

	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate		House
Comm: RCS		
03/21/2014		
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax (Brandes) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (p) of subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following

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are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS. Exemptions provided to any entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.
- (p) Section 501(c)(3) organizations.—Also exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter are sales or leases to organizations determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be currently exempt from federal income tax pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if when such leases or purchases are used in carrying on their customary nonprofit activities, unless such organizations are subject to a final disqualification order issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s. 496.430.

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Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 212.084, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

212.084 Review of exemption certificates; reissuance; specified expiration date; temporary exemption certificates.-

- (3) After review is completed and it has been determined that an institution, organization, or individual is actively engaged in a bona fide exempt endeavor and is not subject to a final disqualification order issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s. 496.430, the department shall reissue an exemption certificate to the entity. However, each certificate so reissued is valid for 5 consecutive years, at which time the review and reissuance procedure provided by this section apply again. If the department determines that an entity no longer qualifies for an exemption, it shall revoke the tax exemption certificate of the entity.
- (7) The department shall revoke or refuse to grant a sales tax exemption certificate to an institution, organization, or individual that is the subject of a final disqualification order issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s. 496.430. A revocation or denial under this subsection is subject to challenge under chapter 120 only as to whether a disqualification order is in effect. The institution, organization, or individual must appeal or challenge the validity of the disqualification order pursuant to s. 496.430(2).

Section 3. Section 496.403, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.403 Application.—Sections 496.401-496.424 do not apply

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to bona fide religious institutions, educational institutions, and state agencies or other government entities or persons or organizations who solicit or act as professional fundraising consultants solely on their behalf of those entities, or to blood establishments as defined in s. 381.06014. Sections 496.401-496.424 do not apply to political contributions solicited in accordance with the election laws of this state. Section 4. Section 496.404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.404 Definitions.—As used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the

- (1) "Charitable organization" means a any person who is or holds herself or himself out to be established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, artistic, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy, public health, environmental conservation, civic, or other eleemosynary purpose, or a any person who in any manner employs a charitable appeal as the basis for any solicitation or an appeal that suggests that there is a charitable purpose to any solicitation. The term It includes a chapter, branch, area office, or similar affiliate soliciting contributions within the state for a charitable organization that which has its principal place of business outside the state.
- (2) "Charitable purpose" means any benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic, educational, humane, scientific, artistic, public health, social welfare or advocacy, environmental conservation, civic, or other eleemosynary objective.
 - (3) "Charitable sales promotion" means an advertising or

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sales campaign conducted by a commercial co-venturer which represents that the purchase or use of goods or services offered by the commercial co-venturer are to benefit a charitable organization. The provision of advertising services to a charitable organization does not, in itself, constitute a charitable sales promotion.

- (4) "Commercial co-venturer" means a any person who, for profit, regularly and primarily is engaged in trade or commerce other than in connection with solicitation of contributions and who conducts a charitable sales promotion or a sponsor sales promotion.
- (5) "Contribution" means the promise, pledge, or grant of any money or property, financial assistance, or any other thing of value in response to a solicitation. The term "Contribution" includes, in the case of a charitable organization or sponsor offering goods and services to the public, the difference between the direct cost of the goods and services to the charitable organization or sponsor and the price at which the charitable organization or sponsor or any person acting on behalf of the charitable organization or sponsor resells those goods or services to the public. The term "Contribution" does not include bona fide fees, dues, or assessments paid by members, if provided that membership is not conferred solely as consideration for making a contribution in response to a solicitation; . "Contribution" also does not include funds obtained by a charitable organization or sponsor pursuant to government grants or contracts; funds, or obtained as an allocation from a United Way organization that is duly registered with the department; or funds received from an

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organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under s. 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and described in s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code which that is duly registered with the department.

- (6) "Crisis" means an event that garners widespread national or global media coverage due to an actual or perceived threat of harm to an individual, a group, or a community.
- (7) (6) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- (8) "Disaster" means a natural, technological, or civil event, including, but not limited to, an explosion, chemical spill, earthquake, tsunami, landslide, volcanic activity, avalanche, wildfire, tornado, hurricane, drought, or flood, which affects one or more countries and causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in an official declaration of a state of emergency or an official request for international assistance.
- $(9) \frac{(7)}{(7)}$ "Division" means the Division of Consumer Services of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- (10) (8) "Educational institutions" means those institutions and organizations described in s. 212.08(7)(cc)8.a. The term includes private nonprofit organizations, the purpose of which is to raise funds for schools teaching grades kindergarten through grade 12, colleges, and universities, including any nonprofit newspaper of free or paid circulation primarily on university or college campuses which holds a current exemption from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, any educational television network or system established pursuant to s. 1001.25 or s. 1001.26, and any

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nonprofit television or radio station that is a part of such network or system and that holds a current exemption from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The term also includes a nonprofit educational cable consortium that holds a current exemption from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, whose primary purpose is the delivery of educational and instructional cable television programming and whose members are composed exclusively of educational organizations that hold a valid consumer certificate of exemption and that are either an educational institution as defined in this subsection or qualified as a nonprofit organization pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(11) (9) "Emergency service employee" means an any employee who is a firefighter, as defined in s. 633.102, or ambulance driver, emergency medical technician, or paramedic, as defined in s. 401.23.

(12) (10) "Federated fundraising organization" means a federation of independent charitable organizations that which have voluntarily joined together, including, but not limited to, a united way or community chest, for purposes of raising and distributing contributions for and among themselves and where membership does not confer operating authority and control of the individual organization upon the federated group organization.

(13) (11) "Fundraising costs" means those costs incurred in inducing others to make contributions to a charitable organization or sponsor for which the contributors will receive no direct economic benefit. Fundraising costs include, but are

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not limited to, salaries, rent, acquiring and obtaining mailing lists, printing, mailing, and all direct and indirect costs of soliciting, as well as the cost of unsolicited merchandise sent to encourage contributions.

- (14) (12) "Law enforcement officer" means a any person who is elected, appointed, or employed by any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof and:
- (a) Who is vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests and whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the criminal, traffic, or highway laws of the state; or
- (b) Whose responsibility includes supervision, protection, care, custody, or control of inmates within a correctional institution.
- (15) "Management and general costs" means all such costs of a charitable organization or sponsor which are not identifiable with a single program or fundraising activity but which are indispensable to the conduct of such programs and activities and the charitable organization's or sponsor's existence.
- (16) (13) "Membership" means the relationship of a person to an organization which that entitles her or him to the privileges, professional standing, honors, or other direct benefit of the organization in addition to the right to vote, elect officers, and hold office in the organization.
- (17) (14) "Owner" means a any person who has a direct or indirect interest in any professional fundraising consultant or professional solicitor.
- (18) (15) "Parent organization" means that part of a charitable organization or sponsor which coordinates,

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supervises, or exercises control over policy, fundraising, and expenditures or assists or advises one or more of the organization's chapters, branches, or affiliates in this state.

(19) (16) "Person" means an any individual, organization, trust, foundation, group, association, entity, partnership, corporation, society, or any combination thereof of them.

(20) (17) "Professional fundraising consultant" means a any person who is retained by a charitable organization or sponsor for a fixed fee or rate under a written agreement to plan, manage, conduct, carry on, advise, consult, or prepare material for a solicitation of contributions in this state, but who does not solicit contributions or employ, procure, or engage any compensated person to solicit contributions and who does not at any time have custody or control of contributions. A bona fide volunteer or bona fide employee or salaried officer of a charitable organization or sponsor maintaining a permanent establishment in this state is not a professional fundraising consultant. An attorney, investment counselor, or banker who advises an individual, corporation, or association to make a charitable contribution is not a professional fundraising consultant as the result of such advice.

(21) (18) "Professional solicitor" means a any person who, for compensation, performs for a charitable organization or sponsor any service in connection with which contributions are or will be solicited in, or from a location in, this state by the compensated person or by any person it employs, procures, or otherwise engages, directly or indirectly, to solicit contributions, or a person who plans, conducts, manages, carries on, advises, consults, whether directly or indirectly, in

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connection with the solicitation of contributions for or on behalf of a charitable organization or sponsor, but who does not qualify as a professional fundraising consultant. A bona fide volunteer or bona fide employee or salaried officer of a charitable organization or sponsor maintaining a permanent establishment in this state is not a professional solicitor. An attorney, investment counselor, or banker who advises an individual, corporation, or association to make a charitable contribution is not a professional solicitor as the result of such advice.

- (22) "Program service costs" means all expenses incurred primarily to accomplish the charitable organization or sponsor's stated purposes. The term does not include fundraising costs.
- (23) (19) "Religious institution" means any church, ecclesiastical or denominational organization, or established physical place for worship in this state at which nonprofit religious services and activities are regularly conducted and carried on, and includes those bona fide religious groups which do not maintain specific places of worship. The term "Religious institution" also includes any separate group or corporation which forms an integral part of a religious institution which is exempt from federal income tax under the provisions of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and which is not primarily supported by funds solicited outside its own membership or congregation.
- (24) (20) "Solicitation" means a request, directly or indirectly, for money, property, financial assistance, or any other thing of value on the plea or representation that such money, property, financial assistance, or other thing of value

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or a portion of it will be used for a charitable or sponsor purpose or will benefit a charitable organization or sponsor. The term "Solicitation" includes, but is not limited to, the following methods of requesting or securing the promise, pledge, or grant of money, property, financial assistance, or any other thing of value:

- (a) Making any oral or written request;
- (b) Making any announcement to the press, on radio or television, by telephone or telegraph, or by any other communication device concerning an appeal or campaign by or for any charitable organization or sponsor or for any charitable or sponsor purpose;
- (c) Distributing, circulating, posting, or publishing any handbill, written advertisement, or other publication that directly or by implication seeks to obtain any contribution; or
- (d) Selling or offering or attempting to sell any advertisement, advertising space, book, card, coupon, chance, device, magazine, membership, merchandise, subscription, sponsorship, flower, admission, ticket, food, or other service or tangible good, item, or thing of value, or any right of any description in connection with which any appeal is made for any charitable organization or sponsor or charitable or sponsor purpose, or when the name of any charitable organization or sponsor is used or referred to in any such appeal as an inducement or reason for making the sale or when, in connection with the sale or offer or attempt to sell, any statement is made that all or part of the proceeds from the sale will be used for any charitable or sponsor purpose or will benefit any charitable organization or sponsor.



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A solicitation is considered as having taken place whether or not the person making the solicitation receives any contribution. A solicitation does not occur when a person applies for a grant or an award to the government or to an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under s. 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and described in s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and is duly registered with the department.

(25) (21) "Sponsor" means a group or person that which is or holds itself out to be soliciting contributions by the use of any name that which implies that the group or person is in any way affiliated with or organized for the benefit of emergency service employees or law enforcement officers and the group or person which is not a charitable organization. The term includes a chapter, branch, or affiliate that which has its principal place of business outside the state, if such chapter, branch, or affiliate solicits or holds itself out to be soliciting contributions in this state.

(26) (22) "Sponsor purpose" means any program or endeavor performed to benefit emergency service employees or law enforcement officers.

(27) (23) "Sponsor sales promotion" means an advertising or sales campaign conducted by a commercial co-venturer who represents that the purchase or use of goods or services offered by the commercial co-venturer will be used for a sponsor purpose or donated to a sponsor. The provision of advertising services to a sponsor does not, in itself, constitute a sponsor sales promotion.

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Section 5. Subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (2), subsection (3), paragraph (b) of subsection (4), and subsections (7) and (8) of section 496.405, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (9) and (10) are added to that section, to read:

496.405 Registration statements by charitable organizations and sponsors.-

(1) (a) A charitable organization or sponsor, unless exempted pursuant to s. 496.406, which intends to solicit contributions in this state by any means or have funds solicited on its behalf by any other person, charitable organization, sponsor, commercial co-venturer, or professional solicitor, or that participates in a charitable sales promotion or sponsor sales promotion, must, before prior to engaging in any of these activities, file an initial registration statement, and a renewal statement annually thereafter, with the department.

(a) (b) Except as provided in paragraph (b), any changes in the information submitted on the initial registration statement or the last renewal statement must be updated annually on a renewal statement provided by the department on or before the date that marks 1 year after the date the department approved the initial registration statement as provided in this section. The department shall annually provide a renewal statement to each registrant by mail or by electronic mail at least 30 days before the renewal date.

(b) Any changes to the information submitted to the department pursuant to paragraph (2)(d) on the initial registration statement or the last renewal statement must be reported to the department on a form prescribed by the

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department within 10 days after the change occurs.

- (c) A charitable organization or sponsor that is required to file an initial registration statement or annual renewal statement may not, before prior to approval of its statement by the department in accordance with subsection (7), solicit contributions or have contributions solicited on its behalf by any other person, charitable organization, sponsor, commercial co-venturer, or professional solicitor, or participate in a charitable sales promotion or sponsor sales promotion.
- (d) For good cause shown, the department may extend the time for the filing of an annual renewal statement or financial report for a period not to exceed 60 days, during which time the previous registration remains in effect.
- (d) (e) In no event shall The registration of a charitable organization or sponsor may not continue in effect and shall expire without further action of the department:
- 1. After the date the charitable organization or sponsor should have filed, but failed to file, its renewal statement financial report in accordance with this section.
- 2. For failure to provide a financial statement within any extension period provided under and s. 496.407. The organization may not file a renewal statement until it has filed the required financial report with the department.
- (2) The initial registration statement must be submitted on a form prescribed by the department, signed by an authorized official of the charitable organization or sponsor who shall certify that the registration statement is true and correct, and include the following information or material:
 - (a) A copy of the financial statement report or Internal

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Revenue Service Form 990 and all attached schedules or Internal Revenue Service Form 990-EZ and Schedule O required under s. 496.407 for the immediately preceding fiscal year. A newly organized charitable organization or sponsor with no financial history must file a budget for the current fiscal year.

- (g) The following information must be filed with the initial registration statement and must be updated when any change occurs in the information that was previously filed with the initial registration statement:
- 1. The principal street address and telephone number of the charitable organization or sponsor and the street address and telephone numbers of any offices in this state or, if the charitable organization or sponsor does not maintain an office in this state, the name, street address, and telephone number of the person who that has custody of its financial records. The parent organization that files a consolidated registration statement on behalf of its chapters, branches, or affiliates must additionally provide the street addresses and telephone numbers of all such locations in this state.
- 2. The names and street addresses of the officers, directors, trustees, and the principal salaried executive personnel.
- 3. The date when the charitable organization's or sponsor's fiscal year ends.
 - 4. A list or description of the major program activities.
- 5. The names, street addresses, and telephone numbers of the individuals or officers who have final responsibility for the custody of the contributions and who will be responsible for the final distribution of the contributions.

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(3) Each chapter, branch, or affiliate of a parent organization that is required to register under this section must either file a separate registration statement and financial statement report or must report the required information to its parent organization, which shall then file, on a form prescribed by the department, a consolidated registration statement for the parent organization and its Florida chapters, branches, and affiliates. A consolidated registration statement filed by a parent organization must include or be accompanied by financial statements reports as specified in s. 496.407 for the parent organization and each of its Florida chapters, branches, and affiliates that solicited or received contributions during the preceding fiscal year. However, if all contributions received by chapters, branches, or affiliates are remitted directly into a depository account that which feeds directly into the parent organization's centralized accounting system from which all disbursements are made, the parent organization may submit one consolidated financial statement report on a form prescribed by the department. A copy of Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and all attached schedules filed for the preceding fiscal year, or a copy of Internal Revenue Form 990-EZ and Schedule O for the preceding fiscal year, for the parent organization and each Florida chapter, branch, or affiliate that is required to file such forms must be attached to the consolidated financial statement. The consolidated financial statement must comply with the requirements of s. 496.407 and must reflect the activities of each chapter, branch, or affiliate of the parent organization, including all contributions received in the name of each chapter, branch, or affiliate; all payments made to each



chapter, branch, or affiliate; and all administrative fees assessed to each chapter, branch, or affiliate.

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- (b) A charitable organization or sponsor that which fails to file a registration statement by the due date may be assessed an additional fee for such late filing. The late filing fee is shall be \$25 for each month or part of a month after the date on which the annual renewal statement was and financial report were due to be filed with the department.
- (7) (a) The department must examine each initial registration statement or annual renewal statement and the supporting documents filed by a charitable organization or sponsor and shall determine whether the registration requirements are satisfied. Within 15 business working days after its receipt of a statement, the department must examine the statement, notify the applicant of any apparent errors or omissions, and request any additional information the department is allowed by law to require. Failure to correct an error or omission or to supply additional information is not grounds for denial of the initial registration or annual renewal statement unless the department has notified the applicant within such period of 15 business days the 15-working-day period. The department must approve or deny each statement, or must notify the applicant that the activity for which she or he seeks registration is exempt from the registration requirement, within 15 business working days after receipt of the initial registration or annual renewal statement or the requested additional information or correction of errors or omissions. Any statement that is not approved or denied within 15 business

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working days after receipt of the requested additional information or correction of errors or omissions is approved. Within 7 business working days after receipt of a notification that the registration requirements are not satisfied, the charitable organization or sponsor may request a hearing. The hearing must be held within 7 business working days after receipt of the request, and any recommended order, if one is issued, must be rendered within 3 business working days of the hearing. The final order must then be issued within 2 business working days after the recommended order. If a recommended order is not issued, the final order must be issued within 5 business working days after the hearing. The proceedings must be conducted in accordance with chapter 120, except that the time limits and provisions set forth in this subsection prevail to the extent of any conflict.

- (b) If a charitable organization or sponsor discloses information specified in subparagraphs (2)(d)2.-7. in the initial registration statement or annual renewal statement, the time limits of this subsection are waived, and the department shall process such initial registration statement or annual renewal statement in accordance with the time limits in chapter 120. The registration of a charitable organization or sponsor shall be automatically suspended for failure to disclose any information specified in subparagraphs (2)(d)2.-7. until such time as the required information is submitted to the department.
- (8) A No charitable organization or sponsor, or any officer, director, trustee, or employee thereof, may not shall knowingly allow any officer, director, trustee, or employee of the charitable organization or sponsor of its officers,

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directors, trustees, or employees to solicit contributions on behalf of such charitable organization or sponsor if such officer, director, trustee, or employee has, in any state, regardless of adjudication, been convicted of, or found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been incarcerated within the last 10 years as a result of having previously been convicted of, or found quilty of, or pled quilty or nolo contendere to, any felony within the last 10 years or any crime within the last 10 years involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, misappropriation of property, or any crime arising from the conduct of a solicitation for a charitable organization or sponsor, or has been enjoined, in any state, from violating any law relating to a charitable solicitation. The prohibitions in this subsection also apply to any misdemeanor in another state which constitutes a disqualifying felony in this state.

- (9) The department may deny or revoke the registration of a charitable organization or sponsor if the charitable organization or sponsor, or any officer, director, or trustee thereof, has had the right to solicit contributions revoked in any state or has been ordered by any court or governmental agency to cease soliciting contributions within any state.
- (10) A charitable organization or sponsor registered under this section which ends solicitation activities or participation in charitable sales promotions in this state shall immediately notify the department in writing of the date such activities ceased.

Section 6. Section 496.4055, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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496.4055 Charitable organization or sponsor board duties.-(1) As used in this section, the term "conflict of interest transaction" means a transaction between a charitable organization or sponsor and another party in which a director, officer, or trustee of the charitable organization or sponsor has a direct or indirect financial interest. The term includes, but is not limited to, the sale, lease, or exchange of property to or from the charitable organization or sponsor; the lending of moneys to or borrowing of moneys from the charitable organization or sponsor; and the payment of compensation for services provided to or from the charitable organization or sponsor.

- (2) The board of directors, or an authorized committee thereof, of a charitable organization or sponsor required to register with the department under s. 496.405 shall adopt a policy regarding conflict of interest transactions. The policy must require annual certification of compliance with the policy by all directors, officers, and trustees of the charitable organization or sponsor.
- (3) The charitable organization or sponsor shall provide to the department a copy of the policy adopted under subsection (2) with the annual registration statement required under s. 496.405.
- Section 7. Section 496.407, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 496.407 Financial statement report.
- (1) A charitable organization or sponsor that is required to initially register or annually renew registration must file an annual financial statement report for the immediately



562 preceding fiscal year on upon a form prescribed by the 563 department. 564 (a) The statement report must include the following: 565 1. (a) A balance sheet. 566 2.(b) A statement of support, revenue and expenses, and any 567 change in the fund balance. 568 3.(c) The names and addresses of the charitable 569 organizations or sponsors, professional fundraising consultant, professional solicitors, and commercial co-venturers used, if 570 any, and the amounts received from each of them, if any. 571 572 4. (d) A statement of functional expenses that must include, 573 but not be limited to, expenses in the following categories: 574 a. 1. Program service costs. 575 b.2. Management and general costs. 576 c.3. Fundraising costs. 577 (b) The financial statement must be audited, or reviewed as 578 follows: 579 1. For a charitable organization or sponsor that receives 580 less than \$500,000 in annual contributions, a compilation, 581 audit, or review of the financial statement is optional. 582 2. For a charitable organization or sponsor that receives 583 at least \$500,000 but less than \$1 million in annual 584 contributions, the financial statement shall be reviewed or 585 audited by an independent certified public accountant. 586 3. For a charitable organization or sponsor that receives 587 \$1 million or more in annual contributions, the financial 588 statement shall be audited by an independent certified public 589 accountant.

(c) Audits and reviews shall be prepared in accordance with

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the following standards:

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- 1. Audits shall be prepared by an independent certified public account in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, including the Statements on Auditing Standards.
- 2. Reviews shall be prepared by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services.
- (d) Audited and reviewed financial statements must be accompanied by a report signed and prepared by the independent certified public accountant performing such audit or review.
- (2) In lieu of the financial statement report described in subsection (1), a charitable organization or sponsor may submit as its financial statement a copy of its Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and all attached schedules filed for the preceding fiscal year, or a copy of its Internal Revenue Service Form 990-EZ and Schedule O filed for the preceding fiscal year. Such forms and schedules submitted by a charitable organization or sponsor that receives at least \$500,000 in annual contributions must be prepared by a certified public accountant or other professional who normally prepares such forms and schedules in the ordinary course of their business.
- (3) Upon a showing of good cause by a charitable organization or sponsor, the department may extend the time for the filing of a financial statement required under this section by up to 180 days, during which time the previous registration shall remain active. The registration shall be automatically suspended for failure to file the financial statement within the extension period.
 - (4) Upon a showing of good cause, the department may

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require that an audit or review be conducted for any financial statement submitted by any charitable organization or sponsor. As used in this subsection, the term "good cause" includes, but is not limited to, irregular or inconsistent information provided on a charitable organization's or sponsor's financial statement. A charitable organization or sponsor may elect to also include a financial report that has been audited by an independent certified public accountant or an audit with opinion by an independent certified public accountant. In the event that a charitable organization or sponsor elects to file an audited financial report, this optional filing must be noted in the department's annual report submitted pursuant to s. 496.423. Section 8. Section 496.4071, Florida Statutes, is created

to read:

496.4071 Supplemental financial disclosure.-

- (1) If, for the immediately preceding fiscal year, a charitable organization or sponsor had more than \$1 million in total revenue and spent less than 25 percent of the organization's total annual functional expenses on program service costs, in addition to any financial statement required under s. 496.407, the charitable organization or sponsor shall file the following supplemental financial information on a form prescribed by the department:
- (a) The dollar amount and the percentage of total revenue and charitable contributions allocated to funding each of the following administrative functions:
- 1. Total salaries of all persons employed by the charitable organization or sponsor.
 - 2. Fundraising, including the names of any professional

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solicitors, amounts paid to the professional solicitors, and contributions received from a professional solicitor's campaign.

- 3. Travel expenses.
- 4. Overhead and other expenses related to managing and administering the charitable organization or sponsor.
- (b) The name of and specific sum earned by or paid to all employees or consultants who earned or were paid more than \$100,000 during the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (c) The name of and specific sum paid to all service providers who were paid \$100,000 or more during the immediately preceding fiscal year and a brief description of the services provided.
- (d) The dollar amount and percentage of total revenue and charitable contributions allocated to programs.
- (e) The details of any economic or business transactions between the charitable organization or sponsor and an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor; the immediate family of an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor; any entity controlled by an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor; any entity controlled by the immediate family of an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor; any entity that employed or engaged for consultation an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor; and any entity that employed or engaged for consultation the immediate family of an officer, trustee, or director of the charitable organization or sponsor. As used in this paragraph, the term "immediate family" means a parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, brother-in-law,

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sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law.

(2) The supplemental financial information required under subsection (1) must be filed with the department by the charitable organization or sponsor within 30 days after receiving a request for such information from the department.

Section 9. Section 496.4072, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

496.4072 Financial statements for specific disaster relief solicitations.-

- (1) A charitable organization or sponsor that solicits contributions in this state for a charitable purpose related to a specific disaster or crisis and receives at least \$100,000 in contributions in response to such solicitation shall file quarterly disaster relief financial statements with the department on a form prescribed by the department. The quarterly statements must detail the contributions secured as a result of the solicitation and the manner in which such contributions were expended.
- (2) The first quarterly statement shall be filed on the last day of the third month following the accrual of at least \$100,000 in contributions after the commencement of solicitations for the specific disaster or crisis. The charitable organization or sponsor shall continue to file quarterly statements with the department until the quarter after all contributions raised in response to the solicitation are expended.
- (3) The department shall post notice on its website of the specific disasters and crises subject to the additional

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reporting requirements in this section within 10 days after such disaster or crisis.

Section 10. Subsections (4), (6), and (9) of section 496.409, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (10) is added to that section, to read:

496.409 Registration and duties of professional fundraising consultant.-

- (4) A professional fundraising consultant may enter into a contract or agreement with a charitable organization or sponsor only if the charitable organization or sponsor has complied with all applicable provisions of this chapter. A Every contract or agreement between a professional fundraising consultant and a charitable organization or sponsor must be in writing, signed by two authorized officials of the charitable organization or sponsor, and filed by the professional fundraising consultant with the department at least 5 days before prior to the performance of any material service by the professional fundraising consultant. Solicitation under the contract or agreement may not begin before the filing of the contract or agreement.
- (6)(a) The department shall examine each registration statement and all supporting documents filed by a professional fundraising consultant and determine whether the registration requirements are satisfied. If the department determines that the registration requirements are not satisfied, the department must notify the professional fundraising consultant within 15 business working days after its receipt of the registration statement; otherwise the registration statement is approved. Within 7 business working days after receipt of a notification

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that the registration requirements are not satisfied, the applicant may request a hearing. The hearing must be held within 7 business working days after receipt of the request, and any recommended order, if one is issued, must be rendered within 3 business working days after the hearing. The final order must then be issued within 2 business working days after the recommended order. If there is no recommended order, the final order must be issued within 5 business working days after the hearing. The proceedings must be conducted in accordance with chapter 120, except that the time limits and provisions set forth in this subsection prevail to the extent of any conflict.

- (b) If a professional fundraising consultant discloses information specified in paragraphs (2) (e)-(g) in the initial application for registration or renewal application, the processing time limits of this subsection are waived and the department shall process the initial application for registration or the renewal application in accordance with the time limits in chapter 120. The registration of a professional consultant shall be automatically suspended for failure to disclose any information specified in paragraphs (2)(e)-(g) until such time as the required information is submitted to the department.
- (9) A No person may not act as a professional fundraising consultant, and a no professional fundraising consultant, or any officer, director, trustee, or employee thereof, may not shall knowingly employ any officer, trustee, director, or employee, if such person has, in any state, regardless of adjudication, been convicted of, or found quilty of, or pled quilty or nolo contendere to, or has been incarcerated within the last 10 years

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as a result of having previously been convicted of, or found quilty of, or pled quilty or nolo contendere to, any crime within the last 10 years involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property, or any crime arising from the conduct of a solicitation for a charitable organization or sponsor, or has been enjoined in any state from violating any law relating to a charitable solicitation.

(10) The department may deny or revoke the registration of a professional fundraising consultant if the professional fundraising consultant, or any of its officers, directors, or trustees, has had the right to solicit contributions revoked in any state or has been ordered by any court or governmental agency to cease soliciting contributions within any state.

Section 11. Present subsections (3), (5), (7), (14), and (15) of section 496.410, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (j), (k), and (l) are added to subsection (2) of that section, paragraphs (i) through (n) are added to subsection (6) of that section, and a new subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:

496.410 Registration and duties of professional solicitors.-

- (2) Applications for registration or renewal of registration must be submitted on a form prescribed by rule of the department, signed by an authorized official of the professional solicitor who shall certify that the report is true and correct, and must include the following information:
- (j) A list of all telephone numbers the applicant will use to solicit contributions as well as the actual physical address

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associated with each telephone number and any fictitious names associated with such address.

- (k) A copy of any script, outline, or presentation used by the applicant to solicit contributions or, if such solicitation aids are not used, written confirmation thereof.
- (1) A copy of sales information or literature provided to a donor or potential donor by the applicant in connection with a solicitation.
- (3) The application for registration must be accompanied by a fee of \$300. A professional solicitor that is a partnership or corporation may register for and pay a single fee on behalf of all of its partners, members, officers, directors, agents, and employees. In that case, The names and street addresses of all the officers, employees, and agents of the professional solicitor and all other persons with whom the professional solicitor has contracted to work under its direction, including solicitors, must be listed in the application or furnished to the department within 5 days after the date of employment or contractual arrangement. Each registration is valid for 1 year and. The registration may be renewed for an additional 1-year period upon application to the department and payment of the registration fee.
- (5) (a) The department must examine each registration statement and supporting documents filed by a professional solicitor. If the department determines that the registration requirements are not satisfied, the department must notify the professional solicitor within 15 business working days after its receipt of the registration statement; otherwise the registration statement is approved. Within 7 business working

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days after receipt of a notification that the registration requirements are not satisfied, the applicant may request a hearing. The hearing must be held within 7 business working days after receipt of the request, and any recommended order, if one is issued, must be rendered within 3 business working days after the hearing. The final order must then be issued within 2 business working days after the recommended order. If there is no recommended order, the final order must be issued within 5 business working days after the hearing. The proceedings must be conducted in accordance with chapter 120, except that the time limits and provisions set forth in this subsection prevail to the extent of any conflict.

- (b) If a professional solicitor makes a disclosure specified in paragraphs (2)(f)-(h) in the initial application for registration or the renewal application, the processing time limits of this subsection are waived and the department shall process the initial application for registration or renewal application in accordance with the time limits in chapter 120. The registration of a professional solicitor shall be automatically suspended for failure to disclose any information specified in paragraphs (2)(f)-(h) until such time as the required information is submitted to the department.
- (6) No less than 15 days before commencing any solicitation campaign or event, the professional solicitor must file with the department a solicitation notice on a form prescribed by the department. The notice must be signed and sworn to by the contracting officer of the professional solicitor and must include:
 - (i) A statement of the guaranteed minimum percentage of the

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gross receipts from contributions which will be remitted to the charitable organization or sponsor, if any, or, if the solicitation involves the sale of goods, services, or tickets to a fundraising event, the percentage of the purchase price which will be remitted to the charitable organization or sponsor, if any.

- (j) The percentage of a contribution which may be deducted as a charitable contribution under federal income tax laws.
- (k) A statement as to whether any owner, director, officer, trustee, or employee of the professional solicitor is related as a parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law to:
- 1. Another officer, director, owner, trustee, or employee of the professional solicitor.
- 2. Any officer, director, owner, trustee, or employee of a charitable organization or sponsor under contract to the professional solicitor.
- 3. Any supplier or vendor providing goods or services to a charitable organization or sponsor under contract to the professional solicitor.
- (1) The beginning and ending dates of the solicitation campaign.
- (m) A copy of any script, outline, or presentation used by the professional solicitor to solicit contributions for the solicitation campaign. If such aids are not used, written confirmation thereof.
- (n) A copy of sales information or literature provided to a donor or potential donor by the professional solicitor in

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connection with the solicitation campaign.

- (7) A professional solicitor may enter into a contract or agreement with a charitable organization or sponsor only if the charitable organization or sponsor has complied with all applicable provisions of this chapter. A Each contract or agreement between a professional solicitor and a charitable organization or sponsor for each solicitation campaign must be in writing, signed by two authorized officials of the charitable organization or sponsor, one of whom must be a member of the organization's governing body and one of whom must be the authorized contracting officer for the professional solicitor, and contain all of the following provisions:
- (a) A statement of the charitable or sponsor purpose and program for which the solicitation campaign is being conducted.
- (b) A statement of the respective obligations of the professional solicitor and the charitable organization or sponsor.
- (c) A statement of the guaranteed minimum percentage of the gross receipts from contributions which will be remitted to the charitable organization or sponsor, if any, or, if the solicitation involves the sale of goods, services, or tickets to a fundraising event, the percentage of the purchase price which will be remitted to the charitable organization or sponsor, if any. Any stated percentage shall exclude any amount which the charitable organization or sponsor is to pay as fundraising costs.
- (d) A statement of the percentage of the gross revenue which the professional solicitor will be compensated. If the compensation of the professional solicitor is not contingent

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upon the number of contributions or the amount of revenue received, his or her compensation shall be expressed as a reasonable estimate of the percentage of the gross revenue, and the contract must clearly disclose the assumptions upon which the estimate is based. The stated assumptions must be based upon all of the relevant facts known to the professional solicitor regarding the solicitation to be conducted by the professional solicitor.

- (e) The effective and termination dates of the contract.
- (14) A No person may not act as a professional solicitor, and a no professional solicitor, or any officer, director, trustee, or employee thereof, may not shall, to solicit for compensation, knowingly employ any officer, trustee, director, employee, or any person with a controlling interest therein, who has, in any state, regardless of adjudication, been convicted of, or found quilty of, or pled quilty or nolo contendere to, or has been incarcerated within the last 10 years as a result of having previously been convicted of, or found guilty of, or pled quilty or nolo contendere to, a felony within the last 10 years involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property, or any crime arising from the conduct of a solicitation for a charitable organization or sponsor, or has been enjoined in any state from violating any law relating to a charitable solicitation. The prohibitions in this subsection also apply to any misdemeanor in another state which constitutes a disqualifying felony in this state.
- (15) The department may deny or revoke the registration of a professional solicitor if the professional solicitor, or any

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of its officers, directors, trustees, or agents, has had the right to solicit contributions revoked in any state or has been ordered by any court or governmental agency to cease soliciting contributions within any state.

(16) $\overline{(15)}$ All registration fees must be paid to the department and deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund.

Section 12. Section 496.4101, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

496.4101 Licensure of professional solicitors and certain employees thereof.-

- (1) Each officer, director, trustee, or owner of a professional solicitor and any employee of a professional solicitor conducting telephonic solicitations must, before engaging in solicitation activities, obtain a solicitor license from the department.
- (2) Persons required to obtain a solicitor license under subsection (1) shall submit to the department, in such form as the department prescribes, an application for a solicitor license. The application must include all of the following information:
- (a) The true name, date of birth, unique identification number of a driver license or other valid form of identification, and home address of the applicant.
- (b) If the applicant, in any state, regardless of adjudication, has previously been convicted of, or found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been incarcerated within the last 10 years as a result of having previously been convicted of, or found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, any crime within the last 10 years

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involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property, or any crime arising from the conduct of a solicitation for a charitable organization or sponsor, or has been enjoined, in any state, from violating any law relating to a charitable solicitation. (c) If the applicant, in any state, is involved in pending litigation or has had entered against her or him an injunction, a temporary restraining order, or a final judgment or order, including a stipulated judgment or order, an assurance of voluntary compliance, cease and desist, or any similar document, in any civil or administrative action involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property, or has been enjoined from violating any law relating to a charitable solicitation. (3) (a) Each applicant must be fingerprinted by an agency, entity, or vendor that meets the requirements of s. 943.053(13). The agency, entity, or vendor shall forward a complete set of the applicant's fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. (b) Fees for state and national fingerprint processing and retention shall be borne by the applicant. The state cost for fingerprint processing is that authorized in s. 943.053(3)(b) for records provided to persons or entities other than those specified as exceptions therein.

(c) All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law

Enforcement as required under this subsection shall be retained

by the Department of Law Enforcement as provided under s.

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943.05(2)(g) and (h) and enrolled in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national retained print arrest notification program. Fingerprints may not be enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification program until the Department of Law Enforcement begins participation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Arrest fingerprints will be searched against the retained prints by the Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- (d) For any renewal of the applicant's license, the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the retained fingerprints of the applicant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless the applicant is enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification program described in paragraph (c). The fee for the national criminal history check will be paid as part of the renewal fee to the department and forwarded by the department to Department of Law Enforcement. If the applicant's fingerprints are retained in the national retained print arrest notification program, the applicant shall pay the state and national retention fee to the department which will forward the fee to the Department of Law Enforcement.
- (e) The department shall notify the Department of Law Enforcement regarding any person whose fingerprints have been retained but who is no longer licensed under this chapter.
- (f) The department shall screen background results to determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements.
- (4) A solicitor license must be renewed annually by the submission of a renewal application. A solicitor license that is not renewed expires without further action by the department.

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- (5) Each applicant for a solicitor license shall remit a license fee of \$100 to the department at the time the initial application is filed with the department and an annual renewal fee of \$100 thereafter. All fees collected, less the cost of administration, shall be deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund.
- (6) Any material change to the information submitted to the department in the initial application or renewal application for a solicitor license shall be reported to the department by the applicant or licensee within 10 days after the change occurs. The applicant or licensee shall also remit a fee in the amount of \$10 for processing the change to the initial or renewal application.
 - (7) It is a violation of this chapter:
- (a) For an applicant to provide inaccurate or incomplete information to the department in the initial or renewal application for a solicitor license.
- (b) For any person specified in subsection (1) to fail to maintain a solicitor license as required by this section.
- (c) For a professional solicitor to allow, require, permit, or authorize an employee without an active solicitor license issued under this section to conduct telephonic solicitations.
- (8) The department shall adopt rules that allow applicants to engage in solicitation activities on an interim basis until such time as a solicitor license is granted or denied.
- (9) The department may deny or revoke any solicitor license if the applicant or licensee has had the right to solicit contributions revoked in any state, has been ordered by any court or governmental agency to cease soliciting contributions



1055 within any state, or is subject to any disqualification 1056 specified in s. 496.410(14). (10) Any administrative proceeding conducted pursuant to 1057 1058 this section must be conducted in accordance with chapter 120. 1059 Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 496.411, 1060 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 1061 496.411 Disclosure requirements and duties of charitable 1062 organizations and sponsors.-1063 (2) A charitable organization or sponsor soliciting in this 1064 state must include all of the following disclosures at the point 1065 of solicitation: 1066 (a) The name of the charitable organization or sponsor and 1067 state of the principal place of business of the charitable 1068 organization or sponsor. + 1069 (b) A description of the purpose or purposes for which the 1070 solicitation is being made. + 1071 (c) Upon request, the name and either the address or 1072 telephone number of a representative to whom inquiries could be 1073 addressed. + 1074 (d) Upon request, the amount of the contribution which may 1075 be deducted as a charitable contribution under federal income 1076 tax laws.; 1077 (e) Upon request, the source from which a written financial 1078 statement may be obtained. Such financial statement must be for 1079 the immediate preceding past fiscal year and must be consistent 1080 with the annual financial statement report filed under s. 1081 496.407. The written financial statement must be provided within 1082 14 days after the request and must state the purpose for which funds are raised, the total amount of all contributions raised,

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the total costs and expenses incurred in raising contributions, the total amount of contributions dedicated to the stated purpose or disbursed for the stated purpose, and whether the services of another person or organization have been contracted to conduct solicitation activities.

(3) Every charitable organization or sponsor that which is required to register under s. 496.405 or is exempt under s. 496.406(1)(d) shall must conspicuously display in capital letters the following statement on every printed solicitation, written confirmation, receipt, or reminder of a contribution:

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

The statement must include a toll-free number and website for the division which that can be used to obtain the registration information. If When the solicitation consists of more than one piece, the statement must be displayed prominently in the solicitation materials. If the solicitation occurs through a website, the statement must be conspicuously displayed on the webpage where donations are requested.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 496.412, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.412 Disclosure requirements and duties of professional solicitors.-

(1) A professional solicitor must comply with and be

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responsible for complying or causing compliance with the following disclosures:

- (a) Before Prior to orally requesting a contribution, or contemporaneously with a written request for a contribution, a professional solicitor must clearly disclose:
- 1. The name of the professional solicitor as on file with the department.
- 2. If the individual acting on behalf of the professional solicitor identifies himself or herself by name, the individual's legal name.
- 3. The name and state of the principal place of business of the charitable organization or sponsor and a description of how the contributions raised by the solicitation will be used for a charitable or sponsor purpose; or, if there is no charitable organization or sponsor, a description as to how the contributions raised by the solicitation will be used for a charitable or sponsor purpose.
- (b) In the case of a solicitation campaign conducted orally, whether by telephone or otherwise, any written confirmation, receipt, or reminder sent to any person who has contributed or has pledged to contribute, shall include a clear disclosure of the information required by paragraph (a).
- (c) In addition to the information required by paragraph (a), any written confirmation, receipt, or reminder of contribution made pursuant to an oral solicitation and any written solicitation shall conspicuously state in capital letters:

1141 "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL



INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

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> The statement must include a toll-free number and website for the division which that can be used to obtain the registration information. If When the solicitation consists of more than one piece, the statement must be displayed prominently in the solicitation materials. If the solicitation occurs on a website, the statement must be conspicuously displayed on the webpage

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where donations are requested. (d) If requested by the person being solicited, the professional solicitor shall inform that person in writing, within 14 days after of the request, of the fixed percentage of the gross revenue or the reasonable estimate of the percentage of the gross revenue that the charitable organization or sponsor will receive as a benefit from the solicitation campaign or

information is available on the department's website or by calling the division's toll-free number.

shall immediately notify the person being solicited that the

(e) If requested by the person being solicited, the professional solicitor shall inform that person in writing, within 14 days after of the request, of the percentage of the contribution which may be deducted as a charitable contribution under federal income tax laws or shall immediately notify the person being solicited that the information is available on the department's website or by calling the division's toll-free number.



1171 Section 15. Section 496.4121, Florida Statutes, is created 1172 to read: 1173 496.4121 Collection receptacles used for donations.-1174 (1) As used in this section, the term "collection 1175 receptacle" means a receptacle used to collect donated clothing, 1176 household items, or other goods for resale. 1177 (2) A collection receptacle must display a permanent sign 1178 or label on each side which contains the following information 1179 printed in letters that are at least 3 inches in height and no 1180 less than one-half inch in width, in a color that contrasts with the color of the collection receptacle: 1181 1182 (a) For collection receptacles used by a person required to 1183 register under this chapter, the name, business address, 1184 telephone number, and registration number of the charitable 1185 organization or sponsor for whom the solicitation is made. 1186 (b) For collection receptacles placed or maintained in 1187 public view by a person not required to register under this 1188 chapter or by a person not claiming an exemption pursuant to s. 1189 496.406, the name, telephone number, and physical address of the 1190 business conducting the solicitation and the statement: "This is 1191 not a charity. Donations made here support a for-profit business 1192 and are not tax deductible." 1193 (3) Upon request, a charitable organization or sponsor 1194 using a collection receptacle must provide the donor with 1195 documentation of its tax-exempt status and the registration 1196 issued under this chapter. 1197 Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 496.415, Florida

Statutes, is amended, and subsection (18) is added to that

section, to read:

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496.415 Prohibited acts.—It is unlawful for any person in connection with the planning, conduct, or execution of any solicitation or charitable or sponsor sales promotion to:

- (2) Knowingly Submit false, misleading, or inaccurate information in a document that is filed with the department, provided to the public, or offered in response to a request or investigation by the department, the Department of Legal Affairs, or the state attorney.
- (18) Fail to remit to a charitable organization or sponsor the disclosed guaranteed minimum percentage of gross receipts from contributions as required under s. 496.410(7)(c) or, if the solicitation involved the sale of goods, services, or tickets to a fundraising event, the percentage of the purchase price as agreed in the contract or agreement as required under this chapter.

Section 17. Subsection (5) of section 496.419, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.419 Powers of the department.

- (5) Upon a finding as set forth in subsection (4), the department may enter an order doing one or more of the following:
- (a) Issuing a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s. 120.695;
- (b) Issuing a cease and desist order that directs that the person cease and desist specified fundraising activities;
- (c) Refusing to register or canceling or suspending a registration;
- (d) Placing the registrant on probation for a period of time, subject to such conditions as the department may specify;



1229 (e) Canceling an exemption granted under s. 496.406; and 1230 (f) Except as provided in paragraph (g), imposing an 1231 administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 \$1,000 for each act or 1232 omission that which constitutes a violation of ss. 496.401-1233 496.424 or s. 496.426 or a rule or order. With respect to a s. 1234 501(c)(3) organization, the penalty imposed pursuant to this 1235 subsection may shall not exceed \$500 per violation for failure 1236 to register under s. 496.405 or file for an exemption under s. 1237 496.406(2). The penalty shall be the entire amount per violation 1238 and is not to be interpreted as a daily penalty; and 1239 (g) Imposing an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 1240 for a violation of this chapter that involves fraud or 1241 deception. 1242 Section 18. Section 496.4191, Florida Statutes, is created 1243

to read:

496.4191 Additional penalty; immediate suspension.—Upon notification and subsequent written verification by a law enforcement agency, a court, a state attorney, or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the department shall immediately suspend a registration or the processing of an application for a registration if the registrant, applicant, or any officer or director of the registrant or applicant is formally charged with a crime involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, or fraudulent conversion or misappropriation of property or any crime arising from the conduct of a solicitation for a charitable organization or sponsor until final disposition of the case or removal or resignation of that officer or director.

Section 19. Section 496.430, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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496.430 Disqualification for certain tax exemptions.-(1) The department shall issue an order to disqualify a charitable organization or sponsor from receiving any sales tax exemption certificate issued by the Department of Revenue if the department finds, based up on the average of functional expenses and program service costs provided to the department pursuant to s. 496.407 for the 3 most recent fiscal years, that the charitable organization or sponsor has failed to expend at least 25 percent of its total annual functional expenses on program service costs. (2) A charitable organization or sponsor may appeal a disqualification order by requesting a hearing within 21 days after notification from the department that it has issued a

- disqualification order under this section. The hearing must be conducted in accordance with chapter 120.
- (3) Notwithstanding a finding under subsection (1) that a charitable organization or sponsor has failed to expend at least 25 percent of its total annual functional expenses on program service costs, the department may decline to issue a disqualification order if the charitable organization or sponsor establishes:
- (a) That payments were made to affiliates which should be considered in calculating the program service costs;
- (b) That revenue was accumulated for a specific program purpose consistent with representations in solicitations; or
- (c) Such other mitigating circumstances as are defined by rule of the department.
- (4) A disqualification order issued by the department pursuant to this section is effective for at least 1 year after

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such order becomes final and shall remain effective until such time as the department receives sufficient evidence from the disqualified charitable organization or sponsor which demonstrates it expends at least 25 percent of its total annual functional expenses on program service costs.

- (a) The charitable organization or sponsor may not submit such evidence to the department sooner than 1 year after the disqualification order becomes final and may not submit such information more than once each year for consideration by the department.
- (b) The department shall also consider any financial statement that was submitted by the charitable organization or sponsor to the department pursuant to s. 496.407 after the disqualification order became final.
- (5) The department shall provide a disqualification order to the Department of Revenue within 30 days after such order becomes final. A final disqualification order is conclusive as to the charitable organization's or sponsor's entitlement to any sales tax exemption. The Department of Revenue shall revoke or refuse to grant a sales tax exemption certificate to a charitable organization or sponsor subject to a final disqualification order within 30 days after receiving such disqualification order. A charitable organization or sponsor may not appeal or challenge the revocation or denial of a sales tax exemption certificate by the Department of Revenue if such revocation or denial is based upon a final disqualification order issued pursuant to this section.
- (6) This section does not apply to a charitable organization or sponsor that:



1316 (a) Is not required to register under this chapter with the 1317 department; or 1318 (b) Has been in existence for less than 4 years, regardless 1319 of whether the charitable organization or sponsor is registered 1320 in this state. 1321 Section 20. Section 496.431, Florida Statutes, is created 1322 to read: 1323 496.431 Severability.—If any provision of this chapter or 1324 its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, 1325 the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications 1326 of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid 1327 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this 1328 chapter are severable. 1329 Section 21. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1330 741.0305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1331 741.0305 Marriage fee reduction for completion of 1332 premarital preparation course.-(3)(a) All individuals electing to participate in a 1333 1334 premarital preparation course shall choose from the following 1335 list of qualified instructors: 1336 1. A psychologist licensed under chapter 490. 1337 2. A clinical social worker licensed under chapter 491. 1338 3. A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter 1339 491. 4. A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 491. 1340 1341 5. An official representative of a religious institution 1342 which is recognized under s. $496.404(23) \frac{496.404(19)}{1}$, if the representative has relevant training. 1343

6. Any other provider designated by a judicial circuit,



including, but not limited to, school counselors who are certified to offer such courses. Each judicial circuit may establish a roster of area course providers, including those who offer the course on a sliding fee scale or for free.

Section 22. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, there is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the sums of \$235,352 in recurring and \$239,357 in nonrecurring funds from the General Inspection Trust Fund, and 4 full-time equivalent positions with associated salary rate of 143,264 are authorized for the purpose of implementing this act.

Section 23. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to charities; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; excluding charitable organizations or sponsors disqualified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from receiving certain tax exemptions; amending s. 212.084, F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to revoke or deny a sales tax exemption to charitable organizations or sponsors disqualified by the department; providing for a limited appeal of the denial or revocation of the sales tax exemption; amending s. 496.403, F.S.; revising the applicability of the Solicitation of Contributions Act; amending s. 496.404, F.S.; defining

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terms; redefining the term "professional solicitor"; amending s. 496.405, F.S.; revising the timeframe within which a charitable organization or sponsor must report changes to certain information provided to the department on an initial or renewal registration statement; providing for the automatic expiration of a registration for failure to file a renewal or financial statement by a certain date; deleting a provision to extend the time to file a renewal statement; deleting a requirement that the renewal statement be filed subsequent to the financial statement; specifying the information that must be submitted by a parent organization on a consolidated financial statement; requiring a parent organization to attach certain Internal Revenue Service forms and schedules to a consolidated financial statement; extending the time allowed for the department to review certain initial or renewal registration statements; providing that failure of a charitable organization or sponsor to make certain disclosures in a registration statement results in the automatic suspension of an active registration for a specified period; prohibiting the officers, directors, trustees, or employees of a charitable organization or sponsor from allowing certain persons to solicit contributions on behalf of the charitable organization or sponsor; specifying that the prohibition against certain persons soliciting contributions on behalf of a charitable organization or sponsor due to the

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commission of certain felonies includes those felonies committed in any state as well as any misdemeanor in another state which constitutes a disqualifying felony in this state; authorizing the department to deny or revoke the registration of a charitable organization or sponsor under certain circumstances; requiring a charitable organization or sponsor that has ended solicitation activities in this state to notify the department in writing; making technical changes; creating s. 496.4055, F.S.; defining the term "conflict of interest transaction"; requiring the board of directors of a charitable organization or sponsor, or an authorized committee thereof, to adopt a policy regarding conflict of interest transactions; specifying certain requirements of the policy; requiring a charitable organization or sponsor to provide the department with a copy of the policy; amending s. 496.407, F.S.; requiring that the financial statements of certain charitable organizations or sponsors be audited or reviewed; specifying requirements and standards for the audit or review of a financial statement; requiring that an alternative financial statement submitted by certain charitable organizations or sponsors be prepared by a certified public accountant or other professional; authorizing the department to require an audit or review of any financial statement and to extend the time to file a financial statement under certain circumstances; providing that the registration of a

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charitable organization or sponsor be suspended upon its failure to file a financial statement within an extension period; making technical changes; creating s. 496.4071, F.S.; requiring certain charitable organizations or sponsors to report specified supplemental financial information to the department by a certain date; creating s. 496.4072, F.S.; requiring certain charitable organizations or sponsors who solicit contributions for a specific disaster relief effort to submit quarterly financial statements to the department; specifying information to be included in the quarterly financial statement and the length of the required reporting period; requiring the department to post notice of specific disaster relief efforts subject the reporting requirements; amending ss. 496.409 and 496.410, F.S.; prohibiting a professional fundraising consultant or professional solicitor from entering into a contract or agreement with a charitable organization or sponsor that has not complied with certain requirements; extending the time that the department may review initial or renewal registration statements of professional fundraising consultants or professional solicitors which contain certain disclosures; providing that the failure of a professional fundraising consultant or professional solicitor to make certain disclosures in an initial or renewal registration statement results in automatic suspension of an active registration; prohibiting the officers, trustees, directors, or employees of a

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professional fundraising consultant or a professional solicitor from allowing certain persons to solicit contributions on behalf of the professional fundraising consultant or professional solicitor; specifying that the prohibition against acting as a professional solicitor or the employment of certain persons by a professional solicitor due to the commission of certain felonies includes those felonies committed in any state as well as any misdemeanor in another state which constitutes a disqualifying felony in this state; authorizing the department to deny or revoke the registration of a professional fundraising consultant or professional solicitor under certain circumstances; revising required information in the initial or renewal application of a professional solicitor; deleting a provision authorizing the payment of a single registration fee for certain professional solicitors; requiring a professional solicitor to provide additional specified information to the department in a solicitation notice; creating s. 496.4101, F.S.; requiring each officer, director, trustee, or owner of a professional solicitor and any employee of a professional solicitor that conducts telephone solicitations to obtain a solicitor license from the department; specifying application information and the application procedure for a solicitor license; requiring that each applicant for a solicitor license to be fingerprinted by certain agencies, entities, or vendors; requiring such

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agencies, entities, or vendors to submit a complete set of the applicant's fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing; providing that fees for fingerprint processing and retention be borne by the applicant; providing for retention of the fingerprints; requiring the department to notify the Department of Law Enforcement of individuals who are no longer licensed; requiring that a solicitor license be renewed annually or expire automatically upon nonrenewal; requiring that an applicant for a solicitor license pay certain licensing fees; providing that licensing fees be deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund; requiring that an applicant for a solicitor license report changes in information submitted to the department in a specified manner along with a processing fee; specifying violations; requiring the department to adopt rules allowing applicants to engage in solicitation activities without a solicitor license on an interim basis; authorizing the department to deny or revoke a solicitor license under specified circumstances; requiring that certain administrative proceedings be conducted pursuant to chapter 120; amending ss. 496.411 and 496.412, F.S.; expanding and revising required solicitation disclosures of charitable organizations, sponsors, and professional solicitors;

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requiring that certain exempt charitable organizations or sponsors also provide such solicitation disclosures; requiring that such solicitation disclosures be placed online under certain circumstances; creating s. 496.4121, F.S.; defining the term "collection receptacle"; requiring that collection receptacles display permanent signs or labels; specifying requirements for the physical appearance of such labels or signs and the information displayed thereon; requiring that a charitable organization or sponsor using a collection receptacle provide certain information to a donor upon request; amending s. 496.415, F.S.; providing that the submission of false, misleading, or inaccurate information in a document connected with a solicitation or sales promotion is unlawful; providing that the failure to remit specified funds to a charitable organization or sponsor is unlawful; amending s. 496.419, F.S.; increasing administrative fines for violations of the Solicitation of Contributions Act; creating s. 496.4191, F.S.; requiring the department to immediately suspend a registration or processing of an application for registration for a specified period if the registrant, applicant, or any officer or director thereof is criminally charged with certain offenses; creating s. 496.430, F.S.; requiring the department to disqualify a charitable organization or sponsor from receiving a sales tax exemption under specified circumstances;

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providing that a charitable organization or sponsor may appeal a disqualification order; specifying appeal procedure; providing exceptions; providing that a disqualification order remains effective for a specified period; specifying the procedure to lift a disqualification order; requiring the department to provide a final disqualification order to the Department of Revenue within a specified period; providing that a final disqualification order is conclusive as to a charitable organization or sponsor's right to a sales tax exemption; requiring the Department of Revenue to revoke or deny a sales tax exemption to a charitable organization or sponsor subject to a final disqualification order within a specified period; providing for a limited appeal of the revocation or denial of the sales tax exemption; providing applicability; creating s. 496.431, F.S.; providing for severability; amending s. 741.0305, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; making an appropriation; providing an effective date.