HB 0251

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2	An act relating to firefighter and municipal police
3	pensions; creating s. 175.1015, F.S.; authorizing the
4	Department of Revenue to create and maintain a database
5	for use by insurers that report and remit an excise tax on
6	property insurance premiums; providing incentives to
7	insurers for using the database and penalties for failure
8	to use the database; requiring local governments to
9	provide information to the department; appropriating funds
10	to the department for the administration of the database;
11	authorizing the department to adopt rules; creating s.
12	185.085, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to
13	create and maintain a database for use by insurers that
14	report and remit an excise tax on casualty insurers
15	premiums; providing incentives to insurers for using the
16	database and penalties for failure to use the database;
17	requiring local governments to provide information to the
18	department; appropriating funds to the department for the
19	administration of the database; authorizing the department
20	to adopt rules; providing for distribution of tax revenues
21	through 2007; amending s. 175.351, F.S.; providing for the
22	meaning of the term "extra benefits" with respect to
23	pension plans for firefighters; amending s. 185.35, F.S.;
24	providing for the meaning of the term "extra benefits"
25	with respect to pension plans for municipal police
26	officers; amending s. 175.061, F.S.; authorizing the plan
27	administrator to withhold certain funds; amending s.
28	185.05, F.S.; authorizing the plan administrator to

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29	withhold certain funds; providing an appropriation to the
30	Department of Revenue; providing an effective date.
31	
32	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
33	
34	Section 1. Section 175.1015, Florida Statutes, is created
35	to read:
36	175.1015 Determination of local premium tax situs
37	(1)(a) Any insurance company that is obligated to report
38	and remit the excise tax on property insurance premiums imposed
39	under s. 175.101 shall be held harmless from any liability for
40	taxes, interest, or penalties that would otherwise be due solely
41	as a result of an assignment of an insured property to an
42	incorrect local taxing jurisdiction if the insurance company
43	exercises due diligence in applying an electronic database
44	provided by the Department of Revenue under subsection (2).
45	Insurance companies that do not use the electronic database
46	provided by the Department of Revenue or that do not exercise
47	due diligence in applying the electronic database are subject to
48	a 0.5-percent penalty on the portion of the premium pertaining
49	to any insured risk that is improperly assigned, whether
50	assigned to an improper local taxing jurisdiction, not assigned
51	to a local taxing jurisdiction when it should be assigned to a
52	local taxing jurisdiction, or assigned to a local taxing
53	jurisdiction when it should not be assigned to a local taxing
54	jurisdiction.
55	(b) Any insurance company that is obligated to report and
56	remit the excise tax on commercial property insurance premiums
57	imposed under s. 175.101 and is unable, after due diligence, to
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58	assign an insured property to a specific local taxing
59	jurisdiction for purposes of complying with paragraph (a) shall
60	remit the excise tax on commercial property insurance premiums
61	using a methodology of apportionment in a manner consistent with
62	the remittance for the 2002 calendar year.
63	(2)(a) The Department of Revenue shall, subject to
64	legislative appropriation, create as soon as practicable and
65	feasible, and thereafter shall maintain, an electronic database
66	that conforms to any format approved by the American National
67	Standards Institute's Accredited Standards Committee X12 and
68	that designates for each street address and address range in the
69	state, including any multiple postal street addresses applicable
70	to one street location, the local taxing jurisdiction in which
71	the street address and address range is located, and the
72	appropriate code for each such participating local taxing
73	jurisdiction, identified by one nationwide standard numeric
74	code. The nationwide standard numeric code must contain the same
75	number of numeric digits, and each digit or combination of
76	digits must refer to the same level of taxing jurisdiction
77	throughout the United States and must be in a format similar to
78	FIPS 55-3 or other appropriate standard approved by the
79	Federation of Tax Administrators and the Multistate Tax
80	Commission. Each address or address range must be provided in
81	standard postal format, including the street number, street
82	number range, street name, and zip code. Each year after the
83	creation of the initial database, the Department of Revenue
84	shall annually create and maintain a database for the current
85	tax year. Each annual database must be calendar-year specific.
86	(b)1. Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall
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87	HB 0251 2004 furnish to the Department of Revenue all information needed to
88	create the electronic database as soon as practicable and
89	feasible. The information furnished to the Department of Revenue
90	must specify an effective date.
91	2. Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall
92	furnish to the Department of Revenue all information needed to
93	create and update the current year's database, including changes
94	in annexations, incorporations, and reorganizations and any
95	other changes in jurisdictional boundaries, as well as changes
96	in eligibility to participate in the excise tax imposed under
97	this chapter. The information must specify an effective date and
98	must be furnished to the Department of Revenue by July 1 of the
99	current year.
100	3. The Department of Revenue shall create and update the
101	current year's database in accordance with the information
102	furnished by participating local taxing jurisdictions under
103	subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., as appropriate. To the
104	extent practicable, the Department of Revenue shall post each
105	new annual database on a website by September 1 of each year.
106	Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall have access
107	to this website and, within 30 days thereafter, shall provide
108	any corrections to the Department of Revenue. The Department of
109	Revenue shall finalize the current year's database and post it
110	on a website by November 1 of the tax year. If a dispute in
111	jurisdictional boundaries cannot be resolved so that changes in
112	boundaries may be included, as appropriate, in the database by
113	November 1, the changes may not be retroactively included in the
114	current year's database and the boundaries will remain the same
115	as in the previous year's database. The finalized database must
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116	HB 0251 be used in assigning policies and premiums to the proper local
117	taxing jurisdiction for the insurance premium tax return due on
118	the following March 1. The Department of Revenue shall furnish
119	the annual database on magnetic or electronic media to any
120	insurance company or vendor that requests the database for the
121	sole purpose of assigning insurance premiums to the proper local
122	taxing jurisdiction for the excise tax imposed under this
123	chapter. Information contained in the electronic database is
124	conclusive for purposes of this chapter. The electronic database
125	is not an order, a rule, or a policy of general applicability.
126	4. Each annual database must identify the additions,
127	deletions, and other changes to the preceding version of the
128	database.
129	(3)(a) As used in this section, the term "due diligence"
130	means the care and attention that is expected from and is
131	ordinarily exercised by a reasonable and prudent person under
132	the circumstances.
133	(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an insurance
134	company is exercising due diligence if the insurance company
135	complies with the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) or if the
136	insurance company assigns an insured's premium to local taxing
137	jurisdictions in accordance with the Department of Revenue's
138	annual database and:
139	1. Expends reasonable resources to accurately and reliably
140	implement such method;
141	2. Maintains adequate internal controls to correctly
142	include in its database of policyholders the location of the
143	property insured, in the proper address format, so that matching
144	with the department's database is accurate; and
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145	3. Corrects errors in the assignment of addresses to local
146	taxing jurisdictions within 120 days after the insurance company
147	discovers the errors.
148	(4) There is annually appropriated from the moneys
149	collected under this chapter and deposited in the Police and
150	Firefighters' Premium Tax Trust Fund an amount sufficient to pay
151	the expenses of the Department of Revenue in administering this
152	section, but not to exceed \$50,000 annually, adjusted annually
153	by the lesser of a 5-percent increase or the percentage of
154	growth in the total collections.
155	(5) The Department of Revenue shall adopt rules necessary
156	to administer this section, including rules establishing
157	procedures and forms.
158	(6) Any insurer that is obligated to collect and remit the
159	tax on property insurance imposed under s. 175.101 shall be held
160	harmless from any liability for taxes, interest, or penalties
161	that would otherwise be due solely as a result of an assignment
162	of an insured property to an incorrect local taxing
163	jurisdiction, based on the collection and remission of the tax
164	accruing before January 1, 2005, if the insurer collects and
165	reports this tax consistent with filings for periods before
166	January 1, 2005. Further, any insurer that is obligated to
167	collect and remit the tax on property insurance imposed under
168	this section is not subject to an examination under s. 624.316
169	or s. 624.3161 which would occur solely as a result of an
170	assignment of an insured property to an incorrect local taxing
171	jurisdiction, based on the collection and remission of such tax
172	accruing before January 1, 2004.
173	Section 2. Section 185.085, Florida Statutes, is created

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HB 0251 2004 174 to read: 175 185.085 Determination of local premium tax situs.--176 (1)(a) Any insurance company that is obligated to report 177 and remit the excise tax on casualty insurance premiums imposed 178 under s. 185.08 shall be held harmless from any liability for 179 taxes, interest, or penalties that would otherwise be due solely 180 as a result of an assignment of an insured property to an 181 incorrect local taxing jurisdiction if the insurance company 182 exercises due diligence in applying an electronic database 183 provided by the Department of Revenue under subsection (2). 184 Insurance companies that do not use the electronic database 185 provided by the Department of Revenue or that do not exercise 186 due diligence in applying the electronic database are subject to 187 a 0.5-percent penalty on the portion of the premium pertaining to any insured risk that is improperly assigned, whether 188 189 assigned to an improper local taxing jurisdiction, not assigned to a local taxing jurisdiction when it should be assigned to a 190 191 local taxing jurisdiction, or assigned to a local taxing 192 jurisdiction when it should not be assigned to a local taxing 193 jurisdiction. 194 (b) Any insurance company that is obligated to report and 195 remit the excise tax on commercial casualty insurance premiums 196 imposed under s. 185.08 and is unable, after due diligence, to 197 assign an insured property to a specific local taxing 198 jurisdiction for purposes of complying with paragraph (a) shall 199 remit the excise tax on commercial casualty insurance premiums 200 using a methodology of apportionment in a manner consistent with 201 the remittance for the 2002 calendar year. 202 (2)(a) The Department of Revenue shall, subject to

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203	legislative appropriation, create as soon as practicable and
204	feasible, and thereafter shall maintain, an electronic database
205	that conforms to any format approved by the American National
206	Standards Institute's Accredited Standards Committee X12 and
207	that designates for each street address and address range in the
208	state, including any multiple postal street addresses applicable
209	to one street location, the local taxing jurisdiction in which
210	the street address and address range is located, and the
211	appropriate code for each such participating local taxing
212	jurisdiction, identified by one nationwide standard numeric
213	code. The nationwide standard numeric code must contain the same
214	number of numeric digits, and each digit or combination of
215	digits must refer to the same level of taxing jurisdiction
216	throughout the United States and must be in a format similar to
217	FIPS 55-3 or other appropriate standard approved by the
218	Federation of Tax Administrators and the Multistate Tax
219	Commission. Each address or address range must be provided in
220	standard postal format, including the street number, street
221	number range, street name, and zip code. Each year after the
222	creation of the initial database, the Department of Revenue
223	shall annually create and maintain a database for the current
224	tax year. Each annual database must be calendar-year specific.
225	(b)1. Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall
226	furnish to the Department of Revenue all information needed to
227	create the electronic database as soon as practicable and
228	feasible. The information furnished to the Department of Revenue
229	must specify an effective date.
230	2. Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall
231	furnish to the Department of Revenue all information needed to
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232 create and update the current year's database, including changes 233 in annexations, incorporations, and reorganizations and any 234 other changes in jurisdictional boundaries, as well as changes 235 in eligibility to participate in the excise tax imposed under 236 this chapter. The information must specify an effective date and 237 must be furnished to the Department of Revenue by July 1 of the 238 current year.

239 3. The Department of Revenue shall create and update the 240 current year's database in accordance with the information 241 furnished by participating local taxing jurisdictions under 242 subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., as appropriate. To the 243 extent practicable, the Department of Revenue shall post each 244 new annual database on a website by September 1 of each year. 245 Each participating local taxing jurisdiction shall have access to this website and, within 30 days thereafter, shall provide 246 247 any corrections to the Department of Revenue. The Department of 248 Revenue shall finalize the current year's database and post it 249 on a website by November 1 of the tax year. If a dispute in 250 jurisdictional boundaries cannot be resolved so that changes in 251 boundaries may be included, as appropriate, in the database by 252 November 1, the changes may not be retroactively included in the 253 current year's database and the boundaries will remain the same 254 as in the previous year's database. The finalized database must 255 be used in assigning policies and premiums to the proper local 256 taxing jurisdiction for the insurance premium tax return due on 257 the following March 1. The Department of Revenue shall furnish 258 the annual database on magnetic or electronic media to any 259 insurance company or vendor that requests the database for the 260 sole purpose of assigning insurance premiums to the proper local

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261	taxing jurisdiction for the excise tax imposed under this
262	chapter. Information contained in the electronic database is
263	conclusive for purposes of this chapter. The electronic database
264	is not an order, a rule, or a policy of general applicability.
265	4. Each annual database must identify the additions,
266	deletions, and other changes to the preceding version of the
267	database.
268	(3)(a) As used in this section, the term "due diligence"
269	means the care and attention that is expected from and is
270	ordinarily exercised by a reasonable and prudent person under
271	the circumstances.
272	(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an insurance
273	company is exercising due diligence if the insurance company
274	complies with the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) or if the
275	insurance company assigns an insured's premium to local taxing
276	jurisdictions in accordance with the Department of Revenue's
277	annual database and:
278	1. Expends reasonable resources to accurately and reliably
279	implement such method;
280	2. Maintains adequate internal controls to correctly
281	include in its database of policyholders the location of the
282	property insured, in the proper address format, so that matching
283	with the department's database is accurate; and
284	3. Corrects errors in the assignment of addresses to local
285	taxing jurisdictions within 120 days after the insurance company
286	discovers the errors.
287	(4) There is annually appropriated from the moneys
288	collected under this chapter and deposited in the Police and
289	Firefighters' Premium Tax Trust Fund an amount sufficient to pay
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290	HB 0251 the expenses of the Department of Revenue in administering this
291	section, but not to exceed \$50,000 annually, adjusted annually
292	by the lesser of a 5-percent increase or the percentage of
293	growth in the total collections.
294	(5) The Department of Revenue shall adopt rules necessary
295	to administer this section, including rules establishing
296	procedures and forms.
297	(6)(a) Notwithstanding any other law, no methodology,
298	formula, or database that is adopted in any year after January
299	1, 2005, may result in a distribution to a participating
300	municipality that has a retirement plan created pursuant to this
301	chapter of an amount of excise tax which is less than the amount
302	distributed to such participating municipality for calendar year
303	2004. However, if the total proceeds to be distributed for the
304	current year from the excise tax imposed under s. 185.08 are
305	less than the total amount distributed for calendar year 2004,
306	each participating municipality shall receive a current-year
307	distribution that is proportionate to its share of the total
308	2003 calendar year distribution. If the total of the proceeds to
309	be distributed for the current year from the excise tax imposed
310	under s. 185.08 are greater than or equal to the total amount
311	distributed for calendar year 2004, each participating
312	municipality shall initially be distributed a minimum amount
313	equal to the amount received for calendar year 2004. The
314	remaining amount to be distributed for the current year, which
315	equals the total to be distributed for the current year, less
316	minimum distribution amount, shall be distributed to those
317	municipalities with a current-year reported amount that is
318	greater than the amount distributed to such municipality for

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319	HB 0251 calendar year 2004. Each municipality eligible for distribution
320	of this remaining amount shall receive its proportionate share
321	of the remaining amount based upon the amount reported for that
322	municipality, above the calendar year 2004 distribution for the
323	current year, to the total amount over the calendar year 2004
324	distribution for all municipalities with a current-year reported
325	amount that is greater than the calendar year 2004 distribution.
326	(b) If a new municipality elects to participate under this
327	chapter during any year after January 1, 2005, such municipality
328	shall receive the total amount reported for the current year for
329	such municipality. All other participating municipalities shall
330	receive a current-year distribution, calculated as provided in
331	this section, which is proportionate to their share of the total
332	2004 calendar year distribution after subtracting the amount
333	paid to the new participating plans.
334	(c) This subsection expires January 1, 2008.
335	(7) Any insurer that is obligated to collect and remit the
336	tax on casualty insurance imposed under s. 185.08 shall be held
337	harmless from any liability for taxes, interest, or penalties
338	that would otherwise be due solely as a result of an assignment
339	of an insured risk to an incorrect local taxing jurisdiction,
340	based on the collection and remission of the tax accruing before
341	January 1, 2005, if the insurer collects and reports this tax
342	consistent with filings for periods before January 1, 2005.
343	Further, any insurer that is obligated to collect and remit the
344	tax on casualty insurance imposed under this section is not
345	subject to an examination under s. 624.316 or s. 624.3161 which
346	would occur solely as a result of an assignment of an insured
347	risk to an incorrect local taxing jurisdiction, based on the
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348 <u>collection and remission of such tax accruing before the</u> 349 <u>effective date of this section.</u>

350 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 175.351, Florida351 Statutes, is amended to read:

352 175.351 Municipalities and special fire control districts 353 having their own pension plans for firefighters. -- For any 354 municipality, special fire control district, local law 355 municipality, local law special fire control district, or local 356 law plan under this chapter, in order for municipalities and 357 special fire control districts with their own pension plans for 358 firefighters, or for firefighters and police officers, where 359 included, to participate in the distribution of the tax fund 360 established pursuant to s. 175.101, local law plans must meet 361 the minimum benefits and minimum standards set forth in this 362 chapter.

(1) PREMIUM TAX INCOME.--If a municipality has a pension plan for firefighters, or a pension plan for firefighters and police officers, where included, which in the opinion of the division meets the minimum benefits and minimum standards set forth in this chapter, the board of trustees of the pension plan, as approved by a majority of firefighters of the municipality, may:

(a) Place the income from the premium tax in s. 175.101 in
such pension plan for the sole and exclusive use of its
firefighters, or for firefighters and police officers, where
included, where it shall become an integral part of that pension
plan and shall be used to pay extra benefits to the firefighters
included in that pension plan; or

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HB 0251 2004 376 Place the income from the premium tax in s. 175.101 in (b) 377 a separate supplemental plan to pay extra benefits to firefighters, or to firefighters and police officers where 378 379 included, participating in such separate supplemental plan. 380 The premium tax provided by this chapter shall in all cases be 381 382 used in its entirety to provide extra benefits to firefighters, 383 or to firefighters and police officers, where included. However, local law plans in effect on October 1, 1998, shall be required 384 to comply with the minimum benefit provisions of this chapter 385 only to the extent that additional premium tax revenues become 386 387 available to incrementally fund the cost of such compliance as 388 provided in s. 175.162(2)(a). When a plan is in compliance with 389 such minimum benefit provisions, as subsequent additional 390 premium tax revenues become available, they shall be used to 391 provide extra benefits. For the purpose of this chapter, 392 "additional premium tax revenues" means revenues received by a 393 municipality or special fire control district pursuant to s. 394 175.121 which that exceed that amount received for calendar year 395 1997, and the term "extra benefits" means benefits in addition to or greater than those provided to general employees of the 396 397 municipality and in addition to those in existence for firefighters on March 12, 1999. Local law plans created by 398 399 special act before May 23, 1939, shall be deemed to comply with 400 this chapter. 401 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 185.35, Florida 402 Statutes, is amended to read: 403 185.35 Municipalities having their own pension plans for

404 police officers.--For any municipality, chapter plan, local law

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(1) PREMIUM TAX INCOME.--If a municipality has a pension plan for police officers, or for police officers and firefighters where included, which, in the opinion of the division, meets the minimum benefits and minimum standards set forth in this chapter, the board of trustees of the pension plan, as approved by a majority of police officers of the municipality, may:

(a) Place the income from the premium tax in s. 185.08 in
such pension plan for the sole and exclusive use of its police
officers, or its police officers and firefighters where
included, where it shall become an integral part of that pension
plan and shall be used to pay extra benefits to the police
officers included in that pension plan; or

(b) May place the income from the premium tax in s. 185.08 in a separate supplemental plan to pay extra benefits to the police officers, or police officers and firefighters where included, participating in such separate supplemental plan.

The premium tax provided by this chapter shall in all cases be used in its entirety to provide extra benefits to police officers, or to police officers and firefighters, where included. However, local law plans in effect on October 1, 1998, shall be required to comply with the minimum benefit provisions

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2004 of this chapter only to the extent that additional premium tax 434 435 revenues become available to incrementally fund the cost of such compliance as provided in s. 185.16(2). When a plan is in 436 compliance with such minimum benefit provisions, as subsequent 437 438 additional tax revenues become available, they shall be used to 439 provide extra benefits. For the purpose of this chapter, 440 "additional premium tax revenues" means revenues received by a 441 municipality pursuant to s. 185.10 which that exceed the amount 442 received for calendar year 1997, and the term "extra benefits" 443 means benefits in addition to or greater than those provided to 444 general employees of the municipality and in addition to those 445 in existence for police officers on March 12, 1999. Local law 446 plans created by special act before May 23, 1939, shall be 447 deemed to comply with this chapter.

448 Section 5. Subsection (7) is added to section 175.061, 449 Florida Statutes, to read:

450 175.061 Board of trustees; members; terms of office; 451 meetings; legal entity; costs; attorney's fees.--For any 452 municipality, special fire control district, chapter plan, local 453 law municipality, local law special fire control district, or 454 local law plan under this chapter:

455 (7) The board of trustees may, upon written request by the 456 retiree of the plan, or by a dependent, when authorized by the 457 retiree or the retiree's beneficiary, authorize the plan 458 administrator to withhold from the monthly retirement payment 459 those funds that are necessary to pay for the benefits being 460 received through the governmental entity from which the employee 461 retired, to pay the certified bargaining agent of the 462 governmental entity, and to make any payments required by law.

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HB 0251 2004 463 Section 6. Subsection (6) of section 185.05, Florida 464 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection 465 (6) is added to said section, to read: 466 185.05 Board of trustees; members; terms of office; 467 meetings; legal entity; costs; attorney's fees.--For any 468 municipality, chapter plan, local law municipality, or local law 469 plan under this chapter: 470 (6) The board of trustees may, upon written request by the 471 retiree of the plan, or by a dependent, when authorized by the 472 retiree or the retiree's beneficiary, authorize the plan 473 administrator to withhold from the monthly retirement payment 474 those funds that are necessary to pay for the benefits being 475 received through the governmental entity from which the employee 476 retired, to pay the certified bargaining agent of the 477 governmental entity, and to make any payments required by law. 478 The sum of \$300,000 is appropriated from the Section 7. 479 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Revenue for the one-480 time expense of creating the original database called for by ss. 175.1015 and 185.085, Florida Statutes, as created by this act, 481 482 and to support the implementation process for use of the 483 database. It is the intent of the Legislature in providing this 484 appropriation that the database for ss. 175.1015 and 185.085, 485 Florida Statutes, as created by this act, be available for use 486 in determining the allocation of premiums to the various 487 municipalities and special fire control districts for the 2005 488 insurance premium tax return that is due by March 1, 2006. 489 Section 8. This act shall take effect January 1, 2005.

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