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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations (Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; amending s. 627.021, F.S.; revising applicability; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, the corporation to use a single account under certain circumstances; revising the method for determining the amounts of potential surcharges to be levied against policyholders under certain circumstances; defining the term "primary residence"; revising conditions for eligibility for coverage with the corporation to require a certain minimum premium; specifying a limit for agent commission rates; revising the policies to which annual rate increases apply; requiring that policies assumed by the corporation from unsound insurers be charged a specified premium until certain conditions are met; defining the term "unsound insurer"; providing that eligible surplus lines insurers may participate, in the same manner and on the same terms as an authorized insurer, in depopulation, take-out, or keep-out programs relating to policies removed from Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; providing certain exceptions, conditions, and requirements relating to such participation by a surplus lines insurer in the corporation's depopulation, take-out, or keep-out programs; providing thresholds for



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eligibility for coverage by the corporation for risks that are offered coverage from qualified surplus lines insurers; authorizing information from underwriting files and confidential claims files to be released under certain circumstances by the corporation to specified entities that consider writing or underwriting risks insured by the corporation; specifying that only the corporation's transfer of a policy file to an insurer, as opposed to the transfer of any file, changes the file's public record status; making technical changes; amending s. 627.3517, F.S.; making technical changes; amending s. 627.3518, F.S., and reenacting paragraphs (6)(a) and (7)(a) of that section, relating to the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation policyholder eligibility clearinghouse program, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 627.351, F.S., in references thereto; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 627.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

51 627.021 Scope of this part.-

- (2) This part does not apply to:
- (a) Reinsurance, except joint reinsurance as provided in s. 627.311.
  - (b) Insurance against loss of or damage to aircraft, their



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hulls, accessories, or equipment, or against liability, other than workers' compensation and employer's liability, arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of aircraft.

- (c) Insurance of vessels or craft, their cargoes, marine builders' risks, marine protection and indemnity, or other risks commonly insured under marine insurance policies.
  - (d) Commercial inland marine insurance.
- (e) Except as may be specifically stated to apply, surplus lines insurance placed under the provisions of ss. 626.913-626.937.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (b), (c), (n), (q), and (x) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
  - 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.-
  - (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION. -
- (b) 1. All insurers authorized to write one or more subject lines of business in this state are subject to assessment by the corporation and, for the purposes of this subsection, are referred to collectively as "assessable insurers." Insurers writing one or more subject lines of business in this state pursuant to part VIII of chapter 626 are not assessable insurers; however, insureds who procure one or more subject lines of business in this state pursuant to part VIII of chapter 626 are subject to assessment by the corporation and are referred to collectively as "assessable insureds." An insurer's assessment liability begins on the first day of the calendar year following the year in which the insurer was issued a certificate of authority to transact insurance for subject lines of business in this state and terminates 1 year after the end of



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the first calendar year during which the insurer no longer holds a certificate of authority to transact insurance for subject lines of business in this state.

- 2.a. All revenues, assets, liabilities, losses, and expenses of the corporation shall be divided into three separate accounts as follows:
- (I) A personal lines account for personal residential policies issued by the corporation which provides comprehensive, multiperil coverage on risks that are not located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined on January 1, 2002, and for policies that do not provide coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in such areas;
- (II) A commercial lines account for commercial residential and commercial nonresidential policies issued by the corporation which provides coverage for basic property perils on risks that are not located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined on January 1, 2002, and for policies that do not provide coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in such areas; and
- (III) A coastal account for personal residential policies and commercial residential and commercial nonresidential property policies issued by the corporation which provides coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined on January 1, 2002. The corporation may offer policies that provide multiperil coverage and shall offer policies that provide



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coverage only for the peril of wind for risks located in areas eligible for coverage in the coastal account. Effective July 1, 2014, the corporation shall cease offering new commercial residential policies providing multiperil coverage and shall instead continue to offer commercial residential wind-only policies, and may offer commercial residential policies excluding wind. The corporation may, however, continue to renew a commercial residential multiperil policy on a building that is insured by the corporation on June 30, 2014, under a multiperil policy. In issuing multiperil coverage, the corporation may use its approved policy forms and rates for the personal lines account. An applicant or insured who is eligible to purchase a multiperil policy from the corporation may purchase a multiperil policy from an authorized insurer without prejudice to the applicant's or insured's eligibility to prospectively purchase a policy that provides coverage only for the peril of wind from the corporation. An applicant or insured who is eligible for a corporation policy that provides coverage only for the peril of wind may elect to purchase or retain such policy and also purchase or retain coverage excluding wind from an authorized insurer without prejudice to the applicant's or insured's eligibility to prospectively purchase a policy that provides multiperil coverage from the corporation. It is the goal of the Legislature that there be an overall average savings of 10 percent or more for a policyholder who currently has a wind-only policy with the corporation, and an ex-wind policy with a voluntary insurer or the corporation, and who obtains a multiperil policy from the corporation. It is the intent of the Legislature that the offer of multiperil coverage in the coastal



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account be made and implemented in a manner that does not adversely affect the tax-exempt status of the corporation or creditworthiness of or security for currently outstanding financing obligations or credit facilities of the coastal account, the personal lines account, or the commercial lines account. The coastal account must also include quota share primary insurance under subparagraph (c)2. The area eligible for coverage under the coastal account also includes the area within Port Canaveral, which is bordered on the south by the City of Cape Canaveral, bordered on the west by the Banana River, and bordered on the north by Federal Government property.

- b. The three separate accounts must be maintained as long as financing obligations entered into by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association or Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association are outstanding, in accordance with the terms of the corresponding financing documents. If the financing obligations are no longer outstanding, the corporation shall may use a single account for all revenues, assets, liabilities, losses, and expenses of the corporation. Consistent with this subparagraph and prudent investment policies that minimize the cost of carrying debt, the board shall exercise its best efforts to retire existing debt or obtain the approval of necessary parties to amend the terms of existing debt, so as to structure the most efficient plan for consolidating the three separate accounts into a single account.
- c. Creditors of the Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association and the accounts specified in sub-subsubparagraphs a.(I) and (II) may have a claim against, and recourse to, those accounts and no claim against, or recourse



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to, the account referred to in sub-sub-subparagraph a. (III). Creditors of the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association have a claim against, and recourse to, the account referred to in sub-sub-subparagraph a. (III) and no claim against, or recourse to, the accounts referred to in sub-sub-subparagraphs a.(I) and (II).

- d. Revenues, assets, liabilities, losses, and expenses not attributable to particular accounts shall be prorated among the accounts.
- e. The Legislature finds that the revenues of the corporation are revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds under this subsection.
- f. The income of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of any private person.
  - 3. With respect to a deficit in an account:
- a. After accounting for the Citizens policyholder surcharge imposed under sub-subparagraph i., if the remaining projected deficit incurred in the coastal account in a particular calendar year:
- (I) Is not greater than 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year, the entire deficit shall be recovered through regular assessments of assessable insurers under paragraph (q) and assessable insureds.
- (II) Exceeds 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year, the corporation shall levy regular assessments on assessable insurers under paragraph (q) and on assessable



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insureds in an amount equal to the greater of 2 percent of the projected deficit or 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year. Any remaining projected deficit shall be recovered through emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d.

b. Each assessable insurer's share of the amount being assessed under sub-subparagraph a. must be in the proportion that the assessable insurer's direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the year preceding the assessment bears to the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for that year. The assessment percentage applicable to each assessable insured is the ratio of the amount being assessed under sub-subparagraph a. to the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior year. Assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insurers under sub-subparagraph a. must be paid as required by the corporation's plan of operation and paragraph (q). Assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insureds under sub-subparagraph a. shall be collected by the surplus lines agent at the time the surplus lines agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932, and paid to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the surplus lines agent pays the surplus lines tax to that office. Upon receipt of regular assessments from surplus lines agents, the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall transfer the assessments directly to the corporation as determined by the corporation.

c. After accounting for the Citizens policyholder surcharge



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imposed under sub-subparagraph i., the remaining projected deficits in the personal lines account and in the commercial lines account in a particular calendar year shall be recovered through emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d.

d. Upon a determination by the board of governors that a projected deficit in an account exceeds the amount that is expected to be recovered through regular assessments under subsubparagraph a., plus the amount that is expected to be recovered through surcharges under sub-subparagraph i., the board, after verification by the office, shall levy emergency assessments for as many years as necessary to cover the deficits, to be collected by assessable insurers and the corporation and collected from assessable insureds upon issuance or renewal of policies for subject lines of business, excluding National Flood Insurance policies. The amount collected in a particular year must be a uniform percentage of that year's direct written premium for subject lines of business and all accounts of the corporation, excluding National Flood Insurance Program policy premiums, as annually determined by the board and verified by the office. The office shall verify the arithmetic calculations involved in the board's determination within 30 days after receipt of the information on which the determination was based. The office shall notify assessable insurers and the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office of the date on which assessable insurers shall begin to collect and assessable insureds shall begin to pay such assessment. The date must be at least 90 days after the date the corporation levies emergency assessments pursuant to this sub-subparagraph. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the corporation and each assessable



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insurer that writes subject lines of business shall collect emergency assessments from its policyholders without such obligation being affected by any credit, limitation, exemption, or deferment. Emergency assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insureds shall be collected by the surplus lines agent at the time the surplus lines agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932 and paid to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the surplus lines agent pays the surplus lines tax to that office. The emergency assessments collected shall be transferred directly to the corporation on a periodic basis as determined by the corporation and held by the corporation solely in the applicable account. The aggregate amount of emergency assessments levied for an account in any calendar year may be less than but may not exceed the greater of 10 percent of the amount needed to cover the deficit, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the original deficit, or 10 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for subject lines of business and all accounts of the corporation for the prior year, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the deficit.

e. The corporation may pledge the proceeds of assessments, projected recoveries from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, other insurance and reinsurance recoverables, policyholder surcharges and other surcharges, and other funds available to the corporation as the source of revenue for and to secure bonds issued under paragraph (q), bonds or other indebtedness issued under subparagraph (c) 3., or lines of credit or other financing mechanisms issued or created under this subsection, or to retire



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any other debt incurred as a result of deficits or events giving rise to deficits, or in any other way that the board determines will efficiently recover such deficits. The purpose of the lines of credit or other financing mechanisms is to provide additional resources to assist the corporation in covering claims and expenses attributable to a catastrophe. As used in this subsection, the term "assessments" includes regular assessments under sub-subparagraph a. or subparagraph (q)1. and emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d. Emergency assessments collected under sub-subparagraph d. are not part of an insurer's rates, are not premium, and are not subject to premium tax, fees, or commissions; however, failure to pay the emergency assessment shall be treated as failure to pay premium. The emergency assessments shall continue as long as any bonds issued or other indebtedness incurred with respect to a deficit for which the assessment was imposed remain outstanding, unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of such bonds or other indebtedness pursuant to the documents governing such bonds or indebtedness.

f. As used in this subsection for purposes of any deficit incurred on or after January 25, 2007, the term "subject lines of business" means insurance written by assessable insurers or procured by assessable insureds for all property and casualty lines of business in this state, but not including workers' compensation or medical malpractice. As used in this subsubparagraph, the term "property and casualty lines of business" includes all lines of business identified on Form 2, Exhibit of Premiums and Losses, in the annual statement required of authorized insurers under s. 624.424 and any rule adopted under



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this section, except for those lines identified as accident and health insurance and except for policies written under the National Flood Insurance Program or the Federal Crop Insurance Program. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "workers' compensation" includes both workers' compensation insurance and excess workers' compensation insurance.

- q. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall determine annually the aggregate statewide written premium in subject lines of business procured by assessable insureds and report that information to the corporation in a form and at a time the corporation specifies to ensure that the corporation can meet the requirements of this subsection and the corporation's financing obligations.
- h. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall verify the proper application by surplus lines agents of assessment percentages for regular assessments and emergency assessments levied under this subparagraph on assessable insureds and assist the corporation in ensuring the accurate, timely collection and payment of assessments by surplus lines agents as required by the corporation.
- i. Upon determination by the board of governors that an account has a projected deficit, the board shall levy a Citizens policyholder surcharge against all policyholders of the corporation.
- (I) The surcharge must shall be levied as a uniform percentage of the premium for the policy of up to 15 percent of such premium, and must which funds shall be used to offset the deficit, as follows:
  - (A) If the total number of policyholders of the corporation



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is less than 1 million, a surcharge of 15 percent of the premium.

- (B) If the total number of policyholders of the corporation is at least 1 million but less than 1.5 million, a surcharge of 20 percent of the premium.
- (C) If the total number of policyholders of the corporation is at least 1.5 million, a surcharge of 25 percent of the premium.
- (II) The surcharge is payable upon cancellation or termination of the policy, upon renewal of the policy, or upon issuance of a new policy by the corporation within the first 12 months after the date of the levy or the period of time necessary to fully collect the surcharge amount.
- (III) The corporation may not levy any regular assessments under paragraph (q) pursuant to sub-subparagraph a. or subsubparagraph b. with respect to a particular year's deficit until the corporation has first levied the full amount of the surcharge authorized by this sub-subparagraph.
- (IV) The surcharge is not considered premium and is not subject to commissions, fees, or premium taxes. However, failure to pay the surcharge shall be treated as failure to pay premium.
- j. If the amount of any assessments or surcharges collected from corporation policyholders, assessable insurers or their policyholders, or assessable insureds exceeds the amount of the deficits, such excess amounts shall be remitted to and retained by the corporation in a reserve to be used by the corporation, as determined by the board of governors and approved by the office, to pay claims or reduce any past, present, or future plan-year deficits or to reduce outstanding debt.



- (c) The corporation's plan of operation:
- 1. Must provide for adoption of residential property and casualty insurance policy forms and commercial residential and nonresidential property insurance forms, which must be approved by the office before use. The corporation shall adopt the following policy forms:
- a. Standard personal lines policy forms that are comprehensive multiperil policies providing full coverage of a residential property equivalent to the coverage provided in the private insurance market under an HO-3, HO-4, or HO-6 policy.
- b. Basic personal lines policy forms that are policies similar to an HO-8 policy or a dwelling fire policy that provide coverage meeting the requirements of the secondary mortgage market, but which is more limited than the coverage under a standard policy.
- c. Commercial lines residential and nonresidential policy forms that are generally similar to the basic perils of full coverage obtainable for commercial residential structures and commercial nonresidential structures in the admitted voluntary market.
- d. Personal lines and commercial lines residential property insurance forms that cover the peril of wind only. The forms are applicable only to residential properties located in areas eligible for coverage under the coastal account referred to in sub-subparagraph (b) 2.a.
- e. Commercial lines nonresidential property insurance forms that cover the peril of wind only. The forms are applicable only to nonresidential properties located in areas eligible for coverage under the coastal account referred to in sub-



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431 432 subparagraph (b) 2.a.

- f. The corporation may adopt variations of the policy forms listed in sub-subparagraphs a.-e. which contain more restrictive coverage.
- g. Effective January 1, 2013, the corporation shall offer a basic personal lines policy similar to an HO-8 policy with dwelling repair based on common construction materials and methods.
- 2. Must provide that the corporation adopt a program in which the corporation and authorized insurers enter into quota share primary insurance agreements for hurricane coverage, as defined in s. 627.4025(2)(a), for eligible risks, and adopt property insurance forms for eliqible risks which cover the peril of wind only.
  - a. As used in this subsection, the term:
- (II) "Primary residence" means a risk that has a dwelling replacement cost of less than \$700,000 or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost of less than \$700,000 and the insured has represented such dwelling as its permanent home on the insurance application or otherwise to the corporation. A policyholder and the policyholder's spouse may not collectively have more than one primary residence insured with the corporation.
- (III) (I) "Quota share primary insurance" means an arrangement in which the primary hurricane coverage of an eligible risk is provided in specified percentages by the corporation and an authorized insurer. The corporation and authorized insurer are each solely responsible for a specified percentage of hurricane coverage of an eligible risk as set



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forth in a quota share primary insurance agreement between the corporation and an authorized insurer and the insurance contract. The responsibility of the corporation or authorized insurer to pay its specified percentage of hurricane losses of an eligible risk, as set forth in the agreement, may not be altered by the inability of the other party to pay its specified percentage of losses. Eligible risks that are provided hurricane coverage through a quota share primary insurance arrangement must be provided policy forms that set forth the obligations of the corporation and authorized insurer under the arrangement, clearly specify the percentages of quota share primary insurance provided by the corporation and authorized insurer, and conspicuously and clearly state that the authorized insurer and the corporation may not be held responsible beyond their specified percentage of coverage of hurricane losses.

- (I) (II) "Eligible risks" means personal lines residential and commercial lines residential risks that meet the underwriting criteria of the corporation and are located in areas that were eliqible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association on January 1, 2002.
- b. The corporation may enter into quota share primary insurance agreements with authorized insurers at corporation coverage levels of 90 percent and 50 percent.
- c. If the corporation determines that additional coverage levels are necessary to maximize participation in quota share primary insurance agreements by authorized insurers, the corporation may establish additional coverage levels. However, the corporation's quota share primary insurance coverage level may not exceed 90 percent.



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- d. Any quota share primary insurance agreement entered into between an authorized insurer and the corporation must provide for a uniform specified percentage of coverage of hurricane losses, by county or territory as set forth by the corporation board, for all eligible risks of the authorized insurer covered under the agreement.
- e. Any quota share primary insurance agreement entered into between an authorized insurer and the corporation is subject to review and approval by the office. However, such agreement shall be authorized only as to insurance contracts entered into between an authorized insurer and an insured who is already insured by the corporation for wind coverage.
- f. For all eligible risks covered under quota share primary insurance agreements, the exposure and coverage levels for both the corporation and authorized insurers shall be reported by the corporation to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. For all policies of eligible risks covered under such agreements, the corporation and the authorized insurer must maintain complete and accurate records for the purpose of exposure and loss reimbursement audits as required by fund rules. The corporation and the authorized insurer shall each maintain duplicate copies of policy declaration pages and supporting claims documents.
- g. The corporation board shall establish in its plan of operation standards for quota share agreements which ensure that there is no discriminatory application among insurers as to the terms of the agreements, pricing of the agreements, incentive provisions if any, and consideration paid for servicing policies or adjusting claims.
  - h. The quota share primary insurance agreement between the



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corporation and an authorized insurer must set forth the specific terms under which coverage is provided, including, but not limited to, the sale and servicing of policies issued under the agreement by the insurance agent of the authorized insurer producing the business, the reporting of information concerning eligible risks, the payment of premium to the corporation, and arrangements for the adjustment and payment of hurricane claims incurred on eligible risks by the claims adjuster and personnel of the authorized insurer. Entering into a quota sharing insurance agreement between the corporation and an authorized insurer is voluntary and at the discretion of the authorized insurer.

3. May provide that the corporation may employ or otherwise contract with individuals or other entities to provide administrative or professional services that may be appropriate to effectuate the plan. The corporation may borrow funds by issuing bonds or by incurring other indebtedness, and shall have other powers reasonably necessary to effectuate the requirements of this subsection, including, without limitation, the power to issue bonds and incur other indebtedness in order to refinance outstanding bonds or other indebtedness. The corporation may seek judicial validation of its bonds or other indebtedness under chapter 75. The corporation may issue bonds or incur other indebtedness, or have bonds issued on its behalf by a unit of local government pursuant to subparagraph (q)2. in the absence of a hurricane or other weather-related event, upon a determination by the corporation, subject to approval by the office, that such action would enable it to efficiently meet the financial obligations of the corporation and that such



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financings are reasonably necessary to effectuate the requirements of this subsection. The corporation may take all actions needed to facilitate tax-free status for such bonds or indebtedness, including formation of trusts or other affiliated entities. The corporation may pledge assessments, projected recoveries from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, other reinsurance recoverables, policyholder surcharges and other surcharges, and other funds available to the corporation as security for bonds or other indebtedness. In recognition of s. 10, Art. I of the State Constitution, prohibiting the impairment of obligations of contracts, it is the intent of the Legislature that no action be taken whose purpose is to impair any bond indenture or financing agreement or any revenue source committed by contract to such bond or other indebtedness.

- 4. Must require that the corporation operate subject to the supervision and approval of a board of governors consisting of nine individuals who are residents of this state and who are from different geographical areas of this the state, one of whom is appointed by the Governor and serves solely to advocate on behalf of the consumer. The appointment of a consumer representative by the Governor is deemed to be within the scope of the exemption provided in s. 112.313(7)(b) and is in addition to the appointments authorized under sub-subparagraph a.
- a. The Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two members of the board. At least one of the two members appointed by each appointing officer must have demonstrated expertise in insurance and be deemed to be within the scope of the exemption provided in s. 112.313(7)(b). The



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Chief Financial Officer shall designate one of the appointees as chair. All board members serve at the pleasure of the appointing officer. All members of the board are subject to removal at will by the officers who appointed them. All board members, including the chair, must be appointed to serve for 3-year terms beginning annually on a date designated by the plan. However, for the first term beginning on or after July 1, 2009, each appointing officer shall appoint one member of the board for a 2-year term and one member for a 3-year term. A board vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointing officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall appoint a technical advisory group to provide information and advice to the board in connection with the board's duties under this subsection. The executive director and senior managers of the corporation shall be engaged by the board and serve at the pleasure of the board. Any executive director appointed on or after July 1, 2006, is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The executive director is responsible for employing other staff as the corporation may require, subject to review and concurrence by the board.

- b. The board shall create a Market Accountability Advisory Committee to assist the corporation in developing awareness of its rates and its customer and agent service levels in relationship to the voluntary market insurers writing similar coverage.
- (I) The members of the advisory committee consist of the following 11 persons, one of whom must be elected chair by the members of the committee: four representatives, one appointed by the Florida Association of Insurance Agents, one by the Florida Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, one by the



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Professional Insurance Agents of Florida, and one by the Latin American Association of Insurance Agencies; three representatives appointed by the insurers with the three highest voluntary market share of residential property insurance business in this the state; one representative from the Office of Insurance Regulation; one consumer appointed by the board who is insured by the corporation at the time of appointment to the committee; one representative appointed by the Florida Association of Realtors; and one representative appointed by the Florida Bankers Association. All members shall be appointed to 3-year terms and may serve for consecutive terms.

- (II) The committee shall report to the corporation at each board meeting on insurance market issues that which may include rates and rate competition with the voluntary market; service, including policy issuance, claims processing, and general responsiveness to policyholders, applicants, and agents; and matters relating to depopulation.
- 5. Must provide a procedure for determining the eligibility of a risk for coverage, as follows:
- a. Subject to s. 627.3517, with respect to personal lines residential risks, if the risk is offered coverage from an authorized insurer at the insurer's approved rate under a standard policy including wind coverage or, if consistent with the insurer's underwriting rules as filed with the office, a basic policy including wind coverage, for a new application to the corporation for coverage, the risk is not eligible for any policy issued by the corporation unless the premium for coverage from the authorized insurer is more than 20 percent greater than the premium for comparable coverage from the corporation.



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Whenever an offer of coverage for a personal lines residential risk is received for a policyholder of the corporation at renewal from an authorized insurer, if the offer is equal to or less than the corporation's renewal premium for comparable coverage, the risk is not eligible for coverage with the corporation unless the premium for coverage from the authorized insurer is more than 20 percent greater than the renewal premium for comparable coverage from the corporation. If the risk is not able to obtain such offer, the risk is eligible for a standard policy including wind coverage or a basic policy including wind coverage issued by the corporation; however, if the risk could not be insured under a standard policy including wind coverage regardless of market conditions, the risk is eliqible for a basic policy including wind coverage unless rejected under subparagraph 8. However, a policyholder removed from the corporation through an assumption agreement remains eligible for coverage from the corporation until the end of the assumption period. The corporation shall determine the type of policy to be provided on the basis of objective standards specified in the underwriting manual and based on generally accepted underwriting practices.

(I) If the risk accepts an offer of coverage through the market assistance plan or through a mechanism established by the corporation other than a plan established by s. 627.3518, before a policy is issued to the risk by the corporation or during the first 30 days of coverage by the corporation, and the producing agent who submitted the application to the plan or to the corporation is not currently appointed by the insurer, the insurer shall:



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- (A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the policy for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or
- (B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the policy to continue servicing the policy for at least 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

- (II) If the corporation enters into a contractual agreement for a take-out plan, the producing agent of record of the corporation policy is entitled to retain any unearned commission on the policy, and the insurer shall:
- (A) Pay to the producing agent of record, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or
- (B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record to continue servicing the policy for at least 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept



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appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

- b. With respect to commercial lines residential risks, for a new application to the corporation for coverage, if the risk is offered coverage under a policy including wind coverage from an authorized insurer at its approved rate, the risk is not eligible for a policy issued by the corporation unless the premium for coverage from the authorized insurer is more than 15 percent greater than the premium for comparable coverage from the corporation. Whenever an offer of coverage for a commercial lines residential risk is received for a policyholder of the corporation at renewal from an authorized insurer, if the offer is equal to or less than the corporation's renewal premium for comparable coverage, the risk is not eligible for coverage with the corporation. If the risk is not able to obtain any such offer, the risk is eligible for a policy including wind coverage issued by the corporation. However, a policyholder removed from the corporation through an assumption agreement remains eligible for coverage from the corporation until the end of the assumption period.
- (I) If the risk accepts an offer of coverage through the market assistance plan or through a mechanism established by the corporation other than a plan established by s. 627.3518, before a policy is issued to the risk by the corporation or during the first 30 days of coverage by the corporation, and the producing agent who submitted the application to the plan or the corporation is not currently appointed by the insurer, the insurer shall:
  - (A) Pay to the producing agent of record of the policy, for



the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or

(B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the policy to continue servicing the policy for at least 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

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> If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

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(II) If the corporation enters into a contractual agreement for a take-out plan, the producing agent of record of the corporation policy is entitled to retain any unearned commission on the policy, and the insurer shall:

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(A) Pay to the producing agent of record, for the first year, an amount that is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or

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(B) Offer to allow the producing agent of record to continue servicing the policy for at least 1 year and offer to pay the agent the greater of the insurer's or the corporation's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written.

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If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance



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with sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A).

c. For purposes of determining comparable coverage under sub-subparagraphs a. and b., the comparison must be based on those forms and coverages that are reasonably comparable. The corporation may rely on a determination of comparable coverage and premium made by the producing agent who submits the application to the corporation, made in the agent's capacity as the corporation's agent. A comparison may be made solely of the premium with respect to the main building or structure only on the following basis: the same coverage A or other building limits; the same percentage hurricane deductible that applies on an annual basis or that applies to each hurricane for commercial residential property; the same percentage of ordinance and law coverage, if the same limit is offered by both the corporation and the authorized insurer; the same mitigation credits, to the extent the same types of credits are offered both by the corporation and the authorized insurer; the same method for loss payment, such as replacement cost or actual cash value, if the same method is offered both by the corporation and the authorized insurer in accordance with underwriting rules; and any other form or coverage that is reasonably comparable as determined by the board. If an application is submitted to the corporation for wind-only coverage in the coastal account, the premium for the corporation's wind-only policy plus the premium for the ex-wind policy that is offered by an authorized insurer to the applicant must be compared to the premium for multiperil coverage offered by an authorized insurer, subject to the standards for comparison specified in this subparagraph. If the corporation or the applicant requests from the authorized



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insurer a breakdown of the premium of the offer by types of coverage so that a comparison may be made by the corporation or its agent and the authorized insurer refuses or is unable to provide such information, the corporation may treat the offer as not being an offer of coverage from an authorized insurer at the insurer's approved rate.

- 6. Must include rules for classifications of risks and rates.
- 7. Must provide that if premium and investment income for an account attributable to a particular calendar year are in excess of projected losses and expenses for the account attributable to that year, such excess shall be held in surplus in the account. Such surplus must be available to defray deficits in that account as to future years and used for that purpose before assessing assessable insurers and assessable insureds as to any calendar year.
- 8. Must provide objective criteria and procedures to be uniformly applied to all applicants in determining whether an individual risk is so hazardous as to be uninsurable. In making this determination and in establishing the criteria and procedures, the following must be considered:
- a. Whether the likelihood of a loss for the individual risk is substantially higher than for other risks of the same class; and
- b. Whether the uncertainty associated with the individual risk is such that an appropriate premium cannot be determined.

The acceptance or rejection of a risk by the corporation must shall be construed as the private placement of insurance, and



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the provisions of chapter 120 does do not apply.

- 9. Must provide that the corporation make its best efforts to procure catastrophe reinsurance at reasonable rates, to cover its projected 100-year probable maximum loss as determined by the board of governors. If catastrophe reinsurance is not available at reasonable rates, the corporation need not purchase it, but the corporation shall include the costs of reinsurance to cover its projected 100-year probable maximum loss in its rate calculations even if it does not purchase catastrophe reinsurance.
- 10. The policies issued by the corporation must provide that if the corporation or the market assistance plan obtains an offer from an authorized insurer to cover the risk at its approved rates, the risk is no longer eligible for renewal through the corporation, except as otherwise provided in this subsection.
- 11. Corporation policies and applications must include a notice that the corporation policy could, under this section, be replaced with a policy issued by an authorized insurer which does not provide coverage identical to the coverage provided by the corporation. The notice must also specify that acceptance of corporation coverage creates a conclusive presumption that the applicant or policyholder is aware of this potential.
- 12. May establish, subject to approval by the office, different eligibility requirements and operational procedures for any line or type of coverage for any specified county or area if the board determines that such changes are justified due to the voluntary market being sufficiently stable and competitive in such area or for such line or type of coverage



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and that consumers who, in good faith, are unable to obtain insurance through the voluntary market through ordinary methods continue to have access to coverage from the corporation. If coverage is sought in connection with a real property transfer, the requirements and procedures may not provide an effective date of coverage later than the date of the closing of the transfer as established by the transferor, the transferee, and, if applicable, the lender.

13. Must provide that, with respect to the coastal account, any assessable insurer with a surplus as to policyholders of \$25 million or less writing 25 percent or more of its total countrywide property insurance premiums in this state may petition the office, within the first 90 days of each calendar year, to qualify as a limited apportionment company. A regular assessment levied by the corporation on a limited apportionment company for a deficit incurred by the corporation for the coastal account may be paid to the corporation on a monthly basis as the assessments are collected by the limited apportionment company from its insureds, but a limited apportionment company must begin collecting the regular assessments not later than 90 days after the regular assessments are levied by the corporation, and the regular assessments must be paid in full within 15 months after being levied by the corporation. A limited apportionment company shall collect from its policyholders any emergency assessment imposed under subsubparagraph (b) 3.d. The plan must provide that, if the office determines that any regular assessment will result in an impairment of the surplus of a limited apportionment company, the office may direct that all or part of such assessment be



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deferred as provided in subparagraph (q) 4. However, an emergency assessment to be collected from policyholders under subsubparagraph (b) 3.d. may not be limited or deferred.

- 14. Must provide that the corporation appoint as its licensed agents only those agents who throughout such appointments also hold an appointment as defined in s. 626.015 by an insurer who is authorized to write and is actually writing or renewing personal lines residential property coverage, commercial residential property coverage, or commercial nonresidential property coverage within this the state.
- 15. Must provide a premium payment plan option to its policyholders which, at a minimum, allows for quarterly and semiannual payment of premiums. A monthly payment plan may, but is not required to, be offered.
- 16. Must limit coverage on mobile homes or manufactured homes built before 1994 to actual cash value of the dwelling rather than replacement costs of the dwelling.
- 17. Must provide coverage for manufactured or mobile home dwellings. Such coverage must also include the following attached structures:
- a. Screened enclosures that are aluminum framed or screened enclosures that are not covered by the same or substantially the same materials as those of the primary dwelling;
- b. Carports that are aluminum or carports that are not covered by the same or substantially the same materials as those of the primary dwelling; and
- c. Patios that have a roof covering that is constructed of materials that are not the same or substantially the same materials as those of the primary dwelling.



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- The corporation shall make available a policy for mobile homes or manufactured homes for a minimum insured value of at least \$3,000.
- 18. May provide such limits of coverage as the board determines, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.
- 19. May require commercial property to meet specified hurricane mitigation construction features as a condition of eligibility for coverage.
- 20. Must provide that new or renewal policies issued by the corporation on or after January 1, 2012, which cover sinkhole loss do not include coverage for any loss to appurtenant structures, driveways, sidewalks, decks, or patios that are directly or indirectly caused by sinkhole activity. The corporation shall exclude such coverage using a notice of coverage change, which may be included with the policy renewal, and not by issuance of a notice of nonrenewal of the excluded coverage upon renewal of the current policy.
- 21. As of January 1, 2012, must require that the agent obtain from an applicant for coverage from the corporation an acknowledgment signed by the applicant, which includes, at a minimum, the following statement:

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF POTENTIAL SURCHARGE AND ASSESSMENT LIABILITY:

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1. AS A POLICYHOLDER OF CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION, I UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE CORPORATION SUSTAINS A DEFICIT AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE LOSSES OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON,



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MY POLICY COULD BE SUBJECT TO SURCHARGES, WHICH WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RENEWAL, CANCELLATION, OR TERMINATION OF THE POLICY, AND THAT THE SURCHARGES COULD BE AS HIGH AS 45 PERCENT OF MY PREMIUM, OR A DIFFERENT AMOUNT AS IMPOSED BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.

- 2. I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN AVOID THE CITIZENS POLICYHOLDER SURCHARGE, WHICH COULD BE AS HIGH AS 45 PERCENT OF MY PREMIUM, BY OBTAINING COVERAGE FROM A PRIVATE MARKET INSURER AND THAT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE BY CITIZENS, I MUST FIRST TRY TO OBTAIN PRIVATE MARKET COVERAGE BEFORE APPLYING FOR OR RENEWING COVERAGE WITH CITIZENS. I UNDERSTAND THAT PRIVATE MARKET INSURANCE RATES ARE REGULATED AND APPROVED BY THE STATE.
- 3. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY BE SUBJECT TO EMERGENCY ASSESSMENTS TO THE SAME EXTENT AS POLICYHOLDERS OF OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES, OR A DIFFERENT AMOUNT AS IMPOSED BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.
- 4. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.
- a. The corporation shall maintain, in electronic format or otherwise, a copy of the applicant's signed acknowledgment and provide a copy of the statement to the policyholder as part of the first renewal after the effective date of this subparagraph.
- b. The signed acknowledgment form creates a conclusive presumption that the policyholder understood and accepted his or her potential surcharge and assessment liability as a policyholder of the corporation.
  - 22. The corporation shall pay a producing agent of record a



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reasonable commission not to exceed the average of commissions paid in the preceding year by the 20 admitted insurers writing the greatest market share of property insurance in this state.

- (n) 1. Rates for coverage provided by the corporation must be actuarially sound and subject to s. 627.062, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. The corporation shall file its recommended rates with the office at least annually. The corporation shall provide any additional information regarding the rates which the office requires. The office shall consider the recommendations of the board and issue a final order establishing the rates for the corporation within 45 days after the recommended rates are filed. The corporation may not pursue an administrative challenge or judicial review of the final order of the office.
- 2. In addition to the rates otherwise determined pursuant to this paragraph, the corporation shall impose and collect an amount equal to the premium tax provided in s. 624.509 to augment the financial resources of the corporation.
- 3. If After the public hurricane loss-projection model under s. 627.06281 is has been found to be accurate and reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology, it must the model shall be considered when establishing the windstorm portion of the corporation's rates. The corporation may use the public model results in combination with the results of private models to calculate rates for the windstorm portion of the corporation's rates. This subparagraph does not require or allow the corporation to adopt rates lower than the rates otherwise required or allowed by this paragraph.
  - 4. The corporation must make a recommended actuarially



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sound rate filing for each personal and commercial line of business it writes.

- 5. Notwithstanding the board's recommended rates and the office's final order regarding the corporation's filed rates under subparagraph 1., the corporation shall annually implement a rate increase that which, except for sinkhole coverage, does not exceed the following for any single personal lines residential policy that covers an insured's primary residence issued by the corporation or any single commercial lines residential policy issued by the corporation, excluding coverage changes and surcharges:
  - a. Eleven percent for 2022.
  - b. Twelve percent for 2023.
  - c. Thirteen percent for 2024.
  - d. Fourteen percent for 2025.
  - e. Fifteen percent for 2026 and all subsequent years.
- 6. The corporation may also implement an increase to reflect the effect on the corporation of the cash buildup factor pursuant to s. 215.555(5)(b).
- 7. The corporation's implementation of rates as prescribed in subparagraph 5. must shall cease for any line of business written by the corporation upon the corporation's implementation of actuarially sound rates. Thereafter, the corporation shall annually make a recommended actuarially sound rate filing for each commercial and personal line of business the corporation writes.
- 8. Policies assumed by the corporation from an unsound insurer shall be charged a premium for coverage that is the higher of the last premium amount charged by the unsound insurer



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or the premium charged by the corporation applicable to the policy. Premiums established by the unsound insurer shall remain unchanged until such time as the corporation's rate exceeds this amount and the policy becomes subject to the corporation's annually approved rate. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unsound insurer" means an insurer determined by the Office of Insurance Regulation to be in unsound condition as defined in s. 624.80(2) or an insurer placed in receivership under chapter 631.

(q)1. The corporation shall certify to the office its needs for annual assessments as to a particular calendar year, and for any interim assessments that it deems to be necessary to sustain operations as to a particular year pending the receipt of annual assessments. Upon verification, the office shall approve such certification, and the corporation shall levy such annual or interim assessments. Such assessments shall be prorated as provided in paragraph (b). The corporation shall take all reasonable and prudent steps necessary to collect the amount of assessments due from each assessable insurer, including, if prudent, filing suit to collect the assessments, and the office may provide such assistance to the corporation it deems appropriate. If the corporation is unable to collect an assessment from any assessable insurer, the uncollected assessments shall be levied as an additional assessment against the assessable insurers and any assessable insurer required to pay an additional assessment as a result of such failure to pay shall have a cause of action against such nonpaying assessable insurer. Assessments shall be included as an appropriate factor in the making of rates. The failure of a surplus lines agent to



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collect and remit any regular or emergency assessment levied by the corporation is considered to be a violation of s. 626.936 and subjects the surplus lines agent to the penalties provided in that section.

2. The governing body of any unit of local government, any residents of which are insured by the corporation, may issue bonds as defined in s. 125.013 or s. 166.101 from time to time to fund an assistance program, in conjunction with the corporation, for the purpose of defraying deficits of the corporation. In order to avoid needless and indiscriminate proliferation, duplication, and fragmentation of such assistance programs, any unit of local government, any residents of which are insured by the corporation, may provide for the payment of losses, regardless of whether or not the losses occurred within or outside of the territorial jurisdiction of the local government. Revenue bonds under this subparagraph may not be issued until validated pursuant to chapter 75, unless a state of emergency is declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor pursuant to s. 252.36 making such findings as are necessary to determine that it is in the best interests of, and necessary for, the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare of residents of this state and declaring it an essential public purpose to permit certain municipalities or counties to issue such bonds as will permit relief to claimants and policyholders of the corporation. Any such unit of local government may enter into such contracts with the corporation and with any other entity created pursuant to this subsection as are necessary to carry out this paragraph. Any bonds issued under this subparagraph shall be payable from and secured by



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moneys received by the corporation from emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph (b) 3.d., and assigned and pledged to or on behalf of the unit of local government for the benefit of the holders of such bonds. The funds, credit, property, and taxing power of the state or of the unit of local government may shall not be pledged for the payment of such bonds.

3.a. The corporation shall adopt one or more programs subject to approval by the office for the reduction of both new and renewal writings in the corporation. Beginning January 1, 2008, any program the corporation adopts for the payment of bonuses to an insurer for each risk the insurer removes from the corporation shall comply with s. 627.3511(2) and may not exceed the amount referenced in s. 627.3511(2) for each risk removed. The corporation may consider any prudent and not unfairly discriminatory approach to reducing corporation writings, and may adopt a credit against assessment liability or other liability that provides an incentive for insurers to take risks out of the corporation and to keep risks out of the corporation by maintaining or increasing voluntary writings in counties or areas in which corporation risks are highly concentrated and a program to provide a formula under which an insurer voluntarily taking risks out of the corporation by maintaining or increasing voluntary writings will be relieved wholly or partially from assessments under sub-subparagraph (b) 3.a. However, any "takeout bonus" or payment to an insurer must be conditioned on the property being insured for at least 5 years by the insurer, unless canceled or nonrenewed by the policyholder. If the policy is canceled or nonrenewed by the policyholder before the end of the 5-year period, the amount of the take-out bonus must be



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prorated for the time period the policy was insured. When the corporation enters into a contractual agreement for a take-out plan, the producing agent of record of the corporation policy is entitled to retain any unearned commission on such policy, and the insurer shall either:

- (I) Pay to the producing agent of record of the policy, for the first year, an amount which is the greater of the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written or a policy fee equal to the usual and customary commission of the corporation; or
- (II) Offer to allow the producing agent of record of the policy to continue servicing the policy for a period of not less than 1 year and offer to pay the agent the insurer's usual and customary commission for the type of policy written. If the producing agent is unwilling or unable to accept appointment by the new insurer, the new insurer shall pay the agent in accordance with sub-sub-subparagraph (I).
- b. Any credit or exemption from regular assessments adopted under this subparagraph shall last no longer than the 3 years following the cancellation or expiration of the policy by the corporation. With the approval of the office, the board may extend such credits for an additional year if the insurer guarantees an additional year of renewability for all policies removed from the corporation, or for 2 additional years if the insurer guarantees 2 additional years of renewability for all policies so removed.
- c. There shall be no credit, limitation, exemption, or deferment from emergency assessments to be collected from policyholders pursuant to sub-subparagraph (b)3.d.



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- d. Notwithstanding any other law, for purposes of a depopulation, take-out, or keep-out program adopted by the corporation, including an initial or renewal offer of coverage made to a policyholder removed from the corporation pursuant to such program, an eligible surplus lines insurer may participate in the program in the same manner and on the same terms as an authorized insurer, except as provided under this subsubparagraph.
- (I) The policy count of the corporation must be more than 700,000 within the 30 days before the time a takeout offer is made by a surplus lines insurer.
- (II) To qualify for participation, the surplus lines insurer must first obtain approval from the office for its depopulation, take-out, or keep-out plan and then comply with all of the corporation's requirements for the plan applicable to admitted insurers and with all statutory provisions applicable to the removal of policies from the corporation.
- (III) In considering a surplus lines insurer's request for approval for its plan, the office shall determine whether the surplus lines insurer meets the following requirements:
- (A) Maintains a surplus of \$50 million on a company or pooled basis;
- (B) Has a superior, excellent, exceptional, or equally comparable financial strength rating by a rating agency acceptable to the office;
- (C) Maintains reserves, surplus, reinsurance, and reinsurance equivalents sufficient to cover the insurer's 100year probable maximum hurricane loss at least twice in a single hurricane season and submits such reinsurance to the office to



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review for purposes of the take-out;

- (D) Provides prominent notice to the policyholder before the assumption of the policy that surplus lines policies are not provided coverage by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association and provides an outline of any substantial differences in coverage between the existing policy and the policy being offered to the insured; and
- (E) Provides policy coverage similar to that provided by the corporation.
- (IV) To obtain approval for a plan, the surplus lines insurer must file the following with the office:
- (A) Information requested by the office to demonstrate compliance with s. 624.404(3), including biographical affidavits, fingerprints processed pursuant to s. 624.34, and the results of criminal history records checks for officers and directors of the insurer and its parent or holding company;
- (B) A service-of-process consent and agreement form executed by the insurer;
- (C) Proof that the insurer has been an eligible or authorized insurer for at least 3 years;
- (D) A duly authenticated copy of the insurer's current audited financial statement, in English, which, in the case of statements originally made in the currencies of other countries, expresses all monetary values in United States dollars, at an exchange rate then current and shown in the statement, and including any additional information relative to the insurer as the office may request;
- (E) A complete certified copy of the latest official financial statement required by the insurer's domiciliary state,



if different from the statement required by sub-sub-subsubparagraph (D); and

(F) If applicable, a copy of the United States trust account agreement.

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> This sub-sub-subparagraph does not subject any surplus lines insurer to requirements in addition to part VIII of chapter 626. Surplus lines brokers making an offer of coverage under this sub-subparagraph are not required to comply with s. 626.916(1)(a), (b), (c), or (e).

> (V) Within 10 days after the date of assumption, the surplus lines insurer assuming policies from the corporation shall remit to the Bureau of Collateral Management within the Department of Financial Services a special deposit equal to the unearned premium net of unearned commissions on the assumed block of business. The surplus lines insurer shall submit to the office, along with the special deposit, an accounting of the policies assumed and the amount of unearned premium for such policies and a sworn affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the accounting by an officer of the surplus lines insurer. Thereafter, the surplus lines insurer shall make a filing within 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter attesting to the unearned premium in force for the previous quarter on policies assumed from the corporation and shall submit additional funds with that filing if the special deposit is insufficient to cover the unearned premium on assumed policies, or shall receive a return of funds within 60 days if the special deposit exceeds the amount of unearned premium required for assumed policies. The special deposit is an asset of the surplus lines insurer



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which is held by the department for the benefit of state policyholders of the surplus lines insurer in the event of the insolvency of the surplus lines insurer. If an order of liquidation is entered in any state against the surplus lines insurer, the department may use the special deposit for payment of unearned premium or policy claims, return all or part of the deposit to the domiciliary receiver, or use the funds in accordance with any action authorized under part I of chapter 631 or in compliance with any order of a court having jurisdiction over the insolvency.

(VI) In advance of a surplus lines insurer assuming a policy, surplus lines brokers representing a surplus lines insurer on a take-out program shall obtain confirmation, in written or e-mail form, from each producing agent stating that the agent is willing to participate in the take-out program with the surplus lines insurer engaging in the take-out program. The take-out program is also subject to s. 627.3517. If a policyholder is selected for removal from the corporation by a surplus lines insurer and an authorized insurer, the corporation must give priority to the offer of coverage from the authorized insurer.

(VII) (A) A risk 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 if it is offered comparable coverage from a qualified surplus lines insurer at a premium no greater than the premium charged by the corporation.

(B) A risk that has a dwelling replacement cost below



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\$700,000 or a single condominium unit that has a combined dwelling and contents replacement cost below \$700,000 remains eligible for coverage by the corporation if it is offered coverage from a qualified surplus lines insurer.

- 4. The plan shall provide for the deferment, in whole or in part, of the assessment of an assessable insurer, other than an emergency assessment collected from policyholders pursuant to sub-subparagraph (b) 3.d., if the office finds that payment of the assessment would endanger or impair the solvency of the insurer. In the event an assessment against an assessable insurer is deferred in whole or in part, the amount by which such assessment is deferred may be assessed against the other assessable insurers in a manner consistent with the basis for assessments set forth in paragraph (b).
- 5. Effective July 1, 2007, in order to evaluate the costs and benefits of approved take-out plans, if the corporation pays a bonus or other payment to an insurer for an approved take-out plan, it shall maintain a record of the address or such other identifying information on the property or risk removed in order to track if and when the property or risk is later insured by the corporation.
- 6. Any policy taken out, assumed, or removed from the corporation is, as of the effective date of the take-out, assumption, or removal, direct insurance issued by the insurer and not by the corporation, even if the corporation continues to service the policies. This subparagraph applies to policies of the corporation and not policies taken out, assumed, or removed from any other entity.
  - 7. For a policy taken out, assumed, or removed from the



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corporation, the insurer may, for a period of no more than 3 years, continue to use any of the corporation's policy forms or endorsements that apply to the policy taken out, removed, or assumed without obtaining approval from the office for use of such policy form or endorsement.

- (x)1. The following records of the corporation are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:
- a. Underwriting files, except that a policyholder or an applicant shall have access to his or her own underwriting files. Confidential and exempt underwriting file records may also be released to other governmental agencies upon written request and demonstration of need; such records held by the receiving agency remain confidential and exempt as provided herein.
- b. Claims files, until termination of all litigation and settlement of all claims arising out of the same incident, although portions of the claims files may remain exempt, as otherwise provided by law. Confidential and exempt claims file records may be released to other governmental agencies upon written request and demonstration of need; such records held by the receiving agency remain confidential and exempt as provided herein.
- c. Records obtained or generated by an internal auditor pursuant to a routine audit, until the audit is completed, or if the audit is conducted as part of an investigation, until the investigation is closed or ceases to be active. An investigation is considered "active" while the investigation is being conducted with a reasonable, good faith belief that it could



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1274 lead to the filing of administrative, civil, or criminal 1275 proceedings.

- d. Matters reasonably encompassed in privileged attorneyclient communications.
- e. Proprietary information licensed to the corporation under contract and the contract provides for the confidentiality of such proprietary information.
- f. All information relating to the medical condition or medical status of a corporation employee which is not relevant to the employee's capacity to perform his or her duties, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. Information that is exempt includes shall include, but is not limited to, information relating to workers' compensation, insurance benefits, and retirement or disability benefits.
- g. Upon an employee's entrance into the employee assistance program, a program to assist any employee who has a behavioral or medical disorder, substance abuse problem, or emotional difficulty that affects the employee's job performance, all records relative to that participation are shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except as otherwise provided in s. 112.0455(11).
- h. Information relating to negotiations for financing, reinsurance, depopulation, or contractual services, until the conclusion of the negotiations.
- i. Minutes of closed meetings regarding underwriting files, and minutes of closed meetings regarding an open claims file until termination of all litigation and settlement of all claims with regard to that claim, except that information otherwise



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confidential or exempt by law must shall be redacted.

2. If an authorized insurer, a reinsurance intermediary, an eligible surplus lines insurer, or an entity that has filed an application with the office for licensure as a property and casualty insurer in this state is considering writing or assisting in the underwriting of a risk insured by the corporation, relevant information from both the underwriting files and confidential claims files may be released to the insurer, reinsurance intermediary, eligible surplus lines insurer, or entity that has been created to seek authority to write property insurance in this state, provided that the recipient insurer agrees in writing, notarized and under oath, to maintain the confidentiality of such files. If a policy file is transferred to an insurer, that policy file is no longer a public record because it is not held by an agency subject to the provisions of the public records law. Underwriting files and confidential claims files may also be released to staff and the board of governors of the market assistance plan established pursuant to s. 627.3515, who must retain the confidentiality of such files, except such files may be released to authorized insurers that are considering assuming the risks to which the files apply, provided the insurer agrees in writing, notarized and under oath, to maintain the confidentiality of such files. Finally, the corporation or the board or staff of the market assistance plan may make the following information obtained from underwriting files and confidential claims files available to an entity that has obtained a permit to become an authorized insurer, a reinsurer that may provide reinsurance under s. 624.610, a licensed reinsurance broker, a licensed rating



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organization, a modeling company, or a licensed general lines insurance agent: name, address, and telephone number of the residential property owner or insured; location of the risk; rating information; loss history; and policy type. The receiving person must retain the confidentiality of the information received and may use the information only for the purposes of developing a take-out plan or a rating plan to be submitted to the office for approval or otherwise analyzing the underwriting of a risk or risks insured by the corporation on behalf of the private insurance market. A licensed general lines insurance agent may not use such information for the direct solicitation of policyholders.

3. A policyholder who has filed suit against the corporation has the right to discover the contents of his or her own claims file to the same extent that discovery of such contents would be available from a private insurer in litigation as provided by the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Evidence Code, and other applicable law. Pursuant to subpoena, a third party has the right to discover the contents of an insured's or applicant's underwriting or claims file to the same extent that discovery of such contents would be available from a private insurer by subpoena as provided by the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Evidence Code, and other applicable law, and subject to any confidentiality protections requested by the corporation and agreed to by the seeking party or ordered by the court. The corporation may release confidential underwriting and claims file contents and information as it deems necessary and appropriate to underwrite or service insurance policies and claims, subject to any confidentiality protections deemed



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necessary and appropriate by the corporation.

4. Portions of meetings of the corporation are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution wherein confidential underwriting files or confidential open claims files are discussed. All portions of corporation meetings which are closed to the public shall be recorded by a court reporter. The court reporter shall record the times of commencement and termination of the meeting, all discussion and proceedings, the names of all persons present at any time, and the names of all persons speaking. No portion of any closed meeting shall be off the record. Subject to the provisions hereof and s. 119.07(1)(d)-(f), the court reporter's notes of any closed meeting shall be retained by the corporation for a minimum of 5 years. A copy of the transcript, less any exempt matters, of any closed meeting wherein claims are discussed shall become public as to individual claims after settlement of the claim.

Section 3. Section 627.3517, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.3517 Consumer choice.—No provision of s. 627.351, s. 627.3511, or s. 627.3515 shall be construed to impair the right of any insurance risk apportionment plan policyholder, upon receipt of any keep-out keepout or take-out offer, to retain his or her current agent, so long as that agent is duly licensed and appointed by the insurance risk apportionment plan or otherwise authorized to place business with the insurance risk apportionment plan. This right may shall not be canceled, suspended, impeded, abridged, or otherwise compromised by any rule, plan of operation, or depopulation plan, whether through



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keep-out keepout, take-out, midterm assumption, or any other means, of any insurance risk apportionment plan or depopulation plan, including, but not limited to, those described in s. 627.351, s. 627.3511, or s. 627.3515. The commission shall adopt any rules necessary to cause any insurance risk apportionment plan or market assistance plan under such sections to demonstrate that the operations of the plan do not interfere with, promote, or allow interference with the rights created under this section. If the policyholder's current agent is unable or unwilling to be appointed with the insurer making the take-out or keep-out keepout offer, the policyholder is shall not be disqualified from participation in the appropriate insurance risk apportionment plan because of an offer of coverage in the voluntary market. An offer of full property insurance coverage by the insurer currently insuring either the ex-wind or wind-only coverage on the policy to which the offer applies is shall not be considered a take-out or keep-out keepout offer. Any rule, plan of operation, or plan of depopulation, through keep-out keepout, take-out, midterm assumption, or any other means, of any property insurance risk apportionment plan under s. 627.351(2) or (6) is subject to ss. 627.351(2)(b) and (6)(c) and 627.3511(4).

Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 627.3518, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of that section are reenacted, to read:

627.3518 Citizens Property Insurance Corporation policyholder eligibility clearinghouse program.—The purpose of this section is to provide a framework for the corporation to



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implement a clearinghouse program by January 1, 2014.

(5) Notwithstanding s. 627.3517, any applicant for new coverage from the corporation is not eligible for coverage from the corporation if provided an offer of coverage from an authorized insurer through the program at a premium that is at or below the eligibility threshold established in s. 627.351(6)(c)5.a. Whenever an offer of coverage for a personal lines risk is received for a policyholder of the corporation at renewal from an authorized insurer through the program, if the offer is at or below the eligibility threshold specified in s. 627.351(6)(c)5.a. equal to or less than the corporation's renewal premium for comparable coverage, the risk is not eligible for coverage with the corporation. In the event that an offer of coverage for a new applicant or a personal lines risk at renewal is received from an authorized insurer through the program, and the premium offered exceeds the eligibility thresholds specified threshold contained in s. 627.351(6)(c)5.a., the applicant or insured may elect to accept such coverage, or may elect to accept or continue coverage with the corporation. In the event an offer of coverage for a personal lines risk is received from an authorized insurer at renewal through the program, and the premium offered is more than the corporation's renewal premium for comparable coverage, the insured may elect to accept such coverage, or may elect to accept or continue coverage with the corporation. Section 627.351(6)(c)5.a.(I) does not apply to an offer of coverage from an authorized insurer obtained through the program. An applicant for coverage from the corporation who was declared ineligible for coverage at renewal by the corporation in the previous 36



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months due to an offer of coverage pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a renewal under this section if the corporation determines that the authorized insurer making the offer of coverage pursuant to this subsection continues to insure the applicant and increased the rate on the policy in excess of the increase allowed for the corporation under s. 627.351(6)(n)5.

- (6) Independent insurance agents submitting new applications for coverage or that are the agent of record on a renewal policy submitted to the program:
- (a) Are granted and must maintain ownership and the exclusive use of expirations, records, or other written or electronic information directly related to such applications or renewals written through the corporation or through an insurer participating in the program, notwithstanding s. 627.351(6)(c)5.a.(I)(B) and (II)(B). Such ownership is granted for as long as the insured remains with the agency or until sold or surrendered in writing by the agent. Contracts with the corporation or required by the corporation must not amend, modify, interfere with, or limit such rights of ownership. Such expirations, records, or other written or electronic information may be used to review an application, issue a policy, or for any other purpose necessary for placing such business through the program.

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Applicants ineligible for coverage in accordance with subsection (5) remain ineligible if their independent agent is unwilling or unable to enter into a standard or limited agency agreement with an insurer participating in the program.



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- (7) Exclusive agents submitting new applications for coverage or that are the agent of record on a renewal policy submitted to the program:
- (a) Must maintain ownership and the exclusive use of expirations, records, or other written or electronic information directly related to such applications or renewals written through the corporation or through an insurer participating in the program, notwithstanding s. 627.351(6)(c)5.a.(I)(B) and (II) (B). Contracts with the corporation or required by the corporation must not amend, modify, interfere with, or limit such rights of ownership. Such expirations, records, or other written or electronic information may be used to review an application, issue a policy, or for any other purpose necessary for placing such business through the program.

Applicants ineligible for coverage in accordance with subsection (5) remain ineligible if their exclusive agent is unwilling or unable to enter into a standard or limited agency agreement with an insurer making an offer of coverage to that applicant.

Section 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.