2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

1415

1617

1819

20

21

22

23

24

25

2627

28

29

By the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and Senator Perry

597-02692-21 2021742c1

A bill to be entitled An act relating to insurance; amending s. 215.555, F.S.; redefining the term "covered policy" under the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund in relation to certain collateral protection insurance policies; amending s. 624.423, F.S.; specifying when service of process is valid and binding upon insurers; creating s. 624.46227, F.S.; authorizing any association, trust, or pool created for the purpose of forming or managing a risk management mechanism or providing self-insurance for a public entity to establish a quorum and conduct public business through communication media technology; amending s. 626.7351, F.S.; revising a qualification for licensure as a customer representative; amending s. 626.856, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "company employee adjuster"; amending s. 626.9202, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "loss run statement"; specifying the entities that must receive requests for loss run statements; specifying that insurers must provide loss run statements under certain circumstances; revising the required claims history in loss run statements; providing applicability; limiting loss run statement requests with respect to group health insurance policies to group policyholders; amending s. 627.062, F.S.; revising the factors for determining whether an insurance rate filing is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory; amending s. 627.0629, F.S.; authorizing, rather than

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38 39

40

41

42

43 44

45 46

47

48 49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

597-02692-21 2021742c1

requiring, rate filings for certain residential property insurance to include certain rate factors; authorizing insurers to file certain insurance rating plans based on certain windstorm mitigation construction standards; authorizing insurers to require policyholders to provide evidence of compliance with mitigation standards under certain conditions; amending s. 627.072, F.S.; providing a ratemaking factor for workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; revising conditions for determining the ineligibility of condominiums for wind-only coverage; amending s. 627.421, F.S.; authorizing insurers to electronically transmit policy documents and claims documents under certain circumstances; amending s. 627.444, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "loss run statement"; specifying the entities that must receive requests for loss run statements; specifying that insurers must provide loss run statements under certain circumstances; revising the required claims history in loss run statements; providing applicability; limiting loss run statement requests with respect to group health insurance policies to group policyholders; repealing s. 627.6647, F.S., relating to the release of information required for bid to group health insurance policyholders; amending s. 627.7011, F.S.; revising conditions for inclusion of costs for law and ordinance coverage in loss adjustments under certain

homeowners' policies; amending s. 627.715, F.S.; providing an exemption from a diligent effort requirement for agents exporting contracts or endorsements providing flood coverage; amending s. 627.7152, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "assignment agreement"; specifying the addresses to which a notice of intent must be served; amending s. 627.7276, F.S.; revising notice requirements for motor vehicle policies that do not provide coverage for bodily injury and property damage liability; amending ss. 634.171, 634.317, and 634.419, F.S.; authorizing licensed personal lines or general lines agents to solicit, negotiate, advertise, or sell motor vehicle service agreements, home warranty contracts, and service warranties, respectively, without a sales representative license; reenacting s. 627.7153(1) and (2) (d), F.S., relating to policies restricting assignment of post-loss benefits under a property insurance policy, to incorporate the amendment made by the act to s. 627.7152, F.S., in references thereto; providing effective dates.

80 81

59

60

61

62 63

64 65

66 67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

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

82 83

84

Section 1. Effective June 1, 2021, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 215.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

85

215.555 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.-

8687

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

89

90 91

92

9394

95

9697

98

99

100

101102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110111

112113

114115

116

597-02692-21 2021742c1

(c) "Covered policy" means any insurance policy covering residential property in this state, including, but not limited to, any homeowner, mobile home owner, farm owner, condominium association, condominium unit owner, tenant, or apartment building policy, or any other policy covering a residential structure or its contents issued by any authorized insurer, including a commercial self-insurance fund holding a certificate of authority issued by the Office of Insurance Regulation under s. 624.462, the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, and any joint underwriting association or similar entity created under law. The term "covered policy" includes any collateral protection insurance policy covering personal residences which protects both the borrower's and the lender's financial interests, in an amount at least equal to the coverage amount for the dwelling in place under the lapsed homeowner's policy, the coverage amount that the homeowner has been notified of, or the coverage amount the homeowner requests from the collateral protection insurer, if such collateral protection insurance policy can be accurately reported as required in subsection (5). Additionally, covered policies include policies covering the peril of wind removed from the Florida Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association or from the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, created under s. 627.351(6), or from the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association, created under s. 627.351(2), by an authorized insurer under the terms and conditions of an executed assumption agreement between the authorized insurer and such association or Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. Each assumption agreement between the association and such authorized insurer or Citizens Property

118

119120

121

122123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142143

144

145

597-02692-21 2021742c1

Insurance Corporation must be approved by the Office of Insurance Regulation before the effective date of the assumption, and the Office of Insurance Regulation must provide written notification to the board within 15 working days after such approval. "Covered policy" does not include any policy that excludes wind coverage or hurricane coverage or any reinsurance agreement and does not include any policy otherwise meeting this definition which is issued by a surplus lines insurer or a reinsurer. All commercial residential excess policies and all deductible buy-back policies that, based on sound actuarial principles, require individual ratemaking shall be excluded by rule if the actuarial soundness of the fund is not jeopardized. For this purpose, the term "excess policy" means a policy that provides insurance protection for large commercial property risks and that provides a layer of coverage above a primary layer insured by another insurer.

Section 2. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsection (3) of section 624.423, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

624.423 Serving process.-

insurer on the date process served upon the Chief Financial
Officer is delivered to the insurer and sent or the insurer has been notified such information has been made available on a secured network in accordance with this section and s.

624.307(9) shall for all purposes constitute valid and binding service thereof upon the insurer.

Section 3. Section 624.46227, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

147

148149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170171

172

173

174

597-02692-21 2021742c1

624.46227 Meeting requirements.—Any association, trust, or pool authorized by state law and created for the purpose of forming a risk management mechanism or providing self-insurance for public entities in this state may establish a quorum and conduct public business through communication media technology.

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 626.7351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.7351 Qualifications for customer representative's license.—The department shall not grant or issue a license as customer representative to any individual found by it to be untrustworthy or incompetent, or who does not meet each of the following qualifications:

(3) Within 4 years preceding the date that the application for license was filed with the department, the applicant has earned the designation of Accredited Advisor in Insurance (AAI), Associate in General Insurance (AINS), or Accredited Customer Service Representative (ACSR) from the Insurance Institute of America; the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) from the Society of Certified Insurance Service Counselors; the designation of Certified Professional Service Representative (CPSR) from the National Foundation for CPSR; the designation of Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) from the Society of Certified Insurance Service Representatives; the designation of Certified Insurance Representative (CIR) from All-Lines Training; the designation of Insurance Customer Service Representative (ICSR) from Statewide Insurance Associates LLC; the designation of Professional Customer Service Representative (PCSR) from the Professional Career Institute; the designation of Registered Customer Service Representative

597-02692-21 2021742c1

(RCSR) from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution in the state whose curriculum is approved by the department and includes comprehensive analysis of basic property and casualty lines of insurance and testing which demonstrates mastery of the subject; or a degree from an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the department when the degree includes a minimum of 9 credit hours of insurance instruction, including specific instruction in the areas of property, casualty, and inland marine insurance. The department shall adopt rules establishing standards for the approval of curriculum.

Section 5. Section 626.856, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

employee adjuster" means a person licensed as an all-lines adjuster who is appointed and employed on an insurer's staff of adjusters, by an affiliate, or by a wholly owned subsidiary of the insurer, and who undertakes on behalf of such insurer or other insurers under common control or ownership to ascertain and determine the amount of any claim, loss, or damage payable under a contract of insurance, or undertakes to effect settlement of such claim, loss, or damage.

Section 6. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section 626.9202, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

626.9202 Loss run statements for all lines of insurance.-

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Loss run statement" means a report that contains the policy number, the period of coverage, the number of claims, the

597-02692-21 2021742c1

paid losses on all claims, and the date of each loss. The term does not include supporting claim file documentation, including, but not limited to, copies of claim files, investigation reports, evaluation statements, insureds' statements, and documents protected by a common law or statutory privilege. As applied to group health insurance, the term means a report that also contains premiums paid, number of insureds on a monthly basis, and dependent status.

- (b) "Provide" means to electronically send a document or to allow access through an electronic portal to view or generate a document.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other law, an insurer shall provide to an insured within 15 calendar days after an individual or entity designated by the insurer receives receipt of the insured's written request, either:
 - (a) A loss run statement; or
- (b) For personal lines of insurance, information on how to obtain a loss run statement at no charge through a consumer reporting agency. However, this section does not prohibit an insured from requesting a loss run statement after receiving information from a consumer reporting agency, in which case the insurer must then provide such loss run statement within 15 calendar days after the individual or entity designated by the insurer receives the insured's subsequent written request.
- (4) A loss run statement provided pursuant to this section must contain a claims history with the insurer for the preceding $\underline{3}$ $\underline{5}$ years or, if the claims history is less than $\underline{3}$ $\underline{5}$ years, a complete claims history with the insurer.
 - (7) This section does not apply to a life insurer as

defined in s. 624.602.

233234

235

236

237

238239

240

241242

243

244

245

246

247248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

2.58

259

260261

(8) For group health insurance, only the group policyholder may request and be provided a loss run statement pursuant to this section.

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.062, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.062 Rate standards.-

- (2) As to all such classes of insurance:
- (b) Upon receiving a rate filing, the office shall review the filing to determine if a rate is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. In making that determination, the office shall, in accordance with generally accepted and reasonable actuarial techniques, consider the following factors:
- 1. Past and prospective loss experience within and without this state.
 - 2. Past and prospective expenses.
- 3. The degree of competition among insurers for the risk insured.
- 4. Investment income reasonably expected by the insurer, consistent with the insurer's investment practices, from investable premiums anticipated in the filing, plus any other expected income from currently invested assets representing the amount expected on unearned premium reserves and loss reserves. The commission may adopt rules using reasonable techniques of actuarial science and economics to specify the manner in which insurers calculate investment income attributable to classes of insurance written in this state and the manner in which investment income is used to calculate insurance rates. Such manner must contemplate allowances for an underwriting profit

597-02692-21 2021742c1

factor and full consideration of investment income that produces a reasonable rate of return; however, investment income from invested surplus may not be considered.

- 5. The reasonableness of the judgment reflected in the filing.
- 6. Dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned to policyholders, members, or subscribers in this state.
 - 7. The adequacy of loss reserves.
- 8. The cost of reinsurance. The office may not disapprove a rate as excessive solely due to the insurer having obtained catastrophic reinsurance to cover the insurer's estimated 250-year probable maximum loss or any lower level of loss.
- 9. Trend factors, including trends in actual losses per insured unit for the insurer making the filing.
 - 10. Conflagration and catastrophe hazards, if applicable.
- 11. Projected hurricane losses, if applicable, which must be estimated using a model or method found to be acceptable or reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology, and as further provided in s. 627.0628. \underline{A} residential property insurance rate filing may use a weighted or straight average of two or more such models or methods.
- 12. Projected flood losses for personal residential property insurance, if applicable, which may be estimated using a model or method, or a straight average of model results or output ranges, independently found to be acceptable or reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology and as further provided in s. 627.0628.
 - 13. A reasonable margin for underwriting profit and

291 contingencies.

- 14. The cost of medical services, if applicable.
- 15. Other relevant factors that affect the frequency or severity of claims or expenses.

The provisions of this subsection do not apply to workers' compensation, employer's liability insurance, and motor vehicle insurance.

Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.0629, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

627.0629 Residential property insurance; rate filings.—
(2)

- (b) A rate filing for residential property insurance made more than 150 days after approval by the office of a building code rating factor plan submitted by a statewide rating organization may shall include positive and negative rate factors that reflect the manner in which building code enforcement in a particular jurisdiction addresses risk of wind damage. The rate filing must shall include variations from standard rate factors on an individual basis based on inspection of a particular structure by a licensed home inspector. If an inspection is requested by the insured, the insurer may require the insured to pay the reasonable cost of the inspection. This paragraph applies to structures constructed or renovated after the implementation of this paragraph.
- (9) An insurer may file with the office a personal lines residential property insurance rating plan that provides justified premium discounts, credits, or other rate

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344 345

346

347 348

597-02692-21 2021742c1

320 differentials based on windstorm mitigation construction 321 standards developed by an independent, not-for-profit, 322 scientific research organization, if such standards meet the 323 requirements of this section. The insurer may require a 324 policyholder who elects to construct or retrofit the structure, 325 in whole or in part, for windstorm mitigation purposes to 326 present to the insurer evidence of compliance with the 327 mitigation standards before receiving any premium discount, 328 credit, or rate reduction allowed under the rating plan. 329 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 627.072, Florida 330

Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.072 Making and use of rates.-
- (1) As to workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance, the following factors shall be used in the determination and fixing of rates:
- (a) The past loss experience and prospective loss experience within and outside this state;
- (b) The impact resulting from the past loss experience and prospective loss experience for insurers whose data are missing from statewide experience due to insolvency. Prior reported data for such insurers and all other relevant information may be used to assess the impact on rates;
 - (c) (b) The conflagration and catastrophe hazards;
- (d) (e) A reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies;
- (e) (d) Dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members, or subscribers;
 - (f) (e) Investment income on unearned premium reserves and

loss reserves;

349

350

351

352

353

354

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

(g)(f) Past expenses and prospective expenses, both those countrywide and those specifically applicable to this state; and

 $\underline{\text{(h)}}$ All other relevant factors, including judgment factors, within and outside this state.

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.-
- (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION. -
- (a) The public purpose of this subsection is to ensure that there is an orderly market for property insurance for residents and businesses of this state.
- 1. The Legislature finds that private insurers are unwilling or unable to provide affordable property insurance coverage in this state to the extent sought and needed. The absence of affordable property insurance threatens the public health, safety, and welfare and likewise threatens the economic health of the state. The state therefore has a compelling public interest and a public purpose to assist in assuring that property in the state is insured and that it is insured at affordable rates so as to facilitate the remediation, reconstruction, and replacement of damaged or destroyed property in order to reduce or avoid the negative effects otherwise resulting to the public health, safety, and welfare, to the economy of the state, and to the revenues of the state and local governments which are needed to provide for the public welfare. It is necessary, therefore, to provide affordable property insurance to applicants who are in good faith entitled to procure insurance through the voluntary market but are unable to

379

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

401

402

403

404

405

406

597-02692-21 2021742c1

do so. The Legislature intends, therefore, that affordable property insurance be provided and that it continue to be provided, as long as necessary, through Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, a government entity that is an integral part of the state, and that is not a private insurance company. To that end, the corporation shall strive to increase the availability of affordable property insurance in this state, while achieving efficiencies and economies, and while providing service to policyholders, applicants, and agents which is no less than the quality generally provided in the voluntary market, for the achievement of the foregoing public purposes. Because it is essential for this government entity to have the maximum financial resources to pay claims following a catastrophic hurricane, it is the intent of the Legislature that the corporation continue to be an integral part of the state and that the income of the corporation be exempt from federal income taxation and that interest on the debt obligations issued by the corporation be exempt from federal income taxation.

2. The Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association originally created by this statute shall be known as the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. The corporation shall provide insurance for residential and commercial property, for applicants who are entitled, but, in good faith, are unable to procure insurance through the voluntary market. The corporation shall operate pursuant to a plan of operation approved by order of the Financial Services Commission. The plan is subject to continuous review by the commission. The commission may, by order, withdraw approval of all or part of a plan if the commission determines that conditions have changed

597-02692-21 2021742c1

since approval was granted and that the purposes of the plan require changes in the plan. For the purposes of this subsection, residential coverage includes both personal lines residential coverage, which consists of the type of coverage provided by homeowner, mobile home owner, dwelling, tenant, condominium unit owner, and similar policies; and commercial lines residential coverage, which consists of the type of coverage provided by condominium association, apartment building, and similar policies.

- 3. With respect to coverage for personal lines residential structures:
- a. Effective January 1, 2014, a structure that has a dwelling replacement cost of \$1 million or more, or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of \$1 million or more, is not eligible for coverage by the corporation. Such dwellings insured by the corporation on December 31, 2013, may continue to be covered by the corporation until the end of the policy term. The office shall approve the method used by the corporation for valuing the dwelling replacement cost for the purposes of this subparagraph. If a policyholder is insured by the corporation before being determined to be ineligible pursuant to this subparagraph and such policyholder files a lawsuit challenging the determination, the policyholder may remain insured by the corporation until the conclusion of the litigation.
- b. Effective January 1, 2015, a structure that has a dwelling replacement cost of \$900,000 or more, or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of \$900,000 or more, is not eligible for

597-02692-21 2021742c1

coverage by the corporation. Such dwellings insured by the corporation on December 31, 2014, may continue to be covered by the corporation only until the end of the policy term.

- c. Effective January 1, 2016, a structure that has a dwelling replacement cost of \$800,000 or more, or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of \$800,000 or more, is not eligible for coverage by the corporation. Such dwellings insured by the corporation on December 31, 2015, may continue to be covered by the corporation until the end of the policy term.
- d. Effective January 1, 2017, a structure that has a dwelling replacement cost of \$700,000 or more, or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of \$700,000 or more, is not eligible for coverage by the corporation. Such dwellings insured by the corporation on December 31, 2016, may continue to be covered by the corporation until the end of the policy term.

The requirements of sub-subparagraphs b.-d. do not apply in counties where the office determines there is not a reasonable degree of competition. In such counties a personal lines residential structure that has a dwelling replacement cost of less than \$1 million, or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of less than \$1 million, is eligible for coverage by the corporation.

4. It is the intent of the Legislature that policyholders, applicants, and agents of the corporation receive service and treatment of the highest possible level but never less than that generally provided in the voluntary market. It is also intended

597-02692-21 2021742c1

that the corporation be held to service standards no less than those applied to insurers in the voluntary market by the office with respect to responsiveness, timeliness, customer courtesy, and overall dealings with policyholders, applicants, or agents of the corporation.

- 5.a. Effective January 1, 2009, a personal lines residential structure that is located in the "wind-borne debris region," as defined in s. 1609.2, International Building Code (2006), and that has an insured value on the structure of \$750,000 or more is not eligible for coverage by the corporation unless the structure has opening protections as required under the Florida Building Code for a newly constructed residential structure in that area. A residential structure is deemed to comply with this sub-subparagraph if it has shutters or opening protections on all openings and if such opening protections complied with the Florida Building Code at the time they were installed.
- b. Any major structure, as defined in s. 161.54(6)(a), that is newly constructed, or rebuilt, repaired, restored, or remodeled to increase the total square footage of finished area by more than 25 percent, pursuant to a permit applied for after July 1, 2015, is not eligible for coverage by the corporation if the structure is seaward of the coastal construction control line established pursuant to s. 161.053 or is within the Coastal Barrier Resources System as designated by 16 U.S.C. ss. 3501-3510.
- 6. With respect to wind-only coverage for commercial lines residential condominiums, effective July 1, 2014, a condominium may shall be deemed ineligible for coverage when if 50 percent

597-02692-21 2021742c1

or more of the units are rented more than eight times in a calendar year for a rental agreement period of less than 30 days.

Section 11. Subsection (6) is added to section 627.421, Florida Statutes, to read:

627.421 Delivery of policy.-

(6) If a policy is sold in a wholly electronic manner, the insurer may electronically transmit all policy documents and claims communications to the insured or policyholder so long as the insurer provides a disclosure to the insured or policyholder at the time of sale.

Section 12. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section 627.444, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

627.444 Loss run statements for all lines of insurance.

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Loss run statement" means a report that contains the policy number, the period of coverage, the number of claims, the paid losses on all claims, and the date of each loss. The term does not include supporting claim file documentation, including, but not limited to, copies of claim files, investigation reports, evaluation statements, insureds' statements, and documents protected by a common law or statutory privilege. As applied to group health insurance, the term means a report that also contains premiums paid, number of insureds on a monthly basis, and dependent status.
- (b) "Provide" means to electronically send a document or to allow access through an electronic portal to view or generate a

document.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, an insurer shall provide to an insured within 15 calendar days after an individual or entity designated by the insurer receives receipt of the insured's written request, either:

- (a) A loss run statement; or
- (b) For personal lines of insurance, information on how to obtain a loss run statement at no charge through a consumer reporting agency. However, this section does not prohibit an insured from requesting a loss run statement after receiving information from a consumer reporting agency, in which case the insurer must then provide such loss run statement within 15 calendar days after the individual or entity designated by the insurer receives the insured's subsequent written request.
- (4) A loss run statement provided pursuant to this section must contain a claims history with the insurer for the preceding $\underline{3}$ 5 years or, if the claims history is less than $\underline{3}$ 5 years, a complete claims history with the insurer.
- (7) This section does not apply to a life insurer as defined in s. 624.602.
- (8) For group health insurance, only the group policyholder may request and be provided a loss run statement pursuant to this section.

Section 13. <u>Section 627.6647</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, is <u>repealed</u>.

Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 627.7011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.7011 Homeowners' policies; offer of replacement cost coverage and law and ordinance coverage.—

(1) Prior to issuing a homeowner's insurance policy, the insurer must offer each of the following:

(b) A policy or endorsement providing that, subject to other policy provisions, any loss that is repaired or replaced at any location will be adjusted on the basis of replacement costs to the dwelling not exceeding policy limits, rather than actual cash value, and also including costs necessary to meet applicable laws and ordinances enacted on or before the time of loss which regulate regulating the construction, use, or repair of any property or require requiring the tearing down of any property, including the costs of removing debris. However, additional costs necessary to meet applicable laws and ordinances may be limited to 25 percent or 50 percent of the dwelling limit, as selected by the policyholder, and such coverage applies only to repairs of the damaged portion of the structure unless the total damage to the structure exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the structure.

An insurer is not required to make the offers required by this subsection with respect to the issuance or renewal of a homeowner's policy that contains the provisions specified in paragraph (b) for law and ordinance coverage limited to 25 percent of the dwelling limit, except that the insurer must offer the law and ordinance coverage limited to 50 percent of the dwelling limit. This subsection does not prohibit the offer of a guaranteed replacement cost policy.

Section 15. Effective upon this act becoming a law, present subsections (4) through (10) of section 627.715, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5) through (11),

597-02692-21 2021742c1

respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

627.715 Flood insurance.—An authorized insurer may issue an insurance policy, contract, or endorsement providing personal lines residential coverage for the peril of flood or excess coverage for the peril of flood on any structure or the contents of personal property contained therein, subject to this section. This section does not apply to commercial lines residential or commercial lines nonresidential coverage for the peril of flood. An insurer may issue flood insurance policies, contracts, endorsements, or excess coverage on a standard, preferred, customized, flexible, or supplemental basis.

(4) An agent may export a contract or an endorsement providing flood coverage to an eligible surplus lines insurer without making a diligent effort to seek such coverage from three or more authorized insurers under s. 626.916(1)(a).

Section 16. Effective upon this act becoming a law, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 627.7152, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 627.7152 Assignment agreements.
- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (b) "Assignment agreement" means any instrument by which post-loss benefits under a residential property insurance policy or commercial property insurance policy, as that term is defined in s. 627.0625(1), are assigned or transferred, or acquired in any manner, in whole or in part, to or from a person providing services, including, but not limited to, scopes of service, to inspect, protect, repair, restore, or replace property or to mitigate against further damage to the property. The term does

not include fees collected by a public adjuster as defined in 626.854.

(9) (a) An assignee must provide the named insured, insurer, and the assignor, if not the named insured, with a written notice of intent to initiate litigation before filing suit under the policy. Such notice must be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the name and mailing address designated by the insurer in the policy forms, or by electronic delivery at the e-mail address designated by the insurer in the policy forms at least 10 business days before filing suit, but may not be served before the insurer has made a determination of coverage under s. 627.70131. The notice must specify the damages in dispute, the amount claimed, and a presuit settlement demand. Concurrent with the notice, and as a precondition to filing suit, the assignee must provide the named insured, insurer, and the assignor, if not the named insured, a detailed written invoice or estimate of services, including itemized information on equipment, materials, and supplies; the number of labor hours; and, in the case of work performed, proof that the work has been performed in accordance with accepted industry standards.

Section 17. Section 627.7276, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.7276 Notice of limited coverage.
- (1) An automobile policy that does not contain coverage for bodily injury and property damage must <u>include a notice</u> be clearly stamped or printed to the effect that such coverage is not included in the policy in the following manner:

637638

610

611612

613614

615616

617

618619

620

621

622

623

624

625

626

627

628

629

630

631

632633

634

635

636

"THIS POLICY DOES NOT PROVIDE BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR ANY OTHER COVERAGE FOR WHICH A SPECIFIC PREMIUM CHARGE IS NOT MADE, AND DOES NOT COMPLY WITH ANY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW."

(2) This <u>notice</u> <u>legend</u> must <u>accompany</u> <u>appear on</u> the policy declaration page and on the filing back of the policy and be <u>printed</u> in a <u>contrasting color from that used on the policy and in type and <u>larger than the largest type used in the text at least as large as the type and text used on the declarations <u>page thereof</u>, as an overprint or by a rubber stamp impression.</u></u>

Section 18. Section 634.171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

exemptions.—Salespersons for motor vehicle service agreement companies and insurers shall be licensed, appointed, renewed, continued, reinstated, or terminated as prescribed in chapter 626 for insurance representatives in general. However, they shall be exempt from all other provisions of chapter 626 including fingerprinting, photo identification, education, and examination provisions. License, appointment, and other fees shall be those prescribed in s. 624.501. A licensed and appointed salesperson shall be directly responsible and accountable for all acts of her or his employees and other representatives. Each service agreement company or insurer shall, on forms prescribed by the department, within 30 days after termination of the appointment, notify the department of such termination. An No employee or salesperson of a motor

597-02692-21 2021742c1

vehicle service agreement company or insurer may <u>not</u> directly or indirectly solicit or negotiate insurance contracts, or hold herself or himself out in any manner to be an insurance agent, unless so qualified, licensed, and appointed therefor under the Florida Insurance Code. <u>A licensed personal lines or general lines agent is not required to be licensed as a salesperson under this section to solicit, negotiate, advertise, or sell motor vehicle service agreements. A motor vehicle service agreement company is not required to be licensed as a salesperson to solicit, sell, issue, or otherwise transact the motor vehicle service agreements issued by the motor vehicle service agreement company.</u>

Section 19. Section 634.317, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

634.317 License and appointment required; exemptions.—A No person may not solicit, negotiate, or effectuate home warranty contracts for remuneration in this state unless such person is licensed and appointed as a sales representative. A licensed and appointed sales representative shall be directly responsible and accountable for all acts of the licensee's employees. A licensed personal lines or general lines agent is not required to be licensed as a sales representative under this section to solicit, negotiate, advertise, or sell home warranty contracts.

Section 20. Section 634.419, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

634.419 License and appointment required; exemptions.—A No person or entity may not shall solicit, negotiate, advertise, or effectuate service warranty contracts in this state unless such person or entity is licensed and appointed as a sales

597-02692-21 2021742c1

representative. Sales representatives shall be responsible for the actions of persons under their supervision. However, a service warranty association licensed as such under this part is shall not be required to be licensed and appointed as a sales representative to solicit, negotiate, advertise, or effectuate its products. A licensed personal lines or general lines agent is not required to be licensed as a sales representative under this section to solicit, negotiate, advertise, or sell service warranties.

Section 21. Effective upon this act becoming a law, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 627.7152, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (1) and paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 627.7153, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

- 627.7153 Policies restricting assignment of post-loss benefits under a property insurance policy.—
- (1) As used in this section, the term "assignment agreement" has the same meaning as provided in s. 627.7152.
- (2) An insurer may make available a policy that restricts in whole or in part an insured's right to execute an assignment agreement only if all of the following conditions are met:
- (d) Each restricted policy include on its face the following notice in 18-point uppercase and boldfaced type:

THIS POLICY DOES NOT ALLOW THE UNRESTRICTED ASSIGNMENT OF POST-LOSS INSURANCE BENEFITS. BY SELECTING THIS POLICY, YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO FREELY ASSIGN OR TRANSFER THE POST-LOSS PROPERTY INSURANCE BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THIS POLICY TO A THIRD PARTY OR TO

597-02692-21 2021742c1 OTHERWISE FREELY ENTER INTO AN ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT AS 726 727 THE TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 627.7152 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES. 728 Section 22. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this 729 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon 730 731 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 732 2021.