Barcode 435620

CHAMBER ACTION

	Senate House
1	:
2	: :
3	: :
3	;
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Senator Garcia moved the following amendment:
12	
13	Senate Amendment (with title amendment)
14	Delete everything after the enacting clause
15	
16	and insert:
17	Section 1. Effective June 1, 2005, paragraph (e) of
18	subsection (2) of section 215.555, Florida Statutes, is
19	amended to read:
20	215.555 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund
21	(2) DEFINITIONSAs used in this section:
22	(e) "Retention" means the amount of losses below which
23	an insurer is not entitled to reimbursement from the fund. An
24	insurer's retention shall be calculated as follows:
25	1. The board shall calculate and report to each
26	insurer the retention multiples for that year. For the
27	contract year beginning June 1, 2005 2004 , the retention
28	multiple shall be equal to \$4.5 billion divided by the total
29	estimated reimbursement premium for the contract year; for
30	subsequent years, the retention multiple shall be equal to
31	\$4.5 billion, adjusted based upon the reported exposure from
	11:23 PM 05/05/05 h193704e2c-40-j01

Barcode 435620

- the prior contract year to reflect the percentage growth in exposure to the fund for covered policies since 2004 2003, divided by the total estimated reimbursement premium for the contract year. Total reimbursement premium for purposes of the calculation under this subparagraph shall be estimated using the assumption that all insurers have selected the 90-percent coverage level.
- 2. The retention multiple as determined under 8 subparagraph 1. shall be adjusted to reflect the coverage 9 10 level elected by the insurer. For insurers electing the 11 90-percent coverage level, the adjusted retention multiple is 100 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1. For 12 13 insurers electing the 75-percent coverage level, the retention multiple is 120 percent of the amount determined under 14 15 subparagraph 1. For insurers electing the 45-percent coverage 16 level, the adjusted retention multiple is 200 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1. 17
 - 3. An insurer shall determine its provisional retention by multiplying its provisional reimbursement premium by the applicable adjusted retention multiple and shall determine its actual retention by multiplying its actual reimbursement premium by the applicable adjusted retention multiple.
 - 4. For insurers who experience multiple covered events causing loss during the contract year, beginning June 1, 2005, each insurer's full retention shall be applied to each of the covered events causing the two largest losses for that insurer. For each other covered event resulting in losses, the insurer's retention shall be reduced to one-third of the full retention. The reimbursement contract shall provide for the reimbursement of losses for each covered event based on the

18 19

2021

22

23

2.4

25

26

27

28 29

30

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

full retention with adjustments made to reflect the reduced
retentions after January 1 of the contract year provided the
insurer reports its losses as specified in the reimbursement
contract.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2005, section 215.559,
Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

215.559 Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.--

215.559 Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.--

- (1) There is created a Hurricane Loss Mitigation
 Program. The Legislature shall annually appropriate \$10
 million of the moneys authorized for appropriation under s.
 215.555(7)(c) from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to
 the Department of Community Affairs for the purposes set forth
 in this section.
- (2)(a) Seven million dollars in funds provided in subsection (1) shall be used for programs to improve the wind resistance of residences and mobile homes, including loans, subsidies, grants, demonstration projects, and direct assistance; cooperative programs with local governments and the Federal Government; and other efforts to prevent or reduce losses or reduce the cost of rebuilding after a disaster.
- (b) Three million dollars in funds provided in subsection (1) shall be used to retrofit existing facilities used as public hurricane shelters. The department must prioritize the use of these funds for projects included in the September 1, 2000, version of the Shelter Retrofit Report prepared in accordance with s. 252.385(3), and each annual report thereafter. The department must give funding priority to projects in regional planning council regions that have shelter deficits and to projects that maximize use of state funds.
- 31 (3) By the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Department of

1	Community Affairs shall develop a low-interest loan program
2	for homeowners and mobile home owners to retrofit their homes
3	with fixtures or apply construction techniques that have been
4	demonstrated to reduce the amount of damage or loss due to a
5	hurricane. Funding for the program shall be used to subsidize
6	or quaranty private-sector loans for this purpose to qualified
7	homeowners by financial institutions chartered by the state or
8	Federal Government. The department may enter into contracts
9	with financial institutions for this purpose. The department
10	shall establish criteria for determining eligibility for the
11	loans and selecting recipients, standards for retrofitting
12	homes or mobile homes, limitations on loan subsidies and loan
13	guaranties, and other terms and conditions of the program,
14	which must be specified in the department's report to the
15	Legislature on January 1, 2006, required by subsection (8).
16	For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Department of Community
17	Affairs may use up to \$1 million of the funds appropriated
18	pursuant to paragraph (2)(a) to begin the low-interest loan
19	program as a pilot project in one or more counties. The
20	Department of Financial Services, the Office of Financial
21	Regulation, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the
22	Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall
23	assist the Department of Community Affairs in establishing the
24	program and pilot project. The department may use up to 2.5
25	percent of the funds appropriated in any given fiscal year for
26	administering the loan program. The department may adopt rules
27	to implement the program.
28	(4) Forty percent of the total appropriation in
29	paragraph (2)(a) shall be used to inspect and improve
30	tie-downs for mobile homes. Within 30 days after the effective
31	date of that appropriation, the department shall contract with
	11:23 PM 05/05/05 h193704e2c-40-j01

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

a public higher educational institution in this state which has previous experience in administering the programs set forth in this subsection to serve as the administrative entity and fiscal agent pursuant to s. 216.346 for the purpose of administering the programs set forth in this subsection in accordance with established policy and procedures. The administrative entity working with the advisory council set up under subsection (6)(5) shall develop a list of mobile home parks and counties that may be eligible to participate in the tie-down program.

(5)(4) Of moneys provided to the Department of Community Affairs in paragraph (2)(a), 10 percent shall be allocated to a Type I Center within the State University System dedicated to hurricane research. The Type I Center shall develop a preliminary work plan approved by the advisory council set forth in subsection(6)(5) to eliminate the state and local barriers to upgrading existing mobile homes and communities, research and develop a program for the recycling of existing older mobile homes, and support programs of research and development relating to hurricane loss reduction devices and techniques for site-built residences. The State University System also shall consult with the Department of Community Affairs and assist the department with the report required under subsection(8)(7).

(6)(5) Except for the program set forth in subsection (3), The Department of Community Affairs shall develop the programs set forth in this section in consultation with an advisory council consisting of a representative designated by the Chief Financial Officer, a representative designated by the Florida Home Builders Association, a representative designated by the Florida Insurance Council, a representative

2.4

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

designated by the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners, a representative designated by the Florida Association of Counties, and a representative designated by the Florida Manufactured Housing Association.

(7)(6) Moneys provided to the Department of Community Affairs under this section are intended to supplement other funding sources of the Department of Community Affairs and may not supplant other funding sources of the Department of Community Affairs.

(8)(7) On January 1st of each year, the Department of Community Affairs shall provide a full report and accounting of activities under this section and an evaluation of such activities to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(9) This section is repealed June 30, 2011.

Section 3. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 627.062, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

627.062 Rate standards.--

(4) The establishment of any rate, rating classification, rating plan or schedule, or variation thereof in violation of part IX of chapter 626 is also in violation of this section. In order to enhance the ability of consumers to compare premiums and to increase the accuracy and usefulness of rate-comparison information provided by the office to the public, the office shall develop a proposed standard rating territory plan to be used by all authorized property and casualty insurers for residential property insurance. In adopting the proposed plan, the office may consider geographical characteristics relevant to risk, county lines, major roadways, existing rating territories used by a

1	significant segment of the market, and other relevant factors.
2	Such plan shall be submitted to the President of the Senate
3	and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15,
4	2006. The plan may not be implemented unless authorized by
5	further act of the Legislature.
6	(5) With respect to a rate filing involving coverage
7	of the type for which the insurer is required to pay a
8	reimbursement premium to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe
9	Fund, the insurer may fully recoup in its property insurance
10	premiums any reimbursement premiums paid to the Florida
11	Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, together with reasonable costs of
12	other reinsurance, but may not recoup reinsurance costs that
13	duplicate coverage provided by the Florida Hurricane
14	Catastrophe Fund. <u>An insurer may not recoup more than 1 year</u>
15	of reimbursement premium at a time. Any under-recoupment from
16	the prior year may be added to the following year's
17	reimbursement premium and any over-recoupment shall be
18	subtracted from the following year's reimbursement premium.
19	Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and
20	paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 627.0628, Florida
21	Statutes, are amended to read:
22	627.0628 Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss
23	Projection Methodology
24	(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT
25	(c) It is the intent of the Legislature to create the
26	Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology as
27	a panel of experts to provide the most actuarially
28	sophisticated guidelines and standards for projection of
29	hurricane losses possible, given the current state of
30	actuarial science. It is the further intent of the Legislature
31	that such standards and guidelines must be used by the State
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

1	Board of Administration in developing reimbursement premium
2	rates for the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, and, subject
3	to paragraph (3)(c), may be used by insurers in rate filings
4	under s. 627.062 unless the way in which such standards and
5	guidelines were applied by the insurer was erroneous, as shown
6	by a preponderance of the evidence.
7	(3) ADOPTION AND EFFECT OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
8	(c) With respect to a rate filing under s. 627.062, an
9	insurer may employ actuarial methods, principles, standards,
10	models, or output ranges found by the commission to be
11	accurate or reliable to determine hurricane loss factors for
12	use in a rate filing under s. 627.062 <u>. Such</u> , which findings
13	and factors are admissible and relevant in consideration of a
14	rate filing by the office or in any arbitration or
15	administrative or judicial review only if the office and the
16	consumer advocate appointed pursuant to s. 627.0613 have
17	access to all of the assumptions and factors that were used in
18	developing the actuarial methods, principles, standards,
19	models, or output ranges, and are not precluded from
20	disclosing such information in a rate proceeding.
21	Section 5. Subsection (7) of section 627.0629, Florida
22	Statutes, is amended to read:
23	627.0629 Residential property insurance; rate
24	filings
25	(7) Any rate filing that is based in whole or part on
26	data from a computer model may not exceed 15 25 percent unless
27	there is a public hearing.
28	Section 6. Section 627.06281, Florida Statutes, is
29	created to read:
30	627.06281 Public hurricane loss projection model;

1	request for loss data and associated exposure data by the
2	office or a type I center within the State University System
3	established to study mitigation, residential property insurers
4	and licensed rating and advisory organizations that compile
5	residential property insurance loss data shall provide loss
6	data and associated exposure data for residential property
7	insurance policies to the office or to a type I center within
8	the State University System established to study mitigation,
9	as directed by the office, for the purposes of developing,
10	maintaining, and updating a public model for hurricane loss
11	projections. The loss data and associated exposure data
12	provided shall be in writing.
13	Section 7. Paragraphs (a), (c), and (q) of subsection
14	(6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
15	627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans
16	(6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION
17	(a)1. The Legislature finds that actual and threatened
18	catastrophic losses to property in this state from hurricanes
19	have caused insurers to be unwilling or unable to provide
20	property insurance coverage to the extent sought and needed.
21	It is in the public interest and a public purpose to assist in
22	assuring that property in the state is insured so as to
23	facilitate the remediation, reconstruction, and replacement of
24	damaged or destroyed property in order to reduce or avoid the
25	negative effects otherwise resulting to the public health,
26	safety, and welfare; to the economy of the state; and to the
27	revenues of the state and local governments needed to provide
28	for the public welfare. It is necessary, therefore, to provide
29	property insurance to applicants who are in good faith
30	entitled to procure insurance through the voluntary market but
31	are unable to do so. The Legislature intends by this

3

5

7

8

10

11

12 13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

2122

23

2.4

25

26

2728

29

30

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

subsection that property insurance be provided and that it continues, as long as necessary, through an entity organized to achieve efficiencies and economies, while providing service to policyholders, applicants, and agents that is no less than the quality generally provided in the voluntary market, all toward the achievement of the foregoing public purposes.

Because it is essential for the corporation to have the maximum financial resources to pay claims following a catastrophic hurricane, it is the intent of the Legislature that the income of the corporation be exempt from federal income taxation and that interest on the debt obligations issued by the corporation be exempt from federal income taxation.

2. The Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association originally created by this statute shall be known, as of July 1, 2002, as the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. The corporation shall provide insurance for residential and commercial property, for applicants who are in good faith entitled, but are unable, to procure insurance through the voluntary market. The corporation shall operate pursuant to a plan of operation approved by order of the office. The plan is subject to continuous review by the office. The office may, by order, withdraw approval of all or part of a plan if the office determines that conditions have changed since approval was granted and that the purposes of the plan require changes in the plan. For the purposes of this subsection, residential coverage includes both personal lines residential coverage, which consists of the type of coverage provided by homeowner's, mobile home owner's, dwelling, tenant's, condominium unit owner's, and similar policies, and commercial lines residential coverage, which consists of the

3 4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

2.4

25

26

27 28

29

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

type of coverage provided by condominium association, apartment building, and similar policies.

- 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that policyholders, applicants, and agents of the corporation receive service and treatment of the highest possible level but never less than that generally provided in the voluntary market. It also is intended that the corporation be held to service standards no less than those applied to insurers in the voluntary market by the office with respect to responsiveness, timeliness, customer courtesy, and overall dealings with policyholders, applicants, or agents of the corporation.
 - (c) The plan of operation of the corporation:
- 1. Must provide for adoption of residential property and casualty insurance policy forms and commercial residential and nonresidential property insurance forms, which forms must be approved by the office prior to use. The corporation shall adopt the following policy forms:
- a. Standard personal lines policy forms that are comprehensive multiperil policies providing full coverage of a residential property equivalent to the coverage provided in the private insurance market under an HO-3, HO-4, or HO-6 policy.
- b. Basic personal lines policy forms that are policies similar to an HO-8 policy or a dwelling fire policy that provide coverage meeting the requirements of the secondary mortgage market, but which coverage is more limited than the coverage under a standard policy.
- c. Commercial lines residential policy forms that are generally similar to the basic perils of full coverage 30 obtainable for commercial residential structures in the

Barcode 435620

| admitted voluntary market.

- d. Personal lines and commercial lines residential property insurance forms that cover the peril of wind only. The forms are applicable only to residential properties located in areas eligible for coverage under the high-risk account referred to in sub-subparagraph (b)2.a.
- e. Commercial lines nonresidential property insurance forms that cover the peril of wind only. The forms are applicable only to nonresidential properties located in areas eligible for coverage under the high-risk account referred to in sub-subparagraph (b)2.a.
- 2.a. Must provide that the corporation adopt a program in which the corporation and authorized insurers enter into quota share primary insurance agreements for hurricane coverage, as defined in s. 627.4025(2)(a), for eligible risks, and adopt property insurance forms for eligible risks which cover the peril of wind only. As used in this subsection, the term:
- arrangement in which the primary insurance" means an eligible risk is provided in specified percentages by the corporation and an authorized insurer. The corporation and authorized insurer are each solely responsible for a specified percentage of hurricane coverage of an eligible risk as set forth in a quota share primary insurance agreement between the corporation and an authorized insurer and the insurance contract. The responsibility of the corporation or authorized insurer to pay its specified percentage of hurricane losses of an eligible risk, as set forth in the quota share primary insurance agreement, may not be altered by the inability of the other party to the agreement to pay its specified

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

percentage of hurricane losses. Eligible risks that are
provided hurricane coverage through a quota share primary
insurance arrangement must be provided policy forms that set
forth the obligations of the corporation and authorized
insurer under the arrangement, clearly specify the percentages
of quota share primary insurance provided by the corporation
and authorized insurer, and conspicuously and clearly state
that neither the authorized insurer nor the corporation may be
held responsible beyond its specified percentage of coverage
of hurricane losses.

- (II) "Eligible risks" means personal lines residential and commercial lines residential risks that meet the underwriting criteria of the corporation and are located in areas that were eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association on January 1, 2002.
- b. The corporation may enter into quota share primary insurance agreements with authorized insurers at corporation coverage levels of 90 percent and 50 percent.
- c. If the corporation determines that additional coverage levels are necessary to maximize participation in quota share primary insurance agreements by authorized insurers, the corporation may establish additional coverage levels. However, the corporation's quota share primary insurance coverage level may not exceed 90 percent.
- d. Any quota share primary insurance agreement entered into between an authorized insurer and the corporation must provide for a uniform specified percentage of coverage of hurricane losses, by county or territory as set forth by the corporation board, for all eligible risks of the authorized insurer covered under the quota share primary insurance agreement.

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

- e. Any quota share primary insurance agreement entered into between an authorized insurer and the corporation is subject to review and approval by the office. However, such agreement shall be authorized only as to insurance contracts entered into between an authorized insurer and an insured who is already insured by the corporation for wind coverage.
- f. For all eligible risks covered under quota share primary insurance agreements, the exposure and coverage levels for both the corporation and authorized insurers shall be reported by the corporation to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. For all policies of eligible risks covered under quota share primary insurance agreements, the corporation and the authorized insurer shall maintain complete and accurate records for the purpose of exposure and loss reimbursement audits as required by Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund rules. The corporation and the authorized insurer shall each maintain duplicate copies of policy declaration pages and supporting claims documents.
- g. The corporation board shall establish in its plan of operation standards for quota share agreements which ensure that there is no discriminatory application among insurers as to the terms of quota share agreements, pricing of quota share agreements, incentive provisions if any, and consideration paid for servicing policies or adjusting claims.
- h. The quota share primary insurance agreement between the corporation and an authorized insurer must set forth the specific terms under which coverage is provided, including, but not limited to, the sale and servicing of policies issued under the agreement by the insurance agent of the authorized insurer producing the business, the reporting of information concerning eligible risks, the payment of premium to the

3

5

6 7

8

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19

2021

22

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

corporation, and arrangements for the adjustment and payment of hurricane claims incurred on eligible risks by the claims adjuster and personnel of the authorized insurer. Entering into a quota sharing insurance agreement between the corporation and an authorized insurer shall be voluntary and at the discretion of the authorized insurer.

3. May provide that the corporation may employ or otherwise contract with individuals or other entities to provide administrative or professional services that may be appropriate to effectuate the plan. The corporation shall have the power to borrow funds, by issuing bonds or by incurring other indebtedness, and shall have other powers reasonably necessary to effectuate the requirements of this subsection, including without limitation, the power to issue bonds and incur other indebtedness in order to refinance outstanding bonds or other indebtedness. The corporation may, but is not required to, seek judicial validation of its bonds or other indebtedness under chapter 75. The corporation may issue bonds or incur other indebtedness, or have bonds issued on its behalf by a unit of local government pursuant to subparagraph (g)2., in the absence of a hurricane or other weather-related event, upon a determination by the corporation, subject to approval by the office, that such action would enable it to efficiently meet the financial obligations of the corporation and that such financings are reasonably necessary to effectuate the requirements of this subsection. The corporation is authorized to take all actions needed to facilitate tax-free status for any such bonds or indebtedness, including formation of trusts or other affiliated entities. The corporation shall have the authority to pledge assessments, projected recoveries from the Florida Hurricane

Barcode 435620

Catastrophe Fund, other reinsurance recoverables, market equalization and other surcharges, and other funds available 2 to the corporation as security for bonds or other 3 indebtedness. In recognition of s. 10, Art. I of the State Constitution, prohibiting the impairment of obligations of 5 contracts, it is the intent of the Legislature that no action 7 be taken whose purpose is to impair any bond indenture or financing agreement or any revenue source committed by 8 contract to such bond or other indebtedness. 9 10 4.a. Must require that the corporation operate subject 11 to the supervision and approval of a board of governors consisting of 8 - 7 individuals who are residents of this state, 12 13 from different geographical areas of this state, appointed by the Chief Financial Officer. The Governor, the Chief Financial 14 15 Officer, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two members of the 16 board, effective August 1, 2005. At least one of the two 17 members appointed by each appointing officer must have 18 19 demonstrated expertise in insurance. The Chief Financial 20 Officer shall designate one of the appointees as chair. All board members serve at the pleasure of the appointing officer 21 22 Chief Financial Officer. All board members, including the chair, must be appointed to serve for 3-year terms beginning 23 2.4 annually on a date designated by the plan. Any board vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointing 25 officer Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer 26 shall appoint a technical advisory group to provide 27 28 information and advice to the board of governors in connection 29 with the board's duties under this subsection. The executive director and senior managers of the corporation shall be 30 engaged by the board, as recommended by the Chief Financial

Barcode 435620

Officer and serve at the pleasure of the board Chief Financial Officer. The executive director is responsible for employing 2 other staff as the corporation may require, subject to review 3 and concurrence by the board and office of the Chief Financial Officer. 5 6 b. The board shall create a Market Accountability 7 Advisory Committee to assist the corporation in developing awareness of its rates and its customer and agent service 8 levels in relationship to the voluntary market insurers 9 writing similar coverage. The members of the advisory 10 11 committee shall consist of the following 11 persons, one of whom must be elected chair by the members of the committee: 12 four representatives, one appointed by the Florida Association 13 of Insurance Agents, one by the Florida Association of 14 15 Insurance and Financial Advisors, one by the Professional Insurance Agents of Florida, and one by the Latin American 16 Association of Insurance Agencies; three representatives 17 appointed by the insurers with the three highest voluntary 18 19 market share of residential property insurance business in the 20 state; one representative from the Office of Insurance 21 Regulation; one consumer appointed by the board who is insured 22 by the corporation at the time of appointment to the 23 committee; one representative appointed by the Florida 2.4 Association of Realtors; and one representative appointed by the Florida Bankers Association. All members must serve for 25 3-year terms and may serve for consecutive terms. The 26 committee shall report to the corporation at each board 27 meeting on insurance market issues which may include rates and 28 29 rate competition with the voluntary market; service, including policy issuance, claims processing, and general responsiveness 30 to policyholders, applicants, and agents; and matters relating

Barcode 435620

to depopulation.

2

3

22

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

- 5. Must provide a procedure for determining the eligibility of a risk for coverage, as follows:
- 4 a. Subject to the provisions of s. 627.3517, with respect to personal lines residential risks, if the risk is 5 offered coverage from an authorized insurer at the insurer's approved rate under either a standard policy including wind 7 coverage or, if consistent with the insurer's underwriting 8 rules as filed with the office, a basic policy including wind 9 10 coverage, the risk is not eligible for any policy issued by 11 the corporation. If the risk is not able to obtain any such offer, the risk is eligible for either a standard policy 12 13 including wind coverage or a basic policy including wind coverage issued by the corporation; however, if the risk could 14 15 not be insured under a standard policy including wind coverage 16 regardless of market conditions, the risk shall be eligible for a basic policy including wind coverage unless rejected 17 under subparagraph 8. The corporation shall determine the type 18 of policy to be provided on the basis of objective standards 19 20 specified in the underwriting manual and based on generally accepted underwriting practices. 21
 - (I) If the risk accepts an offer of coverage through the market assistance plan or an offer of coverage through a mechanism established by the corporation before a policy is issued to the risk by the corporation or during the first 30 days of coverage by the corporation, and the producing agent who submitted the application to the plan or to the corporation is not currently appointed by the insurer, the insurer shall:
 - (A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the policy, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of

Barcode 435620

the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or

(B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the policy to continue servicing the policy for a period of not less than 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

- (II) When the corporation enters into a contractual agreement for a take-out plan, the producing agent of record of the corporation policy is entitled to retain any unearned commission on the policy, and the insurer shall:
- (A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the corporation policy, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or
- (B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the corporation policy to continue servicing the policy for a period of not less than 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

31 b. With respect to commercial lines residential risks,

Barcode 435620

if the risk is offered coverage under a policy including wind coverage from an authorized insurer at its approved rate, the risk is not eligible for any policy issued by the corporation. If the risk is not able to obtain any such offer, the risk is eligible for a policy including wind coverage issued by the corporation.

- (I) If the risk accepts an offer of coverage through the market assistance plan or an offer of coverage through a mechanism established by the corporation before a policy is issued to the risk by the corporation or during the first 30 days of coverage by the corporation, and the producing agent who submitted the application to the plan or the corporation is not currently appointed by the insurer, the insurer shall:
- (A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the policy, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or
- (B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the policy to continue servicing the policy for a period of not less than 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

(II) When the corporation enters into a contractual agreement for a take-out plan, the producing agent of record of the corporation policy is entitled to retain any unearned commission on the policy, and the insurer shall:

Barcode 435620

(A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the corporation policy, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or

(B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the corporation policy to continue servicing the policy for a period of not less than 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

2.4

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

- 6. Must include rules for classifications of risks and rates therefor.
- 7. Must provide that if premium and investment income for an account attributable to a particular calendar year are in excess of projected losses and expenses for the account attributable to that year, such excess shall be held in surplus in the account. Such surplus shall be available to defray deficits in that account as to future years and shall be used for that purpose prior to assessing assessable insurers and assessable insureds as to any calendar year.
- 8. Must provide objective criteria and procedures to be uniformly applied for all applicants in determining whether an individual risk is so hazardous as to be uninsurable. In making this determination and in establishing the criteria and procedures, the following shall be considered:
- a. Whether the likelihood of a loss for the individual risk is substantially higher than for other risks of the same 21

Barcode 435620

1 class; and

b. Whether the uncertainty associated with the individual risk is such that an appropriate premium cannot be determined.

The acceptance or rejection of a risk by the corporation shall be construed as the private placement of insurance, and the provisions of chapter 120 shall not apply.

- 9. Must provide that the corporation shall make its best efforts to procure catastrophe reinsurance at reasonable rates, to cover its projected 100-year probable maximum loss as determined by the board of governors.
- assessments under sub-subparagraph (b)3.a. or sub-subparagraph (b)3.b., in the personal lines account, the commercial lines residential account, or the high-risk account, the corporation shall levy upon corporation policyholders in its next rate filing, or by a separate rate filing solely for this purpose, a market equalization surcharge arising from a regular assessment in such account in a percentage equal to the total amount of such regular assessments divided by the aggregate statewide direct written premium for subject lines of business for the prior calendar year. Market equalization surcharges under this subparagraph are not considered premium and are not subject to commissions, fees, or premium taxes; however, failure to pay a market equalization surcharge shall be treated as failure to pay premium.
- 11. The policies issued by the corporation must provide that, if the corporation or the market assistance plan obtains an offer from an authorized insurer to cover the risk at its approved rates, the risk is no longer eligible for

3

5

7

8

9

11

12 13

14 15

16

17 18

19

2021

22

2324

25

26

2728

29

30

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

renewal through the corporation.

- 12. Corporation policies and applications must include a notice that the corporation policy could, under this section, be replaced with a policy issued by an authorized insurer that does not provide coverage identical to the coverage provided by the corporation. The notice shall also specify that acceptance of corporation coverage creates a conclusive presumption that the applicant or policyholder is aware of this potential.
- 13. May establish, subject to approval by the office, different eligibility requirements and operational procedures for any line or type of coverage for any specified county or area if the board determines that such changes to the eligibility requirements and operational procedures are justified due to the voluntary market being sufficiently stable and competitive in such area or for such line or type of coverage and that consumers who, in good faith, are unable to obtain insurance through the voluntary market through ordinary methods would continue to have access to coverage from the corporation. When coverage is sought in connection with a real property transfer, such requirements and procedures shall not provide for an effective date of coverage later than the date of the closing of the transfer as established by the transferor, the transferee, and, if applicable, the lender.
- 14. Must provide that, with respect to the high-risk account, any assessable insurer with a surplus as to policyholders of \$25 million or less writing 25 percent or more of its total countrywide property insurance premiums in this state may petition the office, within the first 90 days of each calendar year, to qualify as a limited apportionment

Barcode 435620

company. In no event shall a limited apportionment company be required to participate in the portion of any assessment, 2 within the high-risk account, pursuant to sub-subparagraph 3 (b)3.a. or sub-subparagraph (b)3.b. in the aggregate which exceeds \$50 million after payment of available high-risk 5 account funds in any calendar year. However, a limited 7 apportionment company shall collect from its policyholders any emergency assessment imposed under sub-subparagraph (b)3.d. 8 The plan shall provide that, if the office determines that any 10 regular assessment will result in an impairment of the surplus 11 of a limited apportionment company, the office may direct that all or part of such assessment be deferred as provided in 12 13 subparagraph (g)4. However, there shall be no limitation or deferment of an emergency assessment to be collected from 14 15 policyholders under sub-subparagraph (b)3.d.

- 15. Must provide that the corporation appoint as its licensed agents only those agents who also hold an appointment as defined in s. 626.015(3) with an insurer who at the time of the agent's initial appointment by the corporation is authorized to write and is actually writing personal lines residential property coverage, commercial residential property coverage within the state.
- (q) The corporation shall not require the securing of flood insurance as a condition of coverage if the property risk of the insured or applicant is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the National Flood Insurance Program. executes a form approved by the office affirming that Flood insurance is not provided by the corporation and that if flood insurance is not secured by the applicant or insured in addition to

16

17

18 19

20

2122

23

2.4

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

Barcode 435620

coverage by the corporation, the risk will not be covered for 2 flood damage. A corporation policyholder that does electing not to secure flood insurance and makes a claim executing a 3 4 form as provided herein making a claim for water damage 5 against the corporation shall have the burden of proving the damage was not caused by flooding. Notwithstanding other 6 7 provisions of this subsection, the corporation may deny coverage or refuse to issue or renew a policy to an applicant 8 or insured who refuses to purchase flood insurance as required 10 by this subsection to execute the form described herein. Section 8. Section 627.40951, Florida Statutes, is 11 created to read: 12 13 627.40951 Standard personal lines residential 14 insurance policy.--15 (1) The Legislature finds that many consumers who 16 filed property loss claims as a result of the hurricanes that struck this state in 2004 were inadequately insured due to the 17 difficulty consumers encounter in trying to understand the 18 19 complex nature of property insurance policies. The purpose and intent of this section is to have property and casualty 20 21 insurers offer standard personal lines residential property 22 insurance policies and standard checklists of policy contents, in accordance with s. 627.4143, to consumers and to ensure 23 2.4 that these policies and checklists are written in a simple format with easily readable language that will enable most 25 consumers to understand the principal benefits and coverage 26 provided in the policy; the principal exclusions and 27 limitations or reductions contained in the policy, including, 28 29 but not limited to, deductibles, coinsurance, and any other <u>limitations</u> or reductions; and any additional coverage 30 provided through any rider or endorsement that accompanies the

1	policy and renewal or cancellation provisions.
2	(2) The Chief Financial Officer shall appoint an
3	advisory committee composed of two representatives of insurers
4	currently selling personal lines residential property
5	insurance coverage, two representatives of property and
6	casualty agents, two representatives of consumers, two
7	representatives of the Commissioner of Insurance Regulation,
8	and the Insurance Consumer Advocate or her or his designee.
9	The Chief Financial Officer or her or his designee shall serve
10	as chair of the committee. The committee shall develop policy
11	language for coverage that represents general industry
12	standards in the market for comprehensive coverage under
13	personal lines residential insurance policies and shall
14	develop a checklist to be used with each type of personal
15	lines residential property insurance policy. The committee
16	shall review policies and related forms written by Insurance
17	Services Office, Inc. The committee shall file a report
18	containing its recommendations to the President of the Senate
19	and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15,
20	2006. No insurer shall be required to offer the standard
21	policy unless required by further act of the Legislature.
22	Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 627.411, Florida
23	Statutes, is amended to read:
24	627.411 Grounds for disapproval
25	(1) The office shall disapprove any form filed under
26	s. 627.410, or withdraw any previous approval thereof, only if
27	the form:
28	(a) Is in any respect in violation of, or does not
29	comply with, this code.
30	(b) Contains or incorporates by reference, where such
31	incorporation is otherwise permissible, any inconsistent,
	26

5

7

8

10 11

12

13

14

18

19

2021

22

23

25

26

27

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

ambiguous, or misleading clauses, or exceptions and conditions
which deceptively affect the risk purported to be assumed in
the general coverage of the contract.

- (c) Has any title, heading, or other indication of its provisions which is misleading.
- (d) Is printed or otherwise reproduced in such manner as to render any material provision of the form substantially illegible.
- (e) Is for residential property insurance and contains provisions that are unfair or inequitable or encourage misrepresentation.

(f)(e) Is for health insurance, and:

- 1. Provides benefits that are unreasonable in relation to the premium charged. +
- 2. Contains provisions that are unfair or inequitable or contrary to the public policy of this state or that encourage misrepresentation.
 - 3. Contains provisions that apply rating practices that result in unfair discrimination pursuant to s. 626.9541(1)(g)2.
 - (g)(f) Excludes coverage for human immunodeficiency virus infection or acquired immune deficiency syndrome or contains limitations in the benefits payable, or in the terms or conditions of such contract, for human immunodeficiency virus infection or acquired immune deficiency syndrome which are different than those which apply to any other sickness or medical condition.
- Section 10. Paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to subsection (2) of section 627.4133, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 30 627.4133 Notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or 31 renewal premium.--

Bill No. <u>HB 1937, 2nd Eng.</u>

1	(2) With respect to any personal lines or commercial
2	residential property insurance policy, including, but not
3	limited to, any homeowner's, mobile home owner's, farmowner's,
4	condominium association, condominium unit owner's, apartment
5	building, or other policy covering a residential structure or
6	its contents:
7	(d)1. Upon a declaration of an emergency pursuant to
8	s. 252.36 and the filing of an order by the Commissioner of
9	Insurance Regulation, an insurer may not cancel or nonrenew a
10	personal residential or commercial residential property
11	insurance policy covering a dwelling or residential property
12	located in this state which has been damaged as a result of a
13	hurricane or wind loss that is the subject of the declaration
14	of emergency for a period of 90 days after the dwelling or
15	residential property has been repaired. A structure is deemed
16	to be repaired when substantially completed and restored to
17	the extent that it is insurable by another authorized insurer
18	that is writing policies in this state.
19	2. However, an insurer or agent may cancel or nonrenew
20	such a policy prior to the repair of the dwelling or
21	residential property:
22	a. Upon 10 days' notice for nonpayment of premium; or
23	b. Upon 45 days' notice:
24	(I) For a material misstatement or fraud related to
25	the claim;
26	(II) If the insurer determines that the insured has
27	unreasonably caused a delay in the repair of the dwelling; or
28	(III) If the insurer has paid policy limits.
29	3. If the insurer elects to nonrenew a policy covering
30	a property that has been damaged, the insurer shall provide at
31	least 90 days' notice to the insured that the insurer intends 28

1	to nonrenew the policy 90 days after the dwelling or
2	residential property has been repaired. Nothing in this
3	paragraph shall prevent the insurer from canceling or
4	nonrenewing the policy 90 days after the repairs are complete
5	for the same reasons the insurer would otherwise have canceled
6	or nonrenewed the policy but for the limitations of
7	subparagraph 1. The Financial Services Commission may adopt
8	rules, and the Commissioner of Insurance Regulation may issue
9	orders, necessary to implement this paragraph.
10	4. This paragraph shall also apply to personal
11	residential and commercial residential policies covering
12	property that was damaged as the result of Tropical Storm
13	Bonnie, Hurricane Charley, Hurricane Frances, Hurricane Ivan,
14	or Hurricane Jeanne.
15	(e) If any cancellation or nonrenewal of a policy
16	subject to this subsection is to take effect during the
17	duration of a hurricane as defined in s. 627.4025(2)(c), the
18	effective date of such cancellation or nonrenewal is extended
19	until the end of the duration of such hurricane. The insurer
20	may collect premium at the prior rates or the rates then in
21	effect for the period of time for which coverage is extended.
22	This paragraph does not apply to any property with respect to
23	which replacement coverage has been obtained and which is in
24	effect for a claim occurring during the duration of the
25	hurricane.
26	Section 11. Effective January 1, 2006, section
27	627.4143, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
28	627.4143 Outline of coverage
29	(1) No private passenger automobile or basic
30	homeowner's policy shall be delivered or issued for delivery
31	in this state unless an appropriate outline of coverage has

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

been delivered prior to issuance of the policy or accompanies the policy when issued.

- (2) The outline of coverage <u>for a private passenger</u> <u>motor vehicle insurance policy</u> shall contain all of the following:
- (a) A brief description of the principal benefits and coverage provided in the policy, broken down by each class or type of coverage provided under the policy for which a premium is charged, and itemization of the applicable premium.
- (b) A summary statement of the principal exclusions and limitations or reductions contained in the policy by class or type, including, but not limited to, deductibles, coinsurance, and any other limitations or reductions.
- (c) A summary statement of any renewal or cancellation provisions.
- (d) A description of the credit or surcharge plan that is being applied. The description may display numerical or alphabetical codes on the declarations page or premium notice to enable the insured to determine the reason or reasons why her or his policy is being surcharged or is receiving a credit.
- (e) A list of any additional coverage provided through any rider or endorsement which accompanies the policy. The list shall contain a descriptive reference to each additional coverage, rather than solely a reference to a form or code number.
- (f) For a private passenger motor vehicle insurance policy, The extent of coverage provided to the insured in the event of collision damage to a rental vehicle rented by the insured. The proof-of-insurance card required by s. 316.646 must also specify whether rental car coverage is provided, and

1	may refer to the outline of coverage as to the details or
2	extent of coverage.
3	(3) A basic homeowners', mobile homeowners', dwelling,
4	or condominium unit owners' policy may not be delivered or
5	issued for delivery in this state unless a comprehensive
6	checklist of coverage on a form adopted by the commission and
7	an appropriate outline of coverage have been delivered prior
8	to issuance of the policy or accompanies the policy when
9	issued. The commission shall, by rule, adopt a form for the
10	checklist for each type of policy to which this subsection
11	applies. Each form shall indicate that it was adopted by the
12	commission.
13	(a) The checklist must contain a list of the standard
14	provisions and elements that may typically be included in
15	these policies, whether or not they are included in the
16	particular policy being issued, in a format that allows the
17	insurer to place a check mark next to the provisions elements
18	that are included so that the consumer can see both what is
19	included and what is not included in the policy. As an
20	alternative to checking the boxes on the checklist, an insurer
21	may delete the check boxes from the form and replace them with
22	text indicating whether the provision's elements are included
23	or not. Limits of liability shall be listed for each item. The
24	checklist must include, but is not limited to, the following:
25	1. Property coverage for the principal premises shown
26	in the declarations.
27	2. Property coverage for other structures on the
28	residence premises.
29	3. Whether the principal premises and other structures
30	are insured against the following perils:

	balcode 433020
1	b. Lightning.
2	c. Explosion.
3	d. Hurricane loss.
4	e. Nonhurricane wind loss.
5	<u>f. Collapse.</u>
6	g. Mold.
7	h. Sinkhole loss.
8	i. Vandalism.
9	4. Personal property coverage.
10	5. Whether personal property is insured against the
11	following perils:
12	a. Fire.
13	b. Lightning.
14	c. Hurricane loss.
15	d. Nonhurricane wind loss.
16	e. Collapse.
17	f. Mold.
18	q. Sinkhole loss.
19	h. Theft.
20	6. The following additional coverages:
21	a. Debris removal.
22	b. Loss assessment.
23	c. Additional living expenses.
24	7. Personal liability coverage.
25	8. Medical payments coverage.
26	9. Discounts applied to the premium.
27	10. Deductibles for loss due to hurricane and loss to
28	other perils.
29	11. Building ordinance or law coverage.
30	12. Replacement cost coverage.
31	13. Actual cash value coverage.
	34

1	(b) The forms shall allow insurers to place other
2	coverages on the checklists which may or may not be included
3	in the insurer's policies.
4	(c) The outline of coverage must contain:
5	1. A brief description of the principal benefits and
6	coverage provided in the policy, broken down by each class or
7	type of coverage provided under the policy for which a premium
8	is charged, and itemization of the applicable premium.
9	2. A summary statement of the principal exclusions and
10	limitations or reductions contained in the policy by class or
11	type, including, but not limited to, deductibles, coinsurance,
12	and any other limitations or reductions.
13	3. A summary statement of any renewal or cancellation
14	provisions.
15	4. A description of the credit or surcharge plan that
16	is being applied. The description may display numerical or
17	alphabetical codes on the declarations page or premium notice
18	to enable the insured to determine the reason or reasons why
19	her or his policy is being surcharged or is receiving a
20	credit.
21	5. A summary of any additional coverage provided
22	through any rider or endorsement that accompanies the policy.
23	$\frac{(4)}{(3)}$ The outline of coverage for a private passenger
24	motor vehicle policy is required only on the initial policy
25	issued by an insurer. <u>The outline of coverage and the</u>
26	checklist for a basic homeowners', mobile homeowners',
27	dwelling, or condominium unit owners' policy is required on
28	the initial policy and each renewal thereof issued by an
29	insurer.
30	$\frac{(5)}{(4)}$ An insurer must insert the following language
31	on the outline of coverage:

1	
2	"The following outline of coverage or checklist is for
3	informational purposes only. Florida law prohibits this
4	outline or checklist from changing any of the provisions of
5	the insurance contract which is the subject of this outline.
6	Any endorsement regarding changes in types of coverage,
7	exclusions, limitations, reductions, deductibles, coinsurance,
8	renewal provisions, cancellation provisions, surcharges, or
9	credits will be sent separately."
10	
11	(6)(5) Neither this section nor the outline of
12	coverage or checklist mandated by this section alters or
13	modifies the terms of the insurance contract, creates a cause
14	of action, or is admissible in any civil action.
15	Section 12. Effective October 1, 2005, subsections
16	(3), (4), (8), and (9) of section 627.701, Florida Statutes,
17	as amended by section 4 of chapter 2004-480, Laws of Florida,
18	are amended to read:
19	627.701 Liability of insureds; coinsurance;
20	deductibles
21	(3)(a) A policy of residential property insurance
22	shall include a deductible amount applicable to hurricane or
23	wind losses no lower than \$500 and no higher than 2 percent of
24	the policy dwelling limits with respect to personal lines
25	residential risks, and no higher than 3 percent of the policy
26	limits with respect to commercial lines residential risks;
27	however, if a risk was covered on August 24, 1992, under a
28	policy having a higher deductible than the deductibles allowed
29	by this paragraph, a policy covering such risk may include a
30	deductible no higher than the deductible in effect on August

Barcode 435620

paragraph, a personal lines residential policy covering a risk valued at \$50,000 or less may include a deductible amount attributable to hurricane or wind losses no lower than \$250, 3 and a personal lines residential policy covering a risk valued at \$100,000 or more may include a deductible amount 5 attributable to hurricane or wind losses no higher than 10 5 7 percent of the policy limits unless subject to a higher deductible on August 24, 1992; however, no maximum deductible 8 is required with respect to a personal lines residential policy covering a risk valued at more than \$500,000. An 10 11 insurer may require a higher deductible, provided such deductible is the same as or similar to a deductible program 12 lawfully in effect on June 14, 1995. In addition to the 13 deductible amounts authorized by this paragraph, an insurer 14 15 may also offer policies with a copayment provision under which, after exhaustion of the deductible, the policyholder is 16 responsible for 10 percent of the next \$10,000 of insured 17 hurricane or wind losses. 18 19 (b)1. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, prior to issuing a personal lines residential property 20 21 insurance policy on or after January 1, 2006 April 1, 1996, or 22 prior to the first renewal of a residential property insurance policy on or after January 1, 2006 April 1, 1996, the insurer 23 2.4 must offer alternative deductible amounts applicable to hurricane or wind losses equal to \$500, and 2 percent, 5 25 percent, and 10 percent of the policy dwelling limits, unless 26 the specific percentage 2 percent deductible is less than 27 \$500. The written notice of the offer shall specify the 28 29 hurricane or wind deductible to be applied in the event that the applicant or policyholder fails to affirmatively choose a 30 hurricane deductible. The insurer must provide such

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

policyholder with notice of the availability of the deductible amounts specified in this paragraph in a form approved by the office in conjunction with each renewal of the policy. The failure to provide such notice constitutes a violation of this code but does not affect the coverage provided under the policy.

- 2. This paragraph does not apply with respect to a deductible program lawfully in effect on June 14, 1995, or to any similar deductible program, if the deductible program requires a minimum deductible amount of no less than 2 percent of the policy limits.
- 3. With respect to a policy covering a risk with dwelling limits of at least \$100,000, but less than \$250,000, the insurer may, in lieu of offering a policy with a \$500 hurricane or wind deductible as required by subparagraph 1., offer a policy that the insurer guarantees it will not nonrenew for reasons of reducing hurricane loss for one renewal period and that contains up to a 2 percent hurricane or wind deductible as required by subparagraph 1.
- 4. With respect to a policy covering a risk with dwelling limits of \$250,000 or more, the insurer need not offer the \$500 hurricane or wind deductible as required by subparagraph 1., but must, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, offer the other 2 percent hurricane deductibles or wind deductible as required by subparagraph 1.
- (c) In order to provide for the transition from wind deductibles to hurricane deductibles as required by this subsection, an insurer is required to provide wind deductibles meeting the requirements of this subsection until the effective date of the insurer's first rate filing made after January 1, 1997, and is thereafter required to provide

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

hurricane deductibles meeting the requirements of this subsection.

(4)(a) Any policy that contains a separate hurricane deductible must on its face include in boldfaced type no smaller than 18 points the following statement: "THIS POLICY CONTAINS A SEPARATE DEDUCTIBLE FOR HURRICANE LOSSES, WHICH MAY RESULT IN HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES TO YOU." A policy containing a coinsurance provision applicable to hurricane losses must on its face include in boldfaced type no smaller than 18 points the following statement: "THIS POLICY CONTAINS A CO-PAY PROVISION THAT MAY RESULT IN HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES TO YOU."

(b) Beginning October 1, 2005, for any personal lines residential property insurance policy containing a separate hurricane deductible, the insurer shall compute and prominently display the actual dollar value of the hurricane deductible on the declarations page of the policy at issuance and, for renewal, on the renewal declarations page of the policy or on the premium renewal notice.

residential property insurance policy containing an inflation guard rider, the insurer shall compute and prominently display the actual dollar value of the hurricane deductible on the declarations page of the policy at issuance and, for renewal, on the renewal declarations page of the policy or on the premium renewal notice. In addition, beginning October 1, 2005, for any personal lines residential property insurance policy containing an inflation guard rider, the insurer shall notify the policyholder of the possibility that the hurricane deductible may be higher than indicated when loss occurs due to application of the inflation guard rider. Such notification

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

shall be made on the declarations page of the policy at issuance and, for renewal, on the renewal declarations page of the policy or on the premium renewal notice.

(8)(a) The Legislature finds that property insurance coverage has become unaffordable for a significant number of mobile home owners, as evidenced by reports that up to 100,000 mobile home owners have terminated their insurance coverage because they cannot afford to pay approved rates charged in the voluntary or residual markets. The Legislature further finds that additional flexibility in available coverages will enable mobile home owners to obtain affordable insurance and increase capacity.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), with respect to mobile home policies:
- 1. The deductible for hurricane coverage may not exceed 10 percent of the property value if the property is not subject to any liens and may not exceed 5 percent of the property value if the property is subject to any liens.
- 2. The insurer need not make the offers required by paragraph (3)(b).

(8)(9) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section or of other law, but only as to hurricane coverage as defined in s. 627.4025 for commercial lines residential coverages, an insurer may offer a deductible in an amount not exceeding 5 percent of the insured value with respect to a condominium association or cooperative association policy, or in an amount not exceeding 10 percent of the insured value with respect to any other commercial lines residential policy, if, at the time of such offer and at each renewal, the insurer also offers to the policyholder a deductible in the amount of 3 percent of the insured value. Nothing in this subsection

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

prohibits any deductible otherwise authorized by this section.

All forms by which the offers authorized in this subsection

are made or required to be made shall be on forms that are

adopted or approved by the commission or office.

Section 13. Subsection (5) of section 627.701, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 2004-480, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

627.701 Liability of Insureds; coinsurance; deductibles.--

(5)(a) The hurricane deductible of any <u>personal lines</u> residential property insurance policy <u>issued or renewed on or after May 1, 2005</u>, shall be applied as follows:

 $\frac{1.(a)}{a}$ The hurricane deductible shall apply on an annual basis to all covered hurricane losses that occur during the calendar year for losses that are covered under one or more policies issued by the same insurer or an insurer in the same insurer group.

2.(b) If a hurricane deductible applies separately to each of one or more structures insured under a single policy, the requirements of this <u>paragraph</u> subsection apply with respect to the deductible for each structure.

3.(c) If there was a hurricane loss for a prior hurricane or hurricanes during the calendar year, the insurer may apply a deductible to a subsequent hurricane which that is the greater of the remaining amount of the hurricane deductible or the amount of the deductible that applies to perils other than a hurricane. Insurers may require policyholders to report hurricane losses that are below the hurricane deductible or to maintain receipts or other records of such hurricane losses in order to apply such losses to subsequent hurricane claims.

1	$\frac{4.(d)}{}$ If there are hurricane losses in a calendar year
2	on more than one policy issued by the same insurer or an
3	insurer in the same insurer group, the hurricane deductible
4	shall be the highest amount stated in any one of the policies.
5	If a policyholder who had a hurricane loss under the prior
б	policy is provided or offered a lower hurricane deductible
7	under the new or renewal policy, the insurer must notify the
8	policyholder, in writing, at the time the lower hurricane
9	deductible is provided or offered, that the lower hurricane
10	deductible will not apply until January 1 of the following
11	calendar year.
12	(b) For commercial residential property insurance
13	policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2006, the
14	insurer must offer the policyholder the following alternative
15	hurricane deductibles:
16	1. A hurricane deductible that applies on an annual
17	basis as provided in paragraph (a); and
18	2. A hurricane deductible that applies to each
19	hurricane.
20	Section 14. Effective October 1, 2005, section
21	627.7011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
22	627.7011 Homeowners' policies; offer of replacement
23	cost coverage and law and ordinance coverage
24	(1) Prior to issuing a homeowner's insurance policy on
25	or after <u>October 1, 2005</u> June 1, 1994 , or prior to the first
26	renewal of a homeowner's insurance policy on or after <u>October</u>
27	1, 2005 June 1, 1994, the insurer must offer each of the
28	following:
29	(a) A policy or endorsement providing that any loss
30	which is repaired or replaced will be adjusted on the basis of

Barcode 435620

dwelling, rather than actual cash value, but not including costs necessary to meet applicable laws <u>and ordinances</u> regulating the construction, use, or repair of any property or requiring the tearing down of any property, including the costs of removing debris.

other policy provisions, any loss which is repaired or replaced at any location will be adjusted on the basis of replacement costs not exceeding policy limits as to the dwelling, rather than actual cash value, and also including costs necessary to meet applicable laws and ordinances regulating the construction, use, or repair of any property or requiring the tearing down of any property, including the costs of removing debris; however, such additional costs necessary to meet applicable laws and ordinances may be limited to either 25 percent or 50 percent of the dwelling limit, as selected by the policyholder, and such coverage shall apply only to repairs of the damaged portion of the structure unless the total damage to the structure exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the structure.

An insurer is not required to make the offers required by this subsection with respect to the issuance or renewal of a homeowner's policy that contains the provisions specified in paragraph (b) for law and ordinance coverage limited to 25 percent of the dwelling limit, except that the insurer must offer the law and ordinance coverage limited to 50 percent of the dwelling limit. This subsection does not prohibit the offer of a guaranteed replacement cost policy.

(2) Unless the insurer obtains the policyholder's written refusal of the policies or endorsements specified in

1	subsection (1), any policy covering the dwelling is deemed to
2	include the coverage specified in paragraph (1)(b). The
3	rejection or selection of alternative coverage shall be made
4	on a form approved by the office. The form shall fully advise
5	the applicant of the nature of the coverage being rejected. If
6	this form is signed by a named insured, it will be
7	conclusively presumed that there was an informed, knowing
8	rejection of the coverage or election of the alternative
9	coverage on behalf of all insureds. Unless the policyholder
10	requests in writing the coverage specified in this section, it
11	need not be provided in or supplemental to any other policy
12	that renews, insures, extends, changes, supersedes, or
13	replaces an existing policy when the policyholder has rejected
14	the coverage specified in this section or has selected
15	alternative coverage. The insurer must provide such
16	policyholder with notice of the availability of such coverage
17	in a form approved by the office at least once every 3 years.
18	The failure to provide such notice constitutes a violation of
19	this code, but does not affect the coverage provided under the
20	policy.
21	(3) In the event of a loss for which a dwelling or
22	personal property is insured on the basis of replacement
23	costs, the insurer shall pay the replacement cost without
24	reservation or holdback of any depreciation in value, whether
25	or not the insured replaces or repairs the dwelling or
26	property.
27	(4) Any homeowner's insurance policy issued or renewed
28	on or after October 1, 2005, must include in bold type no
29	smaller than 18 points the following statement:
30	"LAW AND ORDINANCE COVERAGE IS AN IMPORTANT
31	COVERAGE THAT YOU MAY WISH TO PURCHASE. YOU MAY 42

Bill No. <u>HB 1937, 2nd Eng.</u>

1	ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF FLOOD
2	INSURANCE FROM THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
3	PROGRAM. WITHOUT THIS COVERAGE, YOU MAY HAVE
4	UNCOVERED LOSSES. PLEASE DISCUSS THESE
5	COVERAGES WITH YOUR INSURANCE AGENT."
6	The intent of this subsection is to encourage
7	policyholders to purchase sufficient coverage to protect them
8	in case events excluded from the standard homeowners policy,
9	such as law and ordinance enforcement and flood, combine with
10	covered events to produce damage or loss to the insured
11	property. The intent is also to encourage policyholders to
12	discuss these issues with their insurance agent.
13	(5) (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
14	apply to policies not considered to be "homeowners' policies,"
15	as that term is commonly understood in the insurance industry.
16	This section specifically does not apply to mobile home
17	policies. Nothing in this section shall be construed as
18	limiting the ability of any insurer to reject or nonrenew any
19	insured or applicant on the grounds that the structure does
20	not meet underwriting criteria applicable to replacement cost
21	or law and ordinance policies or for other lawful reasons.
22	Section 15. Effective July 1, 2005, subsections (1)
23	and (7) of section 627.7015, Florida Statutes, are amended,
24	and subsection (2) of that section is reenacted, to read:
25	627.7015 Alternative procedure for resolution of
26	disputed property insurance claims
27	(1) PURPOSE AND SCOPEThis section sets forth a
28	nonadversarial alternative dispute resolution procedure for a
29	mediated claim resolution conference prompted by the need for
30	effective, fair, and timely handling of property insurance
31	claims. There is a particular need for an informal,

Barcode 435620

nonthreatening forum for helping parties who elect this procedure to resolve their claims disputes because most 2 homeowner's and commercial residential insurance policies 3 obligate insureds to participate in a potentially expensive and time-consuming adversarial appraisal process prior to 5 litigation. The procedure set forth in this section is 7 designed to bring the parties together for a mediated claims settlement conference without any of the trappings or 8 drawbacks of an adversarial process. Before resorting to these 10 procedures, insureds and insurers are encouraged to resolve 11 claims as quickly and fairly as possible. This section is available with respect to claims under personal lines and 12 13 commercial residential policies for all claimants and insurers prior to commencing the appraisal process, or commencing 14 15 litigation. If requested by the insured, participation by legal counsel shall be permitted. Mediation under this section 16 is also available to litigants referred to the department by a 17 county court or circuit court. This section does not apply to 18 19 commercial coverages, to private passenger motor vehicle 20 insurance coverages, or to disputes relating to liability coverages in policies of property insurance. 21 22

- (2) At the time a first-party claim within the scope of this section is filed, the insurer shall notify all first-party claimants of their right to participate in the mediation program under this section. The department shall prepare a consumer information pamphlet for distribution to persons participating in mediation under this section.
- (7) If the insurer fails to comply with subsection (2) by failing to notify a first-party claimant of its right to participate in the mediation program under this section or if the insurer requests the mediation, and the mediation results

2324

25

26

27

28 29

30

Barcode 435620

are rejected by either party, the insured shall not be required to submit to or participate in any contractual loss 2 appraisal process of the property loss damage as a 3 precondition to legal action for breach of contract against the insurer for its failure to pay the policyholder's claims 5 covered by the policy. 6 7 Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 627.702, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 8 9 627.702 Valued policy law.--10 (1)(a) In the event of the total loss of any building, 11 structure, mobile home as defined in s. 320.01(2), or manufactured building as defined in s. 553.36(12), located in 12 13 this state and insured by any insurer as to a covered peril, in the absence of any change increasing the risk without the 14 15 insurer's consent and in the absence of fraudulent or criminal fault on the part of the insured or one acting in her or his 16 behalf, the insurer's liability, if any, under the policy for 17 such total loss, if caused by a covered peril, shall be in the 18 19 amount of money for which such property was so insured as 20 specified in the policy and for which a premium has been charged and paid. 21 22 (b) The intent of this subsection is not to deprive an insurer of any proper defense under the policy, to create new 23 2.4 or additional coverage under the policy, or to require an insurer to pay for a loss caused by a peril other than the 25 covered peril. In furtherance of such legislative intent, when 26 a loss was caused in part by a covered peril and in part by a 27 noncovered peril, paragraph (a) does not apply. In such 28 29 circumstances, the insurer's liability under this section shall be limited to the amount of the loss caused by the 30 31 covered peril. However, if the covered perils alone would have

1	caused the total loss, paragraph (a) shall apply. The insurer
2	is never liable for more than the amount necessary to repair,
3	rebuild, or replace the structure following the total loss,
4	after considering all other benefits actually paid for the
5	total loss.
6	(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
7	amendment to this section shall not be applied retroactively
8	and shall apply only to claims filed after effective date of
9	such amendment.
10	Section 17. Section 627.706, Florida Statutes, is
11	amended to read:
12	627.706 Sinkhole insurance; definitions
13	(1) Every insurer authorized to transact property
14	insurance in this state shall make available coverage for
15	insurable sinkhole losses on any structure, including contents
16	of personal property contained therein, to the extent provided
17	in the form to which the sinkhole coverage attaches.
18	(2) As used in ss. 627.706-627.7074, and as used in
19	connection with any policy providing coverage for sinkhole
20	<u>losses:</u>
21	(a) "Sinkhole" means a landform created by subsidence
22	of soil, sediment, or rock as underlying strata are dissolved
23	by ground water. A sinkhole may form by collapse into
24	subterranean voids created by dissolution of limestone or
25	dolostone or by subsidence as these strata are dissolved.
26	$\underline{(b)}$ "Sinkhole loss" means structural damage to the
27	building, including the foundation, caused by sinkhole
28	activity. Contents coverage shall apply only if there is
29	structural damage to the building caused by sinkhole activity.
30	(c)(3) "Sinkhole <u>activity</u> loss " means actual physical
31	damage to the property covered arising out of or caused by 46

1	sudden settlement or systematic weakening collapse of the
2	earth supporting such property only when such settlement or
3	systematic weakening collapse results from movement or
4	raveling of soils, sediments, or rock materials into
5	subterranean voids created by the <u>effect</u> action of water on a
6	limestone or similar rock formation.
7	(d) "Engineer" means a person, as defined in s.
8	471.005, who has a bachelor degree or higher in engineering
9	with a specialty in the geotechnical engineering field. An
10	engineer must have geotechnical experience and expertise in
11	the identification of sinkhole activity as well as other
12	potential causes of damage to the structure.
13	(e) "Professional geologist" means a person, as
14	defined by s. 492.102, who has a bachelor degree or higher in
15	geology or related earth science with expertise in the geology
16	of Florida. A professional geologist must have geological
17	experience and expertise in the identification of sinkhole
18	activity as well as other potential geologic causes of damage
19	to the structure.
20	(3)(4) Every insurer authorized to transact property
21	insurance in this state shall make a proper filing with the
22	office for the purpose of extending the appropriate forms of
23	property insurance to include coverage for insurable sinkhole
24	losses.
25	Section 18. Section 627.7065, Florida Statutes, is
26	created to read:
27	627.7065 Database of information relating to
28	sinkholes; the Department of Financial Services and the
29	Department of Environmental Protection
30	(1) The Legislature finds that there has been a
31	dramatic increase in the number of sinkholes and insurance
	47

Barcode 435620

claims for sinkhole damage in the state during the past 10 years. Accordingly, the Legislature recognizes the need to 2 track current and past sinkhole activity and to make the 3 4 information available for prevention and remediation activities. The Legislature further finds that the Florida 5 6 Geological Survey of the Department of Environmental 7 Protection has created a partial database of some sinkholes identified in Florida, although the database is not reflective 8 of all sinkholes or insurance claims for sinkhole damage. The 9 Legislature determines that creating a complete electronic 10 11 database of sinkhole activity serves an important purpose in protecting the public and in studying property claims 12 13 activities in the insurance industry. (2) The Department of Financial Services, including 14 15 the employee of the Division of Consumer Services designated 16 as the primary contact for consumers on issues relating to sinkholes, and the Office of the Insurance Consumer Advocate 17 shall consult with the Florida Geological Survey and the 18 19 Department of Environmental Protection to implement a statewide automated database of sinkholes and related activity 20 identified in the state. 21 22 (3) Representatives of the Department of Financial Services, with the agreement of the Department of 23 24 Environmental Protection, shall determine the form and content of the database. The content may include standards for 2.5 reporting and investigating sinkholes for inclusion in the 26 27 database and requirements for insurers to report to the departments the receipt of claims involving sinkhole loss and 28 29 other similar activities. The Department of Financial Services may require insurers to report present and past data of 30 sinkhole claims. The database also may include information of 48

1	damage due to ground settling and other subsidence activity.
2	(4) The Department of Financial Services may manage
3	the database or may contract for its management and
4	maintenance. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
5	investigate reports of sinkhole activity and include its
6	findings and investigations in the database.
7	(5) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
8	consultation with the Department of Financial Services, shall
9	present a report of activities relating to the sinkhole
10	database, including recommendations regarding the database and
11	similar matters, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
12	Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Chief
13	Financial Officer by December 31, 2005. The report may
14	consider the need for the Legislature to create an entity to
15	study the increase in sinkhole activity in the state and other
16	similar issues relating to sinkhole damage, including
17	recommendations and costs for staffing the entity. The report
18	may include other information, as appropriate.
19	(6) The Department of Financial Services, in
20	consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection,
21	may adopt rules to implement this section.
22	Section 19. Section 627.707, Florida Statutes, is
23	amended to read:
24	627.707 Minimum Standards for investigation of
25	sinkhole claims by insurers; nonrenewals
26	(1) Upon receipt of a claim for a sinkhole loss, an
27	insurer must meet the following minimum standards in
28	investigating a claim:
29	(1)(a) Upon receipt of a claim for a sinkhole loss,
30	The insurer must make an inspection of the insured's premises
31	to determine if there has been physical damage to the
	11:23 PM 05/05/05 h193704e2c-40-j01

1	structure which <u>may</u> might be the result of sinkhole activity.
2	(b) If, upon the investigation pursuant to paragraph
3	(a), the insurer discovers damage to a structure which is
4	consistent with sinkhole activity or if the structure is
5	located in close proximity to a structure in which sinkhole
6	damage has been verified, then prior to denying a claim, the
7	insurer must obtain a written certification from an individual
8	qualified to determine the existence of sinkhole activity,
9	stating that the cause of the claim is not sinkhole activity,
10	and that the analysis conducted was of sufficient scope to
11	eliminate sinkhole activity as the cause of damage within a
12	reasonable professional probability. The written certification
13	must also specify the professional discipline and professional
14	licensure or registration under which the analysis was
15	conducted.
16	(2) Following the insurer's initial inspection, the
17	insurer shall engage an engineer or a professional geologist
18	to conduct testing as provided in s. 627.7072 to determine the
19	cause of the loss within a reasonable professional probability
20	and issue a report as provided in s. 627.7073, if:
21	(a) The insurer is unable to identify a valid cause of
22	the damage or discovers damage to the structure which is
23	consistent with sinkhole loss; or
24	(b) The policyholder demands testing in accordance
25	with this section or s. 627.7072.
26	(3) Following the initial inspection of the insured
27	premises, the insurer shall provide written notice to the
28	policyholder disclosing the following information:
29	(a) What the insurer has determined to be the cause of
30	damage, if the insurer has made such a determination.
31	(b) A statement of the circumstances under which the
	50 11:23 PM 05/05/05 h193704e2c-40-j01

1	insurer is required to engage an engineer or a professional
2	geologist to verify or eliminate sinkhole loss and to engage
3	an engineer to make recommendations regarding land and
4	building stabilization and foundation repair.
5	(c) A statement regarding the right of the
6	policyholder to request testing by an engineer or a
7	professional geologist and the circumstances under which the
8	policyholder may demand certain testing.
9	(4) If the insurer determines that there is no
10	sinkhole loss, the insurer may deny the claim. If the insurer
11	denies the claim, without performing testing under s.
12	627.7072, the policyholder may demand testing by the insurer
13	under s. 627.7072. The policyholder's demand for testing must
14	be communicated to the insurer in writing after the
15	policyholder's receipt of the insurer's denial of the claim.
16	(5)(a) Subject to paragraph (b), if a sinkhole loss is
17	verified, the insurer shall pay to stabilize the land and
18	building and repair the foundation in accordance with the
19	recommendations of the engineer as provided under s. 627.7073,
20	and in consultation with the policyholder, subject to the
21	coverage and terms of the policy. The insurer shall pay for
22	other repairs to the structure and contents in accordance with
23	the terms of the policy.
24	(b) The insurer may limit its payment to the actual
25	cash value of the sinkhole loss, not including underpinning or
26	grouting or any other repair technique performed below the
27	existing foundation of the building, until the policyholder
28	enters into a contract for the performance of building
29	stabilization or foundation repairs. After the policyholder
30	enters into the contract, the insurer shall pay the amounts
31	necessary to begin and perform such repairs as the work is
	51

Barcode 435620

performed and the expenses are incurred. The insurer may not require the policyholder to advance payment for such repairs. 2 If repair has begun and the engineer selected or approved by 3 4 the insurer determines that the repair cannot be completed within the policy limits, the insurer must either complete the 5 engineer's recommended repair or tender the policy limits to 7 the policyholder without a reduction for the repair expenses 8 <u>incurred.</u> (6) Except as provided in subsection (7), the fees and 9 costs of the engineer or the professional geologist shall be 10 11 paid by the insurer. (7) (c) If the insurer obtains, pursuant to <u>s. 627.7073</u> 12 13 paragraph (b), written certification that there is no sinkhole <u>loss or that</u> the cause of the <u>damage</u> claim was not sinkhole 14 15 activity, and if the policyholder has submitted the sinkhole claim without good faith grounds for submitting such claim, 16 the policyholder shall reimburse the insurer for 50 percent of 17 18 the <u>actual costs</u> of the <u>analyses and services provided</u> analysis under ss. 627.7072 and 627.7073 paragraph (b); 19 20 however, a policyholder is not required to reimburse an 21 insurer more than \$2,500 with respect to any claim. A 22 policyholder is required to pay reimbursement under this subsection paragraph only if the insurer, prior to ordering 23 24 the analysis under s. 627.7072 paragraph (b), informs the policyholder in writing of the policyholder's potential 25 liability for reimbursement and gives the policyholder the 26 opportunity to withdraw the claim. 27 (8) (2) No insurer shall nonrenew any policy of 28 29 property insurance on the basis of filing of claims for partial loss caused by sinkhole damage or clay shrinkage as 30 long as the total of such payments does not exceed the current

1	policy limits of coverage for property damage, and provided
2	the insured has repaired the structure in accordance with the
3	engineering recommendations upon which any payment or policy
4	proceeds were based.
5	(9) The insurer may engage a structural engineer to
6	make recommendations as to the repair of the structure.
7	Section 20. Section 627.7072, Florida Statutes, is
8	created to read:
9	627.7072 Testing standards for sinkholes
10	(1) The engineer and professional geologist shall
11	perform such tests as sufficient, in their professional
12	opinion, to determine the presence or absence of sinkhole loss
13	or other cause of damage within reasonable professional
14	probability and for the engineer to make recommendations
15	regarding necessary building stabilization, and foundation
16	repair.
17	(2) Testing by a professional geologist shall be
18	conducted in compliance with the Florida Geological Survey
19	Special Publication No. 57 (2005).
20	Section 21. Section 627.7073, Florida Statutes, is
21	created to read:
22	627.7073 Sinkhole reports
23	(1) Upon completion of testing as provided in s.
24	627.7072, the engineer and professional geologist shall issue
25	a report and certification to the insurer and the policyholder
26	as provided in this section.
27	(a) Sinkhole loss is verified if, based upon tests
28	performed in accordance with s. 627.7072, an engineer and a
29	professional geologist issue a written report and
30	certification stating:
31	1. That the cause of the actual physical and

1	structural damage is sinkhole activity within a reasonable
2	professional probability.
3	2. That the analyses conducted were of sufficient
4	scope to identify sinkhole activity as the cause of damage
5	within a reasonable professional probability.
6	3. A description of the tests performed.
7	4. A recommendation by the engineer of methods for
8	stabilizing the land and building and for making repairs to
9	the foundation.
10	(b) If sinkhole activity is eliminated as the cause of
11	damage to the structure, the engineer and professional
12	geologist shall issue a written report and certification to
13	the policyholder and the insurer stating:
14	1. That the cause of the damage is not sinkhole
15	activity within a reasonable professional probability.
16	2. That the analyses and tests conducted were of
17	sufficient scope to eliminate sinkhole activity as the cause
18	of damage within a reasonable professional probability.
19	3. A statement of the cause of the damage within a
20	reasonable professional probability.
21	4. A description of the tests performed.
22	(c) The respective findings, opinions, and
23	recommendations of the engineer and professional geologist as
24	to the verification or elimination of a sinkhole loss and the
25	findings, opinions, and recommendations of the engineer as to
26	land and building stabilization and foundation repair shall be
27	presumed correct.
28	(2) Any insurer that has paid a claim for a sinkhole
29	loss shall file a copy of the report and certification,
30	prepared pursuant to subsection (1), with the county property
31	appraiser who shall record the report and certification with 54

Barcode 435620

the parcel number. The insurer shall bear the cost of filing and recording the report and certification. There shall be no 2 cause of action or liability against an insurer for compliance 3 4 with this section. The seller of real property upon which a sinkhole claim has been made shall disclose to the buyer of 5 6 such property that a claim has been paid and whether or not 7 the full amount of the proceeds were used to repair the sinkhole damage. 8 9 Section 22. Effective October 1, 2005, and applicable 10 to policies issued or renewed on or after that date, section 11 627.711, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 627.711 Notice of premium discounts for hurricane loss 12 13 mitigation. -- Using a form prescribed by the Office of Insurance Regulation, the insurer shall clearly notify the 14 15 applicant or policyholder of any personal lines residential property insurance policy, at the time of the issuance of the 16 policy and at each renewal, of the availability and the range 17 of each premium discount, credit, other rate differential, or 18 19 reduction in deductibles for properties on which fixtures or construction techniques demonstrated to reduce the amount of 20 21 loss in a windstorm can or have been installed or implemented. 22 The prescribed form shall describe generally what actions the 23 policyholders may be able to take to reduce their windstorm 24 premium. The prescribed form and a list of such ranges approved by the office for each insurer licensed in the state 25 and providing such discounts, credits, other rate 26 differentials, or reductions in deductibles for properties 27 described in this subsection shall be available for electronic 28 29 viewing and download from the Department of Financial 30 Services' or the Office of Insurance Regulation's Internet website. The Financial Services Commission may adopt rules to

1	implement this subsection.
2	Section 23. Section 627.712, Florida Statutes, is
3	created to read:
4	627.712 Timely payment of claims
5	(1) An insurer shall, within 30 days after receipt of
6	a claim under a property insurance policy:
7	(a) Pay that portion of the claim for which the
8	policyholder has submitted all information that is required
9	for payment under the terms of the policy;
10	(b) Provide a written denial to the policyholder for
11	that portion of a claim which the insurer determines is not
12	covered under the policy, including the specific reasons; and
13	(c) Specify, in writing, the additional information
14	that the policyholder must submit to the insurer in order for
15	any remaining amount of the claim to be paid.
16	(2) Within 30 days after receipt of the additional
17	information specified in paragraph (1)(c), the insurer shall
18	either pay or deny the claim as specified in paragraph (1)(a)
19	or paragraph (1)(b).
20	(3) Payment shall be considered made on the date a
21	check or other valid payment instrument is placed in the
22	United States mail in a properly addressed, postpaid envelope,
23	or if not so posted, on the date of delivery.
24	(4) All overdue payments shall bear simple interest at
25	the rate of 10 percent per year.
26	(5) Following a hurricane or natural disaster, the
27	requirements of this section are subject to such exceptions or
28	alternative requirements as may be provided by rule of the
29	commission or order of the office.
30	Section 24. The Office of Insurance Regulation shall,
31	by January 1, 2006, submit a report to the President of the

1	Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
2	minority party leaders of the Senate and the House of
3	Representatives, and the chairs of the standing committees of
4	the Senate and the House of Representatives having
5	jurisdiction over matters relating to property and casualty
6	insurance. The report shall include findings and
7	recommendations on requiring residential property insurers to
8	provide law and ordinance coverage for residential property
9	insurance policies, the increase or decrease in insurance
10	costs associated with requiring such coverage, and such other
11	related information as the Office of Insurance Regulation
12	determines is appropriate for the Legislature to consider.
13	Section 25. Notwithstanding that revenues of Citizens
14	Property Insurance Corporation are not state revenues, the
15	Auditor General shall perform an operational audit, as defined
16	in section 11.45(1), Florida Statutes, of the Citizens
17	Property Insurance Corporation created under section
18	627.351(6), Florida Statutes. The scope of the audit shall
19	also include:
20	(1) An analysis of the corporation's infrastructure,
21	customer service, claims handling, accessibility of
22	policyholder information to the agent of record, take-out
23	programs, take-out bonuses, and financing arrangements.
24	(2) An evaluation of costs associated with the
25	administration and servicing of the policies issued by the
26	corporation to determine alternatives by which costs can be
27	reduced, customer service improved, and claims handling
28	improved.
29	
30	The audit shall contain policy alternatives for the
31	Legislature to consider. The Auditor General shall submit a 57

1	report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
2	Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than February
3	1, 2006.
4	Section 26. The board of governors of the Citizens
5	Property Insurance Corporation created under section
6	627.351(6), Florida Statutes, shall, by February 1, 2006,
7	submit a report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
8	the House of Representatives, the minority party leaders of
9	the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the chairs of
10	the standing committees of the Senate and the House of
11	Representatives having jurisdiction over matters relating to
12	property and casualty insurance. The report shall include the
13	board's findings and recommendations on the following issues:
14	(1) The number of policies and the aggregate premium
15	of the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, before and
16	after enactment of this act, and projections for future policy
17	and premium growth.
18	(2) Increases or decreases in availability of
19	residential property coverage in the voluntary market and the
20	effectiveness of this act in improving the availability of
21	residential property coverage in the voluntary market in the
22	state.
23	(3) The board's efforts to depopulate the corporation
24	and the willingness of insurers in the voluntary market to
25	avail themselves of depopulation incentives.
26	(4) Further actions that could be taken by the
27	Legislature to improve availability of residential property
28	coverage in the voluntary and residual markets.
29	(5) Actions that the board has taken to restructure
30	the corporation and recommendations for legislative action to
31	restructure the corporation, including, but not limited to,
	5 X

1	actions relating to claims handling and customer service.
2	(6) Projected surpluses or deficits and possible means
3	of providing funding to ensure the continued solvency of the
4	corporation.
5	(7) The corporation's efforts to procure catastrophe
6	reinsurance to cover its projected 100-year probable maximum
7	loss with specification as to what best efforts were made by
8	the corporation to procure such reinsurance.
9	(8) Such other issues as the board determines are
10	worthy of the Legislature's consideration.
11	Section 27. For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, there is
12	appropriated \$350,000 in recurring funds from the Insurance
13	Regulatory Trust Fund and four positions are authorized to the
14	Office of the Consumer Advocate within the Department of
15	Financial Services for the purposes provided in section
16	627.0613, Florida Statutes.
17	Section 28. The amendment to section 627.0628, Florida
18	Statutes, and the creation of section 627.06281, Florida
19	Statutes, as provided in this act shall take effect on the
20	same date that House Bill 1939, Senate Bill 1478, or similar
21	legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in
22	the same legislative session or an extension thereof and
23	becomes a law.
24	Section 29. Except as otherwise expressly provided in
25	this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
26	
27	
28	======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ==========
29	And the title is amended as follows:
30	Delete everything before the enacting clause
31	
	59

Barcode 435620

1	and	insert:
_	0.220.	

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to property insurance; amending
s. 215.555, F.S.; revising the retention of
losses for which an insurer is not entitled to
reimbursement from the Florida Hurricane
Catastrophe Fund; amending s. 215.559, F.S.;
revising the allocation of funds appropriated
to the Department of Community Affairs from the
Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund for the
Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program; requiring
that the department establish a low-interest
loan program and pilot project for hurricane
loss mitigation; authorizing contractual
agreements between the department and financial
institutions; authorizing the Department of
Community Affairs to adopt rules; amending s.
627.062, F.S.; requiring the Office of
Insurance Regulation to submit a proposed plan
to the Legislature establishing uniform rating
territories to be used by insurers for
residential property insurance rate filings;
requiring a further act of the Legislature to
implement the plan; limiting the recoupment by
an insurer in its rates of the reimbursement
premium it pays to the Florida Hurricane
Catastrophe Fund; amending s. 627.0628, F.S.;
restricting the admissibility and relevance in
rate proceedings of findings of the Florida
Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection
Methodology; amending s. 627.0629, F.S.;
00 DM 05/05/05 h193704e2a-40-i0

2

3

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

Barcode 435620

lowering the percentage amount of a rate filing based on a computer model which requires a public hearing; creating s. 627.06281, F.S.; requiring residential property insurers and rating and advisory organizations to report hurricane loss data for development of a public hurricane model for hurricane loss projections; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; revising the appointments to the board and the approval of officers and employees of the corporation; providing additional legislative intent relating to the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; authorizing the corporation to issue bonds and incur indebtedness for certain purposes; requiring creation of a Market Accountability Advisory Committee to assist the corporation for certain purposes; providing for appointment of committee members; providing for terms; requiring reports to the corporation; revising requirements for the plan of operation of the corporation; requiring the corporation to require the securing of flood insurance as a condition of coverage under certain circumstances; providing requirements and limitations; creating s. 627.40951, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing for an advisory committee; providing for membership; providing for recommendations to be submitted to the Legislature regarding standard residential property insurance policies; amending s. 627.411, F.S.; adding

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

grounds for which the Office of Insurance
Regulation must disapprove a form filed by an
insurer; amending s. 627.4133, F.S.;
prohibiting insurers from canceling or
nonrenewing residential property insurance
policies under certain emergency circumstances;
providing exceptions; providing notice
requirements; providing application to personal
residential and commercial residential policies
covering certain damaged property; extending
the effective date of certain policies under
certain hurricane circumstances; authorizing
the insurer to collect premiums for the
extended period; providing nonapplication;
amending s. 627.4143, F.S.; requiring insurers
to provide personal lines property insurance
policyholders with a checklist of items
contained in policies; authorizing the
Financial Services Commission to adopt rules;
prescribing elements to be contained in the
checklist; requiring the checklist and outline
of insurance coverage to be sent with each
renewal; clarifying that homeowners' insurance
includes mobile homeowners', dwelling, and
condominium unit owners' insurance for purposes
of the outline of coverage; amending s.
627.701, F.S.; increasing the maximum allowable
hurricane deductible for personal lines and
certain commercial lines residential policies;
requiring insurers to offer specified hurricane
deductibles for such policies; requiring

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

insurers to provide written notice explaining
hurricane deductible options for such policies;
providing for computation and display of the
dollar value of hurricane deductibles;
requiring insurers to compute and display
actual dollar values of certain riders for
certain policies; amending s. 627.701, F.S.;
providing that the requirement for a hurricane
deductible to apply on an annual basis applies
to personal lines residential property
insurance policies; requiring insurers that
provide commercial residential property
insurance to offer alternative hurricane
deductibles that apply on an annual basis or to
each hurricane; amending s. 627.7011, F.S.;
requiring insurers to offer coverage for
additional costs of repair due to laws and
ordinances; requiring insurers to pay the
replacement cost for a loss insured on that
basis, whether or not the insured replaces or
repairs the dwelling or property; requiring
certain homeowner's insurance policies to
contain a specified statement; providing
intent; amending s. 627.7015, F.S.; revising
purpose and scope provisions relating to an
alternative procedure for resolution of
disputed property insurance claims; providing
that failure of an insurer to notify a claimant
of the availability of mediation excuses an
insured from being required to submit to
certain loss appraisal processes; amending s.

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

627.702, F.S.; providing legislative intent
regarding the requirement that an insurer pay
policy limits if there is a total loss of a
building; providing nonapplication of certain
insurer liability requirements under certain
circumstances; limiting an insurer's liability
to certain loss covered by a covered peril;
amending s. 627.706, F.S., relating to sinkhole
insurance; providing definitions; creating s.
627.7065, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
requiring the Department of Financial Services
and the Office of the Insurance Consumer
Advocate to consult with the Florida Geological
Survey and the Department of Environmental
Protection to implement a statewide automated
database of sinkholes and related activity;
providing requirements for the form and content
of the database; authorizing the Department of
Financial Services to require insurers to
provide certain information; providing for
management of the database; requiring the
department to investigate sinkhole activity
reports and include findings and investigations
in the database; requiring the Department of
Environmental Protection to report on the
database to the Governor, Legislature, and
Chief Financial Officer; authorizing the
Department of Financial Services to adopt
implementing rules; amending s. 627.707, F.S.;
revising standards for investigations of
sinkhole claims by insurers; requiring an 64

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.

	insurer to engage an engineer or professional
	geologist for certain purposes; requiring a
	report under certain circumstances; requiring
	an insurer to provide written notice to a
	policyholder disclosing certain information;
	authorizing an insurer to deny a claim under
	certain circumstances; authorizing a
	policyholder to demand certain testing;
	providing requirements; specifying required
	activities for insurers if a sinkhole loss is
	verified; specifying payment requirements for
	insurers; providing limitations; requiring the
	insurer to pay fees of the engineer and
	geologist; authorizing an insurer to engage a
	structural engineer for certain purposes;
	creating s. 627.7072, F.S.; specifying
	requirements for sinkhole testing by engineers
	and geologists; creating s. 627.7073, F.S.;
	providing reporting requirements for engineers
	and geologists after testing for sinkholes;
	specifying a presumption of correctness of
	certain findings; requiring an insurer paying a
	sinkhole loss claim to file a report and
	certification with the county property
	appraiser; requiring the property appraiser to
	record the report and certification; requiring
	the insurer to bear the cost of filing and
	recording; requiring a seller of certain
	property to make certain disclosures to
	property buyers under certain circumstances;
	creating s. 627.711, F.S.; requiring insurers
1	05 DM

Bill No. HB 1937, 2nd Eng.