By Senator Grimsley

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to secondary metals recyclers; transferring administration of part II of chapter 538, F.S., relating to secondary metals recyclers, from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing for applicability with respect to pending actions, orders, and rules; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to share certain confidential information with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; amending ss. 319.30, 538.18, and 538.19, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 538.20, F.S.; authorizing specified persons to inspect regulated metals property and records; amending s. 538.21, F.S.; prohibiting a secondary metals recycler from disposing of certain property for a specified period; amending s. 538.23, F.S.; revising violations subject to criminal penalties; amending s. 538.25, F.S.; revising application requirements for registration as a secondary metals recycler; revising registration fees; requiring such fees to be transferred into the General Inspection Trust Fund; requiring applicants to submit fingerprints and pay a fee for fingerprint processing and retention; providing for the submission, retention, and use of collected fingerprints; requiring secondary metals recyclers to maintain specified insurance coverage; authorizing the department to suspend the registration or eligibility

for registration of a secondary metal recycler that does not maintain the required coverage; requiring secondary metals recyclers to exhibit active registration certificates from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services before applying for or renewing a local business tax receipt; requiring secondary metals recyclers to allow department personnel to enter certain places of business for a specified purpose; authorizing the department to seek a warrant if such access is denied; revising penalties for noncompliance; requiring the department to suspend certain registrations or applications for registration under certain circumstances; amending s. 538.26, F.S.; prohibiting secondary metals recyclers from purchasing regulated metals property, restricted regulated metals property, or ferrous metals between certain hours or on Sundays; prohibiting the purchase of specified restricted regulated metals property without obtaining certain proof of the seller's ownership of, or authority to sell, the regulated metals property; revising the number of lead-acid batteries purchased in a single purchase by the same individual in a single day which makes a purchase subject to certain restrictions; creating s. 538.27, F.S.; providing penalties for noncompliance; creating s. 538.29, F.S.; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Department of Revenue relating to the administration of part II of chapter 538, Florida Statutes, are transferred by a type two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

- (2) This section does not affect the validity of any judicial or administrative action pending as of 11:59 p.m. on the day before the effective date of this act to which the Department of Revenue is at that time a party, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be substituted as a party in interest in any such action.
- (3) All lawful orders issued by the Department of Revenue relating to the administration of part II of chapter 538,

 Florida Statutes, issued before the effective date of this act shall remain in effect and be enforceable after the effective date of this section unless thereafter modified in accordance with law.
- (4) The rules of the Department of Revenue relating to the administration of part II of chapter 538, Florida Statutes, which were in effect at 11:59 p.m. on the day before the effective date of this act shall remain in effect and be enforceable after the effective date of this section unless thereafter modified in accordance with law.

Section 2. Paragraph (cc) is added to subsection (8) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, and subsection (11) of that

section is amended, to read:

- 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-
- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (cc) Information relative to chapter 212 and part II of chapter 538 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the conduct of its official duties.

Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, with respect to a request for verification of a certificate of registration issued pursuant to s. 212.18 to a specified dealer or taxpayer or with respect to a request by a law enforcement officer for verification of a certificate of registration issued pursuant to s. 538.09 to a specified secondhand dealer or pursuant to s. 538.25 to a specified secondary metals recycler, the department may disclose whether the specified person holds a valid certificate, or whether a specified certificate number is valid, or whether a specified certificate number has been canceled or is inactive or invalid, and the name of the holder of the certificate. This subsection may shall not be construed to create a duty to request verification of any certificate of registration.

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Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 319.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 319.30 Definitions; dismantling, destruction, change of identity of motor vehicle or mobile home; salvage.—
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (b) "Certificate of registration number" means the certificate of registration number issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Revenue of the State of Florida pursuant to s. 538.25.

Section 4. Subsections (2) and (11) of section 538.18, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

538.18 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

- (2) "Department" means the Department of <u>Agriculture and</u> Consumer Services Revenue.
 - (11) "Secondary metals recycler" means any person that who:
- (a) Is engaged, from a fixed location, in the business of purchase transactions or gathering or obtaining ferrous or nonferrous metals that have served their original economic purpose or is in the business of performing the manufacturing process by which ferrous metals or nonferrous metals are converted into raw material products consisting of prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value; or
- (b) Has facilities for performing the manufacturing process by which ferrous metals or nonferrous metals are converted into raw material products consisting of prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value, other than by the exclusive use of hand tools, by methods including, without limitation, processing, sorting, cutting, classifying, cleaning, baling, wrapping, shredding, shearing, or changing the physical

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form or chemical content thereof.

Section 5. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 538.19, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

538.19 Records required; limitation of liability.-

- (1) A secondary metals recycler shall maintain a legible paper record of all purchase transactions to which such secondary metals recycler is a party. A secondary metals recycler shall also maintain a legible electronic record, in the English language, of all such purchase transactions. The appropriate law enforcement official may provide data specifications regarding the electronic record format, but such format must be approved by the department of Law Enforcement. An electronic record of a purchase transaction shall be electronically transmitted to the appropriate law enforcement official no later than 10 a.m. of the business day following the date of the purchase transaction. The record transmitted to the appropriate law enforcement official must not contain the price paid for the items. A secondary metals recycler that who transmits such records electronically is not required to also deliver the original or paper copies of the transaction forms to the appropriate law enforcement official. However, such official may, for purposes of a criminal investigation, request the secondary metals recycler to make available the original transaction form that was electronically transmitted. This original transaction form must include the price paid for the items. The secondary metals recycler shall make the form available to the appropriate law enforcement official within 24 hours after receipt of the request.
 - (2) The following information must be maintained on the

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form approved by the department of Law Enforcement for each purchase transaction:

- (a) The name and address of the secondary metals recycler.
- (b) The name, initials, or other identification of the individual entering the information on the ticket.
 - (c) The date and time of the transaction.
- (d) The weight, quantity, or volume, and a description of the type of regulated metals property purchased in a purchase transaction.
- (e) The amount of consideration given in a purchase transaction for the regulated metals property.
- (f) A signed statement from the person delivering the regulated metals property stating that she or he is the rightful owner of, or is entitled to sell, the regulated metals property being sold. If the purchase involves a stainless steel beer keg, the seller must provide written documentation from the manufacturer that the seller is the owner of the stainless steel beer keg or is an employee or agent of the manufacturer.
- (g) The distinctive number from the personal identification card of the person delivering the regulated metals property to the secondary metals recycler.
- (h) A description of the person from whom the regulated metals property was acquired, including:
- 1. Full name, current residential address, workplace, and home and work phone numbers.
- 2. Height, weight, date of birth, race, gender, hair color, eye color, and any other identifying marks.
 - 3. The right thumbprint, free of smudges and smears.
 - 4. Vehicle description to include the make, model, and tag

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number of the vehicle and trailer of the person selling the regulated metals property.

- 5. Any other information required by the form approved by the department $\frac{1}{2}$ the departme
- (i) A photograph, videotape, or digital image of the regulated metals being sold.
- (j) A photograph, videotape, or similar likeness of the person receiving consideration in which such person's facial features are clearly visible.
- (3) A secondary metals recycler complies with the requirements of this section if it maintains an electronic database containing the information required by subsection (2) as long as the electronic information required by subsection (2), along with an electronic oath of ownership with an electronic signature of the seller of the secondary metals being purchased by the secondary metals recyclers and an electronic image of the seller's right thumbprint that has no smudges and smears, can be downloaded onto a paper form in the image of the form approved by the department of Law Enforcement as provided in subsection (2).

Section 6. Section 538.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

538.20 Inspection of regulated metals property and records.—During the usual and customary business hours of a secondary metals recycler, a law enforcement officer or employee of the department who is a nonsworn trained regulatory investigator shall, after properly identifying herself or himself as such a law enforcement officer, have the right to inspect:

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(1) Any and all purchased regulated metals property in the

(1) Any and all purchased regulated metals property in the possession of the secondary metals recycler., and
(2) Any and all records required to be maintained under s.

(2) Any and all records required to be maintained under s. 538.19.

Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 538.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

538.21 Hold notice.-

(3) A secondary metals recycler may not dispose of any property identified by a hold notice or extended hold notice until the applicable hold period expires. At the expiration of the hold period or, if extended in accordance with this section, at the expiration of the extended hold period, the hold is automatically released and the secondary metals recycler may dispose of the regulated metals property unless other disposition has been ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 8. Subsection (1), (3), (4), and (5) of section 538.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

538.23 Violations and penalties.-

- (1)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a secondary metals recycler that who knowingly and intentionally:
 - 1. Violates s. 538.20, or s. 538.21, or s. 538.26;
- 2. Engages in a pattern of failing to keep records required by s. 538.19;
 - 3. Violates s. 538.26(2); or
- 258 4. Violates s. 538.235,

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commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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(b) A secondary metals recycler that who commits a third or subsequent violation of paragraph (a) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (3) Any person who knowingly <u>provides false information</u>, gives false verification of ownership, or who gives a false or altered identification and who receives money or other consideration from a secondary metals recycler in return for regulated metals property commits:
- (a) A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the value of the money or other consideration received is less than \$300.
- (b) A felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the value of the money or other consideration received is \$300 or more or if the money or other consideration received is for restricted regulated metals.
- (4) If a lawful owner recovers stolen regulated metals property from a secondary metals recycler that who has complied with this part, and the person who sold the regulated metals property to the secondary metals recycler is convicted of theft, a violation of this section, or dealing in stolen property, the court shall order the defendant to make full restitution, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees, court costs, and other expenses to the secondary metals recycler pursuant to s. 775.089.
- (5) A person acting as a secondary metals recycler that who is not registered with the department under s. 538.25 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.

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775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 9. Section 538.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

538.25 Registration; renewal.-

- (1) A person may not engage in business as a secondary metals recycler at any location without registering with the department on an application form prescribed by the department. An application for registration must state the full name of the applicant, the physical address where business will be conducted, and any other relevant information required by the department. If the applicant is not an individual, the application must state the full name and address of each direct or beneficial owner of at least a 10 percent equity interest in the business. If the applicant is a corporation, the application must state the full name and address of each officer and director of the corporation. The department shall accept applications only from a fixed business address. The department may not accept an application that provides an address of a hotel room or motel room, a vehicle, or a post office box.
- (a) Fingerprint fees shall be assessed and paid as specified in subparagraph (b)2. and A fee equal to the federal and state costs for processing required fingerprints must be submitted to the department with each application for registration. One application is required for each secondary metals recycler. If a secondary metals recycler is the owner of more than one secondary metals recycling location, the application must list each location, and the department shall issue a duplicate registration for each location. For purposes of subsections (3) and, (4), and (5), these duplicate

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registrations shall be deemed individual registrations. A secondary metals recycler shall remit an annual registration fee of \$350 to the department at the time of registration for each of its business locations pay a fee of \$6 per location at the time of registration and an annual renewal fee of \$6 per location on October 1 of each year. All fees collected, less costs of administration, shall be transferred into the General Inspection Operating Trust Fund.

- (b) 1. An applicant must submit a full set of fingerprints to the department or to a vendor, entity, or agency authorized by s. 943.053(13). The department, vendor, entity, or agency shall forward the fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing.
- 2. Fees for state and federal fingerprint processing and retention shall be borne by the applicant. The state cost for fingerprint processing shall be as provided in s. 943.053(3)(b) for records provided to persons or entities other than those specified as exceptions therein.
- 3. Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law
 Enforcement pursuant to this paragraph shall be retained by the
 Department of Law Enforcement as provided in s. 943.05(2)(g) and
 (h) and, when the Department of Law Enforcement begins
 participation in the program, enrolled in the Federal Bureau of
 Investigation's national retained print arrest notification
 program. The fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department
 of Law Enforcement for a state criminal history record check and
 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal

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history check. Any arrest record identified shall be reported to the department.

- 4. For a renewal of an applicant's registration, the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward his or her retained fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless they are enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification program as described in subparagraph 3. The fee for the national criminal history check shall be recovered from the applicant as part of the department's registration renewal fee and shall be forwarded by the department to the Department of Law Enforcement upon receipt. If an applicant's fingerprints are retained in the national notification program, the applicant must pay the state and national retention fees to the department, which shall forward them to the Department of Law Enforcement.
- 5. The department shall notify the Department of Law Enforcement regarding a person whose fingerprints have been retained but who is no longer registered under this chapter.

6. The department shall consider the background screening

results in determining whether an applicant meets registration or registration renewal requirements.

The department shall forward the full set of fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state and federal processing, provided the federal service is available, to be processed for any criminal justice information as defined in s. 943.045. The cost of processing such fingerprints shall be payable to the Department of Law Enforcement by the department. The department may issue a temporary registration to each location pending completion of the background check by state and federal law

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enforcement agencies but shall revoke such temporary registration if the completed background check reveals a prohibited criminal background. The Department of Law Enforcement shall report its findings to the Department of Revenue within 30 days after the date the fingerprints are submitted for criminal justice information.

- (c) An applicant for a secondary metals recycler registration must be a natural person who has reached the age of 18 years or a corporation organized or qualified to do business in the state.
- 1. If the applicant is a natural person, the registration must include a complete set of her or his fingerprints, certified by an authorized law enforcement officer, and a <u>valid</u> recent fullface photographic identification card of herself or himself.
- 2. If the applicant is a partnership, all the partners must make application for registration.
- 3. If the applicant is a corporation, the registration must include the name and address of such corporation's registered agent for service of process in the state and a certified copy of statement from the Secretary of State that the corporation is duly organized in the state or, if the corporation is organized in a state other than Florida, a certified copy of the statement that the corporation is duly qualified to do business in this state.
- (d) Each secondary metals recycler shall maintain workers' compensation insurance and general liability insurance coverage throughout the registration period as required by the department by rule and shall provide the department with written evidence

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of such coverage as a condition of registration with the department under this section. Failure to maintain such coverage constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, and the department may immediately suspend the registration or eligibility for registration of a noncompliant secondary metals recycler, which must immediately cease operating in this state.

- (e) A person applying for or renewing a local business tax receipt to engage in business as a secondary metals recycler must exhibit an active registration certificate from the department before the local business tax receipt may be issued or renewed pursuant to s. 205.194.
- (2) A secondary metals recycler's registration shall be conspicuously displayed at the place of business <u>identified</u> set forth on the registration. A secondary metals recycler <u>shall</u> allow department personnel to enter its place of business in order to verify that it has displayed a valid registration. If a secondary metals recycler refuses to grant department personnel entry for this purpose, the department may seek a warrant from a court of competent jurisdiction authorizing such inspection shall not dispose of property at any location until any holding period has expired.
- (3) The Department of Revenue may impose a civil fine of up to \$10,000 for each knowing and intentional violation of this section, which fine shall be transferred into the General Revenue Fund. If the fine is not paid within 60 days, the department may bring a civil action under s. 120.69 to recover the fine.
 - (3) (4) In addition to the penalties fine provided in s.

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538.27 subsection (3), registration or registration renewal under this section may be denied or any registration granted may be revoked, restricted, or suspended by the department if, after October 2, 1989, and within a 10-year 24-month period immediately preceding such denial, revocation, restriction, or suspension:

- (a) The applicant or registrant, or an owner, officer, director, or trustee of the applicant or registrant, was has been convicted of knowingly and intentionally:
 - 1. Violating s. 538.20, or s. 538.21, or s. 538.26;
- 2. Engaging in a pattern of failing to keep records as required by s. 538.19;
- 3. Making a material false statement in the application for registration; or
- 4. Engaging in a fraudulent act in connection with any purchase or sale of regulated metals property;
- (b) The applicant or registrant, or an owner, officer, director, or trustee of the applicant or registrant, was has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony committed by the secondary metals recycler against the laws of the state or of the United States involving theft, larceny, dealing in stolen property, receiving stolen property, burglary, embezzlement, obtaining property by false pretenses, possession of altered property, or any felony drug offense or of knowingly and intentionally violating the laws of the state relating to registration as a secondary metals recycler; or
- (c) The applicant has, after receipt of written notice from the Department of Revenue of failure to pay sales tax, failed or

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refused to pay, within 30 days after the secondary metals recycler's receipt of such written notice, any sales tax owed to the Department of Revenue.

- (4) (5) A denial of an application, or a revocation, restriction, or suspension of a registration, by the department shall be probationary for a period of 12 months in the event that the secondary metals recycler subject to such action has not had any other application for registration denied, or any registration revoked, restricted, or suspended, by the department within the previous 24-month period.
- (a) If, during the 12-month probationary period, the department does not again deny an application or revoke, restrict, or suspend the registration of the secondary metals recycler, the action of the department shall be dismissed and the record of the secondary metals recycler cleared thereof.
- (b) If, during the 12-month probationary period, the department, for reasons other than those existing <u>before prior</u> to the original denial or revocation, restriction, or suspension, again denies an application or revokes, restricts, or suspends the registration of the secondary metals recycler, the probationary nature of such original action shall terminate and both the original action of the department and the action of the department causing the termination of the probationary nature thereof shall immediately be reinstated against the secondary metals recycler.
- (5) The department shall suspend a registration or deny an application for registration if the registrant or applicant, or any of the owners, officers, directors, or trustees of the registrant or applicant, has been convicted of a felony under

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chapter 812 or chapter 817. The department shall suspend such registration or application immediately upon receiving written verification of the conviction from a law enforcement agency, a court, a state attorney's office, or the Department of Law Enforcement.

(6) Upon the request of a law enforcement official, the department of Revenue shall release to the official the name and address of any secondary metals recycler registered to do business within the official's jurisdiction.

Section 10. Subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 538.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

538.26 Certain acts and practices prohibited.—It is unlawful for a secondary metals recycler to do or allow any of the following acts:

(1) Purchase regulated metals property, restricted regulated metals property, or ferrous metals <u>between the hours</u> of 7 p.m. and <u>before</u> 7 a.m. or <u>at any time on Sunday after 7 p.m.</u>

(5)

- (b) The purchase of any of the following regulated metals property is subject to the restrictions provided in paragraph (a):
 - 1. A manhole cover.
- 2. A metal An electric light pole or other utility structure and its fixtures, wires, and hardware that is are readily identifiable as connected to a metal electric light the utility structure.
 - 3. A quard rail.
 - 4. A street sign, traffic sign, or traffic signal and its

fixtures and hardware.

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- 5. Communication, transmission, distribution, and service wire from a utility, including copper or aluminum bus bars, connectors, grounding plates, or grounding wire.
 - 6. A funeral marker or funeral vase.
 - 7. A historical marker.
- 8. Railroad equipment, including, but not limited to, a tie plate, signal house, control box, switch plate, E clip, or rail tie junction.
- 9. Any metal item that is observably marked upon reasonable inspection with any form of the name, initials, or logo of a governmental entity, utility company, cemetery, or railroad.
- 10. A copper, aluminum, or aluminum-copper condensing or evaporator coil, including its tubing or rods, from an air-conditioning or heating unit, excluding coils from window air-conditioning or heating units and motor vehicle air-conditioning or heating units.
- 11. An aluminum or stainless steel container or bottle designed to hold propane for fueling forklifts.
 - 12. A stainless steel beer keq.
- 13. A catalytic converter or any nonferrous part of a catalytic converter unless purchased as part of a motor vehicle.
- 14. Metallic wire that has been burned in whole or in part to remove insulation.
- 15. A brass or bronze commercial valve or fitting, referred to as a "fire department connection and control valve" or an "FDC valve," that is commonly used on structures for access to water for the purpose of extinguishing fires.
 - 16. A brass or bronze commercial potable water backflow

preventer valve that is commonly used to prevent backflow of potable water from commercial structures into municipal domestic water service systems.

- 17. A shopping cart.
- 18. A brass water meter.
- 19. A storm grate.

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- 20. A brass sprinkler head used in commercial agriculture.
- 21. Three or more than two lead-acid batteries, or any part or component thereof, in a single purchase or from the same individual in a single day.
- Section 11. Section 538.27, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 538.27 Administrative penalties.—The department may take one or more of the following actions against a secondary metals recycler found to be in violation of s. 538.19, s. 538.235, s. 538.25, or s. 538.26:
- (1) Issuance of a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s. 120.695.
- (2) Imposition of an administrative fine of up to \$200 per violation, not to exceed \$5,000 per inspection. Collected fines shall be deposited in the General Inspection Trust Fund. If a fine is not paid within 60 days after imposition, the department may bring a civil action under s. 120.69 to recover the fine.
- (3) Issuing a directive to the secondary metals recycler to cease and desist specified activities.
- Administrative proceedings initiated under this section shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 120.
 - Section 12. Section 538.29, Florida Statutes, is created to

2015618___ 21-00404-15 581 read: 582 538.29 Rulemaking authority.—The department may adopt rules to implement this part. Such rules shall include tiered 583 penalties for violations of this part. 584 585 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.