

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 04/19/2010

The Committee on Transportation (Siplin) recommended the

### Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 311.23, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 311.23 Florida Ports Investment Act.-
- (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Florida Ports Investment Act."
- (2) PURPOSE.—The primary purpose of this program is to stimulate a substantial increase in the state's port

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infrastructure by providing an incentive for investment in new or expanding port and port-related projects. This investment capital flowing into new or expanding port activities and portrelated businesses is intended to contribute to employment growth, create jobs that exceed the average wage for the county in which the jobs are located, and expand or diversify the economic base of this state.

- (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Florida Ports Investment Corporation created under subsection (4).
- (b) "Corporation" means the Florida Ports Investment Corporation created under subsection (4).
  - (c) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.
- (d) "Investment capital" means an investment of cash by a participating investor in the corporation in exchange for the tax credits provided in this section.
- (e) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- (f) "Participating investor" means any qualified investor that is subject to the Internal Revenue Code and that contributes investment capital pursuant to this section.
- (g) "Qualified port project" means a project at a port listed in s. 403.021(9)(b) or any associated business or project that uses those ports for the movement of goods and people and meets the requirements in subsection (5).
- (h) "Return on investment," for purposes of the annual report required under subsection (10), means the gain in state revenues as a percentage of the state's total investment in an economic development project.

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- (4) FLORIDA PORTS INVESTMENT CORPORATION; CREATION; AUTHORITY; BOARD OF DIRECTORS.-
- (a) The Florida Ports Investment Corporation is created as a corporation not for profit, to be incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617, and registered with the Department of State as a Florida entity. The Legislature determines that public policy dictates that the corporation operate in the most open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. Therefore, the Legislature specifically declares that the corporation and its advisory company are subject to the publicrecords and public-meetings requirements of chapters 119 and 286.

## (b) The corporation:

- 1. May receive, hold, invest, and administer funds and make expenditures consistent with the purposes of this section.
- 2. May make purchases, sales, exchanges, investments, and reinvestments for and on behalf of the funds received pursuant to this section.
- 3. Shall maintain all official records related to its activities.
- 4. Shall file with the office and the Department of Financial Services quarterly financial reports and annual financial statements audited by a certified public accountant.
- 5. Shall timely provide the office with information about its participating investors and the amount of their investments in order to assist the office in awarding the available tax credits, and shall provide to the office a list of certified port projects.
  - 6. Shall retain, pursuant to the provisions of s. 287.055,

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at least one investment advisory company domiciled in this state, which has at least 5 years of experience in working with investors seeking tax credits or other debt-driven instruments, to assist the corporation in carrying out the provisions of this section.

- 7. Shall assist the office in developing the annual report required by subsection (10).
- 8. Employ staff, as necessary, to manage the operations of the corporation and perform other duties to assist the corporation in reviewing project applications and notifying applicants of the corporation's investment decisions.
- (c) The corporation shall be governed by a board of directors comprised of:
- 1. The director of the office, who shall serve as the chair.
- 2. Two members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. These appointed members must have significant experience in international business, transportation, law, or logistics. Appointed members are subject to any restrictions on conflicts of interest specified in the organizational documents of the corporation and may not have any interest in any investments made by the corporation pursuant to subsection (5). Initial appointments must be made by September 1, 2010.
- 3. The chair of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council, as a nonvoting member.
  - 4. The Secretary of Transportation.

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The board shall select from a vice chair from among its members every 2 years.

- 5. Each appointed member shall be appointed for a term of 4 years. A vacancy on the board shall be filled by the appointing official for the member whose vacancy is to be filled or whose term has expired. An appointed member may be removed for cause by the appointing official for that member. Absence from three consecutive meetings shall result in automatic removal. Any appointed member is eligible for reappointment.
- 6. A member of the board may not have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties with the corporation. Members of the board shall recuse themselves from voting on the selection of projects that would create a conflict of interest as provided in this subparagraph.
- 7. All board members are subject to s. 112.3145, which requires the disclosure of financial interests and certain clients.
- 8. Members of the board shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable, necessary, and actual expenses as determined and approved by the board pursuant to s. 112.061.
- 9. The board may establish a schedule of meetings and meeting locations, but must meet at least quarterly. The initial meeting of the board must occur by October 1, 2010.
- 10. Staff of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council also shall serve as staff to the

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board, at least initially, to assist the board with incorporation, establish investment accounts, and initiate other activities essential to commencing the board's statutory responsibilities.

- (5) INVESTMENTS BY THE CORPORATION IN PORT PROJECTS AND PORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES.
- (a) 1. The corporation shall promote the economic competitiveness of Florida's ports and their related import and export industries by funding projects that increase the ports' capacity to handle freight; are consistent with approved seaport master plans; and improve economic productivity for the state or the region in which projects are located. Also eligible for investment capital under this section are on-port projects that are eligible for federal financial assistance consistent with criteria developed for federal freight transportation grant programs, including, but not limited to, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS), National Infrastructure Investment (NII), and the National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement (NCII) program.
- 2. The capital received under this section shall be allocated to qualified projects or held pursuant to paragraph (b).
- 3. A minimum 25 percent match in port funds, other local government funds, federal funds, or private funds is required for each qualified project.
- (b) The corporation shall hold all capital that is received under this section and that is not invested in qualified port projects, and such capital:

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- 1. Must be held in a financial institution as defined by s. 655.005(1)(h) or held by a broker-dealer registered under s. 517.12.
  - 2. Must be invested only in:
  - a. United States Treasury obligations;
- b. Certificates of deposit or other obligations, maturing within 3 years after acquisition of such certificates or obligations, issued by any financial institution or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States;
- c. Marketable obligations, maturing within 5 years or less after the acquisition of such obligations, which are rated "A" or better by any nationally recognized credit rating agency; or
- d. Interests in money market funds, the portfolio of which is limited to cash and obligations described in subsubparagraphs a.-c.
- 3. The corporation may begin accepting investment capital from participating investors when it has established the financial accounts specified under this paragraph.
- (c) 1. All investment decisions shall be made by the corporation, which must certify that each project is of a beneficial nature to a port listed in s. 403.021(9)(b); is ready to proceed within 60 days for design, construction, and permitting; and will create a lasting economic impact as determined by the board.
- 2. Applications for funding by qualified port projects may be submitted to the corporation on or after January 15, 2011.
- 3. By December 1, 2010, the corporation, in consultation with the office, shall establish procedural rules for the application form, application procedures, and criteria for

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making investment decisions based upon the requirements established in this paragraph.

- (6) TAX CREDIT; AMOUNT; LIMITATIONS.—
- (a) Any participating investor that makes an investment of capital shall earn a vested credit against the investor's state tax liability equal to 100 percent of the face amount of the credits allocated by the office to the participating investor. To obtain the allocation, a participating investor must submit an application to the office, on such forms and provide any additional documentation required by the office. Such credits may not be allocated by the office or vested to any participating investor prior to May 1, 2011. The credits are not subject to recapture, disallowance, forfeiture, or reduction, except as provided in subsection (9).
- (b) Participating investors are entitled to use no more than 10 percentage points of the vested tax credits per year beginning on or after July 1, 2012. Such amounts include any carryforward credits authorized under this section. The total amount of tax credits which participating investors may claim each year, in the aggregate, against their tax liabilities is \$10 million.
- (c) The credit applied against tax liability in any single year may not exceed the tax liability of the participating investor for that taxable year.
- (d) The the credits authorized by this section are provided under s. 212.1831, s. 220.195, or s. 624.51056. The participating investor shall specify in the application its tax year for which it requests a credit under s. 220.195 or s. 624.51056 or the applicable state fiscal year for a credit under



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- (e) A participating investor that elects to use a tax credits against premium tax liabilities is not required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credits.
- (f) Tax credits that are not used by a participating investor in any single calendar year may be carried forward and applied against the tax liabilities of that investor in subsequent calendar years. The carryforward credit may be applied against subsequent tax filings through the 2029 calendar year. However, any taxpayer that seeks to carry forward an unused amount of tax credit must submit an application to the office for approval of the carryforward tax credit in the year that the taxpayer intends to use the carryforward.
  - (7) ANNUAL TAX CREDIT; MAXIMUM AMOUNT.-
- (a) The total amount of tax credits which may be allocated by the office may not exceed \$100 million. The office shall award tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (b) The office shall allocate the first credits to participating investors on or after May 1, 2011. However, under no circumstance shall such credits be claimed against eligible tax liability before July 1, 2012.
- (c) The office also shall notify the department in writing that a participating investor has been allocated a specific number of credits.
  - (8) TRANSFER OF TAX CREDITS.-
- (a) Upon application to and approval by the office, a participating investor may elect to transfer, in whole or in part, any unused credit amount granted under this section. The

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office shall notify the department of the election and transfer.

- (b) A participating investor that elects to apply a credit amount against taxes is permitted a one-time transfer of unused credits to one transferee. Such transfer must occur in the same taxable year it is received.
- (c) The transferee is subject to the same rights and limitations as the participating investor awarded the tax credit, except that the transferee may not sell or otherwise transfer the tax credit.
- (9) AUDIT AUTHORITY; REVOCATION AND FORFEITURE OF TAX CREDITS; FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.-
- (a) Audit authority.—The department may conduct examinations and audits as provided in s. 213.34 to verify that tax credits under this section are received, transferred, and applied according to the requirements of this section. If the department determines that tax credits are not received, transferred, or applied as required by this section, it may, in addition to the remedies provided in this subsection, pursue recovery of such funds pursuant to the laws and rules governing the assessment of taxes.
- (b) Revocation of tax credits.-The office may revoke or modify any written decision qualifying, certifying, or otherwise granting eligibility for tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the tax credit applicant submitted any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed in an attempt to receive tax credits under this section. The office shall immediately notify the department of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted tax credits. Additionally,

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the applicant must notify the department of any change in its tax credit claimed.

- (c) Forfeiture of tax credits.—A determination by the department, as a result of an audit or examination by the department or from information received from the office, that an applicant received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the applicant was not entitled is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits. The applicant is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the department, and such funds shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the state. Tax credits purchased in good faith are not subject to forfeiture unless the transferee submitted fraudulent information in the purchase or otherwise failed to meet the requirements of this section.
- (d) Fraudulent claims.—Any applicant that submits fraudulent information under this section is liable for reimbursement of the reasonable costs and fees associated with the review, processing, investigation, and prosecution of the fraudulent claim. An applicant that obtains a credit payment under this section through a claim that is fraudulent is liable for reimbursement of the credit amount plus a penalty in an amount double the credit amount. The penalty is in addition to any criminal penalty to which the applicant is liable for the same acts. The applicant is also liable for costs and fees incurred by the state in investigating and prosecuting the fraudulent claim.
- (10) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning February 1, 2012, and every year thereafter, the office shall report on an annual basis to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the

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Speaker of the House of Representatives:

- (a) The total dollar amount received by the corporation from all participating investors, the identity of the participating investors, and the total amount of tax credits used by participating investors for the previous calendar year.
- (b) The total dollar amount invested by the corporation in qualified port projects, the identity and location of those projects, the amount invested in each qualified port project, and the total number of permanent, full-time jobs created or retained by each qualified port project.
- (c) The return for the state as a result of the investments in qualified port projects, including the extent to which:
  - 1. Investments have contributed to employment growth.
- 2. The wage level of businesses in which the corporation has invested exceeds the average wage for the county in which the jobs are located.
- 3. The investments of the corporation in qualified port projects have contributed to expanding or diversifying the economic base of the state.
- (11) FEES.—The corporation may charge reasonable fees for administering and processing applications by qualified port projects for funding pursuant to paragraph (5)(c), and the office may charge reasonable fees for administering and processing applications by participating investors for tax credits pursuant to subsection (7). Any fee charged by the corporation or office under this subsection for an application may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the corporation or office in administering and processing any application for funding or a tax credit.

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(12) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.-

(a) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules governing the examination and audit procedures required to administer this section and the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded or transferred under this section.

(b) The office may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 and develop procedures to administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process, records required for substantiation for tax credits, and the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded or transferred under this section.

Section 2. Section 212.1831, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

212.1831 Credit for investments in Florida port projects.-There is allowed a credit equal to 100 percent of an investment in a qualified port project pursuant to s. 311.23 against any tax imposed by the state and due under this chapter from a direct-pay permitholder as a result of the direct-pay permit held pursuant to s. 212.183. For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received which is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s. 311.23 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

Section 3. Paragraph (k) of subsection (8) of section

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213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.
- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (k)1. Payment information relative to chapters 199, 201, 202, 212, 220, 221, and 624 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, or its employees or agents that are identified in writing by the office to the department, in the administration of the tax refund program for qualified defense contractors and space flight business contractors authorized by s. 288.1045 and the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses authorized by s. 288.106.
- 2. Information relative to tax credits taken by a business under s. 220.191 and exemptions or tax refunds received by a business under s. 212.08(5)(j) to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, or its employees or agents that are identified in writing by the office to the department, in the administration and evaluation of the capital investment tax credit program authorized in s. 220.191 and the semiconductor, defense, and space tax exemption program authorized in s. 212.08(5)(1).
- 3. Information relative to tax credits taken by a taxpayer pursuant to the tax credit programs created in ss. 193.017; 212.08(5)(g),(h),(n),(o) and (p); 212.08(15); 212.096; 212.097; 212.098; 220.181; 220.182; 220.183; 220.184; 220.1845; 220.185; 220.1895; 220.19; 220.191; 220.192; 220.193; 288.0656; 288.99; 290.007; 311.23; 376.30781; 420.5093; 420.5099; 550.0951; 550.26352; 550.2704; 601.155; 624.509; 624.510; 624.5105; and 624.5107 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic



Development, or its employees or agents that are identified in writing by the office to the department, for use in the administration or evaluation of such programs.

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Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 4. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.02 Legislative intent.-

(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that credits against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828, those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181, those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182, those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 221.02, those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186, those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19, those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.187, those enumerated in s. 220.192, those enumerated in s. 220.193, and those enumerated in s. 288.9916, and those enumerated in s. 311.23.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined.-

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- (1) The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as follows:
  - (a) Additions.—There shall be added to such taxable income:
- 1. The amount of any tax upon or measured by income, excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state of the United States which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.
- 2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3).
- 3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.
- 4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
  - 5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or

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incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

- 6. The amount of emergency excise tax paid or accrued as a liability to this state under chapter 221 which tax is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.
- 7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.
- 8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the attributable expenses for the taxable year.
- 9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.1895.
- 10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.185.
- 11. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.187.
- 12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.192.
- 473 13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under 474 s. 220.193.
  - 14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and

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taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.

15. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.195.

Section 6. Section 220.195, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

220.195 Florida Ports Investment Tax Credit.-

- (1) There shall be a credit allowed against the tax imposed by this chapter in the amounts approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development pursuant to the port investment program in s. 311.23.
- (2) A participating investor, as defined in s. 311.23(3), which is awarded a tax credit against its investment in a qualified port project pursuant to s. 311.23 may not claim a credit before July 1, 2012.
- (3) To the extent that a credit amount exceeds the amount due on a return, the balance of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding reporting period pursuant to s. 311.23(6).

Section 7. Section 624.51056, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

624.51056 Credit for investments in Florida port projects.-

(1) There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an investment in a qualified port project pursuant to s. 311.23 against the insurance premium tax imposed under s. 624.509(1) for any tax due for a taxable year. The credit may not exceed 100 percent of the tax due after deducting from such tax deductions for assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; credits for income taxes paid under chapter 220; credits for the emergency excise

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tax paid under chapter 221; and the credit allowed under s. 624.509(5), as such credit is limited by s. 624.509(6). An insurer that claims a credit against premium tax liability under this section is not required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit. Section 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.

(2) The provisions of s. 311.23 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

========= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========== And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Florida ports investments; creating s. 311.23, F.S.; providing a short title; providing a purpose; providing definitions; creating the Florida Ports Investment Corporation; subjecting the corporation to certain public-meetings and publicrecords requirements; providing authority and requirements for the corporation; providing for a board of directors; providing for appointment of board members; providing for investments by the corporation in certain port projects; providing port project funding criteria; providing requirements for capital allocation and investments; providing requirements for certain uninvested capital; providing requirements for

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investments; providing for tax credits against specified taxes; providing for carryforward of the credit; providing limitations on the credit; providing limitations on the amount of tax credits; providing investment requirements; providing procedures, requirements, and limitations for transfers of unused credits; authorizing the corporation and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to charge certain fees; providing reporting requirements; authorizing the Department of Revenue and the office to adopt rules; creating s. 212.1831, F.S.; providing a tax credit against certain sales and use taxes; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to provide confidential information relating to the Florida Ports Investment Act to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; amending s. 220.02, F.S.; revising the order in which corporate income tax credits may be taken; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; revising the determination of additions to adjusted federal income; creating s. 220.195, F.S.; providing a tax credit against corporate income taxes pursuant to the Florida Ports Investment Act; creating s. 624.51056, F.S.; providing a tax credit against the insurance premium tax pursuant to the Florida Ports Investment Act; providing an effective date.