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By the Committee on Banking and Insurance

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to money services businesses; changing the name of money transmitters to money services businesses; requiring licensure rather than registration; amending s. 560.103, F.S.; revising definitions; defining the terms "adjusted net worth," "affiliated party," "branch office," "cashing," "compliance officer," "electronic instrument," "financial audit report," "foreign affiliate," "licensee," "location," "monetary value," "outstanding money transmission," and "stored value"; amending s. 560.104, F.S.; revising provision providing exemptions from ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.105, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the powers of the Office of Financial Regulation and the Financial Services Commission; amending s. 560.109, F.S.; revising provisions relating to examinations and investigations conducted by the office; requiring that the office periodically examine each licensee; requiring the office to report certain violations to a criminal investigatory agency; requiring that the office annually report to the Legislature information concerning investigations and examinations and the total amount of fines assessed and collected; creating s. 560.1091, F.S.; requiring persons examined to pay the expenses of examination as set by rule of the commission; providing for the deposit of funds collected from licensees; requiring payment for travel expenses and living expenses and compensation for persons making the examinations from such funds or from funds budgeted for such purposes; creating s. 560.110, F.S.; providing for

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record retention by licensees; amending s. 560.111, F.S.; revising the list of prohibited acts by a money services business; amending s. 560.113, F.S.; providing for the establishment of a receivership or the payment of restitution by a person found to have violated ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.114, F.S.; revising grounds for the disciplinary actions; amending s. 560.115, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the voluntary surrender of a license; amending s. 560.116, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the granting of immunity for providing information about alleged violations of ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.118, F.S.; revising provisions relating to required reports; deleting an exemption from the requirement to file an annual financial report; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 560.119, F.S.; revising provisions providing for the deposit of fees and assessments; amending s. 560.121, F.S.; revising restriction on access to records held by a court or the Legislature; amending s. 560.123, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Services Business; creating s. 560.1235, F.S.; requiring a licensee to comply with state and federal money laundering laws and rules; amending s. 560.124, F.S.; revising provisions relating to sharing reported information; amending s. 560.125, F.S.; revising provisions relating to unlicensed activity; amending s. 560.126, F.S.; revising provisions relating to certain notice requirements by a licensee; amending s. 560.127, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the control of a

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money services business; amending s. 560.128, F.S.; revising provisions relating to customer contacts and license display; amending s. 560.129, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the confidentiality of certain records; creating s. 560.140, F.S.; providing licensing standards for a money services business; creating s. 560.141, F.S.; providing for a license application; creating s. 560.142, F.S.; providing for license renewal; creating s. 560.143, F.S.; providing for license fees; amending s. 560.203, F.S.; revising the exemption from licensure for authorized agents of a money services business; amending s. 560.204, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the requirement for licensure of money transmitters or sellers of payment instruments under part II of ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.205, F.S.; providing additional requirements for a license application; amending s. 560.208, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the conduct of a licensee; creating s. 560.2085, F.S.; providing requirements for authorized agents; amending s. 560.209, F.S.; revising provisions relating to a licensee's adjusted net worth and the filing of a corporate surety bond; requiring a financial audit report; increasing the upper limit of the bond; deleting the option of waiving the bond; amending s. 560.210, F.S.; revising provisions relating to permissible investments; amending s. 560.211, F.S.; revising provisions relating to required recordkeeping under part II of ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.212, F.S.; revising provisions relating to licensee liability; amending s. 560.213, F.S.; revising

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provisions relating information that must be printed on a payment instrument; amending s. 560.303, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the licensure of check cashers under part II of ch. 560, F.S.; amending s. 560.304, F.S.; revising provisions relating to exemptions from licensure; limiting the exemption for the payment of instruments below a certain value; amending s. 560.309, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the conduct of check cashers; providing additional requirements; amending s. 560.310, F.S.; revising requirements for licensee records; specifying the maintenance of identification records for certain customers; amending s. 560.402, F.S.; revising definitions relating to deferred presentment providers; amending s. 560.403, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the licensing requirements for deferred presentment providers; amending s. 560.404, F.S.; revising provisions relating to deferred presentment transactions; amending s. 560.405, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the redemption or deposit of a deferred presentment transaction; amending s. 560.406, F.S.; revising provisions relating to worthless checks; amending ss. 499.005, 499.0691, 501.95, 538.03, 896.101, 896.104, and 921.0022, F.S.; conforming cross-references; repealing s. 560.101, F.S., relating to a short title; repealing s. 560.102, F.S., relating to purpose and application; repealing s. 560.106, F.S., relating to chapter constructions; repealing s. 560.1073, F.S., relating to false or misleading statements or documents; repealing s. 560.108, F.S., relating to administrative enforcement

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quidelines; repealing s. 560.112, F.S., relating to disciplinary action procedures; repealing s. 560.117, F.S., relating to administrative fines; repealing s. 560.200, F.S., relating to a short title; repealing s. 560.202, F.S., relating to definitions; repealing s. 560.206, F.S., relating to the investigation of applicants; repealing s. 560.207, F.S., relating to registration; repealing s. 560.301, F.S., relating to a short title; repealing s. 560.302, F.S., relating to definitions; repealing s. 560.305, F.S., relating to application for registration; repealing s. 560.306, F.S., relating to standards; repealing s. 560.307, F.S., relating to fees; repealing s. 560.308, F.S., relating to registration; repealing s. 560.401, F.S., relating to a short title; repealing s. 560.407, F.S., relating to required records; 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. Section 560.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.103 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the term the code, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Adjusted net worth" means assets minus liabilities, determined in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, that have been adjusted to exclude the following assets:
  - (a) Goodwill.

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145 (b) A home, home furnishings, automobiles, and any other personal items.

- (c) Advances or loans to an affiliated party.
- (d) Receivables from officers, directors, shareholders, or affiliated parties other than receivables in the normal course of business.
- (e) Accounts receivables owed by authorized agents which are due more than 90 days after the date of receipt of monetary value from the customer.
- (2) "Affiliated party" means a director, officer, responsible person, employee, or foreign affiliate of a money services business, or a person who has a controlling interest in a money services business as provided in s. 560.127.
- (3)(1) "Appropriate regulator" means <u>a</u> any state, or federal, or foreign agency that, including the commission or office, which has been granted state or federal statutory authority to enforce state, federal, or foreign laws related to a money services business or deferred presentment provider with regard to the money transmission function.
- (4) (2) "Authorized agent vendor" means a person designated by a money services business licensed under part II of this chapter a registrant to act engage in the business of a money transmitter on behalf of the licensee the registrant at locations in this state pursuant to a written contract with the licensee registrant.
- (5) "Branch office" means the physical location, other than the principal place of business, of a money services business operated by a licensee under this chapter.

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- 173 (6) "Cashing" means providing currency for payment 174 instruments except for travelers checks.
  - (7)(3) "Check casher" means a person who, for compensation, sells currency in exchange for payment instruments received, except travelers checks and foreign-drawn payment instruments.
  - (4) "Code" means the "Money Transmitters' Code," consisting of:
  - (a) Part I of this chapter, relating to money transmitters generally.
  - (b) Part II of this chapter, relating to payment instruments and funds transmission.
  - (c) Part III of this chapter, relating to check cashing and foreign currency exchange.
  - (d) Part IV of this chapter, relating to deferred presentments.
    - (8) "Commission" means the Financial Services Commission.
  - (9) "Compliance officer" means the individual in charge of overseeing, managing, and ensuring that a money services business is in compliance with all state and federal laws and rules relating to money services businesses, as applicable, including all money laundering laws and rules.
  - (5) "Consideration" means and includes any premium charged for the sale of goods, or services provided in connection with the sale of the goods, which is in excess of the cash price of such goods.
  - (10) (6) "Currency" means the coin and paper money of the United States or of any other country which is designated as legal tender and which circulates and is customarily used and accepted as a medium of exchange in the country of issuance.

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Currency includes United States silver certificates, United States notes, and Federal Reserve notes. Currency also includes official foreign bank notes that are customarily used and accepted as a medium of exchange in a foreign country.

- (7) "Commission" means the Financial Services Commission.
- (11) "Deferred presentment provider" means a person who is licensed under part II or part III of this chapter and has filed a declaration of intent with the office to engage in deferred presentment transactions as provided under part IV of this chapter.
- or other form of electronic payment for the transmission or payment of money or the exchange of monetary value, including a stored value card or device that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe, or other means for storing information; that is prefunded; and for which the value is decremented upon each use.
- (13) "Financial audit report" means a report prepared in connection with a financial audit that is conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards prescribed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants by a certified public accountant licensed to do business in the United States, and which must include:
- (a) Financial statements, including notes related to the financial statements and required supplementary information, prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The notes must, at a minimum, include detailed disclosures regarding receivables that are greater than 90 days, if the total amount of such receivables represent more than 2 percent of the licensee's total assets.

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(b) An expression of opinion regarding whether the financial statements are presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or an assertion to the effect that such an opinion cannot be expressed and the reasons.

- (14) "Foreign affiliate" means a person located outside this state who has been designated by a licensee to make payments on behalf of the licensee to persons who reside outside this state. The term also includes a person located outside of this state for whom the licensee has been designated to make payments in this state.
- (8) "Office" means the Office of Financial Regulation of the commission.
- $\underline{(15)}$  "Foreign currency exchanger" means a person who exchanges, for compensation, currency of the United States or a foreign government to currency of another government.
- (10) "Funds transmitter" means a person who engages in the receipt of currency or payment instruments for the purpose of transmission by any means, including transmissions within this country or to or from locations outside this country, by wire, facsimile, electronic transfer, courier, or otherwise.
  - (16) "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter.
- (17) "Location" means a branch office, mobile location, or an authorized agent whose business activity is regulated under this chapter.
- (18) "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange, whether or not redeemable in currency.
- (19) (11) "Money services business transmitter" means any person located in or doing business in this state, from this

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state, or into this state from locations outside this state or country who acts as a payment instrument seller, foreign currency exchanger, check casher, or money funds transmitter, or deferred presentment provider.

- (20) "Money transmitter" means a person who receives currency, monetary value, or payment instruments for the purpose of transmitting the same by any means, including transmission by wire, facsimile, electronic transfer, courier, the Internet, or through bill payment services or other businesses that facilitate such transfer within this country, or to or from this country.
- director, officer, responsible person, employee, authorized vendor, independent contractor of a money transmitter, or a person who has filed, is required to file, or is found to control a money transmitter pursuant to s. 560.127, or any person engaged in any jurisdiction, at any time, in the business of money transmission as a controlling shareholder, director, officer, or responsible person who becomes involved in a similar capacity with a money transmitter registered in this state.
- (21) "Office" means the Office of Financial Regulation of the commission.
- <u>director</u> whether or not the individual has an official title or receives a salary or other compensation, who participates <u>in</u>, or has authority to participate, other than in the capacity of a director, in, the major policymaking functions of <u>a</u> the money services transmitter business, regardless of whether the individual has an official title or receives a salary or other compensation.

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(23) "Outstanding money transmission" means a money transmission request to a designated recipient or a refund to a sender that has not been completed.

- (24) (14) "Outstanding payment <u>instrument</u> instruments" means <u>an</u> unpaid payment <u>instrument</u> instruments whose sale has been reported to a licensee registrant.
- (25) (15) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, warrant, money order, travelers check, electronic instrument, or other instrument, or payment of money, or monetary value whether or not negotiable. The term Payment instrument does not include an instrument that is redeemable by the issuer in merchandise or service, a credit card voucher, or a letter of credit.
- $\underline{\text{(26)}}$  "Payment instrument seller" means a person who sells a payment instrument.
- (27) "Person" means <u>an</u> any individual, partnership, association, trust, corporation, <u>limited liability company</u>, or other group, however organized, but does not include <u>a public the governments of the United States or this state or any department</u>, agency, or instrumentality thereof.
- (18) "Registrant" means a person registered by the office pursuant to the code.
- (28) (19) "Responsible person" means an individual a person who is employed by or affiliated with a money services business transmitter and who has principal active management authority over the business decisions, actions, and activities of the money services business transmitter in this state.
- (29) (20) "Sells Sell" means to sell, issue, provide, or deliver.

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represented in digital electronics format, whether or not specially encrypted, and stored or capable of storage on electronic media in such a way as to be retrievable and transferred electronically.

- (21) "Unsafe and unsound practice" means:
- (a) Any practice or conduct found by the office to be contrary to generally accepted standards applicable to the specific money transmitter, or a violation of any prior order of an appropriate regulatory agency, which practice, conduct, or violation creates the likelihood of material loss, insolvency, or dissipation of assets of the money transmitter or otherwise materially prejudices the interests of its customers; or
- (b) Failure to adhere to the provisions of 31 C.F.R. ss. 103.20, 103.22, 103.27, 103.28, 103.29, 103.33, 103.37, 103.41, and 103.125 as they existed on March 31, 2004.

In making a determination under this subsection, the office must consider the size and condition of the money transmitter, the magnitude of the loss, the gravity of the violation, and the prior conduct of the person or business involved.

Section 2. Section 560.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 560.104 Exemptions.--The following entities are exempt from the provisions of this chapter the code:
- (1) Banks, credit card banks, credit unions, trust companies, associations, offices of an international banking corporation, Edge Act or agreement corporations, or other financial depository institutions organized under the laws of any

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state or the United States, provided that they do not sell payment instruments through authorized vendors who are not such entities.

- (2) The United States or any <u>agency or department</u>, instrumentality, or agency thereof.
- (3) This state or any political subdivision of this state. Section 3. Section 560.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 560.105 Supervisory powers; rulemaking.--
- (1) Consistent with the purposes of the code, The office shall have:
- (a) <u>Supervise</u> <del>Supervision over</del> all money <u>services</u> <u>businesses</u> <u>transmitters</u> and their authorized <u>agents</u> <u>vendors</u>.
- (b) <u>Have</u> access to <u>the</u> books and records of persons <del>over</del> whom the office <u>supervises</u> exercises supervision as is necessary to carry out for the performance of the duties and functions of the office <u>under this chapter</u> prescribed by the code.
- (c) Power to Issue orders and declaratory statements, disseminate information, and otherwise administer and enforce this chapter and all related rules in order exercise its discretion to effectuate the purposes, policies, and provisions of this chapter the code.
- (2) Consistent with the purposes of the code, The commission may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this chapter implement the provisions of the code.
- $\underline{\text{(a)}}$  The commission may adopt rules pursuant to ss.  $\underline{120.536}$  (1) and  $\underline{120.54}$  requiring electronic submission of any forms, documents, or fees required by this chapter, which must code if such rules reasonably accommodate technological or

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financial hardship. The commission may prescribe by rule requirements and provide procedures for obtaining an exemption due to a technological or financial hardship.

(b) Rules adopted to regulate money services businesses, including deferred presentment providers, must be responsive to changes in economic conditions, technology, and industry practices.

Section 4. Section 560.109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.109 <u>Examinations and</u> investigations, subpoenas, hearings, and witnesses.--

investigations or examinations as prescribed in s. 560.118, within or outside this state, which it deems necessary in order to determine whether a person has violated any provision of this chapter and related rules the code, the rules adopted by the commission pursuant to the code, or of any practice or conduct that creates the likelihood of material loss, insolvency, or dissipation of the assets of a money services business or otherwise materially prejudices the interests of their customers 31 C.F.R. ss. 103.20, 103.22, 103.27, 103.28, 103.29, 103.33, 103.37, 103.41, and 103.125 as they existed on March 31, 2004.

(1) The office may examine each licensee as often as is warranted for the protection of customers and in the public interest, but at least once every 5 years. The office shall provide at least 15 days' notice to a money services business, its authorized agent, or license applicant before conducting an examination or investigation. However, the office may conduct an examination or investigation of a money services business,

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authorized agent, or affiliated party at any time and without advance notice if the office suspects that the money services business, authorized agent, or affiliated party has violated or is about to violate any provisions of this chapter or any criminal laws of this state or of the United States.

- examination with any state or federal regulatory agency and may furnish a copy of all examinations to an appropriate regulator if the regulator agrees to abide by the confidentiality provisions in chapter 119 and this chapter. The office may also accept an examination from any appropriate regulator or, pursuant to s. 560.1091, from an independent third party that has been approved by the office.
- (3) Persons subject to this chapter who are examined or investigated shall make available to the office, its examiners, or investigators, all books, accounts, documents, files, information, assets, and matters that are in their immediate possession or control and that relate to the subject of the examination or investigation.
- (a) Records not in their immediate possession must be made available to the office, or the office's examiners or investigators, within 3 days after actual notice is served.
- (b) Upon notice, the office may require that records written in a language other than English be accompanied by a certified translation at the expense of the licensee.
- $\underline{(4)}$  (2) (a) In the course of or in connection with  $\underline{any}$  examination or  $\underline{an}$  investigation conducted by the office:
- (a) An employee of the office holding the title and position of a pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) or an

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investigation or examination in connection with any application to the office for the organization or establishment of a money transmitter business, or in connection with an examination or investigation of a money transmitter or its authorized vendor, the office, or any of its officers holding no lesser title and position than financial examiner or analyst, financial investigator, or attorney at law, or higher may:

- 1. Administer oaths and affirmations.
- 2. Take or cause to be taken testimony and depositions.
- (b) The office, or any of its <a href="employees">employees</a> officers</a> holding <a href="employees">a title of no lesser title than</a> attorney, or area financial manager, or higher may issue, revoke, quash, or modify subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum under the seal of the office or cause any such subpoena or subpoena duces tecum to be issued by any county court judge or clerk of the circuit court or county court to require persons to appear before the office at a reasonable time and place to be therein named and to bring such books, records, and documents for inspection as may be therein designated. Such subpoenas may be served by a representative of the office or <a href="may be served">may be served</a> as otherwise provided <a href="form:">for by law for the service of subpoenas</a>.
- (c) In connection with any such investigation or examination, The office may allow permit a person to file a statement in writing, under oath, or otherwise as the office determines, as to facts and circumstances specified by the office.
- (5) (3) (a) If a person does not comply In the event of noncompliance with a subpoena issued or caused to be issued by the office pursuant to this section, the office may petition  $\underline{a}$

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court of competent jurisdiction the circuit court of the county in which the person subpoenaed resides or has its principal place of business for an order requiring the subpoenaed person to appear and testify and to produce such books, records, and documents as are specified in the such subpoena duces tecum. The office is entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011, and the court shall advance the cause on its calendar.

- (a) (b) A copy of the petition shall be served upon the person subpoenaed by any person authorized by this section to serve subpoenas, who shall make and file with the court an affidavit showing the time, place, and date of service.
- (b) (c) At a any hearing on the any such petition, the person subpoenaed, or any person whose interests are will be substantially affected by the investigation, examination, or subpoena, may appear and object to the subpoena and to the granting of the petition. The court may make any order that justice requires in order to protect a party or other person and her or his personal and property rights, including, but not limited to, protection from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden, or expense.
- (c) (d) Failure to comply with an order granting, in whole or in part, a petition for enforcement of a subpoena is a contempt of the court.
- (6) (4) Witnesses are entitled to the same fees and mileage to which they would be entitled by law for attending as witnesses in the circuit court, except that no fees or mileage is not allowed for the testimony of a person taken at the person's principal office or residence.

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(7) (5) Reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the office and payable to third parties in connection persons involved with examinations or investigations may be assessed against any person on the basis of actual costs incurred.

Assessable expenses include, but are not limited to, expenses for: interpreters; certified translations of documents into the English language required by this chapter or related rules; expenses for communications; expenses for legal representation; expenses for economic, legal, or other research, analyses, and testimony; and fees and expenses for witnesses. The failure to reimburse the office is a ground for denial of the registration application or for revocation of any approval thereof. No such Costs may not shall be assessed against a person unless the office has determined that the person has operated or is operating in violation of this chapter the code.

- (8) The office shall report any violation of law that may be a felony to the appropriate criminal investigatory agency having jurisdiction with respect to such violation.
- (9) The office shall prepare and submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each year which includes:
- (a) The total number of examinations and investigations
  that resulted in a referral to a state or federal agency and the
  disposition of each of those referrals by agency.
- (b) The total number of initial referrals received from another state or federal agency, the total number of examinations and investigations opened as a result of referrals, and the disposition of each of those cases.
  - (c) The number of examinations or investigations undertaken

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by the office which were not the result of a referral from another state agency or a federal agency.

- (d) The total amount of fines assessed and collected by the office as a result of an examination or investigation of activities regulated under parts II and III of this chapter.
- Section 5. Section 560.1091, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- <u>560.1091</u> Contracted examinations.—The office may contract with third parties to conduct examinations under this chapter.
- (1) The person or firm selected by the office must not have a conflict of interest that might affect its ability to independently perform its responsibilities with respect to an examination.
- (2) The examiner must be an independent certified public accountant or information technologist meeting criteria specified in rule.
- (3) The licensee subject to the examination must pay to the office the expenses of the examination at rates adopted by commission rule.
- (a) The rates charged must be consistent with rates charged by other persons in a similar profession and comparable with the rates charged for comparable examinations.
- (b) Allowable expenses include actual travel expenses, an allowance for reasonable living expenses, compensation of the examiner or other person making the examination, and necessary administrative costs directly related to the examination.

  Allowances for travel and living expenses are limited to those expenses incurred to conduct the examination.

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(c) A detailed statement of allowable expenses shall be submitted to the office by the examiner and must be approved by the office prior to being submitted by the office to the licensee for payment.

- (d) Notwithstanding s. 112.061, an examiner conducting an examination of a licensee may be paid for his or her actual travel expenses, reasonable allowance for living expenses, and compensation in accordance with the statement filed with the office by the contractor under paragraph (c). When not examining a licensee, the travel expenses, per diem, and compensation for examiners shall be paid out of moneys budgeted for such purpose and in accordance with s. 112.061.
- (4) All moneys collected from a licensee for the expenses of an examination shall be deposited into the Regulatory Trust Fund and used by the office to pay the examiner.
- (5) The commission shall adopt rules to administer this section.
- Section 6. Section 560.110, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 560.110 Records retention.--Each licensee and its authorized agents must maintain all books, accounts, documents, files, and information necessary for determining compliance with this chapter and related rules for 5 years unless a longer period is required by other state or federal law.
- (1) The records required under this chapter may be maintained by the licensee at any location identified in its license application or by amendment to the application. The licensee must make such records available to the office for

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examination and investigation in this state within 3 business days after receipt of a written request.

- agent includes a record stored or transmitted by electronic, computerized, mechanized, or other information storage or retrieval or transmission system or device that can generate, regenerate, or transmit the precise data or other information comprising the record. An original also includes the visible data or other information so generated, regenerated, or transmitted if it is legible or can be made legible by enlargement or other process.
- (3) The commission may adopt rules to administer this section and ss. 560.211 and 560.310. In adopting rules, the commission shall take into consideration the federal regulations that affect the money services business industry or a deferred payment provider, including any guidance issued by a federal regulatory agency.
- (4) Any person who willfully fails to comply with this section or ss. 560.211 and 560.310 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- Section 7. Section 560.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 560.111 Prohibited acts and practices.--
- (1) A money services business, authorized agent, or affiliated party may not It is unlawful for any money transmitter or money transmitter-affiliated party to:
- (a) Receive or possess itself of any property except otherwise than in payment of a just demand, and, with intent to

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deceive or defraud, to omit to make or  $\underline{to}$  cause to be made a full and true entry thereof in its books and accounts, or to concur in omitting to make any material entry thereof.

- (b) Embezzle, abstract, or misapply any money, property, or thing of value belonging to the money services business, its authorized agent, or customer of the money transmitter or authorized vendor with intent to deceive or defraud. such money transmitter or authorized vendor;
- (c) Make any false entry in its books, accounts, reports, files, or documents any book, report, or statement of such money transmitter or authorized vendor with intent to deceive or defraud such money transmitter, authorized vendor, or another person, or with intent to deceive the office, any appropriate regulator other state or federal regulatory agency, or any authorized third party representative appointed by the office to examine or investigate the affairs of the money services business or its authorized agent. such money transmitter or authorized vendor;
- (d) Engage in an act that violates 18 U.S.C. s. 1956, 18

  U.S.C. s. 1957, 31 U.S.C. s. 5324, or any other law, rule, or regulation of another state, or of the United States, or any foreign jurisdiction relating to a money services business, deferred presentment provider, the business of money transmission or usury which may cause the denial or revocation of a money services business or deferred presentment provider transmitter license or the equivalent registration in that such jurisdiction.;
- (e) <u>File with the office, sign as a duly authorized</u> <u>representative, or deliver or disclose, by any means,</u> to the

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office or any of its employees any examination report, report of condition, report of income and dividends, audit, account, statement, <u>file</u>, or document known by it to be fraudulent or false as to any material matter.

- its authorized agent such money transmitter or authorized vendor any note, obligation, or security that the money services business or its authorized agent transmitter or authorized vendor does not own or is known to be that to the person's knowledge is fraudulent or otherwise worthless, or for any such person to represent to the office that any note, obligation, or security carried as an asset of such money transmitter or authorized vendor is the property of the money services business or its authorized agent transmitter or authorized vendor and is genuine if it is known to be such person that such representation is false or that such note, obligation, or security is fraudulent or otherwise worthless.
- (2) A It is unlawful for any person may not to knowingly execute, or attempt to execute, a scheme or artifice to defraud a money services business or its authorized agent transmitter or authorized vendor, or to obtain any of the moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities, or other property owned by, or under the custody or control of, a money services business or its authorized agent transmitter or authorized vendor, by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.
- (3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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(4) Any person who willfully violates any provision of s. 560.403, s. 560.404, s. 560.405, or s. 560.407 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 8. Section 560.113, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 560.113 Injunctions; receiverships; restitution.--Whenever a violation of the code is threatened or impending and such violation will cause substantial injury to any person, the circuit court has jurisdiction to hear any complaint filed by the office and, upon proper showing, to issue an injunction restraining such violation or granting other such appropriate relief.
- (1) If the office determines that any person has engaged in or is about to engage in any action that is a violation of this chapter or related rules, the office may, in addition to or in lieu of other remedies, bring an action on behalf of the state in the circuit court against the person and any other person acting in concert with such person to enjoin such person from engaging in such act. The office may apply for, and on due showing be entitled to have issued, the court's subpoena requiring the appearance of the person and her or his employees, associated persons, or agents and the production of any documents, books, or records that may appear necessary for the hearing of the petition, and to testify or give evidence concerning the acts complained of.
- (2) In addition to, or in lieu of, the enforcement of a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, or permanent injunction against the person, the court may, upon application of

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the office, impound and appoint a receiver or administrator for the property, assets, and business of the defendant, including, but not limited to, any related books, records, documents, or papers. The receiver or administrator shall have all powers and duties conferred by the court as to the custody, collection, administration, winding up, and liquidation of the property and business. The court may issue orders and decrees staying all pending suits and enjoining any further suits affecting the receiver's or administrator's custody or possession of the property, assets, and business or may, with the consent of the presiding judge of the circuit, require that all such suits be assigned to the judge appointing the receiver or administrator.

- (3) In addition to, or in lieu of, any other remedies provided under this chapter, the office may apply to the court hearing the matter for an order directing the defendant to make restitution of those sums shown by the office to have been obtained in violation of this chapter. Such restitution shall, at the option of the court, be payable to the administrator or receiver appointed under this section or directly to the persons whose assets were obtained in violation of this chapter.
- Section 9. Section 560.114, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 560.114 Disciplinary actions; penalties.--
- (1) The following actions by a money <u>services business</u>, <u>authorized agent</u>, or affiliated party transmitter or money transmitter-affiliated party are violations of the code and constitute grounds for the issuance of a cease and desist order, the issuance of a removal order, the denial, of a registration application or the suspension, or revocation of a license any

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registration previously issued pursuant to the code, or the taking of any other action within the authority of the office pursuant to this chapter the code:

- (a) Failure to comply with any provision of this chapter or related the code, any rule or order adopted pursuant thereto, or any written agreement entered into with the office.
- (b) Fraud, misrepresentation, deceit, or gross negligence in any transaction by a involving money services business transmission, regardless of reliance thereon by, or damage to, a money transmitter customer.
- (c) Fraudulent misrepresentation, circumvention, or concealment of any matter that must required to be stated or furnished to a money transmitter customer pursuant to this chapter the code, regardless of reliance thereon by, or damage to, such customer.
  - (d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising.
- (e) Failure to maintain, preserve, and keep available for examination, and produce all books, accounts, files, or other documents required by this chapter or related rules or orders the code, by any rule or order adopted pursuant to the code, by 31 C.F.R. ss. 103.20, 103.22, 103.23, 103.27, 103.28, 103.29, 103.33, 103.37, 103.41, and 103.125 as they existed on March 31, 2004, or by any agreement entered into with the office.
- (f) Refusing to allow Refusal to permit the examination or inspection of books, accounts, files, or other documents and records in an investigation or examination by the office, pursuant to this chapter the provisions of the code, or to comply with a subpoena issued by the office.

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(g) Failure to pay a judgment recovered in any court in this state by a claimant in an action arising out of a money transmission transaction within 30 days after the judgment becomes final.

- (h) Engaging in an act <u>prohibited under or practice</u> proscribed by s. 560.111.
- (i) Insolvency or operating in an unsafe and unsound manner.
- (j) Failure by a money <u>services business</u> transmitter to remove <u>an affiliated</u> a money transmitter-affiliated party after the office has issued and served upon the money <u>services business</u> transmitter a final order setting forth a finding that the <u>affiliated money transmitter-affiliated</u> party has violated <u>a any</u> provision of <u>this chapter</u> the code.
- (k) Making <u>a</u> any material misstatement, or misrepresentation, or ommission or committing any fraud in an initial or renewal application for <u>licensure</u>, any amendment to such application, or application for the appointment of an authorized agent registration.
- (1) Committing any act that results resulting in a license an application for registration, or a registration or its equivalent, to practice any profession or occupation being denied, suspended, revoked, or otherwise acted against by a licensing registering authority in any jurisdiction or a finding by an appropriate regulatory body of engaging in unlicensed activity as a money transmitter within any jurisdiction.
- (m) Being the subject of final agency action or its equivalent, issued by an appropriate regulator, for engaging in

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unlicensed activity as a money services business or deferred presentment provider in any jurisdiction.

(n) (m) Committing any act resulting in a <u>license</u>

registration or its equivalent, or an application for

registration, to practice any profession or occupation being denied, suspended, revoked, or otherwise acted against by a <u>licensing registering</u> authority in any jurisdiction for a violation of 18 U.S.C. s. 1956, 18 U.S.C. s. 1957, 18 U.S.C. s. 1960, 31 U.S.C. s. 5324, or any other law or, rule, or regulation of another state or of the United States relating to a money services business, deferred presentment provider, the business of money transmission or usury that which may cause the denial, suspension, or revocation of a money services business or deferred presentment provider transmitter license or its equivalent or registration in such jurisdiction.

(o) (n) Having been convicted of or found guilty of, or entered a plea of having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, any felony or crime punishable by imprisonment of 1 year or more under the law of any state or of the United States which involves fraud, moral turpitude, or dishonest dealing, regardless of adjudication without regard to whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court.

(p) (e) Having been convicted of or found guilty of, or entered a plea of having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime under 18 U.S.C. s. 1956 or 31 U.S.C. s. 5324, regardless of adjudication without regard to whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court.

(q) (p) Having been convicted of or found guilty of, or entered a plea of having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to,

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misappropriation, conversion, or unlawful withholding of moneys belonging that belong to others, regardless of adjudication and were received in the conduct of the business of the money transmitter.

- $\underline{\text{(r)}}$  Failure to inform the office in writing within  $\underline{\text{30}}$   $\underline{\text{15}}$  days after <u>having pled</u> <u>pleading</u> guilty or nolo contendere to, or being convicted or <u>found guilty</u> of, any felony or crime punishable by imprisonment of 1 year or more under the law of any state or of the United States, or of any crime involving fraud, moral turpitude, or dishonest dealing, without regard to whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court.
- $\underline{\text{(s)}}$  (r) Aiding, assisting, procuring, advising, or abetting any person in violating a provision of this <u>chapter</u> code or any order or rule of the office or commission.
- <u>(t) (s)</u> Failure to timely pay any fee, charge, or cost imposed or assessed fine under this chapter the code.
- (u) Failing to pay a fine assessed by the office within 30 days after the due date as stated in a final order.
- $\underline{\text{(v)}}$  (t) Failure to pay any judgment entered by any court within 30 days after the judgment becomes final.
- (u) Engaging or holding oneself out to be engaged in the business of a money transmitter without the proper registration.
- (v) Any action that would be grounds for denial of a registration or for revocation, suspension, or restriction of a registration previously granted under part III of this chapter.
  - (w) Failure to pay any fee, charge, or fine under the code.
- $\underline{\text{(w)}}$  Engaging or advertising engagement in the business of a money services business or deferred presentment provider transmitter without a license registration, unless the person is

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exempted from <u>licensure</u> the registration requirements of the code.

- (x) (y) Payment to the office for a license or other fee, charge, cost, or fine permit with a check or electronic transmission of funds that is dishonored by the applicant's or licensee's financial institution.
- (y) Failure by a money services business licensed under part II of this chapter to supervise its authorized agents pursuant to s. 560.208 or s. 560.2085.
- (z) Violations of 31 C.F.R. ss. 103.20, 103.22, 103.23, 103.27, 103.28, 103.29, 103.33, 103.37, 103.41, and 103.125.
- (aa) Any practice or conduct that creates the likelihood of a material loss, insolvency, or dissipation of assets of a money services business or otherwise materially prejudices the interests of its customers.
- (2) The office may deny licensure if the applicant or an affiliated party is the subject of a pending criminal prosecution or governmental enforcement action in any jurisdiction until the conclusion of the prosecution or action.
- (3)(2) The office may issue a cease and desist order or removal order, suspend or revoke a license any previously issued registration, or take any other action within the authority of the office against a licensee money transmitter based on any fact or condition that exists and that, if it had existed or been known to exist at the time of license application the money transmitter applied for registration, would have been grounds for license denial of registration.
- (4) (3) A Each money services business licensed under part

  II of this chapter transmitter is responsible for any act of its

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authorized <u>agents</u> <u>vendors</u> if the money <u>services business</u> transmitter should have known of the act or <u>had</u> if the money transmitter has actual knowledge that such act is a violation of this chapter, the code and the money <u>services business</u> transmitter willfully allowed <u>the such</u> act to continue. Such responsibility is limited to conduct engaged in by the authorized <u>agent vendor</u> pursuant to the authority granted to it by the money services business transmitter.

- (5)(4) If a <u>license</u> registration granted under this chapter code expires or is surrendered by the <u>licensee</u> registrant during the pendency of an administrative action under this code, the proceeding may continue as if the <u>license is</u> registration were still in effect.
- (6) The office may, in addition to or in lieu of the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, impose a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation of this chapter.
- (7) In addition to any other provision of this chapter, the office may impose a fine of up to \$1,000 per day for each day that a person engages in the business of a money services business or deferred presentment provider without being licensed.
- (8) In imposing any administrative remedy or penalty under this chapter, the office shall take into account the appropriateness of the penalty with respect to the gravity of the violation, the history of previous violations, and other matters as justice may require.
- Section 10. Section 560.115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 560.115 Surrender of <u>license</u> registration.--<u>A licensee</u> Any money transmitter registered pursuant to the code may voluntarily

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surrender its <u>license</u> registration at any time by giving written notice to the office.

Section 11. Section 560.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.116 Civil immunity.--Any person having reason to believe that a provision of this chapter the code is being violated, or has been violated, or is about to be violated, may file a complaint with the office setting forth the details of the alleged violation. Such person is immune An Immunity from civil liability is hereby granted to any person who furnishes such information, unless the information provided is false and has been provided the person providing the information does so with reckless disregard for the truth.

Section 12. Section 560.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.118 Examinations, Reports, and internal audits; penalty.--

(1) (a) The office may conduct an examination of a money transmitter or authorized vendor by providing not less than 15 days' advance notice to the money transmitter or authorized vendor. However, if the office suspects that the money transmitter or authorized vendor has violated any provisions of this code or any criminal laws of this state or of the United States or is engaging in an unsafe and unsound practice, the office may, at any time without advance notice, conduct an examination of all affairs, activities, transactions, accounts, business records, and assets of any money transmitter or any money transmitter—affiliated party for the protection of the public. For the purpose of examinations, the office may

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administer oaths and examine a money transmitter or any of its affiliated parties concerning their operations and business activities and affairs. The office may accept an audit or examination from any appropriate regulatory agency or from an independent third party with respect to the operations of a money transmitter or an authorized vendor. The office may also make a joint or concurrent examination with any state or federal regulatory agency. The office may furnish a copy of all examinations made of such money transmitter or authorized vendor to the money transmitter and any appropriate regulatory agency provided that such agency agrees to abide by the confidentiality provisions as set forth in chapter 119.

- (b) Persons subject to this chapter who are examined shall make available to the office or its examiners the accounts, records, documents, files, information, assets, and matters which are in their immediate possession or control and which relate to the subject of the examination. Those accounts, records, documents, files, information, assets, and matters not in their immediate possession shall be made available to the office or the office's examiners within 10 days after actual notice is served on such persons.
- (c) The audit of a money transmitter required under this section may be performed by an independent third party that has been approved by the office or by a certified public accountant authorized to do business in the United States. The examination of a money transmitter or authorized vendor required under this section may be performed by an independent third party that has been approved by the office or by a certified public accountant authorized to do business in the United States. The cost of such

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an independent examination or audit shall be directly borne by the money transmitter or authorized vendor.

required to be filed with the office pursuant to this chapter or related rules under the code or any rules adopted thereunder must be audited by an independent third party that has been approved by the office or by a certified public accountant authorized to do business in the United States. The licensee money transmitter or authorized vendor shall directly bear the cost of the audit. This paragraph does not apply to any seller of payment instruments who can prove to the satisfaction of the office that it has a combined total of fewer than 50 employees and authorized vendors or that its annual payment instruments issued from its activities as a payment instrument seller are less than \$200,000.

(2) (b) Each licensee must submit The commission may, by rule, require each money transmitter or authorized vendor to submit quarterly reports to the office in a format and include information as specified by rule. The rule commission may require the that each report to contain a declaration by an officer, or any other responsible person authorized to make such declaration, that the report is true and correct to the best of her or his knowledge and belief. Such report must include such information as the commission by rule requires for that type of money transmitter.

(c) The office may levy an administrative fine of up to \$100 per day for each day the report is past due, unless it is excused for good cause. In excusing any such administrative fine, the office may consider the prior payment history of the money transmitter or authorized vendor.

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(3) Any person who willfully violates this section or fails to comply with any lawful written demand or order of the office made under this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 13. Section 560.119, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 560.144, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

The application fees, <u>license</u> registration renewal fees, late payment penalties, civil penalties, administrative fines, and other fees, costs, or penalties provided for in this chapter the code shall, in all cases, be paid directly to the office, which shall deposit such proceeds into the Regulatory Trust Fund, and use the proceeds to pay the costs of the office as necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter. Each year, the Legislature shall appropriate from the trust fund to the office sufficient moneys to pay the office's costs for administration of the code. The Regulatory Trust Fund is subject to the service charge imposed pursuant to chapter 215.

Section 14. Section 560.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.121 Access to records; record retention; penalties limited restrictions upon public access.--

(1) (a) Orders of courts or of administrative law judges for the production of confidential records or information <u>must shall</u> provide for inspection in camera by the court or the administrative law judge; and, <u>if after</u> the court or administrative law judge <u>determines</u> has made a determination that the documents requested are relevant or would likely lead to the

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discovery of admissible evidence, said documents shall be subject to further orders by the court or the administrative law judge must issue further orders to protect the confidentiality of the documents thereof. Any order directing the release of information is shall be immediately reviewable, and a petition by the office for review of the such order shall automatically stay further proceedings in the trial court or the administrative hearing until the disposition of the such petition by the reviewing court. If any other party files such A petition for review of the order filed by any other party shall, it will operate as a stay of the such proceedings only upon order of the reviewing court.

(2) (b) Confidential records and information furnished pursuant to a legislative subpoena <u>must shall</u> be kept confidential by the legislative body or committee which receives the records or information, except in <u>cases</u> a case involving the investigation of charges against a public official subject to impeachment or removal, and then disclosure of such information shall be only to the extent determined to be necessary by the legislative body or committee to be necessary.

(3) (2) The commission may prescribe by rule the minimum information that must be shown in the books, accounts, records, and documents of licensees for purposes of enabling the office to determine the licensee's compliance with this chapter. In addition, the commission may prescribe by rule requirements for the destruction of books, accounts, records, and documents retained by the licensee after completion of the time period specified in this subsection. Examination reports, investigatory records, applications, and related information compiled by the office, or photographic copies thereof, <u>must shall</u> be retained by

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the office for a period of at least  $\underline{5}$  3 years after following the date that the examination or investigation ceases to be active. Application records, and related information compiled by the office, or photographic copies thereof,  $\underline{\text{must}}$   $\underline{\text{shall}}$  be retained by the office for a period of at least  $\underline{5}$  2 years after following the date that the license registration ceases to be active.

- (3) A copy of any document on file with the office which is certified by the office as being a true copy may be introduced in evidence as if it were the original. The commission shall establish a schedule of fees for preparing true copies of documents.
- (4) Any person who willfully discloses information made confidential by this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 15. Section 560.123, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 560.123 Florida Control of Money Laundering in the Money

  Services Business Act Transmitters' Code; reports of transactions

  involving currency or monetary instruments; when required;

  purpose; definitions; penalties; corpus delicti.--
- (1) This section may be cited as the "Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Services Business Transmitters Act."
- (2) It is The purpose of this section is to require the submission to the office of reports and the maintenance of certain records of transactions involving currency or payment monetary instruments in order to which reports and records deter the use of a money services business money transmitters to conceal proceeds from criminal activity and to ensure the

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<u>availability of such records for</u> are useful in criminal, tax, or regulatory investigations or proceedings.

- (3) (a) A Every money services business must transmitter shall keep a record of every each financial transaction occurring in this state known to it that occurs in this state; involves to involve currency or other payment monetary instrument, as prescribed the commission prescribes by rule, having of a value greater than in excess of \$10,000; and involves, to involve the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, or is to be designed to evade the reporting requirements of this section or chapter 896. The money services business must and shall maintain appropriate procedures to ensure compliance with this section and chapter 896.
- (a) (b) Multiple financial transactions shall be treated as a single transaction if the money <u>services business</u> transmitter has knowledge that they are made by or on behalf of any <u>one</u> person and result in <u>either</u> cash in or cash out totaling more than \$10,000 during any day.
- (b) (c) A Any money services business transmitter may keep a record of any financial transaction occurring in this state, regardless of the value, if it suspects that the transaction involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity.
- (c) The money services business must file a report with the office of any records required by this subsection, at such time and containing such information as required by rule. The timely filing of the report required by 31 U.S.C. s. 5313 with the appropriate federal agency shall be deemed compliance with the reporting requirements of this subsection unless the reports are

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not regularly and comprehensively transmitted by the federal agency to the office.

- (d) A money <u>services business</u> transmitter, or officer, employee, or agent thereof, that files a report in good faith pursuant to this section is not liable to any person for loss or damage caused in whole or in part by the making, filing, or governmental use of the report, or any information contained therein.
- $\underline{(4)}$   $\underline{(3)}$   $\underline{A}$  money services business transmitters must comply with adhere to the money laundering, enforcement, and reporting provisions of s. 655.50 $_{7}$  relating to reports of transactions involving currency transactions and payment monetary instruments, and of chapter 896 $_{7}$  concerning offenses relating to financial transactions.
- (5)(4) In enforcing this section, the commission and office shall acknowledge and take into consideration the requirements of Title 31, United States Code, in order both to reduce the burden of fulfilling duplicate requirements and to acknowledge the economic advantage of having similar reporting and recordkeeping requirements between state and federal regulatory authorities.
- (5) (a) Each money transmitter must file a report with the office of the record required by this section. Each record filed pursuant to this section must be filed at such time and contain such information as the commission requires by rule.
- (b) The timely filing of the report required by 31 U.S.C. s. 5313, with the appropriate federal agency is deemed compliance with the reporting requirements of this subsection unless the reports are not regularly and comprehensively transmitted by the federal agency to the office.

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(6) The office must retain a copy of all reports received under subsection (3) (5) for a minimum of 5 3 calendar years after receipt of the report. However, if a report or information contained in a report is known by the office to be the subject of an existing criminal proceeding, the report must be retained for a minimum of 10 calendar years after from the date of receipt.

- (7) In addition to any other powers conferred upon the office to enforce and administer this chapter the code, the office may:
- (a) Bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce or administer this section. In such action, the office may seek award of any civil penalty authorized by law and any other appropriate relief at law or equity.
- (b) Issue and serve upon a person an order requiring the such person to cease and desist and take corrective action if whenever the office finds that the such person is violating, has violated, or is about to violate any provision of this section or chapter 896; any rule or order adopted under this section or chapter 896; or any written agreement related to this section or chapter 896 which is entered into with the office.
- (c) Issue and serve upon a person an order suspending or revoking the such person's money services business license if transmitter registration whenever the office finds that the such person is violating, has violated, or is about to violate any provision of this section or chapter 896; any rule or order adopted under this section or chapter 896; or any written agreement related to this section or chapter 896 which is entered into with the office.

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(d) Issue and serve upon any person an order of removal whenever the office finds that the such person is violating, has violated, or is about to violate any provision of this section or chapter 896; any rule or order adopted under this section or chapter 896; or any written agreement related to this section or chapter 896 which is entered into with the office.

- (e) Impose and collect an administrative fine against any person found to have violated any provision of this section or chapter 896; any rule or order adopted under this section or chapter 896; or any written agreement related to this section or chapter 896 which is entered into with the office, of up to in an amount not exceeding \$10,000 per a day for each willful violation or \$500 per a day for each negligent violation.
- (8)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who willfully violates any provision of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) A person who willfully violates any provision of this section, if the violation involves:
- 1. Currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 2. Currency or payment instruments totaling or exceeding \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 3. Currency or payment instruments totaling or exceeding \$100,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the first

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1179 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 1180 775.084.

- (c) In addition to the penalties otherwise authorized by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, a person who has been convicted of, or entered a plea of who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, to having violated paragraph (b) may be sentenced to pay a fine of up to not exceeding \$250,000 or twice the value of the currency or payment instruments, whichever is greater, except that on a second or subsequent conviction for or plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, to a violation of paragraph (b), the fine may be up to \$500,000 or quintuple the value of the currency or payment instruments, whichever is greater.
- (d) A person who violates this section is also liable for a civil penalty of not more than the greater of the value of the currency or payment instruments involved or \$25,000.
- (9) In any prosecution brought pursuant to this section, the common law corpus delicti rule does not apply. The defendant's confession or admission is admissible during trial without the state having to prove the corpus delicti if the court finds in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury that the defendant's confession or admission is trustworthy. Before the court admits the defendant's confession or admission, the state must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that there is sufficient corroborating evidence that tends to establish the trustworthiness of the statement by the defendant. Hearsay evidence is admissible during the presentation of evidence at the hearing. In making its determination, the court

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may consider all relevant corroborating evidence, including the defendant's statements.

Section 16. Section 560.1235, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

560.1235 Money laundering requirements.--

- (1) A licensee must comply with all state and federal laws and rules relating to the detection and prevention of money laundering, including, as applicable, s. 560.123, and 31 C.F.R. ss. 103.20, 103.22, 103.23, 103.27. 103.28, 103.29, 103.33, 103.37, and 103.41.
- (2) A licensee must maintain an anti-money laundering program in accordance with 31 C.F.R. s. 103.25. The program must be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure that the program continues to be effective in detecting and deterring money laundering activities.

Section 17. Section 560.124, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.124 Sharing of information.--

(1) It is not unlawful for Any person may to provide information to a money services business, its transmitter, authorized agent, law enforcement agency, prosecutorial agency vendor, or appropriate regulator, or for any money services business, its transmitter, authorized agent, law enforcement agency, prosecutorial agency vendor, or appropriate regulator may to provide information to any person, information about any other person's known or suspected involvement in a violation of any state, federal, or foreign law, rule, or regulation relating to the business of a money services business or deferred present

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provider transmitter which has been reported to state, federal, or foreign authorities, and is not.

- (2) No person shall be liable in any civil action for providing such information.
- Section 18. Section 560.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 560.125 <u>Unlicensed activity</u> Money transmitter business by unauthorized persons; penalties.--
- (1) A person other than a registered money transmitter or authorized vendor may not engage in the business of a money services business or deferred presentment provider transmitter in this state unless the person is <u>licensed or exempted from licensure under this chapter</u> from the registration requirements of the code.
- of this chapter may appoint an authorized agent. No person shall act as a vendor of a money transmitter when such money transmitter is subject to registration under the code but has not registered. Any such person acting as the agent of an unlicensed money transmitter or payment instrument issuer becomes the principal thereof, and no longer merely acts as an agent a vendor, and such person is liable to the holder or remitter as a principal money transmitter or payment instrument seller.
- (3) Any person whose substantial interests are affected by a proceeding brought by the office pursuant to this chapter the code may, pursuant to s. 560.113, petition any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the person or activity that is the subject of the proceeding from violating any of the provisions of this section. For the purpose of this subsection, any money services

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business licensed under this chapter transmitter registered pursuant to the code, any person residing in this state, and any person whose principal place of business is in this state are presumed to be substantially affected. In addition, the interests of a trade organization or association are deemed substantially affected if the interests of any of its members are so affected.

- (4) The office may issue and serve upon any person who violates any of the provisions of this section a complaint seeking a cease and desist order or impose an administrative fine as provided in s. 560.114 in accordance with the procedures and in the manner prescribed by s. 560.112. The office may also impose an administrative fine pursuant to s. 560.117(3) against any person who violates any of the provisions of this section.
- (5) A person who violates this section, if the violation involves:
- (a) Currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (b) Currency or payment instruments totaling or exceeding \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (c) Currency or payment instruments totaling or exceeding \$100,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (6) In addition to the penalties authorized by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, a person who has been convicted of, or

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entered a plea of found guilty of or who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, to having violated this section may be sentenced to pay a fine of up to not exceeding \$250,000 or twice the value of the currency or payment instruments, whichever is greater, except that on a second or subsequent violation of this section, the fine may be up to \$500,000 or quintuple the value of the currency or payment instruments, whichever is greater.

- (7) A person who violates this section is also liable for a civil penalty of not more than the value of the currency or payment instruments involved or \$25,000, whichever is greater.
- (8) In any prosecution brought pursuant to this section, the common law corpus delicti rule does not apply. The defendant's confession or admission is admissible during trial without the state having to prove the corpus delicti if the court finds in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury that the defendant's confession or admission is trustworthy. Before the court admits the defendant's confession or admission, the state must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that there is sufficient corroborating evidence that tends to establish the trustworthiness of the statement by the defendant. Hearsay evidence is admissible during the presentation of evidence at the hearing. In making its determination, the court may consider all relevant corroborating evidence, including the defendant's statements.

Section 19. Section 560.126, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1319 560.126 Significant events; notice Required notice by 1320 licensee.--

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(1) A licensee Unless exempted by the office, every money transmitter must provide the office with a written notice sent by registered mail within 30 days after the occurrence or knowledge of, whichever period of time is greater, any of the following events:

- (a) The filing of a petition under the United States

  Bankruptcy Code for bankruptcy or reorganization by the <u>licensee</u>

  money transmitter.
- (b) The commencement of <u>an administrative or judicial</u>

  <u>license</u> <u>any registration</u> suspension or revocation proceeding,

  <u>either administrative or judicial</u>, or the denial of <u>a license</u> <u>any</u>

  <u>original registration</u> request or <u>a registration</u> renewal, by any

  state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory, or

  any foreign country, in which the <u>licensee</u> <u>money transmitter</u>

  operates, <u>or</u> plans to operate, or is licensed or has registered

  to operate.
- (c) A felony indictment relating to <u>a</u> the money <u>services</u> transmission business <u>or deferred presentment provider</u> involving the <u>licensee</u>, its authorized agent, or an affiliated <u>money</u> transmitter or a money transmitter—affiliated party of the money transmitter.
- (d) The felony conviction, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, of the licensee, its authorized agent, or an affiliated if the court adjudicates the nolo contendere pleader guilty, or the adjudication of guilt of a money transmitter or money transmitter—affiliated party.
- (e) The interruption of any corporate surety bond required under this chapter by the code.

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(f) Any suspected criminal act, as defined by the commission by rule, perpetrated in this state relating to activities regulated under this chapter by an affiliated party against a money services business or its authorized agent transmitter or authorized vendor.

(g) Notification by a law enforcement or prosecutorial agency that the licensee or its authorized agent is under criminal investigation including, but not limited to, subpoenas to produce records or testimony and warrants issued by a court of competent jurisdiction which authorize the search and seizure of any records relating to a business activity regulated under this chapter.

However, a person does not incur liability as a result of making a good faith effort to fulfill this disclosure requirement.

- (2) (a) A licensee must Each registrant under this code shall report, on a form adopted prescribed by rule of the commission, any change in the information contained in an any initial license application form, or any amendment to such application, or the appointment of an authorized agent within thereto not later than 30 days after the change is effective.
- (3) (b) Each <u>licensee must</u> registrant under the code shall report any change changes in the partners, officers, members, joint venturers, directors, controlling shareholders, or responsible persons of the licensee any registrant or changes in the form of business organization by written amendment in such form and at such time as <u>specified</u> the commission specifies by rule.

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(a) 1. If In any case in which a person or a group of persons, directly or indirectly or acting by or through one or more persons, proposes to purchase or acquire a controlling interest in a licensee, such person or group must submit an initial application for licensure registration as a money services business or deferred presentment provider transmitter before such purchase or acquisition at such time and in such form as prescribed the commission prescribes by rule.

2. As used in this subsection, the term "controlling interest" means the same as described in s. 560.127 possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a company whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. Any person who directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting securities of a company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest.

(b) 3. The Any addition of a partner, officer, member, joint venturer, director, controlling shareholder, or responsible person of the applicant who does not have a controlling interest and who has not previously complied with the applicable provisions of ss. 560.140 and 560.141 is ss. 560.205 and 560.306 shall be subject to such provisions unless required to file an initial application in accordance with subparagraph 1. If the office determines that the licensee registrant does not continue to meet the licensure registration requirements, the office may bring an administrative action in accordance with s. 560.114 to enforce the provisions of this chapter code.

 $\underline{\text{(c)}}_{4}$ . The commission shall adopt rules <del>pursuant to ss.</del>  $\underline{120.536(1)}$  and  $\underline{120.54}$  providing for the waiver of the <u>license</u>

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application required by this subsection if the person or group of persons proposing to purchase or acquire a controlling interest in a licensee registrant has previously complied with the applicable provisions of ss. 560.140 and 560.141 under ss. 560.205 and 560.306 with the same legal entity or is currently licensed registered with the office under this chapter code. Section 20. Section 560.127, Florida Statutes, is amended

to read:

560.127 Control of a money services business transmitter .-- A person has a controlling interest in control over a money services business transmitter if the person:

(1) the individual, partnership, corporation, trust, or other organization possesses the power, directly or indirectly, to direct the management or policies of the money services business a company, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person is presumed to have control  $\frac{a}{a}$ company if the, with respect to a particular company, that person:

(1) (a) Is a director, general partner, or officer exercising executive responsibility or having similar status or functions:

(2) (b) Directly or indirectly may vote 25 percent or more of a class of a voting security or sell or direct the sale of 25 percent or more of a class of voting securities; or

(3) <del>(c)</del> In the case of a partnership, may receive upon dissolution or has contributed 25 percent or more of the capital.

(2) The office determines, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that the person directly or indirectly exercises a

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1434 controlling influence over the activities of the money
1435 transmitter.

Section 21. Section 560.128, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.128 <u>Customer contacts; license display Consumer</u>

- (1) A money services business or its authorized agent must provide each customer with Every money transmitter and authorized vendor shall provide each consumer of a money transmitter transaction a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of contacting the money services business or its authorized agent or, consumer contacts; However, in lieu of a such toll-free telephone number, the money transmitter or authorized vendor may provide the address and telephone number of the office may be provided and the Division of Consumer Services of the Department of Financial Services.
- (2) The commission may by rule require <u>a licensee</u> every money transmitter to display its <u>license</u> registration at each location, including the location of each person designated by the registrant as an authorized vendor, where <u>the licensee</u> the money transmitter engages in the activities authorized by the <u>licensee</u> registration.

Section 22. Section 560.129, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.129 Confidentiality.--

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all information concerning an investigation or examination conducted by the office pursuant to this chapter, including any customer consumer complaint received by the office, the commission, or the

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Department of Financial Services, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the investigation or examination ceases to be active. For purposes of this section, an investigation or examination is considered "active" so long as the office or any other administrative, regulatory, or law enforcement agency of any jurisdiction is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and has a reasonable good faith belief that action may be initiated by the office or other administrative, regulatory, or law enforcement agency.

(2) (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), All information obtained by the office in the course of its investigation or examination which is a trade secret, as defined in s. 688.002, or which is personal financial information shall remain confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. If any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding against a the money services business, its authorized agent, transmitter or an affiliated a money transmitteraffiliated party is initiated and the office seeks to use matter that a licensee registrant believes to be a trade secret or personal financial information, such records shall be subject to an in camera review by the administrative law judge, if the matter is before the Division of Administrative Hearings, or a judge of any court of this state, any other state, or the United States, as appropriate, for the purpose of determining if the matter is a trade secret or is personal financial information. If it is determined that the matter is a trade secret, the matter shall remain confidential. If it is determined that the matter is personal financial information, the matter shall remain

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confidential unless the administrative law judge or judge determines that, in the interests of justice, the matter should become public.

- (3) (c) If an any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding against a the money services business, its authorized agent, transmitter or an affiliated a money transmitter—

  affiliated party results in an acquittal or the dismissal of all of the allegations against the money transmitter or a money transmitter—affiliated party, upon the request of any party, the administrative law judge or the judge may order all or a portion of the record of the proceeding to be sealed, and it shall thereafter be confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (4) (d) Except as necessary for the office or any other administrative, regulatory, or law enforcement agency of any jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this chapter or the law of any other state or the United States, a consumer complaint and other information concerning an investigation or examination shall remain confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution after the investigation or examination ceases to be active to the extent that disclosure would:
- $\underline{\text{(a)}}_{1}$ . Jeopardize the integrity of another active investigation;
  - (b) 2. Reveal personal financial information;
  - (c) 3. Reveal the identity of a confidential source; or
  - (d) 4. Reveal investigative techniques or procedures.
  - (5) <del>(2)</del> This section does not prevent or restrict:

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(a) Furnishing records or information to any appropriate regulatory, prosecutorial, agency or law enforcement agency if such agency adheres to the confidentiality provisions of this chapter the code;

- (b) Furnishing records or information to an <u>appropriate</u> regulator or independent third party or a certified public accountant who has been approved by the office to conduct an examination under  $\underline{s.\ 560.1091}\ \underline{s.\ 560.118(1)(b)}$ , if the independent third party or certified public accountant adheres to the confidentiality provisions of this chapter the code; or
- (c) Reporting any <u>suspicious</u> <u>suspected criminal</u> activity, with supporting documents and information, to appropriate regulatory, law enforcement, or prosecutorial agencies.
- $\underline{(6)}$  All quarterly reports submitted by a money transmitter to the office under  $\underline{s.560.118(2)}$   $\underline{s.560.118(2)}$  (b) are confidential and exempt from  $\underline{s.119.07(1)}$  and  $\underline{s.24(a)}$ , Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (4) Examination reports, investigatory records, applications, and related information compiled by the office, or photographic copies thereof, shall be retained by the office for a period of at least 3 years following the date that the examination or investigation ceases to be active. Application records, and related information compiled by the office, or photographic copies thereof, shall be retained by the office for a period of at least 2 years following the date that the registration ceases to be active.
- $\underline{(7)}$  Any person who willfully discloses information made confidential by this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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Section 23. Section 560.140, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 560.140 Licensing standards.--To qualify for licensure as a money services business under this chapter, an applicant must:
- (1) Demonstrate to the office the character and general fitness necessary to command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the money services business or deferred presentment provider shall be operated lawfully and fairly.
  - (2) Be legally authorized to do business in this state.
- (3) Be registered as a money services business with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network as required by 31 C.F.R. s. 103.41, if applicable.
- (4) Have an anti-money laundering program in place which meets the requirements of 31 C.F.R. s. 103.125.
- (5) Provide the office with all the information required under this chapter and related rules.
- Section 24. Section 560.141, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 560.141 License application.--
- (1) To apply for a license as a money services business under this chapter the applicant must:
- (a) Submit an application to the office on forms prescribed by rule which includes the following information:
- 1. The legal name and address of the applicant, including any fictitious or trade names used by the applicant in the conduct of its business.
- 2. The date of the applicant's formation and the state in which the applicant was formed, if applicable.

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3. The name, social security number, alien identification or taxpayer identification number, business and residence addresses, and employment history for the past 5 years for each officer, director, responsible person, the compliance officer, each controlling shareholder, any other person who has a controlling interest in the money services business as provided in s. 560.127.

- 4. A description of the organizational structure of the applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded.
- 5. The applicant's history of operations in other states if applicable and a description of the money services business or deferred presentment provider activities proposed to be conducted by the applicant in this state.
- 6. If the applicant or its parent is a publicly traded company, copies of all filings made by the applicant with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or with a similar regulator in a country other than the United States, within the preceding year.
- 7. The location at which the applicant proposes to establish its principal place of business and any other location, including branch offices and authorized agents operating in this state. For each branch office identified and each authorized agent appointed, the applicant shall include the nonrefundable fee required by s. 560.143.
- 8. The name and address of the clearing financial institution or financial institutions through which the

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1605 applicant's payment instruments are drawn or through which the payment instruments are payable.

- 8. The history of the applicant's material litigation, criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld.
- 9. The history of material litigation, arrests, criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld for each executive officer, director, controlling shareholder, and responsible person.
- 10. The name of the registered agent in this state for service of process unless the applicant is a sole proprietor.
- 11. Any other information specified in this chapter or by rule.
  - (b) In addition to the application form, submit:
- 1. A nonrefundable application fee as provided in s. 560.143.
- 2. A fingerprint card for each of the persons listed in subparagraph (a) 3. unless the applicant is a publicly traded corporation, or is exempted from this chapter under s. 560.104(1). The fingerprints must be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency. The office shall submit the fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigations for federal processing. The cost of the fingerprint processing may be borne by the office, the employer, or the person subject to the criminal records background check. The office shall screen the background results to determine if the applicant meets licensure requirements. As used in this section, the term "publicly traded" means a stock is

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with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission or traded on an exchange in a country other than the United States regulated by a regulator equivalent to the Securities and Exchange

Commission and the disclosure and reporting requirements of such regulator are substantially similar to those of the commission.

- 3. A copy of the applicant's written anti-money laundering program required under 31 C.F.R. s. 103.125.
- 4. Within the time allotted by rule, any information needed to resolve any deficiencies found in the application.
- (2) If the office determines that the applicant meets the qualifications and requirements of this chapter, the office shall issue a license to the applicant. A license may not be issued for more than 2 years.
- (a) A license issued under part II of this chapter shall expire on April 30 of the second year following the date of issuance of the license unless during such period the license is surrendered, suspended, or revoked.
- (b) A license issued under part III of this chapter shall expire on December 31 of the second year following the date of issuance of the license unless during such period the license is surrendered, suspended, or revoked.

Section 25. Section 560.142, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

## 560.142 License renewal.--

(1) A license may be renewed for a subsequent 2-year period by furnishing such application as required by rule, together with the payment of a nonrefundable renewal fee as provided under s. 560.143, on or before the license expiration date, or for the

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remainder of any such period without proration following the date of license expiration.

- (2) In addition to the renewal fee, each part II licensee must pay a 2-year nonrefundable renewal fee as provided in s. 560.143 for each authorized agent or location operating within this state.
- (3) A licensee who has on file with the office a declaration of intent to engage in deferred presentment transactions may renew a declaration upon license renewal by submitting a nonrefundable deferred presentment provider renewal fee as provided in s. 560.143.
- deferred presentment transactions expires, the license or declaration of intent may be reinstated only if a renewal application or declaration of intent, all required renewal fees, and any applicable late fees are received by the office within 60 days after expiration. If not submitted within 60 days, the license or declaration on intent expires and a new license application or declaration of intent must be filed with the office pursuant to this chapter.
- (5) The commission may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 26. Section 560.143, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

## 560.143 Fees.--

- (1) LICENSE APPLICATION FEES.--The applicable nonrefundable fees must accompany an application for licensure:
  - (a) Under part II \$500.
  - (b) Part III \$250.

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1692	(c) Per branch office \$50.
1693	(d) For each appointment of an authorized agent \$50.
1694	(e) Declaration as a deferred presentment provider \$1,000.
1695	(f) Fingerprint fees as prescribed by rule.
1696	(2) LICENSE RENEWAL FEES The applicable non-refundable
1697	license renewal fees must accompany a renewal of licensure:
1698	(a) Part II 1,000.
1699	(b) Part III \$500.
1700	(c) Per branch office \$50.
1701	(d) For each appointment of an authorized agents \$50.
1702	(e) Declaration as a deferred presentment provider \$1,000.
1703	(f) Renewal fees for branch offices and authorized agents
1704	are limited to \$20,000 biennially.
1705	(3) LATE LICENSE RENEWAL FEES
1706	(a) Part II \$500.
1707	(b) Part III \$250.
1708	(c) Declaration as a deferred presentment provider \$500.
1709	Section 27. Section 560.203, Florida Statutes, is amended
1710	to read:
1711	560.203 Exemptions from licensure Authorized agents
1712	vendors of a <u>licensee</u> registrant acting within the scope of
1713	authority conferred by the <u>licensee are</u> registrant shall be
1714	exempt from <u>licensure</u> but are having to register pursuant to the
1715	<pre>code but shall otherwise be subject to the its provisions of this</pre>
1716	chapter.
1717	Section 28. Section 560.204, Florida Statutes, is amended
1718	to read:
1719	560.204 License required Requirement of registration

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(1) <u>Unless exempted</u>, a <u>No</u> person <u>may not shall</u> engage <u>in</u> for consideration, <u>or</u> nor in any manner advertise that they engage, in, the selling or issuing of payment instruments or in the activity of a <u>money funds</u> transmitter, for compensation, without first obtaining <u>a license registration</u> under the <u>provisions of</u> this part. <u>For purposes of this section</u>, "compensation" includes profit or loss on the exchange of <u>currency</u>.

- (2) A <u>licensee under this part</u> person registered pursuant to this part is permitted to engage in the activities authorized by this part. A person registered pursuant to this part may also engage in the activities authorized under part III of this chapter without the imposition of any additional licensing fees and is exempt from the registration fee required by s. 560.307.
- Section 29. Section 560.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 560.205 Additional license application requirements

  Qualifications of applicant for registration; contents.--In
  addition to the license application requirements under part I of
  this chapter, an applicant seeking a license under this part must
  also submit to the office:
  - (1) A sample authorized agent contract, if applicable.
  - (2) A sample form of payment instrument, if applicable.
- (3) Documents demonstrating that the net worth and bonding requirements specified in s. 560.209 have been fulfilled.
- (4) A copy of the applicant's financial audit report for the most recent fiscal year.
- (1) To qualify for registration under this part, an applicant must demonstrate to the office such character and

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general fitness as to command the confidence of the public and 1749 1750 warrant the belief that the registered business will be operated 1751 lawfully and fairly. The office may investigate each applicant to 1752 ascertain whether the qualifications and requirements prescribed 1753 by this part have been met. The office's investigation may 1754 include a criminal background investigation of all controlling 1755 shareholders, principals, officers, directors, members, and responsible persons of a funds transmitter and a payment 1756 1757 instrument seller and all persons designated by a funds 1758 transmitter or payment instrument seller as an authorized vendor. 1759 Each controlling shareholder, principal, officer, director, 1760 member, and responsible person of a funds transmitter or payment instrument seller, unless the applicant is a publicly traded 1761 1762 corporation as defined by the commission by rule, a subsidiary 1763 thereof, or a subsidiary of a bank or bank holding company 1764 organized and regulated under the laws of any state or the United 1765 States, shall file a complete set of fingerprints. A fingerprint 1766 card submitted to the office must be taken by an authorized law 1767 enforcement agency. The office shall submit the fingerprints to 1768 the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the 1769 Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to 1770 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and federal 1771 processing. The cost of the fingerprint processing may be borne 1772 by the office, the employer, or the person subject to the 1773 background check. The Department of Law Enforcement shall submit 1774 an invoice to the office for the fingerprints received each 1775 month. The office shall screen the background results to 1776 determine if the applicant meets licensure requirements. The 1777 commission may waive by rule the requirement that applicants file

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a set of fingerprints or the requirement that such fingerprints be processed by the Department of Law Enforcement or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- (2) Each application for registration must be submitted under oath to the office on such forms as the commission prescribes by rule and must be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee. Such fee may not exceed \$500 for each payment instrument seller or funds transmitter and \$50 for each authorized vendor or location operating within this state. The application must contain such information as the commission requires by rule, including, but not limited to:
- (a) The name and address of the applicant, including any fictitious or trade names used by the applicant in the conduct of its business.
- (b) The history of the applicant's material litigation, criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld.
- (c) A description of the activities conducted by the applicant, the applicant's history of operations, and the business activities in which the applicant seeks to engage in this state.
  - (d) A sample authorized vendor contract, if applicable.
  - (e) A sample form of payment instrument, if applicable.
- (f) The name and address of the clearing financial institution or financial institutions through which the applicant's payment instruments will be drawn or through which such payment instruments will be payable.

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(g) Documents revealing that the net worth and bonding requirements specified in s. 560.209 have been or will be fulfilled.

- (3) Each application for registration by an applicant that is a corporation shall contain such information as the commission requires by rule, including, but not limited to:
- (a) The date of the applicant's incorporation and state of incorporation.
- (b) A certificate of good standing from the state or country in which the applicant was incorporated.
- (c) A description of the corporate structure of the applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary is publicly traded on any stock exchange.
- (d) The name, social security number, business and residence addresses, and employment history for the past 5 years for each executive officer, each director, each controlling shareholder, and the responsible person who will be in charge of all the applicant's business activities in this state.
- (e) The history of material litigation and criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication withheld for each officer, each director, each controlling shareholder, and the responsible person who will be in charge of the applicant's registered activities.
- (f) Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements for the current year and, if available, for the immediately preceding 2-year period. In cases where the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of another corporation, the parent's consolidated audited financial statements may be submitted to

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satisfy this requirement. An applicant who is not required to file audited financial statements may satisfy this requirement by filing unaudited financial statements verified under penalty of perjury, as provided by the commission by rule.

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

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interest in the applicant and each responsible person who will be in charge of the applicant's registered activities.

- (d) Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements for the current year, and, if available, for the preceding 2 years. An applicant who is not required to file audited financial statements may satisfy this requirement by filing unaudited financial statements verified under penalty of perjury, as provided by the commission by rule.
- (5) Each applicant shall designate and maintain an agent in this state for service of process.

Section 30. Effective January 1, 2009, section 560.208, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.208 Conduct of business.--<u>In addition to the</u> requirements specified in s. 560.140, a licensee under this part:

- (1) A registrant May conduct its business at one or more locations within this state through branches or by means of authorized agents vendors, as designated by the licensee and approved by the office registrant, including the conduct of business through electronic transfer, such as by the telephone or the Internet.
- $\underline{(2)}$  Notwithstanding and without violating s. 501.0117, a registrant may charge a different price for a money transmitter funds transmission service based on the mode of transmission used in the transaction  $\underline{as}$ , so long as the price charged for a service paid for with a credit card is not  $\underline{more}$  greater than the price charged when  $\underline{the}$  that service is paid for with currency or other similar means accepted within the same mode of transmission.
- (3) Is responsible for the acts of its authorized agents within the scope of its written contract with the agent.

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(4) Shall place assets that are the property of a customer in a segregated account in a federally insured financial institution and shall maintain separate accounts for operating capital and the clearing of customer funds.

- (5) Shall, in the normal course of business, ensure that money transmitted is available to the designated recipient within 10 business days after receipt.
- (6) Shall immediately upon receipt of currency or payment instrument provide a confirmation number to the customer verbally, by paper, or electronically.
- (2) Within 60 days after the date a registrant either opens a location within this state or authorizes an authorized vendor to operate on the registrant's behalf within this state, the registrant shall notify the office on a form prescribed by the commission by rule. The notification shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable \$50 fee for each authorized vendor or location. Each notification shall also be accompanied by a financial statement demonstrating compliance with s. 560.209(1), unless compliance has been demonstrated by a financial statement filed with the registrant's quarterly report in compliance with s. 560.118(2). The financial statement must be dated within 90 days of the date of designation of the authorized vendor or location. This subsection shall not apply to any authorized vendor or location that has been designated by the registrant before October 1, 2001.
- (3) Within 60 days after the date a registrant closes a location within this state or withdraws authorization for an authorized vendor to operate on the registrant's behalf within

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1919 this state, the registrant shall notify the office on a form
1920 prescribed by the commission by rule.

- Section 31. Effective January 1, 2009, section 560.2085, 1922 Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 560.2085 Authorized agents.--A licensee under this part shall:
  - (1) Before an authorized agent commences business on behalf of a licensee, file with the office such information as prescribed by rule together with the nonrefundable appointment fee as provided by s. 560.143, for any person whom the licensee seeks to appoint as an authorized agent.
  - (2) Enter into a written contract, signed by the licensee and the authorized agent, which:
  - (a) Sets forth the nature and scope of the relationship between the licensee and the authorized agent, including the respective rights and responsibilities of the parties; and
  - (b) Includes contract provisions that require the authorized agent to:
  - 1. Report to the licensee, immediately upon discovery, the theft or loss of currency received for a transmission or payment instrument;
  - 2. Display a notice to the public, in such form as prescribed by rule, that the agent is the authorized agent of the licensee;
  - 3. Remit all amounts owed to the licensee for all transmissions accepted and all payment instruments sold in accordance with the contract between the licensee and the authorized agent;

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4. Hold in trust, in favor of the licensee, all money received for all transmissions accepted or payment instruments sold from the time of receipt by the authorized agent until the time the money is forwarded to the licensee;

- 5. Not commingle the money received for transmissions accepted or payment instruments sold on behalf of the licensee with the money or property of the authorized agent, except for making change in the ordinary course of the agent's business, and ensure that the money is accounted for at the end of the business day;
  - 6. Consent to examination or investigation by the office;
- 7. Adhere to the applicable state and federal laws and rules pertaining to a money services business; and
- 8. Provide such other information or disclosure as may be required by rule.
- (3) Develop and implement written internal audit policies and procedures to monitor compliance with applicable state and federal law by its authorized agents.
- (4) Hold in trust all currency or payment instruments received for transmissions or for the purchase of payment instruments from the time of receipt by the licensee or authorized agent until the time the transmission obligation is completed.
- Section 32. Section 560.209, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 560.209 Adjusted net worth; corporate surety bond; collateral deposit in lieu of bond.--
- 1974 (1) A licensee must Any person engaging in a registered

  1975 activity shall have an adjusted a net worth of at least \$100,000

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computed according to generally accepted accounting principles. A licensee operating in Applicants proposing to conduct registered activities at more than one location must shall have an additional adjusted net worth of \$10,000 \$50,000 per location in this state, up as applicable, to a maximum of \$2 million \$500,000. The required adjusted net worth must be maintained at all times.

- (2) A licensee must obtain an annual financial audit report, which must be submitted to the office within 120 days after the end of the licensee's fiscal year end, as disclosed to the office.
- (3) (2) Before the office may issue a <u>license under this</u> part registration, the applicant must provide to the office a corporate surety bond, issued by a bonding company or insurance company authorized to do business in this state.
- (a) The corporate surety bond shall be in <u>an</u> <u>such</u> amount as <u>specified</u> <u>may be determined</u> by <u>commission</u> rule, but <u>may shall</u> not <u>be less than \$50,000 or</u> exceed <u>\$2 million \$250,000</u>. <u>The rule</u> <u>shall provide allowances for the financial condition, number of locations, and anticipated volume of the licensee. However, the <u>commission and office may consider extraordinary circumstances</u>, <u>such as the registrant's financial condition, the number of locations</u>, and the existing or anticipated volume of outstanding <u>payment instruments or funds transmitted</u>, and require an <u>additional amount above \$250,000</u>, up to \$500,000.</u>
- (b) The corporate surety bond  $\underline{\text{must}}$  shall be in a form satisfactory to the office and shall run to the state for the benefit of any claimants in this state against the applicant or its authorized agents  $\underline{\text{vendors}}$  to secure the faithful performance

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of the obligations of the applicant and its <u>agents</u> authorized vendors with respect to the receipt, handling, transmission, and payment of funds. The aggregate liability of the corporate surety bond <u>may not in no event shall</u> exceed the principal sum of the bond. Such Claimants against the applicant or its authorized <u>agent vendors</u> may themselves bring suit directly on the corporate surety bond, or the Department of Legal Affairs may bring suit thereon on behalf of <u>the such</u> claimants, in either one action or in successive actions.

- (c) The A corporate surety bond filed with the office for purposes of compliance with this section may not be canceled by either the licensee registrant or the corporate surety except upon written notice to the office by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. A cancellation may shall not take effect until less than 30 days after receipt by the office of the such written notice.
- (d) The corporate surety must, within 10 days after it pays any claim to any claimant, give written notice to the office by registered or certified mail of such payment with details sufficient to identify the claimant and the claim or judgment so paid.
- (e) If Whenever the principal sum of the such bond is reduced by one or more recoveries or payments, the licensee registrant must furnish a new or additional bond so that the total or aggregate principal sum of the such bond equals the sum required pursuant to paragraph (a) by the commission.

  Alternatively, a licensee registrant may furnish an endorsement executed by the corporate surety reinstating the bond to the required principal sum thereof.

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(4)(3) In lieu of a such corporate surety bond, or of any portion of the principal sum thereof required by this section, the applicant may deposit collateral cash, securities, or alternative security devices as provided by rule approved by the commission, with a any federally insured financial institution.

- (a) Acceptable collateral deposit items in lieu of a bond include cash and interest-bearing stocks and bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or guaranteed by the United States, or of this state.
- (b) The collateral deposit must be in an aggregate amount, based upon principal amount or market value, whichever is lower, of <u>at least</u> not less than the amount of the required corporate surety bond or portion thereof.
- (c) Collateral deposits <u>must</u> <u>made under this subsection</u> shall be pledged to the office and held by the insured financial institution to secure the same obligations as <del>would</del> would the corporate surety bond, but the depositor is entitled to receive <u>any all</u> interest and dividends thereon and may, with the approval of the office, substitute other securities or deposits for those deposited. The principal amount of the deposit shall be released only on written authorization of the office or on the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (5)(4) A licensee registrant must at all times have and maintain the bond or collateral deposit in the required amount prescribed by the commission. If the office at any time reasonably determines that the bond or elements of the collateral deposit are insecure, deficient in amount, or exhausted in whole or in part, the office may, by written order, require the filing

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of a new or supplemental bond or the deposit of new or additional collateral deposit items.

- (6)(5) The bond and collateral deposit shall remain in place for 5 years after the <u>licensee registrant</u> ceases <u>licensed registered</u> operations in this state. The office may <u>allow permit</u> the bond or collateral deposit to be reduced or eliminated prior to that time to the extent that the amount of the <u>licensee's registrant's</u> outstanding payment instruments or <u>money funds</u> transmitted in this state are reduced. The office may also <u>allow a licensee permit a registrant</u> to substitute a letter of credit or <u>such</u> other form of acceptable security for the bond or collateral deposit at the time the <u>licensee registrant</u> ceases licensed <u>money transmission</u> operations in this state.
- (6) The office may waive or reduce a registrant's net worth or bond or collateral deposit requirement. Such waiver or modification must be requested by the applicant or registrant, and may be granted upon a showing by the applicant or registrant to the satisfaction of the office that:
- (a) The existing net worth, bond, or collateral deposit requirement is sufficiently in excess of the registrant's highest potential level of outstanding payment instruments or money transmissions in this state;
- (b) The direct and indirect cost of meeting the net worth, bond, or collateral deposit requirement will restrict the ability of the money transmitter to effectively serve the needs of its customers and the public; or
- (c) The direct and indirect cost of meeting the net worth, bond, or collateral requirement will not only have a negative impact on the money transmitter but will severely hinder the

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2092 ability of the money transmitter to participate in and promote
2093 the economic progress and welfare of this state or the United
2094 States.

Section 33. Section 560.210, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.210 Permissible investments.--

- (1) A <u>licensee must</u> registrant shall at all times possess permissible investments with an aggregate market value, calculated in accordance with <del>United States</del> generally accepted accounting principles, of at least not less than the aggregate face amount of all outstanding money funds transmissions and payment instruments issued or sold by the <u>licensee</u> registrant or an authorized <u>agent</u> vendor in the United States. <u>As used in this section</u>,
  - (2) Acceptable permissible investments include:
  - (a) Cash.

- (b) Certificates of deposit or other deposit liabilities of a <u>domestic or foreign</u> financial institution, either domestic or <u>foreign</u>.
- (c) Bankers' acceptances eligible for purchase by member banks of the Federal Reserve System.
- (d) An investment bearing a rating of one of the three highest grades as defined by a nationally recognized rating service of such securities.
- (e) Investment securities that are obligations of the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, or obligations that are guaranteed fully as to principal and interest by the United States, or any obligations of any state or municipality, or any political subdivision thereof.

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2121 (f) Shares in a money market mutual fund.

- (g) A demand borrowing agreement or agreements made to a corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose capital stock is listed on a national exchange.
- (h) Receivables that are due to a <u>licensee</u> registrant from the <u>licensee's</u> registrant's authorized agent vendors except those that are more than 90 30 days past due or are doubtful of collection.
  - (i) Any other investment approved by rule the commission.
- (2)(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the office, with respect to any particular <u>licensee</u> registrant or all <u>licensees</u> registrants, may limit the extent to which any class of permissible investments may be considered a permissible investment, except for cash and certificates of deposit.
- (3)(4) The office may waive the permissible investments requirement if the dollar value of a <u>licensee's</u> registrant's outstanding payment instruments and money funds transmitted do not exceed the bond or collateral deposit posted by the <u>licensee</u> registrant under s. 560.209.
- Section 34. Section 560.211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 560.211 Required records.--
- (1) <u>In addition to the record retention requirements under s. 560.110, each licensee under this part Each registrant must make, keep, and preserve the following books, accounts, records, and documents other records for 5 a period of 3 years:</u>
- (a) A daily record  $\frac{1}{2}$  of payment instruments sold and money  $\frac{1}{2}$  transmitted.

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2149 (b) A general ledger containing all asset, liability,
2150 capital, income, and expense accounts, which <del>general ledger</del> shall
2151 be posted at least monthly.

- (c)  $\underline{\text{Daily}}$  settlement sheets received from authorized  $\underline{\text{agents}}$   $\underline{\text{vendors}}$ .
- (d)  $\underline{\text{Monthly}}$  financial institution statements and reconciliation records.
- (e) Records of outstanding payment instruments and money funds transmitted.
- (f) Records of each payment instrument paid and money funds transmission delivered within the 3-year period.
- (g) A list of the names and addresses of all of the <a href="licensee's registrant's">licensee's registrant's</a> authorized agents vendors, as well as <a href="copies of each authorized vendor contract">copies of each authorized vendor contract</a>.
- (h) Records that document the establishment, monitoring, and termination of relationships with authorized agents and foreign affiliates.
- (i) Any additional records, as prescribed by rule, designed to detect and prevent money laundering.
- (2) The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location if the registrant notifies the office in writing of the location of the records in its application or otherwise by amendment as prescribed by commission rule. The registrant shall make such records available to the office for examination and investigation in this state, as permitted by the code, within 7 days after receipt of a written request.
- (3) Registrants and authorized vendors need not preserve or retain any of the records required by this section or copies

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thereof for a period longer than 3 years unless a longer period is expressly required by the laws of this state or federal law. A registrant or authorized vendor may destroy any of its records or copies thereof after the expiration of the retention period required by this section.

(4) The original of any record of a registrant or authorized vendor includes the data or other information comprising a record stored or transmitted in or by means of any electronic, computerized, mechanized, or other information storage or retrieval or transmission system or device which can upon request generate, regenerate, or transmit the precise data or other information comprising the record; and an original also includes the visible data or other information so generated, regenerated, or transmitted if it is legible or can be made legible by enlargement or other process.

 $\underline{(2)}$  (5) Any person who willfully fails to comply with this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 35. Section 560.212, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.212 Financial liability.--A licensee Each registrant under this part is liable for the payment of all money funds transmitted and payment instruments that it sells, in whatever form and whether directly or through an authorized agent vendor, as the maker, drawer, or principal thereof, regardless of whether such item is negotiable or nonnegotiable.

Section 36. Section 560.213, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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560.213 Payment instrument information.—Each payment instrument sold or issued by a <u>licensee registrant</u>, directly or through an authorized <u>agent vendor</u>, <u>must shall</u> bear the name of the <u>licensee</u>, and any other information as may be required by rule, <u>registrant</u> clearly imprinted thereon.

Section 37. Section 560.303, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.303 License required Requirement of registration. --

- (1)  $\underline{A}$  No person  $\underline{may}$  not  $\underline{shall}$  engage in, or in any manner advertise engagement in, the business of cashing payment instruments or  $\underline{the}$  exchanging  $\underline{of}$  foreign currency without  $\underline{being}$  licensed  $\underline{first}$  registering under  $\underline{the}$  provisions  $\underline{of}$  this part.
- (2) A person <u>licensed under registered pursuant to</u> this part may <u>not</u> engage <u>in the activities authorized by this part. A person registered under this part is prohibited from engaging directly in the activities that require a license under are authorized under a registration issued pursuant to part II of this chapter, but <u>may be such person is not prohibited from engaging in an authorized agent for vendor relationship with a person <u>licensed registered</u> under part II.</u></u>
- (3) A person exempt from <u>licensure under registration</u> pursuant to this part engaging in the business of cashing payment instruments or the exchanging of foreign currency <u>may shall</u> not charge fees in excess of those provided in s. 560.309.

Section 38. Section 560.304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.304 Exemption from licensure Exceptions to registration. -- The requirement for licensure under provisions of this part does do not apply to a person, at a location, cashing

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2235 payment instruments that have an aggregate face value of less
2236 than \$2,000 per person per day.÷

- (1) Authorized vendors of any person registered pursuant to the provisions of the code, acting within the scope of authority conferred by the registrant.
- (2) Persons engaged in the cashing of payment instruments or the exchanging of foreign currency which is incidental to the retail sale of goods or services whose compensation for cashing payment instruments or exchanging foreign currency at each site does not exceed 5 percent of the total gross income from the retail sale of goods or services by such person during its most recently completed fiscal year.

Section 39. Section 560.309, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.309 Conduct of business Rules.--

- under the legal name under which the person is licensed. The use of a fictitious name is allowed if the fictitious name has been registered with the Department of State and disclosed to the office as part of an initial license application, or subsequent amendment to the application, prior to its use. Before a registrant shall deposit, with any financial institution, a payment instrument that is cashed by a registrant, each such item must be endorsed with the actual name under which such registrant is doing business.
- (2) At the time a licensee accepts a payment instrument that is cashed by the licensee, the payment instrument must be endorsed using the legal name under which the licensee is licensed. Registrants must comply with all the laws of this state

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2264 and any federal laws relating to money laundering, including, as
2265 applicable, the provisions of s. 560.123.

- (3) A licensee under this part must deposit or sell payment instruments within 5 business days after the acceptance of the payment instrument.
- (4) A licensee may not accept or cash multiple payment instruments from a person who is not the original payee, unless the person is licensed to cash payment instruments pursuant to this part and all payment instruments accepted are endorsed with the legal name of the person.
- (5) A licensee must report all suspicious activity to the office in accordance with the criteria set forth in 31 C.F.R. s. 103.20. In lieu of filing such reports, the commission may prescribe by rule that the licensee may file such reports with an appropriate regulator.
- $\underline{(6)}$  (3) The commission may by rule require  $\underline{a}$  every check casher to display its  $\underline{license}$  registration and post a notice  $\underline{listing}$  containing its charges for cashing payment instruments.
- $\underline{(7)}$  (4) Exclusive of the direct costs of verification which shall be established by <del>commission</del> rule,  $\underline{a}$  no check casher  $\underline{may}$  not shall:
- (a) Charge fees, except as otherwise provided by this part, in excess of 5 percent of the face amount of the payment instrument, or 6 percent without the provision of identification, or \$5, whichever is greater;
- (b) Charge fees in excess of 3 percent of the face amount of the payment instrument, or 4 percent without the provision of identification, or \$5, whichever is greater, if such payment instrument is the payment of any kind of state public assistance

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or federal social security benefit payable to the bearer of the such payment instrument; or

- (c) Charge fees for personal checks or money orders in excess of 10 percent of the face amount of those payment instruments, or \$5, whichever is greater.
- (d) As used in this subsection, "identification" means, and is limited to, an unexpired and otherwise valid driver license, a state identification card issued by any state of the United States or its territories or the District of Columbia, and showing a photograph and signature, a United States Government Resident Alien Identification Card, a United States passport, or a United States Military identification card.
- (8) A licensee cashing payment instruments may not assess the cost of collections, other than fees for insufficient funds as provided by law, without a judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (9) If a check is returned to a licensee from a payor financial institution due to lack of funds, a closed account, or a stop-payment order, the licensee may seek collection pursuant to s. 68.065. In seeking collection, the licensee must comply with the prohibitions against harassment or abuse, false or misleading representations, and unfair practices in the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1692d, 1692e, and 1692f. A violation of this subsection is a deceptive and unfair trade practice and constitutes a violation of the Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under part II of chapter 501. In addition, a licensee must comply with the applicable provisions of the Consumer Collection Practices Act under part VI of chapter 559, including s. 559.77.

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2322 Section 40. Section 560.310, Florida Statutes, is amended 2323 to read:

- 560.310 Records of check cashers and foreign currency exchangers. --
- In addition to the record retention requirements (1)specified in s. 560.110, a person engaged in check cashing must maintain the following:
- (a) Customer files, as prescribed by rule, on all customers who cash corporate or third-party payment instruments exceeding \$1,000.
- (b) For any payment instrument accepted having a face value of \$1,000 or more:
- 1. A copy of the personal identification that bears a photograph of the customer used as identification and presented by the customer. Acceptable personal identification is limited to a valid driver's license; a state identification card issued by any state of the United States or its territories or the District of Columbia, and showing a photograph and signature; a United States Government Resident Alien Identification Card; a passport; or a United States Military identification card.
  - 2. A thumbprint of the customer taken by the licensee.
- (c) A payment instrument log that must be maintained electronically as prescribed by rule. For purposes of this paragraph, multiple payment instruments accepted from any one person on any given day which total \$1,000 or more must be aggregated and reported on the log. Each registrant must maintain all books, accounts, records, and documents necessary to
- 2349 determine the registrant's compliance with the provisions of the

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code. Such books, accounts, records, and documents shall be retained for a period of at least 3 years.

- third party that is not a depository institution for the maintenance and storage of records required by this section if all the requirements of this section are met. The records required to be maintained by the code may be maintained by the registrant at any location if the registrant notifies the office, in writing, of the location of the records in its application or otherwise by amendment as prescribed by commission rule. The registrant shall make such records available to the office for examination and investigation in this state, as permitted by the code, within 7 days after receipt of a written request.
- (3) Registrants and authorized vendors need not preserve or retain any of the records required by this section or copies thereof for a period longer than 3 years unless a longer period is expressly required by the laws of this state or any federal law. A registrant or authorized vendor may destroy any of its records or copies thereof after the expiration of the retention period required by this section.
- (4) The original of any record of a registrant or authorized vendor includes the data or other information comprising a record stored or transmitted in or by means of any electronic, computerized, mechanized, or other information storage or retrieval or transmission system or device which can upon request generate, regenerate, or transmit the precise data or other information comprising the record; and an original also includes the visible data or other information so generated,

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2378 regenerated, or transmitted if it is legible or can be made
2379 legible by enlargement or other process.

(5) Any person who willfully violates this section or fails to comply with any lawful written demand or order of the office made pursuant to this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 41. Section 560.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.402 Definitions.--In addition to the definitions provided in ss. 560.103, 560.202, and 560.302 and unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context, For the purposes of this part, the term:

- (1) "Affiliate" means a person who, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, a deferred presentment provider.
- (2) "Business day" means the hours during a particular day during which a deferred presentment provider customarily conducts business, not to exceed 15 consecutive hours during that day.
  - (3) "Days" means calendar days.
- (2)(4) "Deferment period" means the number of days a deferred presentment provider agrees to defer depositing, or presenting, or redeeming a payment instrument.
- (5) "Deferred presentment provider" means a person who engages in a deferred presentment transaction and is registered under part II or part III of the code and has filed a declaration of intent with the office.
- $\underline{(3)}$  "Deferred presentment transaction" means providing currency or a payment instrument in exchange for a <u>drawer's</u>

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person's check and agreeing to hold the that person's check for a deferment period of time prior to presentment, deposit, or redemption.

- $\underline{(4)}$  "Drawer" means <u>a customer</u> any person who writes a personal check and upon whose account the check is drawn.
- (5) "Extension of a deferred presentment agreement" means continuing a deferred presentment transaction past the deferment period by having the drawer pay additional fees and the deferred presentment provider continuing to hold the check for another deferment period.
- $\underline{(6)}$  "Rollover" means the termination or extension of  $\underline{a}$  an existing deferred presentment agreement by the payment of  $\underline{an}$  any additional fee and the continued holding of the check, or the substitution of a new check  $\underline{drawn}$  by the drawer pursuant to a new deferred presentment agreement.
- (9) "Fee" means the fee authorized for the deferral of the presentation of a check pursuant to this part.
- <u>(7) (10)</u> "Termination of <u>a</u> an existing deferred presentment agreement" means that the check that is the basis for <u>the</u> an agreement is redeemed by the drawer by payment in full in cash, or is deposited and the deferred presentment provider has evidence that such check has cleared. A Verification of sufficient funds in the drawer's account by the deferred presentment provider <u>is</u> shall not be sufficient evidence to deem that the existing deferred deposit transaction <u>is</u> to be terminated.
- (11) "Extension of an existing deferred presentment agreement" means that a deferred presentment transaction is continued by the drawer paying any additional fees and the

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2436 deferred presentment provider continues to hold the check for another period of time prior to deposit, presentment, or redemption.

Section 42. Section 560.403, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.403 Requirements of registration; Declaration of intent.--

(1) Except for financial institutions as defined in s. 655.005 No person, Unless otherwise exempt from this chapter, a person may not shall engage in a deferred presentment transaction unless the person is licensed as a money services business registered under the provisions of part II or part III of this chapter and has on file with the office a declaration of intent to engage in deferred presentment transactions, regardless of whether such person is exempted from licensure under any other provision of this chapter. The declaration of intent must shall be under oath and on such form as prescribed the commission prescribes by rule. The declaration of intent must shall be filed together with a nonrefundable filing fee as provided in s. 560.143 of \$1,000. Any person who is registered under part II or part III on the effective date of this act and intends to engage in deferred presentment transactions shall have 60 days after the effective date of this act to file a declaration of intent. A declaration of intent expires after 24 months and must be renewed.

(2) A registrant under this part shall renew his or her intent to engage in the business of deferred presentment transactions or to act as a deferred presentment provider upon renewing his or her registration under part II or part III and

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shall do so by indicating his or her intent by submitting a nonrefundable deferred presentment provider renewal fee of \$1,000, in addition to any fees required for renewal of registration under part II or part III.

(3) A registrant under this part who fails to timely renew his or her intent to engage in the business of deferred presentment transactions or to act as a deferred presentment provider shall immediately cease to engage in the business of deferred presentment transactions or to act as a deferred presentment provider.

(4) The notice of intent of a registrant under this part who fails to timely renew his or her intent to engage in the business of deferred presentment transactions or to act as a deferred presentment provider on or before the expiration date of the registration period automatically expires. A renewal fee and a nonrefundable late fee of \$500 must be filed within 60 calendar days after the expiration of an existing registration in order for the declaration of intent to be reinstated. The office shall grant a reinstatement of registration if an application is filed during the 60-day period, and the reinstatement is effective upon receipt of the required fees and any information that the commission requires by rule. If the registrant has not filed a reinstatement of a renewal declaration of intent within 60 calendar days after the expiration date of an existing registration, the notice of intent expires and a new declaration of intent must be filed with the office.

(5) No person, other than a financial institution as defined in s. 655.005, shall be exempt from registration and declaration if such person engages in deferred presentment

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2494 transactions, regardless of whether such person is currently
2495 exempt from registration under any provision of this code.

Section 43. Section 560.404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.404 Requirements for deferred presentment transactions.--

- (1) Each Every deferred presentment transaction  $\underline{\text{must}}$  shall be documented in a written agreement signed by  $\underline{\text{both}}$  the deferred presentment provider and the drawer.
- (2) The deferred presentment transaction agreement <u>must</u> shall be executed on the day the deferred presentment provider furnishes currency or a payment instrument to the drawer.
- (3) Each written agreement <u>must</u> shall contain the following information, in addition to any information <u>required</u> the commission requires by rule, contain the following information:
- (a) The name or trade name, address, and telephone number of the deferred presentment provider and the name and title of the person who signs the agreement on behalf of the deferred presentment provider.
- (b) The date the deferred presentment transaction  $\underline{\text{is}}$  was made.
  - (c) The amount of the drawer's check.
  - (d) The length of the deferment deferral period.
  - (e) The last day of the deferment period.
- (f) The address and telephone number of the office and the Division of Consumer Services of the Department of Financial Services.
- (g) A clear description of the drawer's payment obligations under the deferred presentment transaction.

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2523 (h) The transaction number assigned by the office's database.

- (4) The Every deferred presentment provider must shall furnish to the drawer a copy of the deferred presentment transaction agreement to the drawer.
- (5) The face amount of a check taken for deferred presentment may not exceed \$500 exclusive of the fees allowed under  $\frac{by}{2}$  this part.
- (6) A No deferred presentment provider or its affiliate may not shall charge fees that exceed in excess of 10 percent of the currency or payment instrument provided. However, a verification fee may be charged as provided in s. 560.309(7) in accordance with s. 560.309(4) and the rules adopted pursuant to the code. The 10-percent fee may not be applied to the verification fee. A deferred presentment provider may charge only those fees specifically authorized in this section.
- (7) The fees authorized by this section may not be collected before the drawer's check is presented or redeemed.
- (8)  $\underline{A}$  No deferred presentment agreement  $\underline{may}$  not  $\underline{shall}$  be for a term  $\underline{longer}$  than  $\underline{in}$  excess of 31 days or less than 7 days.
- (9) A No deferred presentment provider  $\underline{\text{may not}}$  shall require a  $\underline{\text{drawer}}$  person to provide any additional security for the deferred presentment transaction or any extension or require  $\underline{\text{the drawer}}$  a person to provide any additional guaranty from another person.
- (10) A deferred presentment provider <u>may shall</u> not include any of the following provisions in <u>a deferred provider</u> <del>any</del> written agreement:
  - (a) A hold harmless clause. +

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2552 (b) A confession of judgment clause. +

- (c) Any assignment of or order for payment of wages or other compensation for services.  $\div$
- (d) A provision in which the drawer agrees not to assert any claim or defense arising out of the agreement. ; or
  - (e) A waiver of any provision of this part.
- (11)  $\underline{A}$  Each deferred presentment provider shall immediately provide the drawer with the full amount of any check to be held, less only the fees allowed permitted under this section.
- check <u>must shall</u> bear the same date, and the number of days of the deferment period shall be calculated from <u>that this</u> date. <u>The No</u> deferred presentment provider <u>and the drawer or person</u> may <u>not</u> alter or delete the date on any written agreement or check held by the deferred presentment provider.
- (13) For each deferred presentment transaction, the deferred presentment provider must comply with the disclosure requirements of 12 C.F.R., part 226, relating to the federal Truth-in-Lending Act, and Regulation Z of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board. A copy of the disclosure must be provided to the drawer at the time the deferred presentment transaction is initiated.
- (14)  $\underline{A}$  No deferred presentment provider or its affiliate may <u>not</u> accept or hold an undated check or a check dated on a date other than the date on which the deferred presentment provider agreed to hold the check and signed the deferred presentment transaction agreement.
- (15)  $\underline{A}$  Every deferred presentment provider  $\underline{must}$  shall hold the drawer's check for the agreed number of days, unless the

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drawer chooses to redeem the check before the agreed presentment date.

- (16) Proceeds in a deferred presentment transaction may be made to the drawer in the form of the deferred presentment provider's payment instrument if the deferred presentment provider is registered under part II; however, an no additional fee may not be charged by a deferred presentment provider or its affiliate for issuing or cashing the deferred presentment provider's payment instrument.
- (17)  $\underline{A}$  No deferred presentment provider may <u>not</u> require the drawer to accept its payment instrument in lieu of currency.
- (18)  $\underline{A}$  No deferred presentment provider or its affiliate may <u>not</u> engage in the rollover of  $\underline{a}$  any deferred presentment agreement. A deferred presentment provider <u>may shall</u> not redeem, extend, or otherwise consolidate a deferred presentment agreement with the proceeds of another deferred presentment transaction made by the same or an <u>affiliate affiliated deferred presentment</u> provider.
- (19) A deferred presentment provider may not enter into a deferred presentment transaction with a <u>drawer person</u> who has an outstanding deferred presentment transaction with that provider or with any other deferred presentment provider, or with a person whose previous deferred presentment transaction with that provider or with any other provider has been terminated for less than 24 hours. The deferred presentment provider must verify such information as follows:
- (a) The deferred presentment provider shall maintain a common database and shall verify whether the that deferred presentment provider or an affiliate has an outstanding deferred

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presentment transaction with a particular person or has terminated a transaction with that person within the previous 24 hours.

- (b) The deferred presentment provider shall access the office's database established pursuant to subsection (23) and shall verify whether any other deferred presentment provider has an outstanding deferred presentment transaction with a particular person or has terminated a transaction with that person within the previous 24 hours. If a provider has not established Prior to the time that the office has implemented such a database, the deferred presentment provider may rely upon the written verification of the drawer as provided in subsection (20).
- (20) A deferred presentment provider shall provide the following notice in a prominent place on each deferred presentment agreement in at least 14-point type in substantially the following form and must obtain the signature of the drawer where indicated:

2628 NOTICE

2.62.7

1. STATE LAW PROHIBITS YOU FROM HAVING MORE THAN ONE DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT AT ANY ONE TIME. STATE LAW ALSO PROHIBITS YOU FROM ENTERING INTO A DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER OF TERMINATING ANY PREVIOUS DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT. FAILURE TO OBEY THIS LAW COULD CREATE SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

YOU MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

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2639 I DO NOT HAVE AN OUTSTANDING DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT WITH 2640 ANY DEFERRED PRESENTMENT PROVIDER AT THIS TIME. I HAVE NOT 2641 TERMINATED A DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT WITHIN THE PAST 24

2642 HOURS.

3.

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2644 (Signature of Drawer)

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2646 2. YOU CANNOT BE PROSECUTED IN CRIMINAL COURT FOR A CHECK 2647 WRITTEN UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, BUT ALL LEGALLY AVAILABLE CIVIL 2648 MEANS TO ENFORCE THE DEBT MAY BE PURSUED AGAINST YOU.

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STATE LAW PROHIBITS A DEFERRED PRESENTMENT PROVIDER (THIS 2651 BUSINESS) FROM ALLOWING YOU TO "ROLL OVER" YOUR DEFERRED 2652 PRESENTMENT TRANSACTION. THIS MEANS THAT YOU CANNOT BE ASKED OR 2653 REQUIRED TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL FEE IN ORDER TO FURTHER DELAY THE 2654 DEPOSIT OR PRESENTMENT OF YOUR CHECK FOR PAYMENT. IF YOU INFORM 2655 THE PROVIDER IN PERSON THAT YOU CANNOT COVER THE CHECK OR PAY IN 2656 FULL THE AMOUNT OWING AT THE END OF THE TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT, 2657 YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRACE PERIOD EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE 2658 AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS AFTER THE ORIGINAL 2659 TERMINATION DATE, WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGE. THE DEFERRED 2660 PRESENTMENT PROVIDER SHALL REQUIRE THAT YOU, AS A CONDITION OF 2661 OBTAINING THE GRACE PERIOD, COMPLETE CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING 2662 PROVIDED BY AN AGENCY INCLUDED ON THE LIST THAT WILL BE PROVIDED 2663 TO YOU BY THIS PROVIDER. YOU MAY ALSO AGREE TO COMPLY WITH AND 2664 ADHERE TO A REPAYMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THAT AGENCY. IF YOU DO NOT 2665 COMPLY WITH AND ADHERE TO A REPAYMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THAT

AGENCY, WE MAY DEPOSIT OR PRESENT YOUR CHECK FOR PAYMENT AND

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PURSUE ALL LEGALLY AVAILABLE CIVIL MEANS TO ENFORCE THE DEBT AT THE END OF THE 60-DAY GRACE PERIOD.

- (21) The deferred presentment provider may not deposit or present the drawer's check if the drawer informs the provider in person that the drawer cannot redeem or pay in full in cash the amount due and owing the deferred presentment provider. No additional fees or penalties may be imposed on the drawer by virtue of any misrepresentation made by the drawer as to the sufficiency of funds in the drawer's account. In no event shall any Additional fees may not be added to the amounts due and owing to the deferred presentment provider.
- (22) (a) If, by the end of the deferment period, the drawer informs the deferred presentment provider in person that the drawer cannot redeem or pay in full in cash the amount due and owing the deferred presentment provider, the deferred presentment provider shall provide a grace period extending the term of the agreement for an additional 60 days after the original termination date, without any additional charge.
- (a) The provider shall require that as a condition of providing a this grace period, that within the first 7 days of the grace period the drawer make an appointment with a consumer credit counseling agency within 7 days after the end of the deferment period and complete the counseling by the end of the grace period. The drawer may agree to, comply with, and adhere to a repayment plan approved by the counseling agency. If the drawer agrees to comply with and adhere to a repayment plan approved by the counseling agency, the provider must is also required to comply with and adhere to that repayment plan. The deferred presentment provider may not deposit or present the drawer's

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check for payment before the end of the 60-day grace period unless the drawer fails to comply with such conditions or the drawer fails to notify the provider of such compliance. Before each deferred presentment transaction, the provider may verbally advise the drawer of the availability of the grace period consistent with the provisions of the written notice in subsection (20), and may shall not discourage the drawer from using the grace period.

- (b) At the commencement of the grace period, the deferred presentment provider shall provide the drawer:
- 1. Verbal notice of the availability of the grace period consistent with the written notice in subsection (20).
- 2. A list of approved consumer credit counseling agencies prepared by the office. The office list shall include nonprofit consumer credit counseling agencies affiliated with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling which provide credit counseling services to <a href="state">state</a> Florida</a> residents in person, by telephone, or through the Internet. The office list must include phone numbers for the agencies, the counties served by the agencies, and indicate the agencies that provide telephone counseling and those that provide Internet counseling. The office shall update the list at least once each year.
- 3. The following notice in at least 14-point type in substantially the following form:

AS A CONDITION OF OBTAINING A GRACE PERIOD EXTENDING THE TERM OF YOUR DEFERRED PRESENTMENT AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS, UNTIL [DATE], WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL FEES, YOU MUST COMPLETE

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CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING PROVIDED BY AN AGENCY INCLUDED ON THE LIST THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU BY THIS PROVIDER. YOU MAY ALSO AGREE TO COMPLY WITH AND ADHERE TO A REPAYMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THE AGENCY. THE COUNSELING MAY BE IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, OR THROUGH THE INTERNET. YOU MUST NOTIFY US WITHIN 7 SEVEN (7) DAYS, BY [DATE], THAT YOU HAVE MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH SUCH A CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING AGENCY. YOU MUST ALSO NOTIFY US WITHIN 60 SIXTY (60) DAYS, BY [DATE], THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING. WE MAY VERIFY THIS INFORMATION WITH THE AGENCY. IF YOU FAIL TO PROVIDE EITHER THE 7-DAY OR 60-DAY NOTICE, OR IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE THE APPOINTMENT OR COMPLETED THE COUNSELING WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED, WE MAY DEPOSIT OR PRESENT YOUR CHECK FOR PAYMENT AND PURSUE ALL LEGALLY AVAILABLE CIVIL MEANS TO ENFORCE THE DEBT.

- (c) If a drawer completes an approved payment plan, the deferred presentment provider shall pay one-half of the drawer's fee for the deferred presentment agreement to the consumer credit counseling agency.
- (23) The office shall implement a common database with real-time access through an Internet connection for deferred presentment providers, as provided in this subsection. The database must be accessible to the office and the deferred presentment providers in order to verify whether any deferred presentment transactions are outstanding for a particular person. Deferred presentment providers shall submit such data before entering into each deferred presentment transaction in such format as required the commission shall require by rule, including the drawer's name, social security number or employment authorization alien number, address, driver's license number,

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amount of the transaction, date of transaction, the date that the transaction is closed, and such additional information as is required by rule the commission. The commission may by rule impose a fee of up to not to exceed \$1 per transaction for data that must required to be submitted by a deferred presentment provider. A deferred presentment provider may rely on the information contained in the database as accurate and is not subject to any administrative penalty or civil liability due to as a result of relying on inaccurate information contained in the database. A deferred presentment provider must notify the office within 15 business days after ceasing operations and in a manner as prescribed by rule. Such notification must include a reconciliation of all open transactions. If the provider fails to provide notice, the office shall take action to administratively release all open and pending transactions in the database after the office becomes aware of the closure. This section does not affect the rights of the provider to enforce the contractual provisions of the deferred presentment agreements through any civil action allowed by law. The commission may adopt rules to administer and enforce the provisions of this subsection section and to ensure assure that the database is used by deferred presentment providers in accordance with this section.

(24) A deferred presentment provider may not accept more than one check or authorization to initiate more than one automated clearinghouse transaction to collect on a deferred presentment transaction for a single deferred presentment transaction.

Section 44. Section 560.405, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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560.405 Deposit; redemption.--

- (1) The deferred presentment provider or its affiliate <u>may</u> shall not present the drawer's check <u>before the end of the</u> <u>deferment period</u> prior to the agreed-upon date of presentment, as reflected in the deferred presentment transaction agreement.
- (2) Before a deferred presentment provider presents the drawer's check, the check <u>must</u> shall be endorsed with the actual name under which the deferred presentment provider is doing business.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), in lieu of presentment, a deferred presentment provider may allow the check to be redeemed at any time upon payment to the deferred presentment provider in the amount of the face amount of the drawer's check. However, payment may not be made in the form of a personal check. Upon redemption, the deferred presentment provider shall return the drawer's check that was being held and provide a signed, dated receipt showing that the drawer's check has been redeemed.
- (4)  $\underline{A}$  No drawer  $\underline{may}$  not  $\underline{can}$  be required to redeem his or her check  $\underline{before}$   $\underline{prior}$  to the agreed-upon date; however, the drawer may choose to redeem the check before the agreed-upon presentment date.

Section 45. Section 560.406, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

560.406 Worthless checks.--

(1) If a check is returned to a deferred presentment provider from a payor financial institution due to lack of funds, a closed account, or a stop-payment order, the deferred presentment provider may seek collection pursuant to s. 68.065,

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except a deferred presentment provider <u>may shall</u> not be entitled to collect treble damages <u>pursuant s. 68.065</u>. The notice sent by the a deferred deposit provider <u>may pursuant to s. 68.065 shall</u> not include any references to treble damages and must clearly state that the deferred presentment provider is not entitled to recover such damages. Except as otherwise provided in this part, an individual who issues a personal check to a deferred presentment provider under a deferred presentment agreement is not subject to criminal penalty.

If a check is returned to a deferred presentment provider from a payor financial institution due to insufficient funds, a closed account, or a stop-payment order, the deferred presentment provider may pursue all legally available civil remedies to collect the check, including, but not limited to, the imposition of all charges imposed on the deferred presentment provider by the any financial institution. In its collection practices, a deferred presentment provider must shall comply with the prohibitions against harassment or abuse, false or misleading representations, and unfair practices that which are contained in ss. 806, 807, and 808 of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1692d, 1692e, 1692f. A violation of this act is a deceptive and unfair trade practice and constitutes a violation of the Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under $_{m{ au}}$  part II of chapter 501. In addition, a deferred presentment provider must shall comply with the applicable provisions of part VI of chapter  $559_r$  the Consumer Collection Practices Act under part VI of chapter 559, including, but not limited to, the provisions of s. 559.77.

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(3) A deferred presentment provider may not assess the cost of collection, other than charges for insufficient funds as allowed by law, without a judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 46. Subsection (7) of section 499.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

499.005 Prohibited acts.--It is unlawful for a person to perform or cause the performance of any of the following acts in this state:

(7) The purchase or sale of prescription drugs for wholesale distribution in exchange for currency, as defined in  $\underline{s}$ . 560.103  $\underline{s}$ . 560.103(6).

Section 47. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 499.0691, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

499.0691 Criminal punishment for violations related to drugs; dissemination of false advertisement.--

- (2) Any person who violates any of the following provisions commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, or as otherwise provided in ss. 499.001-499.081.
- (i) The purchase or sale of prescription drugs for wholesale distribution in exchange for currency, as defined in  $\underline{s}$ . 560.103  $\underline{s}$ . 560.103(6).

Section 48. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 501.95, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501.95 Gift certificates and credit memos. --

(2)

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a gift certificate or credit memo sold or issued by a financial institution, as defined

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in s. 655.005, or by a money <u>services business</u> transmitter, as defined in s. 560.103, if the gift certificate or credit memo is redeemable by multiple unaffiliated merchants.

Section 49. Paragraph (n) of subsection (2) of section 538.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

538.03 Definitions; applicability.--

- (2) This chapter does not apply to:
- (n) A business that contracts with other persons or entities to offer its secondhand goods for sale, purchase, consignment, or trade via an Internet website, and that maintains a shop, store, or other business premises for this purpose, if all of the following apply:
- 1. The secondhand goods must be available on the website for viewing by the public at no charge;
- 2. The records of the sale, purchase, consignment, or trade must be maintained for at least 2 years;
- 3. The records of the sale, purchase, consignment, or trade, and the description of the secondhand goods as listed on the website, must contain the serial number of each item, if any;
- 4. The secondhand goods listed on the website must be searchable based upon the state or zip code;
- 5. The business must provide the appropriate law enforcement agency with the name or names under which it conducts business on the website;
- 6. The business must allow the appropriate law enforcement agency to inspect its business premises at any time during normal business hours;
- 7. Any payment by the business resulting from such a sale, purchase, consignment, or trade must be made to the person or

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entity with whom the business contracted to offer the goods and must be made by check or via a money <u>services business</u> transmitter licensed under part II of chapter 560; and

- 8.a. At least 48 hours after the estimated time of contracting to offer the secondhand goods, the business must verify that any item having a serial number is not stolen property by entering the serial number of the item into the Department of Law Enforcement's stolen article database located at the Florida Crime Information Center's public access system website. The business shall record the date and time of such verification on the contract covering the goods. If such verification reveals that an item is stolen property, the business shall immediately remove the item from any website on which it is being offered and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency; or
- b. The business must provide the appropriate law enforcement agency with an electronic copy of the name, address, phone number, driver's license number, and issuing state of the person with whom the business contracted to offer the goods, as well as an accurate description of the goods, including make, model, serial number, and any other unique identifying marks, numbers, names, or letters that may be on an item, in a format agreed upon by the business and the appropriate law enforcement agency. This information must be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 24 hours after entering into the contract unless other arrangements are made between the business and the law enforcement agency.

Section 50. Subsection (10) of section 896.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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896.101 Florida Money Laundering Act; definitions; penalties; injunctions; seizure warrants; immunity.--

(10) Any financial institution, licensed money services business transmitter, or other person served with and complying with the terms of a warrant, temporary injunction, or other court order, including any subpoena issued under the authority granted by s. 16.56 or s. 27.04, obtained in furtherance of an investigation of any crime in this section, including any crime listed as specified unlawful activity under this section or any felony violation of chapter 560, has immunity from criminal liability and is shall not be liable to any person for any lawful action taken in complying with the warrant, temporary injunction, or other court order, including any subpoena issued under the authority granted by s. 16.56 or s. 27.04. If any subpoena issued under the authority granted by s. 16.56 or s. 27.04 contains a nondisclosure provision, any financial institution, licensed money services business transmitter, employee or officer of a financial institution or licensed money services business transmitter, or any other person may not notify, directly or indirectly, any customer of that financial institution or licensed money services business transmitter whose records are being sought by the subpoena, or any other person named in the subpoena, about the existence or the contents of that subpoena or about information that has been furnished to the state attorney or statewide prosecutor who issued the subpoena or other law enforcement officer named in the subpoena in response to the subpoena.

Section 51. Subsection (5) of section 896.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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896.104 Structuring transactions to evade reporting or registration requirements prohibited.--

(5) INFERENCE.--Proof that a person engaged for monetary consideration in the business of a money funds transmitter, as defined in s. 560.103, s. 560.103(10) and who is transporting more than \$10,000 in currency, or the foreign equivalent, without being licensed registered as a money transmitter or designated as an authorized agent vendor under the provisions of chapter 560, gives rise to an inference that the transportation was done with knowledge of the licensure registration requirements of chapter 560 and the reporting requirements of this chapter.

Section 52. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.--

- (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART
- 2972 (q) LEVEL 7

316.1935(3)(b)

Florida	Felony	Description
Statute	Degree	
316.027(1)(b)	1st	Accident involving
		death, failure to
		stop; leaving scene.
316.193(3)(c)2.	3rd	DUI resulting in
		serious bodily
		injury.

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Causing serious

1st

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bodily injury or
death to another
person; driving at
high speed or with
wanton disregard for
safety while fleeing
or attempting to
elude law
enforcement officer
who is in a patrol
vehicle with siren
and lights
activated.

327.35(3)(c)2. 3rd

Vessel BUI resulting in serious bodily injury.

402.319(2) 2nd

Misrepresentation
and negligence or
intentional act
resulting in great
bodily harm,
permanent
disfiguration,
permanent
disability, or
death.

2978

2976

2977

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	409.920(2)	3rd	Medicaid provider fraud.
2979			Iraud.
	456.065(2)	3rd	Practicing a health
			care profession
			without a license.
2980			
	456.065(2)	2nd	Practicing a health
			care profession
			without a license which results in
			serious bodily
			injury.
2981			111) WIY.
	458.327(1)	3rd	Practicing medicine
			without a license.
2982			
	459.013(1)	3rd	Practicing
			osteopathic medicine
			without a license.
2983	4.00 411 (1)	) so al	Duo ah i ai aa
	460.411(1)	3rd	Practicing chiropractic
			medicine without a
			license.
2984			
	461.012(1)	3rd	Practicing podiatric
			medicine without a
			license.
ļ			

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2985	462.17	3rd	Practicing naturopathy without a license.
2986	463.015(1)	3rd	Practicing optometry without a license.
2987	464.016(1)	3rd	Practicing nursing without a license.
2988	465.015(2)	3rd	Practicing pharmacy without a license.
2989	466.026(1)	3rd	Practicing dentistry or dental hygiene without a license.
2990	467.201	3rd	Practicing midwifery without a license.
2991	468.366	3rd	Delivering respiratory care services without a license.
2992	483.828(1)	3rd	Practicing as clinical laboratory personnel without a

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2993			license.
2994	483.901(9)	3rd	Practicing medical physics without a license.
2995	484.013(1)(c)	3rd	Preparing or dispensing optical devices without a prescription.
2995	484.053	3rd	Dispensing hearing aids without a license.
2997	494.0018(2)	1st	Conviction of any violation of ss. 494.001-494.0077 in which the total money and property unlawfully obtained exceeded \$50,000 and there were five or more victims.
2331	560.123(8)(b)1.	3rd	Failure to report currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but

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2998			less than \$20,000 by  a money services  business  transmitter.
	560.125(5)(a)	3rd	Money <u>services</u> transmitter business by unauthorized person, currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000.
2999	655.50(10)(b)1.	3rd	Failure to report financial transactions exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000 by financial institution.
3000	775.21(10)(a)	3rd	Sexual predator; failure to register; failure to renew driver's license or identification card; other registration violations.

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3002	775.21(10)(b)	3rd	Sexual predator working where children regularly congregate.
3003	775.21(10)(g)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false information about a sexual predator; harbor or conceal a sexual predator.
3004	782.051(3)	2nd	Attempted felony murder of a person by a person other than the perpetrator or the perpetrator of an attempted felony.
3005	782.07(1)	2nd	Killing of a human being by the act, procurement, or culpable negligence of another (manslaughter).
	782.071	2nd	Killing of a human being or viable

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			fetus by the
			operation of a motor
			vehicle in a
			reckless manner
			(vehicular
			homicide).
3006			
	782.072	2nd	Killing of a human
			being by the
			operation of a
			vessel in a reckless
			manner (vessel
			homicide).
3007			
	784.045(1)(a)1.	2nd	Aggravated battery;
			intentionally
			causing great bodily
			harm or
			disfigurement.
3008			
	784.045(1)(a)2.	2nd	Aggravated battery;
			using deadly weapon.
3009			
	784.045(1)(b)	2nd	Aggravated battery;
			perpetrator aware
2010			victim pregnant.
3010	704 04074	21	7
	784.048(4)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; violation of
			VIOLACION OI

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3011			injunction or court order.
3012	784.048(7)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; violation of court order.
3013	784.07(2)(d)	1st	Aggravated battery on law enforcement officer.
	784.074(1)(a)	1st	Aggravated battery on sexually violent predators facility staff.
3014	784.08(2)(a)	1st	Aggravated battery on a person 65 years of age or older.
3016	784.081(1)	1st	Aggravated battery on specified official or employee.
3010	784.082(1)	1st	Aggravated battery by detained person on visitor or other detainee.

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3017			
	784.083(1)	1st	Aggravated battery
			on code inspector.
3018			
	790.07(4)	1st	Specified weapons
			violation subsequent
			to previous
			conviction of s.
3019			790.07(1) or (2).
3019	790.16(1)	1st	Discharge of a
	, 50 • 10 (1)	150	machine gun under
			specified
			circumstances.
3020			
	790.165(2)	2nd	Manufacture, sell,
			possess, or deliver
			hoax bomb.
3021			
	790.165(3)	2nd	Possessing,
			displaying, or
			threatening to use
			any hoax bomb while
			committing or
			attempting to commit
3022			a felony.
3022	790.166(3)	2nd	Possessing, selling,
	\ - /	-	using, or attempting
			j

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3023			to use a hoax weapon of mass destruction.
0020	790.166(4)	2nd	Possessing, displaying, or threatening to use a hoax weapon of mass
3024			destruction while committing or attempting to commit a felony.
	794.08(4)	3rd	Female genital mutilation; consent by a parent, guardian, or a person in custodial authority to a victim younger than 18 years of age.
3025	796.03	2nd	Procuring any person under 16 years for prostitution.
3026	800.04(5)(c)1.	2nd	Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim less than 12 years of age; offender

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3027			less than 18 years.
3028	800.04(5)(c)2.	2nd	Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years; offender 18 years or older.
3029	806.01(2)	2nd	Maliciously damage structure by fire or explosive.
3030	810.02(3)(a)	2nd	Burglary of occupied dwelling; unarmed; no assault or battery.
3031	810.02(3)(b)	2nd	Burglary of unoccupied dwelling; unarmed; no assault or battery.
3032	810.02(3)(d)	2nd	Burglary of occupied conveyance; unarmed; no assault or battery.
	810.02(3)(e)	2nd	Burglary of

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3033			authorized emergency vehicle.
	812.014(2)(a)1.	1st	Property stolen, valued at \$100,000 or more or a semitrailer deployed by a law enforcement officer; property stolen while causing other property damage; 1st degree grand theft.
3034	812.014(2)(b)2.	2nd	Property stolen, cargo valued at less than \$50,000, grand theft in 2nd degree.
3036	812.014(2)(b)3.	2nd	Property stolen, emergency medical equipment; 2nd degree grand theft.
	812.014(2)(b)4.	2nd	Property stolen, law enforcement equipment from authorized emergency vehicle.

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3037			
	812.0145(2)(a)	1st	Theft from person 65
			years of age or
			older; \$50,000 or
			more.
3038			
	812.019(2)	1st	Stolen property;
			initiates,
			organizes, plans,
			etc., the theft of
			property and
			traffics in stolen
			property.
3039			
	812.131(2)(a)	2nd	Robbery by sudden
2010			snatching.
3040	010 100 (0) (1)	1	
	812.133(2)(b)	1st	Carjacking; no
			firearm, deadly
			weapon, or other weapon.
3041			weapon.
3011	817.234(8)(a)	2nd	Solicitation of
	· / · /		motor vehicle
			accident victims
			with intent to
			defraud.
3042			
	817.234(9)	2nd	Organizing,

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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3043			planning, or participating in an intentional motor vehicle collision.
3043	817.234(11)(c)	1st	<pre>Insurance fraud; property value \$100,000 or more.</pre>
3044	817.2341(2)(b)&(3)(b)	1st	Making false entries of material fact or false statements regarding property values relating to the solvency of an insuring entity which are a significant cause of the insolvency of that entity.
3046	825.102(3)(b)	2nd	Neglecting an elderly person or disabled adult causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement.
3010	825.103(2)(b)	2nd	Exploiting an

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3047			elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000.
3047	827.03(3)(b)	2nd	Neglect of a child causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement.
20.40	827.04(3)	3rd	Impregnation of a child under 16 years of age by person 21 years of age or older.
3049	837.05(2)	3rd	Giving false information about alleged capital felony to a law enforcement officer.
3050	838.015	2nd	Bribery.
	838.016	2nd	Unlawful compensation or reward for official

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3052			behavior.
	838.021(3)(a)	2nd	Unlawful harm to a
2052			public servant.
3053	838.22	2nd	Bid tampering.
3054			
	847.0135(3)	3rd	Solicitation of a
			child, via a computer service, to
			commit an unlawful
			sex act.
3055			
	847.0135(4)	2nd	Traveling to meet a
			minor to commit an unlawful sex act.
3056			anzamzaz cen ace.
	872.06	2nd	Abuse of a dead
0.055			human body.
3057	893.13(1)(c)1.	1st	Sell, manufacture,
			or deliver cocaine
			(or other drug
			prohibited under s.
			893.03(1)(a),
			(1) (b), (1) (d),
			(2) (a), (2) (b), or
			(2)(c)4.) within 1,000 feet of a
			1,000 1000 01 0

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3058			child care facility, school, or state, county, or municipal park or publicly owned recreational facility or community center.
3059	893.13(1)(e)1.	1st	Sell, manufacture, or deliver cocaine or other drug prohibited under s. 893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)4., within 1,000 feet of property used for religious services or a specified business site.
3060	893.13(4)(a)	1st	Deliver to minor cocaine (or other s. 893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)4. drugs).

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3061	893.135(1)(a)1.	1st	Trafficking in cannabis, more than 25 lbs., less than 2,000 lbs.
3062	893.135(1)(b)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in cocaine, more than 28 grams, less than 200 grams.
3063	893.135(1)(c)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in illegal drugs, more than 4 grams, less than 14 grams.
	893.135(1)(d)1.	1st	Trafficking in phencyclidine, more than 28 grams, less than 200 grams.
3064	893.135(1)(e)1.	1st	Trafficking in methaqualone, more than 200 grams, less than 5 kilograms.
3065	893.135(1)(f)1.	1st	Trafficking in amphetamine, more than 14 grams, less than 28 grams.

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3066			
	893.135(1)(g)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in
			flunitrazepam, 4
			grams or more, less
			than 14 grams.
3067			
	893.135(1)(h)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in
			gamma-hydroxybutyric
			acid (GHB), 1
			kilogram or more,
			less than 5
			kilograms.
3068			
	893.135(1)(j)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in 1,4-
			Butanediol, 1
			kilogram or more,
			less than 5
			kilograms.
3069			
	893.135(1)(k)2.a.	1st	Trafficking in
			Phenethylamines, 10
			grams or more, less
			than 200 grams.
3070			
	896.101(5)(a)	3rd	Money laundering,
			financial
			transactions
			exceeding \$300 but
			less than \$20,000.
ı			

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3071			
	896.104(4)(a)1.	3rd	Structuring
			transactions to
			evade reporting or
			registration
			requirements,
			financial
			transactions
			exceeding \$300 but
			less than \$20,000.
3072	943.0435(4)(c)	2nd	Sexual offender
	313.0133(1)(0)	2110	vacating permanent
			residence; failure
			to comply with
			reporting
			requirements.
3073			_04_00
	943.0435(8)	2nd	Sexual offender;
			remains in state
			after indicating
			intent to leave;
			failure to comply
			with reporting
			requirements.
3074	943.0435(9)(a)	3rd	Sexual offender;
	515.0100 (5) (a)	514	failure to comply
			with reporting
			"Tell Tepoteting

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3075			requirements.
3076	943.0435(13)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false information about a sexual offender; harbor or conceal a sexual offender.
3077	943.0435(14)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to report and reregister; failure to respond to address verification.
3078	944.607(9)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to comply with reporting requirements.
3079	944.607(10)(a)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to submit to the taking of a digitized photograph.
	944.607(12)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false

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			information about a
			sexual offender;
			harbor or conceal a
			sexual offender.
3080			
	944.607(13)	3rd	Sexual offender;
			failure to report
			and reregister;
			failure to respond
			to address
			verification.
3081			
	985.4815(10)	3rd	Sexual offender;
			failure to submit to
			the taking of a
			digitized
0.000			photograph.
3082	005 4015 (10)	21	Tailuna ta marantan
	985.4815(12)	3rd	Failure to report or
			providing false information about a
			sexual offender;
			harbor or conceal a
			sexual offender.
3083			Sexual Offender.
	985.4815(13)	3rd	Sexual offender;
	, ,		failure to report
			and reregister;
			failure to respond

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to address verification.

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Section 53. Sections 560.101, 560.102, 560.106, 560.1073, 560.108, 560.112. 560.117, 560.200, 560.202, 560.206, 560.207, 560.301, 560.302, 560.305, 560.306, 560.307, 560.308, 560.401, 560.402, and 560.407, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

3089

Section 54. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect October 1, 2008.