

By Senator Rodriguez

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to landlords and tenants; amending s.  
3       83.43, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
4       "tenant"; creating s. 83.455, F.S.; providing  
5       requirements for rental agreements; requiring  
6       landlords to provide certain information with rental  
7       agreements; amending s. 83.46, F.S.; requiring that a  
8       landlord provide written notice of a rent increase to  
9       a tenant by a specified time; requiring such notice to  
10      include an option for mediation under certain  
11      circumstances; amending s. 83.47, F.S.; providing that  
12      certain provisions in a rental agreement are void and  
13      unenforceable; amending s. 83.49, F.S.; removing the  
14      option for a landlord to deposit certain money into a  
15      non-interest-bearing account; revising written notice  
16      requirements to tenants; providing for damages if a  
17      landlord fails to meet certain requirements; amending  
18      s. 83.51, F.S.; requiring a landlord to inspect a  
19      dwelling unit at a specified time to ensure compliance  
20      with applicable codes; amending s. 83.54, F.S.;  
21      requiring certain records be removed from a tenant's  
22      credit report under certain circumstances; amending s.  
23      83.56, F.S.; revising and specifying grounds for  
24      termination of a rental agreement; amending s. 83.60,  
25      F.S.; removing a requirement that certain money be  
26      paid into the registry of the court; amending s.  
27      83.67, F.S.; prohibiting a landlord from engaging in  
28      certain conduct; providing definitions; conforming a  
29      cross-reference to changes made by the act; creating

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30 s. 83.675, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring a  
31 landlord to give tenants the opportunity to purchase  
32 the dwelling unit or premises under certain  
33 circumstances; providing requirements for an offer of  
34 sale; authorizing a tenant to challenge an offer of  
35 sale; creating s. 83.676, F.S.; providing definitions;  
36 prohibiting a landlord from evicting a tenant or  
37 terminating a rental agreement because the tenant or  
38 the tenant's minor child is a victim of actual or  
39 threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual  
40 violence, or stalking; specifying that a rental  
41 agreement may not contain certain provisions;  
42 authorizing a victim of such actual or threatened  
43 violence or stalking to terminate a rental agreement  
44 under certain circumstances; requiring certain  
45 documentation and written notice to the landlord;  
46 providing for liability for rent for both the tenant  
47 and the perpetrator, if applicable; specifying that a  
48 tenant does not forfeit certain money paid to the  
49 landlord for terminating the rental agreement under  
50 certain circumstances; requiring a landlord to change  
51 the locks of the dwelling unit within a specified  
52 period under certain circumstances; authorizing the  
53 tenant to change the locks of the dwelling unit under  
54 certain circumstances; prohibiting certain actions by  
55 a landlord under certain circumstances; providing an  
56 effective date.

57  
58 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 83.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

83.43 Definitions.—As used in this part, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless some other meaning is plainly indicated:

(4) "Tenant" means any person entitled to occupy a dwelling unit or property held out for the use of tenants generally under a rental agreement.

Section 2. Section 83.455, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

83.455 Rental agreements.—

(1) Immediately after entering into, extending, or renewing a rental agreement, the tenant must be provided a copy of the rental agreement. The rental agreement must be written in plain language and, at the tenant's request, translated into the preferred language of the tenant.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all rental agreements entered into, extended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2020, must include the following provisions:

(a) Before a private sale or transfer of title of the dwelling unit or the premises on which the dwelling unit is located, the landlord must provide the tenant with the right of first refusal to purchase the dwelling unit or premises as provided under s. 83.675.

(b) If a landlord chooses not to extend or renew a rental agreement, he or she must provide the tenant a written explanation for such decision.

(c) A landlord may not terminate a tenancy for cause during

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88 a state of emergency declared by the Governor under chapter 252.

89 (d) During a state of emergency declared by the Governor  
90 under chapter 252, a tenant may install wind resistance  
91 improvements, as defined in s. 163.08(2), to the dwelling unit  
92 at the tenant's expense.

93 Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 83.46,  
94 Florida Statutes, to read:

95 83.46 Rent; duration of tenancies.—

96 (4) A landlord must provide to a tenant a written notice,  
97 by certified mail or hand delivery, of a planned rent increase  
98 at least 30 days before the rental agreement renewal period. If  
99 the rent increase is more than 5 percent, the landlord must  
100 provide notice, by certified mail or hand delivery, at least 3  
101 months before the rental agreement renewal period. If the rent  
102 increase is more than 5 percent, the notice must also contain a  
103 statement that the tenant may elect to participate in nonbinding  
104 mediation, at the expense of the tenant, by providing written  
105 notice to the landlord, by certified mail or hand delivery,  
106 within 14 days after receipt of the notice of the rent increase.  
107 For a tenancy without a specific duration, the landlord must  
108 provide written notice, by certified mail or hand delivery, of a  
109 planned rent increase within the timeframes provided in s.  
110 83.57.

111 Section 4. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of  
112 section 83.47, Florida Statutes, to read:

113 83.47 Prohibited provisions in rental agreements.—

114 (1) A provision in a rental agreement is void and  
115 unenforceable to the extent that it:

116 (c) Purports that a tenant's early termination of a rental

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117 agreement because of an incident involving actual or threatened  
118 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or  
119 stalking, in which the tenant or the tenant's minor child is a  
120 victim and not the perpetrator, is a breach of the rental  
121 agreement.

122 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsections  
123 (1), (3), (5), and (9) of section 83.49, Florida Statutes, are  
124 amended to read:

125 83.49 Deposit money or advance rent; duty of landlord and  
126 tenant.—

127 (1) Whenever money is deposited or advanced by a tenant on  
128 a rental agreement as security for performance of the rental  
129 agreement or as advance rent for other than the next immediate  
130 rental period, the landlord or the landlord's agent shall  
131 either:

132 ~~(a) Hold the total amount of such money in a separate non-~~  
133 ~~interest-bearing account in a Florida banking institution for~~  
134 ~~the benefit of the tenant or tenants. The landlord shall not~~  
135 ~~commingle such moneys with any other funds of the landlord or~~  
136 ~~hypothecate, pledge, or in any other way make use of such moneys~~  
137 ~~until such moneys are actually due the landlord;~~

138 (a) Hold the total amount of such money in a separate  
139 interest-bearing account in a Florida banking institution for  
140 the benefit of the tenant or tenants, in which case the tenant  
141 shall receive and collect interest in an amount of at least 75  
142 percent of the annualized average interest rate payable on such  
143 account or interest at the rate of 5 percent per year, simple  
144 interest, whichever the landlord elects. The landlord shall not  
145 commingle such moneys with any other funds of the landlord or

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146 hypothecate, pledge, or in any other way make use of such moneys  
147 until such moneys are actually due the landlord; or

148 (b)~~(e)~~ Post a surety bond, executed by the landlord as  
149 principal and a surety company authorized and licensed to do  
150 business in the state as surety, with the clerk of the circuit  
151 court in the county in which the dwelling unit is located in the  
152 total amount of the security deposits and advance rent he or she  
153 holds on behalf of the tenants or \$50,000, whichever is less.  
154 The bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful compliance of  
155 the landlord with the provisions of this section and shall run  
156 to the Governor for the benefit of any tenant injured by the  
157 landlord's violation of the provisions of this section. In  
158 addition to posting the surety bond, the landlord shall pay to  
159 the tenant interest at the rate of 5 percent per year, simple  
160 interest. A landlord, or the landlord's agent, engaged in the  
161 renting of dwelling units in five or more counties, who holds  
162 deposit moneys or advance rent and who is otherwise subject to  
163 the provisions of this section, may, in lieu of posting a surety  
164 bond in each county, elect to post a surety bond in the form and  
165 manner provided in this paragraph with the office of the  
166 Secretary of State. The bond shall be in the total amount of the  
167 security deposit or advance rent held on behalf of tenants or in  
168 the amount of \$250,000, whichever is less. The bond shall be  
169 conditioned upon the faithful compliance of the landlord with  
170 the provisions of this section and shall run to the Governor for  
171 the benefit of any tenant injured by the landlord's violation of  
172 this section. In addition to posting a surety bond, the landlord  
173 shall pay to the tenant interest on the security deposit or  
174 advance rent held on behalf of that tenant at the rate of 5

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175 percent per year simple interest.

176 (2) The landlord shall, in the rental lease agreement or  
177 within 30 days after receipt of advance rent or a security  
178 deposit, give written notice to the tenant which includes  
179 disclosure of the advance rent or security deposit. Subsequent  
180 to providing such written notice, if the landlord changes the  
181 manner or location in which he or she is holding the advance  
182 rent or security deposit, he or she must notify the tenant  
183 within 30 days after the change as provided in paragraphs (a)-  
184 (d). The landlord is not required to give new or additional  
185 notice solely because the depository has merged with another  
186 financial institution, changed its name, or transferred  
187 ownership to a different financial institution. This subsection  
188 does not apply to any landlord who rents fewer than five  
189 individual dwelling units. Failure to give this notice is not a  
190 defense to the payment of rent when due. The written notice  
191 must:

192 (c) State that whether the tenant is entitled to interest  
193 on the deposit and the amount of the interest.

194 (3) The landlord or the landlord's agent may disburse  
195 advance rents from the deposit account to the landlord's benefit  
196 when the advance rental period commences and without notice to  
197 the tenant. For all other deposits:

198 (a) Upon ~~the vacating of the premises for~~ termination of  
199 the rental agreement lease, ~~if the landlord does not intend to~~  
200 ~~impose a claim on the security deposit~~, the landlord shall have  
201 15 days to return the security deposit together with interest  
202 within 15 days after the tenant vacates the premises. ~~if~~  
203 ~~otherwise required, or~~ The landlord has ~~shall have~~ 30 days from

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204 when the tenant vacates the premises to give the tenant written  
205 notice by certified mail to the tenant's last known mailing  
206 address of his or her intention to impose a claim on the deposit  
207 and the reason for imposing the claim. The notice shall contain  
208 a statement in substantially the following form:

209       This is a notice of my intention to impose a claim for  
210 damages in the amount of .... upon your security deposit, due to  
211 ..... It is sent to you as required by s. 83.49(3), Florida  
212 Statutes. You are hereby notified that you must object in  
213 writing to this deduction from your security deposit within 15  
214 days from the time you receive this notice or I will be  
215 authorized to deduct my claim from your security deposit. Your  
216 objection must be sent to ...(landlord's address)....  
217 If the landlord fails to give the required notice within the 30-  
218 day period, he or she forfeits the right to impose a claim upon  
219 the security deposit and may not seek a setoff against the  
220 deposit but may file an action for damages after return of the  
221 deposit.

222       (b) Unless the tenant objects to the imposition of the  
223 landlord's claim or the amount thereof within 15 days after  
224 receipt of the landlord's notice of intention to impose a claim,  
225 the landlord may ~~then~~ deduct the amount of his or her claim and  
226 shall remit the balance of the deposit and any interest to the  
227 tenant within 30 days after the date of the notice of intention  
228 to impose a claim for damages. The failure of the tenant to make  
229 a timely objection does not waive any rights of the tenant to  
230 seek damages in a separate action.

231       (c) If either party institutes an action in a court of  
232 competent jurisdiction to adjudicate the party's right to the



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233 security deposit, the prevailing party is entitled to receive  
234 his or her court costs plus a reasonable fee for his or her  
235 attorney. If a court finds that the landlord failed to meet the  
236 requirements of this section, the court shall award the tenant  
237 damages equal to three times the amount of the tenant's security  
238 deposit. The court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

239 (d) Compliance with this section by an individual or  
240 business entity authorized to conduct business in this state,  
241 including Florida-licensed real estate brokers and sales  
242 associates, constitutes compliance with all other relevant  
243 Florida Statutes pertaining to security deposits held pursuant  
244 to a rental agreement or other landlord-tenant relationship.  
245 Enforcement personnel shall look solely to this section to  
246 determine compliance. This section prevails over any conflicting  
247 provisions in chapter 475 and in other sections of the Florida  
248 Statutes, and shall operate to permit licensed real estate  
249 brokers to disburse security deposits and deposit money without  
250 having to comply with the notice and settlement procedures  
251 contained in s. 475.25(1)(d).

252 (5) Except when otherwise provided by the terms of a  
253 written rental agreement ~~lease~~, any tenant who vacates or  
254 abandons the premises prior to the expiration of the term  
255 specified in the written rental agreement ~~lease~~, or any tenant  
256 who vacates or abandons premises which are the subject of a  
257 tenancy from week to week, month to month, quarter to quarter,  
258 or year to year, shall give at least 7 days' written notice,  
259 which notice shall include the address where the tenant may be  
260 reached, by certified mail or personal delivery to the landlord  
261 before ~~prior to~~ vacating or abandoning the premises ~~which notice~~

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262 ~~shall include the address where the tenant may be reached.~~  
263 Failure to give such notice relieves ~~shall relieve~~ the landlord  
264 of the notice requirement of paragraph (3)(a) but does ~~shall~~ not  
265 waive any right the tenant may have to the security deposit or  
266 any part of it.

267 (9) ~~In those cases in which interest is required to be paid~~  
268 ~~to the tenant,~~ The landlord shall pay directly to the tenant, or  
269 credit against the current month's rent, the interest due to the  
270 tenant at least once annually. However, ~~no~~ interest may not be  
271 paid to ~~shall be due~~ a tenant who wrongfully terminates his or  
272 her tenancy prior to the end of the rental term.

273 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
274 83.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

275 83.51 Landlord's obligation to maintain premises.—

276 (1) The landlord at all times during the tenancy shall:

277 (a) Comply with the requirements of applicable building,  
278 housing, and health codes. The landlord, at commencement of the  
279 tenancy, must inspect the dwelling unit to ensure compliance  
280 with all applicable codes; or

281  
282 The landlord is not required to maintain a mobile home or other  
283 structure owned by the tenant. The landlord's obligations under  
284 this subsection may be altered or modified in writing with  
285 respect to a single-family home or duplex.

286 Section 7. Section 83.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
287 read:

288 83.54 Enforcement of rights and duties; civil action;  
289 criminal offenses.—Any right or duty declared in this part is  
290 enforceable by civil action. A right or duty enforced by civil

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291 action under this section does not preclude prosecution for a  
292 criminal offense related to the rental agreement or rented  
293 dwelling unit or premises lease or leased property. In an action  
294 brought by a tenant for wrongful termination of a rental  
295 agreement, if the court finds in favor of the tenant, any  
296 eviction complaint filed by the landlord shall be dismissed and  
297 the record of such filing removed from the tenant's credit  
298 report.

299 Section 8. Subsection (6) of section 83.56, Florida  
300 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), subsections (2) and  
301 (4) are amended, and a new subsection (6) is added to that  
302 section, to read:

303 83.56 Termination of rental agreement.—

304 (2) (a) A landlord must have good cause to terminate a  
305 rental agreement. The following reasons constitute good cause  
306 allowing for termination of a rental agreement:

307 1. The destruction, damage, or misuse of the landlord's or  
308 other tenants' property by intentional act.

309 2. A tenant's disorderly conduct or continued unreasonable  
310 disturbance.

311 3. Failure of the tenant to comply with s. 83.52.

312 4. A violation or breach of the landlord's reasonable rules  
313 and regulations.

314 5. A violation or breach of covenants or agreements  
315 contained in the rental agreement.

316 6. Use of the dwelling unit or premises for illegal  
317 purposes or acts, including, but not limited to, the  
318 manufacture, sale, or use of illegal drugs, theft of property,  
319 or assault or threats on the landlord or his or her relatives,

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320 as defined in s. 494.001(33), or employees.

321 7. The dwelling unit or premises are removed from the  
322 rental market because the state, any political subdivision as  
323 defined in s. 1.01(8), or other entity exercises its power of  
324 eminent domain, the landlord seeks in good faith to permanently  
325 remove the property from the rental market, or the landlord is  
326 converting the dwelling unit or premises from the rental market  
327 to a condominium, cooperative, or fee simple ownership.

328 8. The dwelling unit or premises are being used as an  
329 incident of employment and such employment is terminated.

330 9. The landlord seeks in good faith to recover possession  
331 of the dwelling unit or premises for his or her own use and  
332 occupancy as a principal residence, or for the use and occupancy  
333 as a principal residence by a relative, as defined in s.  
334 494.001(33), of the landlord.

335 (b) If any of the violations in subparagraphs 1.-6. exist  
336 the tenant materially fails to comply with s. 83.52 or material  
337 provisions of the rental agreement, other than a failure to pay  
338 rent, or reasonable rules or regulations, the landlord may:

339 1.(a) If the violation such noncompliance is of a nature  
340 that the tenant should not be given an opportunity to cure it or  
341 if the violation noncompliance constitutes a subsequent or  
342 continuing violation noncompliance within 12 months of a written  
343 warning by the landlord of a similar violation, deliver a  
344 written notice to the tenant specifying the violation  
345 noncompliance and the landlord's intent to terminate the rental  
346 agreement by reason thereof. Examples of noncompliance which are  
347 of a nature that the tenant should not be given an opportunity  
348 to cure include, but are not limited to, destruction, damage, or

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349 ~~misuse of the landlord's or other tenants' property by~~  
350 ~~intentional act or a subsequent or continued unreasonable~~  
351 ~~disturbance.~~ In such event, the landlord may terminate the  
352 rental agreement, and the tenant shall have 7 days from the date  
353 that the notice is delivered to vacate the premises. The notice  
354 shall be in substantially the following form:

355       You are advised that your rental agreement lease is  
356 terminated effective immediately. You shall have 7 days from the  
357 delivery of this letter to vacate the premises. This action is  
358 taken because ... (cite the violation noncompliance)....

359       2.(b) If the violation such noncompliance is of a nature  
360 that the tenant should be given an opportunity to cure it,  
361 deliver a written notice to the tenant specifying the violation  
362 noncompliance, including a notice that, if the violation  
363 noncompliance is not corrected within 7 days from the date that  
364 the written notice is delivered, the landlord shall terminate  
365 the rental agreement by reason thereof. ~~Examples of such~~  
366 ~~noncompliance include, but are not limited to, activities in~~  
367 ~~contravention of the lease or this part such as having or~~  
368 ~~permitting unauthorized pets, guests, or vehicles; parking in an~~  
369 ~~unauthorized manner or permitting such parking; or failing to~~  
370 ~~keep the premises clean and sanitary.~~ If such violation  
371 noncompliance recurs within 12 months after notice, an eviction  
372 action may commence without delivering a subsequent notice  
373 pursuant to subparagraph 1. paragraph (a) or this subparagraph  
374 paragraph. The notice shall be in substantially the following  
375 form:

376       You are hereby notified that ... (cite the violation  
377 noncompliance).... Demand is hereby made that you remedy the

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378 ~~violation noncompliance~~ within 7 days of receipt of this notice  
379 or your rental agreement will be lease shall be deemed  
380 terminated and you shall vacate the premises upon such  
381 termination. If this same conduct or conduct of a similar nature  
382 is repeated within 12 months, your tenancy is subject to  
383 termination without further warning and without your being given  
384 an opportunity to cure the violation noncompliance.

385 (c) If any other reason provided in paragraph (a) exists,  
386 the landlord may deliver a written notice to the tenant of the  
387 landlord's intent to terminate the rental agreement. The written  
388 notice must specify the reason for the termination. In such  
389 event, the tenant shall have 7 days from the date that the  
390 notice is delivered to vacate the premises.

391 (3) If the tenant fails to pay rent when due and the  
392 default continues for 3 days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and  
393 legal holidays, after delivery of written demand by the landlord  
394 for payment of the rent or possession of the premises, or if the  
395 tenant habitually pays late or fails to pay the full amount of  
396 rent after being given notice of a rent increase as required in  
397 s. 83.46(4), the landlord may terminate the rental agreement.  
398 Habitual late payments means more than one late payment  
399 following the landlord's first written demand for payment. Legal  
400 holidays for the purpose of this section shall be court-observed  
401 holidays only. The 3-day notice shall contain a statement in  
402 substantially the following form:

403 You are hereby notified that you are indebted to me in the  
404 sum of .... dollars for the rent and use of the premises  
405 ...(address of leased premises, including county)..., Florida,  
406 now occupied by you and that I demand payment of the rent or

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407 possession of the premises within 3 days (excluding Saturday,  
408 Sunday, and legal holidays) from the date of delivery of this  
409 notice, to wit: on or before the .... day of ....., ...(year)....  
410 ... (landlord's name, address and phone number)...

412 (4) The delivery of the written notices required by  
413 subsections (1), (2), ~~and~~ (3), and (6) shall be by mailing or  
414 delivery of a true copy thereof or, if the tenant is absent from  
415 the premises, by leaving a copy thereof at the residence. The  
416 notice requirements of subsections (1), (2), ~~and~~ (3), and (6)  
417 may not be waived in the rental agreement ~~lease~~.

418 (6) (a) If the landlord seeks in good faith to undertake  
419 substantial repairs to the dwelling unit or premises that cannot  
420 be completed while the dwelling unit is occupied, and that are  
421 necessary to bring the dwelling unit or premises into compliance  
422 with applicable codes and laws or under an outstanding notice of  
423 code violations, the landlord may deliver a written notice to  
424 the tenant of the landlord's intent to terminate the rental  
425 agreement. In such event, the tenant shall have 7 days from the  
426 date that the notice is delivered to vacate the premises.

427 (b) A notice terminating a rental agreement under this  
428 subsection must include the following information:

429 1. A statement in substantially the following form: "When  
430 the needed repairs are completed on your dwelling unit or the  
431 premises, the landlord must offer you the opportunity to return  
432 to your dwelling unit with a rental agreement of substantially  
433 the same terms and at the same rent, subject to the landlord's  
434 right to obtain a rent increase for capital improvements."

435 2. If a landlord owns other residential dwelling units and

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436 any such unit is available, a statement informing the tenant of  
437 the existence of the available unit and an offer to enter into a  
438 temporary rental agreement for the available unit or an offer to  
439 enter into a new rental agreement for the available unit. The  
440 landlord shall offer the replacement dwelling unit to the tenant  
441 at a rent based on the rent that the tenant is currently paying,  
442 allowing for adjustments based on the condition, size, and other  
443 amenities of the replacement unit.

444 3. An estimate of the time required to complete the repairs  
445 and the date upon which it is expected that the dwelling unit  
446 will be ready for habitation.

447 (c) Upon completion of the repairs of the dwelling unit or  
448 premises, the landlord shall offer the tenant the first right to  
449 return to the dwelling unit at the same rent and under a rental  
450 agreement of substantially the same terms, subject to the  
451 landlord's right to obtain a rent increase for capital  
452 improvements.

453 Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 83.60, Florida  
454 Statutes, is amended to read:

455 83.60 Defenses to action for rent or possession;  
456 procedure.—

457 (2) In an action by the landlord for possession of a  
458 dwelling unit, if the tenant interposes any defense other than  
459 payment, including, but not limited to, the defense of a  
460 defective 3-day notice, the tenant shall pay into the registry  
461 of the court the accrued rent as alleged in the complaint or as  
462 determined by the court and the rent that accrues during the  
463 pendency of the proceeding, when due. The clerk shall notify the  
464 tenant of such requirement in the summons. ~~Failure of the tenant~~



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465 ~~to pay the rent into the registry of the court or to file a~~  
466 ~~motion to determine the amount of rent to be paid into the~~  
467 ~~registry within 5 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal~~  
468 ~~holidays, after the date of service of process constitutes an~~  
469 ~~absolute waiver of the tenant's defenses other than payment, and~~  
470 ~~the landlord is entitled to an immediate default judgment for~~  
471 ~~removal of the tenant with a writ of possession to issue without~~  
472 ~~further notice or hearing thereon. If a motion to determine rent~~  
473 ~~is filed, documentation in support of the allegation that the~~  
474 ~~rent as alleged in the complaint is in error is required. Public~~  
475 ~~housing tenants or tenants receiving rent subsidies are required~~  
476 ~~to deposit only that portion of the full rent for which they are~~  
477 ~~responsible pursuant to the federal, state, or local program in~~  
478 ~~which they are participating.~~

479 Section 10. Section 83.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
480 read:

481 83.67 Prohibited practices.—

482 (1) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part  
483 may ~~shall~~ not cause, directly or indirectly, the termination or  
484 interruption of any utility service furnished to the tenant,  
485 including, but not limited to, water, heat, light, electricity,  
486 gas, elevator, garbage collection, or refrigeration, whether or  
487 not the utility service is under the control of, or payment is  
488 made by, the landlord.

489 (2) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part  
490 may ~~shall~~ not prevent the tenant from gaining reasonable access  
491 to the dwelling unit by any means, including, but not limited  
492 to, changing the locks or using any bootlock or similar device.

493 (3) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part

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494 ~~may shall~~ not discriminate against a servicemember in offering a  
495 dwelling unit for rent or in any of the terms of the rental  
496 agreement.

497 (4) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part  
498 may not discriminate against a person in offering a dwelling  
499 unit for rent or in any of the terms of the rental agreement  
500 based on the person's race; color; religion; sex; pregnancy;  
501 national origin; age; physical, mental, or developmental  
502 disability; HIV status; familial status; sexual orientation;  
503 gender identity; source of income; or credit score. For purposes  
504 of this subsection, the term:

505 (a) "Familial status" means the makeup of a person's  
506 family, including whether there is a child under the age of 18  
507 living with the person or whether the person is seeking custody  
508 of a child under the age of 18.

509 (b) "Gender identity" means the identity, appearance, or  
510 behavior of a person, regardless of whether such identity,  
511 appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally  
512 associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at  
513 birth.

514 (c) "Sexual orientation" means a person's heterosexuality,  
515 homosexuality, or bisexuality.

516 (5) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part  
517 may not harass or intimidate a tenant for the purpose of  
518 coercing the tenant into terminating the rental agreement.

519 (6) A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this part  
520 may not refuse to show the dwelling unit, either in person or  
521 through photographs, to a prospective tenant until the  
522 prospective tenant signs a rental agreement.

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523       (7) Unless otherwise required by law, a landlord of any  
524 dwelling unit governed by this part may not inquire into or  
525 consider a prospective tenant's criminal history on a rental  
526 application or rental agreement. A landlord may inquire into or  
527 consider a prospective tenant's criminal history only after the  
528 landlord otherwise determines that the prospective tenant  
529 otherwise qualifies to rent a dwelling unit.

530       (8) If a landlord requires a prospective tenant to complete  
531 a rental application before residing in a dwelling unit, the  
532 landlord may not charge an excessive rental application fee. If,  
533 after a prospective tenant submits a rental application and  
534 application fee, a dwelling unit is not available, the landlord  
535 must refund the application fee to the prospective tenant.

536       (9)~~(4)~~ A landlord may ~~shall~~ not prohibit a tenant from  
537 displaying one portable, removable, cloth or plastic United  
538 States flag, not larger than 4 and 1/2 feet by 6 feet, in a  
539 respectful manner in or on the dwelling unit regardless of any  
540 provision in the rental agreement dealing with flags or  
541 decorations. The United States flag shall be displayed in  
542 accordance with s. 83.52(6). The landlord is not liable for  
543 damages caused by a United States flag displayed by a tenant.  
544 Any United States flag may not infringe upon the space rented by  
545 any other tenant.

546       (10)~~(5)~~ A landlord of any dwelling unit governed by this  
547 part may ~~shall~~ not remove the outside doors, locks, roof, walls,  
548 or windows of the unit except for purposes of maintenance,  
549 repair, or replacement; and the landlord may ~~shall~~ not remove  
550 the tenant's personal property from the dwelling unit unless  
551 such action is taken after surrender, abandonment, recovery of

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552 possession of the dwelling unit due to the death of the last  
553 remaining tenant in accordance with s. 83.59(3)(d), or a lawful  
554 eviction. If provided in the rental agreement or a written  
555 agreement separate from the rental agreement, upon surrender or  
556 abandonment by the tenant, the landlord is not required to  
557 comply with s. 715.104 and is not liable or responsible for  
558 storage or disposition of the tenant's personal property; if  
559 provided in the rental agreement, there must be printed or  
560 clearly stamped on such rental agreement a legend in  
561 substantially the following form:

562 BY SIGNING THIS RENTAL AGREEMENT, THE TENANT AGREES THAT UPON  
563 SURRENDER, ABANDONMENT, OR RECOVERY OF POSSESSION OF THE  
564 DWELLING UNIT DUE TO THE DEATH OF THE LAST REMAINING TENANT, AS  
565 PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 83, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE LANDLORD SHALL NOT  
566 BE LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE FOR STORAGE OR DISPOSITION OF THE  
567 TENANT'S PERSONAL PROPERTY.

568 For the purposes of this section, abandonment shall be as set  
569 forth in s. 83.59(3)(c).

570 (11)~~(6)~~ A landlord who violates any provision of this  
571 section is ~~shall be~~ liable to the tenant for actual and  
572 consequential damages or 3 months' rent, whichever is greater,  
573 and costs, including attorney's fees. Subsequent or repeated  
574 violations that are not contemporaneous with the initial  
575 violation are ~~shall be~~ subject to separate awards of damages.

576 (12)~~(7)~~ A violation of this section constitutes irreparable  
577 harm for the purposes of injunctive relief.

578 (13)~~(8)~~ The remedies provided by this section are not  
579 exclusive and do not preclude the tenant from pursuing any other  
580 remedy at law or equity that the tenant may have. The remedies

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581 provided by this section shall also apply to a servicemember or  
582 person who is a prospective tenant who has been discriminated  
583 against under subsections (3) and (4) ~~subsection (3)~~.

584 Section 11. Section 83.675, Florida Statutes, is created to  
585 read:

586 83.675 Tenant opportunity to purchase.—

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

588 (a) "Bona fide offer of sale" means an offer for a price,  
589 and, including other material terms, that is at least as  
590 favorable as what would be accepted by a purchaser in an arm's  
591 length third-party contract, that is comparable to that at which  
592 a willing seller and a willing buyer would sell and purchase the  
593 dwelling unit or premises, or that is the appraised value.

594 (b) "Highest and best use" means the reasonable legal use  
595 of a dwelling unit or the premises on which the dwelling unit is  
596 located that is physically possible, appropriately supported,  
597 and financially feasible and that results in the highest value  
598 of the dwelling unit or premises.

599 (c) "Matter-of-right" means the appropriate land use,  
600 development density, or building requirements of the dwelling  
601 unit or premises under zoning regulations and law.

602 (2) Before a landlord may sell a dwelling unit or the  
603 premises on which a dwelling unit is located or issue a notice  
604 to vacate the dwelling unit or premises for purposes of  
605 demolition or discontinuance of housing use, the landlord must  
606 give the tenant an opportunity to purchase the dwelling unit or  
607 the premises at a price and with material terms that represent a  
608 bona fide offer of sale.

609 (3) A landlord shall provide the tenant a copy of the offer

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610 of sale, in the preferred language of the tenant, by hand  
611 delivery, e-mail, or certified mail. A landlord may not retain a  
612 percentage of ownership in the dwelling unit or premises in the  
613 offer of sale.

614 (4) The sales price contained in the offer of sale may not  
615 be more than a price comparable to that at which a willing  
616 seller and a willing buyer would sell and purchase the dwelling  
617 unit or premises or the appraised value of the dwelling unit or  
618 premises.

619 (5) The appraisal value shall be based on rights a landlord  
620 has as a matter-of-right as of the date of the offer of sale,  
621 including any existing right a landlord may have to convert the  
622 dwelling unit or premises to another use. The appraisal value  
623 may take into consideration the highest and best use of the  
624 dwelling unit or premises.

625 (6) A tenant may challenge an offer of sale as not being a  
626 bona fide offer of sale and request a determination of the  
627 appraised value by an independent licensed appraiser, as defined  
628 in s. 475.611, at the expense of the tenant, by providing  
629 written notice to the landlord and the Division of Consumer  
630 Services within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
631 Services by hand delivery, electronic transmission, or certified  
632 mail within 30 days after receipt of the offer of sale.

633 (7) The landlord has the burden of proof to establish that  
634 an offer of sale under this section is a bona fide offer of  
635 sale.

636 Section 12. Section 83.676, Florida Statutes, is created to  
637 read:

638 83.676 Early termination of rental agreement by a victim of

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639 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or  
640 stalking; lock changing.-

641 (1) As used in this section, the term:

642 (a) "Dating violence" has the same meaning as in s.  
643 784.046.

644 (b) "Domestic violence" has the same meaning as in s.  
645 741.28.

646 (c) "Sexual violence" has the same meaning as in s.  
647 784.046.

648 (d) "Stalking" has the same meaning as in s. 784.048.

649 (2) A landlord may not terminate a rental agreement or  
650 evict a tenant for an incident involving actual or threatened  
651 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking  
652 if the tenant or the tenant's minor child is the victim of such  
653 actual or threatened violence or stalking. A rental agreement  
654 may not include a provision deeming that early termination of a  
655 rental agreement because of an incident involving actual or  
656 threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence,  
657 or stalking, in which the tenant or the tenant's minor child is  
658 a victim and not the perpetrator, is a breach of the rental  
659 agreement.

660 (3) (a) If a tenant or a tenant's minor child is a victim of  
661 actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual  
662 violence, or stalking during the term of a rental agreement, the  
663 tenant may, without penalty, terminate the rental agreement at  
664 any time by providing the landlord with written notice of the  
665 tenant's intent to terminate the rental agreement and to vacate  
666 the premises because of such incident. The termination of the  
667 rental agreement is effective immediately upon delivery of the

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668 written notice and documentation specified in paragraph (b), if  
669 applicable, to the landlord.

670 (b) Unless the landlord notifies the tenant that  
671 documentation is not needed, a notice of termination from the  
672 tenant required under paragraph (a) must be accompanied by  
673 documentation verifying the tenant's or the tenant's minor  
674 child's status as a victim of actual or threatened domestic  
675 violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking and may  
676 include:

677 1. A copy of an injunction for protection against domestic  
678 violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking issued  
679 to the tenant as victim or as parent of a minor victim;

680 2. A copy of an order of no contact or a criminal  
681 conviction entered by a court in a criminal case in which the  
682 defendant was charged with a crime relating to domestic  
683 violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking against  
684 the tenant or the tenant's minor child;

685 3. A written verification from a domestic violence center  
686 certified under chapter 39 or a rape crisis center as defined in  
687 s. 794.055 which states that the tenant or the tenant's minor  
688 child is a victim of actual or threatened domestic violence,  
689 dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking; or

690 4. A copy of a law enforcement report documenting an  
691 incident of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating  
692 violence, sexual violence, or stalking against the tenant or the  
693 tenant's minor child.

694 (c) A notice of termination from the tenant required under  
695 paragraph (a) must be provided by certified mail or hand  
696 delivery to the landlord, a person authorized to receive notices



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697 on behalf of the landlord under s. 83.50, a resident manager, or  
698 the person or entity that collects the rent on behalf of the  
699 landlord.

700 (d) If a rental agreement with a specific duration is  
701 terminated by a tenant under this subsection less than 30 days  
702 before the end of the rental agreement, the tenant is liable for  
703 the rent for the remaining period of the rental agreement. If a  
704 rental agreement with a specific duration is terminated by a  
705 tenant under this subsection 30 or more days before the end of  
706 the rental agreement, the tenant is liable for prorated rent for  
707 a period of 30 days immediately following delivery of the notice  
708 of termination. After compliance with this paragraph, the tenant  
709 is released from any further obligation to pay rent,  
710 concessions, damages, fees, or penalties, and the landlord is  
711 not entitled to the remedies provided in s. 83.595.

712 (e) If a rental agreement is terminated by a tenant under  
713 this subsection, the landlord must comply with s. 83.49(3). A  
714 tenant who terminates a rental agreement under this subsection  
715 does not forfeit any deposit money or advance rent paid to the  
716 landlord.

717 (f) This subsection does not affect a tenant's liability  
718 for unpaid rent or other amounts owed to the landlord before the  
719 termination of the rental agreement under this subsection.

720 (g) If the perpetrator of actual or threatened domestic  
721 violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking is also  
722 a tenant under the same rental agreement as the tenant who is a  
723 victim, or whose minor child is a victim, of such actual or  
724 threatened violence or stalking, neither the perpetrator's  
725 liability for rent nor his or her other obligations under the

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726 rental agreement are terminated under this subsection, and the  
727 landlord is entitled to the rights and remedies provided by this  
728 part against the perpetrator.

729 (4) (a) A tenant or a tenant's minor child who is a victim  
730 of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence,  
731 sexual violence, or stalking and who wishes to remain in the  
732 dwelling unit may make a written request to the landlord  
733 accompanied by any one of the documents listed in paragraph  
734 (3) (b), and the landlord shall, within 24 hours after receipt of  
735 the request, change the locks of the tenant's dwelling unit and  
736 provide the tenant with a key to the new locks.

737 (b) If the landlord fails to change the locks within 24  
738 hours, the tenant may change the locks without the landlord's  
739 permission, notwithstanding any contrary provision in the rental  
740 agreement or other applicable rules or regulations imposed by  
741 the landlord, if all of the following conditions have been met:

742 1. The locks are changed in like manner as if the landlord  
743 had changed the locks, with locks of similar or better quality  
744 than the original locks.

745 2. The landlord is notified within 24 hours after the  
746 changing of the locks.

747 3. The landlord is provided a key to the new locks within a  
748 reasonable time.

749 (c) If the locks are changed under this subsection, the  
750 landlord is not liable to any person who does not have access to  
751 the dwelling unit.

752 (5) A landlord may not refuse to enter into a rental  
753 agreement for a dwelling unit, refuse to negotiate for the  
754 rental of a dwelling unit, make a dwelling unit unavailable, or

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755 retaliate in the rental of a dwelling unit because:

756 (a) The tenant, prospective tenant, or minor child of the  
757 tenant or prospective tenant is a victim of actual or threatened  
758 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or  
759 stalking; or

760 (b) The tenant or prospective tenant has previously  
761 terminated a rental agreement because of an incident involving  
762 actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual  
763 violence, or stalking in which the tenant, prospective tenant,  
764 or minor child of the tenant or prospective tenant was a victim.

765  
766 However, the landlord may refuse to enter into a rental  
767 agreement, negotiate for the rental of a dwelling unit, or make  
768 a dwelling unit available if the tenant or prospective tenant  
769 fails to comply with the landlord's request for documentation of  
770 an incident of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating  
771 violence, sexual violence, or stalking that occurred before  
772 termination of a prior rental agreement. A landlord's request  
773 for documentation is satisfied upon the tenant's or prospective  
774 tenant's provision of any one of the documents listed in  
775 paragraph (3) (b).

776 (6) All information provided to a landlord under  
777 subsections (3), (4), and (5), including the fact that a tenant,  
778 prospective tenant, or a tenant's or prospective tenant's minor  
779 child is a victim of actual or threatened domestic violence,  
780 dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking, and including the  
781 tenant's forwarding address, is confidential. The landlord may  
782 not enter such information into any shared database or provide  
783 the information to any other person or entity, except to the

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784 extent such disclosure is:

785 (a) Made to a person specified in paragraph (3)(c) solely  
786 for a legitimate business purpose;

787 (b) Requested, or consented to, in writing by the tenant or  
788 the tenant's legal guardian;

789 (c) Required for use in a judicial proceeding; or

790 (d) Otherwise required by law.

791 (7) A tenant or prospective tenant, on his or her own  
792 behalf or on behalf of his or her minor child, may file a civil  
793 action against a landlord for a violation of this section. A  
794 landlord who violates subsection (5) or subsection (6) is  
795 civilly liable to the victim for \$1,000 for punitive damages,  
796 actual and consequential damages, and court costs, including  
797 reasonable attorney fees, unless the landlord can show that this  
798 was the landlord's first violation and the violation was not  
799 committed in bad faith. Subsequent or repeated violations that  
800 are not contemporaneous with the initial violation are subject  
801 to separate awards of damages.

802 (8) The provisions of this section may not be waived or  
803 modified by a rental agreement.

804 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.