A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to affordable housing; amending s. 3 420.5061, F.S.; removing a provision requiring the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to transfer certain funds to 4 the General Revenue Fund; amending s. 420.9071, F.S.; 5 6 revising definitions; amending s. 420.9072, F.S.; 7 conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 420.9073, F.S.; 8 revising the frequency with which local housing 9 distributions are to be made by the corporation; revising calculations used to determine the quaranteed distribution 10 amounts; authorizing the corporation to withhold funds 11 from the total distribution annually for specified 12 purposes; requiring counties and eligible municipalities 13 that receive local housing distributions to expend those 14 funds in a specified manner; amending s. 420.9075, F.S.; 15 16 requiring local housing assistance plans to include persons with disabilities; authorizing certain high-cost 17 areas to include strategies to assist persons and 18 19 households whose annual incomes are not more than 140 20 percent of area median income; requiring local housing assistance plans to describe specified initiatives; 21 extending the expiration date for an exemption of certain 22 counties and municipalities that provide affordable 23 24 housing from certain tenant-income requirements; 25 authorizing counties and eligible municipalities to award 26 funds as a grant for certain purposes; increasing the threshold amount used to determine which counties and 27 municipalities may use up to 10 percent of program income 28

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for administrative costs; requiring the corporation to provide training for certain purposes; revising reporting requirements for counties and eligible municipalities; conforming cross-references; providing that the corporation shall require expended funds for an ineligible activity to be repaid into the local housing assistance trust fund; prohibiting repayment from being made with certain funds; amending s. 420.9076, F.S.; revising membership criteria for affordable housing advisory committees; revising notice requirements for public hearings of the advisory committee; requiring the committee's final report, evaluation, and recommendations to be submitted to the corporation; conforming a crossreference; repealing s. 420.9078, F.S., relating to state administration of remaining local housing distribution funds; 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 420.5061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.5061 Transfer of agency assets and liabilities.--The corporation is the legal successor in all respects to the agency, is obligated to the same extent as the agency under any agreements existing on December 31, 1997, and is entitled to any rights and remedies previously afforded the agency by law or contract, including specifically the rights of the agency under chapter 201 and part VI of chapter 159. Effective January 1,

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HB 699 2008

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57 1998, all references under Florida law to the agency are deemed to mean the corporation. The corporation shall transfer to the 59 General Revenue Fund an amount which otherwise would have been deducted as a service charge pursuant to s. 215.20(1) if the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Fund established by s. 420.508(5), the State Apartment Incentive Loan Fund established by s. 420.5087(7), the Florida Homeownership Assistance Fund established by s. 420.5088(4), the HOME Investment Partnership Fund established by s. 420.5089(1), and the Housing Predevelopment Loan Fund established by s. 420.525(1) were each 66 67 trust funds. For purposes of s. 112.313, the corporation is deemed to be a continuation of the agency, and the provisions 68 thereof are deemed to apply as if the same entity remained in 69 place. Any employees of the agency and agency board members covered by s. 112.313(9)(a)6. shall continue to be entitled to the exemption in that subparagraph, notwithstanding being hired by the corporation or appointed as board members of the corporation.

Section 2. Subsections (4), (8), (16), and (25) of section 420.9071, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

420.9071 Definitions.--As used in ss. 420.907-420.9079, the term:

"Annual gross income" means annual income as defined under the Section 8 housing assistance payments programs in 24 C.F.R. part 5; annual income as reported under the census long form for the recent available decennial census; or adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under Internal Revenue Service Form 1040 for individual federal annual income

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tax purposes; or other methods of verifying income provided by rule of the corporation. Counties and eligible municipalities shall calculate income by annualizing verified sources of income for the household as the amount of income to be received in a household during the 12 months following the effective date of the determination.

- (8) "Eligible housing" means any real and personal property located within the county or the eligible municipality which is designed and intended for the primary purpose of providing decent, safe, and sanitary residential units that are designed to meet the standards of the Florida Building Code adopted under chapter 553, or manufactured housing constructed after June 1994 and installed in accordance with mobile home installation standards of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, for home ownership or rental for eligible persons as designated by each county or eligible municipality participating in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.
- regulatory reform or incentive programs to encourage or facilitate affordable housing production, which include at a minimum, assurance that permits as defined in s. 163.3164(7) and (8) for affordable housing projects are expedited to a greater degree than other projects; an ongoing process for review of local policies, ordinances, regulations, and plan provisions that increase the cost of housing prior to their adoption; and a schedule for implementing the incentive strategies. Local housing incentive strategies may also include other regulatory

reforms, such as those enumerated in s. 420.9076 or those recommended by the affordable housing advisory committee in its triennial evaluation and adopted by the local governing body.

- (25) "Recaptured funds" means funds that are recouped by a county or eligible municipality in accordance with the recapture provisions of its local housing assistance plan pursuant to s. 420.9075(5)(g) from eligible persons or eligible sponsors, which funds were not used for assistance to an eligible household for an eligible activity, when there is a who default on the terms of a grant award or loan award.
- Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 420.9072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 420.9072 State Housing Initiatives Partnership
  Program.--The State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program is
  created for the purpose of providing funds to counties and
  eligible municipalities as an incentive for the creation of
  local housing partnerships, to expand production of and preserve
  affordable housing, to further the housing element of the local
  government comprehensive plan specific to affordable housing,
  and to increase housing-related employment.
- (6) The moneys that otherwise would be distributed pursuant to s. 420.9073 to a local government that does not meet the program's requirements for receipts of such distributions shall remain in the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to be administered by the corporation pursuant to s. 420.9078.
- Section 4. Section 420.9073, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 420.9073 Local housing distributions.--

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disbursed on a <u>quarterly or more frequent</u> monthly basis by the corporation beginning the first day of the month after program approval pursuant to s. 420.9072, subject to availability of <u>funds</u>. Each county's share of the funds to be distributed from the portion of the funds in the Local Government Housing Trust Fund received pursuant to s. 201.15(9) shall be calculated by the corporation for each fiscal year as follows:

- (a) Each county other than a county that has implemented the provisions of chapter 83-220, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 84-270, 86-152, and 89-252, Laws of Florida, shall receive the guaranteed amount for each fiscal year.
- (b) Each county other than a county that has implemented the provisions of chapter 83-220, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 84-270, 86-152, and 89-252, Laws of Florida, may receive an additional share calculated as follows:
- 1. Multiply each county's percentage of the total state population excluding the population of any county that has implemented the provisions of chapter 83-220, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 84-270, 86-152, and 89-252, Laws of Florida, by the total funds to be distributed.
- 2. If the result in subparagraph 1. is less than the guaranteed amount as determined in subsection (3), that county's additional share shall be zero.
- 3. For each county in which the result in subparagraph 1. is greater than the guaranteed amount as determined in subsection (3), the amount calculated in subparagraph 1. shall be reduced by the guaranteed amount. The result for each such

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county shall be expressed as a percentage of the amounts so determined for all counties. Each such county shall receive an additional share equal to such percentage multiplied by the total funds received by the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15(9) reduced by the guaranteed amount paid to all counties.

- (2) Effective July 1, 1995, Distributions calculated in this section shall be disbursed on a quarterly or more frequent monthly basis by the corporation beginning the first day of the month after program approval pursuant to s. 420.9072, subject to availability of funds. Each county's share of the funds to be distributed from the portion of the funds in the Local Government Housing Trust Fund received pursuant to s. 201.15(10) shall be calculated by the corporation for each fiscal year as follows:
- (a) Each county shall receive the guaranteed amount for each fiscal year.
- (b) Each county may receive an additional share calculated as follows:
- 1. Multiply each county's percentage of the total state population, by the total funds to be distributed.
- 2. If the result in subparagraph 1. is less than the guaranteed amount as determined in subsection (3), that county's additional share shall be zero.
- 3. For each county in which the result in subparagraph 1. is greater than the guaranteed amount, the amount calculated in subparagraph 1. shall be reduced by the guaranteed amount. The result for each such county shall be expressed as a percentage

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of the amounts so determined for all counties. Each such county shall receive an additional share equal to this percentage multiplied by the total funds received by the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15(10) as reduced by the quaranteed amount paid to all counties.

(3) Calculation of guaranteed amounts:

- (a) The guaranteed amount under subsection (1) shall be calculated for each state fiscal year by multiplying \$500,000 \$350,000 by a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of funds distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15(9) and the denominator of which is the total amount of funds distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15.
- (b) The guaranteed amount under subsection (2) shall be calculated for each state fiscal year by multiplying \$500,000 \$350,000 by a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of funds distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15(10) and the denominator of which is the total amount of funds distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 201.15.
- (4) Funds distributed pursuant to this section may not be pledged to pay debt service on any bonds.
- (5) Notwithstanding subsections (1)-(4), the corporation is authorized to withhold up to \$5 million from the total distribution each fiscal year to provide additional funding to counties and eligible municipalities in which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor pursuant to chapter 252. Any portion of such funds not distributed under this

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subsection by the end of the fiscal year shall be distributed as provided in this section.

- is authorized to withhold up to \$5 million from the total distribution each fiscal year to provide funding to counties and eligible municipalities to purchase properties subject to a State Housing Initiative Partnership Program lien and on which foreclosure proceedings have been initiated by any mortgagee. Each county and eligible municipality that receives funds under this subsection shall repay such funds to the corporation not later than the expenditure deadline for the fiscal year in which the funds were awarded. Amounts not repaid shall be withheld from the subsequent year's distribution. Any portion of such funds not distributed under this subsection by the end of the fiscal year shall be distributed as provided in this section.
- (7) A county or eligible municipality that receives local housing distributions pursuant to this section shall expend those funds in accordance with the provisions of ss. 420.907-420.9079, corporation rule, and its local housing assistance plan.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraph (d) of subsection (5), subsections (7) and (8), paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (10), and paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 420.9075, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3), paragraph (1) is added to subsection (5), and subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

420.9075 Local housing assistance plans; partnerships.--

(1)(a) Each county or eliqible municipality participating in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program shall develop and implement a local housing assistance plan created to make affordable residential units available to persons of very low income, low income, or moderate income and to persons who have special housing needs, including, but not limited to, homeless people, the elderly, and migrant farmworkers, and persons with disabilities. High-cost counties, as defined by corporation rule, and eligible municipalities within such counties, may include strategies to assist persons and households whose annual incomes are not more than 140 percent of area median income. The plans are intended to increase the availability of affordable residential units by combining local resources and cost-saving measures into a local housing partnership and using private and public funds to reduce the cost of housing.

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- (d) Each county and each eligible municipality shall describe initiatives in the local housing assistance plan that encourage or require innovative design, green building principles, storm-resistant construction, or other elements that reduce long-term costs relating to maintenance, utilities, or insurance.
- (5) The following criteria apply to awards made to eligible sponsors or eligible persons for the purpose of providing eligible housing:
- (d)1. All units constructed, rehabilitated, or otherwise assisted with the funds provided from the local housing

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assistance trust fund must be occupied by very-low-income persons, low-income persons, and moderate-income persons, except as otherwise provided in this section.

- 2. At least 30 percent of the funds deposited into the local housing assistance trust fund must be reserved for awards to very-low-income persons or eligible sponsors who will serve very-low-income persons and at least an additional 30 percent of the funds deposited into the local housing assistance trust fund must be reserved for awards to low-income persons or eligible sponsors who will serve low-income persons. This subparagraph does not apply to a county or an eligible municipality that includes, or has included within the previous 5 years, an area of critical state concern designated or ratified by the Legislature for which the Legislature has declared its intent to provide affordable housing. The exemption created by this subparagraph act expires on July 1, 2013 2008.
- (1) Each county and eligible municipality may award funds as a grant for construction, rehabilitation, or repair as part of disaster recovery or emergency repairs or to remedy accessibility or health and safety deficiencies. Any other grants must be approved as part of the local housing assistance plan.

If both an award under the local housing assistance plan and federal low-income housing tax credits are used to assist a project and there is a conflict between the criteria prescribed in this subsection and the requirements of s. 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the county or eligible

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municipality may resolve the conflict by giving precedence to the requirements of s. 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, in lieu of following the criteria prescribed in this subsection with the exception of paragraphs (a) and (d) of this subsection.

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- (7) The moneys deposited in the local housing assistance trust fund shall be used to administer and implement the local housing assistance plan. The cost of administering the plan may not exceed 5 percent of the local housing distribution moneys and program income deposited into the trust fund. A county or an eligible municipality may not exceed the 5-percent limitation on administrative costs, unless its governing body finds, by resolution, that 5 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income is insufficient to adequately pay the necessary costs of administering the local housing assistance plan. The cost of administering the program may not exceed 10 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income deposited into the trust fund, except that small counties, as defined in s. 120.52(17), and eligible municipalities receiving a local housing distribution of up to \$500,000 <del>\$350,000</del> may use up to 10 percent of program income for administrative costs.
- (8) Pursuant to s. 420.531, the corporation shall provide training and technical assistance to local governments regarding the creation of partnerships, the design of local housing assistance strategies, the implementation of local housing incentive strategies, and the provision of support services.

(10) Each county or eligible municipality shall submit to the corporation by September 15 of each year a report of its affordable housing programs and accomplishments through June 30 immediately preceding submittal of the report. The report shall be certified as accurate and complete by the local government's chief elected official or his or her designee. Transmittal of the annual report by a county's or eligible municipality's chief elected official, or his or her designee, certifies that the local housing incentive strategies, or, if applicable, the local housing incentive plan, have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented pursuant to the adopted schedule for implementation. The report must include, but is not limited to:

- (a) The number of households served by income category, age, family size, and race, and data regarding any special needs populations such as farmworkers, homeless persons, and the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Counties shall report this information separately for households served in the unincorporated area and each municipality within the county.
- (h) Such other data or affordable housing accomplishments considered significant by the reporting county or eligible municipality or the corporation.

(13)

(b) If, as a result of its review of the annual report, the corporation determines that a county or eligible municipality has failed to implement a local housing incentive strategy, or, if applicable, a local housing incentive plan, it shall send a notice of termination of the local government's

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share of the local housing distribution by certified mail to the affected county or eligible municipality.

- 1. The notice must specify a date of termination of the funding if the affected county or eligible municipality does not implement the plan or strategy and provide for a local response. A county or eligible municipality shall respond to the corporation within 30 days after receipt of the notice of termination.
- 2. The corporation shall consider the local response that extenuating circumstances precluded implementation and grant an extension to the timeframe for implementation. Such an extension shall be made in the form of an extension agreement that provides a timeframe for implementation. The chief elected official of a county or eligible municipality or his or her designee shall have the authority to enter into the agreement on behalf of the local government.
- 3. If the county or the eligible municipality has not implemented the incentive strategy or entered into an extension agreement by the termination date specified in the notice, the local housing distribution share terminates, and any uncommitted local housing distribution funds held by the affected county or eligible municipality in its local housing assistance trust fund shall be transferred to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the credit of the corporation to administer pursuant to s. 420.9078.
- 4.a. If the affected local government fails to meet the timeframes specified in the agreement, the corporation shall terminate funds. The corporation shall send a notice of

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termination of the local government's share of the local housing distribution by certified mail to the affected local government. The notice shall specify the termination date, and any uncommitted funds held by the affected local government shall be transferred to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the credit of the corporation to administer pursuant to s. 420.9078.

- b. If the corporation terminates funds to a county, but an eligible municipality receiving a local housing distribution pursuant to an interlocal agreement maintains compliance with program requirements, the corporation shall thereafter distribute directly to the participating eligible municipality its share calculated in the manner provided in s. 420.9072.
- c. Any county or eligible municipality whose local distribution share has been terminated may subsequently elect to receive directly its local distribution share by adopting the ordinance, resolution, and local housing assistance plan in the manner and according to the procedures provided in ss. 420.907-420.9079.
- eligible municipality has expended program funds for an ineligible activity, the corporation shall require such funds to be repaid to the local housing assistance trust fund. Such repayment shall not be made from State Housing Initiative Partnership Program funds.
- Section 6. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2), subsections (5) and (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 420.9076, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

420.9076 Adoption of affordable housing incentive strategies; committees.--

- (2) The governing board of a county or municipality shall appoint the members of the affordable housing advisory committee by resolution. Pursuant to the terms of any interlocal agreement, a county and municipality may create and jointly appoint an advisory committee to prepare a joint plan. The ordinance adopted pursuant to s. 420.9072 which creates the advisory committee or the resolution appointing the advisory committee members must provide for 11 committee members and their terms. The committee must include:
- (h) One citizen who actively serves on the local planning agency pursuant to s. 163.3174. When the local planning agency is comprised of the governing board of the county or municipality, the governing board may appoint a designee who is knowledgeable in the local planning process.

If a county or eligible municipality whether due to its small size, the presence of a conflict of interest by prospective appointees, or other reasonable factor, is unable to appoint a citizen actively engaged in these activities in connection with affordable housing, a citizen engaged in the activity without regard to affordable housing may be appointed. Local governments that receive the minimum allocation under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program may elect to appoint an affordable housing advisory committee with fewer than 11 representatives if they are unable to find representatives who meet the criteria of paragraphs (a)-(k).

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The approval by the advisory committee of its local housing incentive strategies recommendations and its review of local government implementation of previously recommended strategies must be made by affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the advisory committee taken at a public hearing. Notice of the time, date, and place of the public hearing of the advisory committee to adopt its evaluation and final local housing incentive strategies recommendations must be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county. The notice must contain a short and concise summary of the evaluation and local housing incentives strategies recommendations to be considered by the advisory committee. The notice must state the public place where a copy of the tentative advisory committee recommendations can be obtained by interested persons. The final report, evaluation, and recommendations shall be submitted to the corporation.

evaluation and local housing incentive strategies recommendations from the advisory committee, the governing body of the appointing local government shall adopt an amendment to its local housing assistance plan to incorporate the local housing incentive strategies it will implement within its jurisdiction. The amendment must include, at a minimum, the local housing incentive strategies required under s.

420.9071(16). The local government must consider the strategies specified in paragraphs (4)(a)-(k) as recommended by the advisory committee.

(7) The governing board of the county or the eligible municipality shall notify the corporation by certified mail of its adoption of an amendment of its local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies. The notice must include a copy of the approved amended plan.

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- If the corporation fails to receive timely the approved amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies, a notice of termination of its share of the local housing distribution shall be sent by certified mail by the corporation to the affected county or eligible municipality. The notice of termination must specify a date of termination of the funding if the affected county or eligible municipality has not adopted an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies. If the county or the eligible municipality has not adopted an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies by the termination date specified in the notice of termination, the local distribution share terminates; and any uncommitted local distribution funds held by the affected county or eligible municipality in its local housing assistance trust fund shall be transferred to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the credit of the corporation to administer the local government housing program pursuant to s. 420.9078.
- Section 7. <u>Section 420.9078</u>, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
  - Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

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