

LEGISLATIVE ACTION Senate House Comm: RCS 03/24/2015

The Committee on Commerce and Tourism (Bean) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Present subsections (6) through (9) of section 507.01, Florida Statutes, are amended, and new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

507.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(6) "Estimate" means a written document that sets forth the total costs and describes the basis of those costs, relating to

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shipper's household move, including, but not limited to, the loading, transportation or shipment, and unloading of household goods and accessorial services.

- (6) (7) "Household goods" or "goods" means personal effects or other personal property commonly found in a home, personal residence, or other dwelling, including, but not limited to, household furniture. The term does not include freight or personal property moving to or from a factory, store, or other place of business.
- (7) (8) "Household move" or "move" means the loading of household goods into a vehicle, moving container, or other mode of transportation or shipment; the transportation or shipment of those household goods; and the unloading of those household goods, when the transportation or shipment originates and terminates at one of the following ultimate locations, regardless of whether the mover temporarily stores the goods while en route between the originating and terminating locations:
 - (a) From one dwelling to another dwelling;
- (b) From a dwelling to a storehouse or warehouse that is owned or rented by the shipper or the shipper's agent; or
- (c) From a storehouse or warehouse that is owned or rented by the shipper or the shipper's agent to a dwelling.
- (8) "Impracticable operations" means conditions that arise after execution of a contract for household moving services which make it impractical for a mover to perform pickup or delivery services for a household move.
- (9) "Additional Services" means any additional transportation of household goods that is performed by a mover,

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is not specifically included in a binding estimate, and which results in a charge to the shipper.

(10) "Mover" means a person who, for compensation, contracts for or engages in the loading, transportation or shipment, or unloading of household goods as part of a household move. The term does not include a postal, courier, envelope, or package service that does not advertise itself as a mover or moving service.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 507.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 507.02 Construction; intent; application.-
- (3) This chapter is intended to provide consistency and transparency in moving practices and to secure the satisfaction and confidence of shippers and members of the public when using a mover.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (3), (4), and (5) of section 507.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

507.04 Required insurance coverages; liability limitations; valuation coverage.-

- (1) CARGO LIABILITY INSURANCE.
- (a) 1. Except as provided in paragraph (b), each mover operating in this state must maintain current and valid cargo liability insurance coverage of at least \$10,000 per shipment for the loss or damage of household goods resulting from the negligence of the mover or its employees or agents.
- 2. The mover must provide the department with evidence of liability insurance coverage before the mover is registered with the department under s. 507.03. All insurance coverage maintained by a mover must remain in effect throughout the

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mover's registration period. A mover's failure to maintain insurance coverage in accordance with this paragraph constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. If a mover fails to maintain insurance coverage, the department may immediately suspend the mover's registration or eligibility for registration, and the mover must immediately cease operating as a mover in this state. In addition, and notwithstanding the availability of any administrative relief pursuant to chapter 120, the department may seek from the appropriate circuit court an immediate injunction prohibiting the mover from operating in this state until the mover complies with this paragraph, a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000, and court costs.

- (b) A mover that operates two or fewer vehicles, in lieu of maintaining the cargo liability insurance coverage required under paragraph (a), may, and each moving broker must, maintain one of the following alternative coverages:
- 1. A performance bond in the amount of \$25,000, for which the surety of the bond must be a surety company authorized to conduct business in this state; or
- 2. A certificate of deposit in a Florida banking institution in the amount of \$25,000.

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The original bond or certificate of deposit must be filed with the department and must designate the department as the sole beneficiary. The department must use the bond or certificate of deposit exclusively for the payment of claims to consumers who are injured by the fraud, misrepresentation, breach of contract, misfeasance, malfeasance, or financial failure of the mover or moving broker or by a violation of this chapter by the mover or

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broker. Liability for these injuries may be determined in an administrative proceeding of the department or through a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. However, claims against the bond or certificate of deposit must only be paid, in amounts not to exceed the determined liability for these injuries, by order of the department in an administrative proceeding. The bond or certificate of deposit is subject to successive claims, but the aggregate amount of these claims may not exceed the amount of the bond or certificate of deposit.

(3) INSURANCE COVERAGES.—The insurance coverages required under paragraph (1)(a) and subsection (2) must be issued by an insurance company or carrier licensed to transact business in this state under the Florida Insurance Code as designated in s. 624.01. The department shall require a mover to present a certificate of insurance of the required coverages before issuance or renewal of a registration certificate under s. 507.03. The department shall be named as a certificateholder in the certificate and must be notified at least 10 days before cancellation of insurance coverage. A mover's failure to maintain insurance coverage constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. If a mover fails to maintain insurance coverage, the department may immediately suspend the mover's registration or eligibility for registration, and the mover must immediately cease operating as a mover in this state. In addition, and notwithstanding the availability of any administrative relief pursuant to chapter 120, the department may seek from the appropriate circuit court an immediate injunction prohibiting the mover from operating in this state until the mover complies with this paragraph, a civil

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penalty not to exceed \$5,000, and court costs.

(4) LIABILITY LIMITATIONS; VALUATION RATES.—A mover may not limit its liability for the loss or damage of household goods to a valuation rate that is less than 60 cents per pound per article. A provision of a contract for moving services is void if the provision limits a mover's liability to a valuation rate that is less than the minimum rate under this subsection. If a mover limits its liability for a shipper's goods, the mover must disclose the limitation, including the valuation rate, to the shipper in writing at the time that the estimate and contract for services are executed and before any moving or accessorial services are provided. The disclosure must also inform the shipper of the opportunity to purchase valuation coverage if the mover offers that coverage under subsection (5).

(5) VALUATION COVERAGE.—A mover shall may offer valuation coverage to compensate a shipper for the loss or damage of the shipper's household goods that are lost or damaged during a household move. If a mover offers valuation coverage, The coverage must indemnify the shipper for at least the cost of replacement of the goods less depreciated value minimum valuation rate required under subsection (4). The mover must disclose the terms of the coverage to the shipper in writing within at the time that the binding estimate and again when the contract for services is are executed and before any moving or accessorial services are provided. The disclosure must inform the shipper of the cost of the valuation coverage, if any the valuation rate of the coverage, and the opportunity to reject the coverage. If valuation coverage compensates a shipper for at least the minimum valuation rate required under subsection (4),

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the coverage satisfies the mover's liability for the minimum valuation rate.

Section 4. Section 507.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

507.05 Physical surveys, binding estimates, and contracts for service. Before providing any moving or accessorial services, a contract and estimate must be provided to a prospective shipper in writing, must be signed and dated by the shipper and the mover, and must include:

- (1) PHYSICAL SURVEY.—A mover must conduct a physical survey of the household goods to be moved and provide the prospective shipper with a binding estimate of the cost of the move.
- (2) WAIVER OF SURVEY. A shipper may elect to waive the physical survey, and such waiver must be in writing and signed by the shipper before the household goods are loaded. The mover shall retain a copy of the waiver as an addendum to the contract for service.
- (3) BINDING ESTIMATE.—Before executing a contract for service for a household move, and at least 48 hours before the scheduled time and date of a shipment of household goods, a mover must provide a binding estimate of the total charges, including, but not limited to, the loading, transportation or shipment, and unloading of household goods and accessorial services. The binding estimate shall be based on a physical survey conducted pursuant to subsection (1), unless waived pursuant to subsection (2).
- (a) The shipper may waive the 48 hour waiting period and such waiver must be made by signed acknowledgement in the contract.



185 (b) At a minimum, the binding estimate must include all of 186 the following: 187 1. The table of measures used by the mover or the mover's 188 agent in preparing the estimate. 189 2. The date the estimate was prepared and the proposed date 190 of the move, if any. 191 3. An itemized breakdown and description of services, and 192 the total cost to the shipper of loading, transporting or shipping, unloading, and accessorial services. 193 194 4. A statement that the estimate is binding on the mover 195 and the shipper and that the charges shown apply only to those 196 services specifically identified in the estimate. 197 5. Identification of acceptable forms of payment. 198 (c) A mover may charge a one-time fee, not to exceed \$100, 199 for providing a binding estimate. 200 (d) The binding estimate must be signed by the mover and 201 the shipper, and a copy must be provided to the shipper by the 202 mover at the time that the estimate is signed. 203 (e) A binding estimate may only be amended by the mover 204 before the scheduled loading of household goods for shipment 205 when the shipper has requested additional services of the mover 206 not previously disclosed in the original binding estimate, or 207 upon mutual agreement of the mover and the shipper. Once a mover 208 begins to load the household goods for a move, failure to 209 execute a new binding estimate signifies the mover has 210 reaffirmed the original binding estimate. 211 (f) A mover may not collect more than the amount of the 212 binding estimate unless:

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additional services, or requires services that are not specifically included in the binding estimate, in which case the mover is not required to honor the estimate. If, despite the addition of household goods or the need for additional services, the mover chooses to perform the move, it must, before loading the household goods, inform the shipper of the associated charges in writing. The mover may require full payment at the destination for the costs associated with the additional requested services and the full amount of the original binding estimate.

- 2. Upon issuance of the contract for services, the mover advises the shipper, in advance of performing additional services, including accessorial services, that such services are essential to properly performing the move. The mover must allow the shipper at least 1 hour to determine whether to authorize the additional services.
- a. If the shipper agrees to pay for the additional services, the mover must execute a written addendum to the contract for services, which must be signed by the shipper. The addendum may be sent to the shipper by facsimile, e-mail, overnight courier, or certified mail, with return receipt requested. The mover must bill the shipper for the agreed upon additional services within 15 days after the delivery of those additional services pursuant to s. 507.06.
- b. If the shipper does not agree to pay for the additional services, the mover may perform and, pursuant to s. 507.06, bill the shipper for those additional services necessary to complete the delivery.
 - (g) A mover shall retain a copy of the binding estimate for

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each move performed for at least 1 year after its preparation date as an attachment to the contract for service.

- (4) CONTRACT FOR SERVICE.—Before providing any moving or accessorial services, a mover must provide a contract for service to the shipper, which the shipper must sign and date.
 - (a) At a minimum, the contract for service must include:
- 1.(1) The name, telephone number, and physical address where the mover's employees are available during normal business hours.
- 2.(2) The date the contract was or estimate is prepared and the any proposed date of the move, if any.
- 3.(3) The name and address of the shipper, the addresses where the articles are to be picked up and delivered, and a telephone number where the shipper may be reached.
- 4.(4) The name, telephone number, and physical address of any location where the household goods will be held pending further transportation, including situations in which where the mover retains possession of household goods pending resolution of a fee dispute with the shipper.
- 5.(5) A binding estimate provided in accordance with s. 507.05 An itemized breakdown and description and total of all costs and services for loading, transportation or shipment, unloading, and accessorial services to be provided during a household move or storage of household goods.
- 6. The total charges owed by the shipper based on the binding estimate and the terms and conditions for their payment, including any required minimum payment.
- 7. If the household goods are transported under an agreement to collect payment upon delivery, the maximum payment

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272 that the mover may demand at the time of delivery. 273 8.(6) Acceptable forms of payment, which must be clearly 274 and conspicuously disclosed to the shipper on the binding 275 estimate and the contract for services. A mover must shall 276 accept at least a minimum of two of the three following forms of 277 payment: a. (a) Cash, cashier's check, money order, or traveler's 278 279 check;

b. (b) Valid personal check, showing upon its face the name and address of the shipper or authorized representative; or

c. (c) Valid credit card, which shall include, but not be limited to, Visa or MasterCard. A mover must clearly and conspicuously disclose to the shipper in the estimate and contract for services the forms of payments the mover will accept, including the forms of payment described in paragraphs $\frac{(a)-(c)}{.}$

- (b) Each addendum to the contract for service is an integral part of the contract.
- (c) A copy of the contract for service must accompany the household goods whenever they are in the mover's or the mover's agent's possession. Before a vehicle that is being used for the move leaves the point of origin, the driver responsible for the move must have the contract for service in his or her possession.
- (d) A mover shall retain a contract for service for each move it performs for at least 1 year after the date the contract for service was signed.

Section 5. Section 507.054, Florida Statutes, is created to read:



301 507.054 Publication.-302 (1) The department shall prepare a publication that 303 includes a summary of the rights and responsibilities of, and 304 remedies available to movers and shippers under this chapter. 305 The publication must include a statement that a mover's failure 306 to relinquish household goods as required by this chapter 307 constitutes a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, that any other 308 309 violation of this chapter constitutes a misdemeanor of the first 310 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, and 311 that any violation of this chapter constitutes a violation of 312 the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. The 313 publication must also include a notice to the shipper about the 314 potential risks of shipping sentimental or family heirloom 315 items. 316 (2) A mover may provide exact copies of the department's publication to shippers or may customize the color, design, and 317 318 dimension of the front and back covers of the standard 319 department publication. If the mover customizes the publication, 320 the customized publication must include the content specified in 321 subsection (1) and meet the following requirements: 322 (a) The font size used must be at least 10 points, with the 323 exception that the following must appear prominently on the 324 front cover in at least 12-point boldface type: "Your Rights and 325 Responsibilities When You Move. Furnished by Your Mover, as 326 Required by Florida Law." 327 (b) The size of the booklet must be at least 36 square 328 inches. 329 (3) The shipper must acknowledge receipt of the publication

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by signed acknowledgement in the contract.

Section 6. Section 507.055, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

507.055 Required disclosure and acknowledgment of rights and remedies.—Before executing a contract for service for a move, a mover must provide to a prospective shipper all of the following:

- (1) The publication required under s. 507.054.
- (2) A concise, easy-to-read, and accurate binding estimate required under s. 507.05(3).

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 507.06, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (5) are added to that section, to read:

507.06 Delivery and storage of household goods.-

- (1) On the agreed upon delivery date or within the timeframe specified in the contract for service, a-A mover must relinquish household goods to a shipper and must place the household goods inside a shipper's dwelling or, if directed by the shipper, inside a storehouse or warehouse that is owned or rented by the shipper or the shipper's agent, unless the shipper has not tendered payment pursuant to ss. 507.065 or 507.066 in the amount specified in a written contract or estimate signed and dated by the shipper. This requirement may be waived by the shipper. A mover may not, under any circumstances, refuse to relinquish prescription medicines and household goods for use by children, including children's furniture, clothing, or toys, under any circumstances.
- (3) A mover that lawfully fails to relinquish a shipper's household goods may place the goods in storage until payment in

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accordance with ss. 507.065 or 507.066 is tendered; however, the mover must notify the shipper of the location where the goods are stored and the amount due within 5 days after receipt of a written request for that information from the shipper, which request must include the address where the shipper may receive the notice. A mover may not require a prospective shipper to waive any rights or requirements under this section.

(4) If a mover becomes aware that it will be unable to perform either the pickup or the delivery of household goods on the date agreed upon or during the timeframe specified in the contract for service due to circumstances not anticipated by the contract, the mover shall notify the shipper of the delay and advise the shipper of the amended date or timeframe within which the mover expects to pick up or deliver the household goods in a timely manner.

Section 8. Section 507.065, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

507.065 Payment.-

- (1) Except as provided in s. 507.05(3), the maximum amount that a mover may charge before relinquishing household goods to a shipper is the exact amount of the binding estimate, plus charges for any additional services requested or agreed to in writing by the shipper after the contract for service was issued and for impracticable operations, if applicable.
- (2) A mover must bill a shipper for any charges assessed under this chapter which are not collected upon delivery of household goods at their destination within 15 days after such delivery. A mover may assess a late fee for any uncollected charges if the shipper fails to make payment within 30 days



388 after receipt of the bill. Section 9. Section 507.066, Florida Statutes, is created to 389 390 read: 391 507.066 Collection for losses.-392 (1) PARTIAL LOSSES.—A mover may collect an adjusted payment 393 from a shipper if part of a shipment of household goods is lost 394 or destroyed. 395 (a) A mover may collect the following at delivery: 396 1. A prorated percentage of the binding estimate. The 397 prorated percentage must equal the percentage of the weight of 398 the portion of the household goods delivered relative to the 399 total weight of the household goods that were ordered to be 400 moved. 401 2. Charges for any additional services requested by the 402 shipper after the contract for service was issued. 403 3. Charges for impracticable operations, if applicable; 404 however, such charges may not exceed 15 percent of all other 405 charges due at delivery. 406 4. Any specific valuation rate charges due, as provided in 407 s. 507.04(4), if applicable. 408 (b) The mover may bill and collect from the shipper any 409 remaining charges not collected at the time of delivery in 410 accordance with s. 507.065. This paragraph does not apply if the 411 loss or destruction of household goods occurred as a result of 412 an act or omission of the shipper. 413 (c) A mover must determine, at its own expense, the 414 proportion of the household goods, based on actual or 415 constructive weight, which were lost or destroyed in transit.

(2) TOTAL LOSSES.—A mover may not collect, or require a

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shipper to pay, freight charges, including a charge for accessorial services, when a household goods shipment is lost or destroyed in transit; however, the mover may collect a specific valuation rate charge due, as provided in s. 507.04(4). This subsection does not apply if the loss or destruction was due to an act or omission of the shipper.

(3) SHIPPER'S RIGHTS.—A shipper's rights under this section are in addition to any other rights the shipper may have with respect to household goods that were lost or destroyed while in the custody of the mover or the mover's agent. These rights also apply regardless of whether the shipper exercises his or her right to obtain a refund of the portion of a mover's published freight charges corresponding to the portion of the lost or destroyed household goods, including any charges for accessorial services, at the time the mover disposes of claims for loss, damage, or injury to the household goods.

Section 10. Subsections (1), (4), and (5) of section 507.07, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:

507.07 Violations.—It is a violation of this chapter:

- (1) To operate conduct business as a mover or moving broker, or advertise to engage in violation the business of moving or fail to comply with ss. 507.03-507.10, or any other requirement under this chapter offering to move, without being registered with the department.
- (4) To increase the contracted cost fail to honor and comply with all provisions of the contract for moving services in any way other than provided for in this chapter or bill of lading regarding the purchaser's rights, benefits, and privileges thereunder.

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(5) To withhold delivery of household goods or in any way hold household goods in storage against the expressed wishes of the shipper if payment has been made as delineated in the estimate or contract for services, or pursuant to this chapter.

Section 11. Section 507.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

507.09 Administrative remedies; penalties.-

- (1) The department may enter an order doing one or more of the following if the department finds that a mover or moving broker, or a person employed or contracted by a mover or broker, has violated or is operating in violation of this chapter or the rules or orders issued pursuant to this chapter:
 - (a) Issuing a notice of noncompliance under s. 120.695.
- (b) Imposing an administrative fine in the Class II category pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission.
- (c) Directing that the person cease and desist specified activities.
- (d) Refusing to register or revoking or suspending a registration.
- (e) Placing the registrant on probation, subject to the conditions specified by the department.
- (2) The department shall, upon notification and subsequent written verification by a law enforcement agency, a court, a state attorney, or the Department of Law Enforcement, immediately suspend a registration or the processing of an application for a registration if the registrant, applicant, or an 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

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property or a crime arising from conduct during a movement of household goods until final disposition of the case or removal or resignation of that officer or director.

- (3) The administrative proceedings that which could result in the entry of an order imposing any of the penalties specified in subsection (1) or subsection (2) are governed by chapter 120.
- (3) The department may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this chapter.

Section 12. Section 507.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

507.11 Criminal penalties.-

- (1) The refusal of a mover or a mover's employee, agent, or contractor to comply with an order from a law enforcement officer to relinquish a shipper's household goods after the officer determines that the shipper has tendered payment in accordance with ss. 507.065 and 507.066 of the amount of a written estimate or contract, or after the officer determines that the mover did not produce a signed estimate or contract for service upon which demand is being made for payment, is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. A mover's compliance with an order from a law enforcement officer to relinquish household goods to a shipper is not a waiver or finding of fact regarding any right to seek further payment from the shipper.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (1), any person or business that violates this chapter commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
 - Section 13. Section 507.14, Florida Statutes, is created



504 to read:

> 507.14 Rulemaking.—The department shall adopt rules to administer this chapter.

Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

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======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========

510 And the title is amended as follows:

> Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to household moving services; amending s. 507.01, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 507.02, F.S.; clarifying intent; amending s. 507.04, F.S.; removing a prohibition that a mover may not limit its liability for the loss or damage of household goods to a specified valuation rate; removing a requirement that a mover disclose a liability limitation when the mover limits its liability for a shipper's goods; requiring a mover to offer valuation coverage to compensate a shipper for the loss or damage of the shipper's household goods that are lost or damaged during a household move; requiring the valuation coverage to indemnify the shipper for at least the cost of replacement goods less depreciated value; revising the time at which the mover must disclose the terms of the coverage to the shipper in writing; revising the information that the disclosure must provide to the shipper; amending s. 507.05, F.S.; requiring a mover to conduct a physical survey and

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provide a binding estimate in certain circumstances unless waived by the shipper; requiring specified content for the binding estimate; authorizing the mover to provide a maximum one-time fee for providing a binding estimate; requiring the mover and shipper to sign the estimate; requiring the mover to provide the shipper with a copy of the estimate at the time of signature; providing that a binding estimate may only be amended under certain circumstances; authorizing a mover to charge more than the binding estimate in certain circumstances; requiring a mover to allow a shipper to consider whether additional services are needed; requiring a mover to retain a copy of the binding estimate for a specified period; requiring a mover to provide a contract for service to the shipper before providing moving or accessorial services; requiring a driver to have possession of the contract before leaving the point of origin; requiring a mover to retain a contract of service for a specified period; creating s. 507.054, F.S.; requiring the department to prepare a publication that summarizes the rights and responsibilities of, and remedies available to, movers and shippers; requiring the publication to meet certain specifications; creating s. 507.055, F.S.; requiring a mover to provide certain disclosures to a prospective shipper; amending s. 507.06, F.S.; requiring a mover to tender household goods for delivery on the agreed upon delivery date or within a specified period unless waived by the

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shipper; requiring a mover to notify and provide certain information to a shipper if the mover is unable to perform delivery on the agreed upon date or during the specified period; creating s. 507.065, F.S.; providing a maximum amount that a mover may charge a shipper; requiring a mover to bill a shipper for certain amounts within a specified period; creating s. 507.066, F.S.; specifying the amount of payment that the mover may collect upon delivery of partially lost or destroyed household goods; requiring a mover to determine the proportion of lost or destroyed household goods; prohibiting a mover from collecting or requiring a shipper to pay any charges other than specific valuation rate charges if a household goods shipment is totally lost or destroyed in transit; amending s. 507.07, F.S.; providing that it is a violation of ch. 507, F.S., to fail to comply with specified provisions; providing that it is a violation of ch. 507, F.S., to increase the contracted cost for moving services in certain circumstances; conforming a provision to a change made by this act; amending s. 507.09, F.S.; requiring the department, upon verification by certain entities, to immediately suspend a registration or the processing of an application for a registration in certain circumstances; amending s. 507.11, F.S.; providing criminal penalties; creating s. 507.14, F.S.; requiring the department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.