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A bill to be entitled An act relating to loan originators, mortgage brokers, and mortgage lenders; amending s. 494.001, F.S.; providing and revising definitions; amending s. 494.0012, F.S.; authorizing the Office of Financial Regulation to conduct joint or concurrent examinations of licensees; amending s. 494.00255, F.S.; providing that violating specified rules is grounds for disciplinary action; repealing s. 494.0028, F.S., relating to arbitration of disputes involving certain agreements; amending ss. 494.00313 and 494.00322, F.S.; providing for change in license status if a licensed loan originator or mortgage broker fails to provide a proper application for license renewal for the following year by specified dates; amending s. 494.0036, F.S.; providing guidelines for renewal of a mortgage broker branch office license; providing for change in license status if a licensed branch office fails to provide a proper application for license renewal for the following year by specified dates; amending s. 494.0038, F.S.; deleting certain requirements regarding loan origination and disclosure; amending s. 494.004, F.S.; deleting a requirement that a licensee provide certain notice to a borrower in mortgage loan transactions; authorizing the Financial Services Commission to adopt rules

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prescribing the time by which a mortgage broker must file a report of condition; amending s. 494.0042, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; repealing s. 494.00421, F.S., relating to required disclosures to borrowers in mortgage broker agreements by mortgage brokers receiving loan origination fees; amending s. 494.00611, F.S.; revising a cross-reference; amending s. 494.00612, F.S.; providing for change in license status if a licensed mortgage lender fails to provide a proper application for license renewal for the following year by specified dates; amending s. 494.0066, F.S.; providing guidelines for renewal of a mortgage lender branch office license; providing for change in license status if a licensed branch office fails to provide a proper application for license renewal for the following year by specified dates; amending s. 494.0067, F.S.; deleting requirements that a mortgage lender provide an applicant for a mortgage loan a good faith estimate of costs and written disclosures related to adjustable rate mortgages; deleting requirement that mortgage lender provide notice of material changes in terms of a mortgage loan to a borrower in mortgage loan transactions; revising period during which mortgage lenders may service loans without meeting certain requirements; authorizing the commission to adopt rules prescribing the time by

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which a mortgage lender must file a report of condition; repealing s. 494.0068, F.S., relating to required disclosures to borrowers by mortgage lenders before the borrower accepts certain fees; amending s. 494.007, F.S.; deleting the requirement that a mortgage lender disclose a certain fee and whether the fee is refundable; amending s. 494.0073, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; repealing part IV of chapter 494, F.S., relating to the Florida Fair Lending Act; repealing s. 494.008, F.S., relating to conditions for mortgage loans of specified amounts secured by vacant land; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (12) through (36) of section 494.001, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (13) through (37), respectively, a new subsection (12) is added, and present subsection (15) of that section is amended, to read:

494.001 Definitions.—As used in ss. 494.001-494.0077, the term:

- (12) "Indirect owner" means, with respect to direct owners and other indirect owners in a multilayered organization:
- (a) For an owner that is a corporation, each of its shareholders that beneficially owns, has the right to vote, or has the power to sell or direct the sale of, 25 percent or more

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of voting security of the corporation.

- (b) For an owner that is a partnership, each general partner and each limited or special partner that has the right to receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, 25 percent or more of the partnership's capital.
- (c) For an owner that is a trust, the trust and each trustee.
 - (d) For an owner that is a limited liability company:
- 1. Each member that has the right to receive upon dissolution, or that has contributed, 25 percent or more of the limited liability company's capital; and
- 2. If managed by elected managers or appointed managers, each elected or appointed manager.
- (e) For an indirect owner, each parent owner of 25 percent or more of its subsidiary.
- (16) (15) "Loan origination fee" means the total compensation from any source received by a mortgage broker acting as a loan originator. Any payment for processing mortgage loan applications must be included in the fee and must be paid to the mortgage broker.
- Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 494.0012, Florida Statutes, to read:
 - 494.0012 Investigations; complaints; examinations.-
- (4) To reduce the burden on persons subject to this chapter, the office may conduct a joint or concurrent examination with a state or federal regulatory agency and may

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105	furnish a copy of all examinations to an appropriate regulator
106	if the regulator agrees to abide by the confidentiality
107	provisions in chapter 119 and this chapter. The office may also
108	accept an examination from an appropriate regulator.
109	Section 3. Paragraph (y) is added to subsection (1) of
110	section 494.00255, Florida Statutes, to read:
111	494.00255 Administrative penalties and fines; license
112	violations.—
113	(1) Each of the following acts constitutes a ground for
114	which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may
115	be taken against a person licensed or required to be licensed
116	under part II or part III of this chapter:
117	(y) Having been found in violation of the Nationwide
118	Mortgage Licensing System Rules of Conduct in connection with a
119	prelicensing examination.
120	Section 4. Section 494.0028, Florida Statutes, is
121	repealed.
122	Section 5. Subsection (3) is added to section 494.00313,
123	Florida Statutes, to read:
124	494.00313 Loan originator license renewal
125	(3) If a person licensed under this chapter fails to file
126	a proper application for license renewal for the following year,
127	including the proper application fee, on or before December 31
128	and files an application after December 31 but before the last
129	day of February, his or her license status shall be changed to

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"failed to renew." A reinstatement fee of \$150 shall be charged

131 outside of the registry. The license may not be reinstated until 132 the required information is completed and fees are paid. If the 133 licensee fails to complete the required information and pay all 134 necessary fees by the last day of February, the license status 135 shall be changed to "terminated/expired." 136 Section 6. Subsection (3) is added to section 494.00322, 137 Florida Statutes, to read: 138 494.00322 Mortgage broker license renewal.-139 (3) If an entity licensed under this chapter fails to file a proper application for license renewal for the following year, 140 including the proper application fee, on or before December 31 141 142 and files an application after December 31 but before the last 143 day of February, the entity's license status shall be changed to 144 "failed to renew." A reinstatement fee of \$250 shall be charged 145 outside of the registry. The license may not be reinstated until the required information is completed and fees are paid. If the 146 147 licensee fails to complete the required information and pay all 148 necessary fees by the last day of February, the license status 149 shall be changed to "terminated/expired." 150 Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 494.0036, Florida 151 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (5) are added to 152 that section, to read: 153 494.0036 Mortgage broker branch office license.-154 (3) A branch office license must be renewed annually at 155 the time of renewing the mortgage broker license under s.

494.00322. A nonrefundable branch renewal fee of \$225 per branch $Page\ 6\ of\ 20$

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

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office must be submitted at the time of renewal. <u>To renew a</u> branch office license, a mortgage broker must:

- (a) Submit a completed license renewal form as prescribed by commission rule.
 - (b) Submit a nonrefundable renewal fee.

- (c) Submit any additional information or documentation requested by the office and required by rule concerning the licensee. Additional information may include documents that may provide the office with the appropriate information to determine eligibility for license renewal.
- (4) The office may not renew a branch office license unless the branch office continues to meet the minimum requirements for initial licensure under this section and adopted rule.
- (5) If a branch office licensed under this chapter fails to file a proper application for license renewal for the following year, including the proper application fee, on or before December 31 and files an application after December 31 but before the last day of February, the branch office's license status shall be changed to "failed to renew." A reinstatement fee of \$225 shall be charged outside of the registry. The license may not be reinstated until the required information is completed and fees are paid. If the licensee fails to complete the required information and pay all necessary fees by the last day of February, the license status shall be changed to "terminated/expired."

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183 Section 8. Section 494.0038, Florida Statutes, is amended 184 to read: Loan origination and Mortgage broker fees and 185 494.0038 186 disclosures.-187 (1) A loan origination fee may not be paid except pursuant 188 to a written mortgage broker agreement between the mortgage 189 broker and the borrower which is signed and dated by the 190 principal loan originator or branch manager, and the borrower. The unique registry identifier of each loan originator 191 192 responsible for providing loan originator services must be printed on the mortgage broker agreement. 193 194 (a) The written mortgage broker agreement must describe 195 the services to be provided by the mortgage broker and specify 196 the amount and terms of the loan origination fee that the 197 mortgage broker is to receive. 1. Except for application and third-party fees, all fees 198 199 received by a mortgage broker from a borrower must be identified 200 as a loan origination fee. 201 2. All fees on the mortgage broker agreement must be 202 disclosed in dollar amounts. 203 3. All loan origination fees must be paid to a mortgage 204 broker. 205 (b) The agreement must be executed within 3 business days 206 after a mortgage loan application is accepted if the borrower is present when the mortgage loan application is accepted. If the 207 borrower is not present, the licensee shall forward the 208

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agreement to the borrower within 3 business days after the licensee's acceptance of the application and the licensee bears the burden of proving that the borrower received and approved the agreement.

(2) If the mortgage broker is to receive any payment of any kind from the mortgage lender, the maximum total dollar amount of the payment must be disclosed to the borrower in the written mortgage broker agreement as described in paragraph (1) (a). The commission may prescribe by rule an acceptable form for disclosure of brokerage fees received from the lender. The agreement must state the nature of the relationship with the lender, describe how compensation is paid by the lender, and describe how the mortgage interest rate affects the compensation paid to the mortgage broker.

(a) The exact amount of any payment of any kind by the lender to the mortgage broker must be disclosed in writing to the borrower within 3 business days after the mortgage broker is made aware of the exact amount of the payment from the lender but not less than 3 business days before the execution of the closing or settlement statement. The licensee bears the burden of proving such notification was provided to the borrower. Notification is waived if the exact amount of the payment is accurately disclosed in the written mortgage broker agreement.

(b) The commission may prescribe by rule the form of disclosure of brokerage fees.

(3) At the time a written mortgage broker agreement is

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signed by the borrower or forwarded to the borrower for signature, or at the time the mortgage broker business accepts an application fee, credit report fee, property appraisal fee, or any other third-party fee, but at least 3 business days before execution of the closing or settlement statement, the mortgage broker shall disclose in writing to any applicant for a mortgage loan the following information:

- (a) That the mortgage broker may not make mortgage loans or commitments. The mortgage broker may make a commitment and may furnish a lock-in of the rate and program on behalf of the lender if the mortgage broker has obtained a written commitment or lock-in for the loan from the lender on behalf of the borrower for the loan. The commitment must be in the same form and substance as issued by the lender.
- (b) That the mortgage broker cannot guarantee acceptance into any particular loan program or promise any specific loan terms or conditions.
- (c) A good faith estimate that discloses settlement charges and loan terms.
- 1. Any amount collected in excess of the actual cost shall be returned within 60 days after rejection, withdrawal, or closing.
- 2. At the time a good faith estimate is provided to the borrower, the loan originator must identify in writing an itemized list that provides the recipient of all payments charged the borrower, which, except for all fees to be received

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by the mortgage broker, may be disclosed in generic terms, such as, but not limited to, paid to lender, appraiser, officials, title company, or any other third-party service provider. This requirement does not supplant or is not a substitute for the written mortgage broker agreement described in subsection (1). The disclosure required under this subparagraph must be signed and dated by the borrower.

(4) The disclosures required by this subsection must be furnished in writing at the time an adjustable rate mortgage loan is offered to the borrower and whenever the terms of the adjustable rate mortgage loan offered materially change prior to closing. The mortgage broker shall furnish the disclosures relating to adjustable rate mortgages in a format prescribed by ss. 226.18 and 226.19 of Regulation Z of the Board of Covernors of the Federal Reserve System, as amended; its commentary, as amended; and the federal Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1601 et seq., as amended; together with the Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages, as amended; published by the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The licensee bears the burden of proving such disclosures were provided to the borrower.

- (5) If the mortgage broker agreement includes a nonrefundable application fee, the following requirements are applicable:
- (a) The amount of the application fee, which must be clearly denominated as such, must be clearly disclosed.

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(b) The specific services that will be performed in consideration for the application fee must be disclosed.

- (c) The application fee must be reasonably related to the services to be performed and may not be based upon a percentage of the principal amount of the loan or the amount financed.
- (6) A mortgage broker may not accept any fee in connection with a mortgage loan other than an application fee, credit report fee, property appraisal fee, or other third-party fee before obtaining a written commitment from a qualified lender.
- (1)(7) Any third-party fee entrusted to a mortgage broker must immediately, upon receipt, be placed into a segregated account with a financial institution located in the state the accounts of which are insured by the Federal Government. Such funds shall be held in trust for the payor and shall be kept in the account until disbursement. Such funds may be placed in one account if adequate accounting measures are taken to identify the source of the funds.
- $\underline{(2)}$ A mortgage broker may not pay a commission to any person not licensed pursuant to this chapter.
- (3)(9) This section does not prohibit a mortgage broker from offering products and services, in addition to those offered in conjunction with the loan origination process, for a fee or commission.
- Section 9. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 494.004, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 494.004 Requirements of licensees.-

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(2) In every mortgage loan transaction, each licensee under this part must notify a borrower of any material changes in the terms of a mortgage loan previously offered to the borrower within 3 business days after being made aware of such changes by the mortgage lender but at least 3 business days before the signing of the settlement or closing statement. The licensee bears the burden of proving such notification was provided and accepted by the borrower. A borrower may waive the right to receive notice of a material change if the borrower determines that the extension of credit is needed to meet a bona fide personal financial emergency and the right to receive notice would delay the closing of the mortgage loan. The imminent sale of the borrower's home at foreclosure during the 3-day period before the signing of the settlement or closing statement is an example of a bona fide personal financial emergency. In order to waive the borrower's right to receive notice, the borrower must provide the licensee with a dated written statement that describes the personal financial emergency, waives the right to receive the notice, bears the borrower's signature, and is not on a printed form prepared by the licensee for the purpose of such a waiver. (2) (3) Each mortgage broker shall submit to the registry reports of condition, which must be in such form and shall contain such information as the registry may require. The commission may adopt rules prescribing the time by which a

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mortgage broker must file a report of condition. For purposes of

339	this section, the report of condition is synonymous with the
340	registry's Mortgage Call Report.
341	Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 494.0042, Florida
342	Statutes, is amended to read:
343	494.0042 Loan origination fees.—
344	(3) At the time of accepting a mortgage loan application,
345	a mortgage broker may receive from the borrower a nonrefundable
346	application fee. If the mortgage loan is funded, the
347	nonrefundable application fee shall be credited against the
348	amount owed as a result of the loan being funded. A person may
349	not receive any form of compensation for acting as a loan
350	originator other than a nonrefundable application fee, a fee
351	based on the mortgage amount being funded, or a fee which
352	complies with s. 494.00421.
353	Section 11. Section 494.00421, Florida Statutes, is
354	repealed.
355	Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
356	494.00611, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
357	494.00611 Mortgage lender license.—
358	(2) In order to apply for a mortgage lender license, an
359	applicant must:
360	(b) Designate a qualified principal loan originator who
361	meets the requirements of s. 494.00665 494.0035 on the
362	application form.
363	Section 13. Subsection (3) is added to section 494.00612,
364	Florida Statutes to read·

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494.00612 Mortgage lender license renewal.-

(3) If an entity licensed under this chapter fails to file a proper application for license renewal for the following year, including the proper application fee, on or before December 31 and files an application after December 31 but before the last day of February, the entity's license status shall be changed to "failed to renew." A reinstatement fee of \$475 shall be charged outside of the registry. The license may not be reinstated until the required information is completed and fees are paid. If the licensee fails to complete the required information and pay all necessary fees by the last day of February, the license status shall be changed to "terminated/expired."

Section 14. Subsection (3) of section 494.0066, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (5) are added to that section, to read:

494.0066 Branch offices.-

- (3) A branch office license must be renewed at the time of renewing the mortgage lender license. A nonrefundable fee of \$225 per branch office must be submitted at the time of renewal. To renew a branch office license, a mortgage lender must:
- (a) Submit a completed license renewal form as prescribed by commission rule.
 - (b) Submit a nonrefundable renewal fee.
- (c) Submit any additional information or documentation requested by the office and required by rule concerning the licensee. Additional information may include documents that may

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provide the office with the appropriate information to determine eligibility for license renewal.

(4) The office may not renew a branch office license unless the branch office continues to meet the minimum requirements for initial licensure under this section and adopted rule.

- (5) If a branch office licensed under this chapter fails to file a proper application for license renewal for the following year, including the proper application fee, on or before December 31 and files an application after December 31 but before the last day of February, the branch office's license status shall be changed to "failed to renew." A reinstatement fee of \$225 shall be charged outside of the registry. The license may not be reinstated until the required information is completed and fees are paid. If the licensee fails to complete the required information and pay all necessary fees by the last day of February, the license status shall be changed to "terminated/expired."
- Section 15. Subsections (8) through (13) of section 494.0067, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 494.0067 Requirements of mortgage lenders.-
- (8) Each mortgage lender shall provide an applicant for a mortgage loan a good faith estimate of the costs the applicant can reasonably expect to pay in obtaining a mortgage loan. The good faith estimate of costs must be mailed or delivered to the applicant within 3 business days after the licensee receives a

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written loan application from the applicant. The estimate of costs may be provided to the applicant by a person other than the licensee making the loan. The good faith estimate must identify the recipient of all payments charged to the borrower and, except for all fees to be received by the mortgage broker and the mortgage lender, may be disclosed in generic terms, such as, but not limited to, paid to appraiser, officials, title company, or any other third-party service provider. The licensee bears the burden of proving such disclosures were provided to the borrower. The commission may adopt rules that set forth the disclosure requirements of this section.

in writing at the time an adjustable rate mortgage loan is offered to the borrower and whenever the terms of the adjustable rate mortgage loan offered have a material change prior to closing. The lender shall furnish the disclosures relating to adjustable rate mortgages in a format prescribed by ss. 226.18 and 226.19 of Regulation Z of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, as amended; its commentary, as amended; and the federal Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1601 et seq., as amended; together with the Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages, as amended; published by the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The licensee bears the burden of proving such disclosures were provided to the borrower.

(10) In every mortgage loan transaction, each mortgage

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lender shall notify a borrower of any material changes in the terms of a mortgage loan previously offered to the borrower within 3 business days after being made aware of such changes by the lender but at least 3 business days before signing the settlement or closing statement. The licensee bears the burden of proving such notification was provided and accepted by the borrower. A borrower may waive the right to receive notice of a material change if the borrower determines that the extension of credit is needed to meet a bona fide personal financial emergency and the right to receive notice would delay the closing of the mortgage loan. The imminent sale of the borrower's home at foreclosure during the 3-day period before the signing of the settlement or closing statement constitutes an example of a bona fide personal financial emergency. In order to waive the borrower's right to receive notice, the borrower must provide the licensee with a dated written statement that describes the personal financial emergency, waives the right to receive the notice, bears the borrower's signature, and is not on a printed form prepared by the licensee for the purpose of such a waiver.

(8) (11) A mortgage lender may close loans in its own name but may not service the loan for more than $\underline{6}$ 4 months unless the lender has a servicing endorsement. Only a mortgage lender who continuously maintains a net worth of at least \$250,000 may obtain a servicing endorsement.

(9) (12) A mortgage lender must report to the office the

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failure to meet the applicable net worth requirements of s. 494.00611 within 2 days after the mortgage lender's knowledge of such failure or after the mortgage lender should have known of such failure.

(10) (13) Each mortgage lender shall submit to the registry reports of condition which are in a form and which contain such information as the registry may require. The commission may adopt rules prescribing the time by which a mortgage lender must file a report of condition. For purposes of this section, the report of condition is synonymous with the registry's Mortgage Call Report.

Section 16. <u>Section 494.0068, Florida Statutes, is</u> repealed.

Section 17. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (1) of section 494.007, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494.007 Commitment process.

- (1) If a commitment is issued, the mortgage lender shall disclose in writing:
- (c) If the interest rate or other terms are subject to change before expiration of the commitment:
- 1. The basis, index, or method, if any, which will be used to determine the rate at closing. Such basis, index, or method shall be established and disclosed with direct reference to the movement of an interest rate index or of a national or regional index that is available to and verifiable by the borrower and beyond the control of the lender; or

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495	2. The following statement, in at least 10-point bold
496	type: "The interest rate will be the rate established by the
497	lender in its discretion as its prevailing rate days
498	before closing."; and
499	(d) The amount of the commitment fee, if any, and whether
500	and under what circumstances the commitment fee is refundable;
501	and
502	(d) (e) The time, if any, within which the commitment must
503	be accepted by the borrower.
504	Section 18. Section 494.0073, Florida Statutes, is amended
505	to read:
506	494.0073 Mortgage lender when acting as a mortgage
507	broker.—The provisions of this part do not prohibit a mortgage
508	lender from acting as a mortgage broker. However, in mortgage
509	transactions in which a mortgage lender acts as a mortgage
510	broker, the provisions of ss. 494.0038, 494.004(2), 494.0042,
511	and 494.0043(1), (2), and (3) apply.
512	Section 19. Part IV of chapter 494, Florida Statutes,
513	consisting of ss. 494.0078, 494.0079, 494.00791, 494.00792,
514	494.00793, 494.00794, 494.00795, 494.00796, and 494.00797, is
515	repealed.
516	Section 20. Section 494.008, Florida Statutes, is
517	repealed.
518	Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.