## CHAMBER ACTION

The Commerce Council recommends the following:

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## Council/Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to insurer insolvency; amending s. 631.181, F.S.; providing an exception to certain requirements for a signed statement for certain claims; providing requirements; creating s. 631.1915, F.S.; providing requirements for policyholder collateral, deductible reimbursements, and other policyholder obligations; specifying that certain collateral held by an insurer or a receiver to secure policyholder obligations under a deductible agreement are not an estate asset; requiring use of such collateral to secure policyholder obligations under such agreement; requiring a receiver to use such collateral to pay noncovered claims under certain circumstances; providing for certain claims to be claims against an insurer's estate under certain circumstances; requiring a receiver to allocate collateral among certain obligations and administer such collateral; authorizing a receiver to continue and enforce certain alternative policyholder claim funding contractual agreements;

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specifying certain actions as a bar to certain claims and an extinguishment of certain obligations; requiring a guaranty association to bill a policyholder for certain reimbursement amounts for certain claims; specifying policyholder obligation for certain amounts; prohibiting certain defenses; requiring a receiver to use certain collateral for certain purposes; requiring a receiver to prorate certain funds of an estate under certain circumstances; authorizing a quaranty association to deduct certain expenses; requiring a guaranty association to provide a complete accounting of certain billing and collection activities; authorizing a guaranty association to contract for certain collections; providing for claims against an insolvent insurer's estate for certain unreimbursed claims payments; requiring a receiver to periodically adjust collateral held pursuant to a deductible agreement; specifying jurisdiction of a state court to resolve disputes; preserving rights of a guaranty association to reimbursement for certain claims; providing application to certain orders of liquidation; providing definitions; providing for nonapplication to certain claims; amending s. 631.54, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s. 631.56, F.S.; revising the membership of the board of directors of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc.; amending s. 631.57, F.S.; revising requirements and limitations for obligations of the association for covered claims; authorizing the association to contract with counties and municipalities Page 2 of 20

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to issue revenue bonds for certain purposes; creating s. 631.695, F.S.; providing legislative findings and purposes; providing for issuance of revenue bonds through counties and municipalities to fund assistance programs for paying covered claims for hurricane damage; providing procedures, requirements, and limitations for counties, municipalities, and the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., relating to issuance and validation of such bonds; providing for payments on and retirement of such bonds from certain assessments; prohibiting pledging the funds, credit, property, and taxing power of the state, counties, and municipalities for payment of bonds; specifying authorized uses of bond proceeds; limiting the term of bonds; specifying a state covenant to protect bondholders from adverse actions relating to such bonds; specifying exemptions for bonds, notes, and other obligations of counties and municipalities from certain taxes or assessments on property and revenues; authorizing counties and municipalities to create a legal entity to exercise certain powers; requiring the association to issue an annual report on the status of certain uses of bond proceeds; providing report requirements; requiring the association to provide a copy of the report to the Legislature and Chief Financial Officer; prohibiting repeal of certain provisions relating to certain bonds under certain circumstances; providing severability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of section 631.181, Florida Statutes, to read:

631.181 Filing and proof of claim. --

85 (2)

- (f) The signed statement required by this section shall not be required on claims for which adequate claims file documentation exists within the records of the insolvent insurer. Claims for payment of unearned premium shall not be required to use the signed statement required by this section if the receiver certifies to the guaranty fund that the records of the insolvent insurer are sufficient to determine the amount of unearned premium owed to each policyholder of the insurer and such information is remitted to the guaranty fund by the receiver in electronic or other mutually agreed upon format.
- Section 2. Section 631.1915, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 631.1915 Policyholder collateral; deductible reimbursements; other policyholder obligations.--
- (1) Any collateral held by or for the benefit of, or assigned to, the insurer or subsequently the receiver in order to secure the obligations of a policyholder under a deductible agreement shall not be considered an asset of the estate and shall be maintained and administered by the receiver as provided in this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law or contract to the contrary.

(2) If the collateral is being held by or for the benefit of, or assigned to, the insurer or subsequently the receiver to secure obligations under a deductible agreement with a policyholder subject to the provisions of this section, the collateral shall be used to secure the policyholder's obligation to fund or reimburse claims payments within the agreed deductible amount.

- (3) If a claim is subject to a deductible agreement and secured by collateral and is not covered by any guaranty association, the receiver shall adjust and pay the noncovered claim using the collateral, but only to the extent of the available collateral. A claim against the collateral by a third-party claimant is not a claim against the insolvent insurer's estate for purposes of s. 631.193. If the collateral is exhausted and the insured is not able to provide funds to pay the remaining claims within the deductible, the remaining claims shall be claims against the insurer's estate subject to complying with other provisions in this part for the filing and allowance of such claims.
- (4) To the extent the receiver is holding collateral provided by a policyholder that was obtained to secure a deductible agreement and to secure other obligations of the policyholder, the receiver shall equitably allocate the collateral among such obligations and administer the collateral allocated to the deductible agreement pursuant to this section. The receiver shall inform the guaranty associations of the method and details of all the foregoing allocations.

134	(5) Regardless of whether there is collateral, if the
135	insurer has contractually agreed to allow the policyholder to
136	fund its own claims within the deductible amount pursuant to a
137	deductible agreement, through the policyholder's own
138	administration of its claims or through the policyholder
139	providing funds directly to a third-party administrator who
140	administers the claims, the receiver may allow such funding
141	arrangement to continue and, where applicable, shall enforce
142	such arrangements. The funding of such claims by the
143	policyholder within the deductible amount acts as a bar to any
144	claim for such amount in the liquidation proceeding, including,
145	but not limited to, any such claim by the policyholder or the
146	third-party claimant. The funding extinguishes both the
147	obligation, if any, of any guaranty association to pay such
148	claims within the deductible amount and the obligations, if any,
149	of the policyholder or third-party administrator to reimburse
150	the guaranty association. No charge of any kind shall be made
151	against any guaranty association on the basis of the
152	policyholder's funding of claims payment made pursuant to the
153	mechanism set forth in this subsection.
154	(6) If the insurer has not contractually agreed to allow
155	the policyholder to fund the policyholder's own claims within
156	the deductible amount, to the extent a guaranty association is
157	required by applicable state law to pay any claims for which the
158	insurer would have been entitled to reimbursement from the
159	policyholder under the terms of the deductible agreement and to
160	the extent the claims have not been paid by a policyholder or
161	third party, the guaranty association shall bill the

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162	policyholder for such reimbursement and the policyholder is
163	obligated to pay such amount to the guaranty association for the
164	benefit of the guaranty associations who paid such claims.
165	Neither the insolvency of the insurer nor its inability to
166	perform any of its obligations under the deductible agreement
167	shall be a defense to the policyholder's reimbursement
168	obligation under the deductible agreement. If the policyholder
169	fails to pay the amounts due within 60 days after the bill for
170	such reimbursements is due, the receiver shall use the
171	collateral to the extent necessary to reimburse the guaranty
172	association and, at the same time, the guaranty association may
173	pursue other collection efforts against the policyholder. If
174	more than one guaranty association has a claim against the same
175	collateral and the available collateral, after allocation under
176	subsection (4), together with billing and collection efforts,
177	are together insufficient to pay each guaranty association in
178	full, the receiver shall prorate payments to each guaranty
179	association based upon the relationship the amount of claims
180	each guaranty association has paid bears to the total of all
181	claims paid by such guaranty associations.
182	(7)(a) The quaranty association is entitled to deduct from

- (7)(a) The guaranty association is entitled to deduct from collateral to be returned to a policyholder reasonable actual expenses incurred in fulfilling the responsibilities under this provision.
- (b) With respect to claims payments made by any guaranty association, the guaranty association shall provide any other guaranty associations and the receiver with a complete accounting of the guaranty association's deductible billing and

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collection activities, including copies of the policyholder billings when rendered and the reimbursements collected. The cost of reports required pursuant to this subsection shall be considered part of the expenses of the guaranty association.

- (c) The guaranty association may contract with the receiver for the direct collection from the policyholders on the same basis as the guaranty association and with the same rights and remedies. If so assigned, the receiver shall report any amounts so collected from each policyholder to the guaranty association.
- (d) To the extent that guaranty associations pay claims within the deductible amount but are not reimbursed by the receiver under this section or by policyholder payments from the guaranty associations' own collection efforts, the guaranty association shall have a claim on the insolvent insurer's estate for such unreimbursed claims payments. The priority of such claim shall depend upon the nature of the payment that should have been reimbursed.
- (e) Periodically, but not more than annually, the receiver shall adjust the collateral being held pursuant to the deductible agreement. The receiver shall maintain adequate collateral to secure 110 percent of the entire estimated obligation of the policyholder. The receiver shall provide a copy of its collateral review to any obligated guaranty association. Once all claims covered by the collateral have been paid and the receiver is satisfied that no new claims can be presented, the receiver may release any remaining collateral.

(8) The state court that has jurisdiction over the liquidation proceedings shall have jurisdiction to resolve disputes arising under this section.

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- (9) Nothing in this section limits or adversely affects any right the guaranty associations may have under applicable state law to obtain reimbursement from certain classes of policyholders for claims payments made by such guaranty associations under policies of the insolvent insurer or for related expenses the guaranty associations incur.
- (10) This section applies to all liquidations for which an order is entered after July 1, 2005.
  - (11) For purposes of this section, the term:
- (a) "Deductible agreement" means any combination of one or more policies, endorsements, contracts, or security agreements that provide for the policyholder to bear the risk of loss within a specified amount per claim or occurrence covered under a policy of insurance and that may be subject to aggregate limit of policyholder reimbursement obligations.
- (b) "Noncovered claim" means a claim that is subject to a deductible agreement, may be secured by collateral, and is not covered by a guaranty association.
- (12) This section does not apply to first-party claims. Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 631.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 631.54 Definitions.--As used in this part:
- (3) "Covered claim" means an unpaid claim, including one of unearned premiums, which arises out of, and is within the coverage, and not in excess of, the applicable limits of an Page 9 of 20

insurance policy to which this part applies, issued by an insurer, if such insurer becomes an insolvent insurer and the claimant or insured is a resident of this state at the time of the insured event or the property from which the claim arises is permanently located in this state. For entities other than individuals, the residence of a claimant, insured, or policyholder is the state in which the entity's principal place of business is located at the time of the insured event. "Covered claim" shall not include:

- (a) Any amount due any reinsurer, insurer, insurance pool, or underwriting association, sought directly or indirectly through a third party, as subrogation, contribution, indemnification, or otherwise; or
- Any claim that would otherwise be a covered claim under this part that has been rejected by any other state quaranty fund on the grounds that an insured's net worth is greater than that allowed under that state's quaranty law. Member insurers shall have no right of subrogation, contribution, indemnification, or otherwise, sought directly or indirectly through a third party, against the insured of any insolvent member.
- Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 631.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 631.56 Board of directors.--

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The board of directors of the association shall consist of not less than six five or more than ten nine persons serving terms as established in the plan of operation. The department shall approve and appoint to the board up to nine Page 10 of 20

persons recommended by the member insurers. The department shall select one Florida-licensed insurance agent to serve as a nonvoting member. In the event the department finds that any recommended person does not meet the qualifications for service on the board, the department shall request the member insurers to recommend another person. Each member shall serve for a 4-year term and may be reappointed. Vacancies on the board shall be filled for the remaining period of the term in the same manner as initial appointments.

- Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraph (d) of subsection (2), and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 631.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
  - 631.57 Powers and duties of the association. --
  - (1) The association shall:

- (a)1. Be obligated to the extent of the covered claims existing:
- a. Prior to adjudication of insolvency and arising within30 days after the determination of insolvency;
- b. Before the policy expiration date if less than 30 days after the determination; or
- c. Before the insured replaces the policy or causes its cancellation, if she or he does so within 30 days of the determination.
- 2.a. The obligation under subparagraph 1. shall include only that amount of each covered claim which is in excess of \$100 and is less than \$300,000, except with respect to policies covering condominium associations or homeowners' associations, which associations have a responsibility to provide insurance Page 11 of 20

coverage on residential units within the association, the obligation shall include that amount of each covered property insurance claim which is less than \$100,000 multiplied by the number of condominium units or other residential units; however, as to homeowners' associations, this <a href="mailto:sub-subparagraph">sub-subparagraph</a> applies only to claims for damage or loss to residential units and structures attached to residential units.

- b. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph a., the association has no obligation to pay covered claims that are to be paid from the proceeds of bonds issued under s. 631.695. However, the association shall assign and pledge the first available moneys from all or part of the assessments to be made under paragraph (3)(a) to or on behalf of the issuer of such bonds for the benefit of the holders of such bonds. The association shall administer any such covered claims and present valid covered claims for payment in accordance with the provisions of the assistance program in connection with which such bonds have been issued.
- 3. In no event shall the association be obligated to a policyholder or claimant in an amount in excess of the obligation of the insolvent insurer under the policy from which the claim arises.
  - (2) The association may:

(d) Negotiate and become a party to such contracts as are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part. Additionally, the association may enter into such contracts with a municipality or county or such legal entity created pursuant to s. 163.01(7)(g) as are necessary in order for the municipality

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or county or such legal entity to issue bonds under s. 631.695.

In connection with the issuance of any such bonds and the entering into of any such necessary contracts, the association may agree to such terms and conditions as the association deems necessary and proper.

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(3)(a) To the extent necessary to secure the funds for the respective accounts for the payment of covered claims, and also to pay the reasonable costs to administer the same, and to the extent necessary to secure the funds for the account specified in s. 631.55(2)(c), or to retire indebtedness, including, without limitation, the principal, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance of, bonds issued under s. 631.695, and the funding of any reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution or trust indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, the office, upon certification of the board of directors, shall levy assessments in the proportion that each insurer's net direct written premiums in this state in the classes protected by the account bears to the total of said net direct written premiums received in this state by all such insurers for the preceding calendar year for the kinds of insurance included within such account. Assessments shall be remitted to and administered by the board of directors in the manner specified by the approved plan. Each insurer so assessed shall have at least 30 days' written notice as to the date the assessment is due and payable. Every assessment shall be made as a uniform percentage applicable to the net direct written premiums of each insurer in the kinds of insurance included within the account in which the assessment is

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made. The assessments levied against any insurer shall not exceed in any one year more than 2 percent of that insurer's net direct written premiums in this state for the kinds of insurance included within such account during the calendar year next preceding the date of such assessments.

Section 6. Section 631.695, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 631.695 Revenue bond issuance through counties or municipalities.--
  - (1) The Legislature finds:

- (a) The potential for widespread and massive damage to persons and property caused by hurricanes making landfall in this state can generate insurance claims of such a number as to render numerous insurers operating within this state insolvent and therefore unable to satisfy covered claims.
- (b) The inability of insureds within this state to receive payment of covered claims or to timely receive such payment creates financial and other hardships for such insureds and places undue burdens on the state, the affected units of local government, and the community at large.
- (c) In addition, the failure of insurers to pay covered claims or to timely pay such claims due to the insolvency of such insurers can undermine the public's confidence in insurers operating within this state, thereby adversely affecting the stability of the insurance industry in this state.
- (d) The state has previously taken action to address these problems by adopting the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association Act, which, among other things, provides a mechanism for the

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payment of covered claims under certain insurance policies to avoid excessive delay in payment and to avoid financial loss to claimants or policyholders because of the insolvency of an insurer.

- (e) In the wake of the unprecedented destruction caused by various hurricanes that have made landfall in this state, the resultant covered claims, and the number of insurers rendered insolvent thereby, it is evident that alternative programs must be developed to allow the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., to more expeditiously and effectively provide for the payment of covered claims.
- of, and necessary for, the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of this state, and for the protection and preservation of the economic stability of insurers operating in this state, and it is declared to be an essential public purpose, to permit certain municipalities and counties to take such actions as will provide relief to claimants and policyholders having covered claims against insolvent insurers operating in this state by expediting the handling and payment of covered claims.
- (g) To achieve the foregoing purposes, it is proper to authorize municipalities and counties of this state substantially affected by the landfall of a category 1 or greater hurricane to issue bonds to assist the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., in expediting the handling and payment of covered claims of insolvent insurers.

(h) In order to avoid the needless and indiscriminate proliferation, duplication, and fragmentation of such assistance programs, it is in the best interests of the residents of this state to authorize municipalities and counties severely affected by a category 1 or greater hurricane to provide for the payment of covered claims beyond their territorial limits in the implementation of such programs.

- (i) It is a paramount public purpose for municipalities and counties substantially affected by the landfall of a category 1 or greater hurricane to be able to issue bonds for the purposes described in this section. Such issuance shall provide assistance to residents of those municipalities and counties as well as to other residents of this state.
- (2) The governing body of any municipality or county the residents of which have been substantially affected by a category 1 or greater hurricane may issue bonds to fund an assistance program in conjunction with, and with the consent of, the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., for the purpose of paying claimants' or policyholders' covered claims as defined in s. 631.54 arising through the insolvency of an insurer, which insolvency is determined by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., to have been a result of a category 1 or greater hurricane, regardless of whether such claimants or policyholders are residents of such municipality or county or the property to which such claim relates is located within or outside the territorial jurisdiction of such municipality or county. The power of a municipality or county to issue bonds as described in this section is in addition to any powers granted

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by law and may not be abrogated or restricted by any provisions

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441 in such municipality's or county's charter. A municipality or 442 county issuing bonds for this purpose shall enter into such 443 contracts with the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc., 444 or any entity acting on behalf of the Florida Insurance Guaranty 445 Association, Inc., as are necessary to implement the assistance 446 program. Any bonds issued by a municipality or county or 447 combination thereof under this subsection shall be payable from 448 and secured by moneys received by or on behalf of the 449 municipality or county from assessments levied under s. 450 631.57(3)(a) and assigned and pledged to or on behalf of the 451 municipality or county for the benefit of the holders of such 452 bonds in connection with such assistance program. The funds, 453 credit, property, and taxing power of the state or any 454 municipality or county shall not be pledged for the payment of 455 such bonds. (3) Bonds may be validated by such municipality or county 456 457 pursuant to chapter 75. The proceeds of such bonds may be used 458 to pay covered claims of insolvent insurers; to refinance or 459 replace previously existing borrowings or financial 460 arrangements; to pay interest on bonds; to fund reserves for the 461 bonds; to pay expenses incident to the issuance or sale of any bond issued under this section, including costs of validating, 462 463 printing, and delivering the bonds, costs of printing the 464 official statement, costs of publishing notices of sale of the

purposes related to the financial obligations of the fund as the Page 17 of 20

support, and related administrative expenses; or for such other

bonds, costs of obtaining credit enhancement or liquidity

association may determine. The term of the bonds may not exceed
30 years.

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- (4) The state covenants with holders of bonds of the assistance program that the state will not take any action which will have a material adverse affect on such holders and will not repeal or abrogate the power of the board of directors of the association to direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy the assessments and to collect the proceeds of the revenues pledged to the payment of such bonds as long as any such bonds remain outstanding unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of such bonds pursuant to the documents authorizing the issuance of such bonds.
- The accomplishment of the authorized purposes of such municipality or county under this section is in all respects for the benefit of the people of the state, for the increase of their commerce and prosperity, and for the improvement of their health and living conditions. Such municipality or county, in performing essential governmental functions in accomplishing its purposes, is not required to pay any taxes or assessments of any kind whatsoever upon any property acquired or used by the county or municipality for such purposes or upon any revenues at any time received by the county or municipality. The bonds, notes, and other obligations of such municipality or county, and the transfer of and income from such bonds, notes, and other obligations, including any profits made on the sale of such bonds, notes, and other obligations, are exempt from taxation of any kind by the state or by any political subdivision or other agency or instrumentality of the state. The exemption granted in

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this subsection is not applicable to any tax imposed by chapter

220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned by

corporations.

- (6) Two or more municipalities or counties the residents of which have been substantially affected by a category 1 or greater hurricane may create a legal entity pursuant to s.

  163.01(7)(g) to exercise the powers described in this section as well as those powers granted in s. 163.01(7)(g). Reference in this section to a municipality or county includes such legal entity.
- (7) The association shall issue an annual report on the status of the use of bond proceeds as related to insolvencies caused by hurricanes. The report must contain the number and amount of claims paid. The association shall also include an analysis of the revenue generated from the assessment levied under s. 631.57(3)(a) to pay such bonds. The association shall submit a copy of the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Financial Officer within 90 days after the end of each calendar year in which bonds were outstanding.

Section 7. No provision of s. 631.57 or s. 631.695,

Florida Statutes, shall be repealed until such time as the

principal, redemption premium, if any, and interest on all bonds
issued under s. 631.695, Florida Statutes, payable and secured
from assessments levied under s. 631.57(3)(a), Florida Statutes,
have been paid in full or adequate provision for such payment
has been made in accordance with the bond resolution or trust
indenture pursuant to which such bonds were issued.

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Section 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable.

Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.