1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to safety standards for amusement 3 rides; providing a short title; amending s. 616.242, 4 F.S.; defining and redefining terms; requiring 5 permanent amusement rides operated for the first time 6 in this state after a specified date to have a ride 7 commissioning and certification report on file with 8 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 9 within a specified timeframe; revising the application requirements for permanent and temporary amusement 10 11 ride permits; exempting from permit requirements 12 temporary amusement rides that meet certain 13 conditions; revising the annual nondestructive testing 14 requirements for amusement rides; requiring nonvisual 15 nondestructive testing to be used in certain 16 circumstances; revising the affidavit requirements for 17 nondestructive testing; authorizing the department to 18 conduct unannounced inspections for specified 19 purposes; requiring the department to remove an amusement ride from service and take appropriate 20 21 administrative actions under certain circumstances; 22 removing an exemption for temporary amusement ride 23 inspections; authorizing the department to conduct 24 certain inspections upon request; revising amusement ride inspection standards; revising the reasons for 25

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26 which the department is authorized to enter and 27 inspect amusement rides; requiring the department to 28 prepare a written report of each investigation it 29 conducts; revising the circumstances under which the 30 owner or manager of an amusement ride is required to 31 report an accident and under which the department may 32 impound an amusement ride involved in an accident; 33 requiring daily owner or manager amusement ride 34 inspections to be recorded at the time of inspection; 35 requiring the department to establish by rule minimum 36 amusement ride training and retraining standards; revising training requirements; revising circumstances 37 38 under which an amusement ride may be considered an 39 immediate serious danger to the public; providing an effective date. 40

42 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, Tyre Sampson, a 14-year-old boy 43 visiting this state from Missouri, fell to his death from the 44 Eagle Drop Tower in Orlando, and

WHEREAS, after the accident, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services inspectors performed multiple onsite inspections of the tower and its components and contracted with a third party to conduct a failure analysis assessment of the tower, and

50

41

WHEREAS, the investigators concluded that changes made to

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51	the ride by the ride operators after initial installation
52	contributed to Tyre Sampson's death, and
53	WHEREAS, the proposed changes made by this act are
54	necessary to address the safety problems discovered during the
55	department's investigation, NOW, THEREFORE,
56	
57	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
58	
59	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Tyre Sampson
60	Act."
61	Section 2. Present paragraphs (j) through (q) and (r)
62	through (u) of subsection (3) of section 616.242, Florida
63	Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (k) through (r) and (t)
64	through (w), respectively, new paragraphs (j) and (s) are added
65	to that subsection and a new paragraph (g) is added to
66	subsection (6) of that section, and paragraph (h) of subsection
67	(3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (b) of
68	subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (6),
69	subsection (7), paragraph (a) of subsection (8), paragraph (b)
70	of subsection (11), subsections (12) and (14), paragraphs (a)
71	and (c) of subsection (15), and subsections (16), (17), and (19)
72	of that section are amended, to read:
73	616.242 Safety standards for amusement rides
74	(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
75	(h) "Major modification" means any change in the
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76 structural characteristics, or operational characteristics, or 77 safety systems of an amusement ride which will alter its 78 performance or settings from those that specified in the 79 manufacturer's design criteria or operator's manual or as 80 certified in the ride commissioning and certification report. (j) "Nationally recognized testing laboratory" means an 81 82 independent laboratory recognized by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration which tests 83 84 products to applicable product safety standards in order to 85 provide independent testing and certification of devices that 86 may pose a risk to the user. 87 (s) "Ride commissioning and certification report" means a commissioning and certification report by the ride manufacturer 88 89 or a nationally recognized testing laboratory which certifies 90 that the ride has been designed, manufactured, installed, and 91 tested in conformance with the manufacturer's design criteria, 92 standards referenced in this section, and rules adopted by the 93 department. (4) ADOPTION OF STANDARDS; RULES.-94 95 The department shall adopt by rule standards for (a) amusement rides. The rules must: 96 97 1. Be which are the same as or similar to the following 98 national standards: 99 a.1. ASTM International Committee F24 Standards on Amusement Rides and Devices. 100

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101 b.2. The National Electric Code Handbook. 102 c.<del>3.</del> National Fire Protection Association standards. 103 2. Require that each permanent amusement ride operated for 104 the first time in this state after July 1, 2023, have a ride 105 commissioning and certification report on file with the department before the department conducts the permanent 106 107 amusement ride's first inspection and issues a permit for the 108 permanent amusement ride. 109 (5) PERMANENT AMUSEMENT RIDE ANNUAL PERMIT.-To apply for an annual permit, an owner or manager 110 (b) 111 must submit to the department a written application on a form prescribed by department rule, which must include all of the 112 113 following: 114 The legal name, address, e-mail address, and primary 1. 115 place of business of the owner or manager, as applicable. 116 2. A description, manufacturer's name, serial number, 117 model number, and, if previously assigned, the United States Amusement Identification Number of the amusement ride. 118 3. A valid certificate of insurance for each amusement 119 ride. 120 If required under subsection  $(7)_r$  An annual affidavit 121 4. 122 of compliance and nondestructive testing certifying that the 123 amusement ride was inspected in person by the affiant and that 124 the amusement ride is in general conformance with the 125 requirements of this section and all applicable department Page 5 of 20

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126	rules. The affidavit must have been executed by a professional
127	engineer or a qualified inspector within the last calendar year.
128	5. <del>The owner or manager shall,</del> At no cost to the
129	department, <del>provide the department</del> an electronic copy of the
130	manufacturer's current recommended operating instructions, the
131	owner's operating fact sheet, a longitudinal record regarding
132	accidents involving rides he or she previously owned or
133	operated, and any written bulletins concerning the safety,
134	operation, or maintenance of the amusement ride.
135	6. Beginning July 1, 2023, a ride commissioning and
136	certification report for each permanent amusement ride operated
137	for the first time in this state after July 1, 2023.
138	(6) TEMPORARY AMUSEMENT RIDE PERMIT
139	(b) To apply for a permit, an owner or manager must submit
140	to the department a written application on a form prescribed by
141	department rule <u>. The written application</u> , which must include <u>all</u>
142	of the following:
143	1. The legal name, address, <u>e-mail address,</u> and primary
144	place of business of the owner or manager <del>, as applicable</del> .
145	2. A description, manufacturer's name, serial number,
146	model number, and, if previously assigned, the United States
147	Amusement Identification Number of the amusement ride.
148	3. A valid certificate of insurance for each amusement
149	ride.
150	4. If required under subsection (7), An affidavit of
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151 compliance and nondestructive testing certifying that the 152 amusement ride was inspected in person by the affiant and that 153 the amusement ride is in general conformance with the requirements of this section and all applicable department 154 155 rules. The affidavit must be executed by a professional engineer 156 or a qualified inspector. 157 5. The owner or manager shall, At no cost to the 158 department, provide the department an electronic copy of the 159 manufacturer's current recommended operating instructions, the 160 operating fact sheet, a longitudinal record regarding accidents involving rides he or she previously owned or operated, and any 161 162 written bulletins concerning the safety, operation, or 163 maintenance of the amusement ride. 164 (f) A temporary amusement ride is exempt from the required 165 permit if it is: 166 1. Used at a private event and was issued a permit within 167 the preceding 6 months; or 168 2. A kiddie ride used at a public event, provided that not 169 more than three amusement rides are at the event, the kiddie 170 rides at the event do not exceed a capacity of 12 persons, and the kiddie ride passed a department inspection and was issued a 171 permit within the preceding 6 months. Unless the capacity of the 172 173 ride has been determined and specified by the manufacturer, the 174 department shall determine the capacity of the kiddie ride by 175 rule. An owner or a manager of a kiddie ride operating under

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176	this exemption is responsible for ensuring that not more than
177	three amusement rides are operated at the event.
178	(g) The permit must be displayed in an accessible location
179	on the amusement ride.
180	(7) NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING; ANNUAL AFFIDAVIT; EXEMPTIONS
181	(a) <del>Except as provided in paragraph (d),</del> An owner or
182	manager may not operate an amusement ride unless the owner or
183	manager at all times has a current affidavit of nondestructive
184	testing from a professional engineer or qualified inspector that
185	the amusement ride has undergone nondestructive testing <u>to</u>
186	verify the integrity of all components for metal fatigue at
187	least annually. The nondestructive testing for metal fatigue
188	must be conducted more often than annually if required by any
189	rule adopted under this section, by the manufacturer of the
190	amusement ride, or by the professional engineer or qualified
191	inspector executing the affidavit of nondestructive testing. The
192	nondestructive testing <del>for metal fatigue</del> must consist at least
193	of visual nondestructive testing, as well as nonvisual
194	nondestructive testing <del>for metal fatigue</del> , which must be
195	conducted on the components of the amusement ride as required by
196	any rule adopted under this section, by the manufacturer of the
197	amusement ride, or by the professional engineer or qualified
198	inspector executing the affidavit of nondestructive testing.
199	(b) Nonvisual nondestructive testing must be used to
200	verify the integrity of components that, due to their design,

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201 location, installation, or a combination thereof, cannot be 202 adequately evaluated by other means. 203 (c) Nondestructive testing testings must be performed by a 204 technician who meets the requirements prescribed by department 205 rule. 206 (d) (c) An affidavit of nondestructive testing, on a form 207 prescribed by department rule, must state, at a minimum, all of 208 the following: 209 1. That the amusement ride was inspected in person by the 210 affiant. That all of the manufacturer's nondestructive testing 211 2. requirements and recommendations are current. 212 3. That the nondestructive testing was performed by a 213 214 qualified nondestructive testing technician. 215 The components of the amusement ride for which the 4. 216 manufacturer has recommended or required nondestructive testing. 217 The type of nondestructive testing required or 5. 218 recommended by the manufacturer. 219 The frequency of the nondestructive testing required or 6. 220 recommended by the manufacturer. The components of the amusement ride for which the 221 7. affiant, in addition to the manufacturer's requirements and 222 223 recommendations, has recommended or required nondestructive 224 testing. 225 8. The type of nondestructive testing required or

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226	recommended by the affiant in addition to the manufacturer's
227	requirements and recommendations. If the affiant does not
228	require or recommend additional nondestructive testing, the
229	affiant must affirm that the manufacturer's requirements are
230	sufficient for the safe operation of the amusement ride.
231	9. The frequency of the nondestructive testing as required
232	or recommended by the affiant.
233	10. That visual nondestructive testing is adequate for the
234	amusement ride to be in <del>general</del> conformance with the
235	requirements of this section and all applicable rules, <del>only</del> if
236	only visual nondestructive testing is required or recommended by
237	the manufacturer or the affiant.
238	11. That the amusement ride is in conformance with the
239	requirements of this section and all applicable department
240	<u>rules.</u>
241	12. Whether the amusement ride has undergone a major
242	modification and, if so, the name of the manager, owner, or
243	operator who authorized the modification and the date the
244	modification took place.
245	13. That the amusement ride and its components are in
246	conformance with the service life specified by the manufacturer.
247	14. That the amusement ride is in conformance with all of
248	the manufacturer's required or recommended bulletins.
249	<u>(e) (d) Nonvisual</u> nondestructive testing is not required
250	for fun houses, houses of mirrors, haunted houses, mazes, wave
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251 pools, wave-making devices, kiddie pools, slides that are fully 252 supported by an earthen mound, nonmotorized playground equipment 253 that requires a manager, or lazy-river-type nonmotorized 254 floating carriers propelled by water. 255 (8) DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS. -256 (a) In order to obtain an annual or a temporary amusement 257 ride permit, an amusement ride must be inspected by the 258 department. 259 1. The department may conduct unannounced inspections to 260 observe operations and ensure the amusement ride is being conducted pursuant to proper procedures, to verify that on-duty 261 262 employees have received proper training, and to observe the 263 amusement ride in operation in order to detect unsafe ride 264 conditions that may have occurred following the last inspection. 265 If unsafe conditions are found, the inspector must immediately 266 remove the amusement ride from service to ensure patron safety 267 and follow up with the appropriate administrative actions A 268 temporary amusement ride is exempt from the required inspection 269 if it is: 270 a. Used at a private event; 271 b. A simulator, the capacity of which does not exceed 16 272 persons; or 273 c. A kiddie ride used at a public event, provided that not 274 more than three amusement rides are at the event, the kiddie 275 rides at the event do not exceed a capacity of 12 persons, and

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276	the kiddie ride passed a department inspection and was issued a
277	permit within the preceding 6 months. The capacity of a kiddie
278	ride shall be determined by department rule, unless the capacity
279	of the ride has been determined and specified by the
280	manufacturer. Any owner or manager of a kiddie ride operating
281	under this exemption is responsible for ensuring that not more
282	than three amusement rides are operated at the event.
283	2. The department shall inspect permanent amusement rides
284	6 months after the issuance of the annual permit. The required
285	inspection may be waived for a permanent amusement ride if it
286	was inspected and certified by an accredited trade organization
287	as defined by department rule.
288	(11) EXEMPTIONS
289	(b) All of the following are exempt from subsections (5),
290	(6), (8), and (9), but may be inspected by the department upon
291	request, following a complaint or pursuant to an accident that
292	is required to be reported under subsection (15), and such
293	exemption may be removed if the exempted amusement ride is found
294	to have been operating in a manner or circumstance that presents
295	a risk or resulted in a serious injury to patrons:
296	1. Museums or other institutions principally devoted to
297	the exhibition of products of agriculture, industry, education,
298	science, religion, or the arts.

2. Conventions or trade shows for the sale or exhibit of 299 300 amusement rides if there are a minimum of 15 amusement rides on

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301 display or exhibition and if any operation of such amusement 302 rides is limited to the registered attendees of the convention 303 or trade show.

304 3. Nonmotorized playground equipment that is not required305 to have a manager.

306 4. Coin-actuated amusement rides designed to be operated 307 by depositing coins, tokens, credit cards, debit cards, bills, 308 or other cash money and which are not required to have a 309 manager, and which have a capacity of six persons or less.

310 5. Facilities described in s. 549.09(1)(a) when such311 facilities are operating cars, trucks, or motorcycles only.

312 6. Battery-powered cars or other vehicles that are 313 designed to be operated by children 7 years of age or under and 314 that cannot exceed a speed of 4 miles per hour.

315 7. Mechanically driven vehicles that pull train cars, 316 carts, wagons, or other similar vehicles, that are not confined 317 to a metal track or confined to an area but are steered by an 318 operator and do not exceed a speed of 4 miles per hour.

319 8. A water-related amusement ride operated by a business 320 licensed under chapter 509 if the water-related amusement ride 321 is an incidental amenity and the operating business is not 322 primarily engaged in providing amusement, pleasure, thrills, or 323 excitement and does not offer day rates.

324 9. An amusement ride at a private, membership-only325 facility if the amusement ride is an incidental amenity and the

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326 facility is not open to the general public; is not primarily 327 engaged in providing amusement, pleasure, thrills, or 328 excitement; and does not offer day rates. 329 10. A nonprofit permanent facility registered under 330 chapter 496 which is not open to the general public. 331 INSPECTION STANDARDS. - An amusement ride must conform (12)332 to all of the following standards: 333 (a) All mechanical, structural, and electrical components 334 that affect patron safety must be in good working order. 335 All control devices, speed-limiting devices, brakes, (b) 336 and safety equipment must be in good working order. 337 Parts must be properly aligned and may not be bent, (C) 338 distorted, cut, or otherwise injured to force a fit. Parts 339 requiring lubrication must be lubricated in the course of 340 assembly. Fastening and locking devices must be installed when 341 required for safe operation. 342 Sensors and other limiting devices related to patron (d) 343 safety restraint systems may not be adjusted beyond the 344 prescribed tolerances determined by the manufacturer or by a 345 licensed professional engineer if the manufacturer is no longer 346 in business. 347 (e) The proper positioning and measurements related to 348 patron safety restraint systems must be provided to the 349 department before the time of inspection. The specifications may include redundant restraints, such as seat belts, and must be 350 Page 14 of 20

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351 <u>approved by the ride manufacturer or by a licensed professional</u> 352 engineer if the manufacturer is no longer in business.

353 (f) An amusement ride must be placed or secured with 354 blocking, cribbing, outriggers, guys, or other means so as to be 355 stable under all operating conditions.

356 <u>(g)(e)</u> Areas in which patrons may be endangered by the 357 operation of an amusement ride must be fenced, barricaded, or 358 otherwise effectively guarded against inadvertent contact.

359 <u>(h) (f)</u> Machinery used in or with an amusement ride must be 360 enclosed, barricaded, or otherwise effectively guarded against 361 inadvertent contact.

362 <u>(i)(g)</u> An amusement ride powered so as to be capable of 363 exceeding its maximum safe operating speed must be provided with 364 a maximum-speed-limiting device.

365 <u>(j)(h)</u> The interior and exterior parts of all patron-366 carrying amusement rides with which a patron may come in contact 367 must be smooth and rounded and free from sharp, rough, or 368 splintered edges and corners, and from projecting studs, bolts, 369 and screws or other projections that might cause injury.

370 <u>(k) (i)</u> Signs that advise or warn patrons of age 371 restrictions, size restrictions, health restrictions, weight 372 limitations, or any other special consideration or use 373 restrictions, or lack thereof, required or recommended for the 374 amusement ride by the manufacturer must be prominently displayed 375 at the patron entrance of each amusement ride. <u>If such rider</u>

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376 restrictions are not provided by the manufacturer, the owner or 377 manager must provide the department with documentation from the 378 manufacturer or a licensed professional engineer stating that 379 such rider restrictions are not necessary for the safe operation 380 of the amusement ride.

381 <u>(1)(j)</u> All amusement rides presented for inspection as 382 ready for operation or in operation must comply with this 383 section and department rule.

384 (m)(k) A sign containing the toll-free number of the 385 department and informing patrons that they may contact the 386 department with complaints or concerns regarding the <u>safe</u> 387 operation of amusement rides must be posted in a manner 388 conspicuous to the public at each entrance of <u>an</u> a temporary 389 amusement ride facility. The department shall prescribe by rule 390 specifications for such signs.

391

(14) ENTRY FOR INSPECTION OR INVESTIGATION.-

392 Upon presentation of identification, an authorized (a) 393 employee of the department may enter unannounced and inspect 394 amusement rides at any time and in a reasonable manner and has 395 the right to question any owner, operator, or manager; to 396 inspect, investigate, photograph, and sample all pertinent 397 places, areas, and devices and review required documentation; 398 and to conduct or have conducted all appropriate tests, 399 including nondestructive testing. The department may impose fees for unannounced inspections and recover the cost of tests 400

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401 authorized by this subsection.

402 (b) The department shall prepare a written report of each
 403 investigation it conducts.

404 (15) REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS AND DEFECTS; 405 IMPOUNDMENTS.-

406 Any accident of which the owner or manager has (a) 407 knowledge or, through the exercise of reasonable diligence 408 should have knowledge, and for which a patron seeks treatment at 409 is transported to a hospital or an urgent care center, as those terms are defined in chapter 395, must be reported by the owner 410 411 or manager to the department by telephone within 4 hours after 412 the occurrence of the accident or after notification by the 413 patron and must be followed up by a written report to the 414 department within 24 hours after the occurrence of the accident 415 or after notification by the patron.

416 (C) The department may impound an amusement ride involved 417 in an accident for which a patron seeks treatment at is 418 transported to a hospital or an urgent care center as those 419 terms are defined in chapter 395 or which has a mechanical, 420 structural, or electrical defect affecting patron safety; may 421 impound any other amusement ride of a similar make and model or 422 with similar operating characteristics; and may perform all 423 necessary tests to determine the cause of the accident or the 424 mechanical, structural, or electrical defect or to determine the 425 safety of the amusement ride and any other amusement ride of a

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426 similar make and model <u>or with similar operating</u> 427 <u>characteristics</u>. The cost of impounding the amusement ride and 428 performing the necessary tests must be borne by the owner of the 429 amusement ride.

430 (16)INSPECTION BY OWNER OR MANAGER. - Before opening on 431 each day of operation and before any inspection by the 432 department, the owner or manager of an amusement ride must 433 inspect and test each amusement ride to ensure compliance with 434 this section. Each inspection must be recorded at the time of 435 inspection on a form prescribed by department rule and signed by 436 the person who conducted the inspection. In lieu of the form 437 prescribed by department rule, the owner or manager may request 438 approval of an alternative form that includes, at a minimum, the 439 information required on the form prescribed by department rule. 440 Inspection records of the last 14 daily inspections must be kept 441 on site by the owner or manager and made immediately available 442 to the department upon request.

443

(17) TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES.-

(a) The department shall establish by rule minimum
 training and retraining standards and the frequency of employee
 training for all amusement rides.

(b) The owner or manager of an amusement ride shall
maintain a record of employee training for each employee
authorized to operate, assemble, disassemble, transport, or
conduct maintenance on an amusement ride on a form prescribed by

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451 department rule. In lieu of the form prescribed by department 452 rule, the owner or manager may request approval of an 453 alternative form that includes, at a minimum, the information 454 required on the form prescribed by department rule. The training 455 record must be kept on site by the owner or manager and made 456 immediately available to the department upon request. Training 457 may not be conducted when an amusement ride is open to the 458 public unless the training is conducted under the supervision of 459 an employee who is trained in the operation of that ride. The 460 owner or manager shall immediately document all training 461 following each training session and certify that each employee 462 is trained, as required by this section and any rules adopted 463 thereunder, on the amusement ride for which the employee is 464 responsible.

465

(19) IMMEDIATE FINAL ORDERS.-

466 (a) An amusement ride that fails to meet the requirements 467 of this section or pass the inspections required by this 468 section; that is involved in an accident for which a patron 469 seeks treatment at is transported to a hospital or an urgent 470 care center as those terms are defined in chapter 395; or that has a mechanical, structural, or electrical defect that affects 471 472 patron safety may be considered an immediate serious danger to 473 the public health, safety, and welfare and, upon issuance of an 474 immediate final order prohibiting patron use of the ride, may 475 not be operated for patron use until it has passed a subsequent

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476	inspection by or at the direction of the department.
477	(b) An amusement ride of a similar make and model <u>or with</u>
478	similar operating characteristics to an amusement ride described
479	in paragraph (a) may be considered an immediate serious danger
480	to the public health, safety, and welfare and, upon issuance of
481	an immediate final order prohibiting patron use of the ride, may
482	not be operated for patron use until it has passed a subsequent
483	inspection by or at the direction of the department.
484	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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