

By Senator Latvala

16-01384-12

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to trust funds; amending s. 20.605,
3 F.S.; creating the Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention
4 Trust Fund within the Department of Economic
5 Opportunity as a depository for funds appropriated to
6 provide payment assistance for housing accommodations
7 for certain state residents who become unemployed;
8 providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Section 20.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to
13 read:

14 20.605 ~~Administrative Trust Fund of the~~ Department of
15 Economic Opportunity; trust funds. The following trust funds are
16 administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity:

17 (1) ~~The Administrative Trust Fund is created within the~~
18 ~~Department of Economic Opportunity.~~

19 (a)(2) Funds shall be used to support ~~for the purpose of~~
20 ~~supporting~~ the administrative functions of the department as
21 required by law, pursuant to legislative appropriation or an
22 approved amendment to the department's operating budget pursuant
23 to ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 216.

24 (b)(3) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ s. 216.301 and
25 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end
26 of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of
27 the year and ~~shall~~ be available for carrying out the purposes of
28 the trust fund.

29 (2) The Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Trust Fund.

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30 (a) The trust fund is established for use as a depository
31 for all moneys to be used to assist state residents who became
32 unemployed within 1 year before July 1, 2012, and who are unable
33 to pay any portion of their housing costs at the time of their
34 application for assistance. Moneys to be credited to the trust
35 fund shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature,
36 including funds received from any other source which the
37 Legislature directs be used for this purpose, and all proceeds
38 derived from the use of such moneys.

39 (b) Such funds may be expended only to provide payment
40 assistance to state residents who demonstrate that they have
41 become unemployed through no fault of their own and are unable
42 to pay for their current housing accommodations if the cost of
43 such housing has not increased due to the resident's voluntary
44 change in housing accommodations following the resident's loss
45 of employment. Preference for assistance granted shall be given
46 to a resident who is a veteran as defined in s. 1.01.

47 (c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,
48 any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year
49 shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and be
50 available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

51 (d) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State
52 Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be
53 terminated on July 1, 2016. Before its scheduled termination,
54 the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1)
55 and (2).

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.