By the Committee on Education; and Senator Galvano

581-02334-18 20181172c1 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Hope Scholarship Program; 3 creating s. 1002.40, F.S.; establishing the Hope 4 Scholarship Program; providing the purpose of the 5 program; defining terms; providing eligibility 6 requirements; prohibiting the payment of a scholarship 7 under certain circumstances; requiring a principal to 8 provide copies of a report of physical violence or 9 emotional abuse to certain individuals within a 10 specified timeframe; requiring the principal to 11 investigate such incidents; requiring a school district to notify an eligible student's parent of the 12 13 program under certain circumstances; requiring a school district to provide certain information 14 15 relating to the statewide assessment program; providing requirements and obligations for eligible 16 17 private schools; providing Department of Education 18 obligations relating to participating students and 19 private schools and program requirements; providing 20 Commissioner of Education obligations; requiring the 21 commissioner to deny, suspend, or revoke a private 22 school's participation in the program or the payment 23 of scholarship funds under certain circumstances; 24 defining the term "owner or operator"; providing a process for review of a decision from the commissioner 25 under certain circumstances; providing for the release 2.6 27 of personally identifiable student information under 28 certain circumstances; providing parent and student 29 responsibilities for initial and continued

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30	participation in the program; providing nonprofit
31	scholarship-funding organization obligations;
32	providing for the calculation of the scholarship
33	amount; providing the scholarship amount for students
34	transferred to certain public schools; requiring
35	verification of specified information before a
36	scholarship may be disbursed; providing requirements
37	for the scholarship payments; providing funds for
38	administrative expenses for certain nonprofit
39	scholarship-funding organizations; providing
40	requirements for administrative expenses; prohibiting
41	a nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from
42	charging an application fee; providing Auditor General
43	obligations; providing requirements for taxpayer
44	elections to contribute to the program; requiring the
45	Department of Revenue to adopt forms to administer the
46	program; providing requirements for certain agents of
47	the Department of Revenue and motor vehicle dealers;
48	providing reporting requirements for nonprofit
49	scholarship-funding organizations relating to taxpayer
50	contributions; providing penalties; providing for the
51	restitution of specified funds under certain
52	circumstances; providing the state is not liable for
53	the award or use of program funds; prohibiting
54	additional regulations for private schools
55	participating in the program beyond those necessary to
56	enforce program requirements; requiring the State
57	Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the
58	program; creating s. 212.1832, F.S.; authorizing

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59	certain persons to elect to direct certain state sales
60	and use tax revenue to be transferred to a nonprofit
61	scholarship-funding organization for the Hope
62	Scholarship Program; amending s. 1002.01, F.S.;
63	revising and defining terms; amending s. 1002.20;
64	updating educational options and terminology; amending
65	s. 1003.01, F.S.; redefining the term "regular school
66	attendance"; amending ss. 1002.385, 1002.39, 1002.395,
67	and 1003.26, F.S.; conforming cross-references and
68	provisions to changes made by the act; updating
69	terminology; repealing ch. 623, F.S., relating to
70	private school corporations, on a specified date;
71	amending s. 212.08, F.S.; conforming a cross-
72	reference; repealing s. 1002.43, F.S., relating to
73	private tutoring programs; authorizing the Department
74	of Revenue to adopt emergency rules for specified
75	purposes; providing effective dates.
76	
77	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
78	
79	Section 1. Section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, is created to
80	read:
81	1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program
82	(1) PURPOSE.—The Hope Scholarship Program is established to
83	provide the parent of a public school student who was the victim
84	of a substantiated incident of violence or abuse, as listed in
85	subsection (3), an opportunity to transfer the student to
86	another public school or to request and receive from the state a
87	scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend an eligible

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581-02334-18 20181172c1 88 private school. 89 (2) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term: (a) "Department" means the Department of Education. 90 91 (b) "Eligible contribution" or "contribution" means a 92 monetary contribution from a person required to pay sales and 93 use tax on the purchase or acquisition of a motor vehicle, 94 subject to the restrictions provided in this section, to an 95 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization. The 96 taxpayer making the contribution may not designate a specific 97 student as the beneficiary of the contribution. (c) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization" 98 99 or "organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(f), as determined by the department. 100 101 (d) "Eligible private school" has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(g), as determined by the department. 102 103 (e) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in s. 104 320.01(1)(a), but does not include heavy trucks, truck tractors, 105 trailers, and motorcycles. 106 (f) "Parent" means a resident of this state who is a 107 parent, as defined in s. 1000.21, and whose public school 108 student was the victim of a reported incident, as listed in 109 subsection (3). 110 (g) "Program" means the Hope Scholarship Program. 111 (h) "School" includes any educational program or activity 112 conducted by a public K-12 educational institution, any school-113 related or school-sponsored program or activity, and riding on a 114 school bus, as defined in s. 1006.25(1), including waiting at a 115 school bus stop. (i) "Unweighted FTE funding amount" means the statewide 116

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117	average total funds per unweighted full-time equivalent funding
118	amount that is incorporated by reference in the General
119	Appropriations Act for the applicable state fiscal year.
120	(3) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITYBeginning with the 2018-2019
121	school year, contingent upon available funds, and on a first-
122	come, first-served basis, a student enrolled full time in a
123	Florida public school in kindergarten through grade 12 is
124	eligible for a scholarship under this program if all of the
125	following conditions are met:
126	(a) The student is the victim of a substantiated incident
127	of battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical
128	attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault, or
129	battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school.
130	(b) The incident is formally reported by the victim or the
131	victim's parent to the principal.
132	(c) Through an investigation, the principal finds that the
133	incident is substantiated.
134	(d) The principal's investigation remains open or the
135	district's resolution of issues related to the incident remain
136	unresolved after timely notification, deliberative evaluation,
137	and 30 days of responsible and appropriate action taken in
138	accordance with paragraph (5)(a).
139	(4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONSPayment of a scholarship may not
140	be made if a student is:
141	(a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not limited
142	to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the College-
143	Preparatory Boarding Academy; the Florida Virtual School; a
144	developmental research school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a
145	charter school authorized under s. 1002.33, s. 1002.331, s.

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146	<u>1002.332, or s. 1002.333;</u>
147	(b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
148	providing educational services to youth in the Department of
149	Juvenile Justice commitment programs;
150	(c) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence
151	school, or distance learning program that receives state funding
152	pursuant to the student's participation unless the participation
153	is limited to no more than two courses per school year;
154	(d) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant to
155	this chapter; or
156	(e) Participating in a home education program, as defined
157	in s. 1002.01.
158	(5) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS
159	(a)1. Within 24 hours after receipt of a formal report of
160	an incident listed in subsection (3)(a), the principal shall
161	provide a copy of the report to the victim's parent and the
162	alleged offender's parent. The report must include a statement
163	of the expected investigative actions and the timeline for
164	reporting the outcome of the investigation. Within 24 hours
165	after receipt of the formal report, the principal must also
166	provide the superintendent with a copy of the report and
167	verification that the parents of the victim and the alleged
168	offender have been provided a copy of the incident report and
169	other required information.
170	2. In accordance with s. 1006.09, the principal must
171	investigate the incident to determine if the incident is
172	substantiated or unsubstantiated, and if the incident must be
173	reported. The principal may, at his or her discretion, determine
174	the extent to which each student was engaged in instigating,

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204	accountable scholarship payments, school districts must report
205	and verify student enrollment information during and outside of
206	regular FTE student enrollment survey periods, as requested by
207	the department pursuant to paragraph (7)(d).
208	(b)1. A parent who, pursuant to s. 1002.31, chooses to
209	enroll his or her student in a Florida public school located
210	outside the district in which the student resides shall be
211	eligible for a scholarship under paragraph (11)(b) to transport
212	the student.
213	2. For each student participating in the program in a
214	private school who chooses to participate in the statewide
215	assessments under s. 1008.22 or the Florida Alternate
216	Assessment, the school district in which the student resides
217	must notify the student and his or her parent about the
218	locations and times to take all statewide assessments.
219	(6) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONSAn eligible
220	private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and shall:
221	(a) Meet the definition of a private school in s. 1002.01
222	and comply with all requirements for private schools
223	participating in state school choice scholarship programs
224	pursuant to this section and s. 1002.421.
225	(b) Provide to the organization and the department, upon
226	request, all documentation required for the student's
227	participation, including, but not limited to, the private
228	school's and the student's fee schedules.
229	(c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting
230	the educational needs of the student by:
231	1. At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a written
232	explanation of the student's progress.

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233	2. Annually administering or making provision for students
234	participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one
235	of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the
236	department or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.
237	Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not
238	appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating
239	private school shall report a student's scores to his or her
240	parent.
241	3. Cooperating with the student whose parent chooses to
242	have the student participate in the statewide assessments
243	pursuant to s. 1008.22 or, if a private school chooses to offer
244	the statewide assessments, administering the assessments at the
245	school.
246	a. A participating private school may choose to offer and
247	administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend
248	the private school in grades 3 through 10.
249	b. A participating private school shall submit a request in
250	writing to the department by March 1 of each year in order to
251	administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school
252	<u>year.</u>
253	(d) Employ or contract with teachers who have regular and
254	direct contact with each student receiving a scholarship under
255	this section at the school's physical location.
256	(e) Maintain in this state a physical location where a
257	scholarship student regularly attends classes.
258	(f) Provide a report from an independent certified public
259	accountant who performs the agreed-upon procedures developed
260	under s. 1002.395(6)(o) if the private school receives more than
261	\$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this section

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262	in a state fiscal year. A private school subject to this
263	paragraph must annually submit the report by September 15 to the
264	organization that awarded the majority of the school's
265	scholarship funds. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted
266	in accordance with attestation standards established by the
267	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
268	
269	The failure of a private school to meet the requirements of this
270	subsection constitutes a basis for the ineligibility of the
271	private school to participate in the program, as determined by
272	the department.
273	(7) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONSThe department
274	shall:
275	(a) Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents and
276	private schools with information on participation in the
277	program.
278	(b) Annually verify the eligibility of private schools that
279	meet the requirements of subsection (6).
280	(c) Require an annual notarized and sworn compliance
281	statement by participating private schools certifying compliance
282	with state laws and retain such records.
283	(d) Cross-check the list of participating students with the
284	public school enrollment lists and participation lists in other
285	scholarship programs established under this chapter before each
286	scholarship payment to avoid duplication.
287	(e) Maintain a list of nationally norm-referenced tests
288	identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement in
289	paragraph (9)(f). The tests must meet industry standards of
290	quality in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

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291	(f) Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit
292	scholarship-funding organization regarding the number of
293	students participating in the scholarship program, the private
294	schools in which the students are enrolled, and other
295	information deemed necessary by the department.
296	(g) Contract with an independent entity to provide an
297	annual evaluation of the program by:
298	1. Reviewing the school climate and code of student conduct
299	of each public school that reported the occurrence of a monthly
300	average of 10 or more substantiated incidents to determine areas
301	in the school or school district procedures involving reporting,
302	investigating, and communicating a parent's and student's rights
303	which are in need of improvement. At a minimum, the review must
304	include:
305	a. An assessment of the investigation time and quality of
306	the response of the school and the school district;
307	b. An assessment of the effectiveness of communication
308	procedures with the students involved in an incident, the
309	students' parents, and the school and school district personnel;
310	c. An analysis of school incident and discipline data; and
311	d. The challenges and obstacles relating to implementing
312	recommendations from this review.
313	2. Reviewing the school climate and code of student conduct
314	of each public school a student transferred to if the student
315	was from a school identified in subparagraph 1. in order to
316	identify best practices and make recommendations to a public
317	school at which the incidents occurred.
318	3. Reviewing the performance of participating students
319	enrolled in a private school in which the majority of the

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320	school's total enrolled students in the prior school year
321	participated in one or more scholarship programs, as defined in
322	s. 1002.01, in which there are at least 10 participating
323	students who have scores for tests administered; and reviewing
324	the school climate and code of student conduct of the private
325	school if one or more scholarship participants were involved in
326	a reported incident at the school during the prior school year.
327	4. Surveying the parents of participating students to
328	determine academic, safety, and school climate satisfaction and
329	to identify any challenges or obstacles in addressing the
330	incident or relating to the use of the scholarship.
331	(h) Upon the request of a participating private school,
332	provide at no cost to the school the statewide assessments
333	administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
334	administering the assessments. Students at a private school may
335	be assessed using the statewide assessments if the addition of
336	those students and the school does not cause the state to exceed
337	its contractual caps for the number of students tested and the
338	number of testing sites. The state shall provide the same
339	materials and support to a private school that it provides to a
340	public school. A private school that chooses to administer
341	statewide assessments under s. 1008.22 shall follow the
342	requirements set forth in ss. 1008.22 and 1008.24, rules adopted
343	by the State Board of Education to implement those sections, and
344	district-level testing policies established by the district
345	school board.
346	(i) Establish a process by which individuals may notify the
347	department of any violation by a parent, private school, or
348	school district of state laws relating to program participation.

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349	The department shall conduct an inquiry or make a referral to
350	the appropriate agency for an investigation of any written
351	complaint of a violation of this section if the complaint is
352	signed by the complainant and is legally sufficient. A complaint
353	is legally sufficient if such complaint contains ultimate facts
354	that show that a violation of this section or any rule adopted
355	by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section has
356	occurred. In order to determine legal sufficiency, the
357	department may require supporting information or documentation
358	from the complainant. A department inquiry is not subject to the
359	requirements of chapter 120.
360	(j)1. Conduct site visits to participating private schools.
361	The purpose of the site visits is solely to verify the
362	information reported by the schools concerning the enrollment
363	and attendance of students, the credentials of teachers,
364	background screening of teachers, teachers' fingerprinting
365	results, and other conditions required pursuant to s. 1002.421
366	and this section. The department may not make more than seven
367	site visits each year; however, the department may make
368	additional site visits at any time to a school that is the
369	subject of a violation complaint submitted pursuant to paragraph
370	(i), is identified by an organization for a known or suspected
371	violation, or has received a notice of noncompliance or a notice
372	of proposed action within the current year or the previous 2
373	years.
374	2. Annually, by December 15, report to the Governor, the
375	President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
376	Representatives the department's actions with respect to
377	implementing accountability in the program under this section

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378	and s. 1002.421, any substantiated allegations or violations of
379	law or rule by an eligible private school under this program and
380	the corrective action taken by the department.
381	(8) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS
382	(a) The Commissioner of Education:
383	1. Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's
384	participation in the program if it is determined that the
385	private school has failed to comply with the provisions of this
386	section. However, if the noncompliance is correctable within a
387	reasonable amount of time and if the health, safety, or welfare
388	of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may issue a
389	notice of noncompliance which provides the private school with a
390	timeframe within which to provide evidence of compliance before
391	taking action to suspend or revoke the private school's
392	participation in the program.
393	2. May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's
394	participation in the program if the commissioner determines that
395	an owner or operator of the private school is operating or has
396	operated an educational institution in this state or in another
397	state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary to the health,
398	safety, or welfare of the public.
399	a. In making such a determination, the commissioner may
400	consider factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or
401	omissions by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial
402	or revocation of participation in an education scholarship
403	program; an owner's or operator's failure to reimburse the
404	department for scholarship funds improperly received or retained
405	by a school; imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to
406	an owner's or operator's management or operation of an

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407	educational institution; imposition of a civil fine or
408	administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or
409	program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation
410	related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of
411	an educational institution; or other types of criminal
412	proceedings in which an owner or operator was found guilty of,
413	regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere
414	or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty,
415	or moral turpitude.
416	b. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "owner or
417	operator" includes an owner, operator, superintendent, or
418	principal of, or a person who has equivalent decisionmaking
419	authority over, a private school participating in the
420	scholarship program.
421	(b) The commissioner's determination is subject to the
422	following:
423	1. If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke
424	a private school's participation in the program, the department
425	shall notify the private school of such proposed action in
426	writing by certified mail and regular mail to the private
427	school's address of record with the department. The notification
428	shall include the reasons for the proposed action and notice of
429	the timelines and procedures set forth in this paragraph.
430	2. The private school that is adversely affected by the
431	proposed action shall have 15 days after receipt of the notice
432	of proposed action to file with the department's agency clerk a
433	request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If
434	the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1),
435	the department shall refer the request to the Division of

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436	Administrative Hearings.
437	3. Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this
438	paragraph, the director of the Division of Administrative
439	Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative
440	law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the
441	receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter
442	a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within
443	30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is
444	later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit
445	written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall
446	be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a
447	recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be
448	waived upon stipulation by all parties.
449	(c) The commissioner may immediately suspend payment of
450	scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable
451	cause to believe that there is:
452	1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of
453	the students; or
454	2. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school.
455	Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent
456	activity pursuant to this section, the department's Office of
457	Inspector General is authorized to release personally
458	identifiable records or reports of students to the following
459	persons or organizations:
460	a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an
461	order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with
462	a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family
463	Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.
464	b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent

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465	jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the
466	attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena,
467	consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,
468	<u>20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.</u>
469	c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for
470	law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency
471	has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena
472	or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be
473	disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and
474	Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.
475	
476	The commissioner's suspension of payment pursuant to this
477	paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and
478	timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in
479	paragraph (b).
480	(9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
481	PARTICIPATIONA parent who applies for a Hope Scholarship is
482	exercising his or her parental option to place his or her
483	student in an eligible private school.
484	(a) The parent must select an eligible private school and
485	apply for the admission of his or her student.
486	(b) The parent must inform the student's school district
487	when the parent withdraws his or her student to attend an
488	eligible private school.
489	(c) Any student participating in the program must comply
490	with the regular attendance requirements of s. 1003.01(13) and
491	remain in attendance throughout the school year unless excused
492	by the school for illness or other good cause.
493	(d) Each parent and each student has an obligation to the

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581-02334-18 20181172c1 494 private school to comply with the private school's published 495 policies. 496 (e) Upon reasonable notice to the department and the school 497 district, the parent may remove the student from the private 498 school and place the student in a public school in accordance 499 with this section. 500 (f) The parent must ensure that the student participating 501 in the program takes the norm-referenced assessment offered by 502 the private school. The parent may also choose to have the 503 student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 504 1008.22. If the parent requests that the student participating 505 in the program take the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 506 1008.22 and the private school has not chosen to offer and 507 administer the statewide assessments, the parent is responsible 508 for transporting the student to the assessment site designated 509 by the school district. 510 (g) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent to 511 whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the warrant 512 to the private school for deposit into the account of the 513 private school. The parent may not designate any entity or 514 individual associated with the participating private school as 515 the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant. 516 A parent who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits the 517 scholarship. 518 (10) OBLIGATIONS OF NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING 519 ORGANIZATIONS. - An organization may establish scholarships for 520 eligible students by: 521 (a) Receiving applications and determining student 522 eligibility in accordance with the requirements of this section.

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523	(b) Notifying parents of their receipt of a scholarship on
524	a first-come, first-served basis, based upon available funds.
525	(c) Preparing and submitting quarterly and annual reports
526	to the department pursuant to paragraphs (7)(f) and (g). In
527	addition, an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
528	must submit in a timely manner any information requested by the
529	department relating to the scholarship program.
530	(d) Notifying the department of any known or suspected
531	violation of this section by a private school, parent, or
532	student.
533	(11) FUNDING AND PAYMENT
534	(a) The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in an
535	eligible private school shall be determined as a percentage of
536	the unweighted FTE funding amount for that state fiscal year and
537	thereafter as follows:
538	1. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in
539	kindergarten through grade 5.
540	2. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6
541	through grade 8.
542	3. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9
543	through grade 12.
544	(b) The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in a
545	Florida public school located outside of the district in which
546	the student resides shall be \$750.
547	(c) When a student enters the program, the organization
548	must receive all documentation required for the student's
549	participation, including a copy of the report of the
550	substantiated incident received pursuant to subsection (5) and
551	the private school's and the student's fee schedules. The

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552	initial payment shall be made after verification of admission
553	acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon
554	verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the
555	private school.
556	(d) Payment of the scholarship by the eligible nonprofit
557	scholarship-funding organization shall be by individual warrant
558	made payable to the student's parent. If the parent chooses that
559	his or her student attend an eligible private school, the
560	warrant must be delivered by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
561	funding organization to the private school of the parent's
562	choice, and the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant
563	to the private school.
564	(e) An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
565	shall obtain verification from the private school of a student's
566	continued attendance at the school for each period covered by a
567	scholarship payment.
568	(f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the
569	eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less
570	frequently than on a quarterly basis.
571	(g) An organization may use up to 3 percent of eligible
572	contributions received during the state fiscal year in which
573	such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if
574	the organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit
575	scholarship-funding organization for at least the preceding 3
576	fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness
577	or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under s.
578	1002.395(6)(m). Such administrative expenses must be reasonable
579	and necessary for the organization's management and distribution
580	of eligible contributions under this section. Funds authorized

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581	under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or political
582	activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity.
583	Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative
584	expenses under this paragraph may be used for expenses related
585	to the recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. An eligible
586	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge an
587	application fee.
588	(h) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
589	constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her
590	parent.
591	(12) OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
592	(a) The Auditor General shall conduct an annual operational
593	audit of accounts and records of each organization that
594	participates in the program. As part of this audit, the Auditor
595	General shall verify, at a minimum, the total number of students
596	served and transmit that information to the department. The
597	Auditor General shall provide the commissioner with a copy of
598	each annual operational audit performed pursuant to this
599	subsection within 10 days after the audit is finalized.
600	(b) The Auditor General shall notify the department of any
601	organization that fails to comply with a request for
602	information.
603	(13) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING TAX CREDITS
604	(a) A tax credit is available under s. 212.1832 for use by
605	a taxpayer that makes an eligible contribution to the program.
606	Each eligible contribution is limited to a single payment of $$20$
607	at the time of purchase of a motor vehicle or a single payment
608	of \$20 at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that was
609	not purchased from a dealer. An eligible contribution shall be

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610	accompanied by an election to contribute to the program and
611	shall be made by the purchaser at the time of purchase or at the
612	time of registration on a form provided by the Department of
613	Revenue. Payments of contributions shall be made to a dealer, as
614	defined in chapter 212, at the time of purchase of a motor
615	vehicle or to an agent of the Department of Revenue, as
616	designated by s. 212.06(10), at the time of registration of a
617	motor vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer.
618	(b) A tax collector or any person or firm authorized to
619	sell or issue a motor vehicle license who is designated as an
620	agent of the Department of Revenue pursuant to s. 212.06(10) or
621	who is a dealer shall:
622	1. Provide the purchaser the contribution election form, as
623	prescribed by the Department of Revenue, at the time of purchase
624	of a motor vehicle or at the time of registration of a motor
625	vehicle that was not purchased from a dealer.
626	2. Collect eligible contributions.
627	3. Using a form provided by the Department of Revenue,
628	which shall include the dealer's or agent's federal employer
629	identification number, remit to an organization on or before the
630	20th day of each month the total amount of contributions made to
631	that organization and collected during the preceding calendar
632	month.
633	4. Report on each return filed with the Department of
634	Revenue the total amount of credits allowed under s. 212.1832
635	during the preceding calendar month.
636	(c) An organization shall report to the Department of
637	Revenue, on or before the 20th day of each month, the total
638	amount of contributions received pursuant to paragraph (b) in

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639	the preceding calendar month on a form provided by the
640	Department of Revenue. Such report shall include the federal
641	employer identification number of each tax collector, authorized
642	agent of the Department of Revenue, or dealer who remitted
643	contributions to the organization during that reporting period.
644	(d) A person who, with intent to unlawfully deprive or
645	defraud the program of its moneys or the use or benefit thereof,
646	fails to remit a contribution collected under this section is
647	guilty of theft of charitable funds, punishable as follows:
648	1. If the total amount stolen is less than \$300, the
649	offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
650	provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a second conviction,
651	the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree,
652	punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a third
653	or subsequent conviction, the offender is guilty of a felony of
654	the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
655	775.083, or s. 775.084.
656	2. If the total amount stolen is \$300 or more, but less
657	than \$20,000, the offense is a felony of the third degree,
658	punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
659	3. If the total amount stolen is \$20,000 or more, but less
660	than \$100,000, the offense is a felony of the second degree,
661	punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
662	4. If the total amount stolen is \$100,000 or more, the
663	offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided
664	in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
665	(e) A person convicted of an offense under paragraph (d)
666	shall be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to
667	the organization in the amount that was stolen from the program.

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668	(14) LIABILITYThe state is not liable for the award or
669	any use of awarded funds under this section.
670	(15) SCOPE OF AUTHORITYThis section does not expand the
671	regulatory authority of this state, its officers, or any school
672	district to impose additional regulation on participating
673	private schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce
674	requirements expressly set forth in this section.
675	(16) RULESThe State Board of Education shall adopt rules
676	to administer this section.
677	Section 2. Section 212.1832, Florida Statutes, is created
678	to read:
679	212.1832 Credit for contributions to the Hope Scholarship
680	Program.—
681	(1) There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible
682	contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
683	organization under s. 1002.40 against any tax imposed by the
684	state and due under this chapter as a result of the purchase or
685	acquisition of a motor vehicle. The credit may not exceed the
686	tax otherwise owed.
687	(2) For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under
688	s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits
689	allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax
690	revenue received that is attributable to the tax credits results
691	only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue
692	Fund. The provisions of s. 1002.40 apply to the credit
693	authorized by this section.
694	Section 3. Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
695	read:
696	1002.01 Definitions

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697	(1) A "home education program" means the sequentially
698	progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her
699	parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss.
700	1002.41, 1003.01(13), and 1003.21(1).
701	(2) A "private school" is a nonpublic school that is
702	registered in accordance with s. 1002.42 and is defined as an
703	individual, association, copartnership, or corporation, or
704	department, division, or section of such organizations, that
705	designates itself as an educational center that includes
706	kindergarten or a higher grade or as an elementary, secondary,
707	business, technical, or trade school below college level or any
708	organization that provides instructional services that meet the
709	intent of s. 1003.01(13) or that gives preemployment or
710	supplementary training in technology or in fields of trade or
711	industry or that offers academic, literary, or career training
712	below college level, or any combination of the above, including
713	an institution that performs the functions of the above schools
714	through correspondence or extension, except those licensed under
715	the provisions of chapter 1005. A private school may be a
716	parochial, religious, denominational, for-profit, or nonprofit
717	school attended by a student in order to satisfy the attendance
718	requirements of s. 1003.01(13). This definition does not include
719	home education programs conducted in accordance with s. 1002.41.
720	(3) For purposes of this chapter, a "scholarship program"
721	means any one of the following:
722	(a) The Opportunity Scholarship Program established
723	pursuant to s. 1002.38.
724	(b) The Gardiner Scholarship Program established pursuant
725	<u>to s. 1002.385.</u>

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726	(c) The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
727	Disabilities Program established pursuant to s. 1002.39.
728	(d) The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program established
729	pursuant to s. 1002.395.
730	(e) The Hope Scholarship Program established pursuant to s.
731	1002.40.
732	Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and subsection
733	(6) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
734	1002.20 K-12 student and parent rightsParents of public
735	school students must receive accurate and timely information
736	regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
737	of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
738	students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
739	rights including, but not limited to, the following:
740	(2) ATTENDANCE
741	(b) Regular school attendanceParents of students who have
742	attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year but
743	who have not attained the age of 16 years must comply with the
744	compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have the option to
745	comply with the school attendance laws by attendance of the
746	student in a public school; a <u>private</u> parochial, religious, or
747	denominational school; a private school; <u>or</u> a home education
748	program ; or a private tutoring program , in accordance with the
749	provisions of s. 1003.01(13).
750	(6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.—
751	(a) Public educational school choicesParents of public
752	school students may seek any public educational school choice
753	options that are applicable and available to students throughout
754	the state. These options may include controlled open enrollment,

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581-02334-18 20181172c1 755 single-gender programs, lab schools, virtual instruction 756 programs, charter schools, charter technical career centers, 757 magnet schools, alternative schools, special programs, auditory-758 oral education programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, 759 International Baccalaureate, International General Certificate 760 of Secondary Education (pre-AICE), CAPE digital tools, CAPE 761 industry certifications, collegiate high school programs, 762 Advanced International Certificate of Education, early admissions, credit by examination or demonstration of 763 764 competency, the New World School of the Arts, the Florida School 765 for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Florida Virtual School. 766 These options may also include the public educational choice 767 options of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay 768 Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

(b) Private educational choices.—<u>The parent of a student</u> may choose to enroll the student in a private school, as defined in s. 1002.01(2). Parents of public school students may seek private educational choice options under certain programs.

1. Under the McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, the parent of a public school student with a disability may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend a private school in accordance with s. 1002.39.

2. Under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the parent of a student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch or who is currently placed, or during the previous state fiscal year was placed, in foster care as defined in s. 39.01 may seek a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in accordance with s. 1002.395.

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784	3. Under the <u>Gardiner Scholarship Program</u> Florida Personal
785	Learning Scholarship Accounts Program, the parent of a student
786	with a qualifying disability may apply for a <u>Gardiner</u>
787	<u>Scholarship</u> personal learning scholarship to be used for
788	individual educational needs in accordance with s. 1002.385.
789	4. Under the Hope Scholarship Program, the parent of a
790	student who was the victim of a substantiated incident of
791	violence or abuse while attending a public school may seek a
792	scholarship for the student to attend a private school in
793	accordance with s. 1002.40.
794	(c) Home educationThe parent of a student may choose to
795	place the student in a home education program, as defined in s.
796	1002.01(1), in accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.41.
797	(d) Private tutoring. The parent of a student may choose to
798	place the student in a private tutoring program in accordance
799	with the provisions of s. 1002.43(1).
800	Section 5. Subsection (13) of section 1003.01, Florida
801	Statutes, is amended to read:
802	1003.01 DefinitionsAs used in this chapter, the term:
803	(13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
804	attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law
805	and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance
806	within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by <u>a student's</u>
807	full-time attendance in one of the following options:
808	(a) A public school supported by public funds <u>, including,</u>
809	but not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the
810	Blind, the Florida Virtual School, a developmental research
811	school, and a charter school established pursuant to chapter
812	<u>1002.</u> ;

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813	(b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
814	(b) (c) A private school, as defined in s. 1002.01(2) and in
815	compliance with s. 1002.42, including, but not limited to, a
816	private parochial, religious, or denominational school; and a
817	private school supported in whole or in part by tuition charges
818	or by endowments or gifts. This option includes an eligible
819	private school in which a student attends as a participant in a
820	<pre>scholarship program, as defined in s. 1002.01(3).;</pre>
821	(c) (d) A home education program, as defined in s.
822	1002.01(1), which that meets the requirements of chapter 1002. $\dot{\cdot}$
823	or
824	(e) A private tutoring program that meets the requirements
825	of chapter 1002.
826	Section 6. Paragraphs (d) and (h) of subsection (5) and
827	paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.385, Florida
828	Statutes, are amended to read:
829	1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship
830	(5) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDSProgram funds must be
831	used to meet the individual educational needs of an eligible
832	student and may be spent for the following purposes:
833	(d) Enrollment in, or tuition or fees associated with
834	enrollment in, a home education program, an eligible private
835	school, an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a
836	program offered by the institution, a private tutoring program
837	authorized under s. 1002.43, a virtual program offered by a
838	department-approved private online provider that meets the
839	provider qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a), the
840	Florida Virtual School as a private paying student, or an
841	approved online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s.

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843 (h) Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services 844 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's 845 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds an 846 adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; or a person 847 who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge 848 pursuant to s. 1012.56(5). As used in this paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school 849 850 attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(13) s. 1003.01(13)(e).

A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this subsection may not share, refund, or rebate any moneys from the Gardiner Scholarship with the parent or participating student in any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the same services that are paid for using Gardiner Scholarship funds.

859 (11) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM 860 PARTICIPATION.-A parent who applies for program participation 861 under this section is exercising his or her parental option to 862 determine the appropriate placement or the services that best 863 meet the needs of his or her child. The scholarship award for a 864 student is based on a matrix that assigns the student to support 865 Level III services. If a parent receives an IEP and a matrix of 866 services from the school district pursuant to subsection (7), 867 the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed, when the 868 school district completes the matrix.

869 (a) To satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including870 eligibility to receive and spend program payments, the parent

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871	must sign an agreement with the organization and annually submit
872	a notarized, sworn compliance statement to the organization to:
873	1. Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that
874	meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in <u>s.</u>
875	<u>1003.01(13)(b) or (c)</u> s. 1003.01(13)(b)-(d) .
876	2. Affirm that the program funds are used only for
877	authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as
878	described in subsection (5).
879	3. Affirm that the parent is responsible for the education
880	of his or her student by, as applicable:
881	a. Requiring the student to take an assessment in
882	accordance with paragraph (8)(c);
883	b. Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s.
884	1002.41(1)(c); or
885	c. Requiring the child to take any preassessments and
886	postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years
887	of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible
888	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student
889	with disabilities for whom a preassessment and postassessment is
890	not appropriate is exempt from this requirement. A participating
891	provider shall report a student's scores to the parent.
892	4. Affirm that the student remains in good standing with
893	the provider or school if those options are selected by the
894	parent.
895	
896	A parent who fails to comply with this subsection forfeits the
897	Gardiner Scholarship.
898	Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 1002.39, Florida
899	Statutes, is amended to read:
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900	1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
901	Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is
902	separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program
903	and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
904	Disabilities Program.
905	(3) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONSA student is
906	not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship:
907	(a) While he or she is enrolled in a school operating for
908	the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
909	Department of Juvenile Justice commitment programs;
910	(b) While he or she is receiving a Florida tax credit
911	scholarship under s. 1002.395;
912	(c) While he or she is receiving an educational scholarship
913	pursuant to this chapter;
914	(d) While he or she is participating in a home education
915	program as defined in s. 1002.01(1);
916	(e) While he or she is participating in a private tutoring
917	program pursuant to s. 1002.43;
918	<u>(e)</u> (f) While he or she is participating in a virtual
919	school, correspondence school, or distance learning program that
920	receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation
921	unless the participation is limited to no more than two courses
922	per school year;
923	<u>(f)</u> While he or she is enrolled in the Florida School
924	for the Deaf and the Blind;
925	(g) (h) While he or she is not having regular and direct
926	contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's
927	physical location unless he or she is enrolled in the private
928	<pre>school's transition-to-work program pursuant to subsection (10);</pre>
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929	or
930	<u>(h) (i)</u> If he or she has been issued a temporary 504
931	accommodation plan under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
932	1973 which is valid for 6 months or less.
933	Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 1002.395, Florida
934	Statutes, is amended to read:
935	1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—
936	(4) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for
937	a scholarship while he or she is:
938	(a) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
939	providing educational services to youth in Department of
940	Juvenile Justice commitment programs;
941	(b) Receiving a scholarship from another eligible nonprofit
942	scholarship-funding organization under this section;
943	(c) Receiving an educational scholarship pursuant to
944	chapter 1002;
945	(d) Participating in a home education program as defined in
946	s. 1002.01(1);
947	(c) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to
948	s. 1002.43;
949	<u>(e) (f)</u> Participating in a virtual school, correspondence
950	school, or distance learning program that receives state funding
951	pursuant to the student's participation unless the participation
952	is limited to no more than two courses per school year; or
953	<u>(f)</u> Enrolled in the Florida School for the Deaf and the
954	Blind.
955	Section 9. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
956	1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
957	1003.26 Enforcement of school attendanceThe Legislature
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581-02334-18 20181172c1 958 finds that poor academic performance is associated with 959 nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role 960 in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving 961 student performance. It is the policy of the state that each 962 district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing 963 school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory 964 school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of 965 school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The 966 responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to the district school board that require public schools to respond 967 968 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence 969 for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the 970 schools. District school board policies shall require the parent 971 of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that 972 justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school 973 board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The 974 policies must provide that public schools track excused and 975 unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an 976 unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for 977 which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of 978 patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early 979 intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of 980 producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved 981 student learning and achievement. Each public school shall 982 implement the following steps to promote and enforce regular 983 school attendance: 984 (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.-

985 (f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as 986 exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a

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987	home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district
988	school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s.
989	1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph.
990	The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent
991	to a home education review committee composed of the district
992	contact for home education programs and at least two home
993	educators selected by the parent from a district list of all
994	home educators who have conducted a home education program for
995	at least 3 years and who have indicated a willingness to serve
996	on the committee. The home education review committee shall
997	review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s. 1002.41,
998	every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until
999	the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in
1000	compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b). The first portfolio review
1001	must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the
1002	establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2.
1003	do not apply once the committee determines the home education
1004	program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).
1005	2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the
1006	committee, the committee shall notify the district school

committee, the committee shall notify the district school 1006 1007 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then 1008 terminate the home education program and require the parent to 1009 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the 1010 definition of "regular school attendance" under s. 1003.01(13)(a) or (b) s. 1003.01(13)(a), (b), (c), or (e), 1011 1012 within 3 days. Upon termination of a home education program 1013 pursuant to this subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible 1014 to reenroll the child in a home education program for 180 1015 calendar days. Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an

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1016	attendance option as required by this subparagraph after
1017	termination of the home education program pursuant to this
1018	subparagraph shall constitute noncompliance with the compulsory
1019	attendance requirements of s. 1003.21 and may result in criminal
1020	prosecution under s. 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall
1021	restrict the ability of the district school superintendent, or
1022	the ability of his or her designee, to review the portfolio
1023	pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(b).
1024	Section 10. Effective July 1, 2019, chapter 623, Florida
1025	Statutes, consisting of sections 623.01, 623.02, 623.03, 623.04,
1026	<u>623.05, 623.06, 623.07, 623.08, 623.09, 623.10, 623.11, 623.12,</u>
1027	623.13, and 623.14, is repealed.
1028	Section 11. Effective July 1, 2019, subsection (13) of
1029	section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1030	212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
1031	storage tax; specified exemptionsThe sale at retail, the
1032	rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
1033	storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
1034	are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
1035	chapter.
1036	(13) No transactions shall be exempt from the tax imposed
1037	by this chapter except those expressly exempted herein. All laws
1038	granting tax exemptions, to the extent they may be inconsistent
1039	or in conflict with this chapter, including, but not limited to,
1040	the following designated laws, shall yield to and be superseded
1041	by the provisions of this subsection: ss. 125.019, 153.76,
1042	154.2331, 159.15, 159.31, 159.50, 159.708, 163.385, 163.395,
1043	215.76, 243.33, 315.11, 348.65, 348.762, 349.13, 403.1834, <u>and</u>
1044	616.07 , and 623.09 , and the following Laws of Florida, acts of

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1045	the year indicated: s. 31, chapter 30843, 1955; s. 19, chapter
1046	30845, 1955; s. 12, chapter 30927, 1955; s. 8, chapter 31179,
1047	1955; s. 15, chapter 31263, 1955; s. 13, chapter 31343, 1955; s.
1048	16, chapter 59-1653; s. 13, chapter 59-1356; s. 12, chapter 61-
1049	2261; s. 19, chapter 61-2754; s. 10, chapter 61-2686; s. 11,
1050	chapter 63-1643; s. 11, chapter 65-1274; s. 16, chapter 67-1446;
1051	and s. 10, chapter 67-1681. This subsection does not supersede
1052	the authority of a local government to adopt financial and local
1053	government incentives pursuant to s. 163.2517.
1054	Section 12. Section 1002.43, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
1055	Section 13. The Department of Revenue may, and all
1056	conditions are deemed met to, adopt emergency rules pursuant to
1057	ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, to administer ss.
1058	1002.40 and 212.1832 which are created by this act.
1059	Section 14. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1060	act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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