By the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Banking and Insurance; and Senator Sebesta

302-2426-04

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to banking regulation; amending s. 494.0011, F.S.; authorizing the Financial 3 4 Services Commission to require electronic 5 submission of forms, documents, or fees; 6 providing for a technological or financial 7 hardship accommodation; providing application; 8 amending s. 494.0016, F.S.; authorizing the 9 commission to prescribe requirements for 10 destroying books, accounts, records, and documents; authorizing the commission to 11 12 recognize alternative statutes of limitation 13 for such destruction; providing for procedures; amending s. 494.0029, F.S.; specifying criteria 14 for receipt of certain applications; specifying 15 16 certain permits as not transferable or 17 assignable; amending s. 494.00295, F.S.; 18 revising provisions to specify continuing education for certain professions; amending s. 19 494.003, F.S.; clarifying application of an 20 21 exemption from application of certain mortgage 22 broker licensure requirements to certain 23 entities; amending s. 494.0031, F.S.; requiring licensure of mortgage brokerage businesses; 2.4 specifying criteria for receipt of certain 25 applications; authorizing the commission or the 26 27 Office of Financial Regulation to require 2.8 certain information from certain applicants; 29 revising certain fingerprinting requirements; authorizing the commission to prescribe fees 30 and procedures for processing fingerprints; 31

1	authorizing the office to contract for certain
2	fingerprinting services; specifying certain
3	licenses as nontransferable or nonassignable;
4	amending s. 494.0033, F.S.; clarifying mortgage
5	broker licensure requirements; authorizing the
6	commission to waive certain examination
7	requirements under certain circumstances;
8	authorizing the commission to prescribe certain
9	additional testing fees; revising certain
10	fingerprinting requirements; authorizing the
11	commission to prescribe fees and procedures for
12	processing fingerprints; authorizing the office
13	to contract for certain fingerprinting
14	services; specifying criteria for receipt of
15	certain applications; deleting certain
16	provisions relating to cancellation and
17	reinstatement of licenses; amending s.
18	494.0034, F.S.; clarifying the commission's
19	authorization to prescribe license renewal
20	forms; amending s. 494.0036, F.S.; clarifying
21	provisions relating to issuance of mortgage
22	brokerage business branch office licenses;
23	specifying criteria for receipt of certain
24	applications; amending s. 494.0041, F.S.;
25	specifying an additional ground for
26	disciplinary action; amending s. 494.006, F.S.;
27	clarifying application of an exemption from
28	application of certain mortgage lender
29	licensure requirements to certain entities;
30	amending s. 494.0061, F.S.; requiring licensure
31	of mortgage lenders; specifying criteria for

1	receipt of certain applications; revising
2	certain fingerprinting requirements;
3	authorizing the commission to prescribe fees
4	and procedures for processing fingerprints;
5	authorizing the office to contract for certain
6	fingerprinting services; deleting certain
7	provisions relating to cancellation and
8	reinstatement of licenses; authorizing the
9	commission to waive certain examination
10	requirements under certain circumstances;
11	authorizing the commission to prescribe certain
12	additional testing fees; amending s. 494.0062,
13	F.S.; requiring licensure of correspondent
14	mortgage lenders; specifying criteria for
15	receipt of certain applications; authorizing
16	the office to require applicants to provide
17	certain information; revising certain
18	fingerprinting requirements; authorizing the
19	commission to prescribe fees and procedures for
20	processing fingerprints; authorizing the office
21	to contract for certain fingerprinting
22	services; deleting certain provisions relating
23	to cancellation and reinstatement of licenses;
24	authorizing the commission to waive certain
25	examination requirements under certain
26	circumstances; authorizing the commission to
27	prescribe certain additional testing fees;
28	amending s. 494.0064, F.S.; clarifying a
29	reference to professional continuing education
30	for certain licensees; amending s. 494.0065,
31	F.S.; specifying criteria for receipt of

1	certain applications; specifying certain
2	education and testing requirements for certain
3	principal representatives and for certain
4	applications or transfer applications;
5	authorizing the commission to waive certain
6	examination requirements under certain
7	circumstances; authorizing the commission to
8	prescribe certain additional testing fees;
9	increasing a license transfer fee; revising
10	certain fingerprinting requirements;
11	authorizing the commission to prescribe fees
12	and procedures for processing fingerprints;
13	authorizing the office to contract for certain
14	fingerprinting services; requiring mortgage
15	lenders to designate a principal
16	representative; providing criteria and
17	requirements; amending s. 494.0066, F.S.;
18	clarifying branch office licensure
19	requirements; amending s. 494.0067, F.S.;
20	clarifying reference to professional continuing
21	education requirements; amending s. 494.0072,
22	F.S.; providing an additional ground for
23	disciplinary action; amending s. 494.00721,
24	F.S.; correcting cross-references; amending s.
25	516.03, F.S.; specifying criteria for receipt
26	of certain applications; authorizing the
27	commission to require electronic submission of
28	forms, documents, or fees; providing for a
29	technological or financial hardship
30	accommodation; amending s. 516.07, F.S.;
31	providing an additional ground for disciplinary

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action; amending s. 516.12, F.S.; authorizing the commission to prescribe certain minimum information in a licensee's books, accounts, records, and documents; authorizing the commission to prescribe requirements for destroying books, accounts, records, and documents; authorizing the commission to recognize alternative statutes of limitation for such destruction; providing for procedures; amending s. 517.061, F.S.; revising provisions related to exempt transactions; amending ss. 517.051, 517.081, F.S.; revising standards for accounting principles to be used in preparing certain financial statements; amending s. 517.12, F.S.; revising provisions for taking and submitting fingerprints of dealers, associated persons, and similarly situated persons; revising provisions relating to expiration and renewal of registration of such persons; providing an exemption from registration requirements for a Canadian dealer and an associated person who represents a Canadian dealer under certain conditions; providing for notice filing by a Canadian dealer under certain conditions; authorizing the Office of Financial Regulation of the Financial Services Commission to issue a permit to evidence the effectiveness of a notice filing for a Canadian dealer; providing for the renewal of a notice filing by a Canadian dealer; providing for reinstatement of a notice

1 filing; providing obligations for a Canadian 2 dealer who has given notice of filing; providing obligations for an associated person 3 4 representing a Canadian dealer who has given 5 notice of filing; providing for the termination 6 of a notice of filing; providing for the 7 collection of fees; amending s. 517.131, F.S.; 8 revising conditions under which recovery can be 9 made from the Securities Guaranty Fund; 10 amending s. 517.141, F.S.; prescribing circumstances under which a claimant must 11 12 reimburse the fund; amending s. 517.161, F.S.; 13 providing an additional ground for revocation, restriction, or suspension of a registration; 14 amending ss. 520.03, 520.32, 520.52, and 15 520.63, F.S.; specifying criteria for receipt 16 17 of certain applications; amending s. 520.994, F.S.; authorizing the commission to require 18 electronic submission of forms, documents, or 19 fees; providing for a technological or 20 21 financial hardship accommodation; amending s. 22 520.995, F.S.; providing an additional ground 23 for disciplinary action; amending ss. 520.997 and 537.009, F.S.; authorizing the commission 2.4 to prescribe certain minimum information in a 25 licensee's books, accounts, records, and 26 27 documents; authorizing the commission to 2.8 prescribe requirements for destroying books, accounts, records, and documents; authorizing 29 the commission to recognize alternative 30 statutes of limitation for such destruction; 31

1	providing for procedures; amending ss. 560.105
2	and 560.118, F.S.; authorizing the commission
3	to require electronic submission of forms,
4	documents, or fees; providing for a
5	technological or financial hardship
6	accommodation; amending s. 560.114, F.S.;
7	providing an additional ground for disciplinary
8	action; amending s. 560.121, F.S.; authorizing
9	the commission to prescribe certain minimum
10	information in a licensee's books, accounts,
11	records, and documents; authorizing the
12	commission to prescribe requirements for
13	destroying books, accounts, records, and
14	documents; authorizing the commission to
15	recognize alternative statutes of limitation
16	for such destruction; providing for procedures;
17	decreasing the required time period for the
18	office to retain certain reports, records,
19	applications, and related information; amending
20	s. 560.205, F.S.; revising certain
21	fingerprinting requirements; authorizing the
22	commission to prescribe fees and procedures for
23	processing fingerprints; authorizing the office
24	to contract for certain fingerprinting
25	services; authorizing the commission to
26	establish procedures for depositing fees and
27	filing documents electronically; deleting a
28	requirement that an applicant provide a list of
29	certain vendors; requiring the reporting of
30	certain changes of registration by written
31	amendment; amending s. 560.207, F.S.;

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authorizing the commission to establish procedures for depositing fees and filing documents electronically; amending s. 560.210, F.S.; revising permissible investment requirements for certain registrants; amending ss. 560.211 and 560.310, F.S.; requiring notice to the office of the location of certain amended records; amending ss. 560.305 and 560.308, F.S.; authorizing the commission to establish procedures for depositing fees and filing documents electronically; amending s. 560.306, F.S.; revising certain fingerprinting requirements; authorizing the commission to prescribe fees and procedures for processing fingerprints; authorizing the office to contract for certain fingerprinting services; requiring the reporting of certain changes of registration by written amendment; specifying in general that accounting principles are those generally accepted in the United States; specifying commission authority by rules; creating s. 626.565, F.S.; requiring an agent of the Department of Insurance to dispose of records containing personal financial or health information of certain persons after the retention requirement has been met; requiring such disposition to protect the confidentiality of personal financial or health information; authorizing the department to adopt rules for the disposition of personal financial or health information; providing an effective date.

1	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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3	Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 494.0011, Florida
4	Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that
5	section, to read:
6	494.0011 Powers and duties of the commission and
7	office
8	(2) The commission has authority to adopt rules
9	pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement ss.
10	494.001-494.0077. The commission may adopt rules which require
11	to allow electronic submission of any forms, documents, or
12	fees required by this act, provided such rules reasonably
13	accommodate technological or financial hardship. The
14	commission may prescribe by rule requirements and procedures
15	for obtaining a technological or financial hardship exemption.
16	The commission may also adopt rules to accept certification of
17	compliance with requirements of this act in lieu of requiring
18	submission of documents.
19	(6) The grant or denial of a license shall be in
20	accordance with s. 120.60.
21	Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 494.0016, Florida
22	Statutes, is amended to read:
23	494.0016 Books, accounts, and records; maintenance;
24	examinations by the office
25	(4) The commission may prescribe by rule the minimum
26	information to be shown in the books, accounts, records, and
27	documents of licensees so that such records will enable the
28	office to determine the licensee's compliance with ss.
29	494.001-494.0077. In addition, the commission may prescribe by
30	rule the requirements for destruction of books, accounts,
31	records and documents retained by the licensee after

completion of the time period indicated in subsection (3). 2 Notwithstanding the 3-year retention period provided in subsection (3), if the office identifies a statute of 3 4 limitations in a federal law or rule or another law or rule of this state that is reasonably related by subject matter to the 5 6 administration of this chapter, the commission may identify 7 that statute of limitations by rule and may prohibit the 8 destruction of records required to be maintained by this chapter for a period of time established by rule that is 9 10 reasonably related to such statute of limitations. The commission shall prescribe by rule those documents or records 11 12 that are to be preserved that are related to the identified statute of limitations. 13 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 494.0029, Florida 14 Statutes, is amended to read: 15 494.0029 Mortgage business schools.--16 17 (1)(a) Each person, school, or institution, except 18 accredited colleges, universities, community colleges, and area technical centers in this state, which offers or conducts 19 mortgage business training as a condition precedent to 20 21 licensure as a mortgage broker, or mortgage lender, or a 22 correspondent mortgage lender shall obtain a permit from the 23 office and abide by the regulations imposed upon such person, school, or institution by this chapter and rules adopted 2.4 pursuant to this chapter. The commission shall, by rule, 2.5 26 recertify the permits annually with initial and renewal permit 27 fees that do not exceed \$500 plus the cost of accreditation. 2.8 (b) A permit application shall be deemed received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application 29 30 form as prescribed by commission rule, a nonrefundable

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application fee of \$500, and any other fee prescribed by law or rule.

(c) A permit issued under this section is not transferable or assignable.

Section 4. Section 494.00295, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00295 Professional continuing education .--

- (1) Each mortgage broker, mortgage lender, and correspondent mortgage lender must certify to the office at the time of renewal that during the 2 years prior to an application for license renewal, all mortgage brokers and the principal representative and, loan originators, and associates of a mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender have successfully completed at least 14 hours of professional continuing education programs covering primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions and the provisions of this chapter. Licensees shall maintain records documenting compliance with this subsection for a period of 4 years.
- (2) Professional <u>continuing</u> education programs must contribute directly to the professional competency of the participants, may only be offered by permitted mortgage business schools or entities specifically exempted from permitting as mortgage business schools, and may include electronically transmitted or distance education courses.
- (3) The commission shall adopt rules necessary to administer this section, including rules governing qualifying hours for professional <u>continuing</u> education programs and standards for electronically transmitted or distance education courses, including course completion requirements.

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Section 5. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) and paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 494.003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494.003 Exemptions.--

- (1) None of the following persons is subject to the requirements of ss. 494.003-494.0043:
- (b) A <u>state or federal chartered</u> bank, <u>bank holding</u> company, trust company, savings and loan association, savings bank <u>or credit union</u>, <u>a bank holding company regulated under the laws of any state or the United States</u>, or <u>a consumer finance company licensed pursuant to chapter 516.</u>
- (c) A wholly owned bank holding company subsidiary formed and regulated under the laws of any state or the United States or a wholly owned savings and loan association holding company subsidiary that is approved or certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association, or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.
- (2) None of the following persons is required to be licensed under ss. 494.003-494.0043:
- (e) A wholly owned subsidiary of a <u>state or federal</u> <u>chartered</u> bank or savings and loan association the sole activity of which is to distribute the lending programs of such <u>state or federal chartered</u> bank or savings and loan association to persons who arrange loans for, or make loans to, borrowers.
- Section 6. Section 494.0031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 494.0031 Licensure as a mortgage brokerage business.--

1	(1) Each person who acts as a mortgage brokerage
2	business must be licensed pursuant to this section.
3	(2)(1) The commission or office may require each
4	applicant for a mortgage brokerage business license to provide
5	any information reasonably necessary to make a determination
6	of the applicant's eligibility for licensure. The office shall
7	issue a mortgage brokerage business license to each person
8	who:
9	(a) Has submitted a completed application form and a
10	nonrefundable application fee of \$425 <u>.</u> ; and
11	(b) Has a qualified principal broker pursuant to s.
12	494.0035.
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14	A license application shall be deemed received for purposes of
15	s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as
16	prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable
17	application fee of \$425, and any other fee prescribed by law
18	or rule.
19	(3)(2) The commission may require by rule that each
20	officer, director, and ultimate equitable owner of a
21	10-percent or greater interest in the mortgage brokerage
22	business submit a complete set of fingerprints. Fingerprint
23	cards submitted to the office shall be taken by an authorized
24	law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is submitted
25	to the office in paper form. In addition to the fees
26	prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission may prescribe by rule
27	an additional fee, not to exceed \$30, for processing the
28	fingerprints. The commission may prescribe by rule procedures
29	for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic means to
30	the office or to a third party approved by the office. In
31	order to implement the submission and processing of

fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, the office may, without complying with the requirements of 2 chapter 287, contract with any other state agency which 3 4 provides fingerprinting services, either directly or through a third-party vendor under contract to such state agency. 5 6 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2)(1), it is a ground for denial of licensure if the 8 applicant; designated principal mortgage broker; any officer, director, partner, or joint venturer; any natural person 9 owning a 10 percent or greater interest in the mortgage 10 brokerage business; or any natural person who is the ultimate 11 12 equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the 13 mortgage brokerage business has committed any violation specified in ss. 494.001-494.0077 or has pending against him 14 or her any criminal prosecution or administrative enforcement 15 action, in any jurisdiction, which involves fraud, dishonest 16 17 dealing, or any other act of moral turpitude. 18 (5)(4) A mortgage brokerage business or branch office license may be canceled if it was issued through mistake or 19 inadvertence of the office. A notice of cancellation must be 2.0 21 issued by the office within 90 days after the issuance of the 2.2 license. A notice of cancellation shall be effective upon 23 receipt. The notice of cancellation shall provide the applicant with notification of the right to request a hearing 2.4 within 21 days after the applicant's receipt of the notice of 2.5 26 cancellation. A license shall be reinstated if the applicant 27 can demonstrate that the requirements for obtaining the 2.8 license pursuant to this chapter have been satisfied. (6)(5) A license issued under this part is not 29 transferable or assignable. If an initial mortgage brokerage 30

business or branch office license has been issued but the

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check upon which the license is based is returned due to insufficient funds, the license shall be deemed canceled. A license deemed canceled pursuant to this subsection shall be reinstated if the office receives a certified check for the appropriate amount within 30 days after the date the check was returned due to insufficient funds.

Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (7) of section 494.0033, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494.0033 Mortgage broker's license.--

- (1) Each natural person who acts as a mortgage broker for a mortgage brokerage business or acts as an associate for a mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender must be licensed pursuant to this section. To act as a mortgage broker, an individual must be an associate of a mortgage brokerage business, mortgage lender, or correspondent mortgage lender. A mortgage broker is prohibited from being an associate of more than one mortgage brokerage business, mortgage lender, or correspondent mortgage lender.
- (2) Each initial application for a mortgage broker's license must be in the form prescribed by rule of the commission. The commission may require each applicant to provide any information reasonably necessary to make a determination of the applicant's eligibility for licensure. The office shall issue an initial license to any natural person who:
 - (a) Is at least 18 years of age.÷
- (b) Has passed a written test adopted <u>and administered</u> by the office <u>or a third party approved by the office</u> which is designed to determine competency in primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions as well as to test knowledge of ss. 494.001-494.0077 and the rules adopted pursuant

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thereto. The commission may waive by rule the examination
requirement for any individual who has passed a comparable
test offered by a national group of state mortgage regulators
or a federal governmental agency that covers primary and
subordinate mortgage financing transactions. The commission
may prescribe by rule an additional fee for the mortgage
broker test.÷

- (c) Has submitted a completed application and a nonrefundable application fee of \$200. An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable application fee of \$200, and any other fee prescribed by law or rule. The commission may set by rule an additional fee for a retake of the examination; and
- (d) Has filed a complete set of fingerprints, taken by an authorized law enforcement officer, for submission by the office to the Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation for processing. Fingerprint cards submitted to the office shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is submitted to the office in paper form. The commission may prescribe by rule additional fees for processing the fingerprints. The commission may prescribe by rule procedures for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic means to the office or to a third party approved by the office. In order to implement the submission and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, the office may, without complying with the requirements of chapter 287, contract with any other state agency that provides fingerprinting services, either directly or through a third-party vendor under contract to such state agency.

(/) If an initial mortgage broker license has been
issued but the check upon which the license is based is
returned due to insufficient funds, the license shall be
deemed canceled. A license deemed canceled pursuant to this
subsection shall be reinstated if the office receives a
certified check for the appropriate amount within 30 days
after the date the check was returned due to insufficient
funds.
Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 494.0034, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:
494.0034 Renewal of mortgage broker's license
(2) The commission shall adopt rules establishing a
procedure for the biennial renewal of mortgage broker's
licenses. The commission may prescribe the form of the renewal
application and may require an update of information since the
licensee's last renewal.
Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 494.0036, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:
494.0036 Mortgage brokerage business branch offices
(2) The office shall issue a mortgage brokerage
business branch office license to a mortgage brokerage
business license applicant, after the office determines the
license applicant has submitted upon receipt of a completed
application in a form as prescribed by commission rule and
payment of an initial nonrefundable branch office license fee
of \$225. Branch office licenses must be renewed in conjunction
with the renewal of the mortgage brokerage business license.
The branch office license shall be issued in the name of the
mortgage brokerage business that maintains the branch office.
An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s.
120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as

1	prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable
2	application fee of \$225, and any other fee prescribed by law
3	or rule.
4	Section 10. Paragraph (s) is added to subsection (2)
5	of section 494.0041, Florida Statutes, to read:
6	494.0041 Administrative penalties and fines; license
7	violations
8	(2) Each of the following acts constitutes a ground
9	for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (1)
10	may be taken:
11	(s) Payment to the office for a license or permit with
12	a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to
13	clear the applicant's or licensee's financial institutions.
14	Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1)
15	and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 494.006,
16	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
17	494.006 Exemptions
18	(1) None of the following persons are subject to the
19	requirements of ss. 494.006-494.0077 in order to act as a
20	mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender:
21	(a) A state or federal chartered bank, bank holding
22	company, trust company, savings and loan association, savings
23	bank or credit union, a bank holding company regulated under
24	the laws of any state or the United States, or an insurance
25	company if the insurance company is duly licensed in this
26	state.
27	(c) A wholly owned bank holding company subsidiary
28	formed and regulated under the laws of any state or the United
29	States or a wholly owned savings and loan association holding
30	company subsidiary that is approved or certified by the

31 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans

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Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association, or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

(2)(a) A natural person employed by a mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender licensed under ss.

6 494.001-494.0077 is exempt from the licensure requirements of ss. 494.001-494.0077 when acting within the scope of 8 employment with the licensee.

Section 12. Section 494.0061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0061 Mortgage lender's license requirements.--

- (1) Each person who acts as a mortgage lender must be licensed pursuant to this section.
- (2)(1) The commission or office may require each applicant for a mortgage lender license to provide any information reasonably necessary to make a determination of the applicant's eligibility for licensure. The office shall issue an initial mortgage lender license to any person that submits:
 - (a) A completed application form .÷
- (b) A nonrefundable application fee of \$575.÷
- (c) Audited financial statements, which documents disclose that the applicant has a bona fide and verifiable net worth, pursuant to <u>United States</u> generally accepted accounting principles, of at least \$250,000, which must be continuously maintained as a condition of licensure.÷
- (d) A surety bond in the amount of \$10,000, payable to the state and conditioned upon compliance with ss.494.001-494.0077, which inures to the office and which must be

30 continuously maintained thereafter in full force.÷

(e) Documentation that the applicant is duly incorporated, registered, or otherwise formed as a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other lawful entity under the laws of this state or another state of the United States.; and

(f) For applications submitted after October 1, 2001, proof that the applicant's principal representative has completed 24 hours of classroom instruction in primary and subordinate financing transactions and in the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

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- 12 An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s.
- 13 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as
- 14 prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable
- 15 application fee of \$575, and any other fee prescribed by law

16 <u>or rule.</u>

17 (3)(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection

18 (2)(1), it is a ground for denial of licensure if the

19 applicant, any principal officer or director of the applicant,

20 or any natural person owning a 10-percent or greater interest

21 in the applicant, or any natural person who is the ultimate

22 equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the

23 applicant has committed any violation specified in s.

24 | 494.0072, or has pending against her or him any criminal

25 prosecution or administrative enforcement action, in any

26 jurisdiction, which involves fraud, dishonest dealing, or any

27 act of moral turpitude.

28 (4)(3) Each initial application for a mortgage

29 lender's license must be in a form prescribed by the

30 commission. The commission or office may require each

31 applicant to provide any information reasonably necessary to

make a determination of the applicant's eligibility for 2 licensure. The commission or office may require that each officer, director, and ultimate equitable owner of a 3 10-percent or greater interest in the applicant submit a 4 complete set of fingerprints. Fingerprint cards submitted to 5 6 the office shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement 7 officer if such fingerprint card is submitted to the office in 8 paper form. In addition to the fees prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission may prescribe by rule an additional fee, not to 9 exceed \$30, for processing the fingerprints. The commission 10 may prescribe by rule procedures for submitting fingerprints 11 12 and fees by electronic means to the office or to a third party 13 approved by the office. In order to implement the submission and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant 14 to this section, the office may, without complying with the 15 requirements of chapter 287, contract with any other state 16 agency that provides fingerprinting services, either directly 18 or through a third-party vendor under contract to such state 19 agency. (5)(4) A person required to be licensed under ss. 20 21 494.006-494.0077, or an agent or employee thereof, is deemed 2.2 to have consented to the venue of courts of competent 23 jurisdiction in this state regarding any matter within the authority of ss. 494.001-494.0077 regardless of where an act 2.4 or violation was committed. 25 (6) (5) A license issued in accordance with ss. 26 27 494.006-494.0077 is not transferable or assignable. 2.8 (7)(6) A mortgage lender or branch office license may 29 be canceled if it was issued through mistake or inadvertence of the office. A notice of cancellation must be issued by the 30 office within 90 days after the issuance of the license. A

notice of cancellation shall be effective upon receipt. The notice of cancellation shall provide the applicant with notification of the right to request a hearing within 21 days after the applicant's receipt of the notice of cancellation. A license shall be reinstated if the applicant can demonstrate that the requirements for obtaining the license pursuant to this chapter have been satisfied.

- (7) If an initial mortgage lender or branch office license has been issued but the check upon which the license is based is returned due to insufficient funds, the license shall be deemed canceled. A license deemed canceled pursuant to this subsection shall be reinstated if the office receives a certified check for the appropriate amount within 30 days after the date the check was returned due to insufficient funds.
- (8) Each lender, regardless of the number of branches it operates, shall designate a principal representative who exercises control of the licensee's business and shall maintain a form prescribed by the commission designating the principal representative. If the form is not accurately maintained, the business is considered to be operated by each officer, director, or equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the business.
- (9) After October 1, 2001, An applicant's principal representative must pass a written test prescribed by the commission and administered by the office or a third party approved by the office, which covers primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions and the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. The commission may waive by rule the examination requirement for any individual who has passed a comparable test offered by a

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1	national group of state mortgage regulators or a federal
2	governmental agency that covers primary and subordinate
3	mortgage financing transactions. The commission may set by
4	rule a fee not to exceed \$100 for the examination.
5	(10) A lender shall notify the office of the name and
6	address of any new principal representative and shall document
7	that the person has completed the educational and testing
8	requirements of this section within 90 days after upon the
9	designation of a new principal representative.
10	Section 13. Section 494.0062, Florida Statutes, is
11	amended to read:
12	494.0062 Correspondent mortgage lender's license
13	requirements
14	(1) Each person who acts as a correspondent mortgage
15	lender must be licensed pursuant to this section.
16	(2)(1) The office may require each applicant to
17	provide any information reasonably necessary to make a
18	determination of the applicant's eliqibility for licensure.
19	The office shall issue an initial correspondent mortgage
20	lender license to any person who submits:
21	(a) A completed application form;
22	(b) A nonrefundable application fee of \$500;
23	(c) Audited financial statements, which document that

(d) A surety bond in the amount of \$10,000, payable to the State of Florida and conditioned upon compliance with ss. 494.001-494.0077, which inures to the office and which must be 31 continuously maintained, thereafter, in full force;

the application has a bona fide and verifiable net worth,

principles, of \$25,000 or more, which must be continuously

pursuant to <u>Unites States</u> generally accepted accounting

maintained as a condition of licensure;

- (e) Documentation that the applicant is duly incorporated, registered, or otherwise formed as a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other lawful entity under the laws of this state or another state of the United States; and
- (f) For applications filed after October 1, 2001, proof that the applicant's principal representative has completed 24 hours of classroom instruction in primary and subordinate financing transactions and in the provisions of this chapter and rules enacted under this chapter.

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- 12 An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s.
- 13 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as
- prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable 14
- application fee of \$500, and any other fee prescribed by law 15

or rule. 16

- (3)(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection $18 \left(\frac{(2)}{(1)} \right)$, it is a ground for denial of licensure if the applicant, any principal officer or director of the applicant, or any natural person who is the ultimate equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the applicant has committed any violation specified in s. 494.0072, or has pending against her or him any criminal prosecution or administrative enforcement action, in any jurisdiction, which involves fraud,
 - dishonest dealing, or any act of moral turpitude. (4)(3) Each initial application for a correspondent mortgage lender's license must be in a form prescribed by the commission. The commission or office may require each applicant to provide any information reasonably necessary to make a determination of the applicant's eligibility for

each officer, director, and ultimate equitable owner of a 2 10-percent or greater interest submit a complete set of fingerprints. Fingerprint cards submitted to the office shall 3 be taken by an authorized law enforcement officer if such 4 fingerprint card is submitted to the office in paper form. In 5 addition to the fees prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission 7 may prescribe by rule an additional fee, not to exceed \$30, for processing the fingerprints. The commission may prescribe 8 by rule procedures for submitting fingerprints and fees by 9 10 electronic means to the office or to a third party approved by the office. In order to implement the submission and 11 12 processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, the office may, without complying with the 13 requirements of chapter 287, contract with any other state 14 agency that provides fingerprinting services, either directly 15 or through a third-party vendor under contract to such state 16 17 agency. (5) (4) Each license is valid for the remainder of the 18 biennium in which the license is issued. 19 20 (6)(5) A person licensed as a correspondent mortgage 21 lender may make mortgage loans, but may not service a mortgage loan for more than 4 months after the date the mortgage loan 23 was made or acquired by the correspondent mortgage lender. (7)(6) A licensee under ss. 494.006-494.0077, or an 2.4 agent or employee thereof, is deemed to have consented to the 2.5 26 venue of courts of competent jurisdiction in this state 27 regarding any matter within the authority of ss. 2.8 494.001-494.0077 regardless of where an act or violation was committed. 29 30

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(8)(7) A correspondent mortgage lender is subject to the same requirements and restrictions as a licensed mortgage lender unless otherwise provided in this section.

(9)(8) A license issued under this section is not transferable or assignable.

(10)(9) A correspondent mortgage lender or branch office license may be canceled if it was issued through mistake or inadvertence of the office. A notice of cancellation must be issued by the office within 90 days after the issuance of the license. A notice of cancellation shall be effective upon receipt. The notice of cancellation shall provide the applicant with notification of the right to request a hearing within 21 days after the applicant's receipt of the notice of cancellation. A license shall be reinstated if the applicant can demonstrate that the requirements for obtaining the license pursuant to this chapter have been satisfied.

(10) If an initial correspondent mortgage lender or branch office license has been issued but the check upon which the license is based is returned due to insufficient funds, the license shall be deemed canceled. A license deemed canceled pursuant to this subsection shall be reinstated if the office receives a certified check for the appropriate amount within 30 days after the date the check was returned due to insufficient funds.

(11) Each correspondent lender shall designate a principal representative who exercises control over the business and shall maintain a form prescribed by the commission designating the principal representative. If the form is not accurately maintained, the business is considered

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to be operated by each officer, director, or equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the business.

- representative must pass a written test prescribed by the commission and administered by the office or a third party approved by the office, which covers primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions and the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. The commission may waive by rule the examination requirement for any individual who has passed a comparable test offered by a national group of state mortgage regulators or a federal governmental agency that covers primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions. The commission may set by rule a fee not to exceed \$100 for taking the examination.
- (13) A correspondent lender shall notify the office of the name and address of any new principal representative and shall document that such person has completed the educational and testing requirements of this section within 90 days after upon the lender's designation of a new principal representative.

Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 494.0064, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0064 Renewal of mortgage lender's license; branch office license renewal.--

(1)

(b) A licensee shall also submit, as part of the renewal form, certification that during the preceding 2 years the licensee's principal representative and, loan originators, and associates have completed the professional continuing education requirements of s. 494.00295.

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Section 15. Section 494.0065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0065 Saving clause. --

- (1)(a) Any person in good standing who holds an active registration pursuant to former s. 494.039 or license pursuant to former s. 521.205, or any person who acted solely as a mortgage servicer on September 30, 1991, is eligible to apply to the office for a mortgage lender's license and is eligible for licensure if the applicant:
- 1. For at least 12 months during the period of October 1, 1989, through September 30, 1991, has engaged in the business of either acting as a seller or assignor of mortgage loans or as a servicer of mortgage loans, or both;
- 2. Has documented a minimum net worth of \$25,000 in audited financial statements; and
- 3. Has applied for licensure pursuant to this section by January 1, 1992, and paid an application fee of \$100.
- (b) A licensee pursuant to paragraph (a) may operate a wholly owned subsidiary or affiliate for the purpose of servicing accounts if the subsidiary or affiliate is operational as of September 30, 1991. Such subsidiary or affiliate is not required to obtain a separate license, but is subject to all the requirements of a licensee under ss. 494.006-494.0077.
- (2) A licensee issued a license pursuant to subsection (1) may renew its mortgage lending license if it documents a minimum net worth of \$25,000, according to <u>United States</u> generally accepted accounting principles, which must be continuously maintained as a condition to licensure. The office shall require an audited financial statement which documents such net worth.

(3) The commission may prescribe by rule forms and	
procedures for application for licensure, and amendment and	
withdrawal of application for licensure, or transfer,	
including any existing branch offices, in accordance with	
subsections (4) and (5), and for renewal of licensure of	
licensees under this section. An application shall be deemed	
received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a complete	∍d
application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a	
nonrefundable application fee of \$575, and any other fee	
prescribed by law or rule.	
(4)(a) Notwithstanding ss. $494.0061(6)(5)$ and	

- (4)(a) Notwithstanding ss. 494.0061(6)(5) and 494.0067(3), the ultimate equitable owner, as of the effective date of this act, of a mortgage lender licensed under this section may transfer, one time, at least 50 percent of the ownership, control, or power to vote any class of equity securities of such mortgage lender, except as provided in paragraph (b). For purposes of this subsection, satisfaction of the amount of the ownership transferred may be met in multiple transactions or in a single transaction.
- (b) A person who is an ultimate equitable owner on the effective date of this act may transfer, at any time, at least 50 percent of the ownership, control, or power to vote any class of equity securities of such person to the person's spouse or child, and any such transferee may transfer, at any time, such ownership, control, or power to vote to a spouse or child of such transferee, in perpetuity.
- (c) For any transfer application filed after October
 1, 2004:
- 1. Proof shall be required that the applicant's principal representative has completed 24 hours of instruction in primary and subordinate financing transactions and in the

provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this
chapter.

- 2. An applicant's principal representative must pass a written test, prescribed by the commission or office by rule, and administered by the office or a third party approved by the office, which covers primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions and the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. The commission may waive by rule the examination requirement for any individual who has passed a comparable test offered by a national group of state mortgage regulators or a federal governmental agency that covers primary and subordinate mortgage financing transactions. The commission may prescribe by rule a fee not to exceed \$100 for the examination.
- (5) The commission or office may require each applicant for any transfer to provide any information reasonably necessary to make a determination of the applicant's eligibility for licensure. The office shall issue the transfer of licensure to any person who submits the following documentation at least 90 days prior to the anticipated transfer:
 - (a) A completed application form.
- (b) A nonrefundable fee set by rule of the commission in the amount of \$575\$500 .
- (c) Audited financial statements that substantiate that the applicant has a bona fide and verifiable net worth, according to <u>United States</u> generally accepted accounting principles, of at least \$25,000, which must be continuously maintained as a condition of licensure.
- (d) Documentation that the applicant is incorporated, registered, or otherwise formed as a general partnership,

limited partnership, limited liability company, or other lawful entity under the laws of this state or another state of the United States. 3 4 5 An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s. 6 120.60 upon receipt of a completed application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable application fee of \$575, and any other fee prescribed by law 8 or rule. The commission or office may require by rule that 9 10 each officer, director, and ultimate equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the applicant submit a 11 12 complete set of fingerprints. Fingerprint cards submitted to 13 the office shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is submitted to the office in 14 paper form. In addition to the fees prescribed in s. 215.405, 15 the commission may prescribe by rule an additional fee, not to 16 exceed \$30, for processing the fingerprints. The commission 18 may prescribe by rule procedures for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic means to the office or to a third party 19 approved by the office. In order to implement the submission 20 21 and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, the office may, without complying with the 22 23 requirements of chapter 287, contract with any other state agency that provides fingerprinting services, either directly 2.4 or through a third-party vendor under contract to such state 2.5 26 agency. 27 (6) Notwithstanding subsection (5), a transfer under subsection (4) may be denied if the applicant, any principal 29 officer or director of the applicant, or any natural person owning a 10-percent or greater interest in the applicant has 30 committed any violation specified in s. 494.0072, or has

entered a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, or has an action pending against the applicant in any criminal prosecution or administrative enforcement action, in any jurisdiction, which involves fraud, dishonest dealing, or any act of moral turpitude.

- (7) A license issued in accordance with this section is not transferable or assignable except as provided in subsection (4).
- (8) Each person applying for a transfer of any branch office pursuant to subsection (4) must comply with the requirements of s. 494.0066.
- representative who exercises control over the business and shall maintain a form prescribed by the commission by rule designating the principal representative. If the form is not accurately maintained, the business is considered to be operated by each officer, director, or equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the business.
- (10) A lender shall notify the office of the name and address of any new principal representative and shall document that the person has completed the educational and testing requirements of this section within 90 days after the designation of a new principal representative.
- Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 494.0066,
 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 494.0066 Branch offices.--

(2) The office shall issue a branch office license to a licensee licensed under s. 494.0065(1) or a transfer licensee after the office determines the licensee has submitted upon receipt of a completed application form as prescribed by rule by the commission and an initial

nonrefundable branch office license fee of \$325. The branch 2 office application must include the name and license number of the licensee under ss. 494.006-494.0077, the name of the 3 licensee's employee in charge of the branch office, and the 4 address of the branch office. The branch office license shall 5 be issued in the name of the licensee under ss. 494.006-494.0077 and must be renewed in conjunction with the license renewal. 8 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of 9 section 494.0067, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 10 494.0067 Requirements of licensees under ss. 11 12 494.006-494.0077.--13 (10)(a) Each licensee shall require the principal representative and all loan originators or associates who 14 perform services for the licensee to complete 14 hours of 15 professional continuing education during each biennial license 16 period. The education shall cover primary and subordinate 18 mortgage financing transactions and the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. 19 Section 18. Paragraph (s) is added to subsection (2) 20 21 of section 494.0072, Florida Statutes, to read: 22 494.0072 Administrative penalties and fines; license 23 violations. --(2) Each of the following acts constitutes a ground 2.4 for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (1) 25 may be taken: 26 27 (s) Payment to the office for a license or permit with 2.8 a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to clear the applicant's or licensee's financial institution. 29 30 Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 494.00721,

Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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494.00721 Net worth.--

(2) If a mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender fails to satisfy the net worth requirements, the mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender shall immediately cease taking any new mortgage loan applications. Thereafter, the mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender shall have up to 60 days within which to satisfy the net worth requirements. If the licensee makes the office aware, prior to an examination, that the licensee no longer meets the net worth requirements, the mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender shall have 120 days within which to satisfy the net worth requirements. A mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender shall not resume acting as a mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender without written authorization from the office, which authorization shall be granted if the mortgage lender or correspondent mortgage lender provides the office with documentation which satisfies the requirements of s. 494.0061(2)(1)(c), s. 494.0062(2)(1)(c), or s. 494.0065(2), whichever is applicable.

Section 20. Section 516.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

516.03 Application for license; fees; etc.--

(1) APPLICATION.--Application for a license to make loans under this chapter shall be in the form prescribed by rule of the commission, and shall contain the name, residence and business addresses of the applicant and, if the applicant is a copartnership or association, of every member thereof and, if a corporation, of each officer and director thereof, also the county and municipality with the street and number or approximate location where the business is to be conducted, and such further relevant information as the commission or

office may require. At the time of making such application the 2 applicant shall pay to the office a biennial license fee of \$625. Applications, except for applications to renew or 3 reactivate a license, must also be accompanied by an 4 investigation fee of \$200. An application shall be deemed 5 6 received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed 7 application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a 8 nonrefundable application fee of \$625, and any other fee prescribed by law or rule. The commission may adopt rules to 9 require allow electronic submission of any form, document, or 10 fee required by this act, provided such rules reasonably 11 12 accommodate technological or financial hardship. The 13 commission may prescribe by rule requirements and procedures for obtaining a technological or financial hardship exemption. 14 (2) FEES.--Fees herein provided for shall be collected 15 by the office and shall be turned into the State Treasury to 16 the credit of the regulatory trust fund under the office. The 18 office shall have full power to employ such examiners or clerks to assist the office as may from time to time be deemed 19 necessary and fix their compensation. The commission may adopt 20 21 rules to require allow electronic submission of any fee 22 required by this section, provided such rules reasonably 23 accommodate technological or financial hardship. The commission may prescribe by rule requirements and procedures 2.4 for obtaining a technological or financial hardship exemption. 25 Section 21. Paragraph (o) is added to subsection (1) 26 27 of section 516.07, Florida Statutes, to read: 2.8 516.07 Grounds for denial of license or for 29 disciplinary action .--30 (1) The following acts are violations of this chapter and constitute grounds for denial of an application for a

license to make consumer finance loans and grounds for any of the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2): 2 (o) Payment to the office for a license or permit with 3 4 a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to clear the applicant's or licensee's financial institution. 5 6 Section 22. Subsection (3) is added to section 516.12, 7 Florida Statutes, to read: 8 516.12 Records to be kept by licensee.--9 (3) The commission may prescribe by rule the minimum information to be shown in the books, accounts, records, and 10 documents of licensees for purposes of enabling the office to 11 12 determine the licensee's compliance with ss. 516.001-516.36. In addition, the commission may prescribe by rule the 13 requirements for destruction of books, accounts, records, and 14 documents retained by the licensee after completion of the 15 time period specified in subsection (1). Notwithstanding the 16 17 2-year retention period specified in subsection (1), if the 18 office identifies a statute of limitations in another civil or criminal state or federal law or rule that is reasonably 19 related by subject matter to the administration of this 2.0 21 chapter, the commission may identify that statute of 2.2 limitations by rule and may prohibit the destruction of 23 records required to be maintained by this chapter for a period of time established by rule that is reasonably related to such 2.4 statute of limitations. The commission shall prescribe by rule 2.5 those documents or records that are to be preserved that are 26 27 related to the identified statute of limitations. 2.8 Section 23. Subsection (9) of section 517.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 29 30 517.051 Exempt securities. -- The exemptions provided herein from the registration requirements of s. 517.07 are

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self-executing and do not require any filing with the office prior to claiming such exemption. Any person who claims entitlement to any of these exemptions bears the burden of proving such entitlement in any proceeding brought under this chapter. The registration provisions of s. 517.07 do not apply to any of the following securities:

(9) A security issued by a corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious, educational, benevolent, fraternal, charitable, or reformatory purposes and not for pecuniary profit, no part of the net earnings of which corporation inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, or any security of a fund that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under s. 3(c)(10)(B) of the Investment Company Act of 1940; provided that no person shall directly or indirectly offer or sell securities under this subsection except by an offering circular containing full and fair disclosure, as prescribed by the rules of the commission, of all material information, including, but not limited to, a description of the securities offered and terms of the offering, a description of the nature of the issuer's business, a statement of the purpose of the offering and the intended application by the issuer of the proceeds thereof, and financial statements of the issuer prepared in conformance with <u>United States</u> generally accepted accounting principles. Section 6(c) of the Philanthropy Protection Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-62, shall not preempt any provision of this chapter.

Section 24. Subsection (18) of section 517.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

517.061 Exempt transactions.--The exemption for each

require any filing with the office prior to claiming such
exemption. Any person who claims entitlement to any of the
exemptions bears the burden of proving such entitlement in any
proceeding brought under this chapter. The registration
provisions of s. 517.07 do not apply to any of the following
transactions; however, such transactions are subject to the
provisions of ss. 517.301, 517.311, and 517.312:

(18) The offer or sale of any security effected by or through a person in compliance with registered pursuant to s. 517.12(17).

Section 25. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 517.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

517.081 Registration procedure.--

- (3) The office may require the applicant to submit to the office the following information concerning the issuer and such other relevant information as the office may in its judgment deem necessary to enable it to ascertain whether such securities shall be registered pursuant to the provisions of this section:
- (g)1. A specimen copy of the security and a copy of any circular, prospectus, advertisement, or other description of such securities.
- 2. The commission shall adopt a form for a simplified offering circular to be used solely by corporations to register, under this section, securities of the corporation that are sold in offerings in which the aggregate offering price in any consecutive 12-month period does not exceed the amount provided in s. 3(b) of the Securities Act of 1933. The following issuers shall not be eligible to submit a simplified offering circular adopted pursuant to this subparagraph:

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- a. An issuer seeking to register securities for resale by persons other than the issuer.
- 3 b. An issuer who is subject to any of the 4 disqualifications described in 17 C.F.R. s. 230.262, adopted pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, or who has been or is 5 engaged or is about to engage in an activity that would be grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension under s. 8 517.111. For purposes of this subparagraph, an issuer includes an issuer's director, officer, shareholder who owns at least 9 10 percent of the shares of the issuer, promoter, or selling 10 agent of the securities to be offered or any officer, 11
- c. An issuer who is a development-stage company that either has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that its business plan is to merge with an unidentified company or companies.

director, or partner of such selling agent.

- d. An issuer of offerings in which the specific business or properties cannot be described.
- e. Any issuer the office determines is ineligible if the form would not provide full and fair disclosure of material information for the type of offering to be registered by the issuer.
- f. Any corporation which has failed to provide the office the reports required for a previous offering registered pursuant to this subparagraph.

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As a condition precedent to qualifying for use of the simplified offering circular, a corporation shall agree to provide the office with an annual financial report containing a balance sheet as of the end of the issuer's fiscal year and a statement of income for such year, prepared in accordance

with United States generally accepted accounting principles 2 and accompanied by an independent accountant's report. If the issuer has more than 100 security holders at the end of a 3 fiscal year, the financial statements must be audited. Annual 4 financial reports must be filed with the office within 90 days 5 after the close of the issuer's fiscal year for each of the first 5 years following the effective date of the 8 registration. Section 26. Subsections (7), (10), (11), (15), and 9 10 (17) of section 517.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 517.12 Registration of dealers, associated persons, 11 12 investment advisers, and branch offices .--13 (7) The application shall also contain such information as the commission or office may require about the 14 applicant; any partner, officer, or director of the applicant 15 or any person having a similar status or performing similar 16 17 functions; any person directly or indirectly controlling the 18 applicant; or any employee of a dealer or of an investment adviser rendering investment advisory services. Each 19 applicant shall file a complete set of fingerprints. A 20 21 fingerprint card submitted to the office shall be taken by an 22 authorized law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is 23 submitted in paper form. In addition to the fee prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission may prescribe by rule an additional 2.4 fee, not to exceed \$30, for processing fingerprints and 2.5 procedures for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic 26 means to the office or to a third party approved by the 27 2.8 office. In order to implement the submission and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule under this section, the 29 office may, without complying with the requirements of chapter 30

services, either directly or through a third-party vendor 2 under contract with such state agency. Such fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement or the 3 Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and federal 4 processing. The commission may waive, by rule, the 5 requirement that applicants must file a set of fingerprints or 7 the requirement that such fingerprints must be processed by 8 the Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The commission or office may require 9 information about any such applicant or person concerning such 10 11 matters as:

- (a) His or her full name, and any other names by which he or she may have been known, and his or her age, photograph, qualifications, and educational and business history.
- (b) Any injunction or administrative order by a state or federal agency, national securities exchange, or national securities association involving a security or any aspect of the securities business and any injunction or administrative order by a state or federal agency regulating banking, insurance, finance, or small loan companies, real estate, mortgage brokers, or other related or similar industries, which injunctions or administrative orders relate to such person.
- (c) His or her conviction of, or plea of nolo contendere to, a criminal offense or his or her commission of any acts which would be grounds for refusal of an application under s. 517.161.
- (d) The names and addresses of other persons of whom the office may inquire as to his or her character, reputation, and financial responsibility.

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1	(10) An applicant for registration shall pay an
2	assessment fee of \$200, in the case of a dealer or investment
3	adviser, or \$40, in the case of an associated person. The
4	assessment fee of an associated person shall be reduced to
5	\$30, but only after the office determines, by final order,
6	that sufficient funds have been allocated to the Securities
7	Guaranty Fund pursuant to s. 517.1203 to satisfy all valid
8	claims filed in accordance with s. 517.1203(2) and after all
9	amounts payable under any service contract entered into by the
10	office pursuant to s. 517.1204, and all notes, bonds,
11	certificates of indebtedness, other obligations, or evidences
12	of indebtedness secured by such notes, bonds, certificates of
13	indebtedness, or other obligations, have been paid or
14	provision has been made for the payment of such amounts,
15	notes, bonds, certificates of indebtedness, other obligations,
16	or evidences of indebtedness. An associated person \underline{may} \underline{not}
17	having current fingerprint cards filed with the National
18	Association of Securities Dealers or a national securities
19	exchange registered with the Securities and Exchange
20	Commission shall be assessed an additional fee to cover the
21	cost for said fingerprint cards to be processed by the office.
22	Such fee shall be determined by rule of the commission. Each
23	dealer and each investment adviser shall pay an assessment fee
24	of \$100 for each office in this state, except its designated
25	principal office. Such fees become the revenue of the state,
26	except for those assessments provided for under s. 517.131(1)
27	until such time as the Securities Guaranty Fund satisfies the
28	statutory limits, and are not returnable in the event that
29	registration is withdrawn or not granted.
30	(11) If the office finds that the applicant is of good
31	repute and character and has complied with the provisions of

this chapter and the rules made pursuant hereto, it shall 2 register the applicant. The registration of each dealer, investment adviser, and associated person will expire on 3 December 317 of the year it became effective unless the 4 registrant has renewed its registration on or before that 5 6 date. and The registration of each branch office will expire 7 on March 31 or, once the National Association of Securities 8 <u>Dealers develops the capacity to process branch office</u> registration through the Central Registration Depository, 9 December 31 of the year in which it became effective unless 10 the registrant has renewed its registration on or before that 11 12 date. The commission may establish by rule the beginning of 13 the year in which branch renewals shall be processed through the Central Registration Depository of the National 14 Association of Securities Dealers. The commission may 15 establish by rule procedures for renewing branch registrations 16 17 through the Central Registration Depository. Registration may 18 be renewed by furnishing such information as the commission may require, together with payment of the fee required in 19 subsection (10) for dealers, investment advisers, associated 20 21 persons, or branch offices and the payment of any amount 22 lawfully due and owing to the office pursuant to any order of 23 the office or pursuant to any agreement with the office. Any dealer, investment adviser, or associated person registrant 2.4 25 who has not renewed a registration by the time the current 26 registration expires may request reinstatement of such 27 registration by filing with the office, on or before January 2.8 31 of the year following the year of expiration, such 29 information as may be required by the commission, together with payment of the fee required in subsection (10) for 30 dealers, investment advisers, or associated persons and a late

fee equal to the amount of such fee. Any reinstatement of registration granted by the office during the month of January shall be deemed effective retroactive to January 1 of that 3 4 year. 5 (15) In lieu of filing with the office the applications specified in subsection (6), the fees required by 7 subsection (10), and the termination notices required by 8 subsection (12), the commission may by rule establish procedures for the deposit of such fees and documents with the 9 10 Central Registration Depository or the Investment Advisor Registration Depository of the National Association of 11 12 Securities Dealers, Inc., as developed under contract with the 13 North American Securities Administrators Association, Inc.; provided, however, that such procedures shall provide the 14 office with the information and data as required by this 15 16 section. (17)(a) If the dealer has made a notice filing in 18 accordance with this section, a dealer that is located in Canada and does not have an office or other physical presence 19 in this state is exempt from the registration requirements of 20 21 s. 512.12, and may effect transactions in securities with or 22 for, or induce or attempt to induce the purchase or sale of 23 any security by: 1. A person from Canada who is present in this state 2.4 and with whom the Canadian dealer had a bona fide 2.5 dealer-client relationship before the person entered the 26 27 United States; or 2.8 2. A person from Canada who is present in this state and whose transactions are in a self-directed tax advantaged 29 30 retirement plan in Canada of which the person is the holder or 31 contributor.

(b) A notice filing under this section shall consist
of documents that the commission by rule requires to be filed,
together with a consent to service of process and a filing fee
of \$200. The commission may establish by rule procedures for
the deposit of fees and the filing of documents to be made by
electronic means, if such procedures provide the office with
the information and data required by this section.
(c) A Canadian dealer may make a notice filing under
this section if such dealer provides to the office:
1. A notice filing in the form that the commission may
by rule require;
2. A consent to service of process;
3. Evidence that the Canadian dealer is registered as
a dealer in the jurisdiction in which its main office is
located and files evidence of such registration with the
office; and
4. Evidence that the Canadian dealer is a member of a
self-regulatory organization or stock exchange in Canada.
(d) The office may issue a permit to evidence the
effectiveness of a notice filing for a Canadian dealer.
(e) A notice filing is effective upon receipt. A
notice filing expires on December 31 of the year in which the
filing becomes effective unless the Canadian dealer has
renewed the filing on or before that date. A Canadian dealer
may annually renew a notice filing by furnishing to the office
such information as the office may require together with a
such information as the office may require together with a renewal fee of \$200 and the payment of any amount due and
renewal fee of \$200 and the payment of any amount due and

of such notice filing by filing with the office, on or before

1	January 31 of the year following the year the notice filing
2	expires, such information as the commission may require, by
3	rule, together with the payment of \$200 and a late fee equal
4	to \$200. Any reinstatement of a notice filing granted by the
5	office during the month of January shall be deemed effective
6	retroactively to January 1 of that year.

- (f) An associated person who represents a Canadian dealer who has made a notice filing under this section is exempt from the registration requirements of s. 517.12, and may effect transactions in securities in this state as permitted for a dealer under subsection (a) if such person is registered in the jurisdiction from which he or she is effecting transactions into this state.
- (q) A Canadian dealer who has made a notice of filing under this section shall:
- 1. Maintain its provincial or territorial registration and its membership in a self-regulatory organization or stock exchange in good standing.
- 2. Provide the office upon request with its books and records relating to its business in this state as a dealer.
- 3. Provide the office upon request notice of each civil, criminal, or administrative action initiated against the dealer.
- 4. Disclose to its clients in this state that the dealer and its associated persons are not subject to the full regulatory requirements under this chapter.
- 5. Correct any inaccurate information within 30 days if the information contained in the notice of filing becomes inaccurate for any reason.

1	(h) An associated person representing a Canadian
2	dealer who has made a notice of filing under this section
3	shall:
4	1. Maintain provincial or territorial registration in
5	good standing.
6	2. Provide the office upon request with notice of each
7	civil, criminal, or administrative action initiated against
8	such person.
9	(i) A notice filing may be terminated by filing notice
10	of such termination with the office. Unless another date is
11	specified by the Canadian dealer, such notice shall be
12	effective upon its receipt by the office.
13	(j) All fees collected under this section become the
14	revenue of the state, except for those assessments provided
15	for under s. 517.131(1), until such time as the Securities
16	Guaranty Fund satisfies the statutory limits, and, these fees
17	are not returnable in the event that a notice filing is
18	withdrawn. A dealer that is located in Canada and has no
19	office or other physical presence in this state may, provided
20	the dealer is registered in accordance with this section,
21	effect transactions in securities with or for, or induce or
22	attempt to induce the purchase or sale of any security by:
23	1. A person from Canada who temporarily resides in
24	this state and with whom the Canadian dealer had a bona fide
25	dealer client relationship before the person entered the
26	United States; or
27	2. A person from Canada who is a resident of this
28	state, and whose transactions are in a self directed tax
29	advantage retirement plan in Canada of which the person is the
30	holder or contributor.
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1	(b) An associated person who represents a Canadian
2	dealer registered under this section may, provided the agent
3	is registered in accordance with this section, effect
4	transactions in securities in this state as permitted for a
5	dealer, under subsection (a).
6	(c) A Canadian dealer may register under this section
7	provided that such dealer:
8	1. Files an application in the form required by the
9	jurisdiction in which the dealer has a head office.
10	2. Files a consent to service of process.
11	3. Is registered as a dealer in good standing in the
12	jurisdiction from which it is effecting transactions into this
13	state and files evidence of such registration with the office.
14	4. Is a member of a self regulatory organization or
15	stock exchange in Canada.
16	(d) An associated person who represents a Canadian
17	dealer registered under this section in effecting transactions
18	in securities in this state may register under this section
19	provided that such person:
20	1. Files an application in the form required by the
21	jurisdiction in which the dealer has its head office.
22	2. Is registered in good standing in the jurisdiction
23	from which he or she is effecting transactions into this state
24	and files evidence of such registration with the office.
25	(e) If the office finds that the applicant is of good
26	repute and character and has complied with the provisions of
27	this chapter, the office shall register the applicant.
28	(f) A Canadian dealer registered under this section
29	shall:
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T	1. Maintain its provincial or territorial registration
2	and its membership in a self regulatory organization or stock
3	exchange in good standing.
4	2. Provide the office upon request with its books and
5	records relating to its business in this state as a dealer.
6	3. Provide the office notice of each civil, criminal,
7	or administrative action initiated against the dealer.
8	4. Disclose to its clients in this state that the
9	dealer and its agents are not subject to the full regulatory
10	requirements under this chapter.
11	5. Correct any inaccurate information within 30 days,
12	if the information contained in the application form becomes
13	inaccurate for any reason before or after the dealer becomes
14	registered.
15	(g) An associated person of a Canadian dealer
16	registered under this section shall:
17	1. Maintain provincial or territorial registration in
18	good standing.
19	2. Provide the office with notice of each civil,
20	criminal, or administrative action initiated against such
21	person.
22	3. Through the dealer, correct any inaccurate
23	information within 30 days, if the information contained in
24	the application form becomes inaccurate for any reason before
25	or after the associated person becomes registered.
26	(h) Renewal applications for Canadian dealers and
27	associated persons under this section must be filed before
28	December 31 each year. Every applicant for registration or
29	renewal registration under this section shall pay the fee for
30	dealers and associated persons under this chapter.
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Section 27. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (3) of section 517.131, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

517.131 Securities Guaranty Fund.--

- (3) Any person is eligible to seek recovery from the Securities Guaranty Fund if:
- (b) Such person has made all reasonable searches and inquiries to ascertain whether the judgment debtor possesses real or personal property or other assets subject to being sold or applied in satisfaction of the judgment, and by her or his search the person has discovered no property or assets; or she or he has discovered property and assets and has taken all necessary action and proceedings for the application thereof to the judgment, but the amount thereby realized was insufficient to satisfy the judgment. To verify compliance with such condition, the office may require such person to have a writ of execution be issued upon such judgment, and may further require a showing that no personal or real property of the judgment debtor liable to be levied upon in complete satisfaction of the judgment can be found, or may require an affidavit from the claimant setting forth the reasonable searches and inquiries undertaken and the result.
- (e) The office waives compliance with the requirements of paragraph (a) or paragraph (b). The office may waive such compliance if the dealer, investment adviser, or associated person which is the subject of the claim filed with the office is the subject of any proceeding in which a receiver has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the office waives such compliance, the office may, upon petition by the claimant, the debtor, or the court-appointed trustee, examiner, or receiver, distribute funds from the Securities

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Guaranty Fund up to the amount allowed under s. 517.141. Any waiver granted pursuant to this section shall be considered a judgment for purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and of s. 517.141.

(5) The commission may by rule specify the procedures for complying with the requirements of subsections (2), (3), and (4), including rules for the form of submission and quidelines for the sufficiency and content of submissions of notices and claims.

Section 28. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 517.141, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

517.141 Payment from the fund.--

- (2) Regardless of the number of <u>claims or</u> claimants involved, payments for claims shall be limited in the aggregate to \$100,000 against any one dealer, investment adviser, or associated person. If the total claims exceed the aggregate limit of \$100,000, the office shall prorate the payment based upon the ratio that the person's claim bears to the total claims filed.
- (5) If the final judgment that which gave rise to the claim is overturned in any appeal or in any collateral proceeding, the claimant shall reimburse the fund all amounts paid to the claimant on the claim. If the claimant satisfies the judgment referred to in s. 517.131(3)(a), the claimant shall reimburse the fund all amounts paid to the claimant on the claim. Such reimbursement shall be paid to the office within 60 days after the final resolution of the appellate or collateral proceedings, with the 60-day period commencing on the date the final order or decision is entered in such proceedings.

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Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 517.161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

517.161 Revocation, denial, or suspension of registration of dealer, investment adviser, associated person, or branch office.--

- (1) Registration under s. 517.12 may be denied or any registration granted may be revoked, restricted, or suspended by the office if the office determines that such applicant or registrant:
- (a) Has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule or order made under this chapter;
- (b) Has made a material false statement in the application for registration;
- (c) Has been guilty of a fraudulent act in connection with rendering investment advice or in connection with any sale of securities, has been or is engaged or is about to engage in making fictitious or pretended sales or purchases of any such securities or in any practice involving the rendering of investment advice or the sale of securities which is fraudulent or in violation of the law;
- (d) Has made a misrepresentation or false statement to, or concealed any essential or material fact from, any person in the rendering of investment advice or the sale of a security to such person;
- (e) Has failed to account to persons interested for all money and property received;

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- (f) Has not delivered, after a reasonable time, to persons entitled thereto securities held or agreed to be delivered by the dealer, broker, or investment adviser, as and when paid for, and due to be delivered;
- (g) Is rendering investment advice or selling or offering for sale securities through any associated person not registered in compliance with the provisions of this chapter;
- (h) Has demonstrated unworthiness to transact the business of dealer, investment adviser, or associated person;
- (i) Has exercised management or policy control over or owned 10 percent or more of the securities of any dealer or investment adviser that has been declared bankrupt, or had a trustee appointed under the Securities Investor Protection Act; or is, in the case of a dealer or investment adviser, insolvent;
- (j) Has been convicted of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime against the laws of this state or any other state or of the United States or of any other country or government which relates to registration as a dealer, investment adviser, issuer of securities, associated person, or branch office; which relates to the application for such registration; or which involves moral turpitude or fraudulent or dishonest dealing;
- (k) Has had a final judgment entered against her or him in a civil action upon grounds of fraud, embezzlement, misrepresentation, or deceit;
 - (1) Is of bad business repute; or
- (m) Has been the subject of any decision, finding, injunction, suspension, prohibition, revocation, denial, judgment, or administrative order by any court of competent jurisdiction, administrative law judge, or by any state or

federal agency, national securities, commodities, or option 2 exchange, or national securities, commodities, or option association, involving a violation of any federal or state 3 securities or commodities law or any rule or regulation 4 promulgated thereunder, or any rule or regulation of any 5 national securities, commodities, or options exchange or national securities, commodities, or options association, or 8 has been the subject of any injunction or adverse 9 administrative order by a state or federal agency regulating banking, insurance, finance or small loan companies, real 10 estate, mortgage brokers, or other related or similar 11 12 industries. For purposes of this subsection, the office may 13 not deny registration to any applicant who has been continuously registered with the office for 5 years from the 14 entry of such decision, finding, injunction, suspension, 15 prohibition, revocation, denial, judgment, or administrative 16 order provided such decision, finding, injunction, suspension, 18 prohibition, revocation, denial, judgment, or administrative order has been timely reported to the office pursuant to the 19 commission's rules; or-20 21 (n) Made payment to the office for a license or permit with a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to 2.2 23 clear the applicant's or registrant's financial institution. Section 30. Subsection (2) of section 520.03, Florida 2.4 Statutes, is amended to read: 2.5 520.03 Licenses.--26 27 (2) An application for a license under this part must 2.8 be submitted to the office in such form as the commission may prescribe by rule. If the office determines that an 29 application should be granted, it shall issue the license for 30

a period not to exceed 2 years. A nonrefundable application

fee of \$175 shall accompany an initial application for the principal place of business and each application for a branch location of a retail installment seller who is required to be 3 licensed under this chapter. An application shall be deemed 4 received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed 5 application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a 7 nonrefundable application fee of \$175, and any other fee 8 prescribed by law or rule. Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 520.32, Florida 9 Statutes, is amended to read: 10 520.32 Licenses.--11 12 (2) An application for a license under this part must 13 be submitted to the office in such form as the commission may prescribe by rule. If the office determines that an 14 application should be granted, it shall issue the license for 15 a period not to exceed 2 years. A nonrefundable application 16 17 fee of \$175 shall accompany an initial application for the 18 principal place of business and each application for a branch location of a retail installment seller. An application shall 19 be deemed received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a 20 21 completed application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a nonrefundable application fee of \$175, and any other 22 23 fee prescribed by law or rule. Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 520.52, Florida 2.4 Statutes, is amended to read: 25 520.52 Licensees.--26 27 (2) An application for a license under this part must 2.8 be submitted to the office in such form as the commission may prescribe by rule. If the office determines that an 29 application should be granted, it shall issue the license for 30

a period not to exceed 2 years. A nonrefundable application

fee of \$175 shall accompany an initial application for the principal place of business and each branch location of a sales finance company. An application shall be deemed received 3 for purposes of s. 120.60 upon receipt of a completed 4 application form as prescribed by the commission by rule, a 5 nonrefundable application fee of \$175, and any other fee prescribed by law or rule. Section 33. Subsection (2) of section 520.63, Florida 8 9 Statutes, is amended to read: 10 520.63 Licensees.--(2) An application for a license under this part must 11 12 be submitted to the office in such form as the commission may 13 prescribe by rule. If the office determines that an application should be granted, it shall issue the license for 14 a period not to exceed 2 years. A nonrefundable application 15 16 fee of \$175 shall accompany an initial application for the principal place of business and each application for a branch 18 location of a home improvement finance seller. An application shall be deemed received for purposes of s. 120.60 upon 19 receipt of a completed application form as prescribed by the 20 21 commission by rule, a nonrefundable application fee of \$175, 22 and any other fee prescribed by law or rule. 23 Section 34. Subsection (5) of section 520.994, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 2.4 520.994 Powers of office.--25 (5) The office shall administer and enforce this 26 27 chapter. The commission has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of 29 this chapter. The commission may adopt rules to require allow electronic submission of any form, document, or fee required 30

by this chapter, provided such rules reasonably accommodate

1	technological or financial hardship. The commission may
2	prescribe by rule requirements and procedures for obtaining a
3	technological or financial hardship exemption.
4	Section 35. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1)
5	of section 520.995, Florida Statutes, to read:
6	520.995 Grounds for disciplinary action
7	(1) The following acts are violations of this chapter
8	and constitute grounds for the disciplinary actions specified
9	in subsection (2):
10	(j) Payment to the office for a license or permit with
11	a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to
12	clear the applicant's or licensee's financial institution.
13	Section 36. Subsection (4) of section 520.997, Florida
14	Statutes, is amended to read:
15	520.997 Books, accounts, and records
16	(4) The commission may prescribe by rule the minimum
17	information to be shown in the books, accounts, documents, and
18	records of licensees so that such records will enable the
19	office to determine compliance with the provisions of this
20	chapter. In addition, the commission may prescribe by rule the
21	requirements for destruction of books, accounts, records, and
22	documents retained by the licensee after completion of the
23	time period specified in subsection (3). Notwithstanding the
24	2-year retention period specified in subsection (3), if the
25	office identifies a statute of limitations in another civil or
26	criminal state or federal law or rule that is reasonably
27	related by subject matter to the administration of this
28	chapter, the commission may identify that statute of
29	limitations by rule and may prohibit the destruction of
30	records required to be maintained by this chapter for a period
31	of time established by rule that is reasonably related to such

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statute of limitations. The commission shall prescribe by rule
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   those documents or records that are to be preserved that are
   related to the identified statute of limitations.
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           Section 37. Subsection (5) of section 537.009, Florida
   Statutes, is amended to read:
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           537.009 Recordkeeping; reporting; safekeeping of
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   property. --
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           (5) The commission may prescribe by rule the books,
   accounts, documents, and records, and the minimum information
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   to be shown in the books, accounts, documents, and records, of
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   licensees so that such records will enable the office to
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   determine compliance with the provisions of this act. In
   addition, the commission may prescribe by rule the
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   requirements for destruction of books, accounts, records, and
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   documents retained by the licensee after completion of the
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   time period specified in subsection (3). Notwithstanding the
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   2-year retention period specified in subsection (3), if the
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   office identifies a statute of limitations in another civil or
   criminal state or federal law or rule that is reasonably
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   related by subject matter to the administration of this
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   limitations by rule and may prohibit the destruction of
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   records required to be maintained by this chapter for a period
   of time established by rule that is reasonably related to such
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   statute of limitations. The commission shall prescribe by rule
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   those documents or records that are to be preserved that are
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   related to the identified statute of limitations.
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           Section 38. Subsection (3) is added to section
   560.105, Florida Statutes, to read:
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           560.105 Supervisory powers; rulemaking.--
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1	(3) The commission may adopt rules which require
2	electronic submission of any forms, documents, or fees
3	required by this act, provided such rules reasonably
4	accommodate technological or financial hardship. The
5	commission may prescribe by rule requirements and procedures
6	for obtaining a technological or financial hardship exemption.
7	Section 39. Paragraph (y) is added to subsection (1)
8	of section 560.114, Florida Statutes, to read:
9	560.114 Disciplinary actions
10	(1) The following actions by a money transmitter or
11	money transmitter-affiliated party are violations of the code
12	and constitute grounds for the issuance of a cease and desist
13	order, the issuance of a removal order, the denial of a
14	registration application or the suspension or revocation of
15	any registration previously issued pursuant to the code, or
16	the taking of any other action within the authority of the
17	office pursuant to the code:
18	(y) Payment to the office for a license or permit with
19	a check or electronic transmission of funds that fails to
20	clear the applicant's or licensee's financial institution.
21	Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
22	560.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
23	560.118 Examinations, reports, and internal audits;
24	penalty
25	(2)
26	(b) The commission may, by rule, require each money
27	transmitter or authorized vendor to submit quarterly reports
28	to the office. The commission may adopt rules which require
29	electronic submission of any forms, documents, or fees
30	required by this act, provided such rules reasonably
31	accommodate technological or financial hardship. The

commission may prescribe by rule requirements and procedures 2 for obtaining a technological or financial hardship exemption. 3 The commission may require that each report contain a declaration by an officer, or any other responsible person 4 5 authorized to make such declaration, that the report is true and correct to the best of her or his knowledge and belief. Such report must include such information as the commission by 8 rule requires for that type of money transmitter. Section 41. Subsection (2) of section 560.121, Florida 9 Statutes, is amended to read: 10 560.121 Records; limited restrictions upon public 11 12 access.--13 (2) The commission may prescribe by rule the minimum information to be shown in the books, accounts, records, and 14 documents of licensees for purposes of enabling the office to 15 determine the licensee's compliance with ss. 560.101-560.408. 16 17 In addition, the commission may prescribe by rule the 18 requirements for destruction of books, accounts, records, and documents retained by the licensee after completion of the 19 time period specified in this subsection. Notwithstanding the 2.0 21 3-year retention period specified in this subsection, if the 2.2 office identifies a statute of limitations in another civil or 23 criminal state or federal law or rule that is reasonably related by subject matter to the administration of this 2.4 chapter, the commission may identify that statute of 2.5 limitations by rule and may prohibit the destruction of 26 27 records required to be maintained by this chapter for a period 2.8 of time established by rule that is reasonably related to such statute of limitations. The commission shall prescribe by rule 29 those documents or records that are to be preserved that are 30 related to the identified statute of limitations. Examination 31

reports, investigatory records, applications, and related information compiled by the office, or photographic copies thereof, shall be retained by the office for a period of at 3 least 3 10 years after the date the examination or 4 investigation is closed or ceases to be active or the 5 registration ceases to be active. 7 Section 42. Section 560.205, Florida Statutes, is 8 amended to read: 9 560.205 Qualifications of applicant for registration; 10 contents.--(1) To qualify for registration under this part, an 11 12 applicant must demonstrate to the office such character and 13 general fitness as to command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the registered business will be 14 operated lawfully and fairly. The office may investigate each 15 applicant to ascertain whether the qualifications and 16 requirements prescribed by this part have been met. The 18 office's investigation may include a criminal background investigation of all controlling shareholders, principals, 19 officers, directors, members, and responsible persons of a 20 21 funds transmitter and a payment instrument seller and all 22 persons designated by a funds transmitter or payment 23 instrument seller as an authorized vendor. Each controlling shareholder, principal, officer, director, member, and 2.4 responsible person of a funds transmitter or payment 25 instrument seller, unless the applicant is a publicly traded 26 27 corporation as defined by the commission by rule, a subsidiary 2.8 thereof, or a subsidiary of a bank or bank holding company 29 organized and regulated under the laws of any state or the <u>United States</u>, shall file a complete set of fingerprints. 30 Fingerprint cards submitted to the office shall be taken by an

authorized law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is 2 submitted to the office in paper form. In addition to the fees prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission may prescribe by rule 3 4 an additional fee, not to exceed \$30, for processing the fingerprints. The commission may prescribe by rule procedures 5 6 for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic means to 7 the office or to a third party approved by the office. In 8 order to implement the submission and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, 9 10 the office may, without complying with the requirements of chapter 287, contract with any other state agency that 11 12 provides fingerprinting services, either directly or through a 13 third-party vendor under contract to such state agency. Such fingerprints must be submitted to the Department of Law 14 Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state 15 and federal processing. The commission may waive by rule the 16 17 requirement that applicants file a set of fingerprints or the 18 requirement that such fingerprints be processed by the Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of 19 Investigation. 2.0 21 (2) Each application for registration must be 2.2 submitted under oath to the office on such forms as the 23 commission prescribes by rule and must be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee. The commission may establish by 2.4 rule procedures for depositing fees and filing documents by 2.5 electronic means. Such fee may not exceed \$500 for each 26 27 payment instrument seller or funds transmitter and \$50 for 2.8 each authorized vendor or location operating within this 29 state. The application forms shall contain set forth such information as the commission reasonably requires by rule, 30 including, but not limited to:

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- (a) The name and address of the applicant, including any fictitious or trade names used by the applicant in the conduct of its business.
- (b) The history of the applicant's material litigation, criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld.
- (c) A description of the activities conducted by the applicant, the applicant's history of operations, and the business activities in which the applicant seeks to engage in this state.
- (d) A list identifying the applicant's proposed authorized vendors in this state, including the location or locations in this state at which the applicant and its authorized vendors propose to conduct registered activities.
- $\underline{(d)}(e)$ A sample authorized vendor contract, if applicable.
- $\underline{\text{(e)}(f)}$ A sample form of payment instrument, if applicable.
- $\underline{(f)}(g)$ The name and address of the clearing financial institution or financial institutions through which the applicant's payment instruments will be drawn or through which such payment instruments will be payable.
- $\frac{(q)(h)}{h}$ Documents revealing that the net worth and bonding requirements specified in s. 560.209 have been or will be fulfilled.
- (3) Each application for registration by an applicant that is a corporation shall <u>contain</u> also set forth such information as the commission reasonably requires <u>by rule</u>, including, but not limited to:
- 30 (a) The date of the applicant's incorporation and 31 state of incorporation.

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- (b) A certificate of good standing from the state or country in which the applicant was incorporated.
- (c) A description of the corporate structure of the applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded on any stock exchange.
- (d) The name, business and residence addresses, and employment history for the past 5 years for each executive officer, each director, each controlling shareholder, and the responsible person who will be in charge of all the applicant's business activities in this state.
- (e) The history of material litigation and criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld for each executive officer, each director, each controlling shareholder, and the responsible person who will be in charge of the applicant's registered activities.
- (f) Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements for the current year and, if available, for the immediately preceding 2-year period. In cases where the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the parent's consolidated audited financial statements may be submitted to satisfy this requirement. An applicant who is not required to file audited financial statements may satisfy this requirement by filing unaudited financial statements verified under penalty of perjury, as provided by the commission by rule.
- (g) An applicant who is not required to file audited financial statements may file copies of the applicant's unconsolidated, unaudited financial statements for the current

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year and, if available, for the immediately preceding 2-year period.

- (h) If the applicant is a publicly traded company, copies of all filings made by the applicant with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or with a similar regulator in a country other than the United States, within the year preceding the date of filing of the application.
- (4) Each application for registration submitted to the office by an applicant that is not a corporation shall <u>contain</u> also set forth such information as the commission reasonably requires <u>by rule</u>, including, but not limited to:
- (a) Evidence that the applicant is registered to do business in this state.
- (b) The name, business and residence addresses, personal financial statement and employment history for the past 5 years for each individual having a controlling ownership interest in the applicant, and each responsible person who will be in charge of the applicant's registered activities.
- (c) The history of material litigation and criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld for each individual having a controlling ownership interest in the applicant and each responsible person who will be in charge of the applicant's registered activities.
- (d) Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements for the current year, and, if available, for the preceding 2 years. An applicant who is not required to file audited financial statements may satisfy this requirement by filing unaudited financial statements verified under penalty of perjury, as provided by the commission by rule.

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- (5) Each applicant shall designate and maintain an agent in this state for service of process.
- (6) Changes in registration occasioned by changes in personnel of a partnership or in the principals, members, copartners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, or responsible persons of a money transmitter or by changes of any material fact or method of doing business shall be reported by written amendment in such form and at such time as the commission shall specify by rule.
 - Section 43. Subsection (1) of section 560.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 560.207 Renewal of registration; registration fee.--
 - (1) Registration may be renewed for a 24-month period or the remainder of any such period without proration following the date of its expiration, upon the filing with the office of an application and other statements and documents as may reasonably be required of registrants by the commission.

 The commission may establish by rule procedures for depositing fees and filing documents by electronic means. However, the registrant must remain qualified for such registration under the provisions of this part.
 - Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 560.210, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 560.210 Permissible investments.--
- (1) A registrant shall at all times possess permissible investments with an aggregate market value calculated in accordance with <u>United States</u> generally accepted accounting principles of not less than the aggregate face amount of all <u>outstanding</u> funds <u>transmissions</u> <u>transmitted</u> and <u>outstanding</u> payment instruments issued or sold by the registrant or an authorized vendor in the United States.

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Section 45. Subsection (2) of section 560.211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.211 Records.--

(2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location, provided that the registrant notifies the office in writing of the location of the records in its application or otherwise \underline{by} amendment as prescribed by the commission by rule. The registrant shall make such records available to the office for examination and investigation in this state, as permitted by the code, within 7 days after receipt of a written request.

Section 46. Section 560.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.305 Application. -- Each application for registration shall be in writing and under oath to the office, in such form as the commission prescribes. The commission may establish by rule procedures for depositing fees and filing documents by electronic means. The application shall contain such information as the commission requires by rule, <u>including</u>, <u>but not limited to</u> <u>include the following</u>:

- (1) The legal name and residence and business addresses of the applicant if the applicant is a natural person, or, if the applicant is a partnership, association, or corporation, the name of every partner, officer, or director thereof.
- (2) The location of the principal office of the applicant.
- (3) The complete address of any other locations at 29 which the applicant proposes to engage in such activities since the provisions of registration apply to each and every operating location of a registrant.

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(4) Such other information as the commission or office reasonably requires with respect to the applicant or any money transmitter-affiliated party of the applicant; however, the commission or office may not require more information than is specified in part II.

Section 47. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 560.306, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

560.306 Standards.--

(1) In order to qualify for registration under this part, an applicant must demonstrate to the office that he or she has such character and general fitness as will command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the registered business will be operated lawfully and fairly. The office may investigate each applicant to ascertain whether the qualifications and requirements prescribed by this part have been met. The office's investigation may include a criminal background investigation of all controlling shareholders, principals, officers, directors, members, and responsible persons of a check casher and a foreign currency exchanger and all persons designated by a foreign currency exchanger or check casher as an authorized vendor. Each controlling shareholder, principal, officer, director, member, and responsible person of a check casher or foreign currency exchanger, unless the applicant is a publicly traded corporation as defined by the commission by rule, a subsidiary thereof, or a subsidiary of a bank or bank holding company organized and regulated under the laws of any state or the <u>United States</u>, shall file a complete set of fingerprints. Fingerprint cards submitted to the office shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement officer if such fingerprint card is

submitted to the office in paper form. In addition to the fees 2 prescribed in s. 215.405, the commission may prescribe by rule an additional fee, not to exceed \$30, for processing the 3 4 fingerprints. The commission may prescribe by rule procedures for submitting fingerprints and fees by electronic means to 5 6 the office or to a third party approved by the office. In order to implement the submission and processing of fingerprints as specified by rule pursuant to this section, 8 the office may, without complying with the requirements of 9 10 chapter 287, contract with any other state agency that provides fingerprinting services, either directly or through a 11 12 third-party vendor under contract to such state agency. Such 13 fingerprints must be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state 14 and federal processing. The commission may waive by rule the 15 requirement that applicants file a set of fingerprints or the 16 requirement that such fingerprints be processed by the 18 Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 19 (4) Each registration application and renewal 2.0 21 application must specify the location at which the applicant proposes to establish its principal place of business and any 23 other location, including authorized vendors operating in this state. The registrant shall notify the office of any changes 2.4 25 to any such locations. Any registrant may satisfy this 26 requirement by providing the office with a list of such 27 locations, including all authorized vendors operating in this 2.8 state, not less than annually. A registrant may not transact 29 business as a check casher or a foreign currency exchanger 30 except pursuant to the name under which it is registered.

31 created to read:

1	(6) Changes in registration occasioned by changes in
2	personnel of a partnership or in the principals, members,
3	copartners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, or
4	responsible persons of a money transmitter or by changes of
5	any material fact or method of doing business shall be
6	reported by written amendment in such form and at such time as
7	the commission shall specify by rule.
8	Section 48. Subsection (2) of section 560.308, Florida
9	Statutes, is amended to read:
10	560.308 Registration terms; renewal; renewal fees
11	(2) The office shall renew registration upon receipt
12	of a completed renewal form and payment of a nonrefundable
13	renewal fee not to exceed \$500. The completed renewal form and
14	payment of the renewal fee shall occur on or after June 1 of
15	the year in which the existing registration expires. The
16	commission may establish by rule procedures for depositing
16 17	commission may establish by rule procedures for depositing fees and filing documents by electronic means.
17	fees and filing documents by electronic means.
17 18	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida</pre>
17 18 19	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means.</pre>
17 18 19 20	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means.</pre>
17 18 19 20 21	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means.</pre>
17 18 19 20 21	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers (2) The records required to be maintained by the code</pre>
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers (2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location, provided</pre>
117 118 119 220 221 222 223 224	fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers.— (2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location, provided that the registrant notifies the office, in writing, of the
117 118 119 220 221 222 223 224	<pre>fees and filing documents by electronic means.</pre>
117 118 119 220 221 222 223 224 225 226	fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers.— (2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location, provided that the registrant notifies the office, in writing, of the location of the records in its application or otherwise by amendment as prescribed by the commission by rule. The
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	fees and filing documents by electronic means. Section 49. Subsection (2) of section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers.— (2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location, provided that the registrant notifies the office, in writing, of the location of the records in its application or otherwise by amendment as prescribed by the commission by rule. The registrant shall make such records available to the office for

1	626.565 Disposition of records
2	(1) An agent or other licensee of the department or
3	office shall be responsible for the prudent disposition of
4	records containing personal financial or health information
5	regarding a consumer, policyholder, applicant, or insured
6	after any applicable retention requirement has been met.
7	Disposition shall be by a method that protects the
8	confidentiality of any of the personal financial or health
9	information. Each appointing entity shall comply with this
10	requirement by the licensee in any appointment or
11	representation agreement between the appointing entity and the
12	licensee.
13	(2) The department or commission may adopt rules
14	governing the disposition of records of personal financial or
15	health information of a consumer, policyholder, applicant, or
16	insured by agents and other licensees. The rules shall be
17	designed to protect the confidential and sensitive nature of
18	the information and avoid identity theft.
19	Section 51. This act shall take effect October 1,
20	2004.
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22	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
23	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR <u>CS/SB 1624</u>
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25	Caps fees for processing fingerprints at no more than \$30.
26	Caps fees at \$100 for an examination which covers primary and
27	subordinate mortgage financing transactions under s. 494.0061, F.S.
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