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                           A bill to be entitled
 2
         An act relating to intangible personal property taxes;
 3
         repealing ss. 199.012, 199.023, 199.032, 199.033, 199.042,
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         199.052, 199.057, 199.062, 199.103, 199.1055, 199.106,
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         199.133, 199.135, 199.143, 199.145, 199.155, 199.175,
         199.183, 199.185, 199.1851, 199.202, 199.212, 199.218,
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         199.232, 199.262, 199.272, 199.282, 199.292, and 199.303,
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         F.S., relating to the intangible personal property tax;
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         amending ss. 28.35, 72.011, 192.0105, 192.032, 192.042,
         192.091, 193.114, 196.015, 196.199, 196.1993, 201.23,
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         212.02, 213.015, 213.05, 213.053, 213.054, 213.13, 213.27,
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         215.555, 220.1845, 288.039, 288.1045, 288.106, 288.1067,
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         341.840, 376.30781, 493.6102, 516.031, 627.311, 627.351,
         650.05, 655.071, 733.702, and 766.105, F.S., to conform to
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         the repeal of the intangible personal property tax;
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         providing an effective date.
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    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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         Section 1.
                      Sections 199.012, 199.023, 199.032, 199.033,
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    199.042, 199.052, 199.057, 199.062, 199.103, 199.1055, 199.106,
    199.133, 199.135, 199.143, 199.145, 199.155, 199.175, 199.183,
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    199.185, 199.1851, 199.202, 199.212, 199.218, 199.232, 199.262,
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    199.272, 199.282, 199.292, and 199.303, Florida Statutes, are
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    repealed.
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         Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
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    28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
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         28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation .--
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Page 1 of 52

29 (1)

- shall be considered a political subdivision of the state and shall be exempt from the corporate income tax. The corporation is not subject to the procurement provisions of chapter 287 and policies and decisions of the corporation relating to incurring debt, levying assessments, and the sale, issuance, continuation, terms, and claims under corporation policies, and all services relating thereto, are not subject to the provisions of chapter 120.
- Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 72.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 72.011 Jurisdiction of circuit courts in specific tax matters; administrative hearings and appeals; time for commencing action; parties; deposits.--
- (1)(a) A taxpayer may contest the legality of any assessment or denial of refund of tax, fee, surcharge, permit, interest, or penalty provided for under s. 125.0104, s. 125.0108, chapter 198, chapter 199, chapter 201, chapter 202, chapter 203, chapter 206, chapter 207, chapter 210, chapter 211, chapter 212, chapter 213, chapter 220, chapter 221, s. 370.07(3), chapter 376, s. 403.717, s. 403.718, s. 403.7185, s. 538.09, s. 538.25, chapter 550, chapter 561, chapter 562, chapter 563, chapter 564, chapter 565, chapter 624, or s.
- 681.117 by filing an action in circuit court; or, alternatively, the taxpayer may file a petition under the applicable provisions of chapter 120. However, once an action has been initiated under s. 120.56, s. 120.565, s. 120.569, s. 120.57, or s.

120.80(14)(b), no action relating to the same subject matter may be filed by the taxpayer in circuit court, and judicial review shall be exclusively limited to appellate review pursuant to s. 120.68; and once an action has been initiated in circuit court, no action may be brought under chapter 120.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 192.0105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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192.0105 Taxpayer rights.--There is created a Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights for property taxes and assessments to guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of the taxpayers of this state are adequately safequarded and protected during tax levy, assessment, collection, and enforcement processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but comprehensive statements that summarize the rights and obligations of the property appraisers, tax collectors, clerks of the court, local governing boards, the Department of Revenue, and taxpayers. Additional rights afforded to payors of taxes and assessments imposed under the revenue laws of this state are provided in s. 213.015. The rights afforded taxpayers to assure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected during tax levy, assessment, and collection are available only insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so guaranteed to state taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the departmental rules include:

(4) THE RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY.--

HB 0661 2005

The right to have information kept confidential, including federal tax information, ad valorem tax returns, social security numbers, all financial records produced by the taxpayer, Form DR-219 returns for documentary stamp tax information, and sworn statements of gross income, copies of federal income tax returns for the prior year, wage and earnings statements (W-2 forms), and other documents (see ss. 192.105, 193.074, 193.114(5) $\frac{(6)}{(6)}$ , 195.027(3) and (6), and 196.101(4)(c)). Section 5. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section

192.032, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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192.032 Situs of property for assessment purposes.--All property shall be assessed according to its situs as follows:

- (5) Intangible personal property, according to the rules laid down in chapter 199.
- (5) $\frac{(6)}{(a)}$  Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), personal property used as a marine cargo container in the conduct of foreign or interstate commerce shall not be deemed to have acquired a taxable situs within a county when the property is temporarily halted or stored within the state for a period not exceeding 180 days.
- "Marine cargo container" means a nondisposable receptacle which is of a permanent character, strong enough to be suitable for repeated use; which is specifically designed to facilitate the carriage of goods by one or more modes of transport, one of which shall be by ocean vessel, without intermediate reloading; and which is fitted with devices permitting its ready handling, particularly in the transfer from one transport mode to another. The term "marine cargo container"

includes a container when carried on a chassis but does not include a vehicle or packaging.

- (6)(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, tangible personal property used in traveling shows such as carnivals, ice shows, or circuses shall be deemed to be physically present or habitually located or typically present only to the extent the value of such property is multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days such property is present in Florida during the taxable year and the denominator of which is the number of days in the taxable year. However, railroad property of such traveling shows shall be taxable under s. 193.085(4)(b) and not under this section.
- Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 192.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 192.042 Date of assessment.--All property shall be assessed according to its just value as follows:
- (3) Intangible personal property, according to the rules laid down in chapter 199.
- Section 7. Subsection (5) of section 192.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 192.091 Commissions of property appraisers and tax collectors.--
- (5) Provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to <del>commissions on intangible property taxes or</del> drainage district or drainage subdistrict taxes; and
- Section 8. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 138 193.114, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 139 193.114 Preparation of assessment rolls.--

(4) The department shall promulgate regulations and forms for the preparation of the intangible personal property roll to comply with chapter 199.

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(4) For every change made to the assessed or taxable value of a parcel on an assessment roll subsequent to the mailing of the notice provided for in s. 200.069, the property appraiser shall document the reason for such change in the public records of the office of the property appraiser in a manner acceptable to the executive director or the executive director's designee. For every change that decreases the assessed or taxable value of a parcel on an assessment roll between the time of complete submission of the tax roll pursuant to s. 193.1142(3) and mailing of the notice provided for in s. 200.069, the property appraiser shall document the reason for such change in the public records of the office of the property appraiser in a manner acceptable to the executive director or the executive director's designee. Changes made by the value adjustment board are not subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(5)(6) For proprietary purposes, including the furnishing or sale of copies of the tax roll under s. 119.07(1), the property appraiser is the custodian of the tax roll and the copies of it which are maintained by any state agency. The department or any state or local agency may use copies of the tax roll received by it for official purposes and shall permit inspection and examination thereof under s. 119.07(1), but is not required to furnish copies of the records. A social security number submitted under s. 196.011(1) is confidential and exempt

from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and the provisions of s. 119.07(1). A copy of documents containing the numbers furnished or sold by the property appraiser, except a copy furnished to the department, or a copy of documents containing social security numbers provided by the department or any state or local agency for inspection or examination by the public, must exclude those social security numbers.

Section 9. Subsection (9) of section 196.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.015 Permanent residency; factual determination by property appraiser.—Intention to establish a permanent residence in this state is a factual determination to be made, in the first instance, by the property appraiser. Although any one factor is not conclusive of the establishment or nonestablishment of permanent residence, the following are relevant factors that may be considered by the property appraiser in making his or her determination as to the intent of a person claiming a homestead exemption to establish a permanent residence in this state:

(9) The previous filing of Florida intangible tax returns by the applicant.

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 196.199, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.199 Government property exemption.--

(2) Property owned by the following governmental units but used by nongovernmental lessees shall only be exempt from taxation under the following conditions:

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Except as provided in paragraph (c), the exemption provided by this subsection shall not apply to those portions of a leasehold or other possessory interest in real property, except for any leasehold or other possessory interest described in s. 4(a), Art. VII of the State Constitution or subsection (7), owned by the United States, the state, any political subdivision of the state, any municipality of the state, or any agency, authority, and other public body corporate of the state, which are undeveloped or predominantly used for residential or commercial purposes and upon which rental payments are due defined by s. 199.023(1)(d), subject to the provisions of subsection (7). Such leasehold or other interest shall be taxed only as intangible personal property pursuant to chapter 199 if rental payments are due in consideration of such leasehold or other interest. If no rental payments are due pursuant to the agreement creating such leasehold or other interest, the leasehold or other interest shall be taxed as real property. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to exempt personal property, buildings, or other real property improvements owned by the lessee from ad valorem taxation.

Section 11. Section 196.1993, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.1993 Certain agreements with local governments for use of public property; exemption.—Any agreement entered into with a local governmental authority prior to January 1, 1969, for use of public property, under which it was understood and agreed in a written instrument or by special act that no ad valorem real property taxes would be paid by the licensee or lessee, shall be

deemed a license or management agreement for the use or management of public property. Such interest shall be deemed not to convey an interest in the property and shall not be subject to ad valorem real property taxation. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to exempt such licensee from the ad valorem intangible tax and the ad valorem personal property tax.

- Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 201.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 201.23 Foreign notes and other written obligations exempt.--

- (4)(a) The excise taxes imposed by this chapter shall not apply to the documents, notes, evidences of indebtedness, financing statements, drafts, bills of exchange, or other taxable items dealt with, made, issued, drawn upon, accepted, delivered, shipped, received, signed, executed, assigned, transferred, or sold by or to a banking organization, as defined in s. 199.023(9), in the conduct of an international banking transaction, as defined in s. 199.023(11). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to change the application of paragraph (2)(a).
  - (b) For purposes of this subsection:
  - 1. "Banking organization" means:
- 245 <u>a. A bank organized and existing under the laws of this</u> 246 <u>state:</u>
  - b. A national bank organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of the National Bank Act, 12 U.S.C. ss. 21 et seq., and maintaining its principal office in this state;

250	c. An Edge Act corporation organized pursuant to the
251	provisions of s. 25(a) of the Federal Reserve Act, 12 U.S.C. ss.
252	611 et seq., and maintaining an office in this state;
253	d. An international bank agency licensed pursuant to the
254	<pre>laws of this state;</pre>
255	e. A federal agency licensed pursuant to ss. 4 and 5 of
256	the International Banking Act of 1978 to maintain an office in
257	this state;
258	f. A savings association organized and existing under the
259	<pre>laws of this state;</pre>
260	g. A federal association organized and existing pursuant
261	to the provisions of the Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933, 12
262	U.S.C. ss. 1461 et seq., and maintaining its principal office in
263	this state; or
264	h. A Florida export finance corporation organized and
265	existing pursuant to the provisions of part V of chapter 288.
266	2. "International banking transaction" means:
267	a. The financing of the exportation from, or the
268	importation into, the United States or between jurisdictions
269	abroad of tangible personal property or services;
270	b. The financing of the production, preparation, storage,
271	or transportation of tangible personal property or services
272	which are identifiable as being directly and solely for export

c. The financing of contracts, projects, or activities to be performed substantially abroad, except those transactions

from, or import into, the United States or between jurisdictions

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abroad;

secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, or other lien upon real property located in the state;

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- d. The receipt of deposits or borrowings or the extensions of credit by an international banking facility, except the loan or deposit of funds secured by mortgage, deed of trust, or other lien upon real property located in the state; or
- e. Entering into foreign exchange trading or hedging transactions in connection with the activities described in subsubparagraph d.
- Section 13. Subsection (19) of section 212.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 212.02 Definitions.--The following terms and phrases when used in this chapter have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
- personal property which may be seen, weighed, measured, or touched or is in any manner perceptible to the senses, including electric power or energy, boats, motor vehicles and mobile homes as defined in s. 320.01(1) and (2), aircraft as defined in s. 330.27, and all other types of vehicles. The term "tangible personal property" does not include stocks, bonds, notes, insurance, or other obligations or securities,; intangibles as defined by the intangible tax law of the state; or pari-mutuel tickets sold or issued under the racing laws of the state.

  Section 14. Subsections (3), (6), and (11) of section

213.015, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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213.015 Taxpayer rights. -- There is created a Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of Florida taxpayers are adequately safeguarded and protected during tax assessment, collection, and enforcement processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but comprehensive statements which explain, in simple, nontechnical terms, the rights and obligations of the Department of Revenue and taxpayers. Section 192.0105 provides additional rights afforded to payors of property taxes and assessments. The rights afforded taxpayers to ensure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected during tax assessment and collection are available only insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so guaranteed Florida taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the departmental rules are:

other qualified representatives at any time in administrative interactions with the department, the right to procedural safeguards with respect to recording of interviews during tax determination or collection processes conducted by the department, the right to be treated in a professional manner by department personnel, and the right to have audits, inspections of records, and interviews conducted at a reasonable time and place except in criminal and internal investigations (see ss. 198.06, 199.218, 201.11(1), 203.02, 206.14, 211.125(3), 211.33(3), 212.0305(3), 212.12(5)(a), (6)(a), and (13), 212.13(5), 213.05, 213.21(1)(a) and (c), and 213.34).

(6) The right to be informed of impending collection actions which require sale or seizure of property or freezing of assets, except jeopardy assessments, and the right to at least 30 days' notice in which to pay the liability or seek further review (see ss. 198.20, 199.262, 201.16, 206.075, 206.24, 211.125(5), 212.03(5), 212.0305(3)(j), 212.04(7), 212.14(1), 213.73(3), 213.731, and 220.739).

(11) The right to procedures for requesting cancellation, release, or modification of liens filed by the department and for requesting that any lien which is filed in error be so noted on the lien cancellation filed by the department, in public notice, and in notice to any credit agency at the taxpayer's request (see ss. 198.22, 199.262, 212.15(4), 213.733, and 220.819).

Section 15. Section 213.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

213.05 Department of Revenue; control and administration of revenue laws.—The Department of Revenue shall have only those responsibilities for ad valorem taxation specified to the department in chapter 192, taxation, general provisions; chapter 193, assessments; chapter 194, administrative and judicial review of property taxes; chapter 195, property assessment administration and finance; chapter 196, exemption; chapter 197, tax collections, sales, and liens; chapter 199, intangible personal property taxes; and chapter 200, determination of millage. The Department of Revenue shall have the responsibility of regulating, controlling, and administering all revenue laws and performing all duties as provided in s. 125.0104, the Local

Option Tourist Development Act; s. 125.0108, tourist impact tax; 360 361 chapter 198, estate taxes; chapter 201, excise tax on documents; 362 chapter 202, communications services tax; chapter 203, gross 363 receipts taxes; chapter 206, motor and other fuel taxes; chapter 364 211, tax on production of oil and gas and severance of solid 365 minerals; chapter 212, tax on sales, use, and other 366 transactions; chapter 220, income tax code; chapter 221, 367 emergency excise tax; ss. 336.021 and 336.025, taxes on motor 368 fuel and special fuel; s. 370.07(3), Apalachicola Bay oyster 369 surcharge; s. 376.11, pollutant spill prevention and control; s. 403.718, waste tire fees; s. 403.7185, lead-acid battery fees; 370 s. 538.09, registration of secondhand dealers; s. 538.25, 371 registration of secondary metals recyclers; s. 624.4621, group 372 373 self-insurer's fund premium tax; s. 624.5091, retaliatory tax; 374 s. 624.475, commercial self-insurance fund premium tax; ss. 375 624.509-624.511, insurance code: administration and general provisions; s. 624.515, State Fire Marshal regulatory 376 assessment; s. 627.357, medical malpractice self-insurance 377 378 premium tax; s. 629.5011, reciprocal insurers premium tax; and 379 s. 681.117, motor vehicle warranty enforcement. 380 Section 16. Subsections (1) and (4), paragraphs (p) and (k) of subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (14) of 381 section 213.053, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 382 383 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.--384 (1)(a) The provisions of this section apply to s. 385 125.0104, county government; s. 125.0108, tourist impact tax; 386 chapter 175, municipal firefighters' pension trust funds; 387 chapter 185, municipal police officers' retirement trust funds;

chapter 198, estate taxes; chapter 199, intangible personal property taxes; chapter 201, excise tax on documents; chapter 203, gross receipts taxes; chapter 211, tax on severance and production of minerals; chapter 212, tax on sales, use, and other transactions; chapter 220, income tax code; chapter 221, emergency excise tax; s. 252.372, emergency management, preparedness, and assistance surcharge; s. 370.07(3), Apalachicola Bay oyster surcharge; chapter 376, pollutant spill prevention and control; s. 403.718, waste tire fees; s. 403.7185, lead-acid battery fees; s. 538.09, registration of secondhand dealers; s. 538.25, registration of secondary metals recyclers; ss. 624.501 and 624.509-624.515, insurance code; s. 681.117, motor vehicle warranty enforcement; and s. 896.102, reports of financial transactions in trade or business.

- (b) The provisions of this section also apply to chapter 202, the Communications Services Tax Simplification Law. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2006, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
- (4) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the department from publishing statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular accounts, reports, declarations, or returns or prevent the department from disclosing to the Chief Financial Officer the names and addresses of those taxpayers who have claimed an exemption pursuant to s. 199.185(1)(i) or a deduction pursuant to s. 220.63(5).

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:

- (k)1. Payment information relative to chapters 199, 201, 212, 220, 221, and 624 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, or its employees or agents that are identified in writing by the office to the department, in the administration of the tax refund program for qualified defense contractors authorized by s. 288.1045 and the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses authorized by s. 288.106.
- 2. Information relative to tax credits taken by a business under s. 220.191 and exemptions or tax refunds received by a business under s. 212.08(5)(j) to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, or its employees or agents that are identified in writing by the office to the department, in the administration and evaluation of the capital investment tax credit program authorized in s. 220.191 and the semiconductor, defense, and space tax exemption program authorized in s. 212.08(5)(j).
- (p) Information relative to ss. 199.1055, 220.1845, and 376.30781 to the Department of Environmental Protection in the conduct of its official business.

Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a

Page 16 of 52

misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(14)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department shall, subject to the safeguards specified in paragraph (c), disclose to the Division of Corporations of the Department of State the name, address, federal employer identification number, and duration of tax filings with this state of all corporate or partnership entities which are not on file or have a dissolved status with the Division of Corporations and which have filed tax returns pursuant to either chapter 199 or chapter 220.

Section 17. Section 213.054, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

213.054 Persons claiming tax exemptions or deductions; annual report.—The Department of Revenue shall be responsible for monitoring the utilization of tax exemptions and tax deductions authorized pursuant to chapter 81-179, Laws of Florida. On or before September 1 of each year, the department shall report to the Chief Financial Officer the names and addresses of all persons who have claimed an exemption pursuant to s. 199.185(1)(i) or a deduction pursuant to s. 220.63(5).

Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 213.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 213.13 Electronic remittance and distribution of funds collected by clerks of the court.--
- (2) The funds to be remitted electronically by the clerks include proceeds from the taxes imposed by <del>chapter 199,</del> chapter 201, and all other fees, fines, reimbursements, court costs, or

Page 17 of 52

other court-related funds that the clerks must remit to the state pursuant to law. At a minimum, these electronic remittance procedures must include:

- (a) The prescribed reporting frequency and time period for the clerks to remit such funds and the prescribed time period in which the department must electronically deposit the funds received to the appropriate state and local funds and accounts;
- (b) The electronic format and type of debit remittance system to be used by the clerks to remit the funds to the department;
- (c) The means of communication used to transmit the required information; and
- (d) The information that must be submitted with such remittance.
- Section 19. Section 213.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 213.27 Contracts with debt collection agencies and certain vendors.--
- (1) The Department of Revenue may, for the purpose of collecting any delinquent taxes due from a taxpayer, including taxes for which a bill or notice has been generated, contract with any debt collection agency or attorney doing business within or without this state for the collection of such delinquent taxes including penalties and interest thereon. The department may also share confidential information pursuant to the contract necessary for the collection of delinquent taxes and taxes for which a billing or notice has been generated. Contracts will be made pursuant to chapter 287. The taxpayer

must be notified by mail by the department, its employees, or its authorized representative 30 days prior to commencing any litigation to recover any delinquent taxes. The taxpayer must be notified by mail by the department 30 days prior to the department assigning the collection of any taxes to the debt collection agency.

individual or business for the purpose of identifying intangible personal property tax liability. Contracts may provide for the identification of assets subject to the tax on intangible personal property, the determination of value of such property, the requirement for filing a tax return and the collection of taxes due, including applicable penalties and interest thereon. The department may share confidential information pursuant to the contract necessary for the identification of taxable intangible personal property. Contracts shall be made pursuant to chapter 287. The taxpayer must be notified by mail by the department 30 days prior to the department assigning identification of intangible personal property to an individual or business.

(2)(3) Any contract may provide, in the discretion of the executive director of the Department of Revenue, the manner in which the compensation for such services will be paid. Under standards established by the department, such compensation shall be added to the amount of the tax and collected as a part thereof by the agency or deducted from the amount of tax, penalty, and interest actually collected.

(3)(4) All funds collected under the terms of the contract, less the fees provided in the contract, shall be remitted to the department within 30 days from the date of collection from a taxpayer. Forms to be used for such purpose shall be prescribed by the department.

- (4)(5) The department shall require a bond from the debt collection agency or the individual or business contracted with under subsection (2) not in excess of \$100,000 guaranteeing compliance with the terms of the contract. However, a bond of \$10,000 is required from a debt collection agency if the agency does not actually collect and remit delinquent funds to the department.
- (5)(6) The department may, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of or collecting any taxes due from a person doing mail order business in this state, contract with any auditing agency doing business within or without this state for the purpose of conducting an audit of such mail order business; however, such audit agency may not conduct an audit on behalf of the department of any person domiciled in this state, person registered for sales and use tax purposes in this state, or corporation filing a Florida corporate tax return, if any such person or corporation objects to such audit in writing to the department and the auditing agency. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail at least 30 days before the department assigns the collection of such taxes.
- (6)(7) Confidential information shared by the department with debt collection or auditing agencies or individuals or businesses with which the department has contracted under

subsection (2) is exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), and debt collection or auditing agencies and individuals or businesses with which the department has contracted under subsection (2) shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by ss. 775.082 and 775.083.

- (7)(8)(a) The executive director of the department may enter into contracts with private vendors to develop and implement systems to enhance tax collections where compensation to the vendors is funded through increased tax collections. The amount of compensation paid to a vendor shall be based on a percentage of increased tax collections attributable to the system after all administrative and judicial appeals are exhausted, and the total amount of compensation paid to a vendor shall not exceed the maximum amount stated in the contract.
- (b) A person acting on behalf of the department under a contract authorized by this subsection does not exercise any of the powers of the department, except that the person is an agent of the department for the purposes of developing and implementing a system to enhance tax collection.
- (c) Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the private vendors. The vendors shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the department. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 20. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 215.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 215.555 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. --
- (6) REVENUE BONDS.--

- (d) Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Finance Corporation.--
- 1. In addition to the findings and declarations in subsection (1), the Legislature also finds and declares that:
- a. The public benefits corporation created under this paragraph will provide a mechanism necessary for the cost-effective and efficient issuance of bonds. This mechanism will eliminate unnecessary costs in the bond issuance process, thereby increasing the amounts available to pay reimbursement for losses to property sustained as a result of hurricane damage.
- b. The purpose of such bonds is to fund reimbursements through the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to pay for the costs of construction, reconstruction, repair, restoration, and other costs associated with damage to properties of policyholders of covered policies due to the occurrence of a hurricane.
- c. The efficacy of the financing mechanism will be enhanced by the corporation's ownership of the assessments, by the insulation of the assessments from possible bankruptcy proceedings, and by covenants of the state with the corporation's bondholders.

2.a. There is created a public benefits corporation, which is an instrumentality of the state, to be known as the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Finance Corporation.

- b. The corporation shall operate under a five-member board of directors consisting of the Governor or a designee, the Chief Financial Officer or a designee, the Attorney General or a designee, the director of the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, and the senior employee of the State Board of Administration responsible for operations of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.
- c. The corporation has all of the powers of corporations under chapter 607 and under chapter 617, subject only to the provisions of this subsection.
- d. The corporation may issue bonds and engage in such other financial transactions as are necessary to provide sufficient funds to achieve the purposes of this section.
- e. The corporation may invest in any of the investments authorized under s. 215.47.
- f. There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action shall arise against, any board members or employees of the corporation for any actions taken by them in the performance of their duties under this paragraph.
- 3.a. In actions under chapter 75 to validate any bonds issued by the corporation, the notice required by s. 75.06 shall be published only in Leon County and in two newspapers of general circulation in the state, and the complaint and order of the court shall be served only on the State Attorney of the Second Judicial Circuit.

b. The state hereby covenants with holders of bonds of the corporation that the state will not repeal or abrogate the power of the board to direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy the assessments and to collect the proceeds of the revenues pledged to the payment of such bonds as long as any such bonds remain outstanding unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of such bonds pursuant to the documents authorizing the issuance of such bonds.

- 4. The bonds of the corporation are not a debt of the state or of any political subdivision, and neither the state nor any political subdivision is liable on such bonds. The corporation does not have the power to pledge the credit, the revenues, or the taxing power of the state or of any political subdivision. The credit, revenues, or taxing power of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be deemed to be pledged to the payment of any bonds of the corporation.
- 5.a. The property, revenues, and other assets of the corporation; the transactions and operations of the corporation and the income from such transactions and operations; and all bonds issued under this paragraph and interest on such bonds are exempt from taxation by the state and any political subdivision, including the intangibles tax under chapter 199 and the income tax under chapter 220. This exemption does not apply to any tax imposed by chapter 220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned by corporations other than the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Finance Corporation.
- b. All bonds of the corporation shall be and constitute legal investments without limitation for all public bodies of

this state; for all banks, trust companies, savings banks, savings associations, savings and loan associations, and investment companies; for all administrators, executors, trustees, and other fiduciaries; for all insurance companies and associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business; and for all other persons who are now or may hereafter be authorized to invest in bonds or other obligations of the state and shall be and constitute eligible securities to be deposited as collateral for the security of any state, county, municipal, or other public funds. This sub-subparagraph shall be considered as additional and supplemental authority and shall not be limited without specific reference to this sub-subparagraph.

6. The corporation and its corporate existence shall continue until terminated by law; however, no such law shall take effect as long as the corporation has bonds outstanding unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of such bonds pursuant to the documents authorizing the issuance of such bonds. Upon termination of the existence of the corporation, all of its rights and properties in excess of its obligations shall pass to and be vested in the state.

Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 220.1845, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

220.1845 Contaminated site rehabilitation tax credit.--

- (1) AUTHORIZATION FOR TAX CREDIT; LIMITATIONS. --
- (a) A credit in the amount of 35 percent of the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site

Page 25 of 52

rehabilitation at the following sites is available against any tax due for a taxable year under this chapter:

- A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site eligible for state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3);
- 2. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site at which cleanup is undertaken by the real property owner pursuant to s. 376.3078(11), if the real property owner is not also, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists; or
- 3. A brownfield site in a designated brownfield area under s. 376.80.
- (b) A tax credit applicant, or multiple tax credit applicants working jointly to clean up a single site, may not be granted more than \$250,000 per year in tax credits for each site voluntarily rehabilitated. Multiple tax credit applicants shall be granted tax credits in the same proportion as their contribution to payment of cleanup costs. Subject to the same conditions and limitations as provided in this section, a municipality, county, or other tax credit applicant which voluntarily rehabilitates a site may receive not more than \$250,000 per year in tax credits which it can subsequently transfer subject to the provisions in paragraph (g)(h).
- (c) If the credit granted under this section is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the corporation, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter for that year exceeds the credit for which the

corporation is eligible in that year under this section after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided by s. 220.02(8). Five years after the date a credit is granted under this section, such credit expires and may not be used. However, if during the 5-year period the credit is transferred, in whole or in part, pursuant to paragraph (g)(h), each transferee has 5 years after the date of transfer to use its credit.

- (d) A taxpayer that files a consolidated return in this state as a member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may be allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis up to the amount of tax imposed upon the consolidated group.
- (e) A taxpayer that receives credit under s. 199.1055 is ineligible to receive credit under this section in a given tax year.
- (e)(f) A tax credit applicant that receives state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3) for rehabilitation of a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site is ineligible to receive credit under this section for costs incurred by the tax credit applicant in conjunction with the rehabilitation of that site during the same time period that state-administered site rehabilitation was underway.
- $\underline{(f)}(g)$  The total amount of the tax credits which may be granted under this section and s. 199.1055 is \$2 million annually.
- (g)(h)1. Tax credits that may be available under this section to an entity eligible under s. 376.30781 may be transferred after a merger or acquisition to the surviving or

acquiring entity and used in the same manner and with the same limitations.

- 2. The entity or its surviving or acquiring entity as described in subparagraph 1., may transfer any unused credit in whole or in units of no less than 25 percent of the remaining credit. The entity acquiring such credit may use it in the same manner and with the same limitation as described in this section. Such transferred credits may not be transferred again although they may succeed to a surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations as described in this section.
- 3. In the event the credit provided for under this section is reduced either as a result of a determination by the Department of Environmental Protection or an examination or audit by the Department of Revenue, such tax deficiency shall be recovered from the first entity, or the surviving or acquiring entity, to have claimed such credit up to the amount of credit taken. Any subsequent deficiencies shall be assessed against any entity acquiring and claiming such credit, or in the case of multiple succeeding entities in the order of credit succession.
- (h)(i) In order to encourage completion of site rehabilitation at contaminated sites being voluntarily cleaned up and eligible for a tax credit under this section, the tax credit applicant may claim an additional 10 percent of the total cleanup costs, not to exceed \$50,000, in the final year of cleanup as evidenced by the Department of Environmental Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site.

(3) ADMINISTRATION; AUDIT AUTHORITY; TAX CREDIT FORFEITURE.--

- (b) In addition to its existing audit and investigation authority relating to chapter 199 and this chapter, the Department of Revenue may perform any additional financial and technical audits and investigations, including examining the accounts, books, or records of the tax credit applicant, which are necessary to verify the site rehabilitation costs included in a tax credit return and to ensure compliance with this section. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide technical assistance, when requested by the Department of Revenue, on any technical audits performed pursuant to this section.
- (c) It is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits if the Department of Revenue determines, as a result of either an audit or information received from the Department of Environmental Protection, that a taxpayer received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the taxpayer was not entitled. In the case of fraud, the taxpayer shall be prohibited from claiming any future tax credits under this section or s. 199.1055.
- 1. The taxpayer is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the Department of Revenue, and such funds shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the state.
- 2. The taxpayer shall file with the Department of Revenue an amended tax return or such other report as the Department of Revenue prescribes by rule and shall pay any required tax within 60 days after the taxpayer receives notification from the

Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to s. 376.30781 that previously approved tax credits have been revoked or modified, if uncontested, or within 60 days after a final order is issued following proceedings involving a contested revocation or modification order.

- 3. A notice of deficiency may be issued by the Department of Revenue at any time within 5 years after the date the taxpayer receives notification from the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to s. 376.30781 that previously approved tax credits have been revoked or modified. If a taxpayer fails to notify the Department of Revenue of any change in its tax credit claimed, a notice of deficiency may be issued at any time. In either case, the amount of any proposed assessment set forth in such notice of deficiency shall be limited to the amount of any deficiency resulting under this section from the recomputation of the taxpayer's tax for the taxable year.
- 4. Any taxpayer that fails to report and timely pay any tax due as a result of the forfeiture of its tax credit is in violation of this section and is subject to applicable penalty and interest.
- Section 22. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 288.039, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 288.039 Employing and Training our Youths (ENTRY).--
  - (2) TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.--
- (b) After entering into an employment/tax refund agreement under subsection (3), an eligible business may receive refunds for the following taxes or fees due and paid by that business:

Page 30 of 52

1. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions under chapter 212.

- 2. Corporate income taxes under chapter 220.
- 3. Intangible personal property taxes under chapter 199.
- 3.4. Emergency excise taxes under chapter 221.
- 4.5. Excise taxes on documents under chapter 201.
- 5.6. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1).
- 6.7. Insurance premium taxes under s. 624.509.
- 7.8. Occupational license fees under chapter 205.

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However, an eligible business may not receive a refund under this section for any amount of credit, refund, or exemption granted to that business for any of such taxes or fees. If a refund for such taxes or fees is provided by the office, which taxes or fees are subsequently adjusted by the application of any credit, refund, or exemption granted to the eligible business other than as provided in this section, the business shall reimburse the office for the amount of that credit, refund, or exemption. An eligible business shall notify and tender payment to the office within 20 days after receiving any credit, refund, or exemption other than the one provided in this section.

Section 23. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) and paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 288.1045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.1045 Qualified defense contractor tax refund program.--

(2) GRANTING OF A TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.--

Page 31 of 52

(f) After entering into a tax refund agreement pursuant to subsection (4), a qualified applicant may receive refunds from the Economic Development Trust Fund for the following taxes due and paid by the qualified applicant beginning with the applicant's first taxable year that begins after entering into the agreement:

1. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid pursuant to chapter 212.

- 2. Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter 220.
- 3. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to chapter 199.
  - 3.4. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter 221.
- $\underline{4.5.}$  Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 201.
- 5.6. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1)(a) on June 1, 1996.

However, a qualified applicant may not receive a tax refund pursuant to this section for any amount of credit, refund, or exemption granted such contractor for any of such taxes. If a refund for such taxes is provided by the office, which taxes are subsequently adjusted by the application of any credit, refund, or exemption granted to the qualified applicant other than that provided in this section, the qualified applicant shall reimburse the Economic Development Trust Fund for the amount of such credit, refund, or exemption. A qualified applicant must notify and tender payment to the office within 20 days after

receiving a credit, refund, or exemption, other than that provided in this section.

(3) APPLICATION PROCESS; REQUIREMENTS; AGENCY DETERMINATION. --

- (b) Applications for certification based on the consolidation of a Department of Defense contract or a new Department of Defense contract must be submitted to the office as prescribed by the office and must include, but are not limited to, the following information:
- 1. The applicant's federal employer identification number, the applicant's Florida sales tax registration number, and a notarized signature of an officer of the applicant.
- 2. The permanent location of the manufacturing, assembling, fabricating, research, development, or design facility in this state at which the project is or is to be located.
- 3. The Department of Defense contract numbers of the contract to be consolidated, the new Department of Defense contract number, or the "RFP" number of a proposed Department of Defense contract.
- 4. The date the contract was executed or is expected to be executed, and the date the contract is due to expire or is expected to expire.
- 5. The commencement date for project operations under the contract in this state.
- 6. The number of net new full-time equivalent Florida jobs included in the project as of December 31 of each year and the average wage of such jobs.

Page 33 of 52

HB 0661 2005

914 The total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the applicant in this state.

- The percentage of the applicant's gross receipts derived from Department of Defense contracts during the 5 taxable years immediately preceding the date the application is submitted.
  - 9. The amount of:

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- Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid pursuant to chapter 212;
  - Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter 220;
- 924 c. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to 925 chapter 199;
  - c.d. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter 221;
- 927 d.e. Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 201; and 928
- 929 e.f. Ad valorem taxes paid
  - during the 5 fiscal years immediately preceding the date of the application, and the projected amounts of such taxes to be due in the 3 fiscal years immediately following the date of the application.
  - The estimated amount of tax refunds to be claimed for each fiscal year.
  - A brief statement concerning the applicant's need for tax refunds, and the proposed uses of such refunds by the applicant.
  - A resolution adopted by the county commissioners of the county in which the project will be located, which

Page 34 of 52

recommends the applicant be approved as a qualified applicant, and which indicates that the necessary commitments of local financial support for the applicant exist. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the county commission may review the proposed public or private sources of such support and determine whether the proposed sources of local financial support can be provided or, for any applicant whose project is located in a county designated by the Rural Economic Development Initiative, a resolution adopted by the county commissioners of such county requesting that the applicant's project be exempt from the local financial support requirement.

- 13. Any additional information requested by the office.
- (c) Applications for certification based on the conversion of defense production jobs to nondefense production jobs must be submitted to the office as prescribed by the office and must include, but are not limited to, the following information:
- 1. The applicant's federal employer identification number, the applicant's Florida sales tax registration number, and a notarized signature of an officer of the applicant.
- 2. The permanent location of the manufacturing, assembling, fabricating, research, development, or design facility in this state at which the project is or is to be located.
- 3. The Department of Defense contract numbers of the contract under which the defense production jobs will be converted to nondefense production jobs.

4. The date the contract was executed, and the date the contract is due to expire or is expected to expire, or was canceled.

- 5. The commencement date for the nondefense production operations in this state.
- 6. The number of net new full-time equivalent Florida jobs included in the nondefense production project as of December 31 of each year and the average wage of such jobs.
- 7. The total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the applicant in this state.
- 8. The percentage of the applicant's gross receipts derived from Department of Defense contracts during the 5 taxable years immediately preceding the date the application is submitted.
  - 9. The amount of:

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- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid pursuant to chapter 212;
  - b. Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter 220;
- c. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to
  - c.d. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter 221;
- 989 <u>d.e.</u> Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 990 201; and
- 991 <u>e.f.</u> Ad valorem taxes paid

during the 5 fiscal years immediately preceding the date of the application, and the projected amounts of such taxes to be due

in the 3 fiscal years immediately following the date of the application.

- 10. The estimated amount of tax refunds to be claimed for each fiscal year.
- 11. A brief statement concerning the applicant's need for tax refunds, and the proposed uses of such refunds by the applicant.
- 12. A resolution adopted by the county commissioners of the county in which the project will be located, which recommends the applicant be approved as a qualified applicant, and which indicates that the necessary commitments of local financial support for the applicant exist. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the county commission may review the proposed public or private sources of such support and determine whether the proposed sources of local financial support can be provided or, for any applicant whose project is located in a county designated by the Rural Economic Development Initiative, a resolution adopted by the county commissioners of such county requesting that the applicant's project be exempt from the local financial support requirement.
  - 13. Any additional information requested by the office.
- (d) Applications for certification based on a contract for reuse of a defense-related facility must be submitted to the office as prescribed by the office and must include, but are not limited to, the following information:
- 1. The applicant's Florida sales tax registration number and a notarized signature of an officer of the applicant.

2. The permanent location of the manufacturing, assembling, fabricating, research, development, or design facility in this state at which the project is or is to be located.

- 3. The business entity holding a valid Department of Defense contract or branch of the Armed Forces of the United States that previously occupied the facility, and the date such entity last occupied the facility.
- 4. A copy of the contract to reuse the facility, or such alternative proof as may be prescribed by the office that the applicant is seeking to contract for the reuse of such facility.
- 5. The date the contract to reuse the facility was executed or is expected to be executed, and the date the contract is due to expire or is expected to expire.
- 6. The commencement date for project operations under the contract in this state.
- 7. The number of net new full-time equivalent Florida jobs included in the project as of December 31 of each year and the average wage of such jobs.
- 8. The total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the applicant in this state.
  - 9. The amount of:

- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid pursuant to chapter 212.
  - b. Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter 220.
- c. Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to chapter 199.
  - c.d. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter 221.

Page 38 of 52

1050 <u>d.e.</u> Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 1051 201.

- $\underline{\text{e.f.}}$  Ad valorem taxes paid during the 5 fiscal years immediately preceding the date of the application, and the projected amounts of such taxes to be due in the 3 fiscal years immediately following the date of the application.
- 10. The estimated amount of tax refunds to be claimed for each fiscal year.
- 11. A brief statement concerning the applicant's need for tax refunds, and the proposed uses of such refunds by the applicant.
- 12. A resolution adopted by the county commissioners of the county in which the project will be located, which recommends the applicant be approved as a qualified applicant, and which indicates that the necessary commitments of local financial support for the applicant exist. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the county commission may review the proposed public or private sources of such support and determine whether the proposed sources of local financial support can be provided or, for any applicant whose project is located in a county designated by the Rural Economic Development Initiative, a resolution adopted by the county commissioners of such county requesting that the applicant's project be exempt from the local financial support requirement.
- 13. Any additional information requested by the office.

  Section 24. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section

  288.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.--

(2) TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.--

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- (c) After entering into a tax refund agreement under subsection (4), a qualified target industry business may:
- 1. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business beginning with the first taxable year of the business which begins after entering into the agreement:
  - a. Corporate income taxes under chapter 220.
  - b. Insurance premium tax under s. 624.509.
- 2. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business after entering into the agreement:
- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions under chapter 212.
  - b. Intangible personal property taxes under chapter 199.
  - b.c. Emergency excise taxes under chapter 221.
- 1095 c.<del>d.</del> Excise taxes on documents under chapter 201.
- 1096 d.e. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1).
- Section 25. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
- 1098 288.1067, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1099 288.1067 Confidentiality of records.--
  - (1) The following information held by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, Enterprise Florida, Inc., or county or municipal governmental entities, and their employees or agents, pursuant to the incentive programs for qualified businesses as provided in s. 220.191, s. 288.1045, s.

Page 40 of 52

1105 288.106, s. 288.108, or s. 288.1088 is confidential and exempt 1106 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the 1107 State Constitution, for a period not to exceed the duration of 1108 the relevant tax refund, tax credit, or incentive agreement: 1109 The amount of: Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions paid 1110 1111 pursuant to chapter 212; 1112 Corporate income taxes paid pursuant to chapter 220; 1113 Intangible personal property taxes paid pursuant to 1114 chapter 199; 1115 3.4. Emergency excise taxes paid pursuant to chapter 221; 1116 4.5. Insurance premium taxes paid pursuant to chapter 624; 1117 5.6. Excise taxes paid on documents pursuant to chapter 1118 201; or 1119 6.7. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1), 1120 1121 which the qualified business reports on its application for 1122 certification or reports during the term of the tax refund 1123 agreement, and for which the qualified business claims a tax refund under s. 288.1045 or s. 288.106, and any such information 1124 1125 held as evidence of the achievement or nonachievement of performance items contained in the tax refund agreement. 1126 Section 26. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and 1127 1128 subsections (6) and (7) of section 341.840, Florida Statutes,

341.840 Tax exemption.--

are amended to read:

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(2)(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "authority" does not include agents of the authority other than contractors who qualify as such pursuant to subsection (6) $\frac{(7)}{(7)}$ .

- (6) A leasehold interest held by the authority is not subject to intangible tax. However, if a leasehold interest held by the authority is subleased to a nongovernmental lessee, such subleasehold interest shall be deemed to be an interest described in s. 199.023(1)(d), and is subject to the intangible tax.
- (6)(7)(a) In order to be considered an agent of the authority for purposes of the exemption from sales and use tax granted by subsection (3) for tangible personal property incorporated into the high-speed rail system, a contractor of the authority that purchases or fabricates such tangible personal property must be certified by the authority as provided in this subsection.
- (b)1. A contractor must apply for a renewal of the exemption not later than December 1 of each calendar year.
- 2. A contractor must apply to the authority on the application form adopted by the authority, which shall develop the form in consultation with the Department of Revenue.
- 3. The authority shall review each submitted application and determine whether it is complete. The authority shall notify the applicant of any deficiencies in the application within 30 days. Upon receipt of a completed application, the authority shall evaluate the application for exemption under this subsection and issue a certification that the contractor is qualified to act as an agent of the authority for purposes of

this section or a denial of such certification within 30 days. The authority shall provide the Department of Revenue with a copy of each certification issued upon approval of an application. Upon receipt of a certification from the authority, the Department of Revenue shall issue an exemption permit to the contractor.

- (c)1. The contractor may extend a copy of its exemption permit to its vendors in lieu of paying sales tax on purchases of tangible personal property qualifying for exemption under this section. Possession of a copy of the exemption permit relieves the seller of the responsibility of collecting tax on the sale, and the Department of Revenue shall look solely to the contractor for recovery of tax upon a determination that the contractor was not entitled to the exemption.
- 2. The contractor may extend a copy of its exemption permit to real property subcontractors supplying and installing tangible personal property that is exempt under subsection (3). Any such subcontractor is authorized to extend a copy of the permit to the subcontractor's vendors in order to purchase qualifying tangible personal property tax-exempt. If the subcontractor uses the exemption permit to purchase tangible personal property that is determined not to qualify for exemption under subsection (3), the Department of Revenue may assess and collect any tax, penalties, and interest that are due from either the contractor holding the exemption permit or the subcontractor that extended the exemption permit to the seller.
- (d) Any contractor authorized to act as an agent of the authority under this section shall maintain the necessary books

and records to document the exempt status of purchases and fabrication costs made or incurred under the permit. In addition, an authorized contractor extending its exemption permit to its subcontractors shall maintain a copy of the subcontractor's books, records, and invoices indicating all purchases made by the subcontractor under the authorized contractor's permit. If, in an audit conducted by the Department of Revenue, it is determined that tangible personal property purchased or fabricated claiming exemption under this section does not meet the criteria for exemption, the amount of taxes not paid at the time of purchase or fabrication shall be immediately due and payable to the Department of Revenue, together with the appropriate interest and penalty, computed from the date of purchase, in the manner prescribed by chapter 212.

- (e) If a contractor fails to apply for a high-speed rail system exemption permit, or if a contractor initially determined by the authority to not qualify for exemption is subsequently determined to be eligible, the contractor shall receive the benefit of the exemption in this subsection through a refund of previously paid taxes for transactions that otherwise would have been exempt. A refund may not be made for such taxes without the issuance of a certification by the authority that the contractor was authorized to make purchases tax-exempt and a determination by the Department of Revenue that the purchases qualified for the exemption.
- (f) The authority may adopt rules governing the application process for exemption of a contractor as an

1215 authorized agent of the authority.

- (g) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules governing the issuance and form of high-speed rail system exemption permits, the audit of contractors and subcontractors using such permits, the recapture of taxes on nonqualified purchases, and the manner and form of refund applications.
- Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsections (3), (8), and (12) of section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 376.30781 Partial tax credits for rehabilitation of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority; revocation authority.--
- (2)(a) A credit in the amount of 35 percent of the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site rehabilitation at the following sites is allowed pursuant to  $\underline{s}$ .  $\underline{ss}$ .  $\underline{199.1055}$  and  $\underline{220.1845}$ :
- 1. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site eligible for state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3);
- 2. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site at which cleanup is undertaken by the real property owner pursuant to s. 376.3078(11), if the real property owner is not also, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists; or
- 3. A brownfield site in a designated brownfield area under 1240 s. 376.80.
  - (3) The Department of Environmental Protection shall be responsible for allocating the tax credits provided for in <u>s</u>.

1243 ss. 199.1055 and 220.1845, not to exceed a total of \$2 million 1244 in tax credits annually.

- (8) On or before March 1, the Department of Environmental Protection shall inform each eligible tax credit applicant of the amount of its partial tax credit and provide each eligible tax credit applicant with a tax credit certificate that must be submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to s.  $\frac{199.1055(1)(g)}{(g)}$  or s.  $\frac{220.1845(1)(h)}{(g)}$ . Credits will not result in the payment of refunds if total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.
- (12) A tax credit applicant who receives state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3) for rehabilitation of a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site is ineligible to receive a tax credit under s. 199.1055 or s. 220.1845 for costs incurred by the tax credit applicant in conjunction with the rehabilitation of that site during the same time period that state-administered site rehabilitation was underway.
- Section 28. Subsection (13) of section 493.6102, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 493.6102 Inapplicability of this chapter.--This chapter shall not apply to:
- church or ecclesiastical or denominational organization having an established physical place of worship in this state at which nonprofit religious services and activities are regularly conducted or by a church cemetery religious institution as defined in s. 199.183(2)(a) to provide security on the

Page 46 of 52

institution property of the organization or cemetery, and who does not carry a firearm in the course of her or his duties.

Section 29. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 516.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

516.031 Finance charge; maximum rates.--

(3) OTHER CHARGES.--

- (a) In addition to the interest, delinquency, and insurance charges herein provided for, no further or other charges or amount whatsoever for any examination, service, commission, or other thing or otherwise shall be directly or indirectly charged, contracted for, or received as a condition to the grant of a loan, except:
- 1. An amount not to exceed \$10 to reimburse a portion of the costs for investigating the character and credit of the person applying for the loan;
- 2. An annual fee of \$25 on the anniversary date of each line-of-credit account;
- 3. Charges paid for brokerage fee on a loan or line of credit of more than \$10,000, title insurance, and the appraisal of real property offered as security when paid to a third party and supported by an actual expenditure;
- 4. Intangible personal property tax on the loan note or obligation when secured by a lien on real property;
- $\underline{4.5.}$  The documentary excise tax and lawful fees, if any, actually and necessarily paid out by the licensee to any public officer for filing, recording, or releasing in any public office any instrument securing the loan, which fees may be collected when the loan is made or at any time thereafter;

Page 47 of 52

5.6. The premium payable for any insurance in lieu of perfecting any security interest otherwise required by the licensee in connection with the loan, if the premium does not exceed the fees which would otherwise be payable, which premium may be collected when the loan is made or at any time thereafter;

- $\underline{6.7.}$  Actual and reasonable attorney's fees and court costs as determined by the court in which suit is filed;
- 7.8. Actual and commercially reasonable expenses of repossession, storing, repairing and placing in condition for sale, and selling of any property pledged as security; or
- 8.9. A delinquency charge not to exceed \$10 for each payment in default for a period of not less than 10 days, if the charge is agreed upon, in writing, between the parties before imposing the charge.

Any charges, including interest, in excess of the combined total of all charges authorized and permitted by this chapter constitute a violation of chapter 687 governing interest and usury, and the penalties of that chapter apply. In the event of

a bona fide error, the licensee shall refund or credit the

borrower with the amount of the overcharge immediately but

within 20 days from the discovery of such error.

Section 30. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section 627.311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.311 Joint underwriters and joint reinsurers; public records and public meetings exemptions.--

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(m) Each joint underwriting plan or association created under this section is not a state agency, board, or commission. However, for the purposes of s. 199.183(1) only, the joint underwriting plan is a political subdivision of the state and is exempt from the corporate income tax.

Section 31. Paragraph (j) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.--

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- (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION. --
- For the purposes of s. 199.183(1), The corporation shall be considered a political subdivision of the state and shall be exempt from the corporate income tax. The premiums, assessments, investment income, and other revenue of the corporation are funds received for providing property insurance coverage as required by this subsection, paying claims for Florida citizens insured by the corporation, securing and repaying debt obligations issued by the corporation, and conducting all other activities of the corporation, and shall not be considered taxes, fees, licenses, or charges for services imposed by the Legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. Bonds and other debt obligations issued by or on behalf of the corporation are not to be considered "state bonds" within the meaning of s. 215.58(8). The corporation is not subject to the procurement provisions of chapter 287, and policies and decisions of the corporation relating to incurring debt, levying of assessments and the sale, issuance, continuation, terms and claims under corporation policies, and all services relating thereto, are not subject to

the provisions of chapter 120. The corporation is not required to obtain or to hold a certificate of authority issued by the office, nor is it required to participate as a member insurer of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association. However, the corporation is required to pay, in the same manner as an authorized insurer, assessments pledged by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association to secure bonds issued or other indebtedness incurred to pay covered claims arising from insurer insolvencies caused by, or proximately related to, hurricane losses. It is the intent of the Legislature that the tax exemptions provided in this paragraph will augment the financial resources of the corporation to better enable the corporation to fulfill its public purposes. Any bonds issued by the corporation, their transfer, and the income therefrom, including any profit made on the sale thereof, shall at all times be free from taxation of every kind by the state and any political subdivision or local unit or other instrumentality thereof; however, this exemption does not apply to any tax imposed by chapter 220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned by corporations other than the corporation.

Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 650.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

650.05 Plans for coverage of employees of political subdivisions.--

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(b) The grants-in-aid and other revenue referred to in paragraph (a) specifically include, but are not limited to, minimum foundation program grants to public school districts and

Page 50 of 52

community colleges; gasoline, motor fuel, intangible, cigarette, racing, and insurance premium taxes distributed to political subdivisions; and amounts specifically appropriated as grants-in-aid for mental health, mental retardation, and mosquito control programs.

Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 655.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

655.071 International banking facilities; definitions; notice before establishment.--

(1) "International banking facility" means a set of asset and liability accounts segregated on the books and records of a banking organization, as that term is defined in s.  $\underline{201.23}$   $\underline{199.023}$ , that includes only international banking facility deposits, borrowings, and extensions of credit, as those terms shall be defined by the commission pursuant to subsection (2).

Section 34. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 733.702, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

733.702 Limitations on presentation of claims. --

(5) The Department of Revenue may file a claim against the estate of a decedent for taxes due under chapter 199 after the expiration of the time for filing claims provided in subsection (1), if the department files its claim within 30 days after the service of the inventory. Upon filing of the estate tax return with the department as provided in s. 198.13, or to the extent the inventory or estate tax return is amended or supplemented, the department has the right to file a claim or to amend its previously filed claim within 30 days after service of the estate tax return, or an amended or supplemented inventory or

HB 0661 2005

1411	filing of an amended or supplemental estate tax return, as to
1412	the additional information disclosed.
1413	(5) (6) Nothing in this section shall extend the
1414	limitations period set forth in s. 733.710.
1415	Section 35. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
1416	766.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1417	766.105 Florida Patient's Compensation Fund
1418	(1) DEFINITIONSThe following definitions apply in the
1419	interpretation and enforcement of this section:
1420	(a) The term "fund" means the Florida Patient's
1421	Compensation Fund. The fund is not a state agency, board, or
1422	commission. However, for the purposes of s. 199.183(1) only, the
1423	fund shall be considered a political subdivision of this state.
1424	Section 36. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
1425	law.