By Senator Simpson

18-00880A-14 2014776

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to business entities; amending s. 605.0213, F.S.; revising the filing fees of a limited liability company; making technical changes; amending s. 607.0122, F.S.; revising the filing fees for a corporation; making technical changes; amending s. 607.01401, F.S.; defining the term "department"; creating s. 607.1623, F.S.; requiring a fee to be imposed for late annual reports; specifying the fee; repealing s. 607.193, F.S., relating to a supplemental corporate fee; amending 617.0122, F.S.; revising the filing fees of a corporation not for profit; making technical changes; amending s. 620.1102, F.S.; defining the term "department"; amending s. 620.1109, F.S.; revising the filing fees of a limited partnership; making technical changes; amending s. 620.8101, F.S.; defining the term "department"; amending s. 620.81055, F.S.; revising the filing fees of a partnership; making technical changes; amending ss. 339.12, 605.0118, 607.0505, 610.104, and 631.0515, F.S.; conforming cross-references to changes made in the act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Section 605.0213, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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605.0213 Fees of the department.

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(1) The fees of the department shall collect the following

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fees on documents delivered to the department for filing under this chapter are as follows:

- (1) For furnishing a certified copy, \$30.
- (a) (2) For filing Original articles of organization and initial registered agent designation or articles of revocation of dissolution, \$125 \$100.
- (b) (3) For filing a Foreign limited liability company's application for a certificate of authority to transact business and initial registered agent designation, \$125 \$100.
- (c) (4) For filing a Certificate of merger of limited liability companies or other business entities, \$25 per constituent party to the merger, unless a specific fee is required for a party under other applicable law.
  - (d) (5) For filing an Annual report, \$125 \$50.
- (e) (6) For filing an Application for reinstatement after an administrative or judicial dissolution or a revocation of authority to transact business, \$100.
- $\underline{\text{(f)}}$  (7) For filing a Certificate designating a registered agent or changing a registered agent, \$25.
- $\underline{(g)}$  (8) For filing a Registered agent's statement of resignation from a an active limited liability company, \$25 \$85.
- (9) For filing a registered agent's statement of resignation from a dissolved limited liability company, \$25.
- $\underline{\text{(h)}}$  (10) For filing a Certificate of conversion of a limited liability company, \$25.
  - (i) Articles of revocation of dissolution, \$25.
- $\underline{\text{(j)}}$  (11) For filing Any other limited liability company document, \$25.
  - (12) For furnishing a certificate of status, \$5.

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18-00880A-14 2014776 59 (2) The department shall collect the following fees on 60 documents furnished by the department: (a) Certified copy, \$8.75. (b) Certificate of status, \$5. Section 2. Section 607.0122, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 607.0122 Fees of the department for filing documents and 66 issuing certificates. -(1) The department of State shall collect the following 68 fees on when the documents described in this section are 69 delivered to the department for filing: (a) (1) Original articles of incorporation and initial registered agent designation, \$70: \$35. (b) (2) Application for registered name, \$25: \$87.50. (c) $\frac{(3)}{(3)}$  Application for renewal of registered name, \$25: \$87.50. 74 75 (d) (4) Corporation's statement of change of registered 76 agent or registered office or both if not included on the annual report, \$25: \$35. (e) (5) Designation of and acceptance by registered agent, 79 \$25: \$35. (f) <del>(6)</del> Agent's statement of resignation, \$25 from active corporation: \$87.50. (7) Agent's statement of resignation from an inactive 83 corporation: \$35. (g) (8) Amendment of articles of incorporation, \$25: \$35. 84 85 (h) (9) Restatement of articles of incorporation with amendment of articles, \$25: \$35. 86

(i) (10) Articles of merger or share exchange, \$25 for each

2014776 18-00880A-14 88 party thereto: \$35. 89 (j) (11) Articles of dissolution, \$25: \$35. (k)  $\frac{(12)}{(12)}$  Articles of revocation of dissolution, \$25: \$35. 90 91 (1) (13) Application for reinstatement following 92 administrative dissolution,  $\div$  \$600. (m) (14) Application for certificate of authority to 93 94 transact business in this state by a foreign corporation and 95 initial registered agent designation, \$70: \$35. 96 (n) (15) Application for amended certificate of authority, \$25<del>: \$35</del>. 97 (o) (16) Application for certificate of withdrawal by a 98 99 foreign corporation, \$25: \$35. (p)  $\frac{(17)}{(17)}$  Annual report, \$125: \$61.25. 100 (q) (18) Articles of correction, \$25: \$35. 101 (19) Application for certificate of status: \$8.75. 102 103 (r) (20) Certificate of domestication of a foreign 104 corporation,  $$25 \div $50$ . (21) Certified copy of document: \$52.50. 105 106 (22) Serving as agent for substitute service of process: 107 \$87.50. 108 (23) Supplemental corporate fee: \$88.75. 109 (s) (24) Any other document required or permitted to be filed by this act,  $$25 \div $35$ . 110 111 (2) The department shall collect the following fees on 112 documents furnished by the department: 113 (a) Certified copy, \$8.75. 114 (b) Certificate of status, \$8.75. (3) The department shall collect a fee of \$8.75 to serve as 115 116 an agent for substitute service of process.

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18-00880A-14 2014776 117 Section 3. Present subsections (8) through (31) of section 118 607.01401, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (9) through (32), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is added to 119 120 that section, to read: 121 607.01401 Definitions.—As used in this act, unless the 122 context otherwise requires, the term: 123 (8) "Department" means the Department of State. Section 4. Section 607.1623, Florida Statutes, is created 124 to read: 125 126 607.1623 Annual report late fee.-127 (1) In addition to the fees required under ss. 605.0213, 128 607.0122, and 620.1109, the department shall collect one of the 129 following late fees: 130 (a) If the annual report fee is remitted after May 1, \$125. 131 (b) If the annual report fee is remitted after May 31, 132 \$250. 133 (c) If the annual report fee is remitted after June 30, 134 \$375. 135 (d) If the annual report fee is remitted after July 31, 136 \$400. 137 (2) A late fee under subsection (1) may not be collected if 138 a business entity is administratively dissolved or its 139 certificate of authority is revoked due to its failure to file 140 an annual report and the entity subsequently applies for reinstatement and pays the applicable reinstatement fee. 141 Section 5. Section 607.193, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 142 143 Section 6. Section 617.0122, Florida Statutes, is amended 144 to read: 145 617.0122 Fees of the department for filing documents and

2014776 \_\_ 18-00880A-14 146 issuing certificates. -147 (1) The department of State shall collect the following fees on documents delivered to the department for filing: 148 149 (a) (1) Original articles of incorporation and initial 150 registered agent designation, \$70: \$35. (b) (2) Application for registered name, \$25: \$87.50. 151 152 (c)(3) Application for renewal of registered name, \$25÷ 153 \$87.50. 154 (d) (4) Corporation's statement of change of registered agent or registered office or both if not included on the annual 155 report, \$25<del>: \$35</del>. 156 157 (e) (5) Designation of and acceptance by registered agent, \$25: \$35. 158 (f) (6) Agent's statement of resignation, \$25 from active 159 160 corporation: \$87.50. 161 (7) Agent's statement of resignation from inactive 162 corporation: \$35. 163 (g) (8) Amendment of articles of incorporation, \$25: \$35. 164 (h) (9) Restatement of articles of incorporation with 165 amendment of articles, \$25: \$35. 166 (i) (10) Articles of merger, \$25 for each party thereto: 167 <del>\$35</del>. (j) (11) Articles of dissolution, \$25: \$35. 168 169 (k) (12) Articles of revocation of dissolution, \$25: \$35. 170 (1) (13) Application for reinstatement following administrative dissolution, + \$175. 171 172 (m) (14) Application for certificate of authority to 173 transact business in this state by a foreign corporation and

initial registered agent designation, \$70: \$35.

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18-00880A-14 2014776 175 (n) (15) Application for amended certificate of authority, 176 \$25<del>: \$35</del>. 177 (o) (16) Application for certificate of withdrawal by a 178 foreign corporation, \$25: \$35. 179 (p)  $\frac{(17)}{(17)}$  Annual report, ÷ \$61.25. 180 (q) (18) Articles of correction, \$25: \$35. 181 (19) Application for certificate of status: \$8.75. (20) Certified copy of document: \$52.50. 182 (21) Serving as agent for substitute service of process: 183 184 \$87.50. (r) (22) Certificate of conversion of a limited agricultural 185 186 association to a domestic corporation, \$25: \$35. 187 (s) (23) Any other document required or permitted to be filed by this chapter,  $$25 \div $35$ . 188 189 (2) The department shall collect the following fees on 190 documents furnished by the department: 191 (a) Certified copy, \$8.75. 192 (b) Certificate of status, \$8.75. 193 (3) The department shall collect a fee of \$8.75 to serve as 194 an agent for substitute service of process. 195 (4) A Any citizen support organization that is required by 196 rule of the Department of Environmental Protection to be formed 197 as a nonprofit organization and is under contract with the 198 department is exempt from the any fees required for incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and the Secretary of 199 200 State may not assess any such fees if the citizen support 201 organization is certified by the Department of Environmental

Protection to the Secretary of State as being under contract

with the Department of Environmental Protection.

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Section 7. Present subsections (5) through (26) of section 620.1102, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6) through (27), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

- 620.1102 Definitions.—As used in this act:
- (5) "Department" means the Department of State.
- Section 8. Section 620.1109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 620.1109 Fees of the department of State; fees.-
- (1) The department shall collect the following fees on documents delivered to the department for filing In addition to the supplemental corporate fee of \$88.75 imposed pursuant to s. 607.193, the fees of the Department of State under this act are as follows:
- (1) For furnishing a certified copy, \$52.50 for the first 15 pages plus \$1.00 for each additional page.
- $\underline{\text{(a)}}$  (2) For filing an Original certificate of limited partnership and initial registered agent designation, \$1,000 \$965.
- $\underline{\text{(b)}}$  (3) For filing an Original application for registration as a foreign limited partnership and initial registered agent designation, \$1,000 \$965.
  - (c) (4) For filing Certificate of conversion, \$25 \$52.50.
- $\underline{\text{(d)}}$  (5) For filing Certificate of merger,  $\underline{\$25}$   $\underline{\$52.50}$  for each party thereto.
- (e) (6) For filing a Reinstatement application, \$500 for each calendar year or part thereof the limited partnership was administratively dissolved or foreign limited partnership was revoked in the records of the Department of State.

18-00880A-14 2014776 233 (f) (7) For filing an Annual report, \$125 \$411.25. 234 (g) (8) For filing a Certificate: 235 (a) designating a registered agent, \$25. \$35; 236 (h) (b) Certificate changing a registered agent or 237 registered office address, \$25. \$35; 238 (i) <del>(c)</del> Certificate resigning as a registered agent, \$25. 239 \$87.50; or 240 (j) (d) Certificate of amendment or restatement of the certificate of limited partnership, \$25. \$52.50; 241 242 (k) (9) For filing a Statement of termination, \$25 \$52.50. 243 (1) (10) For filing a Notice of cancellation for foreign 244 limited partnership, \$25 \\$52.50. (11) For furnishing a Certificate of status or 245 authorization, \$8.75. 246 247 (m) <del>(12)</del> For filing a Certificate of dissolution, \$25 \$52.50. 248 249 (n) <del>(13)</del> For filing a Certificate of revocation of 250 dissolution, \$25 \$52.50. 251 (o) (14) For filing Any other domestic or foreign limited 252 partnership document, \$25 \\$52.50. 253 (2) The department shall collect the following fees on 254 documents furnished by the department: 255 (a) Certified copy, \$8.75. 256 (b) Certificate of status or authorization, \$8.75. 257 Section 9. Present subsections (4) through (16) of section 258 620.8101, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5) 259 through (17), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to 260 that section, to read: 261 620.8101 Definitions.—As used in this act, the term:

18-00880A-14 2014776 262 (4) "Department" means the Department of State. 263 Section 10. Section 620.81055, Florida Statutes, is amended 264 to read: 265 620.81055 Fees of the department for filing documents and 266 issuing certificates; powers and authority of the department of 267 State.-268 (1) The department of State shall collect the following 269 fees on when documents authorized by this act are delivered to 270 the department of State for filing: 271 (a) Partnership registration statement, ÷ \$50. 272 (b) Statement of partnership authority, ÷ \$25. 273 (c) Statement of denial, ÷ \$25. 274 (d) Statement of dissociation, ÷ \$25. 275 (e) Statement of dissolution, ÷ \$25. (f) Statement of qualification, ÷ \$25. 276 277 (g) Statement of foreign qualification, ÷ \$25. (h) Limited liability partnership annual report, ÷ \$25. 278 (i) Certificate of merger, for each party thereto: \$25. 279 280 (j) Amendment to any statement or registration, ÷ \$25. 281 (k) Cancellation of any statement or registration,  $\div$  \$25. 282 (1) Certified copy of any recording or part thereof: 283 \$52.50. 284 (m) Certificate of status: \$8.75. 285 (1)  $\frac{\text{(n)}}{\text{(n)}}$  Certificate of conversion,  $\div$  \$25. 286 (m) (o) Any other document required or permitted to be filed 287 by this act,  $\div$  \$25. 288 (2) The department shall collect the following fees on 289 documents furnished by the department:

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(a) Certified copy, \$8.75.

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(b) Certificate of status, \$8.75.

(3)(2) The department of State has the power and authority reasonably necessary to enable it to administer this act efficiently, to perform the duties imposed upon it by this act, and to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this act conferring duties upon it.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 339.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

339.12 Aid and contributions by governmental entities for department projects; federal aid.—

(4)(a) Prior to accepting the contribution of road bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash for which reimbursement is sought, the department shall enter into agreements with the governing body of the governmental entity for the project or project phases in accordance with specifications agreed upon between the department and the governing body of the governmental entity. The department in no instance is to receive from such governmental entity an amount in excess of the actual cost of the project or project phase. By specific provision in the written agreement between the department and the governing body of the governmental entity, the department may agree to reimburse the governmental entity for the actual amount of the bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash used on a highway project or project phases that are not revenue producing and are contained in the department's adopted work program, or any public transportation project contained in the adopted work program. Subject to appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the department may commit state funds for reimbursement of such projects or project phases. Reimbursement to the governmental

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entity for such a project or project phase must be made from funds appropriated by the Legislature, and reimbursement for the cost of the project or project phase is to begin in the year the project or project phase is scheduled in the work program as of the date of the agreement. Funds advanced pursuant to this section, which were originally designated for transportation purposes and so reimbursed to a county or municipality, shall be used by the county or municipality for any transportation expenditure authorized under s. 336.025(7). Also, cities and counties may receive funds from persons, and reimburse those persons, for the purposes of this section. Such persons may include, but are not limited to, those persons defined in  $\underline{s}$ . 607.01401(20)  $\underline{s}$ . 607.01401(19).

Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 605.0118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

605.0118 Delivery of record.-

(3) If a check is mailed to the department for payment of an annual report fee or the annual fee required under s. 607.193, the check shall be deemed to have been received by the department as of the postmark date appearing on the envelope or package transmitting the check if the envelope or package is received by the department.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections (5) and (6) of section 607.0505, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

607.0505 Registered agent; duties.-

(1)

(b) Each such corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization which fails to have and continuously

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maintain a registered office and a registered agent as required in this section will be liable to this state for \$500 for each year, or part of a year, during which the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization fails to comply with these requirements; but such liability will be forgiven in full upon the compliance by the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization with the requirements of this subsection, even if such compliance occurs after an action to collect such liability is instituted. The Department of Legal Affairs may file an action in the circuit court for the judicial circuit in which the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization is found or transacts business, or in which real property belonging to the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization is located, to petition the court for an order directing that a registered agent be appointed and that a registered office be designated, and to obtain judgment for the amount owed under this subsection. In connection with such proceeding, the Department of Legal Affairs may, without prior approval by the court, file a lis pendens against real property owned by the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization, which lis pendens shall set forth the legal description of the real property and shall be filed in the public records of the county where the real property is located. If the lis pendens is filed in any county other than the county in which the action is pending, the lis pendens which is filed must be a certified copy of the original lis pendens. The failure to comply timely or fully with an order directing that a registered agent be appointed and that a registered office be designated will result

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in a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each day of noncompliance. A judgment or an order of payment entered pursuant to this subsection will become a judgment lien against any real property owned by the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization when a certified copy of the judgment or order is recorded as required by s. 55.10. The Department of Legal Affairs will be able to avail itself of, and is entitled to use, any provision of law or of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure to further the collecting or obtaining of payment pursuant to a judgment or order of payment. The state, through the Attorney General, may bid, at any judicial sale to enforce its judgment lien, any amount up to the amount of the judgment or lien obtained pursuant to this subsection. All moneys recovered under this subsection shall be treated as forfeitures under ss. 895.01-895.09 and used or distributed in accordance with the procedure set forth in s. 895.09. A corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization which fails to have and continuously maintain a registered office and a registered agent as required in this section may not defend itself against any action instituted by the Department of Legal Affairs or by any other agency of this state until the requirements of this subsection have been met.

(5) If a corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization fails without lawful excuse to comply timely or fully with a subpoena issued pursuant to subsection (2), the Department of Legal Affairs may file an action in the circuit court for the judicial circuit in which the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization is found or transacts business or in which real property belonging to the

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corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization is located, for an order compelling compliance with the subpoena. The failure without a lawful excuse to comply timely or fully with an order compelling compliance with the subpoena will result in a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each day of noncompliance with the order. In connection with such proceeding, the Department of Legal Affairs may, without prior approval by the court, file a lis pendens against real property owned by the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization, which lis pendens shall set forth the legal description of the real property and shall be filed in the public records of the county where the real property is located. If the lis pendens is filed in any county other than the county in which the action is pending, the lis pendens which is filed must be a certified copy of the original lis pendens. A judgment or an order of payment entered pursuant to this subsection will become a judgment lien against any real property owned by the corporation, foreign corporation, or alien business organization when a certified copy of the judgment or order is recorded as required by s. 55.10. The Department of Legal Affairs will be able to avail itself of, and is entitled to use, any provision of law or of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure to further the collecting or obtaining of payment pursuant to a judgment or order of payment. The state, through the Attorney General, may bid, at any judicial sale to enforce its judgment lien, an amount up to the amount of the judgment or lien obtained pursuant to this subsection. All moneys recovered under this subsection shall be treated as forfeitures under ss. 895.01-895.09 and used or distributed in accordance with the procedure

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set forth in s. 895.09.

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- (6) Information provided to, and records and transcriptions of testimony obtained by, the Department of Legal Affairs pursuant to this section are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) while the investigation is active. For purposes of this section, an investigation shall be considered "active" while such investigation is being conducted with a reasonable, good faith belief that it may lead to the filing of an administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding. An investigation does not cease to be active so long as the Department of Legal Affairs is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and there is a good faith belief that action may be initiated by the Department of Legal Affairs or other administrative or law enforcement agency. Except for active criminal intelligence or criminal investigative information, as defined in s. 119.011, and information which, if disclosed, would reveal a trade secret, as defined in s. 688.002, or would jeopardize the safety of an individual, all information, records, and transcriptions become public record when the investigation is completed or ceases to be active. The Department of Legal Affairs may shall not disclose confidential information, records, or transcriptions of testimony except pursuant to the authorization by the Attorney General in any of the following circumstances:
- (a) To a law enforcement agency participating in or conducting a civil investigation under chapter 895, or participating in or conducting a criminal investigation.
- (b) In the course of filing, participating in, or conducting a judicial proceeding instituted pursuant to this

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section or chapter 895.

- (c) In the course of filing, participating in, or conducting a judicial proceeding to enforce an order or judgment entered pursuant to this section or chapter 895.
  - (d) In the course of a criminal or civil proceeding.

A person or law enforcement agency which receives any information, record, or transcription of testimony that has been made confidential by this subsection shall maintain the confidentiality of such material and shall not disclose such information, record, or transcription of testimony except as provided for herein. Any person who willfully discloses any information, record, or transcription of testimony that has been made confidential by this subsection, except as provided for herein, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If any information, record, or testimony obtained pursuant to subsection (2) is offered in evidence in any judicial proceeding, the court may, in its discretion, seal that portion of the record to further the policies of confidentiality set forth herein.

Section 14. Subsection (12) of section 610.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 610.104 State authorization to provide cable or video service.—
- (12) Beginning 5 years after approval of the certificateholder's initial certificate of franchise issued by the department, and every 5 years thereafter, the certificateholder shall update the information contained in the

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original application for a certificate of franchise. At the time of filing the information update, the certificateholder shall pay a processing fee of \$1,000. Any certificateholder that fails to file the updated information and pay the processing fee on the 5-year anniversary dates shall be subject to cancellation of its state-issued certificate of franchise authority if, upon notice given to the certificateholder at its last address on file with the department, the certificateholder fails to file the updated information and pay the processing fee within 30 days after the date notice was mailed. The application and processing fees imposed in this section shall be paid to the Department of State for deposit into the Clearing Funds Trust Fund for immediate transfer by the Chief Financial Officer to the General Inspection Trust Fund of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall maintain a separate account within the General Inspection Trust Fund to distinguish cable franchise revenues from all other funds. The application, any amendments to the certificate, or information updates must be accompanied by a fee to the Department of State equal to that for filing articles of incorporation under s. 607.0122 pursuant to s. 607.0122(1).

Section 15. Section 631.0515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

631.0515 Appointment of receiver; insurance holding company.—A delinquency proceeding pursuant to this chapter constitutes the sole and exclusive method of dissolving, liquidating, rehabilitating, reorganizing, conserving, or appointing a receiver of a Florida corporation which is not

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insolvent as defined by s. 607.01401(17) s. 607.01401(16); which through its shareholders, board of directors, or governing body is deadlocked in the management of its affairs; and which directly or indirectly owns all of the stock of a Florida domestic insurer. The department may petition for an order directing it to rehabilitate such corporation if the interests of policyholders or the public will be harmed as a result of the deadlock. The department shall use due diligence to resolve the deadlock. Whether or not the department petitions for an order, the circuit court does shall not have jurisdiction pursuant to s. 607.271, s. 607.274, or s. 607.277 to dissolve, liquidate, or appoint receivers with respect to  $_{ au}$  a Florida corporation that which directly or indirectly owns all of the stock of a Florida domestic insurer and that which is not insolvent as defined by s. 607.01401(17) s. 607.01401(16). However, a managing general agent or holding company with a controlling interest in a domestic insurer in this state is subject to jurisdiction of the court under the provisions of s. 631.025.

Section 16. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.