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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Appropriations (Perry) recommended the following:

1           **Senate Substitute for Amendment (489504) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Delete everything after the enacting clause  
5 and insert:

6           Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section  
7 20.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8           20.121 Department of Financial Services.—There is created a  
9 Department of Financial Services.

10           (2) DIVISIONS.—The Department of Financial Services shall



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11 consist of the following divisions and office:

12       (f) The Division of Public Assistance Fraud, which shall  
13 function as a criminal justice agency for purposes of ss.  
14 943.045-943.08. The division shall conduct investigations  
15 pursuant to s. 414.411 within or outside of this state as it  
16 deems necessary. If, during an investigation, the division has  
17 reason to believe that any criminal law of this state has or may  
18 have been violated, it shall refer any records tending to show  
19 such violation to state or federal law enforcement or  
20 prosecutorial agencies and shall provide investigative  
21 assistance to those agencies as required.

22       Section 2. Section 284.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
23 read:

24       284.30 State Risk Management Trust Fund; coverages to be  
25 provided.—A state self-insurance fund, designated as the "State  
26 Risk Management Trust Fund," is created to be set up by the  
27 Department of Financial Services and administered with a program  
28 of risk management, which fund is to provide insurance, as  
29 authorized by s. 284.33, for workers' compensation, general  
30 liability, fleet automotive liability, federal civil rights  
31 actions under 42 U.S.C. s. 1983 or similar federal statutes,  
32 benefits payable under s. 112.1816(2), and court-awarded  
33 attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees in other proceedings against the state  
34 except for such awards in eminent domain or for inverse  
35 condemnation or for awards by the Public Employees Relations  
36 Commission. A party to a suit in any court, to be entitled to  
37 have his or her attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees paid by the state or  
38 any of its agencies, must serve a copy of the pleading claiming  
39 the fees on the Department of Financial Services; and thereafter



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40 the department shall be entitled to participate with the agency  
41 in the defense of the suit and any appeal thereof with respect  
42 to such fees.

43 Section 3. Section 284.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
44 read:

45 284.31 Scope and types of coverages; separate accounts.—The  
46 Insurance Risk Management Trust Fund shall, unless specifically  
47 excluded by the Department of Financial Services, cover all  
48 departments of the State of Florida and their employees, agents,  
49 and volunteers and shall provide separate accounts for workers'  
50 compensation, general liability, fleet automotive liability,  
51 federal civil rights actions under 42 U.S.C. s. 1983 or similar  
52 federal statutes, benefits payable under s. 112.1816(2), and  
53 court-awarded attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees in other proceedings  
54 against the state except for such awards in eminent domain or  
55 for inverse condemnation or for awards by the Public Employees  
56 Relations Commission. Unless specifically excluded by the  
57 Department of Financial Services, the Insurance Risk Management  
58 Trust Fund shall provide fleet automotive liability coverage to  
59 motor vehicles titled to the state, or to any department of the  
60 state, when such motor vehicles are used by community  
61 transportation coordinators performing, under contract to the  
62 appropriate department of the state, services for the  
63 transportation disadvantaged under part I of chapter 427. Such  
64 fleet automotive liability coverage shall be primary and shall  
65 be subject to the provisions of s. 768.28 and parts II and III  
66 of chapter 284, and applicable rules adopted thereunder, and the  
67 terms and conditions of the certificate of coverage issued by  
68 the Department of Financial Services.



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69 Section 4. Section 284.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
70 read:

71 284.385 Reporting and handling of claims.—

72 (1) All departments covered by the State Risk Management  
73 Trust Fund under this part shall immediately report all known or  
74 potential claims to the Department of Financial Services for  
75 handling, except employment complaints which have not been filed  
76 with the Florida Human Relations Commission, Equal Employment  
77 Opportunity Commission, or any similar agency. When deemed  
78 necessary, the Department of Financial Services shall assign or  
79 reassign the claim to counsel. The assigned counsel shall report  
80 regularly to the Department of Financial Services or to the  
81 covered department on the status of any such claims or  
82 litigation as required by the Department of Financial Services.  
83 No such claim shall be compromised or settled for monetary  
84 compensation without the prior approval of the Department of  
85 Financial Services and prior notification to the covered  
86 department. All departments shall cooperate with the Department  
87 of Financial Services in its handling of claims. The Department  
88 of Financial Services and the Department of Management Services,  
89 with the cooperation of the state attorneys and the clerks of  
90 the courts, shall develop a system to coordinate the exchange of  
91 information concerning claims for and against the state, its  
92 agencies, and its subdivisions, to assist in collection of  
93 amounts due to them. The covered department shall have the  
94 responsibility for the settlement of any claim for injunctive or  
95 affirmative relief under 42 U.S.C. s. 1983 or similar federal or  
96 state statutes. The payment of a settlement or judgment for any  
97 claim covered and reported under this part shall be made only



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98 from the State Risk Management Trust Fund.

99 (2) Benefits provided under s. 112.1816(2) may not be paid  
100 from the fund until each request for any out-of-pocket  
101 deductible, copayment, or coinsurance costs and one-time cash  
102 payout has been validated and approved by the Department of  
103 Management Services.

104 Section 5. Section 284.45, Florida Statutes, is created to  
105 read:

106 284.45 Sexual harassment victims.—

107 (1) An individual working for an entity covered by the  
108 State Risk Management Trust Fund may not engage in retaliatory  
109 conduct of any kind against a sexual harassment victim. As used  
110 in this section, the term "sexual harassment victim" means an  
111 individual employed, or being considered for employment, with an  
112 entity participating in the State Risk Management Trust Fund,  
113 who becomes a victim of workplace sexual harassment through the  
114 course of employment, or while being considered for employment,  
115 with the entity.

116 (2) The willful and knowing dissemination of personal  
117 identifying information of a sexual harassment victim to any  
118 party other than a governmental entity in furtherance of its  
119 official duties or pursuant to a court order is a misdemeanor of  
120 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082. For  
121 purposes of this subsection, personal identifying information  
122 includes the name of the sexual harassment victim and his or  
123 her:

- 124 (a) Home address;  
125 (b) Home phone number;  
126 (c) Cellular phone number;



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- 127        (d) E-mail address;  
128        (e) Social media account username or uniform resource  
129 locator (URL); or  
130        (f) Any other information that could reasonably be used to  
131 identify an alleged sexual harassment victim.

132        Section 6. Subsections (1), (2), (3), (6), and (8) of  
133 section 497.101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

134        497.101 Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services;  
135 membership; appointment; terms.—

136        (1) The Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services  
137 is created within the Department of Financial Services and shall  
138 consist of 10 members, 9 of whom shall be appointed by the  
139 Governor from nominations made by the Chief Financial Officer  
140 and confirmed by the Senate. The Chief Financial Officer shall  
141 nominate one to three persons for each of the nine vacancies on  
142 the board, and the Governor shall fill each vacancy on the board  
143 by appointing one of the ~~three~~ persons nominated by the Chief  
144 Financial Officer to fill that vacancy. If the Governor objects  
145 to each of the ~~three~~ nominations for a vacancy, she or he shall  
146 inform the Chief Financial Officer in writing. Upon notification  
147 of an objection by the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer  
148 shall submit one to three additional nominations for that  
149 vacancy until the vacancy is filled. One member must be the  
150 State Health Officer or her or his designee.

151        (2) Two members of the board shall be funeral directors  
152 licensed under part III of this chapter who are associated with  
153 a funeral establishment. One member of the board shall be a  
154 funeral director licensed under part III of this chapter who is  
155 associated with a funeral establishment licensed under part III



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156 of this chapter that has a valid preneed license issued pursuant  
157 to this chapter and who owns or operates a cinerator facility  
158 approved under chapter 403 and licensed under part VI of this  
159 chapter. Two members of the board shall be persons whose primary  
160 occupation is associated with a cemetery company licensed  
161 pursuant to this chapter. Two ~~Three~~ members of the board shall  
162 be consumers who are residents of the state, have never been  
163 licensed as funeral directors or embalmers, are not connected  
164 with a cemetery or cemetery company licensed pursuant to this  
165 chapter, and are not connected with the death care industry or  
166 the practice of embalming, funeral directing, or direct  
167 disposition. One of the two consumer members shall be at least  
168 60 years of age, ~~and one shall be licensed as a certified public~~  
169 ~~accountant under chapter 473.~~ One member of the board shall be a  
170 consumer who is a resident of this state; is licensed as a  
171 certified public accountant under chapter 473; has never been  
172 licensed as a funeral director or embalmer; is not a principal  
173 or employee of any licensee licensed under this chapter; and  
174 does not otherwise have control, as defined in s. 497.005, over  
175 any licensee licensed under this chapter. One member of the  
176 board shall be a principal of a monument establishment licensed  
177 under this chapter as a monument builder. One member shall be  
178 the State Health Officer or her or his designee. There shall not  
179 be two or more board members who are principals or employees of  
180 the same company or partnership or group of companies or  
181 partnerships under common control.

182 (3) Board members shall be appointed for terms of 4 years,  
183 and the State Health Officer shall serve as long as that person  
184 holds that office. The designee of the State Health Officer



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185 shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. ~~When the terms of~~  
186 ~~the initial board members expire, the Chief Financial Officer~~  
187 ~~shall stagger the terms of the successor members as follows: one~~  
188 ~~funeral director, one cemetery representative, the monument~~  
189 ~~builder, and one consumer member shall be appointed for terms of~~  
190 ~~2 years, and the remaining members shall be appointed for terms~~  
191 ~~of 4 years. All subsequent terms shall be for 4 years.~~

192 (6) The headquarters and records of the board shall be in  
193 the Division of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services of the  
194 Department of Financial Services in the City of Tallahassee. The  
195 board may be contacted through the Division of Funeral,  
196 Cemetery, and Consumer Services of the Department of Financial  
197 Services in the City of Tallahassee. The Chief Financial Officer  
198 shall annually appoint from among the board members a chair and  
199 vice chair of the board. The board shall meet at least every 6  
200 months, and more often as necessary. Special meetings of the  
201 board shall be convened upon the direction of the Chief  
202 Financial Officer. A quorum is necessary for the conduct of  
203 business by the board. Unless otherwise provided by law, a  
204 majority of the board members eligible to vote shall constitute  
205 a quorum for the purpose of conducting its business ~~six board~~  
206 ~~members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of the board's~~  
207 ~~business.~~

208 ~~(8) The department shall adopt rules establishing forms by~~  
209 ~~which persons may apply for membership on the board and~~  
210 ~~procedures for applying for such membership. Such forms shall~~  
211 ~~require disclosure of the existence and nature of all current~~  
212 ~~and past employments by or contracts with, and direct or~~  
213 ~~indirect affiliations or interests in, any entity or business~~





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214 ~~that at any time was licensed by the board or by the former~~  
215 ~~Board of Funeral and Cemetery Services or the former Board of~~  
216 ~~Funeral Directors and Embalmers or that is or was otherwise~~  
217 ~~involved in the death care industry, as specified by department~~  
218 ~~rule.~~

219 Section 7. Section 497.1411, Florida Statutes, is created  
220 to read:

221 497.1411 Disqualification of applicants and licensees;  
222 penalties against licensees; rulemaking.—

223 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

224 (a) "Applicant" means an individual applying for licensure  
225 or relicensure under this chapter, and an officer, a director, a  
226 majority owner, a partner, a manager, or other person who  
227 manages or controls an entity applying for licensure or  
228 relicensure under this chapter.

229 (b) "Felony of the first degree" and "capital felony"  
230 include all felonies designated as such in this state at the  
231 time of the commission of the offense, as well as any offense in  
232 another jurisdiction that is substantially similar to an offense  
233 so designated in this state.

234 (c) "Financial services business" means any financial  
235 activity regulated by the department, the Office of Insurance  
236 Regulation, or the Office of Financial Regulation.

237 (2) An applicant who has been found guilty of or has  
238 pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any of the following  
239 crimes, regardless of adjudication, is permanently barred from  
240 licensure under this chapter:

241 (a) A felony of the first degree.

242 (b) A capital felony.



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243       (c) A felony money laundering offense.  
244       (d) A felony embezzlement.  
245       (3) An applicant who has been found guilty of or has  
246 pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime not included in  
247 subsection (2), regardless of adjudication, is subject to:  
248       (a) A 10-year disqualifying period for all felonies  
249 involving moral turpitude that are not specifically included in  
250 the permanent bar contained in subsection (2).  
251       (b) A 5-year disqualifying period for all felonies to which  
252 neither the permanent bar in subsection (2) nor the 10-year  
253 disqualifying period in paragraph (a) applies.  
254       (c) A 5-year disqualifying period for all misdemeanors  
255 directly related to the financial services business.  
256       (4) The board shall adopt rules to administer this section.  
257 The rules must provide for additional disqualifying periods due  
258 to the commitment of multiple crimes and may include other  
259 factors reasonably related to the applicant's criminal history.  
260 The rules shall provide for mitigating and aggravating factors.  
261 However, mitigation may not result in a period of  
262 disqualification of less than 5 years and may not mitigate the  
263 disqualifying periods in paragraphs (3) (b) and (c).  
264       (5) For purposes of this section, a disqualifying period  
265 begins upon the applicant's final release from supervision or  
266 upon completion of the applicant's criminal sentence. The  
267 department may not issue a license to an applicant unless all  
268 related fines, court costs and fees, and court-ordered  
269 restitution have been paid.  
270       (6) After the disqualifying period has expired, the burden  
271 is on the applicant to demonstrate that he or she has been



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272 rehabilitated, does not pose a risk to the public, is fit and  
273 trustworthy to engage in business regulated by this chapter, and  
274 is otherwise qualified for licensure.

275 (7) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3), an applicant  
276 who has been found guilty of, or has pleaded guilty or nolo  
277 contendere to, a crime in subsection (2) or subsection (3) and  
278 who has subsequently been granted a pardon or the restoration of  
279 civil rights pursuant to chapter 940 and s. 8, Art. IV of the  
280 State Constitution, or a pardon or the restoration of civil  
281 rights under the laws of another jurisdiction with respect to a  
282 conviction in that jurisdiction, is not barred or disqualified  
283 from licensure under this chapter. However, such a pardon or  
284 restoration of civil rights does not require the department to  
285 award such license.

286 (8) (a) The board may grant an exemption from  
287 disqualification to any person disqualified from licensure under  
288 subsection (3) if:

289 1. The applicant has paid in full any fee, fine, fund,  
290 lien, civil judgment, restitution, or cost of prosecution  
291 imposed by the court as part of the judgment and sentence for  
292 any disqualifying offense; and

293 2. At least 5 years have elapsed since the applicant  
294 completed or has been lawfully released from confinement,  
295 supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court for a  
296 disqualifying offense.

297 (b) For the board to grant an exemption under this  
298 subsection, the applicant must clearly and convincingly  
299 demonstrate that he or she would not pose a risk to persons or  
300 property if licensed under this chapter, evidence of which must



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301 include, but need not be limited to, facts and circumstances  
302 surrounding the disqualifying offense, the time that has elapsed  
303 since the offense, the nature of the offense and harm caused to  
304 the victim, the applicant's history before and after the  
305 offense, and any other evidence or circumstances indicating that  
306 the applicant will not present a danger if licensed or  
307 certified.

308 (c) The board has discretion whether to grant or deny an  
309 exemption under this subsection. The board's decision is subject  
310 to chapter 120.

311 (9) The disqualification periods provided in this section  
312 do not apply to the renewal of a license or to a new application  
313 for licensure if the applicant has an active license as of July  
314 1, 2020, and the applicable criminal history was considered by  
315 the board on the prior approval of any active license held by  
316 the applicant. This subsection does not affect any criminal  
317 history disclosure requirement of this chapter.

318 Section 8. Subsection (9) and paragraph (c) of subsection  
319 (10) of section 497.142, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
320 497.142 Licensing; fingerprinting and criminal background  
321 checks.—

322 (9) If any applicant under this chapter has been, ~~within~~  
323 ~~the 10 years preceding the application under this chapter,~~  
324 convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo  
325 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any crime in any  
326 jurisdiction, the application shall not be deemed complete until  
327 such time as the applicant provides such certified true copies  
328 of the court records evidencing the conviction, finding, or plea  
329 as required by this section or, as the licensing authority may



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330 by rule require.

331 (10)(c) Crimes to be disclosed are:

332 1. Any felony ~~or misdemeanor~~, no matter when committed,  
333 ~~that was directly or indirectly related to or involving any~~  
334 ~~aspect of the practice or business of funeral directing,~~  
335 ~~embalming, direct disposition, cremation, funeral or cemetery~~  
336 ~~preneed sales, funeral establishment operations, cemetery~~  
337 ~~operations, or cemetery monument or marker sales or~~  
338 ~~installation.~~

339 2. Any misdemeanor, no matter when committed, which was  
340 directly or indirectly related to the financial services  
341 business as defined in s. 497.1411 ~~Any other felony not already~~  
342 ~~disclosed under subparagraph 1. that was committed within the 20~~  
343 ~~years immediately preceding the application under this chapter.~~

344 3. Any other misdemeanor not already disclosed under  
345 subparagraph 2. ~~subparagraph 1.~~ that was committed within the 5  
346 years immediately preceding the application under this chapter.

347 Section 9. Present subsections (2) through (5) of section  
348 497.157, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
349 through (7), respectively, new subsections (2) and (3) and  
350 subsection (8) are added to that section, and present subsection  
351 (3) of that section is amended, to read:

352 497.157 Unlicensed practice; remedies concerning violations  
353 by unlicensed persons.-

354 (2) A person may not be, act as, or advertise or hold  
355 himself or herself out to be a funeral director, embalmer, or  
356 direct disposer unless he or she is currently licensed by the  
357 department.

358 (3) A person may not be, act as, or advertise or hold



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359 himself or herself out to be a preneed sales agent unless he or  
360 she is currently licensed by the department and appointed by a  
361 preneed main licensee for which they are executing preneed  
362 contracts.

363 (5)~~(3)~~ Where the department determines that an emergency  
364 exists regarding any violation of this chapter by any unlicensed  
365 person or entity, the department may issue and serve an  
366 immediate final order upon such unlicensed person or entity, in  
367 accordance with s. 120.569(2) (n). Such an immediate final order  
368 may impose such prohibitions and requirements as are reasonably  
369 necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and  
370 shall be effective when served.

371 (a) For the purpose of enforcing such an immediate final  
372 order, the department may file an emergency or other proceeding  
373 in the circuit courts of the state seeking enforcement of the  
374 immediate final order by injunctive or other order of the court.  
375 The court shall issue its injunction or other order enforcing  
376 the immediate final order pending administrative resolution of  
377 the matter under subsection (4) ~~(2)~~, unless the court determines  
378 that such action would work a manifest injustice under the  
379 circumstances. Venue for judicial actions under this paragraph  
380 shall be, at the election of the department, in the courts of  
381 Leon County, or in a county where the respondent resides or has  
382 a place of business.

383 (b) After serving an immediate final order to cease and  
384 desist upon any person or entity, the department shall within 10  
385 days issue and serve upon the same person or entity an  
386 administrative complaint as set forth in subsection (4) ~~(2)~~,  
387 except that, absent order of a court to the contrary, the



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388 immediate final order shall be effective throughout the pendency  
389 of proceedings under subsection (4) ~~(2)~~.

390 (8) Any person who is not licensed under this chapter and  
391 who engages in activity requiring licensure under this chapter  
392 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
393 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

394 Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 497.159, Florida  
395 Statutes, is amended to read:

396 497.159 Crimes.—

397 ~~(6) Any person who is not licensed under this chapter who~~  
398 ~~engages in activity requiring licensure under this chapter,~~  
399 ~~commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as~~  
400 ~~provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.~~

401 Section 11. Subsection (13) of section 552.081, Florida  
402 Statutes, is amended to read:

403 552.081 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

404 (13) "Two-component explosives" means any two inert  
405 components which, when mixed, become capable of detonation by  
406 any detonator ~~a No. 6 blasting cap~~, and shall be classified as a  
407 Class "A" explosive when so mixed.

408 Section 12. Present subsection (2) of section 553.7921,  
409 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (3), a new  
410 subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) of  
411 that section is amended, to read:

412 553.7921 Fire alarm permit application to local enforcement  
413 agency.—

414 (1) A contractor must file a Uniform Fire Alarm Permit  
415 Application as provided in subsection (3) ~~(2)~~ with the local  
416 enforcement agency and must receive the fire alarm permit



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417 before:

418 ~~(a) installing or replacing a fire alarm, if the local~~  
419 ~~enforcement agency requires a plan review for the installation~~  
420 ~~or replacement; or~~

421 ~~(b) Repairing an existing alarm system that was previously~~  
422 ~~permitted by the local enforcement agency if the local~~  
423 ~~enforcement agency requires a fire alarm permit for the repair.~~

424 (2) If the local enforcement agency requires a fire alarm  
425 permit to repair an existing alarm system that was previously  
426 permitted by the local enforcement agency, a contractor may  
427 begin work after filing a Uniform Fire Alarm Permit Application  
428 as provided in subsection (3). A fire alarm repaired pursuant to  
429 this subsection may not be considered compliant until the  
430 required permit is issued and the local enforcement agency  
431 approves the repair.

432 Section 13. Effective January 1, 2021, subsection (3) of  
433 section 626.2815, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

434 626.2815 Continuing education requirements.—

435 (3) Each licensee except a title insurance agent must  
436 complete a 4-hour ~~5-hour~~ update course every 2 years which is  
437 specific to the license held by the licensee. The course must be  
438 developed and offered by providers and approved by the  
439 department. The content of the course must address all lines of  
440 insurance for which examination and licensure are required and  
441 include the following subject areas: insurance law updates,  
442 ethics for insurance professionals, disciplinary trends and case  
443 studies, industry trends, premium discounts, determining  
444 suitability of products and services, and other similar  
445 insurance-related topics the department determines are relevant





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446 to legally and ethically carrying out the responsibilities of  
447 the license granted. A licensee who holds multiple insurance  
448 licenses must complete an update course that is specific to at  
449 least one of the licenses held. Except as otherwise specified,  
450 any remaining required hours of continuing education are  
451 elective and may consist of any continuing education course  
452 approved by the department under this section.

453 (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e),  
454 (i), and (j), each licensee must also complete 20 ~~19~~ hours of  
455 elective continuing education courses every 2 years.

456 (b) A licensee who has been licensed for 6 or more years  
457 must also complete a minimum of 16 ~~15~~ hours of elective  
458 continuing education every 2 years.

459 (c) A licensee who has been licensed for 25 years or more  
460 and is a CLU or a CPCU or has a Bachelor of Science degree in  
461 risk management or insurance with evidence of 18 or more  
462 semester hours in insurance-related courses must also complete a  
463 minimum of 6 ~~5~~ hours of elective continuing education courses  
464 every 2 years.

465 (d) An individual who holds a license as a customer  
466 representative and who is not a licensed life or health agent  
467 must also complete a minimum of 6 ~~5~~ hours of continuing  
468 education courses every 2 years.

469 (e) An individual subject to chapter 648 must complete the  
470 4-hour ~~5-hour~~ update course and a minimum of 10 ~~9~~ hours of  
471 elective continuing education courses every 2 years.

472 (f) Elective continuing education courses for public  
473 adjusters must be specifically designed for public adjusters and  
474 approved by the department. Notwithstanding this subsection,



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475 public adjusters for workers' compensation insurance or health  
476 insurance are not required to take continuing education courses  
477 pursuant to this section.

478 (g) Excess hours accumulated during any 2-year compliance  
479 period may be carried forward to the next compliance period.

480 (h) An individual teaching an approved course of  
481 instruction or lecturing at any approved seminar and attending  
482 the entire course or seminar qualifies for the same number of  
483 classroom hours as would be granted to a person taking and  
484 successfully completing such course or seminar. Credit is  
485 limited to the number of hours actually taught unless a person  
486 attends the entire course or seminar. An individual who is an  
487 official of or employed by a governmental entity in this state  
488 and serves as a professor, instructor, or in another position or  
489 office, the duties and responsibilities of which are determined  
490 by the department to require monitoring and review of insurance  
491 laws or insurance regulations and practices, is exempt from this  
492 section.

493 (i) For compliance periods beginning on or after October 1,  
494 2014, any person who holds a license as a title insurance agent  
495 must complete a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education  
496 credit every 2 years in title insurance and escrow management  
497 specific to this state and approved by the department, which  
498 shall include at least 3 hours of continuing education on the  
499 subject matter of ethics, rules, or compliance with state and  
500 federal regulations relating specifically to title insurance and  
501 closing services.

502 (j) For a licensee who is an active participant in an  
503 association, 2 hours of elective continuing education credit per



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504 calendar year may be approved by the department, if properly  
505 reported by the association.

506 Section 14. Section 627.70132, Florida Statutes, is amended  
507 to read:

508 627.70132 Notice of windstorm or hurricane claim.—A claim,  
509 supplemental claim, or reopened claim under an insurance policy  
510 that provides property insurance, as defined in s. 624.604, for  
511 loss or damage caused by the peril of windstorm or hurricane is  
512 barred unless notice of the claim, ~~supplemental claim, or~~  
513 ~~reopened claim~~ was given to the insurer in accordance with the  
514 terms of the policy within 24 months ~~3 years~~ after the hurricane  
515 first made landfall or the windstorm caused the covered damage.  
516 For purposes of this section, the term "supplemental claim" or  
517 "reopened claim" means any additional claim for recovery from  
518 the insurer for losses from the same hurricane or windstorm  
519 which the insurer has previously adjusted pursuant to the  
520 initial claim. This section does not affect any applicable  
521 limitation on civil actions provided in s. 95.11 for claims,  
522 supplemental claims, or reopened claims timely filed under this  
523 section.

524 Section 15. Subsection (3) of section 633.102, Florida  
525 Statutes, is amended to read:

526 633.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

527 (3) (a) "Contractor I" means a contractor whose business  
528 includes the execution of contracts requiring the ability to lay  
529 out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service all  
530 types of fire protection systems, excluding preengineered  
531 systems.

532 (b) "Contractor II" means a contractor whose business is



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533 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to  
534 lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service  
535 water sprinkler systems, water spray systems, foam-water  
536 sprinkler systems, foam-water spray systems, standpipes,  
537 combination standpipes and sprinkler risers, all piping that is  
538 an integral part of the system beginning at the point of service  
539 as defined in this section, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines,  
540 thermal systems used in connection with sprinklers, and tanks  
541 and pumps connected thereto, excluding preengineered systems.

542 (c) "Contractor III" means a contractor whose business is  
543 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to  
544 fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service carbon  
545 dioxide systems, foam extinguishing systems, dry chemical  
546 systems, and Halon and other chemical systems, excluding  
547 preengineered systems.

548 (d) "Contractor IV" means a contractor whose business is  
549 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to  
550 lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service  
551 automatic fire sprinkler systems for detached one-family  
552 dwellings, detached two-family dwellings, and mobile homes,  
553 excluding preengineered systems and excluding single-family  
554 homes in cluster units, such as apartments, condominiums, and  
555 assisted living facilities or any building that is connected to  
556 other dwellings. A Contractor IV is limited to the scope of  
557 practice specified in NFPA 13D.

558 (e) "Contractor V" means a contractor whose business is  
559 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to  
560 fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service the  
561 underground piping for a fire protection system using water as



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562 the extinguishing agent beginning at the point of service as  
563 defined in this act and ending no more than 1 foot above the  
564 finished floor.

565  
566 The definitions in this subsection may not be construed to  
567 include engineers or architects and do not limit or prohibit a  
568 licensed fire protection engineer or architect with fire  
569 protection design experience from designing any type of fire  
570 protection system. A distinction is made between system design  
571 concepts prepared by the design professional and system layout  
572 as defined in this section and typically prepared by the  
573 contractor. However, a person certified as a Contractor I or  
574 Contractor II, ~~or Contractor IV~~ under this chapter may design  
575 new fire protection systems of 49 or fewer sprinklers; ~~and~~ may  
576 design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler system if  
577 the alteration consists of the relocation, addition, or deletion  
578 of ~~not more than~~ 49 or fewer sprinklers, notwithstanding the  
579 size of the existing fire sprinkler system; or may design the  
580 alteration of an existing fire sprinkler system if the  
581 alteration consists of the relocation or deletion of 249 or  
582 fewer sprinklers, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire  
583 sprinkler system, if there is no change of occupancy, as defined  
584 in the Florida Building Code, of the affected areas and there is  
585 no change in the water demand as defined in National Fire  
586 Protection Association publication NFPA 13 "Standard for the  
587 Installation of Sprinkler Systems," and if the occupancy hazard  
588 classification as defined in NFPA 13 is reduced or remains the  
589 same as a result of the alteration. A person certified as a  
590 Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV may design or



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591 alter a fire protection system, the scope of which complies with  
592 NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in  
593 One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes, as adopted  
594 by the State Fire Marshal, notwithstanding the number of fire  
595 sprinklers. Contractor-developed plans may not be required by  
596 any local permitting authority to be sealed by a registered  
597 professional engineer.

598 Section 16. Section 633.136, Florida Statutes, is amended  
599 to read:

600 633.136 Fire and Emergency Incident Information Reporting  
601 Program; duties; fire reports.—

602 (1) (a) The Fire and Emergency Incident Information  
603 Reporting Program is created within the division. The program  
604 shall:

605 1. Establish and maintain an electronic communication  
606 system capable of transmitting fire and emergency incident  
607 information to and between fire service providers ~~protection~~  
608 ~~agencies~~.

609 2. Initiate a Fire and Emergency Incident Information  
610 Reporting System that shall be responsible for:

611 a. Receiving fire and emergency incident information from  
612 fire service providers ~~protection agencies~~.

613 b. Preparing and disseminating annual reports to the  
614 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House  
615 of Representatives, fire service providers ~~protection agencies~~,  
616 and, upon request, the public. Each report shall include, but  
617 not be limited to, the information listed in the National Fire  
618 Incident Reporting System.

619 c. Upon request, providing other states and federal



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620 agencies with fire and emergency incident data of this state.

621         3. Adopt rules to effectively and efficiently implement,  
622 administer, manage, maintain, and use the Fire and Emergency  
623 Incident Information Reporting Program. The rules shall be  
624 considered minimum requirements and shall not preclude a fire  
625 service provider ~~protection agency~~ from implementing its own  
626 requirements which may not conflict with the rules of the  
627 division.

628         4. By rule, establish procedures and a format for each fire  
629 service provider ~~protection agency~~ to voluntarily monitor its  
630 records and submit reports to the program.

631         5. Maintain ~~Establish~~ an electronic information database  
632 that is accessible and searchable by fire service providers  
633 ~~protection agencies~~.

634             (b) The division shall consult with the Florida Forest  
635 Service of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
636 and the State Surgeon General of the Department of Health to  
637 coordinate data, ensure accuracy of the data, and limit  
638 duplication of efforts in data collection, analysis, and  
639 reporting.

640             (2) The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System  
641 Technical Advisory Panel is created within the division. The  
642 panel shall advise, review, and recommend to the State Fire  
643 Marshal with respect to the requirements of this section. The  
644 membership of the panel shall consist of the ~~following~~ 15  
645 members:-

646             ~~(a) The current 13 members~~ of the Firefighters Employment,  
647 Standards, and Training Council as established in s. 633.402.

648             ~~(b) One member from the Florida Forest Service of the~~



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649 ~~Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, appointed by~~  
650 ~~the director of the Florida Forest Service.~~

651 ~~(c) One member from the Department of Health, appointed by~~  
652 ~~the State Surgeon General.~~

653 ~~(3) As used in For the purpose of this section, the term~~  
654 ~~"fire service provider" has the same meaning as in s. 633.102~~  
655 ~~"fire protection agency" shall be defined by rule by the~~  
656 ~~division.~~

657 Section 17. Subsections (18) and (20) of section 633.202,  
658 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

659 633.202 Florida Fire Prevention Code.-

660 (18) The authority having jurisdiction shall determine the  
661 minimum radio signal strength for fire department communications  
662 in all new high-rise and existing high-rise buildings. Existing  
663 buildings are not required to comply with minimum radio strength  
664 for fire department communications and two-way radio system  
665 enhancement communications as required by the Florida Fire  
666 Prevention Code until January 1, 2023 ~~2022~~. However, by January  
667 1, 2022 ~~December 31, 2019~~, an existing building that is not in  
668 compliance with the requirements for minimum radio strength for  
669 fire department communications must have completed a minimum  
670 radio strength assessment ~~apply for an appropriate permit~~ for  
671 the required installation with the local government agency  
672 having jurisdiction and must demonstrate that the building will  
673 become compliant by January 1, 2023 ~~2022~~. Existing apartment  
674 buildings are not required to comply until January 1, 2025.  
675 However, existing apartment buildings are required to apply for  
676 the appropriate permit for the required communications  
677 installation by December 31, 2022.





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678           (20) (a) In apartment occupancies with enclosed corridors  
679 served by interior or exterior exit stairs, doorstep refuse and  
680 recycling collection containers, which stand upright on their  
681 own and do not leak liquids when standing upright, must be  
682 allowed in exit access corridors when all of the following  
683 conditions exist:

684           1. The maximum doorstep refuse and recycling collection  
685 container size does not exceed 13 gallons.

686           2. Waste, which is in a doorstep refuse and recycling  
687 collection container, is not placed in the exit access corridors  
688 for single periods exceeding 5 hours.

689           3. Doorstep refuse and recycling collection containers do  
690 not occupy the exit access corridors for single periods  
691 exceeding 12 hours.

692           4. Doorstep refuse and recycling collection containers do  
693 not reduce the means of egress width below that required under  
694 NFPA Life Safety Code 101:31, as adopted under the Florida Fire  
695 Prevention Code.

696           5. Management staff have written policies and procedures in  
697 place and enforce them to ensure compliance with this paragraph,  
698 and, upon request, provide a copy of such policies and  
699 procedures to the authority having jurisdiction.

700           (b) In apartment occupancies with open-air corridors or  
701 balconies served by exterior exit stairs, doorstep refuse and  
702 recycling collection containers, which stand upright on their  
703 own and do not leak liquids when standing upright, must be  
704 allowed in exit access corridors when all of the following  
705 conditions exist:

706           1. The maximum doorstep refuse and recycling collection



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707 container size does not exceed 27 gallons.

708         2. Waste, which is in a doorstep refuse and recycling  
709 collection container, is not placed in the exit access corridors  
710 for single periods exceeding 5 hours.

711         3. Doorstep refuse and recycling collection containers do  
712 not reduce the means of egress width below that required under  
713 NFPA Life Safety Code 101:31, as adopted under the Florida Fire  
714 Prevention Code.

715         4. Management staff have written policies and procedures in  
716 place and enforce them to ensure compliance with this paragraph,  
717 and, upon request, provide a copy of such policies and  
718 procedures to the authority having jurisdiction.

719             (c) The authority having jurisdiction may approve  
720 alternative containers and storage arrangements that are  
721 demonstrated to provide an equivalent level of safety to that  
722 provided under paragraphs (a) and (b).

723             (d) The authority having jurisdiction shall allow apartment  
724 occupancies a phase-in period until December 31, 2020, to comply  
725 with this subsection.

726             (e) This subsection is repealed on January 1, 2024 ~~July 1,~~  
727 ~~2021~~.

728         Section 18. Section 633.217, Florida Statutes, is created  
729 to read:

730             633.217 Influencing a firesafety inspector; prohibited  
731 acts.—

732             (1) A person may not influence a firesafety inspector by:

733             (a) Threatening, coercing, tricking, or attempting to  
734 threaten, coerce, or trick the firesafety inspector into  
735 violating any provision of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, any



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736 rule adopted by the State Fire Marshal, or any provision of this  
737 chapter.

738 (b) Offering any compensation to the firesafety inspector  
739 to induce a violation of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, any  
740 rule adopted by the State Fire Marshal, or any provision of this  
741 chapter.

742 (2) A firesafety inspector may not knowingly and willfully  
743 accept an attempt by a person to influence the firesafety  
744 inspector into violating any provision of the Florida Fire  
745 Prevention Code, any rule adopted by the State Fire Marshal, or  
746 any provision of this chapter.

747 Section 19. Paragraphs (d), (g), and (h) of subsection (4)  
748 of section 633.304, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

749 633.304 Fire suppression equipment; license to install or  
750 maintain.—

751 (4)

752 (d) A license of any class may not be issued or renewed by  
753 the division and a license of any class does not remain  
754 operative unless:

755 1. The applicant has submitted to the State Fire Marshal  
756 evidence of registration as a Florida corporation or evidence of  
757 compliance with s. 865.09.

758 2. The State Fire Marshal or his or her designee has by  
759 inspection determined that the applicant possesses the equipment  
760 required for the class of license sought. The State Fire Marshal  
761 shall give an applicant a reasonable opportunity to correct any  
762 deficiencies discovered by inspection. To obtain such  
763 inspection, an applicant with facilities located outside this  
764 state must:



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765           a. Provide a notarized statement from a professional  
766 engineer licensed by the applicant's state of domicile  
767 certifying that the applicant possesses the equipment required  
768 for the class of license sought and that all such equipment is  
769 operable; or

770           b. Allow the State Fire Marshal or her or his designee to  
771 inspect the facility. All costs associated with the State Fire  
772 Marshal's inspection must be paid by the applicant. The State  
773 Fire Marshal, in accordance with s. 120.54, may adopt rules to  
774 establish standards for the calculation and establishment of the  
775 amount of costs associated with any inspection conducted by the  
776 State Fire Marshal under this section. Such rules must include  
777 procedures for invoicing and receiving funds in advance of the  
778 inspection.

779           3. The applicant has submitted to the State Fire Marshal  
780 proof of insurance providing coverage for comprehensive general  
781 liability for bodily injury and property damage, products  
782 liability, completed operations, and contractual liability. The  
783 State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules providing for the amounts  
784 of such coverage, but such amounts may not be less than \$300,000  
785 for Class A or Class D licenses, \$200,000 for Class B licenses,  
786 and \$100,000 for Class C licenses; and the total coverage for  
787 any class of license held in conjunction with a Class D license  
788 may not be less than \$300,000. The State Fire Marshal may, at  
789 any time after the issuance of a license or its renewal, require  
790 upon demand, and in no event more than 30 days after notice of  
791 such demand, the licensee to provide proof of insurance, on the  
792 insurer's form, containing confirmation of insurance coverage as  
793 required by this chapter. Failure, for any length of time, to



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794 provide proof of insurance coverage as required must result in  
795 the immediate suspension of the license until proof of proper  
796 insurance is provided to the State Fire Marshal. An insurer that  
797 provides such coverage shall notify the State Fire Marshal of  
798 any change in coverage or of any termination, cancellation, or  
799 nonrenewal of any coverage.

800 4. The applicant applies to the State Fire Marshal,  
801 provides proof of experience, and successfully completes a  
802 prescribed training course that includes both written and  
803 practical training offered at by the State Fire College and or  
804 an equivalent course approved by the State Fire Marshal as  
805 applicable to the class of license being sought. This  
806 subparagraph does not apply to any holder of or applicant for a  
807 permit under paragraph (g) or to a business organization or a  
808 governmental entity seeking initial licensure or renewal of an  
809 existing license solely for the purpose of inspecting,  
810 servicing, repairing, marking, recharging, and maintaining fire  
811 extinguishers used and located on the premises of and owned by  
812 such organization or entity.

813 5. The applicant has a current retestor identification  
814 number that is appropriate for the license for which the  
815 applicant is applying and that is listed with the United States  
816 Department of Transportation.

817 6. The applicant has passed, with a grade of at least 70  
818 percent, a written examination testing his or her knowledge of  
819 the rules and statutes governing the activities authorized by  
820 the license and demonstrating his or her knowledge and ability  
821 to perform those tasks in a competent, lawful, and safe manner.  
822 Such examination must be developed and administered by the State



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823 Fire Marshal, or his or her designee in accordance with policies  
824 and procedures of the State Fire Marshal. An applicant shall pay  
825 a nonrefundable examination fee of \$50 for each examination or  
826 reexamination scheduled. A reexamination may not be scheduled  
827 sooner than 30 days after any administration of an examination  
828 to an applicant. An applicant may not be permitted to take an  
829 examination for any level of license more than a total of four  
830 times during 1 year, regardless of the number of applications  
831 submitted. As a prerequisite to licensure of the applicant, he  
832 or she:

833 a. Must be at least 18 years of age.

834 b. Must have 4 years of proven experience as a fire  
835 equipment permittee at a level equal to or greater than the  
836 level of license applied for or have a combination of education  
837 and experience determined to be equivalent thereto by the State  
838 Fire Marshal. Having held a permit at the appropriate level for  
839 the required period constitutes the required experience.

840 c. Must not have been convicted of a felony or a crime  
841 punishable by imprisonment of 1 year or more under the law of  
842 the United States or of any state thereof or under the law of  
843 any other country. "Convicted" means a finding of guilt or the  
844 acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere in any federal  
845 or state court or a court in any other country, without regard  
846 to whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the  
847 court having jurisdiction of the case. If an applicant has been  
848 convicted of any such felony, the applicant is excluded from  
849 licensure for a period of 4 years after expiration of sentence  
850 or final release by the Florida Commission on Offender Review  
851 unless the applicant, before the expiration of the 4-year



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852 period, has received a full pardon or has had her or his civil  
853 rights restored.

854

855 This subparagraph does not apply to any holder of or applicant  
856 for a permit under paragraph (g) or to a business organization  
857 or a governmental entity seeking initial licensure or renewal of  
858 an existing license solely for the purpose of inspecting,  
859 servicing, repairing, marking, recharging, hydrotesting, and  
860 maintaining fire extinguishers used and located on the premises  
861 of and owned by such organization or entity.

862 (g) A permit of any class may not be issued or renewed to a  
863 person by the division, and a permit of any class does not  
864 remain operative, unless the person has:

865 1. Submitted a nonrefundable examination fee in the amount  
866 of \$50.

867 2. Successfully completed a training course that includes  
868 both written and practical training offered at ~~by~~ the State Fire  
869 College and ~~or an equivalent course~~ approved by the State Fire  
870 Marshal as applicable to the class of license being sought.

871 3. Passed, with a grade of at least 70 percent, a written  
872 examination testing his or her knowledge of the rules and  
873 statutes governing the activities authorized by the permit and  
874 demonstrating his or her knowledge and ability to perform those  
875 tasks in a competent, lawful, and safe manner. Such examination  
876 must be developed and administered by the State Fire Marshal in  
877 accordance with the policies and procedures of the State Fire  
878 Marshal. An examination fee must be paid for each examination  
879 scheduled. A reexamination may not be scheduled sooner than 30  
880 days after any administration of an examination to an applicant.



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881 An applicant may not be permitted to take an examination for any  
882 level of permit more than four times during 1 year, regardless  
883 of the number of applications submitted. As a prerequisite to  
884 taking the permit examination, the applicant must be at least 16  
885 years of age.

886 (h) An applicant for a license or permit under this section  
887 who fails the examination may take it three more times during  
888 the 1-year period after he or she originally filed an  
889 application for the examination. If the applicant fails the  
890 examination within 1 year after the application date and he or  
891 she seeks to retake the examination, he or she must file a new  
892 application, pay the application and examination fees, and  
893 successfully complete a prescribed training course that includes  
894 both written and practical training offered at ~~by~~ the State Fire  
895 College and ~~or an equivalent~~ course approved by the State Fire  
896 Marshal as applicable to the class of license being sought. The  
897 applicant may not submit a new application within 6 months after  
898 the date of his or her fourth reexamination. An applicant who  
899 passes the examination but does not meet the remaining  
900 qualifications prescribed by law and rule within 1 year after  
901 the application date must file a new application, pay the  
902 application and examination fee, successfully complete a  
903 prescribed training course that includes both written and  
904 practical training offered at ~~approved by~~ the State Fire College  
905 and ~~or an equivalent~~ course approved by the State Fire Marshal  
906 as applicable to the class of license being sought, and pass the  
907 written examination.

908 Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 633.402, Florida  
909 Statutes, is amended to read:





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910           633.402 Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training  
911 Council; organization; meetings; quorum; compensation; seal;  
912 special powers; firefighter training.—  
913           (1) There is created within the department a Firefighters  
914 Employment, Standards, and Training Council of 15 ~~14~~ members.  
915           (a) The members shall be appointed as follows:  
916           1. Two fire chiefs appointed by the Florida Fire Chiefs  
917 Association.  
918           2. Two firefighters, who are not officers, appointed by the  
919 Florida Professional Firefighters Association.  
920           3. Two firefighter officers, who are not fire chiefs,  
921 appointed by the State Fire Marshal.  
922           4. One individual appointed by the Florida League of  
923 Cities.  
924           5. One individual appointed by the Florida Association of  
925 Counties.  
926           6. One individual appointed by the Florida Association of  
927 Special Districts.  
928           7. One individual appointed by the Florida Fire Marshals'  
929 and Inspectors' Association.  
930           8. One employee of the Florida Forest Service of the  
931 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services appointed by the  
932 director of the Florida Forest Service.  
933           9. One individual appointed by the State Fire Marshal.  
934           10. One director or instructor of a state-certified  
935 firefighting training facility appointed by the State Fire  
936 Marshal.  
937           11. One individual ~~The remaining member, who shall be~~  
938 appointed by the State Fire Marshal, who may not be a member or



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939 representative of the firefighting profession or of any local  
940 government.

941 12. One individual from the Department of Health, appointed  
942 by the Surgeon General.

943 (b) To be eligible for appointment as a member under  
944 subparagraph (a)1., subparagraph (a)2., subparagraph (a)3.,  
945 subparagraph (a)8., or subparagraph (a)10., a person must have  
946 had at least 4 years' experience in the firefighting profession.  
947 Members shall serve only as long as they continue to meet the  
948 criteria under which they were appointed, or unless a member has  
949 failed to appear at three consecutive and properly noticed  
950 meetings unless excused by the chair.

951 Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 633.416, Florida  
952 Statutes, is amended to read:

953 633.416 Firefighter employment and volunteer firefighter  
954 service; saving clause.—

955 (1) A fire service provider may not employ an individual  
956 to:

957 (a) Extinguish fires for the protection of life or property  
958 or to supervise individuals who perform such services unless the  
959 individual holds a current and valid Firefighter Certificate of  
960 Compliance. However, a person who is currently serving as a  
961 volunteer firefighter and holds a volunteer firefighter  
962 certificate of completion with a fire service provider, who is  
963 then employed as a regular or permanent firefighter by such fire  
964 service provider, may function, for a period of 1 year under the  
965 direct supervision of an individual holding a valid firefighter  
966 certificate of compliance, in the same capacity in which he or  
967 she acted as a volunteer firefighter, provided that he or she



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968 has completed all training required by the volunteer  
969 organization. Under no circumstance can this period extend  
970 beyond 1 year either collectively or consecutively from the  
971 start of employment to obtain a Firefighter Certificate of  
972 Compliance; or

973 (b) Serve as the administrative and command head of a fire  
974 service provider for a period in excess of 1 year unless the  
975 individual holds a current and valid Firefighter Certificate of  
976 Compliance or Special Certificate of Compliance.

977 Section 22. Section 843.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
978 read:

979 843.08 False personation.—A person who falsely assumes or  
980 pretends to be a firefighter, a sheriff, an officer of the  
981 Florida Highway Patrol, an officer of the Fish and Wildlife  
982 Conservation Commission, an officer of the Department of  
983 Environmental Protection, ~~a fire or arson investigator of the~~  
984 ~~Department of Financial Services,~~ an officer of the Department  
985 of Financial Services, any personnel or representative of the  
986 Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, an officer of  
987 the Department of Corrections, a correctional probation officer,  
988 a deputy sheriff, a state attorney or an assistant state  
989 attorney, a statewide prosecutor or an assistant statewide  
990 prosecutor, a state attorney investigator, a coroner, a police  
991 officer, a lottery special agent or lottery investigator, a  
992 beverage enforcement agent, a school guardian as described in s.  
993 30.15(1)(k), a security officer licensed under chapter 493, any  
994 member of the Florida Commission on Offender Review or any  
995 administrative aide or supervisor employed by the commission,  
996 any personnel or representative of the Department of Law



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997 Enforcement, or a federal law enforcement officer as defined in  
998 s. 901.1505, and takes upon himself or herself to act as such,  
999 or to require any other person to aid or assist him or her in a  
1000 matter pertaining to the duty of any such officer, commits a  
1001 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
1002 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who  
1003 falsely personates any such officer during the course of the  
1004 commission of a felony commits a felony of the second degree,  
1005 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.  
1006 If the commission of the felony results in the death or personal  
1007 injury of another human being, the person commits a felony of  
1008 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
1009 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1010 Section 23. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (11) of  
1011 section 943.045, Florida Statutes, to read:

1012 943.045 Definitions; ss. 943.045-943.08.—The following  
1013 words and phrases as used in ss. 943.045-943.08 shall have the  
1014 following meanings:

1015 (11) "Criminal justice agency" means:

1016 (f) The investigations component of the Department of  
1017 Financial Services which investigates the crimes of fraud and  
1018 official misconduct in all public assistance given to residents  
1019 of the state or provided to others by the state.

1020 Section 24. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
1021 subsection (3) of section 40 of chapter 2019-140, Laws of  
1022 Florida, is amended to read:

1023 Section 40. (3) The task force shall submit a report to the  
1024 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
1025 House of Representatives and present its findings to the



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1026 appropriate legislative committees in each house of the  
1027 Legislature by January 31, 2021 ~~within 180 days after the~~  
1028 ~~initial meeting of the task force~~. The report must include:

1029 (a) A general description of the costs and benefits of  
1030 state and local government agencies using blockchain technology.

1031 (b) Recommendations concerning the feasibility of  
1032 implementing blockchain technology in the state and the best  
1033 approach to finance the cost of implementation.

1034 (c) Recommendations for specific implementations to be  
1035 developed by relevant state agencies.

1036 (d) Any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate  
1037 to implement such blockchain technologies.

1038 (e) Identification of one pilot project that may be  
1039 implemented in the state.

1040 (f) Any other information deemed relevant by the task  
1041 force.

1042 Section 25. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
1043 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
1044 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
1045 2020.

1047 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

1048 And the title is amended as follows:

1049 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
1050 and insert:

1051 A bill to be entitled  
1052 An act relating to financial services; amending s.  
1053 20.121, F.S.; specifying powers and duties of the  
1054 Division of Public Assistance Fraud; amending s.



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1055 284.30, F.S.; requiring the State Risk Management  
1056 Trust Fund to provide insurance for certain  
1057 firefighter cancer-related benefits; amending s.  
1058 284.31, F.S.; requiring the Insurance Risk Management  
1059 Trust Fund to provide a separate account for certain  
1060 firefighter cancer-related benefits; amending s.  
1061 284.385, F.S.; specifying a condition that must be met  
1062 before such benefits may be paid from the State Risk  
1063 Management Trust Fund; creating s. 284.45, F.S.;  
1064 prohibiting individuals working for entities covered  
1065 by the State Risk Management Trust Fund from engaging  
1066 in retaliatory conduct against sexual harassment  
1067 victims; defining the term "sexual harassment victim";  
1068 specifying a criminal penalty for the willful and  
1069 knowing dissemination of a sexual harassment victim's  
1070 personal identifying information, except under certain  
1071 circumstances; specifying protected personal  
1072 identifying information; amending s. 497.101, F.S.;  
1073 revising provisions relating to membership of the  
1074 Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services  
1075 within the Department of Financial Services; deleting  
1076 a requirement for the department to adopt certain  
1077 rules; creating s. 497.1411, F.S.; defining terms;  
1078 providing for permanent disqualification of applicants  
1079 for licensure under ch. 497, F.S., for certain  
1080 offenses; providing for disqualifying periods for  
1081 applicants for certain offenses; requiring the board  
1082 to adopt rules; providing for calculation of  
1083 disqualifying periods; providing conditions for



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1084 licensure after completion of a disqualifying period;  
1085 specifying the effect of a pardon or clemency;  
1086 providing for exemptions from disqualification in  
1087 certain circumstances; providing procedures for  
1088 consideration of applications for such exemptions;  
1089 providing construction; amending s. 497.142, F.S.;  
1090 revising criminal history disclosure requirements for  
1091 applicants seeking licensure under ch. 497, F.S.;  
1092 amending s. 497.157, F.S.; prohibiting persons from  
1093 acting as or advertising themselves as being funeral  
1094 directors, embalmers, direct disposers, or preneed  
1095 sales agents unless they are so licensed; prohibiting  
1096 persons from engaging in certain activities requiring  
1097 licensure without holding required licenses; revising  
1098 the criminal penalty for unlicensed activity; amending  
1099 s. 497.159, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes  
1100 made by the act; amending s. 552.081, F.S.; revising  
1101 the definition of the term "two-component explosives"  
1102 for the purpose of regulation by the Division of State  
1103 Fire Marshal; amending s. 553.7921, F.S.; authorizing  
1104 a contractor repairing certain existing fire alarm  
1105 systems to begin work after filing an application for  
1106 a required permit but before receiving the permit;  
1107 providing construction; amending s. 626.2815, F.S.;  
1108 revising continuing education requirements for certain  
1109 persons licensed to solicit, sell, or adjust  
1110 insurance; amending s. 627.70132, F.S.; decreasing the  
1111 timeframe in which a notice of windstorm or hurricane  
1112 claim must be given to a property insurer; amending s.



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1113 633.102, F.S.; revising the authority of certain fire  
1114 protection system contractors to design and alter  
1115 certain systems; amending s. 633.136, F.S.; replacing  
1116 fire protection agencies in the Fire and Emergency  
1117 Incident Information Reporting Program with fire  
1118 service providers and defining the term; revising the  
1119 composition of the Fire and Emergency Incident  
1120 Information System Technical Advisory Panel; amending  
1121 s. 633.202, F.S.; extending a deadline for certain  
1122 buildings to comply with a minimum radio signal  
1123 strength requirement under the Florida Fire Prevention  
1124 Code; requiring such buildings to meet certain  
1125 conditions by a specified date; extending the repeal  
1126 date of exemptions to the Florida Fire Prevention Code  
1127 which authorize doorstep refuse and recycling  
1128 collection containers to be in exit access corridors  
1129 in certain apartment occupancies under certain  
1130 circumstances; creating s. 633.217, F.S.; prohibiting  
1131 certain acts to influence a firesafety inspector into  
1132 violating certain laws; prohibiting a firesafety  
1133 inspector from knowingly and willfully accepting an  
1134 attempt to influence him or her into violating certain  
1135 laws; amending s. 633.304, F.S.; revising requirements  
1136 for training courses for licensees installing or  
1137 maintaining certain fire suppression equipment;  
1138 amending s. 633.402, F.S.; revising the composition of  
1139 the Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training  
1140 Council; amending s. 633.416, F.S.; providing that  
1141 certain persons serving as volunteer firefighters may





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1142           serve as a regular or permanent firefighter for a  
1143           limited period, subject to certain restrictions;  
1144           amending s. 843.08, F.S.; prohibiting false  
1145           personation of personnel or representatives of the  
1146           Division of Investigative and Forensic Services;  
1147           providing criminal penalties; amending s. 943.045,  
1148           F.S.; revising the definition of the term "criminal  
1149           justice agency" to include the investigations  
1150           component of the department which investigates certain  
1151           crimes; amending chapter 2019-140, L.O.F.; extending  
1152           the deadline for the Florida Blockchain Task Force to  
1153           submit its report to the Governor and the Legislature;  
1154           providing effective dates.