By Senator Fasano

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to governmental ethics; amending s. 112.312, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; requiring that all disclosures otherwise required by law be made in writing on forms prescribed by the Commission on Ethics; providing that a public officer may not act in such a way as to suggest to another person that the public officer can be improperly influenced by that person when the public officer is performing his or her official duties; amending s. 112.3135, F.S.; providing penalties if a public official makes a prohibited appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement decision for an individual; creating s. 112.3142, F.S., pertaining to qualified blind trusts; providing legislative findings and intent relating to qualified blind trusts; defining terms; providing that if a covered public official holds an economic interest in a qualified blind trust, he or she does not have a conflict of interest that would otherwise be prohibited by law; prohibiting a covered public official from attempting to influence or exercise any control over decisions regarding the management of assets in a qualified blind trust; prohibiting direct or indirect communication between the covered public official or any person having a beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust and the trustee; providing exemptions; requiring a covered public official to report as an asset on his or her financial disclosure

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forms the beneficial interest, and its value if required, which he or she has in a qualified blind trust; specifying the required elements necessary to establish a qualified blind trust; specifying the required elements necessary to be a trustee; specifying the required elements in the trust agreement; providing that the trust is not effective unless it is approved by the Commission on Ethics; requiring that the trustee and the official observe the obligations of the trust agreement; providing that the trust contains only readily marketable assets; requiring that the trust agreement be filed with the commission within a specified time; providing for the filing of an amendment to a financial disclosure statement of a covered public official in specified circumstances; amending s. 112 3143, F.S.; defining the term "principal by whom retained"; requiring a state public officer holding an elected or appointed office to publicly state the nature of all of the officer's interests, and all of the interests of his or her principals, relatives, or business associates which are known to him or her, in the matter from which the officer is abstaining from voting; requiring the officer to file documents within 15 days after a vote occurs which disclose the nature of all of the officer's interests as a public record; providing an exemption for certain specified officers; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring a candidate for a local office who has filed a full and public disclosure of

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financial interests when qualifying as a candidate to file a copy of that disclosure, instead of filing a second original disclosure, with the commission as the annual disclosure required under law; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; revising definitions of the terms "local officer" and "specified state employee"; requiring a candidate for a state office who has filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests when qualifying as a candidate to file a copy of that disclosure, instead of filing a second original disclosure, with the commission as the annual disclosure required under law; amending s. 112.3148, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from soliciting or accepting a gift in excess of a certain value from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual or the procurement agency; requiring each reporting individual or procurement employee to file a statement with the commission by a specified date containing a list of gifts, if any, which he or she believes to have a value in excess of a stated amount from a person who is regulated by the commission; providing exceptions; specifying the contents of the gift report; amending s. 112.3149, F.S.; defining the term "vendor"; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency; prohibiting the vendor from giving an

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honorarium to the reporting individual or procurement employee; amending s. 112.317, F.S.; raising the civil penalties that may be imposed for violations of ch. 112, F.S., from \$10,000 to \$100,000; providing that a person who knowingly fails to file the required disclosure of documents by a specified date commits a misdemeanor of the first degree; providing criminal penalties; providing that a person who files a complaint with actual malice against a public officer is liable for costs and attorney's fees; amending s. 112.3215, F.S.; providing that a person who is required to register with the Constitution Revision Commission or to provide information on a report required by the commission but who fails to disclose material fact or provides false information commits a noncriminal infraction; providing a fine for such infraction; amending s. 112.324, F.S.; providing procedures for investigations of complaints filed with the commission; amending ss. 411.01 and 445.007, F.S.; revising cross-references to conform to changes made by the act; reenacting ss. 310.151(1)(c) and 1002.33(25)(a), F.S., relating to pilotage and to charter schools, respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in referencec thereto; 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. Subsections (5) and (6) and paragraph (b) of

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subsection (12) of section 112.312, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 112.312 Definitions.—As used in this part and for purposes of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (5) "Business entity" means any corporation, <u>company</u>, partnership, limited partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, self-employed individual, or trust, whether fictitiously named or not, doing business in this state.
- (6) "Candidate" means any person who has filed a statement of financial interest and qualification papers, has subscribed to the candidate's oath as required by s. 99.021 or s. 105.031, and seeks by election to become a public officer. This definition expressly excludes a committeeman or committeewoman regulated by chapter 103 and persons seeking any other office or position in a political party.

(12)

- (b) "Gift" does not include:
- 1. Salary, benefits, services, fees, commissions, gifts, or expenses associated primarily with the donee's employment, business, or service as an officer or director of a corporation or organization.
- 2. Contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to chapter 106 or federal election law, campaign-related personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time, or any other contribution or expenditure by a political party.
  - 3. An honorarium or an expense related to an honorarium

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event paid to a person or the person's spouse.

- 4. An award, plaque, certificate, or similar personalized item given in recognition of the donee's public, civic, charitable, or professional service.
- 5. An honorary membership in a service or fraternal organization presented merely as a courtesy by such organization.
- 6. The use of a public facility or public property, made available by a governmental agency, for a public purpose.
- 7. Transportation provided to a public officer or employee by an agency in relation to officially approved governmental business.
- 8. Gifts provided directly or indirectly by a state, regional, or national organization which promotes the exchange of ideas between, or the professional development of, governmental officials or employees, and whose membership is primarily composed of elected or appointed public officials or staff, to members of that organization or officials or staff of a governmental agency that is a member of that organization.

Section 2. Subsection (12) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (18) is added to that section, to read:

- 112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—
- (12) EXEMPTION.—The requirements of subsections (3) and (7) as they pertain to persons serving on advisory boards may be waived in a particular instance by the body that which appointed the person to the advisory board, upon a full disclosure of the transaction or relationship to the appointing body before prior

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the the waiver and an affirmative vote in favor of waiver by two-thirds vote of that body. In instances in which appointment to the advisory board is made by an individual, waiver may be effected, after public hearing, by a determination by the appointing person and full disclosure of the transaction or relationship by the appointee to the appointing person. In addition, no person shall be held in violation of subsection (3) or subsection (7) if:

- (a) Within a city or county the business is transacted under a rotation system whereby the business transactions are rotated among all qualified suppliers of the goods or services within the city or county.
- (b) The business is awarded under a system of sealed, competitive bidding to the lowest or best bidder and:
- 1. The official or the official's spouse or child has in no way participated in the determination of the bid specifications or the determination of the lowest or best bidder;
- 2. The official or the official's spouse or child has in no way used or attempted to use the official's influence to persuade the agency or any personnel thereof to enter such a contract other than by the mere submission of the bid; and
- 3. The official, prior to or at the time of the submission of the bid, has filed a statement with the Commission on Ethics, if the official is a state officer or employee, or with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the agency has its principal office, if the official is an officer or employee of a political subdivision, disclosing the official's interest, or the interest of the official's spouse or child, and the nature of the intended business.

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(c) The purchase or sale is for legal advertising in a newspaper, for any utilities service, or for passage on a common carrier.

- (d) An emergency purchase or contract which would otherwise violate a provision of subsection (3) or subsection (7) must be made in order to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the state or any political subdivision thereof.
- (e) The business entity involved is the only source of supply within the political subdivision of the officer or employee and there is full disclosure by the officer or employee of his or her interest in the business entity to the governing body of the political subdivision prior to the purchase, rental, sale, leasing, or other business being transacted.
- (f) The total amount of the transactions in the aggregate between the business entity and the agency does not exceed \$500 per calendar year.
- (g) The fact that a county or municipal officer or member of a public board or body, including a district school officer or an officer of any district within a county, is a stockholder, officer, or director of a bank will not bar such bank from qualifying as a depository of funds coming under the jurisdiction of any such public board or body, provided it appears in the records of the agency that the governing body of the agency has determined that such officer or member of a public board or body has not favored such bank over other qualified banks.
- (h) The transaction is made pursuant to s. 1004.22 or s. 1004.23 and is specifically approved by the president and the chair of the university board of trustees. The chair of the

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university board of trustees shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature by March 1 of each year a report of the transactions approved pursuant to this paragraph during the preceding year.

- (i) The public officer or employee purchases in a private capacity goods or services, at a price and upon terms available to similarly situated members of the general public, from a business entity which is doing business with his or her agency.
- (j) The public officer or employee in a private capacity purchases goods or services from a business entity which is subject to the regulation of his or her agency and:
- 1. The price and terms of the transaction are available to similarly situated members of the general public; and
- 2. The officer or employee makes full disclosure of the relationship to the agency head or governing body prior to the transaction.

All disclosures required by this subsection shall be made in writing on forms prescribed by the commission, as provided in s. 112.3147.

(18) PUBLIC OFFICERS.—A public officer or employee of an agency may not knowingly, or with reason to know, act in a manner that would cause a reasonable person, having knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to conclude that a person can improperly influence the officer or employee or unduly enjoy his or her favor in the performance of his or her official duties, or that the officer or employee is likely to act or fail to act as a result of kinship, rank, position, or undue influence of any party or person. It is unreasonable to so conclude if the

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officer or employee has disclosed in writing to his or her
appointing authority or, if no appointing authority exists,
discloses in a manner that is public in nature, the facts that
would otherwise lead to such a conclusion.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.-

(2)(a) A public official may not appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a position in the agency in which the official is serving or over which the official, or the collegial body of which the official is a member, exercises jurisdiction or control any individual who is a relative of the public official. An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in an agency if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been advocated by a public official, serving in or exercising jurisdiction or control over the agency, who is a relative of the individual or if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by a collegial body of which a relative of the individual is a member. If a prohibited appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement occurs, both the public official and the individual are subject to penalties under s. 112.317. However, if the appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by the collegial body of which the public official is a member without the public official's participation, only the individual is subject to penalties under s. 112.317. However, This subsection does shall not apply to appointments to boards other than those with land-planning or

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zoning responsibilities in those municipalities with less than 35,000 population. This subsection does not apply to persons serving in a volunteer capacity who provide emergency medical, firefighting, or police services. Such persons may receive, without losing their volunteer status, reimbursements for the costs of any training they get relating to the provision of volunteer emergency medical, firefighting, or police services and payment for any incidental expenses relating to those services that they provide.

(b) Mere approval of budgets  $\underline{is}$  shall not be sufficient to constitute "jurisdiction or control" for the purposes of this section.

Section 4. Section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

## 112.3142 Qualified blind trusts.-

- (1) The Legislature finds that if a public official creates a trust and if the public official does not know the identity of the financial interests held by the trust and does not control the interests held by the trust, his or her official actions would not be influenced or appear to be influenced by private considerations. Thus, it is the intent of the Legislature that the public policy goal of the state, which is to be achieved through reliance on a blind trust, be an actual "blindness" or lack of knowledge or control by the official with respect to the interests held in trust.
  - (2) As used in this section, the term:
  - (a) "Cabinet" has the same meaning as in s. 20.03.
  - (b) "Commission" means the Commission on Ethics.
  - (c) "Covered public official" means the Governor, the

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320 Lieutenant Governor, or a member of the Cabinet.

(3) If a covered public official holds an economic interest in a qualified blind trust as defined in this section, he or she does not have a conflict of interest prohibited under s.

112.313(3) or (7) or a voting conflict of interest under s.

112.3143 with regard to matters pertaining to that economic interest.

- (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the covered public official may not attempt to influence or exercise any control over decisions regarding the management of assets in a qualified blind trust. The covered public official and each person having a beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust may not make any effort to obtain information with respect to the holdings of the trust, including obtaining a copy of any trust tax return filed or any information relating thereto, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (5) Except for communications that consist solely of requests for distributions of cash or other unspecified assets of the trust, there shall be no direct or indirect communication with respect to the trust between the covered public official or any person having a beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust and the trustee, unless such communication is in writing and unless it relates only to:
- (a) A request for a distribution from the trust which does not specify whether the distribution is to be made in cash or in kind;
- (b) The general financial interests and needs of the covered public official or interested person, including, but not limited to, an interest in maximizing income or long-term

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(c) The notification of the trustee of a law or regulation subsequently applicable to the covered public official which prohibits the covered official from holding an asset and which notification directs that the asset not be held by the trust; or

- (d) Directions to the trustee to sell all of an asset initially placed in the trust by the covered public official which, in the determination of the covered public official, creates a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof due to the subsequent assumption of duties by the public official.
- (6) The covered public official shall report as an asset on his or her financial disclosure forms the beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust and its value, if value is required to be disclosed. The covered public official shall report the blind trust as a primary source of income on his or her financial disclosure forms and its amount, if the amount of income is required to be disclosed. The covered public official is not required to report as a secondary source of income any source of income to the blind trust.
- (7) In order to constitute a qualified blind trust, the trust must be established by the covered public official and meet the following requirements:
- (a) The person or entity appointed as a trustee must not be:
- 1. The covered public official's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such person;
  - $\underline{\text{2. A person who is an elected or appointed public officer}}$

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378 or a public employee; or

- 3. A person who has been appointed to serve in an agency by the covered public official or by a public officer or public employee supervised by the covered public official.
  - (b) The trust agreement that establishes the trust must:
- 1. Contain a clear statement of its purpose, namely, to remove from the grantor control and knowledge of investment of trust assets so that conflicts between the grantor's responsibilities as a public official and his or her private interests will be eliminated;
- 2. Give the trustee complete discretion to manage the trust, including, but not limited to, the power to dispose of and acquire trust assets without consulting or notifying the covered public official or any person having a beneficial interest in the trust;
- 3. Prohibit communication between the trustee and the covered public official and any person having a beneficial interest in the trust concerning the holdings or sources of income of the trust, except amounts of cash value or net income or loss, provided that such report may not identify any asset or holding, and except as provided in this section;
- 4. Provide that the trust tax return is prepared by the trustee or his or her designee and that any information relating thereto is not disclosed to the covered public official or to any other beneficiary, except as provided in this section;
- 5. Permit the trustee to notify the covered public official of the date of disposition and value at disposition of any original investment or interests in real property to the extent required by federal tax law, so that the information can be

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reported on the covered public official's applicable tax returns;

- 6. Prohibit the trustee from disclosing to the covered public official and any person having a beneficial interest in the trust any information concerning replacement assets to the trust, except for the minimum tax information that lists only the totals of taxable items from the trust and does not describe the source of individual items of income;
- 7. Prohibit the trustee from investing trust assets in business entities that he or she knows are regulated by or do a significant amount of business with the covered public official's public agency; and
- 8. Provide that the trust is not effective until it is approved by the commission.
- (c) The obligations of the trustee and the official under the trust agreement must be observed by them.
  - (d) The trust shall contain only readily marketable assets.
- (e) The trust must be approved by the commission as meeting the requirements of this section.
- (8) A copy of the trust agreement must be filed with the commission within 5 business days after the agreement is executed and must include:
  - (a) A listing of the assets placed in the trust;
- (b) A statement detailing the date the agreement was executed;
  - (c) The name and address of the trustee; and
- (d) A separate statement signed by the trustee, under penalty of perjury, certifying that he or she will not reveal any information to the covered public official or any person

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having a beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust,

except for information that is authorized under this section,

and that, to the best of the trustee's knowledge, the submitted

blind trust agreement complies with this section.

official is a public officer, or if the covered public official learns of any replacement assets that have been added to the trust, the covered public official must file an amendment to his or her most recent financial disclosure statement. The amendment must be filed no later than 60 days after the date of revocation or the addition of the replacement assets. The covered public official must disclose the previously unreported pro rata share of the trust's interests in investments or income deriving from any such investments. For purposes of this section, any replaced asset of which the covered public official learns shall thereafter be treated as though the asset were an original asset of the trust.

Section 5. Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 112.3143 Voting conflicts.-
- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Principal by whom retained" means an individual or entity, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2), which, for compensation, salary, pay, consideration, or similar thing of value, has permitted or directed another to act for the individual or entity, and includes, but is not limited to, one's client, employer, or master, or the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of one's client, employer, or master.
  - (b) (a) "Public officer" includes any person elected or

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appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person serving on an advisory body.

- (c) (b) "Relative" means any father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.
- (2) A No state public officer holding an elected office is not prohibited from voting in that an official capacity on any matter. However, when any state public officer voting in an official capacity upon any measure that which would inure to the officer's special private gain or loss; that which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom the officer is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which the officer is retained; or that which the officer knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer, the officer shall, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of all of his or her interests in the matter and all of the interests of his or her principals, relatives, or business associates which are known to him or her, interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.
- (3) (a) A state public officer holding an appointive position or a No county, municipal, or other local public officer may not shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure that which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; that which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she

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is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2); or that which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer. Such public officer shall, before prior to the vote is being taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of all of the officer's interests and all of the interests of his or her principals, relatives, or business associates which are known to him or her interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of all of his or her interests in the matter and all of the interests of his or her principals, relatives, or business associates which are known to him or her, his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.

- (b) However, a commissioner of a community redevelopment agency created or designated pursuant to s. 163.356 or s. 163.357, or an officer of an independent special tax district elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis, is not prohibited from voting, when voting in said capacity.
- or a county, municipal, or other local public officer may not No appointed public officer shall participate in any matter that which would inure to the officer's special private gain or loss; that which the officer knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate

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principal by which he or she is retained; or that which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer, without first disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter.

- (5) However, a commissioner of a community redevelopment agency created or designated pursuant to s. 163.356 or s. 163.357 or an officer of an independent special tax district elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis, is not prohibited from voting in that capacity, but must make the disclosures provided for in subsection (3). In addition, such officer may not participate in such a measure, without first disclosing the nature of his or her interest and those of his or her principal, relative, or business associate in the matter.
- (a) Such disclosure, indicating the nature of the conflict, shall be made in a written memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, <a href="before prior to">before prior to</a> the meeting in which consideration of the matter will take place, and shall be incorporated into the minutes. Any such memorandum <a href="becomes shall become">becomes shall become</a> a public record upon filing <a href="mand-rand">and-rand</a> shall immediately be provided to the other members of the agency- and <a href="mand-shall">shall</a> be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of this written memorandum.
- (b) If In the event that disclosure has not been made before prior to the meeting or that any conflict is unknown before prior to the meeting, the disclosure shall be made orally at the meeting when it becomes known that a conflict exists. A written memorandum disclosing the nature of the conflict shall then be filed within 15 days after the oral disclosure with the

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person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting and shall be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting at which the oral disclosure was made. Any such memorandum shall become a public record upon filing, shall immediately be provided to the other members of the agency, and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of this written memorandum.

- (6) A public officer, employee of the agency, or local government attorney, may not, knowing that another public officer has a voting conflict of interest as provided under this section, aid or assist that public officer in such a way as to benefit the officer or his or her principal, relative, or business associate.
- (7) (c) As used in this section For purposes of this subsection, the term "participate" means any attempt to influence the decision by oral or written communication to any officer, employee, or member of the agency, whether made by the officer or at the officer's direction.
- (8)(5) If Whenever a public officer or former public officer is being considered for appointment or reappointment to public office, the appointing body shall consider the number and nature of the memoranda of conflict previously filed under this section by the said officer.
- Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- $112.3144 \ \mathrm{Full}$  and public disclosure of financial interests.—
- (2) A person who is required, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, to file a full and public disclosure of

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financial interests and who has filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year is shall not be required to file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145(2) and (3) for the same year or for any part thereof notwithstanding any requirement of this part., except that A candidate for office who has filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests when qualifying as a candidate before July 1 shall file a copy of that disclosure with the commission, instead of filing a second original disclosure, as the annual disclosure required under this section, and a candidate who does not qualify until after the annual full and public disclosure has been filed under this section shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies.

Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients represented before agencies.—

- (1) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:
  - (a) "Local officer" means:
- 1. Every person who is elected to office in any political subdivision of the state, and every person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.
- 2. Any appointed member of any of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision of the state:
  - a. The governing body of the political subdivision, if

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610 appointed;

- b. An expressway authority or transportation authority established by general law;
- <u>b.e.</u> A community college or junior college district board of trustees;
- $\underline{\text{c.d.}}$  A board having the power to enforce local code provisions;
- d.e. A planning or zoning board, board of adjustment, board of appeals, community redevelopment agency board, or other board having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and such other groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards;
- <u>e.f.</u> A pension board or retirement board having the power to invest pension or retirement funds or the power to make a binding determination of one's entitlement to or amount of a pension or other retirement benefit; or
- $\underline{\text{f.g.}}$  Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.
- 3. Any person holding one or more of the following positions: mayor; county or city manager; chief administrative employee of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; county or municipal attorney; finance director of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; chief county or municipal building code inspector; county or municipal water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution

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control director; county or municipal environmental control director; county or municipal administrator, with power to grant or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; municipal clerk; district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; or purchasing agent having the authority to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, on behalf of any political subdivision of the state or any entity thereof.

- (b) "Specified state employee" means:
- 1. Public counsel created by chapter 350, an assistant state attorney, an assistant public defender, a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, an assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, a full-time state employee who serves as counsel or assistant counsel to any state agency, the Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims, a judge of compensation claims, an administrative law judge, or a hearing officer.
- 2. Any person employed in the office of the Governor or in the office of any member of the Cabinet if that person is exempt from the Career Service System, except persons employed in clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.
- 3. The State Surgeon General or each appointed secretary, assistant secretary, deputy secretary, executive director, assistant executive director, or deputy executive director of each state department, commission, board, or council; unless otherwise provided, the division director, assistant division director, deputy director, bureau chief, and assistant bureau chief of any state department or division; or any person having

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the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title.

- 4. The superintendent or institute director of a state mental health institute established for training and research in the mental health field or the warden or director of any major state institution or facility established for corrections, training, treatment, or rehabilitation.
- 5. Business managers, purchasing agents having the power to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, finance and accounting directors, personnel officers, or grants coordinators for any state agency.
- 6. Any person, other than a legislative assistant exempted by the presiding officer of the house by which the legislative assistant is employed, who is employed in the legislative branch of government, except persons employed in maintenance, clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.
  - 7. Each employee of the Commission on Ethics.
  - (c) "State officer" means:
- 1. Any elected public officer, excluding those elected to the United States Senate and House of Representatives, not covered elsewhere in this part and any person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.
- 2. An appointed member of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding a member of an advisory body.
- 3. A member of the Board of Governors of the State University System or a state university board of trustees, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System,

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and the president of a state university.

- 4. A member of the judicial nominating commission for any district court of appeal or any judicial circuit.
- (2) (a) A person seeking nomination or election to a state or local elective office shall file a statement of financial interests together with, and at the same time he or she files, qualifying papers. A candidate for office who has filed a statement of financial interests when qualifying as a candidate before July 1 shall file a copy of that statement, instead of filing a second original statement, as the annual disclosure required under this section, and a candidate who does not qualify until after the annual statement of financial interests has been filed under this section shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies.
- (b) Each state or local officer and each specified state employee shall file a statement of financial interests no later than July 1 of each year. Each state officer, local officer, and specified state employee shall file a final statement of financial interests within 60 days after leaving his or her public position for the period between January 1 of the year in which the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public position requiring financial disclosure under this section or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or otherwise is required to file full and public disclosure or a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure period. Each state or local officer who is appointed and each specified state employee who is employed shall file a statement of financial interests within 30 days from the date of

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appointment or, in the case of a specified state employee, from the date on which the employment begins, except that any person whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate shall file prior to confirmation hearings or within 30 days from the date of appointment, whichever comes first.

- (c) State officers and specified state employees shall file their statements of financial interests with the Commission on Ethics. Local officers shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which they permanently reside. Local officers who do not permanently reside in any county in the state shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which their agency maintains its headquarters. Persons seeking to qualify as candidates for local public office shall file their statements of financial interests with the officer before whom they qualify.
- (3) The statement of financial interests for state officers, specified state employees, local officers, and persons seeking to qualify as candidates for state or local office shall be filed even if the reporting person holds no financial interests requiring disclosure, in which case the statement shall be marked "not applicable." Otherwise, the statement of financial interests shall include, at the filer's option, either:
- (a)1. All sources of income in excess of 5 percent of the gross income received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources

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of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;

- 2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received an amount which was in excess of 10 percent of his or her gross income during the disclosure period and which exceeds \$1,500. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;
- 3. The location or description of real property in this state, except for residences and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of 10 percent of such person's total assets. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and
- 4. Every individual liability that equals more than the reporting person's net worth; or
- (b)1. All sources of gross income in excess of \$2,500 received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;
  - 2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of

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10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received gross income exceeding \$5,000 during the disclosure period. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;

- 3. The location or description of real property in this state, except for residence and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of \$10,000. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and
  - 4. Every liability in excess of \$10,000.

A person filing a statement of financial interests shall indicate on the statement whether he or she is using the method specified in paragraph (a) or the method specified in paragraph (b).

Section 8. Subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) of section 112.3148, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 112.3148 Reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts by individuals filing full or limited public disclosure of financial interests and by procurement employees.—
  - (2) As used in this section:
- (a) "Immediate family" means any parent, spouse, child, or sibling.

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(b)1. "Lobbyist" means  $\underline{a}$  any natural person who, for compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency or seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of  $\underline{a}$  any proposal or recommendation by the reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency.

- 2. With respect to an agency that has established by rule, ordinance, or law a registration process for persons seeking to influence decisionmaking or to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of a any proposal or recommendation by the such agency or an employee or official of the agency, the term "lobbyist" includes only a person who is required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law or who was during the preceding 12 months required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law. At a minimum, such a registration system must require the registration of, or must designate, persons as "lobbyists" who engage in the same activities as require registration to lobby the Legislature pursuant to s. 11.045.
- (c) "Person" includes individuals, firms, associations, joint ventures, partnerships, estates, trusts, business trusts, syndicates, fiduciaries, corporations, and all other groups or combinations.
- (d) "Reporting individual" means <u>an</u> any individual, including a candidate upon qualifying, who is required by law, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s.

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112.3145, to file full or limited public disclosure of his or her financial interests or <u>an</u> <u>any</u> individual who has been elected to, but has yet to officially assume the responsibilities of, public office. For purposes of implementing this section, the "agency" of a reporting individual who is not an officer or employee in public service is the agency to which the candidate seeks election, or in the case of an individual elected to but yet to formally take office, the agency in which the individual has been elected to serve.

- (e) "Procurement employee" means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, or council, or agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who participated in the preceding 12 months participates through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, or auditing or in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services or commodities as defined in s. 287.012, if the cost of such services or commodities exceeds or is expected to exceed \$10,000 \$1,000 in any fiscal year.
- (f) "Vendor" means a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling any realty, goods, or services.
- (3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from soliciting any gift from a political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or from a lobbyist who lobbies

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the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such lobbyist, where such gift is for the personal benefit of the reporting individual or procurement employee, another reporting individual or procurement employee, or any member of the immediate family of a reporting individual or procurement employee.

- (4) A reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf is prohibited from knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift or gifts from a political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or from a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or directly or indirectly on behalf of the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist, if he or she knows or reasonably believes that the gift or gifts have has a total value in excess of \$100 within a calendar year; however, such a gift or gifts may be accepted by such person on behalf of a governmental entity or a charitable organization. If the gift or gifts are is accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, the person receiving the gift or gifts may shall not maintain custody of the gift or gifts for any period of time beyond that reasonably necessary to arrange for the transfer of custody and ownership of the gift or gifts.
- (5) (a) A political committee or a committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011; a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency; a lobbyist who lobbies a reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency; the partner, firm, employer, or

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principal of a lobbyist; or another on behalf of the lobbyist or partner, firm, principal, or employer of the lobbyist is prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, a gift or gifts that have an aggregate has a value in excess of \$100 within a calendar year to the reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf; however, such person may give a gift or gifts having a total value in excess of \$100 to a reporting individual or procurement employee if the gift or gifts are is intended to be transferred to a governmental entity or a charitable organization.

(b) However, A person who is regulated by this subsection, who is not regulated by subsection (6), and who makes, or directs another to make, an individual gift having a value in excess of \$25, but not in excess of \$100, other than a gift which the donor knows will be accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, must file a report on the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter in which a reportable gift is made. The report shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics, except with respect to gifts to reporting individuals of the legislative branch, in which case the report shall be filed with the Division of Legislative Information Services in the Office of Legislative Services. The report must contain a description of each gift, the monetary value thereof, the name and address of the person making such gift, the name and address of the recipient of the gift, and the date such gift is given. In addition, when a gift is made which requires the filing of a report under this subsection, the donor must notify the intended recipient at the time the gift is made that the donor, or

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another on his or her behalf, will report the gift under this subsection. Under this paragraph, a gift need not be reported by more than one person or entity.

- (c) In addition, each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement with the commission, except with respect to a gift to a reporting individual of the legislative branch, in which case the report shall be filed with the Division of Legislative Information Services in the Office of Legislative Services, not later than the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter, containing a list of gifts which he or she believes to have a value in excess of \$25, if any, accepted by him or her, from a person who is regulated by this subsection, except the following:
  - 1. Gifts from relatives.
  - 2. Gifts prohibited by subsection (4) or s. 112.313(4).
- 3. Gifts otherwise required to be disclosed by this section.

The report must contain a description of each gift, the monetary value thereof, the name and address of the person making the gift, the name and address of the recipient of the gift, and the date the gift was given.

Section 9. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and subsections (3) and (4) of section 112.3149, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

- 112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.-
- (1) As used in this section:
- (e) "Procurement employee" means any employee of an

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officer, department, board, commission, or council, or agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who participated in the preceding 12 months participates through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, or auditing or in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services or commodities as defined in s. 287.012, if the cost of such services or commodities exceeds \$10,000 \$1,000 in any fiscal year.

- (f) "Vendor" means a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling any realty, goods, or services.
- (3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, from a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or from the employer, principal, partner, or firm of such a lobbyist.
- (4) A political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or the procurement employee's agency, a lobbyist who lobbies a reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or the employer, principal, partner, or firm of such a lobbyist is prohibited from giving an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee.

Section 10. Section 112.317, Florida Statutes, is amended

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112.317 Penalties.-

- (1) Violation of any provision of this part, including, but not limited to, any failure to file any disclosures required by this part or violation of any standard of conduct imposed by this part, or violation of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, in addition to any criminal penalty or other civil penalty involved, shall, under applicable constitutional and statutory procedures, constitute grounds for, and may be punished by, one or more of the following:
  - (a) In the case of a public officer:
  - 1. Impeachment.
  - 2. Removal from office.
  - 3. Suspension from office.
  - 4. Public censure and reprimand.
- 5. Forfeiture of no more than one-third salary per month for no more than 12 months.
  - 6. A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 <del>\$10,000</del>.
- 7. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of which the public officer was a member or to the General Revenue Fund.
- (b) In the case of an employee or a person designated as a public officer by this part who otherwise would be deemed to be an employee:
  - 1. Dismissal from employment.
- 2. Suspension from employment for not more than 90 days without pay.
  - 3. Demotion.

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- 4. Reduction in salary level.
- 1017 5. Forfeiture of no more than one-third salary per month 1018 for no more than 12 months.
  - 6. A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 <del>\$10,000</del>.
  - 7. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency by which the public employee was employed, or of which the officer was deemed to be an employee, or to the General Revenue Fund.
    - 8. Public censure and reprimand.
  - (c) In the case of a candidate who violates the provisions of this part or s. 8(a) and (i), Art. II of the State Constitution:
    - 1. Disqualification from being on the ballot.
    - 2. Public censure.
    - 3. Reprimand.
    - 4. A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 \$10,000.
  - (d) In the case of a former public officer or employee who has violated a provision applicable to former officers or employees or whose violation occurred before the officer's or employee's leaving public office or employment:
    - 1. Public censure and reprimand.
    - 2. A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000  $\frac{$10,000}{}$ .
  - 3. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of the public officer or employee or to the General Revenue Fund.
  - (e) In the case of a person who is subject to the standards of this part, other than a lobbyist or lobbying firm under s.

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1045 112.3215 for a violation of s. 112.3215, but who is not a public officer or employee:

- 1. Public censure and reprimand.
- 2. A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 <del>\$10,000</del>.
- 3. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of the person or to the General Revenue Fund.
- (2) A person who knowingly fails to file a disclosure required by this part within 90 days after the specified date required by law commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (3) (2) In any case in which the commission finds a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the proper disciplinary official or body under s. 112.324 imposes a civil penalty or restitution penalty, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action to recover such penalty. A No defense may not be raised in the civil action to enforce the civil penalty or order of restitution that could have been raised by judicial review of the administrative findings and recommendations of the commission by certiorari to the district court of appeal. The Attorney General shall collect any costs, attorney's fees, expert witness fees, or other costs of collection incurred in bringing the action.
- (4)(3) The penalties prescribed in this part do shall not be construed to limit or to conflict with:
- (a) The power of either house of the Legislature to discipline its own members or impeach a public officer.
  - (b) The power of agencies to discipline officers or

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1074 employees.

(5)(4) Any violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by a public officer constitutes shall constitute malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty in office within the meaning of s. 7, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

(6) (5) By order of the Governor, upon recommendation of the commission, any elected municipal officer who violates any provision of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution may be suspended from office and the office filled by appointment for the period of suspension. The suspended officer may at any time before removal be reinstated by the Governor. The Senate may, in proceedings prescribed by law, remove from office, or reinstate, the suspended officer official, and for such purpose the Senate may be convened in special session by its President or by a majority of its membership.

(7)(6) In any case in which the commission finds probable cause to believe that a complainant has committed perjury in regard to any document filed with, or any testimony given before, the commission, it shall refer such evidence to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution and taxation of costs.

(8)(7) In any case in which the commission determines that a person has filed a complaint against a public officer or employee with actual malice a malicious intent to injure the reputation of such officer or employee by filing the complaint with knowledge that the complaint contains one or more false allegations or with reckless disregard for whether the complaint

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contains false allegations of fact material to a violation of this part, the complainant shall be liable for costs plus reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the defense of the person complained against, including the costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in proving entitlement to and the amount of costs and fees. If the complainant fails to pay such costs and fees voluntarily within 30 days following such finding by the commission, the commission shall forward such information to the Department of Legal Affairs, which shall bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the amount of such costs and fees awarded by the commission.

Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (8) of section 112.3215, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsection (14) of that section is redesignated as subsection (15), and a new subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

- 112.3215 Lobbying before the executive branch or the Constitution Revision Commission; registration and reporting; investigation by commission.—
- (8) (a) The commission shall investigate every sworn complaint that is filed with it alleging that a person covered by this section has failed to register, has failed to submit a compensation report, has made a prohibited expenditure, or has knowingly submitted false information in any report or registration required in this section.
- (c) The commission shall investigate any lobbying firm, lobbyist, principal, agency, officer, or employee upon receipt of information from a sworn complaint or from a random audit of lobbying reports indicating a possible violation other than a

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1132 late-filed report.

(14) Any person who is required to be registered or to provide information under this section or under rules adopted pursuant to this section and who knowingly fails to disclose any material fact that is required by this section or by rules adopted pursuant to this section, or who knowingly provides false information on any report required by this section or by rules adopted pursuant to this section, commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000. This fine is in addition to any other penalty assessed by the Governor and Cabinet pursuant to subsection (10).

Section 12. Section 112.324, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 112.324 Procedures on complaints of violations; public records and meeting exemptions.—
- (1) Upon a written complaint executed on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under oath or affirmation by any person, The commission shall investigate any alleged violation of this part or any other alleged breach of the public trust within the jurisdiction of the commission as provided in s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution in accordance with procedures set forth herein:
- (a) Upon a written complaint executed on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under oath or affirmation by any person;
- (b) Upon receipt of reliable and publicly disseminated information that seven members of the commission deem sufficient to indicate a breach of the public trust, except that commission staff may not undertake a formal investigation other than the

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1161 collection of publicly disseminated information before a
1162 determination of sufficiency by the commission; or

(c) Upon receipt of a written referral of a possible violation of this part or other possible breach of the public trust from the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, a state attorney, the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement, or the statewide prosecutor, which seven members of the commission deem sufficient to indicate a breach of the public trust.

1171 Within 5 days after the commission receives receipt of a

1172 complaint or after the commission determines that the

1173 information or referral received is sufficient by the

commission, a copy shall be transmitted to the alleged violator.

- (2) (a) The complaint and records relating to the complaint or to any preliminary investigation or the commission's determination regarding the information or the referral, as provided in this section, held by the commission or its agents, by a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust established by any county defined in s. 125.011(1) or by any municipality defined in s. 165.031, or by any county or municipality that has established a local investigatory process to enforce more stringent standards of conduct and disclosure requirements as provided in s. 112.326 are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (b) Any proceeding conducted by the commission, a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, or a county or municipality that has established such local investigatory

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process, pursuant to a complaint, information, or referral as provided in this section, or a preliminary investigation, is exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011, s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, and s. 120.525.

- (c) 1. The exemptions in paragraphs (a) and (b) apply until the complaint is dismissed as legally insufficient, until the alleged violator requests in writing that such records and proceedings be made public, until the commission determines that it will not investigate the complaint or referral, or until the commission, a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, or a county or municipality that has established such local investigatory process determines, based on such investigation, whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation has occurred.
- 2. In no event shall A complaint under this part against a candidate in any general, special, or primary election may not be filed and or any intention of filing such a complaint may not be disclosed on the day of any such election or within the 5 days immediately preceding the date of the election.
- 3. The confidentiality requirements of this section do not prohibit the commission or its staff from sharing investigative information with criminal investigative agencies.
- (d) This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2016 October 2, 2015, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
- (3) A preliminary investigation shall be undertaken by the commission of each legally sufficient complaint, information, or referral over which the commission has jurisdiction to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a violation has

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1219 occurred. If, upon completion of the preliminary investigation, 1220 the commission finds no probable cause to believe that this part 1221 has been violated or that any other breach of the public trust 1222 has been committed, the commission shall dismiss the complaint 1223 or proceeding with the issuance of a public report to the 1224 complainant and the alleged violator, stating with particularity 1225 its reasons for dismissal of the complaint. At that time, the 1226 complaint, the proceeding, and all materials relating to the 1227 complaint and proceeding shall become a matter of public record. 1228 If the commission finds from the preliminary investigation probable cause to believe that this part has been violated or 1229 1230 that any other breach of the public trust has been committed, it 1231 shall so notify the complainant and the alleged violator in 1232 writing. The Such notification and all documents made or 1233 received in the disposition of the complaint or proceeding shall 1234 then become public records. Upon request submitted to the 1235 commission in writing, any person who the commission finds 1236 probable cause to believe has violated any provision of this 1237 part or has committed any other breach of the public trust shall 1238 be entitled to a public hearing. Such person shall be deemed to 1239 have waived the right to a public hearing if the request is not 1240 received within 14 days following the mailing of the probable 1241 cause notification required by this subsection. However, the commission may on its own motion, require a public hearing, may 1242 1243 conduct such further investigation as it deems necessary, and 1244 may enter into such stipulations and settlements as it finds to 1245 be just and in the best interest of the state. The commission is 1246 without jurisdiction to, and no respondent may voluntarily or 1247 involuntarily, enter into a stipulation or settlement which

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imposes any penalty, including, but not limited to, a sanction or admonition or any other penalty contained in s. 112.317. Penalties shall be imposed only by the appropriate disciplinary authority as designated in this section.

- (4) If, in cases pertaining to members of the Legislature, upon completion of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the commission shall forward a copy of the complaint, information, or referral and its findings by certified mail to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whichever is applicable, who shall refer the matter complaint to the appropriate committee for investigation and action which shall be governed by the rules of its respective house. It is shall be the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the matter complaint to the commission within 90 days of the date of transmittal to the respective house. Upon request of the committee, the commission shall submit a recommendation as to what penalty, if any, should be imposed. In the case of a member of the Legislature, the house in which the member serves shall have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.
- (5) If, in cases pertaining to complaints against impeachable officers, upon completion of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, and the commission finds that the violation may constitute grounds for impeachment, the commission shall forward a copy of the complaint, information,

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or referral and its findings by certified mail to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall refer the <u>matter</u> complaint to the appropriate committee for investigation and action which shall be governed by the rules of the House of Representatives. It <u>is shall be</u> the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the <u>matter</u> complaint to the commission within 90 days of the date of transmittal.

- (6) If the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by an impeachable officer other than the Governor, and the commission recommends public censure and reprimand, forfeiture of a portion of the officer's salary, a civil penalty, or restitution, the commission shall report its findings and recommendation of disciplinary action to the Governor, who shall have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.
- (7) If the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by the Governor, and the commission recommends public censure and reprimand, forfeiture of a portion of the Governor's salary, a civil penalty, or restitution, the commission shall report its findings and recommendation of disciplinary action to the Attorney General, who shall have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.
- (8) If, in cases pertaining to complaints other than complaints against impeachable officers or members of the Legislature, upon completion of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State

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Constitution, it shall be the duty of the commission to report its findings and recommend appropriate action to the proper disciplinary official or body as follows, and such official or body shall have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part, including the power to order the appropriate elections official to remove a candidate from the ballot for a violation of s. 112.3145 or s. 8(a) and (i), Art. II of the State Constitution:

- (a) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, jointly, in any case concerning the Public Counsel, members of the Public Service Commission, members of the Public Service Commission Nominating Council, the Auditor General, the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, or members of the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.
- (b) The Supreme Court, in any case concerning an employee of the judicial branch.
- (c) The President of the Senate, in any case concerning an employee of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in any case concerning an employee of the House of Representatives; or the President and the Speaker, jointly, in any case concerning an employee of a committee of the Legislature whose members are appointed solely by the President and the Speaker or in any case concerning an employee of the Public Counsel, Public Service Commission, Auditor General, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, or Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided by this part, the Governor, in the case of any other public officer, public

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employee, former public officer or public employee, candidate or former candidate, or person who is not a public officer or employee, other than lobbyists and lobbying firms under s.

1338 112.3215 for violations of s. 112.3215.

- (e) The President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whichever is applicable, in any case concerning a former member of the Legislature who has violated a provision applicable to former members or whose violation occurred while a member of the Legislature.
- (9) In addition to reporting its findings to the proper disciplinary body or official, the commission shall report these findings to the state attorney or any other appropriate official or agency having authority to initiate prosecution when violation of criminal law is indicated.
- (10) Notwithstanding the foregoing procedures of this section, a sworn complaint against any member or employee of the Commission on Ethics for violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall be filed with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each presiding officer shall, after determining that there are sufficient grounds for review, appoint three members of their respective bodies to a special joint committee who shall investigate the complaint. The members shall elect a chair from among their number. If the special joint committee finds insufficient evidence to establish probable cause to believe a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution has occurred, it shall dismiss the complaint. If, upon completion of its preliminary investigation, the committee finds sufficient evidence to establish probable cause to believe

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a violation has occurred, the chair thereof shall transmit such findings to the Governor who shall convene a meeting of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take such final action on the complaint as they shall deem appropriate, consistent with the penalty provisions of this part. Upon request of a majority of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the special joint committee shall submit a recommendation as to what penalty, if any, should be imposed.

(11) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1)-(8), the commission may, at its discretion, dismiss any complaint, information, or referral at any stage of disposition should it determine that the public interest would not be served by proceeding further, in which case the commission shall issue a public report stating with particularity its reasons for the dismissal.

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 411.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411.01 School readiness programs; early learning coalitions.—

- (5) CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.-
- (a) Early learning coalitions.-
- 1. Each early learning coalition shall maintain direct enhancement services at the local level and ensure access to such services in all 67 counties.
- 2. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the minimum number of children to be served by each early learning

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coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school
readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
coalition and must:

- a. Permit 31 or fewer coalitions to be established; and
- b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children based upon the average number of all children served per month through the coalition's school readiness program during the previous 12 months.
- 3. If an early learning coalition would serve fewer children than the minimum number established under subparagraph 2., the coalition must merge with another county to form a multicounty coalition. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early termination of the terms of coalition members which are necessary to accomplish the mergers. However, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall grant a waiver to an early learning coalition to serve fewer children than the minimum number established under subparagraph 2., if:
- a. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined during the most recent review of the coalition's school readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition has substantially implemented its plan;
- b. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce Innovation the coalition's ability to effectively and efficiently implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

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1422 Program; and

c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce Innovation that the coalition can perform its duties in accordance with law.

- If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or multicounty region until the agency reestablishes the coalition and a new school readiness plan is approved by the agency.
- 4. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at least 15 members but not more than 30 members. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing within this range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be appointed to an early learning coalition and procedures for identifying which members have voting privileges under subparagraph 6. These standards must include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty region. Each early learning coalition must comply with these standards.
- 5. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the same qualifications as private sector business members appointed by the coalition under subparagraph 7.
- 6. Each early learning coalition must include the following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition, each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be seated per

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member position. If an early learning coalition has more than one member representing the same entity, only one of such members may serve as a voting member:

- a. A Department of Children and Family Services circuit administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the department.
- b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the district.
- c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or her designee.
- d. A county health department director or his or her designee.
- e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board chair or executive director, if applicable.
- f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.
- g. A president of a community college or his or her designee.
- h. One member appointed by a board of county commissioners or the governing board of a municipality.
  - i. A central agency administrator, where applicable.
  - j. A Head Start director.
- k. A representative of private for-profit child care providers, including private for-profit family day care homes.
  - 1. A representative of faith-based child care providers.
- m. A representative of programs for children with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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7. Including the members appointed by the Governor under subparagraph 5., more than one-third of the members of each early learning coalition must be private sector business members who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning coalition must appoint additional members. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish criteria for appointing private sector business members. These criteria must include standards for determining whether a member or relative has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school readiness program.

- 8. A majority of the voting membership of an early learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a quorum through telecommunications, provided that the public is given proper notice of a telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and, when appropriate, participate.
- 9. A voting member of an early learning coalition may not appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a representative to coalition meetings, but that representative does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a

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designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in the designee's place, including the district administrator, does not have voting privileges.

- 10. Each member of an early learning coalition is subject to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of  $\underline{s}$ .  $\underline{112.3143(3)}$   $\underline{s}$ .  $\underline{112.3143(3)}$  (a), each voting member is a local public officer who must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.
- 11. For purposes of tort liability, each member or employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s. 768.28.
- 12. An early learning coalition serving a multicounty region must include representation from each county.
- 13. Each early learning coalition shall establish terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4 years per term. Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning Advisory Council under s. 20.052. Appointed members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

Section 14. Subsection (11) of section 445.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445.007 Regional workforce boards.-

(11) To increase transparency and accountability, regional workforce boards shall comply with the requirements of this section before contracting with a member of the regional workforce board. Such contracts shall not be executed before or without the approval of Workforce Florida, Inc. Such contracts,

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as well as documentation demonstrating adherence to this section as specified by Workforce Florida, Inc., must be submitted to the Agency for Workforce Innovation for review and recommendation according to criteria to be determined by Workforce Florida, Inc. Contracts between relatives, as defined in s. 112.3143(1) (c) s. 112.3143(1) (b), of a board member or employee of a board must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire board; all conflicts must be disclosed prior to the vote; and any member who may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit from the contract, must abstain from the vote and the contract must be reviewed and approved as stated above. Contracts under \$25,000 between a regional workforce board and a member of that board or between relatives, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c) s. 112.3143(1)(b), of a board member or employees of a board are exempt from the review and recommendation process but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire board and must be reported to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Florida, Inc., within 30 days after approval. If a contract cannot be approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., a review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be requested by the regional workforce board or other parties to the disapproved contract. This subsection expires July 1, 2012 <del>July 1, 2011</del>.

Section 15. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 310.151, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

310.151 Rates of pilotage; Pilotage Rate Review Committee.—
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(c) Committee members shall comply with the disclosure requirements of s. 112.3143(4) if participating in any matter that would result in special private gain or loss as described in that subsection.

Section 16. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (25) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.-

- (25) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.
- (a) A member of a governing board of a charter school, including a charter school operated by a private entity, is subject to ss. 112.313(2), (3), (7), and (12) and 112.3143(3). Section 17. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

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