecting the requested

information shall be charged to the affected governmental entity of which the employees are covered by the retirement system or plan. If payment of such costs is not received by the department within 60 days after receipt by the affected governmental entity of the request for payment, the department shall certify to the Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance the amount due, and the Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer Department of Banking and Finance shall pay such amount to the Department of Management Services from any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction that are payable to the affected governmental entity of which the employees are covered by the retirement system or plan. If the 14 administrative law judge recommends in favor of the affected governmental entity and the department performs an actuarial review, prepares the statement of actuarial impact, or collects the requested information, the cost to the department of performing the actuarial review, preparing the statement, or collecting the requested information shall be paid by the Department of Management Services. 20

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(b) In the case of an affected special district, the Department of Management Services shall also notify the Department of Community Affairs. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Community Affairs shall proceed pursuant to the provisions of s. 189.421 with regard to the special district.

Section 7. Section 130.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

130.04 Sale Notice for bids and disposition of bonds. -- In case the issuing of bonds shall be authorized by the result of such election, the county commissioners shall

sell the bonds in the manner provided in s. 218.385. cause notice to be given by publication in a newspaper published in the county, or in some newspaper published in the same judicial circuit, if there be none published in the county, that they will receive bids for the purchase of county bonds at the clerk's office, on a date not less than 10 days nor more than 60 days from the first publication of such notice. The notice shall specify the amount of bonds offered for sale, the rate of interest, and the time when principal and installments of interest shall be due and payable. Any and all bids shall be rejected if the commissioners shall deem it to the best interest for the county so to do, and they may cause a new notice to be given in like manner inviting other bids for said bonds; provided, that when the rate of interest on said bonds exceeds 5 percent per annum, said bonds shall not be sold for less than 95 cents on the dollar, but when any bonds have heretofore been provided for by election, and the rate of interest is 5 percent per annum, or less, that in such cases the county commissioners may accept less than 95 cents upon the dollar, in the sale of said bonds, or for any portion of said bonds not already sold; provided, however, no bonds shall be sold for less than 90 cents on the dollar.

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Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 132.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

132.02 Taxing units may refund obligations.--

(1) Each county, <u>municipality</u>, <u>city</u>, town, <u>special</u> road and bridge district, <u>special tax</u> school district, <u>or</u> and other taxing <u>district</u> districts in this state, herein sometimes called a unit, may issue, pursuant to a resolution or resolutions of the governing body thereof (meaning thereby the board or body vested with the power of determining the

amount of tax levies required for taxing the taxable property of such unit for the purpose of such unit) and either with or without the approval of such bonds at an election, except as may be required by the Constitution of the state, bonds of such unit for the purpose of refunding any or all bonds, coupons, or interest on any such bonds, or coupons or paving certificates of indebtedness or interest on any such paving certificates of indebtedness, now or hereafter outstanding, or any other funded debt, all of which are herein referred to as bonds, whether such unit created such indebtedness or has assumed, or may become liable therefor, and whether indebtedness to be refunded has matured or to thereafter become matured.

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Section 9. Section 132.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

132.09 Sale of bonds Notice of sale; bids and award; private sale. -- When sold, the refunding bonds (except as otherwise expressly provided) shall be sold in the manner provided in s. 218.385. pursuant to the terms of a notice of sale which shall be published at least twice. The first publication to be not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the sale and to be published in a newspaper published in the unit, or if no newspaper is published in the unit, then in a newspaper published in the county, or if no newspaper is published in the county, then in a newspaper published in Tallahassee, and in the discretion of the governing body of the unit may be published in a financial newspaper in the City of New York. Such notices shall state the time and place and when and where sealed bids will be received, shall state the amount of bonds, their dates, maturities, denominations and interest rate or rates (which may be a maximum rate), interest

payment dates, an outline of the terms, if any, on which they are redeemable or become payable before maturity, the amount which must be deposited with the bid to secure its performance if accepted, and such other pertinent information as the governing body of the unit may determine. The notice of sale may require the bidders to fix the interest rate or rates that the bonds are to bear subject to the terms of the notice and the maximum rate permitted by this chapter. The award of the bonds shall be made by the governing body of the unit to the bidder making the most advantageous bid which shall be determined by the governing body in its absolute and uncontrolled discretion. The right to reject all bids shall be reserved to the governing body of the unit. If no bids are received at such public sale, or if all bids are rejected, the bonds may be sold without notice at private sale at any time within one year thereafter, but such bonds shall not be sold at private sale on terms less favorable to the unit than were contained in the best bid at the prior public sale.

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 163.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 163.05 Small County Technical Assistance Program. --
- (2) Recognizing the findings in subsection (1), the Legislature declares that:
- (a) The <u>financial difficulties</u> <u>fiscal emergencies</u> confronting small counties require an investment that will facilitate efforts to improve the productivity and efficiency of small counties' structures and operating procedures.

Section 11. Subsection (2) of section 166.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.121 Issuance of bonds.--

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(2) The governing body of a municipality shall determine the terms and manner of sale and distribution or other disposition of any and all bonds it may issue, consistent with the provisions of s. 218.385, and shall have any and all powers necessary or convenient to such disposition.

Section 12. Section 166.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.241 Fiscal years, financial reports, appropriations, and budgets, and budget amendments.--

(1) Each municipality shall report its finances annually as provided by general law.

 $\underline{(1)}$ Each municipality shall make provision for establishing a fiscal year beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the following year.

(2)(3) The governing body of each municipality shall adopt a budget each fiscal year. The budget must be adopted by ordinance unless otherwise specified in the respective municipality's charter, except that municipalities required to establish millage pursuant to chapter 200 shall adopt the budget by resolution or ordinance in the manner specified in s. 200.065(2). The amount available from taxation and other sources, including amounts carried over from prior fiscal years, must equal the total appropriations for expenditures and reserves. The budget must regulate expenditures of the municipality, and it is unlawful for any officer of a municipal government to expend or contract for expenditures in any fiscal year except in pursuance of budgeted appropriations.

(3) The governing body of each municipality at any time within a fiscal year or within up to 60 days following

the end of the fiscal year may amend a budget for that year as follows:

- (a) Appropriations for expenditures within a fund may be decreased or increased by motion recorded in the minutes, provided that the total of the appropriations of the fund is not changed.
- (b) The governing body may establish procedures by which the designated budget officer may authorize certain budget amendments within a department, provided that the total of the appropriations of the department is not changed.
- (c) If a budget amendment is required for a purpose not specifically authorized in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), the budget amendment must be adopted in the same manner as the original budget unless otherwise specified in the charter of the respective municipality.

Section 13. Section 189.4044, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.4044 Special procedures for inactive districts.--

- (1) The department shall declare inactive any special district in this state by documenting the following filing a report with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate which shows that such special district is no longer active. The inactive status of the special district must be based upon a finding:
- (a) That The special district meets one of the following criteria:
- 1. The registered agent of the district, the chair of the governing body of the district, or the governing body of the appropriate local general-purpose government notifies the department in writing that the district has taken no action for 2 or more calendar years;

2. Following an inquiry from the department, the registered agent of the district, the chair of the governing body of the district, or the governing body of the appropriate local general-purpose government notifies the department in writing that the district has not had a governing board or a sufficient number of governing board members to constitute a quorum for 2 or more years or the registered agent of the district, the chair of the governing body of the district, or the governing body of the appropriate local general-purpose government fails to respond to the department's inquiry within 21 days; or 18 or more months;

- 3. The <u>department determines</u>, <u>pursuant to s. 189.421</u>, <u>that the</u> district has failed to file or make a good faith effort to file any of the reports listed in s. 189.419.; or
- 4. The district has failed, for 2 consecutive fiscal years, to pay fees assessed by the Special District Information Program pursuant to this chapter.
- general-purpose government published That a notice of the proposed declaration of inactive status has been published once a week for 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in within the county or municipality in which wherein the territory of the special district is located and sent a copy of such notice by certified mail to the registered agent or chair of the board, if any. Such notice shall include, stating the name of said special district, the law under which it was organized and operating, a general description of the territory included in said special district, and a statement stating that any objections must be filed pursuant to chapter 120 within 21 days after the publication date to the proposed declaration or to any claims against the assets of said

special district shall be filed not later than 60 days following the date of last publication with the department; and

- (c) <u>Twenty-one</u> That 60 days have elapsed from the <u>last</u> publication date of the notice of proposed declaration <u>of</u> <u>inactive status</u> and no <u>administrative appeals were</u> <u>sustained</u> <u>objections have been</u> filed.
- (2) If any special district is declared inactive pursuant to this section, the property or assets of the special district are subject to legal process for payment of any debts of the district. After the payment of all the debts of said inactive special district, the remainder of its property or assets shall escheat to the county or municipality wherein located. If, however, it shall be necessary, in order to pay any such debt, to levy any tax or taxes on the property in the territory or limits of the inactive special district, the same may be assessed and levied by order of the local general-purpose government wherein the same is situated and shall be assessed by the county property appraiser and collected by the county tax collector.
- of the Legislature, the department shall send a notice of declaration of inactive status to notify the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. The notice of declaration of inactive status shall reference of each known special act creating or amending the charter of any special district declared to be inactive under this section. The declaration of inactive status shall be sufficient notice as required by s. 10, Art. III of the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to repeal any special laws so reported. In the case of a district created by one or more

local general-purpose governments, the department shall send a notice of declaration of inactive status to the chair of the governing body of each local general-purpose government that created the district. In the case of a district created by interlocal agreement, the department shall send a notice of declaration of inactive status to the chair of the governing body of each local general-purpose government that entered into the interlocal agreement.

(4) The entity that created a special district declared inactive under this section must dissolve the special district be dissolved by repealing repeal of its enabling laws or by other appropriate means.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 189.412, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is added to said section, to read:

189.412 Special District Information Program; duties and responsibilities.—The Special District Information Program of the Department of Community Affairs is created and has the following special duties:

(1) The collection and maintenance of special district noncompliance compliance status reports from the Department of Management Services Auditor General, the Department of Banking and Finance, the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, and the Auditor General the Department of Management Services, the Department of Revenue, and the Commission on Ethics for the reporting required in ss. 112.3144, 112.3145, 112.3148, 112.3149,112.63, 200.068, 218.32, 218.34,218.38, and 218.39, and 280.17 and chapter 121 and from state agencies administering programs that distribute money to special districts. The noncompliance special district compliance status reports must list those consist of a list of

special districts used in that state agency and a list of which special districts that did not comply with the statutory reporting requirements statutorily required by that agency.

(8) Providing assistance to local general-purpose governments and certain state agencies in collecting delinquent reports or information, helping special districts comply with reporting requirements, declaring special districts inactive when appropriate, and, when directed by the Legislative Auditing Committee, initiating enforcement provisions as provided in ss. 189.4044, 189.419, and 189.421.

Section 15. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 189.418, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsection (5) is renumbered as subsection (6), present subsection (6) is renumbered as subsection (7) and amended, and a new subsection (5) is added to said section, to read:

189.418 Reports; budgets; audits.--

(1) When a new special district is created, the district must forward to the department, within 30 days after the adoption of the special act, rule, ordinance, resolution, or other document that provides for the creation of the district, a copy of the document and a written statement that includes a reference to the status of the special district as dependent or independent and the basis for such classification. In addition to the document or documents that create the district, the district must also submit a map of the district, showing any municipal boundaries that cross the district's boundaries, and any county lines if the district is located in more than one county. The department must notify the local government or other entity and the district within 30 days after receipt of the document or documents that create

the district as to whether the district has been determined to be dependent or independent.

- (2) Any amendment, modification, or update of the document by which the district was created, including changes in boundaries, must be filed with the department within 30 days after adoption. The department may initiate proceedings against special districts as provided in s.ss.189.421 and 189.422 for failure to file the information required by this subsection.
- (5) The governing body of each special district at any time within a fiscal year or within up to 60 days following the end of the fiscal year may amend a budget for that year. The budget amendment must be adopted by resolution.
- (7)(6) All reports or information required to be filed with a local governing authority under ss. 189.415, 189.416, and 189.417, 218.32, and 218.39 and this section shall:
- (a) When the local governing authority is a county, be filed with the clerk of the board of county commissioners.
- (b) When the district is a multicounty district, be filed with the clerk of the county commission in each county.
- (c) When the local governing authority is a municipality, be filed at the place designated by the municipal governing body.

Section 16. Section 189.419, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 189.419 Effect of failure to file certain reports or information.--
- (1) If a special district fails to file the reports or information required under s. 189.415, s. 189.416, or s. 189.417, s. 189.418, s. 218.32, or s. 218.39 and a description of all new bonds as provided in s. 218.38(1) with the local

governing authority, the person authorized to receive and read the reports or information shall notify the district's registered agent and the appropriate local governing authority or authorities. If requested by the district At any time, the governing authority shall may grant an extension of time of up to 30 days for filing the required reports or information, except that an extension may not exceed 30 days.

- (2) If at any time the local governing authority or authorities or the board of county commissioners determines that there has been an unjustified failure to file the reports or information described in subsection (1), it may notify petition the department and the department may proceed pursuant to initiate proceedings against the special district in the manner provided in s. 189.421.
- (3) If a special district fails to file the reports or information required under <u>s. 112.63</u>,s. 218.32, s. 218.38, or s. 218.39 with the appropriate state agency, the agency shall notify the department, and the department <u>shall proceed</u> <u>pursuant to s. 189.421</u> <u>may initiate proceedings against the special district in the manner provided in s. 189.421 or assess fines of not more than \$25, with an aggregate total not to exceed \$50, when formal inquiries do not resolve the noncompliance.</u>

Section 17. Section 189.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See

s. 189.421, F.S., for present text.)

189.421 Failure of district to disclose financial reports.--

(1) When notified pursuant to s. 189.419, the department shall attempt to assist a special district to

comply with its financial reporting requirements by sending a certified letter to the special district, and a copy of the 2 3 letter to the chair of the governing body of the local 4 general-purpose government, which includes the following: a description of the required report, including statutory 5 6 submission deadlines, a contact telephone number for technical 7 assistance to help the special district comply, a 60-day 8 extension of time for filing the required report with the 9 appropriate entity, the address where the report must be filed, and an explanation of the penalties for noncompliance. 10 The department may grant an additional 30-day extension of 11 12 time if requested to do so in writing by the special district. 13 The department shall notify the appropriate entity of the new 14 extension of time. In the case of a special district that did not timely file the reports or information required by s. 15 16 218.38, the department shall send a certified technical 17 assistance letter to the special district that summarizes the requirements and encourages the special district to take steps 18 19 to prevent the noncompliance from reoccurring.

(2) Failure of a special district to comply with the financial reporting requirements after the procedures of subsection (1) are exhausted shall be deemed final action of the special district. The financial reporting requirements are hereby declared to be essential requirements of law.

Remedy for noncompliance shall be by writ of certiorari as set forth in subsection (3).

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Auditing Committee shall notify the department of those

districts that failed to file the required report. Within 30

days after receiving this notice or within 30 days after the

extension date provided in subsection (1), whichever occurs

later, the department shall proceed as follows: notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 120, the department 2 3 shall file a petition for writ of certiorari with the circuit 4 court. Venue for all actions pursuant to this subsection 5 shall be in Leon County. The court shall award the prevailing 6 party attorney's fees and costs in all cases filed pursuant to 7 this section unless affirmatively waived by all parties. A 8 writ of certiorari shall be issued unless a respondent 9 establishes that the notification of the Legislative Auditing Committee was issued as a result of material error. 10 Proceedings under this subsection shall otherwise be governed 11 12 by the Rules of Appellate Procedure. 13

Section 18. Subsection (5) of section 189.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.428 Special districts; oversight review process.--

- (5) Those conducting the oversight review process shall, at a minimum, consider the listed criteria for evaluating the special district, but may also consider any additional factors relating to the district and its performance. If any of the listed criteria does do not apply to the special district being reviewed, it they need not be considered. The criteria to be considered by the reviewer include:
- (a) The degree to which the service or services offered by the special district are essential or contribute to the well-being of the community.
- (b) The extent of continuing need for the service or services currently provided by the special district.
- $\,$ (c) The extent of municipal annexation or incorporation activity occurring or likely to occur within the

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boundaries of the special district and its impact on the delivery of services by the special district.

- (d) Whether there is a less costly alternative method of delivering the service or services that would adequately provide the district residents with the services provided by the district.
- (e) Whether transfer of the responsibility for delivery of the service or services to an entity other than the special district being reviewed could be accomplished without jeopardizing the district's existing contracts, bonds, or outstanding indebtedness.
- (f) Whether the Auditor General has notified the Legislative Auditing Committee that the special district's audit report, reviewed pursuant to s. 11.45(7), indicates that the district has met any of the conditions specified in s. 218.503(1) or that a deteriorating financial condition exists that may cause a condition described in s. 218.503(1) to occur if actions are not taken to address such condition.
- (g) Whether the Auditor General has determined that the special district is in a state of financial emergency as provided in s. 218.503(1), and has notified the Governor and the Legislative Auditing Committee.
- (g)(h) Whether the district is inactive according to the official list of special districts, and whether the district is meeting and discharging its responsibilities as required by its charter, as well as projected increases or decreases in district activity.
- $\underline{\text{(h)}(i)}$ Whether the special district has failed to comply with any of the reporting requirements in this chapter, including preparation of the public facilities report.

 $\underline{\text{(i)}(j)}$ Whether the special district has designated a registered office and agent as required by s. 189.416, and has complied with all open public records and meeting requirements.

Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 189.439, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.439 Bonds.--

- (1) AUTHORIZATION AND FORM OF BONDS.--
- (a) The authority may issue and sell bonds for any purpose for which the authority has the power to expend money, including, without limitation, the power to obtain working capital loans to finance the costs of any project and to refund any bonds or other indebtedness at the time outstanding at or before maturity. Bonds may be sold in the manner provided in s. 218.385 and by public or negotiated sale after advertisement, if any, as the board considers advisable.

 Bonds may be authorized by resolution of the board.

Section 20. Section 215.981, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

215.981 Audits of state agency direct-support organizations and citizen support organizations.--Each direct-support organization and each citizen support organization, created or authorized pursuant to law, and created, approved, or administered by a state agency, other than a university, district board of trustees of a community college, or district school board, shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts and records to be conducted by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and the state agency that created, approved, or administers the direct-support organization or citizen support

organization, whenever the organization's expenditures and expenses exceed \$100,000. The audit report shall be submitted within 9 months after the end of the fiscal year to the Auditor General and to the state agency responsible for creation, administration, or approval of the direct-support organization or citizen support organization. Such state agency, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall have the authority to require and receive from the organization or from the independent auditor any records relative to the operation of the organization.

Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 218.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

218.075 Reduction or waiver of permit processing fees.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts shall reduce or waive permit processing fees for counties with a population of 50,000 or less on April 1, 1994, until such counties exceed a population of 75,000 and municipalities with a population of 25,000 or less, or any county or municipality not included within a metropolitan statistical area. Fee reductions or waivers shall be approved on the basis of fiscal hardship or environmental need for a particular project or activity. The governing body must certify that the cost of the permit processing fee is a fiscal hardship due to one of the following factors:

(3) Any condition specified in s. 218.503(1), that results in the county or municipality being in determines a state of financial emergency;

The permit applicant must be the governing body of a county or municipality or a third party under contract with a county or municipality and the project for which the fee reduction or waiver is sought must serve a public purpose. If a permit processing fee is reduced, the total fee shall not exceed \$100.

Section 22. Subsection (3) is added to section 218.32, Florida Statutes, to read:

218.32 Annual financial reports; local governmental entities.--

Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of any municipality that has not had financial activity for the last 4 fiscal years. Such notice shall be sufficient to initiate dissolution procedures described in s. 165.051(1)(a). Any special law authorizing the incorporation or creation of said municipality shall be included within the notification.

Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 218.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

218.36 County officers; record and report of fees and disposition of same.--

(3) The board of county commissioners <u>may</u> shall, on the 32nd day following the close of the fiscal year, notify the Governor of the failure of any county officer to comply with the provisions of this section. Such notification shall specify the name of the officer and the office held by him or her at the time of such failure and shall subject said officer to suspension from office at the Governor's discretion.

Section 24. Section 218.369, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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218.369 Definitions applicable to ss.
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    218.37-218.386.--As used in this section and in ss. 218.37,
    218.38, 218.385, and 218.386, the term "unit of local
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    government, " except where exception is made, means a county,
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    municipality, special district, district school board, local
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    agency, authority, or consolidated city-county government or
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    any other local governmental body or public body corporate and
    politic authorized or created by general or special law and
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    granted the power to issue general obligation or revenue
    bonds; and the words "general obligation or revenue bonds"
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    shall be interpreted to include within their scope general
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    obligation bonds, revenue bonds, special assessment bonds,
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    limited revenue bonds, special obligation bonds, debentures,
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    and other similar instruments, but not bond anticipation
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    notes.
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           Section 25.
                        Part V of chapter 218, Florida Statutes,
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    entitled "Financial Emergencies" is renamed "Local
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    Governmental Entity and District School Board Financial
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    Emergencies."
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           Section 26.
                        Section 218.50, Florida Statutes, is
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    amended to read:
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           218.50 Short title.--Sections 218.50-218.504 shall be
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    known as the "Local Governmental Entity and District School
    Board Government Financial Emergencies Act."
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           Section 27. Section 218.501, Florida Statutes, is
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    amended to read:
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           218.501 Purposes.--The purposes of ss. 218.50-218.504
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    are:
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               To promote preserve and protect the fiscal
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    responsibility solvency of local governmental entities and
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    district school boards.
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1 (2) To assist local governmental entities and district 2 school boards in providing essential services without 3 interruption and in meeting their financial obligations. 4 (3) To assist local governmental entities and district 5 school boards through the improvement of local financial 6 management procedures. 7 Section 28. Section 218.502, Florida Statutes, is 8 amended to read: 218.502 Definition.--As used in ss. 218.50-218.504, 9 the term "local governmental entity" means a county, 10 municipality, or special district, or district school board. 11 12 Section 29. Section 218.503, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2001-354, Laws of Florida, is amended to 13 14 read: 15 218.503 Determination of financial emergency.--(1) A Local governmental entities and district school 16 17 boards shall be subject to review and oversight by the 18 Governor or the Commissioner of Education entity is in a state 19 of financial emergency when any one of the following conditions occurs: 20 21 (a) Failure within the same fiscal year in which due to pay short-term loans from banks or failure to make bond 22 23 debt service or other long-term debt payments when due, as a result of a lack of funds. 24 25 (b) Failure to pay uncontested claims from creditors 26 within 90 days after the claim is presented, as a result of a 27 lack of funds. 28 (c) (b) Failure to transfer at the appropriate time, 29 due to lack of funds: Taxes withheld on the income of employees; or 30

Employer and employee contributions for:

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a. Federal social security; or

b. Any pension, retirement, or benefit plan of an employee.

(d)(c) Failure for one pay period to pay, due to lack
of funds:

- 1. Wages and salaries owed to employees; or
- 2. Retirement benefits owed to former employees.

(e)(d) An unreserved or total fund balance or retained earnings deficit, or unrestricted or total net assets deficit, as reported on the balance sheet or statement of net assets on the general purpose or fund financial statements, for which sufficient resources of the local governmental entity, as reported on the balance sheet or statement of net assets on the general purpose or fund financial statements, are not available to cover the deficit for 2 successive years.

Resources available to cover reported deficits include net assets that are not otherwise restricted by federal, state, or local laws, bond covenants, contractual agreements, or other legal constraints. Fixed or capital assets, the disposal of which would impair the ability of a local governmental entity to carry out its functions, are not considered resources available to cover reported deficits.

- (e) Noncompliance of the local government retirement system with actuarial conditions provided by law.
- (2) A local governmental entity shall notify the Governor and the Legislative Auditing Committee, and a district school board shall notify the Commissioner of Education and the Legislative Auditing Committee, when one or more of the conditions specified in subsection (1) have occurred or will occur if action is not taken to assist the local governmental entity or district school board. In

addition, any state agency must, within 30 days after <u>a</u>
determination that one or more of the conditions specified in
subsection (1) have occurred or will occur if action is not
taken to assist the local governmental entity or district
school board the identification of the financial emergency,
notify the Governor or the Commissioner of Education, as
appropriate, and the Legislative Auditing Committee when one
or more of the conditions specified in subsection (1) have
occurred or will occur if action is not taken to assist a
local governmental entity.

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- (3) Upon notification that one or more of the conditions in subsection (1) exist, the Governor or his or her designee shall contact the local governmental entity or the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee shall contact the district school board to determine what actions have been taken by the local governmental entity or the district school board to resolve the condition financial emergency. The Governor or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, shall determine whether the local governmental entity or the district school board needs state assistance to resolve the condition. If state assistance is needed, the local governmental entity or district school board is considered to be in a state of financial emergency. The Governor or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, has the authority to implement measures as set forth in ss. 218.50-218.504 to assist the local governmental entity or district school board in resolving resolve the financial emergency. Such measures may include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Requiring approval of the local governmental entity's budget by the Governor or approval of the district school board's budget by the Commissioner of Education.

(b) Authorizing a state loan to \underline{a} the local governmental entity and providing for repayment of same.

- (c) Prohibiting a local governmental entity <u>or</u> <u>district school board</u> from issuing bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, or any other form of debt until such time as it is no longer subject to this section.
- (d) Making such inspections and reviews of records, information, reports, and assets of the local governmental entity or district school board. The appropriate local officials shall cooperate in such, in which inspections and reviews the appropriate local officials shall cooperate.
- (e) Consulting with the officials and auditors of the local governmental entity or the district school board and the appropriate state officials agency regarding any steps necessary to bring the books of account, accounting systems, financial procedures, and reports into compliance with state requirements.
- (f) Providing technical assistance to the local governmental entity or the district school board.
- board to oversee the activities of the local governmental entity or the district school board. If a financial emergency The board, if is established for a local governmental entity, shall be appointed by the Governor shall appoint board members and select a chair. If a financial emergency board is established for a district school board, the State Board of Education shall appoint board members and select a chair. The Governor shall select a chair and such other officers as are necessary. The financial emergency board shall adopt such rules as are necessary for conducting board business. The board may:

- a. Make such reviews of records, reports, and assets of the local governmental entity or the district school board as are needed.
- b. Consult with the officials and auditors of the local governmental entity or the district school board and the appropriate state officials regarding any steps necessary to bring the books of account, accounting systems, financial procedures, and reports of the local governmental entity or the district school board into compliance with state requirements.
- c. Review the operations, management, efficiency, productivity, and financing of functions and operations of the local governmental entity or district school board.
- 2. The recommendations and reports made by the <u>financial emergency</u> board must be submitted to the Governor for <u>local governmental entities or to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education for district school boards for appropriate action.</u>
- (h) Requiring and approving a plan, to be prepared by officials of the appropriate state agency in conjunction with the local governmental entity or the district school board in consultation with the appropriate state officials, prescribing actions that will cause the local governmental entity or district school board to no longer be subject to this section. The plan must include, but need not be limited to:
- 1. Provision for payment in full of <u>obligations</u> outlined in subsection (1), designated as priority items, that <u>are currently all payments</u> due or <u>will to come due on debt obligations</u>, pension payments, and all payments and charges <u>imposed or mandated by federal or state law and for all</u>

judgments and past due accounts, as priority items of expenditures.

- 2. Establishment of $\frac{1}{2}$ budgeting or zero-based budgeting $\frac{1}{2}$ in order, so as to eliminate $\frac{1}{2}$ budgeting items that are not affordable.
- 3. The prohibition of a level of operations which can be sustained only with nonrecurring revenues.
- (4) \underline{A} During the financial emergency period, the local governmental entity or district school board may not seek application of laws under the bankruptcy provisions of the United States Constitution except with the prior approval of the Governor for local governmental entities or the Commissioner of Education for district school boards.
- (5)(a) The governing authority of any municipality having a resident population of 300,000 or more on or after April 1, 1999, which has been declared in a state of financial emergency pursuant to this section may impose a discretionary per-vehicle surcharge of up to 20 percent on the gross revenues of the sale, lease, or rental of space at parking facilities within the municipality which are open for use to the general public.
- (b) A municipal governing authority that imposes the surcharge authorized by this subsection may use the proceeds of such surcharge for the following purposes only:
- 1. No less than 60 percent and no more than 80 percent of the surcharge proceeds shall be used by the governing authority to reduce its ad valorem tax millage rate or to reduce or eliminate non-ad valorem assessments.
- 2. A portion of the balance of the surcharge proceeds shall be used by the governing authority to increase its budget reserves; however, the governing authority shall not

reduce the amount it allocates for budget reserves from other sources below the amount allocated for reserves in the fiscal year prior to the year in which the surcharge is initially imposed. When a 15-percent budget reserve is achieved, based on the average gross revenue for the most recent 3 prior fiscal years, the remaining proceeds from this subparagraph shall be used for the payment of annual debt service related to outstanding obligations backed or secured by a covenant to budget and appropriate from non-ad valorem revenues.

(c) This subsection expires June 30, 2006.

Section 30. Section 218.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

218.504 Cessation of state action.--The Governor or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, has the authority to terminate all state actions pursuant to ss. 218.50-218.504. Cessation of state action must not occur until the Governor or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, has determined that:

- (1) The local governmental entity $\underline{\text{or district school}}$ $\underline{\text{board}}$:
- (a) Has established and is operating an effective financial accounting and reporting system.
- (b) Has <u>resolved</u> corrected or eliminated the fiscal emergency conditions outlined in s. 218.503(1).
- (2) <u>None of the</u> No new fiscal emergency conditions outlined in s. 218.593(1)exist.

Section 31. Section 236.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

236.43 Receiving bids and sale of bonds.--

(1) In case the issuance of bonds shall be authorized at said election, or in case any bonds outstanding against the

district are being refunded, the school board shall sell the bonds in the manner provided in s. 218.385. cause notice to be given by publication in some newspaper published in the district that said board will receive bids for the purchase of the bonds at the office of the superintendent of said district. The notice shall be published twice and the first publication shall be given not less than 30 days prior to the date set for receiving the bids. Said notice shall specify the amount of the bonds offered for sale and shall state whether the bids shall be sealed bids or whether the bonds are to be sold at auction, shall give the schedule of maturities of the proposed bonds and such other pertinent information as may be prescribed by regulations of the state board. Bidders may be invited to name the rate of interest which the bonds are to bear or the school board may name rates of interest and invite bids thereon. In addition to publication of notice of the proposed sale as set forth above, the school board shall also notify in writing at least three recognized bond dealers in the state and shall also at the same time notify the Department of Education concerning the proposed sale, enclosing a copy of the advertisement.

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by law shall be sold to the highest and best bidder at such public sale unless sold at a better price or yield basis within 30 days after failure to receive an acceptable bid at a duly advertised public sale; provided, that at no time shall bonds or refunding bonds be sold or exchanged at less than par value except as specifically authorized by the department; and provided, further, that the school board shall have the right to reject all bids and cause a new notice to be given in like manner inviting other bids for such bonds, or to sell all or

any part of such bonds to the state board at a price and yield basis which shall not be less advantageous to the school board than that represented by the highest and best bid received. In the marketing of said bonds the school board shall be entitled to have such assistance as can be rendered by the Governor, the State Treasurer, the Commissioner of Education, or any other public state officer or agency. In determining the highest and best bidder for bonds offered for sale by competitive bid, the true net interest cost to the school board as shown in standard bond tables shall govern, the provided, that the determination of the school board as to the highest and best bidder shall be final.

Section 32. Subsection (4) of section 237.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

237.40 Direct-support organization; use of property; board of directors; audit.--

with more than \$100,000 in expenditures and expenses shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts and records, to be conducted by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and the Commissioner of Education. The annual audit report shall be submitted within 9 months after the fiscal year's end to the district school board and the Auditor General. The Commissioner of Education, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability have the authority to require and receive from the organization or the district auditor any records relative to the operation of the organization. The identity of donors and all information identifying donors and prospective donors are confidential and exempt from the

provisions of s. 119.07(1), and that anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report. All other records and information shall be considered public records for the purposes of chapter 119.

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Section 33. Subsection (5) of section 240.299, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.299 Direct-support organizations; use of property; board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.--

(5) ANNUAL AUDIT. -- Each direct-support organization with more than \$100,000 in expenditures and expenses shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts and records to be conducted by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and by the Board of Regents. The annual audit report shall be submitted, within 9 months after the end of the fiscal year, to the Auditor General and the Board of Regents for review. The Board of Regents, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall have the authority to require and receive from the organization or from its independent auditor any records relative to the operation of the organization. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental data requested by the Board of Regents, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

Section 34. Subsection (6) of section 240.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1 240.331 Community college direct-support 2 organizations.--3 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT. -- Each direct-support organization with more than \$100,000 in expenditures and expenses shall 4 5 provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts and 6 records in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor 7 General pursuant to s. 11.45(8). The annual audit report must 8 be submitted, within 9 months after the end of the fiscal 9 year, to the Auditor General, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the board of trustees for review. The board of 10 trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program 11 12 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability may require and receive from the organization or from its independent auditor 13 14 any detail or supplemental data relative to the operation of the organization. The identity of donors who desire to remain 15 anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be 16 maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the 17 18 organization, other than the auditor's report, any information 19 necessary for the auditor's report, any information related to the expenditure of funds, and any supplemental data requested 20 by the board of trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office 21 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, 22 23 shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). 24 25 Section 35. Chapter 131, Florida Statutes, consisting 26 of sections 131.01, 131.02, 131.03, 131.04, 131.05, and 131.06, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 27 28 Section 36. Section 132.10, Florida Statutes, is 29 repealed. 30 Section 37. Section 165.052, Florida Statutes, is 31 repealed.

Section 38. Section 189.409, Florida Statutes, is 1 2 repealed. 3 Section 39. Section 189.422, Florida Statutes, is 4 repealed. 5 Section 40. Section 200.0684, Florida Statutes, is 6 repealed. 7 Section 41. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section 8 218.37, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 9 Section 42. Effective July 1, 2002, section 215.195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 10 215.195 Agency deposits relating to the Statewide Cost 11 12 Allocation Plan. --(1) APPLICATION FOR ALLOCABLE STATEWIDE 13 14 OVERHEAD. -- Each state agency, and the judicial branch, making application for federal grant or contract funds shall, in 15 accordance with the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan(SWCAP), 16 17 include in its application a prorated share of the cost of services provided by state central service agencies which are 18 19 reimbursable to the state pursuant to the provisions of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87. Preparation of the 20 Statewide Cost Allocation Plan and coordination thereof with 21 22 all applicable parties is the responsibility of the 23 Comptroller. The Comptroller shall ensure that the SWCAP presents the most favorable allocation of central services 24 25 cost allowable to the state by the Federal Government. 26 (2) DEPOSIT OF OVERHEAD IN THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND. -- If an application for federal grant or contract funds 27 28 is approved, the state agency or judicial branch receiving the 29 federal grant or contract shall identify that portion representing reimbursement of allocable statewide overhead and 30 deposit that amount into the General Revenue Fund unallocated 31 44

as directed by the <u>Comptroller</u> <u>Executive Office of the Governor</u>. <u>The Comptroller shall be responsible for monitoring agency compliance with this section.</u>

Section 43. Effective July 1, 2002, section 215.97, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

215.97 Florida Single Audit Act.--

- (1) The purposes of the section are to:
- (a) Establish uniform state audit requirements for state financial assistance provided by state agencies to nonstate entities to carry out state projects.
- (b) Promote sound financial management, including effective internal controls, with respect to state financial assistance administered by nonstate entities.
- (c) Promote audit economy and efficiency by relying to the extent possible on already required audits of federal financial assistance provided to nonstate entities.
- (d) Provide for identification of state financial assistance transactions in the appropriations act, state accounting records, and recipient organization records.
- (e) Promote improved coordination and cooperation within and between affected state agencies providing state financial assistance and nonstate entities receiving state assistance.
- (f) Ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that state agencies monitor, use, and followup on audits of state financial assistance provided to nonstate entities.
 - (2) Definitions; as used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Audit threshold" means the <u>threshold</u> amount <u>used</u> to <u>determine</u> to <u>use in determining</u> when a state single audit of a nonstate entity shall be conducted in accordance with this section. Each nonstate entity that expends a total amount

of state financial assistance equal to or in excess of \$300,000 in any fiscal year of such nonstate entity shall be required to have a state single audit for such fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this section. Every 2 years the Auditor General, after consulting with the Executive Office of the Governor, the Comptroller, and all state awarding agencies that provide state financial assistance to nonstate entities, shall review the threshold amount for requiring audits under this section and may adjust such threshold dollar amount consistent with the purposes purpose of this section.

- (b) "Auditing standards" means the auditing standards as stated in the rules of the Auditor General as applicable to for-profit organizations, nonprofit organizations, or local governmental entities.
- (c) "Catalog of State Financial Assistance" means a comprehensive listing of state projects. The Catalog of State Financial Assistance shall be issued by the Comptroller Executive Office of the Governor after conferring with the Comptroller and all state awarding agencies that provide state financial assistance to nonstate entities. The Catalog of State Financial Assistance shall include for each listed state project: the responsible state awarding agency; standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project, including objectives, restrictions, application and awarding procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (d) "Coordinating agency" means the state awarding agency that provides the predominant amount of state financial assistance expended by a recipient, as determined by the recipient's Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial

Assistance. To provide continuity, the determination of the predominant amount of state financial assistance shall be based upon state financial assistance expended in the recipient's fiscal years ending in 2003, 2006, and 2009, and every third year thereafter.

(e)(d) "Financial reporting package" means the nonstate entities' financial statements, Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance, auditor's reports, management letter, auditee's written responses or corrective action plan, correspondence on followup of prior years' corrective actions taken, and such other information determined by the Auditor General to be necessary and consistent with the purposes of this section.

(f)(e) "Federal financial assistance" means financial assistance from federal sources passed through the state and provided to nonstate <u>organizations</u> entities to carry out a federal program. "Federal financial assistance" includes all types of federal assistance as defined in applicable United States Office of Management and Budget circulars.

(g)(f) "For-profit organization" means any organization or sole proprietor that but is not a local governmental entity or a nonprofit organization.

 $\underline{\text{(h)}}_{\text{(g)}}$ "Independent auditor" means an external state or local governmental government auditor or a certified public accountant who meets the independence standards.

(i)(h) "Internal control over state projects" means a process, effected by a nonstate an entity's management and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:

1. Effectiveness and efficiency of operations.

- 2. Reliability of financial operations.
- 3. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(j)(i) "Local governmental entity" means a county agency, municipality, or special district or any other entity (other than a district school board, charter school, or community college, or public university), however styled, which independently exercises any type of governmental function within the state.

(k) "Major state project" means any state project meeting the criteria as stated in the rules of the <u>Comptroller Executive Office of the Governor</u>. Such criteria shall be established after consultation with <u>all the Comptroller and appropriate</u> state <u>awarding</u> agencies that provide state <u>financial assistance</u> and shall consider the amount of state project expenditures <u>and or</u> expenses or inherent risks. Each major state project shall be audited in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(1)(k) "Nonprofit organization" means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that:

- Is operated primarily for scientific, educational service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest;
 - 2. Is not organized primarily for profit;
- 3. Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization; and
- 4. Has no part of its income or profit distributable to its members, directors, or officers.

 $\underline{\text{(m)}(1)}$ "Nonstate entity" means a local governmental entity, nonprofit organization, or for-profit organization that receives state $\underline{\text{financial assistance}}$ resources.

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"Nonstate organization" means a local governmental entity, nonprofit organization, or for-profit organization that receives state resources.

(o) (m) "Recipient" means a nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance directly from a state awarding agency.

(p)(n) "Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance" means a document prepared in accordance with the rules of the Comptroller and included in each financial reporting package required by this section.

(q)(o) "State awarding agency" means a the state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, that provides provided state financial assistance to a the nonstate entity.

(r)(p) "State financial assistance" means financial assistance from state resources, not including federal financial assistance and state matching on federal programs, provided to a nonstate entity entities to carry out a state project. "State financial assistance" shall include the includes all types of state resources assistance as stated in the rules of the Comptroller Executive Office of the Governor established in consultation with all the Comptroller and appropriate state awarding agencies that provide state financial assistance. It includes State financial assistance may be provided directly by state awarding agencies or indirectly by nonstate entities recipients of state awards or subrecipients. State financial assistance It does not include procurement contracts used to buy goods or services from vendors and. Audits of such procurement contracts with vendors are outside of the scope of this section. Also, audits of contracts to operate state-owned state-government-owned and

contractor-operated facilities are excluded from the audit requirements of this section.

 $\underline{(s)(q)}$ "State matching" means state resources provided to \underline{a} nonstate \underline{entity} entities to be used to meet federal financial participation matching requirements of federal programs.

(t) "State program" means a set of special purpose activities undertaken to realize identifiable goals and objectives in order to achieve a state agency's mission and legislative intent requiring accountability for state resources.

(u)(r) "State project" means <u>a state program that</u>

<u>provides</u> all state financial assistance to a nonstate

<u>organization and that must be</u> entity assigned a single state

project number identifier in the Catalog of State Financial

Assistance.

 $\underline{(v)}$ (s) "State Projects Compliance Supplement" means a document issued by the <u>Comptroller Executive Office of the Governor</u>, in consultation with the <u>Comptroller and all state awarding</u> agencies that provide state financial assistance. The State Projects Compliance Supplement shall identify state projects, the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.

 $\underline{(w)}(t)$ "State project-specific audit" means an audit of one state project performed in accordance with the requirements of subsection(10)(9).

 $\underline{(x)}$ "State single audit" means an audit of a nonstate entity's financial statements and state financial assistance. Such audits shall be conducted in accordance with

the auditing standards as stated in the rules of the Auditor General.

 $\underline{(y)}$ "Subrecipient" means a nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance through another nonstate entity.

- $\underline{(z)}$ "Vendor" means a dealer, distributor, merchant, or other seller providing goods or services that are required for the conduct of a state project. These goods or services may be for an organization's own use or for the use of beneficiaries of the state project.
- (3) The Executive Office of the Governor shall <u>be</u>
 responsible for notifying the Comptroller of any actions
 during the budgetary process that impact the Catalog of State
 Financial Assistance.÷
- (a) Upon conferring with the Comptroller and all state awarding agencies, adopt rules necessary to provide appropriate guidance to state awarding agencies, recipients and subrecipients, and independent auditors of state financial assistance relating to the requirements of this section, including:
- 1. The types or classes of financial assistance considered to be state financial assistance which would be subject to the requirements of this section. This would include guidance to assist in identifying when the state agency or recipient has contracted with a vendor rather than with a recipient or subrecipient.
 - 2. The criteria for identifying a major state project.
- 3. The criteria for selecting state projects for audits based on inherent risk.
- (b) Be responsible for coordinating the initial preparation and subsequent revisions of the Catalog of State

Financial Assistance after consultation with the Comptroller and all state awarding agencies.

- (c) Be responsible for coordinating the initial preparation and subsequent revisions of the State Projects

 Compliance Supplement, after consultation with the Comptroller and all state awarding agencies.
 - (4) The Comptroller shall:

- (a) Upon conferring with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies, adopt rules necessary to provide appropriate guidance to state awarding agencies, nonstate entities, and independent auditors of state financial assistance relating to the requirements of this section, including:
- 1. The types or classes of state resources considered to be state financial assistance that would be subject to the requirements of this section. This would include guidance to assist in identifying when the state awarding agency or a nonstate entity has contracted with a vendor rather than with a recipient or subrecipient.
 - 2. The criteria for identifying a major state project.
- $\underline{\mbox{3.}}$ The criteria for selecting state projects for audits based on inherent risk.
- (b) Be responsible for coordinating revisions to the Catalog of State Financial Assistance after consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies.
- (c) Be responsible for coordinating with the Executive Office of the Governor actions affecting the budgetary process under paragraph (b).
- (d) Be responsible for coordinating revisions to the State Projects Compliance Supplement, after consultation with

the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies.

 $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ (a) Make enhancements to the state's accounting system to provide for the:

- 1. Recording of state financial assistance and federal financial assistance appropriations and expenditures within the state awarding agencies' operating funds.
- 2. Recording of state project number identifiers, as provided in the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, for state financial assistance.
- 3. Establishment and recording of an identification code for each financial transaction, including state <u>awarding</u> agencies' disbursements of state financial assistance and federal financial assistance, as to the corresponding type or organization that is party to the transaction (e.g., other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations), and disbursements of federal financial assistance, as to whether the party to the transaction is or is not a nonstate entity recipient or subrecipient.
- (f)(b) Upon conferring with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies, adopt rules necessary to provide appropriate guidance to state awarding agencies, nonstate entities recipients and subrecipients, and independent auditors of state financial assistance relating to the format for the Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance.
- $\underline{(g)(c)}$ Perform any inspections, reviews, investigations, or audits of state financial assistance considered necessary in carrying out the Comptroller's legal responsibilities for state financial assistance or to comply with the requirements of this section.

(5) Each state awarding agency shall:

- (a) Provide to \underline{each} \underline{a} recipient information needed by the recipient to comply with the requirements of this section, including:
- 1. The audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in this section and applicable rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, rules of the Comptroller, and rules of the Auditor General.
- 2. Information from the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, including the standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project including objectives, restrictions, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- 3. Information from the State Projects Compliance Supplement, including the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (b) Require the recipient, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, to allow the state awarding agency, the Comptroller, and the Auditor General access to the recipient's records and the recipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary for complying with the requirements of this section.
- (c) Notify the recipient that this section does not limit the authority of the state awarding agency to conduct or arrange for the conduct of additional audits or evaluations of state financial assistance or limit the authority of any state <u>awarding</u> agency inspector general, the Auditor General, or any other state official.

- (d) Be provided one copy of each financial reporting package prepared in accordance with the requirement of this section.
- (e) Review the <u>recipient's</u> recipient financial reporting package, including the management letters and corrective action plans, to the extent necessary to determine whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken with respect to audit findings and recommendations pertaining to state financial assistance that is specific to provided by the state awarding agency.
- (f) Designate within the state awarding agency a division, bureau, or other organizational unit that will be responsible for reviewing financial reporting packages pursuant to paragraph (e).

- If the state awarding agency is not the coordinating agency as defined in paragraph (2)(d), the state awarding agency's designated division, bureau, or other organizational unit shall communicate to the coordinating agency the state awarding agency's approval of the recipient's corrective action plan with respect to findings and recommendations that are not specific to the state awarding agency.
 - (6) Each coordinating agency shall:
- (a) Review the recipient's financial reporting package, including the management letter and corrective action plan, to identify audit findings and recommendations that affect state financial assistance that is not specific to a particular state awarding agency.
- (b) For any such findings and recommendations determine:

1. Whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken.

- 2. Promptly inform the state awarding agency's contact, as designated pursuant to paragraph (5)(f), of actions taken by the recipient to comply with the approved corrective action plan.
- (c) Maintain records of followup actions taken for the use of any succeeding coordinating agency.
- (7)(6) As a condition of receiving state financial assistance, each nonstate entity recipient that provides state financial assistance to a subrecipient shall:
- (a) Provide to \underline{each} a subrecipient information needed by the subrecipient to comply with the requirements of this section, including:
 - 1. Identification of the state awarding agency.
- 2. The audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in this section and applicable rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, rules of the Comptroller, and rules of the Auditor General.
- 3. Information from the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, including the standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project, including objectives, restrictions, and other relevant information.
- 4. Information from the State Projects Compliance Supplement including the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, and suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (b) Review the <u>financial reporting package of the</u> subrecipient audit reports, including the management letter

and corrective action plan letters, to the extent necessary to determine whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken with respect to audit findings and recommendations pertaining to state financial assistance provided by \underline{a} the state $\underline{awarding}$ agency \underline{or} nonstate entity.

- (c) Perform such other procedures as specified in terms and conditions of the written agreement with the state awarding agency or nonstate entity including any required monitoring of the subrecipient's use of state financial assistance through onsite visits, limited scope audits, or other specified procedures.
- (d) Require subrecipients, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, to permit the independent auditor of the <u>nonstate entity recipient</u>, the state awarding agency, the Comptroller, and the Auditor General access to the subrecipient's records and the subrecipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.
- (8) (7) Each recipient or subrecipient of state financial assistance shall comply with the following:
- (a) Each nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance and meets the audit threshold requirements, in any fiscal year of the nonstate entity, as stated in the rules of the Auditor General, shall have a state single audit conducted for such fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this act and with additional requirements established in rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, rules of the Comptroller, and rules of the Auditor General. If only one state project is involved in a nonstate entity's fiscal year, the nonstate entity may elect to have only a state

project-specific audit of the state project for that fiscal year.

- (b) Each nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance and does not meet the <u>audit</u> threshold requirements, in any fiscal year of the nonstate entity, as stated in this law or the rules of the Auditor General is exempt for such fiscal year from the state single audit requirements of this section. However, such nonstate entity must meet terms and conditions specified in the written agreement with the state awarding agency or nonstate entity.
- (c) Regardless of the amount of the state financial assistance, the provisions of this section do not exempt a nonstate entity from compliance with provisions of law relating to maintaining records concerning state financial assistance to such nonstate entity or allowing access and examination of those records by the state awarding agency, nonstate entity, the Comptroller, or the Auditor General.
- (d) Audits conducted pursuant to this section shall be performed annually.
- (e) Audits conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by independent auditors in accordance with auditing standards as stated in rules of the Auditor General.
- (f) Upon completion of the audit as required by this section, a copy of the recipient's financial reporting package shall be filed with the state awarding agency and the Auditor General. Upon completion of the audit as required by this section, a copy of the subrecipient's financial reporting package shall be filed with the nonstate entity recipient that provided the state financial assistance and the Auditor General. The financial reporting package shall be filed in accordance with the rules of the Auditor General.

(g) All financial reporting packages prepared pursuant to the requirements of this section shall be available for public inspection.

- (h) If an audit conducted pursuant to this section discloses any significant audit findings relating to state financial assistance, including material noncompliance with individual state project compliance requirements or reportable conditions in internal controls of the nonstate entity, the nonstate entity shall submit as part of the financial reporting audit package to the state awarding agency or nonstate entity a plan for corrective action to eliminate such audit findings or a statement describing the reasons that corrective action is not necessary.
- (i) An audit conducted in accordance with this section is in addition to any audit of federal awards required by the federal Single Audit Act and other federal laws and regulations. To the extent that such federally required audits provide the state awarding agency or nonstate entity with information it requires to carry out its responsibilities under state law or other guidance, the a state awarding agency or nonstate entity shall rely upon and use that information.
- (j) Unless prohibited by law, the <u>costs</u> of audits pursuant to this section <u>are</u> is allowable charges to state projects. However, any charges to state projects should be limited to those incremental costs incurred as a result of the audit requirements of this section in relation to other audit requirements. The nonstate entity should allocate such incremental costs to all state projects for which it expended state financial assistance.
- (k) Audit costs may not be charged to state projects when audits required by this section have not been made or

have been made but not in accordance with this section. If a nonstate entity fails to have an audit conducted consistent with this section, \underline{a} state awarding agency or nonstate entity agencies may take appropriate corrective action to enforce compliance.

- (1) This section does not prohibit the state awarding agency or nonstate entity from including terms and conditions in the written agreement which require additional assurances that state financial assistance meets the applicable requirements of laws, regulations, and other compliance rules.
- (m) A state awarding agency or nonstate entity that provides state financial assistance to nonstate entities and conducts or arranges for audits of state financial assistance that are in addition to the audits conducted under this act, including audits of nonstate entities that do not meet the audit threshold requirements, shall, consistent with other applicable law, arrange for funding the full cost of such additional audits.
- (9) (8) The independent auditor when conducting a state single audit of a nonstate entity recipients or subrecipients shall:
- (a) Determine whether the nonstate entity's financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (b) Determine whether state financial assistance shown on the Schedule of <u>Expenditures of</u> State Financial Assistance is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the nonstate entity's financial statements taken as a whole.
- (c) With respect to internal controls pertaining to each major state project:
 - 1. Obtain an understanding of internal controls;

2. Assess control risk;

- 3. Perform tests of controls unless the controls are deemed to be ineffective; and
- 4. Determine whether the nonstate entity has internal controls in place to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with the provisions of laws and rules pertaining to state financial assistance that have a material effect on each major state project.
- (d) Determine whether each major state project complied with the provisions of laws, rules, and guidelines as identified in the State Projects Compliance Supplement, or otherwise identified by the state awarding agency, which have a material effect on each major state project. When major state projects are less than 50 percent of the nonstate entity's total expenditures for all state financial assistance, the auditor shall select and test additional state projects as major state projects as necessary to achieve audit coverage of at least 50 percent of the expenditures for all state financial assistance provided to the nonstate entity. Additional state projects needed to meet the 50-percent requirement may be selected on an inherent risk basis as stated in the rules of the Comptroller Executive Office of the Governor.
- (e) Report on the results of any audit conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with the rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, rules of the Comptroller, and rules of the Auditor General. Financial reporting packages Audit reports shall include summaries of the auditor's results regarding the nonstate entity's financial statements; Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance; internal controls; and compliance with laws, rules, and guidelines.

(f) Issue a management letter as prescribed in the rules of the Auditor General.

- (g) Upon notification by the nonstate entity, make available the working papers relating to the audit conducted pursuant to the requirements of this section to the state awarding agency, the Comptroller, or the Auditor General for review or copying.
- $\underline{(10)(9)}$ The independent auditor, when conducting a state project-specific audit of <u>a nonstate entity recipients</u> or subrecipients, shall:
- (a) Determine whether the nonstate entity's Schedule of <u>Expenditures of</u> State Financial Assistance is presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with stated accounting policies.
- (b) Obtain an understanding of internal <u>controls</u> control and perform tests of internal <u>controls</u> control over the state project consistent with the requirements of a major state project.
- (c) Determine whether or not the auditee has complied with applicable provisions of laws, rules, and guidelines as identified in the State Projects Compliance Supplement, or otherwise identified by the state awarding agency, which could have a direct and material effect on the state project.
- (d) Report on the results of $\underline{\text{the}}$ a state project-specific audit consistent with the requirements of the state single audit and issue a management letter as prescribed in the rules of the Auditor General.
- (e) Upon notification by the nonstate entity, make available the working papers relating to the audit conducted pursuant to the requirements of this section to the state

awarding agency, the Comptroller, or the Auditor General for review or copying.

(11)(10) The Auditor General shall:

- (a) Have the authority to audit state financial assistance provided to any nonstate entity when determined necessary by the Auditor General or when directed by the Legislative Auditing Committee.
- (b) Adopt rules that state the auditing standards that independent auditors are to follow for audits of nonstate entities required by this section.
- (c) Adopt rules that describe the contents and the filing deadlines for the financial reporting package.
- (d) Provide technical advice upon request of the Comptroller, Executive Office of the Governor, and state awarding agencies relating to financial reporting and audit responsibilities contained in this section.
- (e) Be provided one copy of each financial reporting package prepared in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- (f) Perform ongoing reviews of a sample of financial reporting packages filed pursuant to the requirements of this section to determine compliance with the reporting requirements of this section and applicable rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, rules of the Comptroller, and rules of the Auditor General.
- Section 44. <u>Effective July 1, 2002, one full-time</u> equivalent position is transferred from the Executive Office of the Governor to the Comptroller.
- Section 45. Effective January 1, 2003, section 215.195, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, is amended to read:

215.195 Agency deposits relating to the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan.--

- (1) APPLICATION FOR ALLOCABLE STATEWIDE

 OVERHEAD.—Each state agency, and the judicial branch, making application for federal grant or contract funds shall, in accordance with the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP), include in its application a prorated share of the cost of services provided by state central service agencies which are reimbursable to the state pursuant to the provisions of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87. Preparation of the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan and coordination thereof with all applicable parties is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller. The Chief Financial Officer Comptroller shall ensure that the SWCAP presents the most favorable allocation of central services cost allowable to the state by the Federal Government.
- (2) DEPOSIT OF OVERHEAD IN THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND.—If an application for federal grant or contract funds is approved, the state agency or judicial branch receiving the federal grant or contract shall identify that portion representing reimbursement of allocable statewide overhead and deposit that amount into the General Revenue Fund unallocated as directed by the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller. The Chief Financial Officer Comptroller shall be responsible for monitoring agency compliance with this section.

Section 46. Effective January 1, 2003, section 215.97, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, is amended to read:
215.97 Florida Single Audit Act.--

(1) The purposes of the section are to:

(a) Establish uniform state audit requirements for state financial assistance provided by state agencies to nonstate entities to carry out state projects.

- (b) Promote sound financial management, including effective internal controls, with respect to state financial assistance administered by nonstate entities.
- (c) Promote audit economy and efficiency by relying to the extent possible on already required audits of federal financial assistance provided to nonstate entities.
- (d) Provide for identification of state financial assistance transactions in the appropriations act, state accounting records, and recipient organization records.
- (e) Promote improved coordination and cooperation within and between affected state agencies providing state financial assistance and nonstate entities receiving state assistance.
- (f) Ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that state agencies monitor, use, and followup on audits of state financial assistance provided to nonstate entities.
 - (2) Definitions; as used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Audit threshold" means the threshold amount used to determine when a state single audit of a nonstate entity shall be conducted in accordance with this section. Each nonstate entity that expends a total amount of state financial assistance equal to or in excess of \$300,000 in any fiscal year of such nonstate entity shall be required to have a state single audit for such fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this section. Every 2 years the Auditor General, after consulting with the Executive Office of the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller, and all state awarding agencies, shall review the threshold amount for

requiring audits under this section and may adjust such threshold dollar amount consistent with the purposes of this section.

- (b) "Auditing standards" means the auditing standards as stated in the rules of the Auditor General as applicable to for-profit organizations, nonprofit organizations, or local governmental entities.
- (c) "Catalog of State Financial Assistance" means a comprehensive listing of state projects. The Catalog of State Financial Assistance shall be issued by the <u>Chief Financial Officer Comptroller</u> after conferring with all state awarding agencies. The Catalog of State Financial Assistance shall include for each listed state project: the responsible state awarding agency; standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project, including objectives, restrictions, application and awarding procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (d) "Coordinating agency" means the state awarding agency that provides the predominant amount of state financial assistance expended by a recipient, as determined by the recipient's Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance. To provide continuity, the determination of the predominant amount of state financial assistance shall be based upon state financial assistance expended in the recipient's fiscal years ending in 2003, 2006, and 2009, and every third year thereafter.
- (e) "Financial reporting package" means the nonstate entities' financial statements, Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance, auditor's reports, management letter, auditee's written responses or corrective action plan,

correspondence on followup of prior years' corrective actions taken, and such other information determined by the Auditor General to be necessary and consistent with the purposes of this section.

- (f) "Federal financial assistance" means financial assistance from federal sources passed through the state and provided to nonstate organizations to carry out a federal program. "Federal financial assistance" includes all types of federal assistance as defined in applicable United States Office of Management and Budget circulars.
- (g) "For-profit organization" means any organization or sole proprietor that is not a local governmental entity or a nonprofit organization.
- (h) "Independent auditor" means an external state or local governmental auditor or a certified public accountant who meets the independence standards.
- (i) "Internal control over state projects" means a process, effected by a nonstate entity's management and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:
 - 1. Effectiveness and efficiency of operations.
 - 2. Reliability of financial operations.
 - 3. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- (j) "Local governmental entity" means a county, municipality, or special district or any other entity (other than a district school board, charter school, community college, or public university), however styled, which independently exercises any type of governmental function within the state.
- (k) "Major state project" means any state project meeting the criteria as stated in the rules of the Chief

Financial Officer Comptroller. Such criteria shall be established after consultation with all state awarding agencies and shall consider the amount of state project expenditures and expenses or inherent risks. Each major state project shall be audited in accordance with the requirements of this section.

- (1) "Nonprofit organization" means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that:
- Is operated primarily for scientific, educational service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest;
 - 2. Is not organized primarily for profit;
- 3. Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization; and
- 4. Has no part of its income or profit distributable to its members, directors, or officers.
- (m) "Nonstate entity" means a local governmental entity, nonprofit organization, or for-profit organization that receives state financial assistance.
- (n) "Nonstate organization" means a local governmental entity, nonprofit organization, or for-profit organization that receives state resources.
- (o) "Recipient" means a nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance directly from a state awarding agency.
- (p) "Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance" means a document prepared in accordance with the rules of the <u>Chief Financial Officer</u> Comptroller and included in each financial reporting package required by this section.

(q) "State awarding agency" means a state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, that provides state financial assistance to a nonstate entity.

- resources, not including federal financial assistance and state matching on federal programs, provided to a nonstate entity to carry out a state project. "State financial assistance" shall include the types of state resources stated in the rules of the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller established in consultation with all state awarding agencies. State financial assistance may be provided directly by state awarding agencies or indirectly by nonstate entities. State financial assistance does not include procurement contracts used to buy goods or services from vendors and contracts to operate state-owned and contractor-operated facilities.
- (s) "State matching" means state resources provided to a nonstate entity to meet federal financial participation matching requirements.
- (t) "State program" means a set of special purpose activities undertaken to realize identifiable goals and objectives in order to achieve a state agency's mission and legislative intent requiring accountability for state resources.
- (u) "State project" means a state program that provides state financial assistance to a nonstate organization and that must be assigned a state project number identifier in the Catalog of State Financial Assistance.
- (v) "State Projects Compliance Supplement" means a document issued by the <u>Chief Financial Officer</u> Comptroller, in consultation with all state awarding agencies. The State Projects Compliance Supplement shall identify state projects,

the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.

- (w) "State project-specific audit" means an audit of one state project performed in accordance with the requirements of subsection (10).
- (x) "State single audit" means an audit of a nonstate entity's financial statements and state financial assistance. Such audits shall be conducted in accordance with the auditing standards as stated in the rules of the Auditor General.
- (y) "Subrecipient" means a nonstate entity that receives state financial assistance through another nonstate entity.
- (z) "Vendor" means a dealer, distributor, merchant, or other seller providing goods or services that are required for the conduct of a state project. These goods or services may be for an organization's own use or for the use of beneficiaries of the state project.
- (3) The Executive Office of the Governor shall be responsible for notifying the <u>Chief Financial Officer</u>

 Comptroller of any actions during the budgetary process that impact the Catalog of State Financial Assistance.
 - (4) The Chief Financial Officer Comptroller shall:
- (a) Upon conferring with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies, adopt rules necessary to provide appropriate guidance to state awarding agencies, nonstate entities, and independent auditors of state financial assistance relating to the requirements of this section, including:

- 1. The types or classes of state resources considered to be state financial assistance that would be subject to the requirements of this section. This would include guidance to assist in identifying when the state awarding agency or a nonstate entity has contracted with a vendor rather than with a recipient or subrecipient.
 - 2. The criteria for identifying a major state project.
- 3. The criteria for selecting state projects for audits based on inherent risk.
- (b) Be responsible for coordinating revisions to the Catalog of State Financial Assistance after consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies.
- (c) Be responsible for coordinating with the Executive Office of the Governor actions affecting the budgetary process under paragraph (b).
- (d) Be responsible for coordinating revisions to the State Projects Compliance Supplement, after consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies.
- (e) Make enhancements to the state's accounting system
 to provide for the:
- 1. Recording of state financial assistance and federal financial assistance appropriations and expenditures within the state awarding agencies' operating funds.
- 2. Recording of state project number identifiers, as provided in the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, for state financial assistance.
- 3. Establishment and recording of an identification code for each financial transaction, including state awarding agencies' disbursements of state financial assistance and

federal financial assistance, as to the corresponding type or organization that is party to the transaction (e.g., other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations), and disbursements of federal financial assistance, as to whether the party to the transaction is or is not a nonstate entity.

- (f) Upon conferring with the Executive Office of the Governor and all state awarding agencies, adopt rules necessary to provide appropriate guidance to state awarding agencies, nonstate entities, and independent auditors of state financial assistance relating to the format for the Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance.
- (g) Perform any inspections, reviews, investigations, or audits of state financial assistance considered necessary in carrying out the <u>Chief Financial Officer's Comptroller's</u> legal responsibilities for state financial assistance or to comply with the requirements of this section.
 - (5) Each state awarding agency shall:
- (a) Provide to each recipient information needed by the recipient to comply with the requirements of this section, including:
- 1. The audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in this section and applicable rules of the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller and rules of the Auditor General.
- 2. Information from the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, including the standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project including objectives, restrictions, and other relevant information determined necessary.

- 3. Information from the State Projects Compliance Supplement, including the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (b) Require the recipient, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, to allow the state awarding agency, the Comptroller, and the Auditor General access to the recipient's records and the recipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary for complying with the requirements of this section.
- (c) Notify the recipient that this section does not limit the authority of the state awarding agency to conduct or arrange for the conduct of additional audits or evaluations of state financial assistance or limit the authority of any state awarding agency inspector general, the Auditor General, or any other state official.
- (d) Be provided one copy of each financial reporting package prepared in accordance with the requirement of this section.
- (e) Review the recipient's financial reporting package, including the management letters and corrective action plans, to the extent necessary to determine whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken with respect to audit findings and recommendations pertaining to state financial assistance that is specific to the state awarding agency.
- (f) Designate within the state awarding agency a division, bureau, or other organizational unit that will be responsible for reviewing financial reporting packages pursuant to paragraph (e).

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If the state awarding agency is not the coordinating agency as defined in paragraph (2)(d), the state awarding agency's designated division, bureau, or other organizational unit shall communicate to the coordinating agency the state awarding agency's approval of the recipient's corrective action plan with respect to findings and recommendations that are not specific to the state awarding agency.

(6) Each coordinating agency shall:

(a) Review the recipient's financial reporting package, including the management letter and corrective action plan, to identify audit findings and recommendations that affect state financial assistance that is not specific to a

(b) For any such findings and recommendations
determine:

particular state awarding agency.

1. Whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken.

2. Promptly inform the state awarding agency's contact, as designated pursuant to paragraph (5)(f), of actions taken by the recipient to comply with the approved corrective action plan.

(c) Maintain records of followup actions taken for the use of any succeeding coordinating agency.

(7) As a condition of receiving state financial assistance, each nonstate entity that provides state financial assistance to a subrecipient shall:

(a) Provide to each subrecipient information needed by the subrecipient to comply with the requirements of this section, including:

1. Identification of the state awarding agency.

- 2. The audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in this section and applicable rules of the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller and rules of the Auditor General.
- 3. Information from the Catalog of State Financial Assistance, including the standard state project number identifier; official title; legal authorization; and description of the state project, including objectives, restrictions, and other relevant information.
- 4. Information from the State Projects Compliance Supplement including the significant compliance requirements, eligibility requirements, matching requirements, and suggested audit procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary.
- (b) Review the financial reporting package of the subrecipient, including the management letter and corrective action plan, to the extent necessary to determine whether timely and appropriate corrective action has been taken with respect to audit findings and recommendations pertaining to state financial assistance provided by a state awarding agency or nonstate entity.
- (c) Perform such other procedures as specified in terms and conditions of the written agreement with the state awarding agency or nonstate entity including any required monitoring of the subrecipient's use of state financial assistance through onsite visits, limited scope audits, or other specified procedures.
- (d) Require subrecipients, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, to permit the independent auditor of the nonstate entity, the state awarding agency, the Chief
 Financial Officer Comptroller, and the Auditor General access

to the subrecipient's records and the subrecipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.

- (8) Each recipient or subrecipient of state financial assistance shall comply with the following:
- (a) Each nonstate entity that meets the audit threshold requirements, in any fiscal year of the nonstate entity, as stated in the rules of the Auditor General, shall have a state single audit conducted for such fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this act and with additional requirements established in rules of the Chief
 Financial Officer Comptroller and rules of the Auditor
 General. If only one state project is involved in a nonstate entity's fiscal year, the nonstate entity may elect to have only a state project-specific audit.
- (b) Each nonstate entity that does not meet the audit threshold requirements, in any fiscal year of the nonstate entity, as stated in this law or the rules of the Auditor General is exempt for such fiscal year from the state single audit requirements of this section. However, such nonstate entity must meet terms and conditions specified in the written agreement with the state awarding agency or nonstate entity.
- (c) Regardless of the amount of state financial assistance, the provisions of this section do not exempt a nonstate entity from compliance with provisions of law relating to maintaining records concerning state financial assistance to such nonstate entity or allowing access and examination of those records by the state awarding agency, nonstate entity, the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller, or the Auditor General.

- (d) Audits conducted pursuant to this section shall be performed annually.
- (e) Audits conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by independent auditors in accordance with auditing standards as stated in rules of the Auditor General.
- (f) Upon completion of the audit as required by this section, a copy of the recipient's financial reporting package shall be filed with the state awarding agency and the Auditor General. Upon completion of the audit as required by this section, a copy of the subrecipient's financial reporting package shall be filed with the nonstate entity that provided the state financial assistance and the Auditor General. The financial reporting package shall be filed in accordance with the rules of the Auditor General.
- (g) All financial reporting packages prepared pursuant to the requirements of this section shall be available for public inspection.
- (h) If an audit conducted pursuant to this section discloses any significant audit findings relating to state financial assistance, including material noncompliance with individual state project compliance requirements or reportable conditions in internal controls of the nonstate entity, the nonstate entity shall submit as part of the financial reporting package to the state awarding agency or nonstate entity a plan for corrective action to eliminate such audit findings or a statement describing the reasons that corrective action is not necessary.
- (i) An audit conducted in accordance with this section is in addition to any audit of federal awards required by the federal Single Audit Act and other federal laws and regulations. To the extent that such federally required audits

provide the state awarding agency or nonstate entity with information it requires to carry out its responsibilities under state law or other guidance, the state awarding agency or nonstate entity shall rely upon and use that information.

- (j) Unless prohibited by law, the costs of audits pursuant to this section are allowable charges to state projects. However, any charges to state projects should be limited to those incremental costs incurred as a result of the audit requirements of this section in relation to other audit requirements. The nonstate entity should allocate such incremental costs to all state projects for which it expended state financial assistance.
- (k) Audit costs may not be charged to state projects when audits required by this section have not been made or have been made but not in accordance with this section. If a nonstate entity fails to have an audit conducted consistent with this section, a state awarding agency or nonstate entity may take appropriate corrective action to enforce compliance.
- (1) This section does not prohibit the state awarding agency or nonstate entity from including terms and conditions in the written agreement which require additional assurances that state financial assistance meets the applicable requirements of laws, regulations, and other compliance rules.
- (m) A state awarding agency or nonstate entity that conducts or arranges for audits of state financial assistance that are in addition to the audits conducted under this act, including audits of nonstate entities that do not meet the audit threshold requirements, shall, consistent with other applicable law, arrange for funding the full cost of such additional audits.

- (9) The independent auditor when conducting a state single audit of a nonstate entity shall:
- (a) Determine whether the nonstate entity's financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (b) Determine whether state financial assistance shown on the Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the nonstate entity's financial statements taken as a whole.
- (c) With respect to internal controls pertaining to each major state project:
 - 1. Obtain an understanding of internal controls;
 - 2. Assess control risk;

- 3. Perform tests of controls unless the controls are deemed to be ineffective; and
- 4. Determine whether the nonstate entity has internal controls in place to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with the provisions of laws and rules pertaining to state financial assistance that have a material effect on each major state project.
- (d) Determine whether each major state project complied with the provisions of laws, rules, and guidelines as identified in the State Projects Compliance Supplement, or otherwise identified by the state awarding agency, which have a material effect on each major state project. When major state projects are less than 50 percent of the nonstate entity's total expenditures for all state financial assistance, the auditor shall select and test additional state projects as major state projects as necessary to achieve audit coverage of at least 50 percent of the expenditures for all state financial assistance provided to the nonstate entity.

Additional state projects needed to meet the 50-percent requirement may be selected on an inherent risk basis as stated in the rules of the Chief Financial Officer
Comptroller.

- (e) Report on the results of any audit conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with the rules of the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller and rules of the Auditor General. Financial reporting packages shall include summaries of the auditor's results regarding the nonstate entity's financial statements; Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance; internal controls; and compliance with laws, rules, and guidelines.
- (f) Issue a management letter as prescribed in the rules of the Auditor General.
- (g) Upon notification by the nonstate entity, make available the working papers relating to the audit conducted pursuant to the requirements of this section to the state awarding agency, the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller, or the Auditor General for review or copying.
- (10) The independent auditor, when conducting a state project-specific audit of a nonstate entity, shall:
- (a) Determine whether the nonstate entity's Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance is presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with stated accounting policies.
- (b) Obtain an understanding of internal controls and perform tests of internal controls over the state project consistent with the requirements of a major state project.
- (c) Determine whether or not the auditee has complied with applicable provisions of laws, rules, and guidelines as identified in the State Projects Compliance Supplement, or

otherwise identified by the state awarding agency, which could have a direct and material effect on the state project.

- (d) Report on the results of the state project-specific audit consistent with the requirements of the state single audit and issue a management letter as prescribed in the rules of the Auditor General.
- (e) Upon notification by the nonstate entity, make available the working papers relating to the audit conducted pursuant to the requirements of this section to the state awarding agency, the Chief Financial Officer Comptroller, or the Auditor General for review or copying.
 - (11) The Auditor General shall:

- (a) Have the authority to audit state financial assistance provided to any nonstate entity when determined necessary by the Auditor General or when directed by the Legislative Auditing Committee.
- (b) Adopt rules that state the auditing standards that independent auditors are to follow for audits of nonstate entities required by this section.
- (c) Adopt rules that describe the contents and the filing deadlines for the financial reporting package.
- (d) Provide technical advice upon request of the <u>Chief Financial Officer Comptroller</u> and state awarding agencies relating to financial reporting and audit responsibilities contained in this section.
- (e) Be provided one copy of each financial reporting package prepared in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- (f) Perform ongoing reviews of a sample of financial reporting packages filed pursuant to the requirements of this section to determine compliance with the reporting

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requirements of this section and applicable rules of the Chief
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.