

1                   A reviser's bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Statutes; amending ss.  
3           11.40, 11.45, 14.20195, 14.36, 16.615, 17.61, 20.04,  
4           20.166, 20.181, 20.605, 45.031, 69.041, 110.112,  
5           112.63, 112.665, 119.071, 120.80, 125.045, 155.40,  
6           159.8081, 159.8083, 159.809, 159.81, 161.142, 161.54,  
7           163.3164, 163.3221, 163.3251, 163.3756, 163.503,  
8           163.5055, 163.506, 163.508, 163.511, 163.512, 166.021,  
9           171.204, 186.504, 189.012, 190.009, 190.047, 191.009,  
10          191.015, 201.15, 212.08, 212.096, 212.097, 212.098,  
11          213.053, 215.5588, 216.292, 218.32, 218.37, 218.411,  
12          220.03, 220.153, 220.183, 220.1895, 220.191, 222.15,  
13          252.85, 253.025, 255.099, 258.501, 259.042, 267.0625,  
14          288.005, 288.061, 288.075, 288.1201, 288.1226,  
15          288.8012, 288.8014, 288.9604, 288.9610, 288.987,  
16          288.9961, 290.004, 290.0065, 290.00729, 290.042,  
17          290.0455, 290.0491, 290.06561, 311.07, 311.09, 311.10,  
18          311.101, 311.105, 311.11, 311.22, 320.08058, 322.142,  
19          327.803, 331.3051, 331.3081, 331.324, 332.115,  
20          334.065, 334.066, 339.135, 339.175, 339.2821, 342.201,  
21          369.303, 369.318, 369.321, 369.322, 369.323, 369.324,  
22          373.199, 373.4149, 373.453, 373.461, 375.021, 377.809,  
23          378.411, 379.2291, 380.031, 380.093, 381.0086,  
24          397.754, 403.0752, 403.0891, 403.507, 403.508,  
25          403.524, 403.526, 403.527, 403.757, 403.941, 403.9411,

26 | 403.973, 404.0617, 409.1451, 409.2576, 409.25996,  
 27 | 409.508, 409.509, 410.502, 413.80, 413.801, 414.24,  
 28 | 414.40, 420.0004, 420.0005, 420.0006, 420.101,  
 29 | 420.111, 420.36, 420.424, 420.503, 420.504, 420.506,  
 30 | 420.507, 420.511, 420.602, 420.606, 420.609, 420.622,  
 31 | 420.631, 420.635, 421.001, 422.001, 423.001, 427.012,  
 32 | 440.12, 440.15, 440.381, 443.012, 443.036, 443.041,  
 33 | 443.051, 443.071, 443.101, 443.111, 443.1113,  
 34 | 443.1115, 443.1116, 443.1118, 443.1215, 443.1216,  
 35 | 443.1217, 443.131, 443.1312, 443.1313, 443.1315,  
 36 | 443.1316, 443.1317, 443.141, 443.151, 443.163,  
 37 | 443.171, 443.1715, 443.17161, 443.181, 443.191,  
 38 | 443.211, 443.221, 445.002, 445.003, 445.004, 445.009,  
 39 | 445.016, 445.024, 445.0325, 445.038, 445.045, 445.056,  
 40 | 445.06, 445.07, 446.41, 446.53, 446.71, 448.09,  
 41 | 448.095, 448.109, 448.110, 450.161, 450.191, 450.261,  
 42 | 450.31, 468.529, 551.104, 553.79, 570.71, 624.5105,  
 43 | 627.42397, 641.514, 692.203, 692.204, 720.403,  
 44 | 720.404, 720.406, 943.0311, 944.801, 945.10, 985.601,  
 45 | 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.706, 1002.20, 1002.395,  
 46 | 1002.895, 1003.4156, 1003.491, 1003.493, 1004.015,  
 47 | 1004.46, 1008.39, 1008.40, 1008.41, 1011.76, 1011.80,  
 48 | and 1011.802, F.S., to conform to section 147 of  
 49 | chapter 2023-173, Laws of Florida, which directs the  
 50 | Division of Law Revision to prepare a reviser's bill

51 for the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature to  
 52 replace references to the terms "Department of  
 53 Economic Opportunity" and "Secretary of Economic  
 54 Opportunity," wherever they occur in the Florida  
 55 Statutes, with the terms "Department of Commerce" and  
 56 "Secretary of Commerce," respectively; providing  
 57 effective dates.  
 58

59 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 60

61 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 62 11.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.—

64 (2) Following notification by the Auditor General, the  
 65 Department of Financial Services, the Division of Bond Finance  
 66 of the State Board of Administration, the Governor or his or her  
 67 designee, or the Commissioner of Education or his or her  
 68 designee of the failure of a local governmental entity, district  
 69 school board, charter school, or charter technical career center  
 70 to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7),  
 71 s. 218.32(1), s. 218.38, or s. 218.503(3), the Legislative  
 72 Auditing Committee may schedule a hearing to determine if the  
 73 entity should be subject to further state action. If the  
 74 committee determines that the entity should be subject to  
 75 further state action, the committee shall:

76 (b) In the case of a special district created by:  
 77 1. A special act, notify the President of the Senate, the  
 78 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the standing committees  
 79 of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with  
 80 special district oversight as determined by the presiding  
 81 officers of each respective chamber, the legislators who  
 82 represent a portion of the geographical jurisdiction of the  
 83 special district, and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 84 ~~Opportunity~~ that the special district has failed to comply with  
 85 the law. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of  
 86 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall proceed pursuant to s.  
 87 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in  
 88 noncompliance after the process set forth in s. 189.0651, or if  
 89 a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee  
 90 may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).  
 91 2. A local ordinance, notify the chair or equivalent of  
 92 the local general-purpose government pursuant to s. 189.0652 and  
 93 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that the special  
 94 district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of  
 95 notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s.  
 96 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in  
 97 noncompliance after the process set forth in s. 189.0652, or if  
 98 a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee  
 99 may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).  
 100 3. Any manner other than a special act or local ordinance,

101 notify the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that the  
 102 special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt  
 103 of notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s.  
 104 189.062 or s. 189.067(3).

105 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section  
 106 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

107 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

108 (7) AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

109 (c) The Auditor General shall provide annually a list of  
 110 those special districts which are not in compliance with s.  
 111 218.39 to the Special District Accountability Program of the  
 112 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

113 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 114 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

115 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;  
 116 creation; membership; duties.—There is created within the  
 117 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention  
 118 Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for  
 119 preventing suicide.

120 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Suicide Prevention Coordinating  
 121 Council shall consist of 31 voting members and 1 nonvoting  
 122 member.

123 (b) The following state officials or their designees shall  
 124 serve on the coordinating council:

125 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.

- 126           2. The State Surgeon General.
- 127           3. The Commissioner of Education.
- 128           4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 129           5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.
- 130           6. The Secretary of Corrections.
- 131           7. The executive director of the Department of Law
- 132 Enforcement.
- 133           8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
- 134 Affairs.
- 135           9. The Secretary of Children and Families.
- 136           10. The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.
- 137           Section 4. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2),
- 138 paragraphs (d) and (k) of subsection (3), paragraph (c) of
- 139 subsection (4), and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
- 140 14.36, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 141           14.36 Reimagining Education and Career Help Act.—The
- 142 Reimagining Education and Career Help Act is created to address
- 143 the evolving needs of Florida's economy by increasing the level
- 144 of collaboration and cooperation among state businesses and
- 145 education communities while improving training within and equity
- 146 and access to a more integrated workforce and education system
- 147 for all Floridians.
- 148           (2) As used in this section, the term:
- 149           (c) "Workforce development system" means the entities and
- 150 activities that contribute to the state's talent pipeline system

151 through education, training, and support services that prepare  
152 individuals for employment or career advancement, and the  
153 entities that are responsible for oversight or conducting those  
154 activities such as CareerSource Florida, Inc., local workforce  
155 development boards, one-stop career centers, the Department of  
156 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Education, and  
157 the Department of Children and Families.

158 (d) "Workforce education region" means areas of the state  
159 identified by the Department of Education, in collaboration with  
160 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, to maximize  
161 resource allocation by combining two or more sources of funding  
162 to integrate education and training in order to improve access  
163 to credentials of value for participants in adult education  
164 programs.

165 (3) The duties of the office are to:

166 (d) Coordinate state and federal workforce related  
167 programs, plans, resources, and activities provided by  
168 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
169 ~~Opportunity~~, and the Department of Education.

170 (k) Facilitate coordination among the Department of  
171 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Education, and  
172 CareerSource Florida, Inc., to develop and expand  
173 apprenticeship, preapprenticeship, and other work-based learning  
174 models and streamline efforts to recruit and onboard new  
175 apprentices, preapprentices, students, and employers interested

176 in work-based learning opportunities. Such coordination must  
 177 include, but need not be limited to, conducting outreach with  
 178 business leaders, local governments, and education providers.

179 (4) The office shall create a no-wrong-door-entry strategy  
 180 to improve equity and access to the myriad of state and  
 181 federally funded workforce related programs through CareerSource  
 182 Florida, Inc., local workforce development boards, one-stop  
 183 career centers, school districts, charter technical centers,  
 184 Florida College System institutions, the State University  
 185 System, and through eligible training providers. Individuals  
 186 must not be required to visit multiple locations when seeking  
 187 access to education and workforce training. To create the  
 188 strategy, the office shall:

189 (c) Coordinate and facilitate a memorandum of  
 190 understanding between the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 191 ~~Opportunity~~ and the Department of Children and Families to  
 192 permit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and  
 193 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients to  
 194 precertify for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act training  
 195 services without having to physically visit a one-stop center.

196 (5) The office shall provide the public with access to  
 197 available federal, state, and local services and provide  
 198 stakeholders with a systemwide, global view of workforce related  
 199 program data across various programs through actionable  
 200 qualitative and quantitative information. The office shall:

201 (b) Provide access to labor market data consistent with  
 202 the information developed by the Labor Market Estimating  
 203 Conference and the Labor Market Statistics Center within the  
 204 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and provide guidance  
 205 on how to analyze the data, the appropriate use of the data, and  
 206 any limitations of the data, including instances in which such  
 207 data may not be used.

208 Section 5. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section  
 209 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

210 16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and  
 211 Boys.—

212 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys  
 213 is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall  
 214 consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

215 (j) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his  
 216 or her designee.

217 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
 218 17.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

219 17.61 Chief Financial Officer; powers and duties in the  
 220 investment of certain funds.—

221 (3)

222 (c) Except as provided in this paragraph and except for  
 223 moneys described in paragraph (d), the following agencies may  
 224 not invest trust fund moneys as provided in this section, but  
 225 shall retain such moneys in their respective trust funds for

226 investment, with interest appropriated to the General Revenue  
 227 Fund, pursuant to s. 17.57:

- 228 1. The Agency for Health Care Administration, except for  
 229 the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.
- 230 2. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities, except for:
- 231 a. The Federal Grants Trust Fund.
- 232 b. The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.
- 233 3. The Department of Children and Families, except for:
- 234 a. The Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Trust Fund.
- 235 b. The Social Services Block Grant Trust Fund.
- 236 c. The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.
- 237 4. The Department of Corrections.
- 238 5. The Department of Elderly Affairs, except for:
- 239 a. The Federal Grants Trust Fund.
- 240 b. The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.
- 241 6. The Department of Health, except for:
- 242 a. The Federal Grants Trust Fund.
- 243 b. The Grants and Donations Trust Fund.
- 244 c. The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Trust Fund.
- 245 d. The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.
- 246 7. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles,  
 247 only for the Security Deposits Trust Fund.
- 248 8. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 249 9. The Department of Law Enforcement.
- 250 10. The Department of Legal Affairs.

- 251           11. The Department of State, only for:  
 252           a. The Grants and Donations Trust Fund.  
 253           b. The Records Management Trust Fund.
- 254           12. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, only  
 255 for the Economic Development Trust Fund.
- 256           13. The Florida Public Service Commission, only for the  
 257 Florida Public Service Regulatory Trust Fund.
- 258           14. The Justice Administrative Commission.
- 259           15. The state courts system.
- 260           Section 7. Subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection  
 261 (7) of section 20.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
 262           20.04 Structure of executive branch.—The executive branch  
 263 of state government is structured as follows:
- 264           (3) For their internal structure, all departments, except  
 265 for the Department of Financial Services, the Department of  
 266 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Children and  
 267 Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of  
 268 Management Services, the Department of Revenue, and the  
 269 Department of Transportation, must adhere to the following  
 270 standard terms:
- 271           (a) The principal unit of the department is the  
 272 "division." Each division is headed by a "director."
- 273           (b) The principal unit of the division is the "bureau."  
 274 Each bureau is headed by a "chief."
- 275           (c) The principal unit of the bureau is the "section."

276 Each section is headed by an "administrator."

277 (d) If further subdivision is necessary, sections may be  
 278 divided into "subsections," which are headed by "supervisors."

279 (7)

280 (b) Within the limitations of this subsection, the head of  
 281 the department may recommend the establishment of additional  
 282 divisions, bureaus, sections, and subsections of the department  
 283 to promote efficient and effective operation of the department.  
 284 However, additional divisions, or offices in the Department of  
 285 Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the  
 286 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Department  
 287 of Transportation, may be established only by specific statutory  
 288 enactment. New bureaus, sections, and subsections of departments  
 289 may be initiated by a department and established as recommended  
 290 by the Department of Management Services and approved by the  
 291 Executive Office of the Governor, or may be established by  
 292 specific statutory enactment.

293 Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
 294 20.166, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295 20.166 Florida Business Information Portal.—

296 (4) The state agencies that must cooperate with the  
 297 Department of Business and Professional Regulation in the  
 298 development, implementation, and ongoing content updates of the  
 299 Florida Business Information Portal include, but are not limited  
 300 to:

301 (c) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.  
 302 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 20.181, Florida  
 303 Statutes, is amended to read:

304 20.181 Federal Grants Trust Fund.—

305 (1) The Federal Grants Trust Fund is created within the  
 306 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

307 Section 10. Section 20.605, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 308 to read:

309 20.605 Administrative Trust Fund of the Department of  
 310 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.—

311 (1) The Administrative Trust Fund is created within the  
 312 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

313 (2) Funds shall be used for the purpose of supporting the  
 314 administrative functions of the department as required by law,  
 315 pursuant to legislative appropriation or an approved amendment  
 316 to the department's operating budget pursuant to the provisions  
 317 of chapter 216.

318 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and  
 319 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end  
 320 of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of  
 321 the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of  
 322 the trust fund.

323 Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
 324 45.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

325 45.031 Judicial sales procedure.—In any sale of real or

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326 personal property under an order or judgment, the procedures  
327 provided in this section and ss. 45.0315-45.035 may be followed  
328 as an alternative to any other sale procedure if so ordered by  
329 the court.

330 (7) DISBURSEMENTS OF PROCEEDS.—

331 (a) On filing a certificate of title, the clerk shall  
332 disburse the proceeds of the sale in accordance with the order  
333 or final judgment and shall file a report of such disbursements  
334 and serve a copy of it on each party, and on the Department of  
335 Revenue if the department was named as a defendant in the action  
336 or if the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the  
337 former Agency for Workforce Innovation was named as a defendant  
338 while the Department of Revenue was providing reemployment  
339 assistance tax collection services under contract with the  
340 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the former Agency  
341 for Workforce Innovation through an interagency agreement  
342 pursuant to s. 443.1316.

343 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
344 69.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

345 69.041 State named party; lien foreclosure, suit to quiet  
346 title.—

347 (4)(a) The Department of Revenue has the right to  
348 participate in the disbursement of funds remaining in the  
349 registry of the court after distribution pursuant to s.  
350 45.031(7). The department shall participate in accordance with

351 applicable procedures in any mortgage foreclosure action in  
 352 which the department has a duly filed tax warrant, or interests  
 353 under a lien arising from a judgment, order, or decree for  
 354 support, as defined in s. 409.2554, or interest in a  
 355 reemployment assistance tax lien under contract with the  
 356 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ through an  
 357 interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316, against the  
 358 subject property and with the same priority, regardless of  
 359 whether a default against the department, the Department of  
 360 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or the former Agency for  
 361 Workforce Innovation has been entered for failure to file an  
 362 answer or other responsive pleading.

363 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 364 110.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

365 110.112 Affirmative action; equal employment opportunity.—

366 (3)(a) The department, in consultation with the Agency for  
 367 Persons with Disabilities, the Division of Vocational  
 368 Rehabilitation and the Division of Blind Services of the  
 369 Department of Education, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 370 ~~Opportunity~~, and the Executive Office of the Governor, shall  
 371 develop and implement programs that incorporate internships,  
 372 mentoring, on-the-job training, unpaid work experience,  
 373 situational assessments, and other innovative strategies that  
 374 are specifically geared toward individuals who have a  
 375 disability.

376 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section  
 377 112.63, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

378 112.63 Actuarial reports and statements of actuarial  
 379 impact; review.—

380 (4) Upon receipt, pursuant to subsection (2), of an  
 381 actuarial report, or, pursuant to subsection (3), of a statement  
 382 of actuarial impact, the Department of Management Services shall  
 383 acknowledge such receipt, but shall only review and comment on  
 384 each retirement system's or plan's actuarial valuations at least  
 385 on a triennial basis.

386 (d) In the case of an affected special district, the  
 387 Department of Management Services shall also notify the  
 388 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. Upon receipt of  
 389 notification, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 390 shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.067.

391 1. Failure of a special district to provide a required  
 392 report or statement, to make appropriate adjustments, or to  
 393 provide additional material information after the procedures  
 394 specified in s. 189.067(1) are exhausted shall be deemed final  
 395 action by the special district.

396 2. The Department of Management Services may notify the  
 397 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of those special  
 398 districts that failed to come into compliance. Upon receipt of  
 399 notification, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 400 shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(4).

401 Section 15. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section  
 402 112.665, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403 112.665 Duties of Department of Management Services.—

404 (1) The Department of Management Services shall:

405 (f) Annually issue, by January 1, a report to the Special  
 406 District Accountability Program of the Department of Commerce  
 407 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which includes the participation in and  
 408 compliance of special districts with the local government  
 409 retirement system provisions in s. 112.63 and the state-  
 410 administered retirement system provisions specified in part I of  
 411 chapter 121; and

412 Section 16. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
 413 (f) of subsection (5) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, are  
 414 amended to read:

415 119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of  
 416 public records.—

417 (1) AGENCY ADMINISTRATION.—

418 (h)1. Information relating to communications services  
 419 locations, project proposals, and challenges submitted to the  
 420 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ under s. 288.9962 or  
 421 pursuant to a federal broadband access grant program implemented  
 422 by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ is  
 423 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
 424 of the State Constitution if such information is not otherwise  
 425 publicly available and the release of such information would

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426 reveal:

427 a. The location or capacity of communications network  
428 facilities;

429 b. Communications network areas, including geographical  
430 maps indicating actual or proposed locations of network  
431 infrastructure or facilities;

432 c. The features, functions, and capabilities of  
433 communications network infrastructure and facilities;

434 d. Security, including cybersecurity, of the design,  
435 construction, and operation of the communications network and  
436 associated services and products;

437 e. Specific customer locations; or

438 f. Sources of funding or in-kind contributions for a  
439 project.

440 2. This exemption does not apply to any required functions  
441 of the department under s. 288.9962 relating to publishing a  
442 description of the proposed unserved areas to be served and the  
443 proposed broadband Internet speeds of the areas to be served as  
444 provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

445 3. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset  
446 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed  
447 on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal  
448 through reenactment by the Legislature.

449 (5) OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

450 (f)1. The following information held by the Department of

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451 Commerce Economic Opportunity, the Florida Housing Finance  
452 Corporation, a county, a municipality, or a local housing  
453 finance agency is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and  
454 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

455       a. Medical history records and information related to  
456 health or property insurance provided by an applicant for or a  
457 participant in a federal, state, or local housing assistance  
458 program.

459       b. Property photographs and personal identifying  
460 information of an applicant for or a participant in a federal,  
461 state, or local housing assistance program for the purpose of  
462 disaster recovery assistance for a presidentially declared  
463 disaster.

464       2. Governmental entities or their agents shall have access  
465 to such confidential and exempt records and information for the  
466 purpose of auditing federal, state, or local housing programs or  
467 housing assistance programs.

468       3. Such confidential and exempt records and information  
469 may be used in any administrative or judicial proceeding,  
470 provided such records are kept confidential and exempt unless  
471 otherwise ordered by a court.

472       4. Sub-subparagraph 1.b. is subject to the Open Government  
473 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand  
474 repealed on October 2, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from  
475 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

476 Section 17. Subsection (10) of section 120.80, Florida  
 477 Statutes, is amended to read:

478 120.80 Exceptions and special requirements; agencies.—

479 (10) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ~~ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY~~.—

480 (a) Notwithstanding s. 120.54, the rulemaking provisions  
 481 of this chapter do not apply to reemployment assistance appeals  
 482 referees.

483 (b) Notwithstanding s. 120.54(5), the uniform rules of  
 484 procedure do not apply to appeal proceedings conducted under  
 485 chapter 443 by the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission,  
 486 special deputies, or reemployment assistance appeals referees.

487 (c) Notwithstanding s. 120.57(1)(a), hearings under  
 488 chapter 443 may not be conducted by an administrative law judge  
 489 assigned by the division, but instead shall be conducted by the  
 490 Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission in reemployment  
 491 assistance appeals, reemployment assistance appeals referees,  
 492 and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
 493 special deputies under s. 443.141.

494 Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
 495 125.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496 125.045 County economic development powers.—

497 (5)(a) By January 15, 2011, and annually thereafter, each  
 498 county shall report to the Office of Economic and Demographic  
 499 Research the economic development incentives in excess of  
 500 \$25,000 given to any business during the county's previous

501 fiscal year. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research  
 502 shall compile the information from the counties into a report  
 503 and provide the report to the President of the Senate, the  
 504 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of  
 505 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. Economic development incentives  
 506 include:

507 1. Direct financial incentives of monetary assistance  
 508 provided to a business from the county or through an  
 509 organization authorized by the county. Such incentives include,  
 510 but are not limited to, grants, loans, equity investments, loan  
 511 insurance and guarantees, and training subsidies.

512 2. Indirect incentives in the form of grants and loans  
 513 provided to businesses and community organizations that provide  
 514 support to businesses or promote business investment or  
 515 development.

516 3. Fee-based or tax-based incentives, including, but not  
 517 limited to, credits, refunds, exemptions, and property tax  
 518 abatement or assessment reductions.

519 4. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.

520 Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (16) and  
 521 subsection (17) of section 155.40, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 522 to read:

523 155.40 Sale or lease of county, district, or municipal  
 524 hospital; effect of sale.—

525 (16) If a county, district, or municipal hospital is sold

526 | or leased, the governing board shall:

527 |         (a) Deposit 50 percent of the net proceeds of the sale or  
 528 | lease into a health care economic development trust fund, which  
 529 | shall be under the control of the county commission of the  
 530 | county in which the property is located, if the hospital is a  
 531 | county hospital or district hospital whose geographic boundaries  
 532 | extend beyond a single municipality, or, if the hospital is a  
 533 | municipal hospital or district hospital whose geographic  
 534 | boundaries lie entirely within a single municipality, under the  
 535 | control of the city or municipal government in which the  
 536 | hospital is located. The use and distribution of the funds shall  
 537 | be at the discretion of a majority of the county commission if  
 538 | the hospital is a county hospital or district hospital whose  
 539 | geographic boundaries extend beyond a single municipality, or,  
 540 | if the hospital is a municipal hospital or district hospital  
 541 | whose geographic boundaries lie entirely within a single  
 542 | municipality, at the discretion of a majority of the members of  
 543 | the municipal government. The members of the county commission  
 544 | or the municipal government, depending on the type of hospital  
 545 | being sold, shall serve as trustees of the trust fund. The net  
 546 | proceeds in the health care economic development trust fund  
 547 | shall be distributed, in consultation with the Department of  
 548 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, to promote job creation in the  
 549 | health care sector of the economy through new or expanded health  
 550 | care business development, new or expanded health care services,

551 or new or expanded health care education programs or  
 552 commercialization of health care research within the affected  
 553 community; and

554  
 555 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "net proceeds"  
 556 means the sale price after payment of all district debts and  
 557 obligations.

558 (17) If a county, district, or municipal hospital or  
 559 health care system is sold or leased to a for-profit corporation  
 560 or other business entity subject to local taxation, the  
 561 resulting county and municipal ad valorem tax revenue from the  
 562 formerly tax-exempt property shall be distributed by the county  
 563 commission of the county in which the property is located, if  
 564 the hospital is a county hospital or district hospital whose  
 565 geographic boundaries extend beyond a single municipality, or,  
 566 if the hospital is a municipal hospital or district hospital  
 567 whose geographic boundaries lie entirely within a single  
 568 municipality, such ad valorem tax revenues shall be distributed  
 569 by the municipal government. The distribution of such ad valorem  
 570 tax revenues shall be made in consultation with the Department  
 571 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, for purposes set forth in  
 572 subsection (16).

573 Section 20. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 574 159.8081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

575 159.8081 Manufacturing facility bond pool.—

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576 (2)(a) The first 75 percent of this pool shall be  
577 available on a first come, first served basis, except that 15  
578 percent of the state volume limitation allocated to this pool  
579 shall be available as provided in paragraph (b). Before issuing  
580 any written confirmations for the remaining 25 percent of this  
581 pool, the executive director shall forward all notices of intent  
582 to issue which are received by the division for manufacturing  
583 facility projects to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
584 ~~Opportunity~~. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
585 shall decide, after receipt of the notices of intent to issue,  
586 which notices will receive written confirmations. Such decision  
587 shall be communicated in writing by the Department of Commerce  
588 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to the executive director within 10 days of  
589 receipt of such notices of intent to issue.

590 Section 21. Section 159.8083, Florida Statutes, is amended  
591 to read:

592 159.8083 Florida First Business allocation pool.—The  
593 Florida First Business allocation pool is hereby established.  
594 The Florida First Business allocation pool shall be available  
595 solely to provide written confirmation for private activity  
596 bonds to finance Florida First Business projects certified by  
597 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ as eligible to  
598 receive a written confirmation. Allocations from such pool shall  
599 be awarded statewide pursuant to procedures specified in s.  
600 159.805, except that the provisions of s. 159.805(2), (3), and

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601 (6) do not apply. Florida First Business projects that are  
602 eligible for a carryforward do not lose their allocation  
603 pursuant to s. 159.809(3) on October 1, or pursuant to s.  
604 159.809(4) on November 16, if they have applied for and have  
605 been granted a carryforward by the division pursuant to s.  
606 159.81(1). In issuing written confirmations of allocations for  
607 Florida First Business projects, the division shall use the  
608 Florida First Business allocation pool. If allocation is not  
609 available from the Florida First Business allocation pool, the  
610 division shall issue written confirmations of allocations for  
611 Florida First Business projects pursuant to s. 159.806 or s.  
612 159.807, in such order. For the purpose of determining priority  
613 within a regional allocation pool or the state allocation pool,  
614 notices of intent to issue bonds for Florida First Business  
615 projects to be issued from a regional allocation pool or the  
616 state allocation pool shall be considered to have been received  
617 by the division at the time it is determined by the division  
618 that the Florida First Business allocation pool is unavailable  
619 to issue confirmation for such Florida First Business project.  
620 If the total amount requested in notices of intent to issue  
621 private activity bonds for Florida First Business projects  
622 exceeds the total amount of the Florida First Business  
623 allocation pool, the director shall forward all timely notices  
624 of intent to issue, which are received by the division for such  
625 projects, to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,

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626 | which shall render a decision as to which notices of intent to  
627 | issue are to receive written confirmations.

628 |         Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 159.809, Florida  
629 | Statutes, is amended to read:

630 |             159.809 Recapture of unused amounts.—

631 |             (3) On October 1 of each year, any portion of the  
632 | allocation made to the Florida First Business allocation pool  
633 | pursuant to s. 159.804(5), subsection (1), or subsection (2),  
634 | which is eligible for carryforward pursuant to s. 146(f) of the  
635 | Code but which has not been certified for carryforward by the  
636 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, shall be returned  
637 | to the Florida First Business allocation pool.

638 |         Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 159.81, Florida  
639 | Statutes, is amended to read:

640 |             159.81 Unused allocations; carryforwards.—

641 |             (1) The division shall, when requested, provide  
642 | carryforwards pursuant to s. 146(f) of the Code for written  
643 | confirmations for priority projects which qualify for a  
644 | carryforward pursuant to s. 146(f) of the Code, if such request  
645 | is accompanied by an opinion of bond counsel to that effect. In  
646 | addition, in the case of Florida First Business projects, the  
647 | division shall, when requested, grant requests for carryforward  
648 | only after receipt of a certification from the Department of  
649 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that the project has been approved  
650 | by the department to receive carryforward.

651 Section 24. Subsection (4) of section 161.142, Florida  
652 Statutes, is amended to read:

653 161.142 Declaration of public policy relating to improved  
654 navigation inlets.—The Legislature recognizes the need for  
655 maintaining navigation inlets to promote commercial and  
656 recreational uses of our coastal waters and their resources. The  
657 Legislature further recognizes that inlets interrupt or alter  
658 the natural drift of beach-quality sand resources, which often  
659 results in these sand resources being deposited in nearshore  
660 areas or in the inlet channel, or in the inland waterway  
661 adjacent to the inlet, instead of providing natural nourishment  
662 to the adjacent eroding beaches. Accordingly, the Legislature  
663 finds it is in the public interest to replicate the natural  
664 drift of sand which is interrupted or altered by inlets to be  
665 replaced and for each level of government to undertake all  
666 reasonable efforts to maximize inlet sand bypassing to ensure  
667 that beach-quality sand is placed on adjacent eroding beaches.  
668 Such activities cannot make up for the historical sand deficits  
669 caused by inlets but shall be designed to balance the sediment  
670 budget of the inlet and adjacent beaches and extend the life of  
671 proximate beach-restoration projects so that periodic  
672 nourishment is needed less frequently. Therefore, in furtherance  
673 of this declaration of public policy and the Legislature's  
674 intent to redirect and recommit the state's comprehensive beach  
675 management efforts to address the beach erosion caused by

676 inlets, the department shall ensure that:

677 (4) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) shall not be  
 678 a requirement imposed upon ports listed in s. 403.021(9)(b);  
 679 however, such ports must demonstrate reasonable effort to place  
 680 beach-quality sand from construction and maintenance dredging  
 681 and port-development projects on adjacent eroding beaches in  
 682 accordance with port master plans approved by the Department of  
 683 Commerce Economic Opportunity, and permits approved and issued  
 684 by the department, to ensure compliance with this section. Ports  
 685 may sponsor or cosponsor inlet management projects that are  
 686 fully eligible for state cost sharing.

687 Section 25. Subsection (10) of section 161.54, Florida  
 688 Statutes, is amended to read:

689 161.54 Definitions.—In construing ss. 161.52–161.58:

690 (10) "State land planning agency" means the Department of  
 691 Commerce Economic Opportunity.

692 Section 26. Subsection (44) of section 163.3164, Florida  
 693 Statutes, is amended to read:

694 163.3164 Community Planning Act; definitions.—As used in  
 695 this act:

696 (44) "State land planning agency" means the Department of  
 697 Commerce Economic Opportunity.

698 Section 27. Subsection (14) of section 163.3221, Florida  
 699 Statutes, is amended to read:

700 163.3221 Florida Local Government Development Agreement

701 Act; definitions.—As used in ss. 163.3220-163.3243:

702 (14) "State land planning agency" means the Department of  
 703 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

704 Section 28. Subsection (1) of section 163.3251, Florida  
 705 Statutes, is amended to read:

706 163.3251 Definitions.—As used in this section and ss.  
 707 163.3252 and 163.3253, the term:

708 (1) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 709 ~~Opportunity~~.

710 Section 29. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 163.3756,  
 711 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

712 163.3756 Inactive community redevelopment agencies.—

713 (2)(a) A community redevelopment agency that has reported  
 714 no revenue, no expenditures, and no debt under s. 189.016(9) or  
 715 s. 218.32 for 6 consecutive fiscal years beginning no earlier  
 716 than October 1, 2016, must be declared inactive by the  
 717 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, which shall notify  
 718 the agency of the declaration. If the agency does not have board  
 719 members or an agent, the notice of the declaration of inactive  
 720 status must be delivered to the county or municipal governing  
 721 board or commission that created the agency.

722 (b) The governing board of a community redevelopment  
 723 agency that is declared inactive under this section may seek to  
 724 invalidate the declaration by initiating proceedings under s.  
 725 189.062(5) within 30 days after the date of the receipt of the

726 notice from the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

727 (6) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 728 maintain on its website a separate list of community  
 729 redevelopment agencies declared inactive under this section.

730 Section 30. Subsection (3) of section 163.503, Florida  
 731 Statutes, is amended to read:

732 163.503 Definitions.—

733 (3) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 734 ~~Opportunity~~.

735 Section 31. Subsection (1) of section 163.5055, Florida  
 736 Statutes, is amended to read:

737 163.5055 Registration of district establishment; notice of  
 738 dissolution.—

739 (1)(a) Each neighborhood improvement district authorized  
 740 and established under this part shall within 30 days thereof  
 741 register with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ by  
 742 providing the department with the district's name, location,  
 743 size, and type, and such other information as the department may  
 744 require.

745 (b) Each local governing body that authorizes the  
 746 dissolution of a district shall notify the Department of  
 747 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ within 30 days after the  
 748 dissolution of the district.

749 Section 32. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
 750 163.506, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

751 163.506 Local government neighborhood improvement  
 752 districts; creation; advisory council; dissolution.—

753 (1) After a local planning ordinance has been adopted  
 754 authorizing the creation of local government neighborhood  
 755 improvement districts, the local governing body of a  
 756 municipality or county may create local government neighborhood  
 757 improvement districts by the enactment of a separate ordinance  
 758 for each district, which ordinance:

759 (h) Requires the district to notify the Department of  
 760 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in writing of its establishment  
 761 within 30 days thereof pursuant to s. 163.5055.

762 Section 33. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
 763 163.508, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

764 163.508 Property owners' association neighborhood  
 765 improvement districts; creation; powers and duties; duration.—

766 (1) After a local planning ordinance has been adopted  
 767 authorizing the creation of property owners' association  
 768 neighborhood improvement districts, the local governing body of  
 769 a municipality or county may create property owners' association  
 770 neighborhood improvement districts by the enactment of a  
 771 separate ordinance for each district, which ordinance:

772 (g) Requires the district to notify the Department of  
 773 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in writing of its establishment  
 774 within 30 days thereof pursuant to s. 163.5055.

775 Section 34. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section

776 | 163.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

777 |       163.511 Special neighborhood improvement districts;  
778 | creation; referendum; board of directors; duration; extension.—

779 |       (1) After a local planning ordinance has been adopted  
780 | authorizing the creation of special neighborhood improvement  
781 | districts, the governing body of a municipality or county may  
782 | declare the need for and create special residential or business  
783 | neighborhood improvement districts by the enactment of a  
784 | separate ordinance for each district, which ordinance:

785 |       (i) Requires the district to notify the Department of  
786 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in writing of its establishment  
787 | within 30 days thereof pursuant to s. 163.5055.

788 |       Section 35. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section  
789 | 163.512, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790 |       163.512 Community redevelopment neighborhood improvement  
791 | districts; creation; advisory council; dissolution.—

792 |       (1) Upon the recommendation of the community redevelopment  
793 | agency and after a local planning ordinance has been adopted  
794 | authorizing the creation of community redevelopment neighborhood  
795 | improvement districts, the local governing body of a  
796 | municipality or county may create community redevelopment  
797 | neighborhood improvement districts by the enactment of a  
798 | separate ordinance for each district, which ordinance:

799 |       (i) Requires the district to notify the Department of  
800 | Legal Affairs and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~

801 ~~Opportunity~~ in writing of its establishment within 30 days  
 802 thereof pursuant to s. 163.5055.

803 Section 36. Paragraph (e) of subsection (8) of section  
 804 166.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

805 166.021 Powers.—

806 (8)

807 (e)1. By January 15, 2011, and annually thereafter, each  
 808 municipality having annual revenues or expenditures greater than  
 809 \$250,000 shall report to the Office of Economic and Demographic  
 810 Research the economic development incentives in excess of  
 811 \$25,000 given to any business during the municipality's previous  
 812 fiscal year. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research  
 813 shall compile the information from the municipalities into a  
 814 report and provide the report to the President of the Senate,  
 815 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department  
 816 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. Economic development  
 817 incentives include:

818 a. Direct financial incentives of monetary assistance  
 819 provided to a business from the municipality or through an  
 820 organization authorized by the municipality. Such incentives  
 821 include, but are not limited to, grants, loans, equity  
 822 investments, loan insurance and guarantees, and training  
 823 subsidies.

824 b. Indirect incentives in the form of grants and loans  
 825 provided to businesses and community organizations that provide

826 support to businesses or promote business investment or  
827 development.

828 c. Fee-based or tax-based incentives, including, but not  
829 limited to, credits, refunds, exemptions, and property tax  
830 abatement or assessment reductions.

831 d. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.

832 2. A municipality shall report its economic development  
833 incentives in the format specified by the Office of Economic and  
834 Demographic Research.

835 3. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall  
836 compile the economic development incentives provided by each  
837 municipality in a manner that shows the total of each class of  
838 economic development incentives provided by each municipality  
839 and all municipalities.

840 Section 37. Subsection (1) of section 171.204, Florida  
841 Statutes, is amended to read:

842 171.204 Prerequisites to annexation under this part.—The  
843 interlocal service boundary agreement may describe the character  
844 of land that may be annexed under this part and may provide that  
845 the restrictions on the character of land that may be annexed  
846 pursuant to part I are not restrictions on land that may be  
847 annexed pursuant to this part. As determined in the interlocal  
848 service boundary agreement, any character of land may be  
849 annexed, including, but not limited to, an annexation of land  
850 not contiguous to the boundaries of the annexing municipality,

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851 an annexation that creates an enclave, or an annexation where  
852 the annexed area is not reasonably compact; however, such area  
853 must be "urban in character" as defined in s. 171.031. The  
854 interlocal service boundary agreement may not allow for  
855 annexation of land within a municipality that is not a party to  
856 the agreement or of land that is within another county. Before  
857 annexation of land that is not contiguous to the boundaries of  
858 the annexing municipality, an annexation that creates an  
859 enclave, or an annexation of land that is not currently served  
860 by water or sewer utilities, one of the following options must  
861 be followed:

862 (1) The municipality shall transmit a comprehensive plan  
863 amendment that proposes specific amendments relating to the  
864 property anticipated for annexation to the Department of  
865 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for review under chapter 163.  
866 After considering the department's review, the municipality may  
867 approve the annexation and comprehensive plan amendment  
868 concurrently. The local government must adopt the annexation and  
869 the comprehensive plan amendment as separate and distinct  
870 actions but may take such actions at a single public hearing; or

871 Section 38. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
872 186.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

873 186.504 Regional planning councils; creation; membership.—

874 (4) In addition to voting members appointed pursuant to  
875 paragraph (2)(c), the Governor shall appoint the following ex

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876 | officio nonvoting members to each regional planning council:

877 |       (c) A representative nominated by the Department of  
878 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

879 |

880 | The Governor may also appoint ex officio nonvoting members  
881 | representing appropriate metropolitan planning organizations and  
882 | regional water supply authorities.

883 |       Section 39. Subsection (1) of section 189.012, Florida  
884 | Statutes, is amended to read:

885 |       189.012 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

886 |       (1) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
887 | ~~Opportunity~~.

888 |       Section 40. Subsection (2) of section 190.009, Florida  
889 | Statutes, is amended to read:

890 |       190.009 Disclosure of public financing.—

891 |       (2) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
892 | keep a current list of districts and their disclosures pursuant  
893 | to this act and shall make such studies and reports and take  
894 | such actions as it deems necessary.

895 |       Section 41. Section 190.047, Florida Statutes, is amended  
896 | to read:

897 |       190.047 Incorporation or annexation of district.—

898 |       (1) Upon attaining the population standards for  
899 | incorporation contained in s. 165.061 and as determined by the  
900 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, any district wholly

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901 contained within the unincorporated area of a county that also  
902 meets the other requirements for incorporation contained in s.  
903 165.061 shall hold a referendum at a general election on the  
904 question of whether to incorporate. However, any district  
905 contiguous to the boundary of a municipality may be annexed to  
906 such municipality pursuant to the provisions of chapter 171.

907 (2) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
908 annually monitor the status of the district for purposes of  
909 carrying out the provisions of this section.

910 Section 42. Subsection (1) of section 191.009, Florida  
911 Statutes, is amended to read:

912 191.009 Taxes; non-ad valorem assessments; impact fees and  
913 user charges.—

914 (1) AD VALOREM TAXES.—An elected board may levy and assess  
915 ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the district to  
916 construct, operate, and maintain district facilities and  
917 services, to pay the principal of, and interest on, general  
918 obligation bonds of the district, and to provide for any sinking  
919 or other funds established in connection with such bonds. An ad  
920 valorem tax levied by the board for operating purposes,  
921 exclusive of debt service on bonds, may not exceed 3.75 mills  
922 unless a higher amount has been previously authorized by law,  
923 subject to a referendum as required by the State Constitution  
924 and this act. The ballot question on such referendum shall state  
925 the currently authorized millage rate and the year of its

926 approval by referendum. The levy of ad valorem taxes pursuant to  
 927 this section must be approved by referendum called by the board  
 928 when the proposed levy of ad valorem taxes exceeds the amount  
 929 authorized by prior special act, general law of local  
 930 application, or county ordinance approved by referendum. Nothing  
 931 in this act shall require a referendum on the levy of ad valorem  
 932 taxes in an amount previously authorized by special act, general  
 933 law of local application, or county ordinance approved by  
 934 referendum. Such tax shall be assessed, levied, and collected in  
 935 the same manner as county taxes. The levy of ad valorem taxes  
 936 approved by referendum shall be reported within 60 days after  
 937 the vote to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

938 Section 43. Section 191.015, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 939 to read:

940 191.015 Codification.—Each fire control district existing  
 941 on the effective date of this section, by December 1, 2004,  
 942 shall submit to the Legislature a draft codified charter, at its  
 943 expense, so that its special acts may be codified into a single  
 944 act for reenactment by the Legislature, if there is more than  
 945 one special act for the district. The Legislature may adopt a  
 946 schedule for individual district codification. Any codified act  
 947 relating to a district, which act is submitted to the  
 948 Legislature for reenactment, shall provide for the repeal of all  
 949 prior special acts of the Legislature relating to the district.  
 950 The codified act shall be filed with the Department of Commerce

951 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ pursuant to s. 189.016(2).

952 Section 44. Paragraphs (b), (d), and (f) of subsection (4)  
 953 of section 201.15, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

954 201.15 Distribution of taxes collected.—All taxes  
 955 collected under this chapter are hereby pledged and shall be  
 956 first made available to make payments when due on bonds issued  
 957 pursuant to s. 215.618 or s. 215.619, or any other bonds  
 958 authorized to be issued on a parity basis with such bonds. Such  
 959 pledge and availability for the payment of these bonds shall  
 960 have priority over any requirement for the costs of collection  
 961 and enforcement under this section. Before distribution pursuant  
 962 to this section, the Department of Revenue shall deduct amounts  
 963 necessary to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of  
 964 the tax levied by this chapter. The costs may not be levied  
 965 against any portion of taxes pledged to debt service on bonds to  
 966 the extent that the costs are required to pay any amounts  
 967 relating to the bonds. All of the costs of the collection and  
 968 enforcement of the tax levied by this chapter shall be available  
 969 and transferred to the extent necessary to pay debt service and  
 970 any other amounts payable with respect to bonds authorized  
 971 before January 1, 2017, secured by revenues distributed pursuant  
 972 to this section. All taxes remaining after deduction of costs  
 973 shall be distributed as follows:

974 (4) After the required distributions to the Land  
 975 Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to subsections (1) and (2), the

976 lesser of 8 percent of the remainder or \$150 million in each  
 977 fiscal year shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit  
 978 of the State Housing Trust Fund and shall be expended pursuant  
 979 to s. 420.50871. If 8 percent of the remainder is greater than  
 980 \$150 million in any fiscal year, the difference between 8  
 981 percent of the remainder and \$150 million shall be paid into the  
 982 State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund. The  
 983 remainder shall be distributed as follows:

984 (b) The lesser of 0.1456 percent of the remainder or \$3.25  
 985 million in each fiscal year shall be paid into the State  
 986 Treasury to the credit of the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in  
 987 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to fund  
 988 technical assistance to local governments.

989  
 990 Moneys distributed pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) may not be  
 991 pledged for debt service unless such pledge is approved by  
 992 referendum of the voters.

993 (d) An amount equaling 5.20254 percent of the remainder in  
 994 each fiscal year shall be paid into the State Treasury to the  
 995 credit of the State Housing Trust Fund. Of such funds:

996 1. Twelve and one-half percent of that amount shall be  
 997 deposited into the State Housing Trust Fund and expended by the  
 998 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Florida  
 999 Housing Finance Corporation for the purposes for which the State  
 1000 Housing Trust Fund was created and exists by law.

1001           2. Eighty-seven and one-half percent of that amount shall  
 1002 be distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and  
 1003 used for the purposes for which the Local Government Housing  
 1004 Trust Fund was created and exists by law. Funds from this  
 1005 category may also be used to provide for state and local  
 1006 services to assist the homeless.

1007           (f) A total of \$75 million shall be paid into the State  
 1008 Treasury to the credit of the State Economic Enhancement and  
 1009 Development Trust Fund within the Department of Commerce  
 1010 ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1011           Section 45. Effective July 1, 2033, paragraphs (b), (d),  
 1012 and (f) of subsection (4) of section 201.15, Florida Statutes,  
 1013 as amended by section 11 of chapter 2023-17, Laws of Florida,  
 1014 are amended to read:

1015           201.15 Distribution of taxes collected.—All taxes  
 1016 collected under this chapter are hereby pledged and shall be  
 1017 first made available to make payments when due on bonds issued  
 1018 pursuant to s. 215.618 or s. 215.619, or any other bonds  
 1019 authorized to be issued on a parity basis with such bonds. Such  
 1020 pledge and availability for the payment of these bonds shall  
 1021 have priority over any requirement for the payment of service  
 1022 charges or costs of collection and enforcement under this  
 1023 section. All taxes collected under this chapter, except taxes  
 1024 distributed to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to  
 1025 subsections (1) and (2), are subject to the service charge

1026 imposed in s. 215.20(1). Before distribution pursuant to this  
 1027 section, the Department of Revenue shall deduct amounts  
 1028 necessary to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of  
 1029 the tax levied by this chapter. The costs and service charge may  
 1030 not be levied against any portion of taxes pledged to debt  
 1031 service on bonds to the extent that the costs and service charge  
 1032 are required to pay any amounts relating to the bonds. All of  
 1033 the costs of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by  
 1034 this chapter and the service charge shall be available and  
 1035 transferred to the extent necessary to pay debt service and any  
 1036 other amounts payable with respect to bonds authorized before  
 1037 January 1, 2017, secured by revenues distributed pursuant to  
 1038 this section. All taxes remaining after deduction of costs shall  
 1039 be distributed as follows:

1040 (4) After the required distributions to the Land  
 1041 Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) and  
 1042 deduction of the service charge imposed pursuant to s.  
 1043 215.20(1), the remainder shall be distributed as follows:

1044 (b) The lesser of 0.1456 percent of the remainder or \$3.25  
 1045 million in each fiscal year shall be paid into the State  
 1046 Treasury to the credit of the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in  
 1047 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to fund  
 1048 technical assistance to local governments.

1049  
 1050 Moneys distributed pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) may not be

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1051 pledged for debt service unless such pledge is approved by  
1052 referendum of the voters.

1053 (d) An amount equaling 5.20254 percent of the remainder in  
1054 each fiscal year shall be paid into the State Treasury to the  
1055 credit of the State Housing Trust Fund. Of such funds:

1056 1. Twelve and one-half percent of that amount shall be  
1057 deposited into the State Housing Trust Fund and expended by the  
1058 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Florida  
1059 Housing Finance Corporation for the purposes for which the State  
1060 Housing Trust Fund was created and exists by law.

1061 2. Eighty-seven and one-half percent of that amount shall  
1062 be distributed to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and  
1063 used for the purposes for which the Local Government Housing  
1064 Trust Fund was created and exists by law. Funds from this  
1065 category may also be used to provide for state and local  
1066 services to assist the homeless.

1067 (f) A total of \$75 million shall be paid into the State  
1068 Treasury to the credit of the State Economic Enhancement and  
1069 Development Trust Fund within the Department of Commerce  
1070 ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1071 Section 46. Paragraphs (p) and (q) of subsection (5) of  
1072 section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1073 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and  
1074 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the  
1075 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the

1076 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following  
 1077 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this  
 1078 chapter.

1079 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

1080 (p) *Community contribution tax credit for donations.*—

1081 1. Authorization.—Persons who are registered with the  
 1082 department under s. 212.18 to collect or remit sales or use tax  
 1083 and who make donations to eligible sponsors are eligible for tax  
 1084 credits against their state sales and use tax liabilities as  
 1085 provided in this paragraph:

1086 a. The credit shall be computed as 50 percent of the  
 1087 person's approved annual community contribution.

1088 b. The credit shall be granted as a refund against state  
 1089 sales and use taxes reported on returns and remitted in the 12  
 1090 months preceding the date of application to the department for  
 1091 the credit as required in sub-subparagraph 3.c. If the annual  
 1092 credit is not fully used through such refund because of  
 1093 insufficient tax payments during the applicable 12-month period,  
 1094 the unused amount may be included in an application for a refund  
 1095 made pursuant to sub-subparagraph 3.c. in subsequent years  
 1096 against the total tax payments made for such year. Carryover  
 1097 credits may be applied for a 3-year period without regard to any  
 1098 time limitation that would otherwise apply under s. 215.26.

1099 c. A person may not receive more than \$200,000 in annual  
 1100 tax credits for all approved community contributions made in any

1101 | one year.

1102 |         d. All proposals for the granting of the tax credit  
 1103 | require the prior approval of the Department of Commerce  
 1104 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1105 |         e. The total amount of tax credits which may be granted  
 1106 | for all programs approved under this paragraph and ss. 220.183  
 1107 | and 624.5105 is \$25 million in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and in  
 1108 | each fiscal year thereafter for projects that provide housing  
 1109 | opportunities for persons with special needs or homeownership  
 1110 | opportunities for low-income households or very-low-income  
 1111 | households and \$4.5 million in the 2022-2023 fiscal year and in  
 1112 | each fiscal year thereafter for all other projects. As used in  
 1113 | this paragraph, the term "person with special needs" has the  
 1114 | same meaning as in s. 420.0004 and the terms "low-income  
 1115 | person," "low-income household," "very-low-income person," and  
 1116 | "very-low-income household" have the same meanings as in s.  
 1117 | 420.9071.

1118 |         f. A person who is eligible to receive the credit provided  
 1119 | in this paragraph, s. 220.183, or s. 624.5105 may receive the  
 1120 | credit only under one section of the person's choice.

1121 |         2. Eligibility requirements.—

1122 |         a. A community contribution by a person must be in the  
 1123 | following form:

1124 |             (I) Cash or other liquid assets;

1125 |             (II) Real property, including 100 percent ownership of a

1126 | real property holding company;  
 1127 |       (III) Goods or inventory; or  
 1128 |       (IV) Other physical resources identified by the Department  
 1129 | of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1130 |  
 1131 | For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "real property  
 1132 | holding company" means a Florida entity, such as a Florida  
 1133 | limited liability company, that is wholly owned by the person;  
 1134 | is the sole owner of real property, as defined in s.  
 1135 | 192.001(12), located in this state; is disregarded as an entity  
 1136 | for federal income tax purposes pursuant to 26 C.F.R. s.  
 1137 | 301.7701-3(b)(1)(ii); and at the time of contribution to an  
 1138 | eligible sponsor, has no material assets other than the real  
 1139 | property and any other property that qualifies as a community  
 1140 | contribution.

1141 |       b. All community contributions must be reserved  
 1142 | exclusively for use in a project. As used in this sub-  
 1143 | subparagraph, the term "project" means activity undertaken by an  
 1144 | eligible sponsor which is designed to construct, improve, or  
 1145 | substantially rehabilitate housing that is affordable to low-  
 1146 | income households or very-low-income households; designed to  
 1147 | provide housing opportunities for persons with special needs;  
 1148 | designed to provide commercial, industrial, or public resources  
 1149 | and facilities; or designed to improve entrepreneurial and job-  
 1150 | development opportunities for low-income persons. A project may

1151 be the investment necessary to increase access to high-speed  
1152 broadband capability in a rural community that had an enterprise  
1153 zone designated pursuant to chapter 290 as of May 1, 2015,  
1154 including projects that result in improvements to communications  
1155 assets that are owned by a business. A project may include the  
1156 provision of museum educational programs and materials that are  
1157 directly related to a project approved between January 1, 1996,  
1158 and December 31, 1999, and located in an area which was in an  
1159 enterprise zone designated pursuant to s. 290.0065 as of May 1,  
1160 2015. This paragraph does not preclude projects that propose to  
1161 construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income households or  
1162 very-low-income households on scattered sites or housing  
1163 opportunities for persons with special needs. With respect to  
1164 housing, contributions may be used to pay the following eligible  
1165 special needs, low-income, and very-low-income housing-related  
1166 activities:

1167 (I) Project development impact and management fees for  
1168 special needs, low-income, or very-low-income housing projects;

1169 (II) Down payment and closing costs for persons with  
1170 special needs, low-income persons, and very-low-income persons;

1171 (III) Administrative costs, including housing counseling  
1172 and marketing fees, not to exceed 10 percent of the community  
1173 contribution, directly related to special needs, low-income, or  
1174 very-low-income projects; and

1175 (IV) Removal of liens recorded against residential

1176 | property by municipal, county, or special district local  
 1177 | governments if satisfaction of the lien is a necessary precedent  
 1178 | to the transfer of the property to a low-income person or very-  
 1179 | low-income person for the purpose of promoting home ownership.  
 1180 | Contributions for lien removal must be received from a  
 1181 | nonrelated third party.

1182 |       c. The project must be undertaken by an "eligible  
 1183 | sponsor," which includes:

1184 |           (I) A community action program;

1185 |           (II) A nonprofit community-based development organization  
 1186 | whose mission is the provision of housing for persons with  
 1187 | special needs, low-income households, or very-low-income  
 1188 | households or increasing entrepreneurial and job-development  
 1189 | opportunities for low-income persons;

1190 |           (III) A neighborhood housing services corporation;

1191 |           (IV) A local housing authority created under chapter 421;

1192 |           (V) A community redevelopment agency created under s.  
 1193 | 163.356;

1194 |           (VI) A historic preservation district agency or  
 1195 | organization;

1196 |           (VII) A local workforce development board;

1197 |           (VIII) A direct-support organization as provided in s.  
 1198 | 1009.983;

1199 |           (IX) An enterprise zone development agency created under  
 1200 | s. 290.0056;

1201 (X) A community-based organization incorporated under  
 1202 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or  
 1203 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code  
 1204 and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include  
 1205 affordable housing, economic development, or community  
 1206 development as the primary mission of the corporation;

1207 (XI) Units of local government;

1208 (XII) Units of state government; or

1209 (XIII) Any other agency that the Department of Commerce  
 1210 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ designates by rule.

1211  
 1212 A contributing person may not have a financial interest in the  
 1213 eligible sponsor.

1214 d. The project must be located in an area which was in an  
 1215 enterprise zone designated pursuant to chapter 290 as of May 1,  
 1216 2015, or a Front Porch Florida Community, unless the project  
 1217 increases access to high-speed broadband capability in a rural  
 1218 community that had an enterprise zone designated pursuant to  
 1219 chapter 290 as of May 1, 2015, but is physically located outside  
 1220 the designated rural zone boundaries. Any project designed to  
 1221 construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income households or  
 1222 very-low-income households or housing opportunities for persons  
 1223 with special needs is exempt from the area requirement of this  
 1224 sub-subparagraph.

1225 e.(I) If, during the first 10 business days of the state

1226 | fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects that  
 1227 | provide housing opportunities for persons with special needs or  
 1228 | homeownership opportunities for low-income households or very-  
 1229 | low-income households are received for less than the annual tax  
 1230 | credits available for those projects, the Department of Commerce  
 1231 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax credits for those  
 1232 | applications and grant remaining tax credits on a first-come,  
 1233 | first-served basis for subsequent eligible applications received  
 1234 | before the end of the state fiscal year. If, during the first 10  
 1235 | business days of the state fiscal year, eligible tax credit  
 1236 | applications for projects that provide housing opportunities for  
 1237 | persons with special needs or homeownership opportunities for  
 1238 | low-income households or very-low-income households are received  
 1239 | for more than the annual tax credits available for those  
 1240 | projects, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 1241 | grant the tax credits for those applications as follows:  
 1242 |       (A) If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 1243 | projects of an eligible sponsor do not exceed \$200,000 in total,  
 1244 | the credits shall be granted in full if the tax credit  
 1245 | applications are approved.  
 1246 |       (B) If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 1247 | projects of an eligible sponsor exceed \$200,000 in total, the  
 1248 | amount of tax credits granted pursuant to sub-sub-sub-  
 1249 | subparagraph (A) shall be subtracted from the amount of  
 1250 | available tax credits, and the remaining credits shall be

1251 granted to each approved tax credit application on a pro rata  
 1252 basis.

1253 (II) If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 1254 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
 1255 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
 1256 special needs or homeownership opportunities for low-income  
 1257 households or very-low-income households are received for less  
 1258 than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the  
 1259 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax  
 1260 credits for those applications and shall grant remaining tax  
 1261 credits on a first-come, first-served basis for subsequent  
 1262 eligible applications received before the end of the state  
 1263 fiscal year. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 1264 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
 1265 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
 1266 special needs or homeownership opportunities for low-income  
 1267 households or very-low-income households are received for more  
 1268 than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the  
 1269 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant the tax  
 1270 credits for those applications on a pro rata basis.

1271 3. Application requirements.—

1272 a. An eligible sponsor seeking to participate in this  
 1273 program must submit a proposal to the Department of Commerce  
 1274 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which sets forth the name of the sponsor, a  
 1275 description of the project, and the area in which the project is

1276 | located, together with such supporting information as is  
 1277 | prescribed by rule. The proposal must also contain a resolution  
 1278 | from the local governmental unit in which the project is located  
 1279 | certifying that the project is consistent with local plans and  
 1280 | regulations.

1281 |         b. A person seeking to participate in this program must  
 1282 | submit an application for tax credit to the Department of  
 1283 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which sets forth the name of the  
 1284 | sponsor; a description of the project; and the type, value, and  
 1285 | purpose of the contribution. The sponsor shall verify, in  
 1286 | writing, the terms of the application and indicate its receipt  
 1287 | of the contribution, and such verification must accompany the  
 1288 | application for tax credit. The person must submit a separate  
 1289 | tax credit application to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1290 | ~~Opportunity~~ for each individual contribution that it makes to  
 1291 | each individual project.

1292 |         c. A person who has received notification from the  
 1293 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that a tax credit  
 1294 | has been approved must apply to the department to receive the  
 1295 | refund. Application must be made on the form prescribed for  
 1296 | claiming refunds of sales and use taxes and be accompanied by a  
 1297 | copy of the notification. A person may submit only one  
 1298 | application for refund to the department within a 12-month  
 1299 | period.

1300 |         4. Administration.—

1301 a. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 1302 adopt rules necessary to administer this paragraph, including  
 1303 rules for the approval or disapproval of proposals by a person.

1304 b. The decision of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1305 ~~Opportunity~~ must be in writing, and, if approved, the  
 1306 notification shall state the maximum credit allowable to the  
 1307 person. Upon approval, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1308 ~~Opportunity~~ shall transmit a copy of the decision to the  
 1309 department.

1310 c. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 1311 periodically monitor all projects in a manner consistent with  
 1312 available resources to ensure that resources are used in  
 1313 accordance with this paragraph; however, each project must be  
 1314 reviewed at least once every 2 years.

1315 d. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall,  
 1316 in consultation with the statewide and regional housing and  
 1317 financial intermediaries, market the availability of the  
 1318 community contribution tax credit program to community-based  
 1319 organizations.

1320 (q) *Building materials, the rental of tangible personal*  
 1321 *property, and pest control services used in new construction*  
 1322 *located in a rural area of opportunity.—*

1323 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

1324 a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property  
 1325 that becomes a component part of improvements to real property.

1326           b. "Exempt goods and services" means building materials,  
 1327 the rental of tangible personal property, and pest control  
 1328 services used in new construction.

1329           c. "New construction" means improvements to real property  
 1330 which did not previously exist. The term does not include the  
 1331 reconstruction, renovation, restoration, rehabilitation,  
 1332 modification, alteration, or expansion of buildings already  
 1333 located on the parcel on which the new construction is built.

1334           d. "Pest control" has the same meaning as in s. 482.021.

1335           e. "Real property" has the same meaning as provided in s.  
 1336 192.001, but does not include a condominium parcel or  
 1337 condominium property as defined in s. 718.103.

1338           f. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as in s.  
 1339 192.042(1).

1340           2. Building materials, the rental of tangible personal  
 1341 property, and pest control services used in new construction  
 1342 located in a rural area of opportunity, as designated by the  
 1343 Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656, are exempt from the tax  
 1344 imposed by this chapter if an owner, lessee, or lessor can  
 1345 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that the  
 1346 requirements of this paragraph have been met. Except as provided  
 1347 in subparagraph 3., this exemption inures to the owner, lessee,  
 1348 or lessor at the time the new construction occurs, but only  
 1349 through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive a refund  
 1350 pursuant to this paragraph, the owner, lessee, or lessor of the

1351 new construction must file an application under oath with the  
 1352 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The application  
 1353 must include all of the following:

- 1354 a. The name and address of the person claiming the refund.
- 1355 b. An address and assessment roll parcel number of the  
 1356 real property that was improved by the new construction for  
 1357 which a refund of previously paid taxes is being sought.
- 1358 c. A description of the new construction.
- 1359 d. A copy of a valid building permit issued by the county  
 1360 or municipal building department for the new construction.
- 1361 e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the  
 1362 general contractor licensed in this state with whom the  
 1363 applicant contracted to build the new construction, which  
 1364 specifies the exempt goods and services, the actual cost of the  
 1365 exempt goods and services, and the amount of sales tax paid in  
 1366 this state on the exempt goods and services, and which states  
 1367 that the improvement to the real property was new construction.  
 1368 If a general contractor was not used, the applicant shall make  
 1369 the sworn statement required by this sub-subparagraph. Copies of  
 1370 the invoices evidencing the actual cost of the exempt goods and  
 1371 services and the amount of sales tax paid on such goods and  
 1372 services must be attached to the sworn statement provided by the  
 1373 general contractor or by the applicant. If copies of such  
 1374 invoices are not attached, the cost of the exempt goods and  
 1375 services is deemed to be an amount equal to 40 percent of the

1376 increase in assessed value of the property for ad valorem tax  
1377 purposes.

1378 f. A certification by the local building code inspector  
1379 that the new construction is substantially completed and is new  
1380 construction.

1381 3. The exemption under this paragraph inures to a  
1382 municipality, county, other governmental unit or agency, or  
1383 nonprofit community-based organization through a refund of  
1384 previously paid taxes if the exempt goods and services are paid  
1385 for from the funds of a community development block grant, the  
1386 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or a similar  
1387 grant or loan program. To receive a refund, a municipality,  
1388 county, other governmental unit or agency, or nonprofit  
1389 community-based organization must file an application that  
1390 includes the same information required under subparagraph 2. In  
1391 addition, the application must include a sworn statement signed  
1392 by the chief executive officer of the municipality, county,  
1393 other governmental unit or agency, or nonprofit community-based  
1394 organization seeking a refund which states that the exempt goods  
1395 and services for which a refund is sought were funded by a  
1396 community development block grant, the State Housing Initiatives  
1397 Partnership Program, or a similar grant or loan program.

1398 4. Within 10 working days after receiving an application,  
1399 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall review the  
1400 application to determine whether it contains all of the

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1401 information required by subparagraph 2. or subparagraph 3., as  
1402 appropriate, and meets the criteria set out in this paragraph.  
1403 The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall certify  
1404 all applications that contain the required information and are  
1405 eligible to receive a refund. The certification must be in  
1406 writing and a copy must be transmitted by the Department of  
1407 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to the executive director of the  
1408 department. The applicant is responsible for forwarding a  
1409 certified application to the department within the period  
1410 specified in subparagraph 5.

1411 5. An application for a refund must be submitted to the  
1412 department within 6 months after the new construction is deemed  
1413 to be substantially completed by the local building code  
1414 inspector or by November 1 after the improved property is first  
1415 subject to assessment.

1416 6. Only one exemption through a refund of previously paid  
1417 taxes for the new construction may be claimed for any single  
1418 parcel of property unless there is a change in ownership, a new  
1419 lessor, or a new lessee of the real property. A refund may not  
1420 be granted unless the amount to be refunded exceeds \$500. A  
1421 refund may not exceed the lesser of 97.5 percent of the Florida  
1422 sales or use tax paid on the cost of the exempt goods and  
1423 services as determined pursuant to sub-subparagraph 2.e. or  
1424 \$10,000. The department shall issue a refund within 30 days  
1425 after it formally approves a refund application.

1426           7. The department shall deduct 10 percent of each refund  
 1427 amount granted under this paragraph from the amount transferred  
 1428 into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust  
 1429 Fund pursuant to s. 212.20 for the county area in which the new  
 1430 construction is located and shall transfer that amount to the  
 1431 General Revenue Fund.

1432           8. The department may adopt rules governing the manner and  
 1433 format of refund applications and may establish guidelines as to  
 1434 the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for  
 1435 exemption under this paragraph.

1436           9. This exemption does not apply to improvements for which  
 1437 construction began before July 1, 2017.

1438           Section 47. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
 1439 212.096, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1440           212.096 Sales, rental, storage, use tax; enterprise zone  
 1441 jobs credit against sales tax.—

1442           (1) For the purposes of the credit provided in this  
 1443 section:

1444           (d) "Job" means a full-time position, as consistent with  
 1445 terms used by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 1446 and the United States Department of Labor for purposes of  
 1447 reemployment assistance tax administration and employment  
 1448 estimation resulting directly from a business operation in this  
 1449 state. This term does not include a temporary construction job  
 1450 involved with the construction of facilities or any job that has

1451 | previously been included in any application for tax credits  
 1452 | under s. 220.181(1). The term also includes employment of an  
 1453 | employee leased from an employee leasing company licensed under  
 1454 | chapter 468 if such employee has been continuously leased to the  
 1455 | employer for an average of at least 36 hours per week for more  
 1456 | than 6 months.

1457 |  
 1458 | A person shall be deemed to be employed if the person performs  
 1459 | duties in connection with the operations of the business on a  
 1460 | regular, full-time basis, provided the person is performing such  
 1461 | duties for an average of at least 36 hours per week each month.  
 1462 | The person must be performing such duties at a business site  
 1463 | located in the enterprise zone.

1464 | Section 48. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (1),  
 1465 | subsections (6) and (7), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection  
 1466 | (10), and subsection (11) of section 212.097, Florida Statutes,  
 1467 | are amended to read:

1468 | 212.097 Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program.—

1469 | (1) As used in this section, the term:

1470 | (a) "Eligible business" means any sole proprietorship,  
 1471 | firm, partnership, or corporation that is located in a qualified  
 1472 | county and is predominantly engaged in, or is headquarters for a  
 1473 | business predominantly engaged in, activities usually provided  
 1474 | for consideration by firms classified within the following  
 1475 | standard industrial classifications: SIC 01-SIC 09 (agriculture,

1476 forestry, and fishing); SIC 20-SIC 39 (manufacturing); SIC 52-  
 1477 SIC 57 and SIC 59 (retail); SIC 422 (public warehousing and  
 1478 storage); SIC 70 (hotels and other lodging places); SIC 7391  
 1479 (research and development); SIC 781 (motion picture production  
 1480 and allied services); SIC 7992 (public golf courses); and SIC  
 1481 7996 (amusement parks). A call center or similar customer  
 1482 service operation that services a multistate market or  
 1483 international market is also an eligible business. In addition,  
 1484 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may, as part of  
 1485 its final budget request submitted pursuant to s. 216.023,  
 1486 recommend additions to or deletions from the list of standard  
 1487 industrial classifications used to determine an eligible  
 1488 business, and the Legislature may implement such  
 1489 recommendations. Excluded from eligible receipts are receipts  
 1490 from retail sales, except such receipts for SIC 52-SIC 57 and  
 1491 SIC 59 (retail) hotels and other lodging places classified in  
 1492 SIC 70, public golf courses in SIC 7992, and amusement parks in  
 1493 SIC 7996. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
 1494 "predominantly" means that more than 50 percent of the  
 1495 business's gross receipts from all sources is generated by those  
 1496 activities usually provided for consideration by firms in the  
 1497 specified standard industrial classification. The determination  
 1498 of whether the business is located in a qualified high-crime  
 1499 area and the tier ranking of that area must be based on the date  
 1500 of application for the credit under this section. Commonly owned

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1501 and controlled entities are to be considered a single business  
1502 entity.

1503 (e) "Qualified high-crime area" means an area selected by  
1504 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in the following  
1505 manner: every third year, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
1506 ~~Opportunity~~ shall rank and tier those areas nominated under  
1507 subsection (7), according to the following prioritized criteria:

1508 1. Highest arrest rates within the geographic area for  
1509 violent crime and for such other crimes as drug sale, drug  
1510 possession, prostitution, vandalism, and civil disturbances;

1511 2. Highest reported crime volume and rate of specific  
1512 property crimes such as business and residential burglary, motor  
1513 vehicle theft, and vandalism;

1514 3. Highest percentage of reported index crimes that are  
1515 violent in nature;

1516 4. Highest overall index crime volume for the area; and

1517 5. Highest overall index crime rate for the geographic  
1518 area.

1519  
1520 Tier-one areas are ranked 1 through 5 and represent the highest  
1521 crime areas according to this ranking. Tier-two areas are ranked  
1522 6 through 10 according to this ranking. Tier-three areas are  
1523 ranked 11 through 15. Notwithstanding this definition,  
1524 "qualified high-crime area" also means an area that has been  
1525 designated as a federal Empowerment Zone pursuant to the

1526 Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Such a designated area is ranked in  
 1527 tier three until the areas are reevaluated by the Department of  
 1528 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1529 (6) Any county or municipality, or a county and one or  
 1530 more municipalities together, may apply to the Department of  
 1531 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for the designation of an area as  
 1532 a high-crime area after the adoption by the governing body or  
 1533 bodies of a resolution that:

1534 (a) Finds that a high-crime area exists in such county or  
 1535 municipality, or in both the county and one or more  
 1536 municipalities, which chronically exhibits extreme and  
 1537 unacceptable levels of poverty, unemployment, physical  
 1538 deterioration, and economic disinvestment;

1539 (b) Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or  
 1540 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such a high-crime  
 1541 area is necessary in the interest of the health, safety, and  
 1542 welfare of the residents of such county or municipality, or such  
 1543 county and one or more municipalities; and

1544 (c) Determines that the revitalization of such a high-  
 1545 crime area can occur if the public sector or private sector can  
 1546 be induced to invest its own resources in productive enterprises  
 1547 that build or rebuild the economic viability of the area.

1548 (7) The governing body of the entity nominating the area  
 1549 shall provide to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 1550 the following:

- 1551 (a) The overall index crime rate for the geographic area;
- 1552 (b) The overall index crime volume for the area;
- 1553 (c) The percentage of reported index crimes that are
- 1554 violent in nature;
- 1555 (d) The reported crime volume and rate of specific
- 1556 property crimes such as business and residential burglary, motor
- 1557 vehicle theft, and vandalism; and
- 1558 (e) The arrest rates within the geographic area for
- 1559 violent crime and for such other crimes as drug sale, drug
- 1560 possession, prostitution, disorderly conduct, vandalism, and
- 1561 other public-order offenses.
- 1562 (10) (a) In order to claim this credit, an eligible
- 1563 business must file under oath with the Department of Commerce
- 1564 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ a statement that includes the name and
- 1565 address of the eligible business and any other information that
- 1566 is required to process the application.
- 1567 (c) The maximum credit amount that may be approved during
- 1568 any calendar year is \$5 million, of which \$1 million shall be
- 1569 exclusively reserved for tier-one areas. The Department of
- 1570 Revenue, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~
- 1571 ~~Opportunity~~, shall notify the governing bodies in areas
- 1572 designated as urban high-crime areas when the \$5 million maximum
- 1573 amount has been reached. Applications must be considered for
- 1574 approval in the order in which they are received without regard
- 1575 to whether the credit is for a new or existing business. This

1576 limitation applies to the value of the credit as contained in  
 1577 approved applications. Approved credits may be taken in the time  
 1578 and manner allowed pursuant to this section.

1579 (11) If the application is insufficient to support the  
 1580 credit authorized in this section, the Department of Commerce  
 1581 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall deny the credit and notify the  
 1582 business of that fact. The business may reapply for this credit  
 1583 within 3 months after such notification.

1584 Section 49. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraphs  
 1585 (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (6), and subsection (7) of  
 1586 section 212.098, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1587 212.098 Rural Job Tax Credit Program.—

1588 (1) As used in this section, the term:

1589 (c) "Qualified area" means any area that is contained  
 1590 within a rural area of opportunity designated under s. 288.0656,  
 1591 a county that has a population of fewer than 75,000 persons, or  
 1592 a county that has a population of 125,000 or less and is  
 1593 contiguous to a county that has a population of less than  
 1594 75,000, selected in the following manner: every third year, the  
 1595 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall rank and tier  
 1596 the state's counties according to the following four factors:

1597 1. Highest unemployment rate for the most recent 36-month  
 1598 period.

1599 2. Lowest per capita income for the most recent 36-month  
 1600 period.

1601           3. Highest percentage of residents whose incomes are below  
 1602 the poverty level, based upon the most recent data available.

1603           4. Average weekly manufacturing wage, based upon the most  
 1604 recent data available.

1605           (6) (a) In order to claim this credit, an eligible business  
 1606 must file under oath with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1607 ~~Opportunity~~ a statement that includes the name and address of  
 1608 the eligible business, the starting salary or hourly wages paid  
 1609 to the new employee, and any other information that the  
 1610 Department of Revenue requires.

1611           (b) Pursuant to the incentive review process under s.  
 1612 288.061, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 1613 review the application to determine whether it contains all the  
 1614 information required by this subsection and meets the criteria  
 1615 set out in this section. Subject to the provisions of paragraph  
 1616 (c), the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 1617 approve all applications that contain the information required  
 1618 by this subsection and meet the criteria set out in this section  
 1619 as eligible to receive a credit.

1620           (c) The maximum credit amount that may be approved during  
 1621 any calendar year is \$5 million. The Department of Revenue, in  
 1622 conjunction with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1623 ~~Opportunity~~, shall notify the governing bodies in areas  
 1624 designated as qualified counties when the \$5 million maximum  
 1625 amount has been reached. Applications must be considered for

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1626 approval in the order in which they are received without regard  
1627 to whether the credit is for a new or existing business. This  
1628 limitation applies to the value of the credit as contained in  
1629 approved applications. Approved credits may be taken in the time  
1630 and manner allowed pursuant to this section.

1631 (7) If the application is insufficient to support the  
1632 credit authorized in this section, the Department of Commerce  
1633 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall deny the credit and notify the  
1634 business of that fact. The business may reapply for this credit  
1635 within 3 months after such notification.

1636 Section 50. Subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
1637 (7) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1638 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.—

1639 (4) The department, while providing reemployment  
1640 assistance tax collection services under contract with the  
1641 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ through an  
1642 interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316, may release  
1643 reemployment assistance tax rate information to the agent of an  
1644 employer who provides payroll services for more than 100  
1645 employers, pursuant to the terms of a memorandum of  
1646 understanding. The memorandum of understanding must state that  
1647 the agent affirms, subject to the criminal penalties contained  
1648 in ss. 443.171 and 443.1715, that the agent will retain the  
1649 confidentiality of the information, that the agent has in effect  
1650 a power of attorney from the employer which permits the agent to

1651 obtain reemployment assistance tax rate information, and that  
 1652 the agent shall provide the department with a copy of the  
 1653 employer's power of attorney upon request.

1654 (7)(a) Any information received by the Department of  
 1655 Revenue in connection with the administration of taxes,  
 1656 including, but not limited to, information contained in returns,  
 1657 reports, accounts, or declarations filed by persons subject to  
 1658 tax, shall be made available to the following in performance of  
 1659 their official duties:

1660 1. The Auditor General or his or her authorized agent;

1661 2. The director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis  
 1662 and Government Accountability or his or her authorized agent;

1663 3. The Chief Financial Officer or his or her authorized  
 1664 agent;

1665 4. The Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of  
 1666 the Financial Services Commission or his or her authorized  
 1667 agent;

1668 5. A property appraiser or tax collector or their  
 1669 authorized agents pursuant to s. 195.084(1);

1670 6. Designated employees of the Department of Education  
 1671 solely for determination of each school district's price level  
 1672 index pursuant to s. 1011.62(2);

1673 7. The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his  
 1674 or her authorized agent;

1675 8. The taxpayers' rights advocate or his or her authorized

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1676 agent pursuant to s. 20.21(3); and

1677 9. The coordinator of the Office of Economic and  
1678 Demographic Research or his or her authorized agent.

1679 Section 51. Subsection (1) of section 215.5588, Florida  
1680 Statutes, is amended to read:

1681 215.5588 Florida Disaster Recovery Program.—

1682 (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
1683 implement the 2006 Disaster Recovery Program from funds provided  
1684 through the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for  
1685 Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006,  
1686 for the purpose of assisting local governments in satisfying  
1687 disaster recovery needs in the areas of low-income housing and  
1688 infrastructure, with a primary focus on the hardening of single-  
1689 family and multifamily housing units, not only to ensure that  
1690 affordable housing can withstand the effects of hurricane-force  
1691 winds, but also to mitigate the increasing costs of insurance,  
1692 which may ultimately render existing affordable homes  
1693 unaffordable or uninsurable. This section does not create an  
1694 entitlement for local governments or property owners or obligate  
1695 the state in any way to fund disaster recovery needs.

1696 Section 52. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
1697 216.292, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1698 216.292 Appropriations nontransferable; exceptions.—

1699 (6) The Chief Financial Officer shall transfer from any  
1700 available funds of an agency or the judicial branch the

1701 following amounts and shall report all such transfers and the  
 1702 reasons therefor to the legislative appropriations committees  
 1703 and the Executive Office of the Governor:

1704 (a) The amount due to the Unemployment Compensation Trust  
 1705 Fund which is more than 90 days delinquent on reimbursements due  
 1706 to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. The amount  
 1707 transferred shall be that certified by the state agency  
 1708 providing reemployment assistance tax collection services under  
 1709 contract with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 1710 through an interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316.

1711 Section 53. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1), subsection  
 1712 (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 218.32,  
 1713 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1714 218.32 Annual financial reports; local governmental  
 1715 entities.—

1716 (1)

1717 (f) If the department does not receive a completed annual  
 1718 financial report from a local governmental entity within the  
 1719 required period, it shall notify the Legislative Auditing  
 1720 Committee and the Special District Accountability Program of the  
 1721 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of the entity's  
 1722 failure to comply with the reporting requirements.

1723 (2) The department shall annually by December 1 file a  
 1724 verified report with the Governor, the Legislature, the Auditor  
 1725 General, and the Special District Accountability Program of the

1726 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ showing the  
 1727 revenues, both locally derived and derived from  
 1728 intergovernmental transfers, and the expenditures of each local  
 1729 governmental entity, regional planning council, local government  
 1730 finance commission, and municipal power corporation that is  
 1731 required to submit an annual financial report. In preparing the  
 1732 verified report, the department may request additional  
 1733 information from the local governmental entity. The information  
 1734 requested must be provided to the department within 45 days  
 1735 after the request. If the local governmental entity does not  
 1736 comply with the request, the department shall notify the  
 1737 Legislative Auditing Committee, which may take action pursuant  
 1738 to s. 11.40(2). The report must include, but is not limited to:

1739 (a) The total revenues and expenditures of each local  
 1740 governmental entity that is a component unit included in the  
 1741 annual financial report of the reporting entity.

1742 (b) The amount of outstanding long-term debt by each local  
 1743 governmental entity. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
 1744 "long-term debt" means any agreement or series of agreements to  
 1745 pay money, which, at inception, contemplate terms of payment  
 1746 exceeding 1 year in duration.

1747 (3)

1748 (c) By November 1 of each year, the department must  
 1749 provide the Special District Accountability Program of the  
 1750 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ with a list of each

1751 community redevelopment agency that does not report any  
 1752 revenues, expenditures, or debt for the community redevelopment  
 1753 agency's previous fiscal year.

1754 Section 54. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section  
 1755 218.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1756 218.37 Powers and duties of Division of Bond Finance;  
 1757 advisory council.—

1758 (1) The Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of  
 1759 Administration, with respect to both general obligation bonds  
 1760 and revenue bonds, shall:

1761 (f) By January 1 each year, provide the Special District  
 1762 Accountability Program of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1763 ~~Opportunity~~ with a list of special districts that are not in  
 1764 compliance with the requirements in s. 218.38.

1765 Section 55. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 1766 218.411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1767 218.411 Authorization for state technical and advisory  
 1768 assistance.—

1769 (1) The board is authorized, upon request, to assist local  
 1770 governments in investing funds that are temporarily in excess of  
 1771 operating needs by:

1772 (c) Providing, in cooperation with the Department of  
 1773 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, technical assistance to local  
 1774 governments in investment of surplus funds.

1775 Section 56. Paragraph (ff) of subsection (1) of section

1776 | 220.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1777 |       220.03 Definitions.—

1778 |       (1) SPECIFIC TERMS.—When used in this code, and when not  
1779 | otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with  
1780 | the intent thereof, the following terms shall have the following  
1781 | meanings:

1782 |       (ff) "Job" means a full-time position, as consistent with  
1783 | terms used by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
1784 | and the United States Department of Labor for purposes of  
1785 | reemployment assistance tax administration and employment  
1786 | estimation resulting directly from business operations in this  
1787 | state. The term may not include a temporary construction job  
1788 | involved with the construction of facilities or any job that has  
1789 | previously been included in any application for tax credits  
1790 | under s. 212.096. The term also includes employment of an  
1791 | employee leased from an employee leasing company licensed under  
1792 | chapter 468 if the employee has been continuously leased to the  
1793 | employer for an average of at least 36 hours per week for more  
1794 | than 6 months.

1795 |       Section 57. Subsections (2) and (3), paragraphs (b) and  
1796 | (c) of subsection (4), and subsection (5) of section 220.153,  
1797 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1798 |       220.153 Apportionment by sales factor.—

1799 |       (2) APPORTIONMENT OF TAXES; ELIGIBILITY.—A taxpayer, not  
1800 | including a financial organization as defined in s. 220.15(6) or

1801 a bank, savings association, international banking facility, or  
 1802 banking organization as defined in s. 220.62, doing business  
 1803 within and without this state, who applies and demonstrates to  
 1804 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that, within a  
 1805 2-year period beginning on or after July 1, 2011, it has made  
 1806 qualified capital expenditures equal to or exceeding \$250  
 1807 million may apportion its adjusted federal income solely by the  
 1808 sales factor set forth in s. 220.15(5), commencing in the  
 1809 taxable year that the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1810 ~~Opportunity~~ approves the application, but not before a taxable  
 1811 year that begins on or after January 1, 2013. Once approved, a  
 1812 taxpayer may elect to apportion its adjusted federal income for  
 1813 any taxable year using the method provided under this section or  
 1814 the method provided under s. 220.15.

1815 (3) QUALIFICATION PROCESS.—

1816 (a) To qualify as a taxpayer who is eligible to apportion  
 1817 its adjusted federal income under this section:

1818 1. The taxpayer must notify the Department of Commerce  
 1819 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of its intent to submit an application to  
 1820 apportion its adjusted federal income in order to commence the  
 1821 2-year period for measuring qualified capital expenditures.

1822 2. The taxpayer must submit an application to apportion  
 1823 its adjusted federal income under this section to the Department  
 1824 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ within 2 years after notifying  
 1825 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of the

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1826 taxpayer's intent to qualify. The application must be made under  
1827 oath and provide such information as the Department of Commerce  
1828 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ reasonably requires by rule for determining  
1829 the applicant's eligibility to apportion adjusted federal income  
1830 under this section. The taxpayer is responsible for  
1831 affirmatively demonstrating to the satisfaction of the  
1832 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ that it meets the  
1833 eligibility requirements.

1834 (b) The taxpayer notice and application forms shall be  
1835 established by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
1836 by rule. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
1837 acknowledge receipt of the notice and approve or deny the  
1838 application in writing within 45 days after receipt.

1839 (4) REVIEW AUTHORITY; RECAPTURE OF TAX.—

1840 (b) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may,  
1841 by order, revoke its decision to grant eligibility for  
1842 apportionment pursuant to this section, and may also order the  
1843 recalculation of apportionment factors to those applicable under  
1844 s. 220.15 if, as the result of an audit, investigation, or  
1845 examination, it determines that information provided by the  
1846 taxpayer in the application, or in a statement, representation,  
1847 record, report, plan, or other document provided to the  
1848 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to become eligible  
1849 for apportionment, was materially false at the time it was made  
1850 and that an individual acting on behalf of the taxpayer knew, or

1851 should have known, that the information submitted was false. The  
 1852 taxpayer shall pay such additional taxes and interest as may be  
 1853 due pursuant to this chapter computed as the difference between  
 1854 the tax that would have been due under the apportionment formula  
 1855 provided in s. 220.15 for such years and the tax actually paid.  
 1856 In addition, the department shall assess a penalty equal to 100  
 1857 percent of the additional tax due.

1858 (c) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 1859 immediately notify the department of an order affecting a  
 1860 taxpayer's eligibility to apportion tax pursuant to this  
 1861 section. A taxpayer who is liable for past tax must file an  
 1862 amended return with the department, or such other report as the  
 1863 department prescribes by rule, and pay any required tax,  
 1864 interest, and penalty within 60 days after the taxpayer receives  
 1865 notification from the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1866 ~~Opportunity~~ that the previously approved credits have been  
 1867 revoked. If the revocation is contested, the taxpayer shall file  
 1868 an amended return or other report within 30 days after an order  
 1869 becomes final. A taxpayer who fails to pay the past tax,  
 1870 interest, and penalty by the due date is subject to the  
 1871 penalties provided in s. 220.803.

1872 (5) RULES.—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 1873 and the department may adopt rules to administer this section.

1874 Section 58. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraphs  
 1875 (b) and (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (b) of

1876 subsection (3), and paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of  
 1877 subsection (4) of section 220.183, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 1878 to read:

1879 220.183 Community contribution tax credit.—

1880 (1) AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TAX  
 1881 CREDITS; LIMITATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL CREDITS AND PROGRAM  
 1882 SPENDING.—

1883 (d) All proposals for the granting of the tax credit shall  
 1884 require the prior approval of the Department of Commerce  
 1885 ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

1886 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

1887 (b)1. All community contributions must be reserved  
 1888 exclusively for use in projects as defined in s. 220.03(1)(t).

1889 2. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 1890 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects that  
 1891 provide housing opportunities for persons with special needs as  
 1892 defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership opportunities for low-  
 1893 income or very-low-income households as defined in s.  
 1894 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for less than the annual tax  
 1895 credits available for those projects, the Department of Commerce  
 1896 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax credits for those  
 1897 applications and shall grant remaining tax credits on a first-  
 1898 come, first-served basis for any subsequent eligible  
 1899 applications received before the end of the state fiscal year.  
 1900 If, during the first 10 business days of the state fiscal year,

1901 eligible tax credit applications for projects that provide  
 1902 housing opportunities for persons with special needs as defined  
 1903 in s. 420.0004 or homeownership opportunities for low-income or  
 1904 very-low-income households as defined in s. 420.9071(20) and  
 1905 (30) are received for more than the annual tax credits available  
 1906 for those projects, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1907 ~~Opportunity~~ shall grant the tax credits for those applications  
 1908 as follows:

1909       a. If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 1910 projects of an eligible sponsor do not exceed \$200,000 in total,  
 1911 the credit shall be granted in full if the tax credit  
 1912 applications are approved.

1913       b. If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 1914 projects of an eligible sponsor exceed \$200,000 in total, the  
 1915 amount of tax credits granted under sub-subparagraph a. shall be  
 1916 subtracted from the amount of available tax credits, and the  
 1917 remaining credits shall be granted to each approved tax credit  
 1918 application on a pro rata basis.

1919       3. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 1920 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
 1921 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
 1922 special needs as defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership  
 1923 opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as  
 1924 defined in s. 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for less than  
 1925 the annual tax credits available for those projects, the

1926 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax  
 1927 credits for those applications and shall grant remaining tax  
 1928 credits on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent  
 1929 eligible applications received before the end of the state  
 1930 fiscal year. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 1931 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
 1932 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
 1933 special needs as defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership  
 1934 opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as  
 1935 defined in s. 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for more than  
 1936 the annual tax credits available for those projects, the  
 1937 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant the tax  
 1938 credits for those applications on a pro rata basis.

1939 (c) The project must be undertaken by an "eligible  
 1940 sponsor," defined here as:

- 1941 1. A community action program;
- 1942 2. A nonprofit community-based development organization  
 1943 whose mission is the provision of housing for persons with  
 1944 special needs or low-income or very-low-income households or  
 1945 increasing entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for  
 1946 low-income persons;
- 1947 3. A neighborhood housing services corporation;
- 1948 4. A local housing authority, created pursuant to chapter  
 1949 421;
- 1950 5. A community redevelopment agency, created pursuant to

1951 s. 163.356;

1952 6. A historic preservation district agency or

1953 organization;

1954 7. A local workforce development board;

1955 8. A direct-support organization as provided in s.

1956 1009.983;

1957 9. An enterprise zone development agency created pursuant

1958 to s. 290.0056;

1959 10. A community-based organization incorporated under

1960 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or

1961 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

1962 and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include

1963 affordable housing, economic development, or community

1964 development as the primary mission of the corporation;

1965 11. Units of local government;

1966 12. Units of state government; or

1967 13. Such other agency as the Department of Commerce

1968 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may, from time to time, designate by rule.

1969

1970 In no event shall a contributing business firm have a financial

1971 interest in the eligible sponsor.

1972 (3) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

1973 (a) Any eligible sponsor wishing to participate in this

1974 program must submit a proposal to the Department of Commerce

1975 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which sets forth the sponsor, the project,

1976 | the area in which the project is located, and such supporting  
 1977 | information as may be prescribed by rule. The proposal shall  
 1978 | also contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in  
 1979 | which it is located certifying that the project is consistent  
 1980 | with local plans and regulations.

1981 |         (b) Any business wishing to participate in this program  
 1982 | must submit an application for tax credit to the Department of  
 1983 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, which application sets forth the  
 1984 | sponsor; the project; and the type, value, and purpose of the  
 1985 | contribution. The sponsor shall verify the terms of the  
 1986 | application and indicate its receipt of the contribution, which  
 1987 | verification must be in writing and accompany the application  
 1988 | for tax credit.

1989 |         (4) ADMINISTRATION.—

1990 |         (a) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ has  
 1991 | authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54  
 1992 | to implement the provisions of this section, including rules for  
 1993 | the approval or disapproval of proposals by business firms.

1994 |         (b) The decision of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 1995 | ~~Opportunity~~ shall be in writing, and, if approved, the  
 1996 | notification must state the maximum credit allowable to the  
 1997 | business firm. A copy of the decision shall be transmitted to  
 1998 | the executive director of the Department of Revenue, who shall  
 1999 | apply such credit to the tax liability of the business firm.

2000 |         (c) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall

2001 periodically monitor all projects in a manner consistent with  
 2002 available resources to ensure that resources are utilized in  
 2003 accordance with this section; however, each project shall be  
 2004 reviewed no less often than once every 2 years.

2005 (e) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall,  
 2006 in consultation with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and  
 2007 the statewide and regional housing and financial intermediaries,  
 2008 market the availability of the community contribution tax credit  
 2009 program to community-based organizations.

2010 Section 59. Section 220.1895, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2011 to read:

2012 220.1895 Rural Job Tax Credit and Urban High-Crime Area  
 2013 Job Tax Credit.—There shall be allowed a credit against the tax  
 2014 imposed by this chapter amounts approved by the Department of  
 2015 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ pursuant to the Rural Job Tax  
 2016 Credit Program in s. 212.098 and the Urban High-Crime Area Job  
 2017 Tax Credit Program in s. 212.097. A corporation that uses its  
 2018 credit against the tax imposed by this chapter may not take the  
 2019 credit against the tax imposed by chapter 212. If any credit  
 2020 granted under this section is not fully used in the first year  
 2021 for which it becomes available, the unused amount may be carried  
 2022 forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The carryover may be  
 2023 used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter  
 2024 for such year exceeds the credit for such year under this  
 2025 section after applying the other credits and unused credit

2026 carryovers in the order provided in s. 220.02(8).

2027 Section 60. Paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (1) of  
 2028 section 220.191, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2029 220.191 Capital investment tax credit.—

2030 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

2031 (f) "Jobs" means full-time equivalent positions, as that  
 2032 term is consistent with terms used by the Department of Commerce  
 2033 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the United States Department of Labor  
 2034 for purposes of reemployment assistance tax administration and  
 2035 employment estimation, resulting directly from a project in this  
 2036 state. The term does not include temporary construction jobs  
 2037 involved in the construction of the project facility.

2038 (g) "Qualifying business" means a business which  
 2039 establishes a qualifying project in this state and which is  
 2040 certified by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to  
 2041 receive tax credits pursuant to this section.

2042 Section 61. Subsection (2) of section 222.15, Florida  
 2043 Statutes, is amended to read:

2044 222.15 Wages or reemployment assistance or unemployment  
 2045 compensation payments due deceased employee may be paid spouse  
 2046 or certain relatives.—

2047 (2) It is also lawful for the Department of Commerce  
 2048 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in case of death of any unemployed  
 2049 individual, to pay to those persons referred to in subsection  
 2050 (1) any reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation

2051 | payments that may be due to the individual at the time of his or  
 2052 | her death.

2053 | Section 62. Subsection (1) of section 252.85, Florida  
 2054 | Statutes, is amended to read:

2055 | 252.85 Fees.—

2056 | (1) Any owner or operator of a facility required under s.  
 2057 | 302 or s. 312 of EPCRA, or by s. 252.87, to submit a  
 2058 | notification or an annual inventory form to the commission shall  
 2059 | be required to pay an annual registration fee. The fee for any  
 2060 | company, including all facilities under common ownership or  
 2061 | control, shall not be less than \$25 nor more than \$2,000. The  
 2062 | division shall establish a reduced fee, of not less than \$25 nor  
 2063 | more than \$500, applicable to any owner or operator regulated  
 2064 | under part I of chapter 368, chapter 527, or s. 376.303, which  
 2065 | does not have present any extremely hazardous substance, as  
 2066 | defined by EPCRA, in excess of a threshold planning quantity, as  
 2067 | established by EPCRA. The division shall establish a reduced fee  
 2068 | of not less than \$25 nor more than \$1,000, applicable to any  
 2069 | owner or operator of a facility with a Standard Industrial  
 2070 | Classification Code of 01, 02, or 07, which is eligible for the  
 2071 | "routine agricultural use" exemption provided in ss. 311 and 312  
 2072 | of EPCRA. The fee under this subsection shall be based on the  
 2073 | number of employees employed within the state at facilities  
 2074 | under the common ownership or control of such owner or operator,  
 2075 | which number shall be determined, to the extent possible, in

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2076 accordance with data supplied by the Department of Commerce  
2077 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider. In  
2078 order to avoid the duplicative reporting of seasonal and  
2079 temporary agricultural employees, fees applicable to owners or  
2080 operators of agricultural facilities, which are eligible for the  
2081 "routine agricultural use" reporting exemption provided in ss.  
2082 311 and 312 of EPCRA, shall be based on employee data which most  
2083 closely reflects such owner or operator's permanent nonseasonal  
2084 workforce. The division shall establish by rule the date by  
2085 which the fee is to be paid, as well as a formula or method of  
2086 determining the applicable fee under this subsection without  
2087 regard to the number of facilities under common ownership or  
2088 control. The division may require owners or operators of  
2089 multiple facilities to demonstrate common ownership or control  
2090 for purposes of this subsection.

2091 Section 63. Paragraph (a) of subsection (21) of section  
2092 253.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2093 253.025 Acquisition of state lands.—

2094 (21) (a) The board of trustees may acquire, pursuant to s.  
2095 288.980 (2) (b), nonconservation lands from the annual list  
2096 submitted by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for  
2097 the purpose of buffering a military installation against  
2098 encroachment.

2099 Section 64. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
2100 255.099, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2101 255.099 Preference to state residents.—

2102 (1) Each contract for construction that is funded by state  
 2103 funds must contain a provision requiring the contractor to give  
 2104 preference to the employment of state residents in the  
 2105 performance of the work on the project if state residents have  
 2106 substantially equal qualifications to those of nonresidents. A  
 2107 contract for construction funded by local funds may contain such  
 2108 a provision.

2109 (b) A contractor required to employ state residents must  
 2110 contact the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to post  
 2111 the contractor's employment needs in the state's job bank  
 2112 system.

2113 Section 65. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3), paragraph (b)  
 2114 of subsection (4), subsection (6), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 2115 (7), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 258.501,  
 2116 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2117 258.501 Myakka River; wild and scenic segment.—

2118 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

2119 (b) "Agreement" means the interagency operating agreement  
 2120 between the department, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2121 ~~Opportunity~~, and Sarasota County or the City of North Port.

2122 (4) DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.—

2123 (b) The governments of Sarasota County and the City of  
 2124 North Port shall manage the Myakka River wild and scenic  
 2125 protection zone under their existing authorities for

2126 comprehensive planning, the regulation of land development  
 2127 activities, and other necessary or appropriate ordinances and in  
 2128 conformance with this section, the management plan required  
 2129 under subsection (5), and the agreements adopted by the  
 2130 department and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 2131 with the city and county pursuant to this section.

2132 (6) AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS.—

2133 (a) Sarasota County and the City of North Port shall amend  
 2134 their comprehensive plans so that the parts of such plans that  
 2135 affect the wild and scenic protection zone conform to, or are  
 2136 more stringent than, this section, the river management plan,  
 2137 and management guidelines and performance standards to be  
 2138 developed and contained within agreements to be adopted by the  
 2139 department, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and  
 2140 the city and county. The guidelines and performance standards  
 2141 must be used by the department and the Department of Commerce  
 2142 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to review and monitor the regulation of  
 2143 activities by the city and county in the wild and scenic  
 2144 protection zone. Amendments to those comprehensive plans must  
 2145 include specific policies and guidelines for minimizing adverse  
 2146 impacts on resources in the river area and for managing the wild  
 2147 and scenic protection zone in conformance with this section, the  
 2148 river management plan, and the agreement. Such comprehensive  
 2149 plans must be amended within 1 year after the adoption date of  
 2150 the agreement, and thereafter, within 6 months following an

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2151 amendment to this section, the river management plan, or the  
2152 agreement, as may be necessary. For the purposes established in  
2153 this subsection, such amendments need not conform to statutory  
2154 or local ordinance limitations on the frequency of consideration  
2155 of amendments to local comprehensive plans.

2156 (b) Sarasota County and the City of North Port shall adopt  
2157 or amend, within 1 year after the department and the Department  
2158 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ adopt with the city and with  
2159 the county agreements for regulating activities in the wild and  
2160 scenic protection zone, any necessary ordinances and land  
2161 development regulations so that those ordinances and regulations  
2162 conform to the purposes of this section, the river management  
2163 plan, and the agreement. Thereafter, following any amendment to  
2164 this section, the river management plan, or the agreement, the  
2165 city and county must amend or adopt, within 1 year, appropriate  
2166 ordinances and land development regulations to maintain such  
2167 local ordinances and regulations in conformance with this  
2168 section, the river management plan, and the agreement. Those  
2169 ordinances and regulations must provide that activities must be  
2170 prohibited, or must undergo review and either be denied or  
2171 permitted with or without conditions, so as to minimize  
2172 potential adverse physical and visual impacts on resource values  
2173 in the river area and to minimize adverse impacts on private  
2174 landowners' use of land for residential purposes. The resource  
2175 values of concern are those identified in this section and by

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2176 the coordinating council in the river management plan.  
2177 Activities which may be prohibited, subject to the agreement,  
2178 include, but are not limited to, landfills, clear cuttings,  
2179 major new infrastructure facilities, major activities that would  
2180 alter historic water or flood flows, multifamily residential  
2181 construction, commercial and industrial development, and mining  
2182 and major excavations. However, appurtenant structures for these  
2183 activities may be permitted if such structures do not have  
2184 adverse visual or measurable adverse environmental impacts to  
2185 resource values in the river area.

2186 (c) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
2187 determines that the local comprehensive plan or land development  
2188 regulations, as amended or supplemented by the local government,  
2189 are not in conformance with the purposes of this section, the  
2190 river management plan, and the agreement, the Department of  
2191 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall issue a notice of intent to  
2192 find the plan not in compliance and such plan shall be subject  
2193 to the administrative proceedings in accordance with s.  
2194 163.3184.

2195 (7) MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL.—

2196 (a) Upon designation, the department shall create a  
2197 permanent council to provide interagency and intergovernmental  
2198 coordination in the management of the river. The coordinating  
2199 council shall be composed of one representative appointed from  
2200 each of the following: the department, the Department of

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2201 Transportation, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,  
 2202 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Florida  
 2203 Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
 2204 Services, the Division of Historical Resources of the Department  
 2205 of State, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the Southwest  
 2206 Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida  
 2207 Regional Planning Council, Manatee County, Sarasota County,  
 2208 Charlotte County, the City of Sarasota, the City of North Port,  
 2209 agricultural interests, environmental organizations, and any  
 2210 others deemed advisable by the department.

2211 (9) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—

2212 (c) The department and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2213 ~~Opportunity~~ must enter into agreements with the City of North  
 2214 Port and Sarasota County which provide for guiding and  
 2215 monitoring the regulation of activities by the city and county,  
 2216 in accordance with subsection (6). Such agreements shall include  
 2217 guidelines and performance standards for regulating proposed  
 2218 activities so as to minimize adverse environmental and visual  
 2219 impacts of such activities on the resource values in the river  
 2220 area, and to minimize adverse impacts to landowners' use of land  
 2221 for residential purposes.

2222 Section 66. Subsection (3) of section 259.042, Florida  
 2223 Statutes, is amended to read:

2224 259.042 Tax increment financing for conservation lands.—

2225 (3) The governing body of the jurisdiction that will

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2226 administer the separate reserve account shall provide  
2227 documentation to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
2228 identifying the boundary of the tax increment area. The  
2229 department shall determine whether the boundary is appropriate  
2230 in that property owners within the boundary will receive a  
2231 benefit from the proposed purchase of identified conservation  
2232 lands. The department must issue a letter of approval stating  
2233 that the establishment of the tax increment area and the  
2234 proposed purchases would benefit property owners within the  
2235 boundary and serve a public purpose before any tax increment  
2236 funds are deposited into the separate reserve account. If the  
2237 department fails to provide the required letter within 90 days  
2238 after receiving sufficient documentation of the boundary, the  
2239 establishment of the area and the proposed purchases are deemed  
2240 to provide such benefit and serve a public purpose.

2241 Section 67. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
2242 267.0625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2243 267.0625 Abrogation of offensive and derogatory geographic  
2244 place names.—

2245 (4) The division shall:

2246 (b) Notify the Department of Transportation, the  
2247 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of  
2248 Management Services, and any other entity that compiles  
2249 information for or develops maps or markers for the state of the  
2250 name change so that it may be reflected on subsequent editions

2251 of any maps, informational literature, or markers produced by  
 2252 those entities.

2253 Section 68. Subsection (2) of section 288.005, Florida  
 2254 Statutes, is amended to read:

2255 288.005 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

2256 (2) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2257 ~~Opportunity~~.

2258 Section 69. Subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 2259 (5), and subsection (6) of section 288.061, Florida Statutes,  
 2260 are amended to read:

2261 288.061 Economic development incentive application  
 2262 process.—

2263 (3) Within 10 business days after the department receives  
 2264 the submitted economic development incentive application, the  
 2265 Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall approve or  
 2266 disapprove the application and issue a letter of certification  
 2267 to the applicant which includes a justification of that  
 2268 decision, unless the business requests an extension of that  
 2269 time.

2270 (a) The contract or agreement with the applicant must  
 2271 specify the total amount of the award, the performance  
 2272 conditions that must be met to obtain the award, the schedule  
 2273 for payment, and sanctions that would apply for failure to meet  
 2274 performance conditions. The department may enter into one  
 2275 agreement or contract covering all of the state incentives that

2276 are being provided to the applicant. The contract must provide  
2277 that release of funds is contingent upon sufficient  
2278 appropriation of funds by the Legislature.

2279 (b) The release of funds for the incentive or incentives  
2280 awarded to the applicant depends upon the statutory requirements  
2281 of the particular incentive program.

2282 (5)(a) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
2283 not approve an economic development incentive application unless  
2284 the application includes a signed written declaration by the  
2285 applicant which states that the applicant has read the  
2286 information in the application and that the information is true,  
2287 correct, and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge  
2288 and belief.

2289 (6) ~~Beginning July 1, 2020,~~ The Secretary of Commerce  
2290 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may not approve an economic development  
2291 incentive application unless the application includes proof to  
2292 the department that the applicant business is registered with  
2293 and uses the E-Verify system, as defined in s. 448.095, to  
2294 verify the work authorization status of all newly hired  
2295 employees. If the department determines that an awardee is not  
2296 complying with this subsection, the department must notify the  
2297 awardee by certified mail of the department's determination of  
2298 noncompliance and the awardee's right to appeal the  
2299 determination. Upon a final determination of noncompliance, the  
2300 awardee must repay all moneys received as an economic

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2301 development incentive to the department within 30 days after the  
 2302 final determination.

2303 Section 70. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 2304 288.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2305 288.075 Confidentiality of records.—

2306 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

2307 (a) "Economic development agency" means:

2308 1. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~;

2309 2. Any industrial development authority created in  
 2310 accordance with part III of chapter 159 or by special law;

2311 3. Space Florida created in part II of chapter 331;

2312 4. The public economic development agency of a county or  
 2313 municipality or, if the county or municipality does not have a  
 2314 public economic development agency, the county or municipal  
 2315 officers or employees assigned the duty to promote the general  
 2316 business interests or industrial interests of that county or  
 2317 municipality or the responsibilities related thereto;

2318 5. Any research and development authority created in  
 2319 accordance with part V of chapter 159; or

2320 6. Any private agency, person, partnership, corporation,  
 2321 or business entity when authorized by the state, a municipality,  
 2322 or a county to promote the general business interests or  
 2323 industrial interests of the state or that municipality or  
 2324 county.

2325 Section 71. Subsection (1) of section 288.1201, Florida

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2326 Statutes, is amended to read:

2327 288.1201 State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust  
2328 Fund.—

2329 (1) There is created within the Department of Commerce  
2330 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ the State Economic Enhancement and  
2331 Development Trust Fund. Moneys deposited in the trust fund shall  
2332 be used for infrastructure and job creation opportunities and  
2333 for the following purposes or programs:

2334 (a) Transportation facilities that meet a strategic and  
2335 essential state interest with respect to the economic  
2336 development of the state;

2337 (b) Affordable housing programs and projects in accordance  
2338 with chapter 420;

2339 (c) Economic development incentives for job creation and  
2340 capital investment;

2341 (d) Workforce training associated with locating a new  
2342 business or expanding an existing business; and

2343 (e) Tourism promotion and marketing services, functions,  
2344 and programs.

2345 Section 72. Subsection (11) of section 288.1226, Florida  
2346 Statutes, is amended to read:

2347 288.1226 Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation;  
2348 use of property; board of directors; duties; audit.—

2349 (11) PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET SUBMISSION.—By August 15 of  
2350 each fiscal year, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~

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2351 ~~Opportunity~~ shall submit a proposed operating budget for the  
 2352 corporation including amounts to be expended on advertising,  
 2353 marketing, promotions, events, other operating capital outlay,  
 2354 and salaries and benefits for each employee to the Governor, the  
 2355 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
 2356 Representatives.

2357 Section 73. Subsection (2) of section 288.8012, Florida  
 2358 Statutes, is amended to read:

2359 288.8012 Definitions.—As used in ss. 288.8011–288.8018,  
 2360 the term:

2361 (2) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2362 ~~Opportunity~~.

2363 Section 74. Subsection (8) of section 288.8014, Florida  
 2364 Statutes, is amended to read:

2365 288.8014 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; organization; board of  
 2366 directors.—

2367 (8) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or his  
 2368 or her designee, the Secretary of Environmental Protection, or  
 2369 his or her designee, and the chair of the Committee of 8  
 2370 Disproportionally Affected Counties, or his or her designee,  
 2371 shall be available to consult with the board of directors and  
 2372 may be requested to attend meetings of the board of directors.  
 2373 These individuals shall not be permitted to vote on any matter  
 2374 before the board.

2375 Section 75. Subsection (2) of section 288.9604, Florida

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2376 Statutes, is amended to read:

2377 288.9604 Creation of the corporation.—

2378 (2) The board of directors of the corporation shall  
 2379 consist of seven directors. The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2380 ~~Opportunity~~, or his or her designee, shall serve as chair of the  
 2381 board of directors of the corporation. The director of the  
 2382 Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration,  
 2383 or his or her designee, shall serve as a director on the board  
 2384 of directors of the corporation. The Governor, subject to  
 2385 confirmation by the Senate, shall appoint the remaining five  
 2386 directors of the board of directors of the corporation. The  
 2387 terms of office for the appointed directors are for 4 years  
 2388 after the date of their appointment. A vacancy occurring during  
 2389 a term of an appointed director shall be filled for the  
 2390 unexpired term. An appointed director is eligible for  
 2391 reappointment. At least three of the appointed directors of the  
 2392 corporation must have experience in finance, and one of the  
 2393 directors must have experience in economic development.

2394 Section 76. Section 288.9610, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2395 to read:

2396 288.9610 Annual reports of Florida Development Finance  
 2397 Corporation.—On or before 90 days after the close of the Florida  
 2398 Development Finance Corporation's fiscal year, the corporation  
 2399 shall submit to the Governor, the Legislature, the Auditor  
 2400 General, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and

2401 the governing body of each public entity for which the  
 2402 corporation issues revenue bonds pursuant to s. 288.9606 or with  
 2403 which it has entered into an interlocal agreement a complete and  
 2404 detailed report setting forth:

2405 (1) The results of any audit conducted under s. 11.45.

2406 (2) The activities, operations, and accomplishments of the  
 2407 Florida Development Finance Corporation, including the number of  
 2408 businesses assisted by the corporation.

2409 (3) Its assets, liabilities, income, and operating  
 2410 expenses at the end of its most recent fiscal year, including a  
 2411 description of all of its outstanding revenue bonds.

2412 Section 77. Subsection (5) of section 288.987, Florida  
 2413 Statutes, is amended to read:

2414 288.987 Florida Defense Support Task Force.—

2415 (5) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or his  
 2416 or her designee, shall serve as the ex officio, nonvoting  
 2417 executive director of the task force.

2418 Section 78. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 2419 288.9961, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2420 288.9961 Promotion of broadband adoption; Florida Office  
 2421 of Broadband.—

2422 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

2423 (b) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2424 ~~Opportunity~~.

2425 Section 79. Subsection (2) of section 290.004, Florida

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2426 Statutes, is amended to read:

2427       290.004 Definitions relating to Florida Enterprise Zone  
2428 Act.—As used in ss. 290.001-290.016:

2429       (2) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
2430 ~~Opportunity~~.

2431       Section 80. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
2432 290.0065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2433       290.0065 State designation of enterprise zones.—

2434       (6)(a) The department may develop guidelines necessary for  
2435 the approval of areas under this section by the Secretary of  
2436 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

2437       Section 81. Section 290.00729, Florida Statutes, is  
2438 amended to read:

2439       290.00729 Enterprise zone designation for Charlotte  
2440 County.—Charlotte County may apply to the Department of Commerce  
2441 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for designation of one enterprise zone  
2442 encompassing an area not to exceed 20 square miles within  
2443 Charlotte County. Notwithstanding s. 290.0065 limiting the total  
2444 number of enterprise zones designated and the number of  
2445 enterprise zones within a population category, the department  
2446 may designate one enterprise zone under this section. The  
2447 department shall establish the initial effective date of the  
2448 enterprise zone designated under this section.

2449       Section 82. Subsection (3) of section 290.042, Florida  
2450 Statutes, is amended to read:

2451           290.042 Definitions relating to Florida Small Cities  
 2452 Community Development Block Grant Program Act.—As used in ss.  
 2453 290.0401-290.048, the term:

2454           (3) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2455 ~~Opportunity~~.

2456           Section 83. Subsection (4) of section 290.0455, Florida  
 2457 Statutes, is amended to read:

2458           290.0455 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant  
 2459 Loan Guarantee Program; Section 108 loan guarantees.—

2460           (4) An applicant approved by the United States Department  
 2461 of Housing and Urban Development to receive a Section 108 loan  
 2462 shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Commerce  
 2463 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which requires the applicant to pledge half  
 2464 of the amount necessary to guarantee the loan in the event of  
 2465 default.

2466           Section 84. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsection  
 2467 (4) of section 290.0491, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2468           290.0491 Florida Empowerment Zones.—

2469           (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

2470           (a) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2471 ~~Opportunity~~.

2472           (4) EMPOWERMENT ZONE PROGRAM.—There is created an economic  
 2473 development program to be known as the Florida Empowerment Zone  
 2474 Program. The program shall exist for 10 years and, except as  
 2475 otherwise provided by law, be operated by the Department of

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2476 Commerce Economic Opportunity in conjunction with the Federal  
 2477 Empowerment Zone Program.

2478 Section 85. Section 290.06561, Florida Statutes, is  
 2479 amended to read:

2480 290.06561 Designation of rural enterprise zone as catalyst  
 2481 site.—Notwithstanding s. 290.0065(1), the Department of Commerce  
 2482 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, upon request of the host county, shall  
 2483 designate as a rural enterprise zone any catalyst site as  
 2484 defined in s. 288.0656(2) (b) that was approved before January 1,  
 2485 2010, and that is not located in an existing rural enterprise  
 2486 zone. The request from the host county must include the legal  
 2487 description of the catalyst site and the name and contact  
 2488 information for the county development authority responsible for  
 2489 managing the catalyst site. The designation shall provide  
 2490 businesses locating within the catalyst site the same  
 2491 eligibility for economic incentives and other benefits of a  
 2492 rural enterprise zone designated under s. 290.0065. The  
 2493 reporting criteria for a catalyst site designated as a rural  
 2494 enterprise zone under this section are the same as for other  
 2495 rural enterprise zones. Host county development authorities may  
 2496 enter into memoranda of agreement, as necessary, to coordinate  
 2497 their efforts to implement this section.

2498 Section 86. Subsection (2) of section 311.07, Florida  
 2499 Statutes, is amended to read:

2500 311.07 Florida seaport transportation and economic

2501 development funding.—

2502 (2) A minimum of \$25 million per year shall be made  
 2503 available from the State Transportation Trust Fund to fund the  
 2504 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program.  
 2505 The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development  
 2506 Council created in s. 311.09 shall develop guidelines for  
 2507 project funding. Council staff, the Department of  
 2508 Transportation, and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2509 ~~Opportunity~~ shall work in cooperation to review projects and  
 2510 allocate funds in accordance with the schedule required for the  
 2511 Department of Transportation to include these projects in the  
 2512 tentative work program developed pursuant to s. 339.135(4).

2513 Section 87. Subsections (1), (3), (5), (7), (8), and (10)  
 2514 of section 311.09, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2515 311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
 2516 Development Council.—

2517 (1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
 2518 Development Council is created within the Department of  
 2519 Transportation. The council consists of the following 18  
 2520 members: the port director, or the port director's designee, of  
 2521 each of the ports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Port Citrus,  
 2522 Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee,  
 2523 St. Petersburg, Putnam County, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City,  
 2524 Pensacola, Key West, and Fernandina; the secretary of the  
 2525 Department of Transportation or his or her designee; and the

2526 secretary of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
 2527 his or her designee.

2528 (3) The council shall prepare a 5-year Florida Seaport  
 2529 Mission Plan defining the goals and objectives of the council  
 2530 concerning the development of port facilities and an intermodal  
 2531 transportation system consistent with the goals of the Florida  
 2532 Transportation Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.155. The  
 2533 Florida Seaport Mission Plan shall include specific  
 2534 recommendations for the construction of transportation  
 2535 facilities connecting any port to another transportation mode  
 2536 and for the efficient, cost-effective development of  
 2537 transportation facilities or port facilities for the purpose of  
 2538 enhancing trade, promoting cargo flow, increasing cruise  
 2539 passenger movements, increasing port revenues, and providing  
 2540 economic benefits to the state. The council shall develop a  
 2541 priority list of projects based on these recommendations  
 2542 annually and submit the list to the Department of  
 2543 Transportation. The council shall update the 5-year Florida  
 2544 Seaport Mission Plan annually and shall submit the plan no later  
 2545 than February 1 of each year to the President of the Senate, the  
 2546 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Department of  
 2547 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Department of  
 2548 Transportation. The council shall develop programs, based on an  
 2549 examination of existing programs in Florida and other states,  
 2550 for the training of minorities and secondary school students in

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2551 job skills associated with employment opportunities in the  
2552 maritime industry, and report on progress and recommendations  
2553 for further action to the President of the Senate and the  
2554 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually.

2555 (5) The council shall review and approve or disapprove  
2556 each project eligible to be funded pursuant to the Florida  
2557 Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program. The  
2558 council shall annually submit to the Secretary of Transportation  
2559 and the executive director of the Department of Commerce  
2560 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or his or her designee, a list of projects  
2561 which have been approved by the council. The list shall specify  
2562 the recommended funding level for each project; and, if staged  
2563 implementation of the project is appropriate, the funding  
2564 requirements for each stage shall be specified.

2565 (7) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
2566 review the list of project applications approved by the council  
2567 to evaluate the economic benefit of the project and to determine  
2568 whether the project is consistent with the Florida Seaport  
2569 Mission Plan and with state economic development goals and  
2570 policies. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
2571 review the proposed project's consistency with state, regional,  
2572 and local plans, as appropriate, and the economic benefits of  
2573 each project based upon the rules adopted pursuant to subsection  
2574 (4). The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
2575 identify those projects that it has determined do not offer an

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2576 economic benefit to the state, are not consistent with an  
2577 appropriate plan, or are not consistent with the Florida Seaport  
2578 Mission Plan or state economic development goals and policies  
2579 and shall notify the council of its findings.

2580 (8) The council shall review the findings of the  
2581 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Department  
2582 of Transportation. Projects found to be inconsistent pursuant to  
2583 subsection (6) or subsection (7) or projects that have been  
2584 determined not to offer an economic benefit to the state  
2585 pursuant to subsection (7) may not be included in the list of  
2586 projects to be funded.

2587 (10) The council shall meet at the call of its  
2588 chairperson, at the request of a majority of its membership, or  
2589 at such times as may be prescribed in its bylaws. However, the  
2590 council must meet at least semiannually. A majority of voting  
2591 members of the council constitutes a quorum for the purpose of  
2592 transacting the business of the council. All members of the  
2593 council are voting members. A vote of the majority of the voting  
2594 members present is sufficient for any action of the council,  
2595 except that a member representing the Department of  
2596 Transportation or the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
2597 ~~Opportunity~~ may vote to overrule any action of the council  
2598 approving a project pursuant to subsection (5). The bylaws of  
2599 the council may require a greater vote for a particular action.

2600 Section 88. Subsection (2) of section 311.10, Florida

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2601 Statutes, is amended to read:

2602 311.10 Strategic Port Investment Initiative.—

2603 (2) Prior to making final project allocations, the  
 2604 Department of Transportation shall schedule a publicly noticed  
 2605 workshop with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 2606 and the deepwater ports listed in s. 311.09 to review the  
 2607 proposed projects. After considering the comments received, the  
 2608 Department of Transportation shall finalize a prioritized list  
 2609 of potential projects.

2610 Section 89. Subsection (4) of section 311.101, Florida  
 2611 Statutes, is amended to read:

2612 311.101 Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support  
 2613 Program.—

2614 (4) The department shall coordinate and consult with the  
 2615 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in the selection of  
 2616 projects to be funded by this program.

2617 Section 90. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 2618 311.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2619 311.105 Florida Seaport Environmental Management  
 2620 Committee; permitting; mitigation.—

2621 (1)

2622 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:  
 2623 the Secretary of Environmental Protection, or his or her  
 2624 designee, as an ex officio, nonvoting member; a designee from  
 2625 the United States Army Corps of Engineers, as an ex officio,

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2626 nonvoting member; a designee from the Florida Inland Navigation  
2627 District, as an ex officio, nonvoting member; the Secretary of  
2628 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or his or her designee, as an ex  
2629 officio, nonvoting member; and five or more port directors, as  
2630 voting members, appointed to the committee by the council chair,  
2631 who shall also designate one such member as committee chair.

2632 Section 91. Section 311.11, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2633 to read:

2634 311.11 Seaport Employment Training Grant Program.—

2635 (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in  
2636 cooperation with the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
2637 Development Council, shall establish a Seaport Employment  
2638 Training Grant Program within the Department of Commerce  
2639 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
2640 ~~Opportunity~~ shall grant funds appropriated by the Legislature to  
2641 the program for the purpose of stimulating and supporting  
2642 seaport training and employment programs which will seek to  
2643 match state and local training programs with identified job  
2644 skills associated with employment opportunities in the port,  
2645 maritime, and transportation industries, and for the purpose of  
2646 providing such other training, educational, and information  
2647 services as required to stimulate jobs in the described  
2648 industries. Funds may be used for the purchase of equipment to  
2649 be used for training purposes, hiring instructors, and any other  
2650 purpose associated with the training program. The contribution

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2651 of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to any  
2652 specific training program may not exceed 50 percent of the total  
2653 cost of the program. Matching contributions may include services  
2654 in kind, including, but not limited to, training instructors,  
2655 equipment usage, and training facilities.

2656 (2) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
2657 adopt criteria to implement this section.

2658 Section 92. Subsection (2) of section 311.22, Florida  
2659 Statutes, is amended to read:

2660 311.22 Additional authorization for funding certain  
2661 dredging projects.—

2662 (2) The council shall adopt rules for evaluating the  
2663 projects that may be funded pursuant to this section. The rules  
2664 must provide criteria for evaluating the economic benefit of the  
2665 project. The rules must include the creation of an  
2666 administrative review process by the council which is similar to  
2667 the process described in s. 311.09(5)-(11), and provide for a  
2668 review by the Department of Transportation and the Department of  
2669 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of all projects submitted for  
2670 funding under this section.

2671 Section 93. Paragraph (b) of subsection (58) of section  
2672 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2673 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

2674 (58) PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS LICENSE PLATES.—

2675 (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the

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2676 Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., a citizen support  
2677 organization created pursuant to s. 379.223, which shall  
2678 administer the fees as follows:

2679 1. Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., shall retain the  
2680 first \$60,000 of the annual use fees as direct reimbursement for  
2681 administrative costs, startup costs, and costs incurred in the  
2682 development and approval process.

2683 2. Thereafter, a maximum of 10 percent of the fees may be  
2684 used for administrative costs directly associated with education  
2685 programs, conservation, springs research, and grant  
2686 administration of the foundation. A maximum of 15 percent of the  
2687 fees may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the  
2688 license plate.

2689 3. At least 55 percent of the fees shall be available for  
2690 competitive grants for targeted community-based springs research  
2691 not currently available for state funding. The remaining 20  
2692 percent shall be directed toward community outreach programs  
2693 aimed at implementing such research findings. The competitive  
2694 grants shall be administered and approved by the board of  
2695 directors of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. The granting  
2696 advisory committee shall be composed of nine members, including  
2697 one representative from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
2698 Commission, one representative from the Department of  
2699 Environmental Protection, one representative from the Department  
2700 of Health, one representative from the Department of Commerce

2701 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, three citizen representatives, and two  
 2702 representatives from nonprofit stakeholder groups.

2703 4. The remaining funds shall be distributed with the  
 2704 approval of and accountability to the board of directors of the  
 2705 Wildlife Foundation of Florida, and shall be used to support  
 2706 activities contributing to education, outreach, and springs  
 2707 conservation.

2708 Section 94. Paragraph (k) of subsection (4) of section  
 2709 322.142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2710 322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.—

2711 (4) The department may maintain a film negative or print  
 2712 file. The department shall maintain a record of the digital  
 2713 image and signature of the licensees, together with other data  
 2714 required by the department for identification and retrieval.  
 2715 Reproductions from the file or digital record are exempt from  
 2716 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and may be made and issued only:

2717 (k) To the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 2718 pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate the  
 2719 validation of reemployment assistance claims and the  
 2720 identification of fraudulent or false reemployment assistance  
 2721 claims;

2722 Section 95. Subsection (3) of section 327.803, Florida  
 2723 Statutes, is amended to read:

2724 327.803 Boating Advisory Council.—

2725 (3) The purpose of the council is to make recommendations

2726 to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the  
 2727 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ regarding issues  
 2728 affecting the boating community, including, but not limited to,  
 2729 issues related to:

- 2730 (a) Boating and diving safety education.
- 2731 (b) Boating-related facilities, including marinas and boat  
 2732 testing facilities.
- 2733 (c) Boat usage.
- 2734 (d) Boat access.
- 2735 (e) Working waterfronts.

2736 Section 96. Subsections (2), (3), (6), (13), and (15) of  
 2737 section 331.3051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2738 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida shall:

2739 (2) Enter into agreement with the Department of Education,  
 2740 the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce  
 2741 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and CareerSource Florida, Inc., for the  
 2742 purpose of implementing this act.

2743 (3) In cooperation with the Department of Commerce  
 2744 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, develop a plan to retain, expand, attract,  
 2745 and create aerospace industry entities, public or private, which  
 2746 results in the creation of high-value-added businesses and jobs  
 2747 in this state.

2748 (6) Develop, in cooperation with the Department of  
 2749 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, a plan to provide financing  
 2750 assistance to aerospace businesses. The plan may include the

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2751 following activities:

2752 (a) Assembling, publishing, and disseminating information  
2753 concerning financing opportunities and techniques for aerospace  
2754 projects, programs, and activities; sources of public and  
2755 private aerospace financing assistance; and sources of  
2756 aerospace-related financing.

2757 (b) Organizing, hosting, and participating in seminars and  
2758 other forums designed to disseminate information and technical  
2759 assistance regarding aerospace-related financing.

2760 (c) Coordinating with programs and goals of the Department  
2761 of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,  
2762 the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the International  
2763 Trade Administration of the United States Department of  
2764 Commerce, the Foreign Credit Insurance Association, and other  
2765 private and public programs and organizations, domestic and  
2766 foreign.

2767 (d) Establishing a network of contacts among those  
2768 domestic and foreign public and private organizations that  
2769 provide information, technical assistance, and financial support  
2770 to the aerospace industry.

2771 (e) Financing aerospace business development projects or  
2772 initiatives using funds provided by the Legislature.

2773 (13) Partner with the Division of Workforce Services of  
2774 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, CareerSource  
2775 Florida, Inc., and local workforce development boards to support

2776 initiatives that address the high technology skills and staff  
 2777 resources needed to better promote the state's efforts in  
 2778 becoming the nation's leader in aerospace and space exploration.

2779 (15) By October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, submit  
 2780 to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for inclusion  
 2781 in the annual report required under s. 20.60 a complete and  
 2782 detailed written report setting forth:

2783 (a) Its operations and accomplishments during the fiscal  
 2784 year.

2785 (b) Accomplishments and progress concerning the  
 2786 implementation of the spaceport master plan and other measurable  
 2787 goals, and any updates to such plan and measurable goals.

2788 (c) Any other information required by the Department of  
 2789 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

2790 Section 97. Subsection (6) of section 331.3081, Florida  
 2791 Statutes, is amended to read:

2792 331.3081 Board of directors.—

2793 (6) The board shall conduct education for newly appointed  
 2794 board members as provided by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2795 ~~Opportunity~~ in accordance with s. 189.063.

2796 Section 98. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
 2797 section 331.324, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2798 331.324 Contracts, grants, and contributions.—

2799 (2)

2800 (b) A final assessment report shall be submitted to the

2801 Space Florida board of directors and the Secretary of Commerce  
 2802 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her designee. Within 30 days  
 2803 after receipt of the final assessment report, the board shall  
 2804 submit to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ a  
 2805 written statement of explanation or rebuttal concerning findings  
 2806 requiring corrective action, including corrective action to be  
 2807 taken to preclude a recurrence.

2808 (c) Beginning October 1, 2023, and every 3 years  
 2809 thereafter, Space Florida shall complete a risk-based compliance  
 2810 assessment of all internal contracts executed by Space Florida  
 2811 for the preceding 3 fiscal years. The assessment must include  
 2812 steps to reasonably ensure that contracted service  
 2813 organizations' controls relevant to services provided are  
 2814 suitably designed and operating effectively. The assessment  
 2815 findings must be submitted to the board of directors, the  
 2816 Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her  
 2817 designee, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
 2818 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

2819 Section 99. Subsection (1) of section 332.115, Florida  
 2820 Statutes, is amended to read:

2821 332.115 Joint project agreement with port district for  
 2822 transportation corridor between airport and port facility.—

2823 (1) An eligible agency may acquire, construct, and operate  
 2824 all equipment, appurtenances, and land necessary to establish,  
 2825 maintain, and operate, or to license others to establish,

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2826 maintain, operate, or use, a transportation corridor connecting  
2827 an airport operated by such eligible agency with a port  
2828 facility, which corridor must be acquired, constructed, and used  
2829 for the transportation of persons between the airport and the  
2830 port facility, for the transportation of cargo, and for the  
2831 location and operation of lines for the transmission of water,  
2832 electricity, communications, information, petroleum products,  
2833 products of a public utility (including new technologies of a  
2834 public utility nature), and materials. However, any such  
2835 corridor may be established and operated only pursuant to a  
2836 joint project agreement between an eligible agency as defined in  
2837 s. 332.004 and a port district as defined in s. 315.02, and such  
2838 agreement must be approved by the Department of Transportation  
2839 and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. Before the  
2840 Department of Transportation approves the joint project  
2841 agreement, that department must review the public purpose and  
2842 necessity for the corridor pursuant to s. 337.273(5) and must  
2843 also determine that the proposed corridor is consistent with the  
2844 Florida Transportation Plan. Before the Department of Commerce  
2845 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ approves the joint project agreement, that  
2846 department must determine that the proposed corridor is  
2847 consistent with the applicable local government comprehensive  
2848 plans. An affected local government may provide its comments  
2849 regarding the consistency of the proposed corridor with its  
2850 comprehensive plan to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~

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2851 ~~Opportunity.~~

2852 Section 100. Subsection (3) of section 334.065, Florida  
 2853 Statutes, is amended to read:

2854 334.065 Center for Urban Transportation Research.—

2855 (3) An advisory board shall be created to periodically and  
 2856 objectively review and advise the center concerning its research  
 2857 program. Except for projects mandated by law, state-funded base  
 2858 projects shall not be undertaken without approval of the  
 2859 advisory board. The membership of the board shall consist of  
 2860 nine experts in transportation-related areas, including the  
 2861 secretaries of the Department of Transportation, the Department  
 2862 of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Commerce  
 2863 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or their designees, and a member of the  
 2864 Florida Transportation Commission. The nomination of the  
 2865 remaining members of the board shall be made to the President of  
 2866 the University of South Florida by the College of Engineering at  
 2867 the University of South Florida, and the appointment of these  
 2868 members must be reviewed and approved by the Florida  
 2869 Transportation Commission and confirmed by the Board of  
 2870 Governors.

2871 Section 101. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
 2872 334.066, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2873 334.066 Implementing Solutions from Transportation  
 2874 Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies Living Lab.—

2875 (3) An advisory board shall be created to periodically

2876 review and advise I-STREET concerning its research program. The  
 2877 board shall consist of nine members with expertise in  
 2878 transportation-related areas, as follows:

2879 (d) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his  
 2880 or her designee.

2881 Section 102. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section  
 2882 339.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2883 339.135 Work program; legislative budget request;  
 2884 definitions; preparation, adoption, execution, and amendment.—

2885 (4) FUNDING AND DEVELOPING A TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM.—

2886 (f) The central office shall submit a preliminary copy of  
 2887 the tentative work program to the Executive Office of the  
 2888 Governor, the legislative appropriations committees, the Florida  
 2889 Transportation Commission, and the Department of Commerce  
 2890 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ at least 14 days prior to the convening of  
 2891 the regular legislative session. Prior to the statewide public  
 2892 hearing required by paragraph (g), the Department of Commerce  
 2893 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall transmit to the Florida  
 2894 Transportation Commission a list of those projects and project  
 2895 phases contained in the tentative work program which are  
 2896 identified as being inconsistent with approved local government  
 2897 comprehensive plans. For urbanized areas of metropolitan  
 2898 planning organizations, the list may not contain any project or  
 2899 project phase that is scheduled in a transportation improvement  
 2900 program unless such inconsistency has been previously reported

2901 to the affected metropolitan planning organization.

2902 Section 103. Paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (8) of  
 2903 section 339.175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2904 339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

2905 (8) TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Each M.P.O. shall,  
 2906 in cooperation with the state and affected public transportation  
 2907 operators, develop a transportation improvement program for the  
 2908 area within the jurisdiction of the M.P.O. In the development of  
 2909 the transportation improvement program, each M.P.O. must provide  
 2910 the public, affected public agencies, representatives of  
 2911 transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of  
 2912 freight transportation services, private providers of  
 2913 transportation, representatives of users of public transit, and  
 2914 other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to  
 2915 comment on the proposed transportation improvement program.

2916 (f) The adopted annual transportation improvement program  
 2917 for M.P.O.'s in nonattainment or maintenance areas must be  
 2918 submitted to the district secretary and the Department of  
 2919 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ at least 90 days before the  
 2920 submission of the state transportation improvement program by  
 2921 the department to the appropriate federal agencies. The annual  
 2922 transportation improvement program for M.P.O.'s in attainment  
 2923 areas must be submitted to the district secretary and the  
 2924 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ at least 45 days  
 2925 before the department submits the state transportation

2926 | improvement program to the appropriate federal agencies;  
 2927 | however, the department, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2928 | ~~Opportunity~~, and a metropolitan planning organization may, in  
 2929 | writing, agree to vary this submittal date. The Governor or the  
 2930 | Governor's designee shall review and approve each transportation  
 2931 | improvement program and any amendments thereto.

2932 | (g) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 2933 | review the annual transportation improvement program of each  
 2934 | M.P.O. for consistency with the approved local government  
 2935 | comprehensive plans of the units of local government whose  
 2936 | boundaries are within the metropolitan area of each M.P.O. and  
 2937 | shall identify those projects that are inconsistent with such  
 2938 | comprehensive plans. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2939 | ~~Opportunity~~ shall notify an M.P.O. of any transportation  
 2940 | projects contained in its transportation improvement program  
 2941 | which are inconsistent with the approved local government  
 2942 | comprehensive plans of the units of local government whose  
 2943 | boundaries are within the metropolitan area of the M.P.O.

2944 | Section 104. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and  
 2945 | subsections (2) and (6) of section 339.2821, Florida Statutes,  
 2946 | are amended to read:

2947 | 339.2821 Economic development transportation projects.—

2948 | (1)

2949 | (b) As used in this section, the term:

2950 | 1. "Governmental body" means an instrumentality of the

2951 state or a county, municipality, district, authority, board, or  
 2952 commission, or an agency thereof, within which jurisdiction the  
 2953 transportation project is located and which is responsible to  
 2954 the department for the transportation project.

2955 2. "Transportation project" means a transportation  
 2956 facility, as defined in s. 334.03, which the department, in  
 2957 consultation with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 2958 ~~Opportunity~~, deems necessary to facilitate the economic  
 2959 development and growth of the state.

2960 (2) The department, in consultation with the Department of  
 2961 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, shall review each transportation  
 2962 project for approval and funding. In the review, the department  
 2963 must consider:

2964 (a) The cost per job created or retained considering the  
 2965 amount of transportation funds requested;

2966 (b) The average hourly rate of wages for jobs created;

2967 (c) The reliance on any program as an inducement for  
 2968 determining the transportation project's location;

2969 (d) The amount of capital investment to be made by a  
 2970 business;

2971 (e) The demonstrated local commitment;

2972 (f) The location of the transportation project in an  
 2973 enterprise zone as designated in s. 290.0055;

2974 (g) The location of the transportation project in a  
 2975 spaceport territory as defined in s. 331.304;

- 2976 (h) The unemployment rate of the surrounding area; and
- 2977 (i) The poverty rate of the community.

2978

2979 The department may contact any agency it deems appropriate for  
 2980 additional information regarding the approval of a  
 2981 transportation project. A transportation project must be  
 2982 approved by the department to be eligible for funding.

2983 (6) Each governmental body receiving funds under this  
 2984 section shall submit to the department a financial audit of the  
 2985 governmental body conducted by an independent certified public  
 2986 accountant. The department, in consultation with the Department  
 2987 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, shall develop procedures to  
 2988 ensure that audits are received and reviewed in a timely manner  
 2989 and that deficiencies or questioned costs noted in the audit are  
 2990 resolved.

2991 Section 105. Subsection (1) of section 342.201, Florida  
 2992 Statutes, is amended to read:

2993 342.201 Waterfronts Florida Program.—

2994 (1) There is established within the Department of Commerce  
 2995 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ the Waterfronts Florida Program to provide  
 2996 technical assistance and support to communities in revitalizing  
 2997 waterfront areas in this state.

2998 Section 106. Subsection (3) of section 369.303, Florida  
 2999 Statutes, is amended to read:

3000 369.303 Definitions.—As used in this part:

3001 (3) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3002 ~~Opportunity~~.

3003 Section 107. Subsection (1) of section 369.318, Florida  
 3004 Statutes, is amended to read:

3005 369.318 Studies.—

3006 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall study  
 3007 the efficacy and applicability of water quality and wastewater  
 3008 treatment standards needed to achieve nitrogen reductions  
 3009 protective of surface and groundwater quality within the Wekiva  
 3010 Study Area and report to the Governor and the Department of  
 3011 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The Department of Environmental  
 3012 Protection may adopt rules to implement the specific  
 3013 recommendations set forth in sections C.2. and C.4. of its  
 3014 report entitled "A Strategy for Water Quality Protection:  
 3015 Wastewater Treatment in the Wekiva Study Area," dated December  
 3016 2004, in order to achieve nitrogen reductions protective of  
 3017 surface and groundwater quality in the Wekiva Study Area and  
 3018 implement Recommendation 8 of the Wekiva River Basin  
 3019 Coordinating Committee's final report dated March 16, 2004. The  
 3020 rules shall provide an opportunity for relief from such specific  
 3021 recommendations upon affirmative demonstration by the permittee  
 3022 or permit applicant, based on water quality data, physical  
 3023 circumstances, or other credible information, that the discharge  
 3024 of treated wastewater is protective of surface water and  
 3025 groundwater quality with respect to nitrate nitrogen as set

3026 | forth in section C.1. of the referenced December 2004 report.

3027 |         Section 108. Subsections (5) and (7) of section 369.321,  
 3028 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3029 |         369.321 Comprehensive plan amendments.—Except as otherwise  
 3030 | expressly provided, by January 1, 2006, each local government  
 3031 | within the Wekiva Study Area shall amend its local government  
 3032 | comprehensive plan to include the following:

3033 |         (5) Comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments  
 3034 | adopted by the local governments to implement this section shall  
 3035 | be reviewed by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 3036 | pursuant to s. 163.3184.

3037 |         (7) During the period prior to the adoption of the  
 3038 | comprehensive plan amendments required by this act, any local  
 3039 | comprehensive plan amendment adopted by a city or county that  
 3040 | applies to land located within the Wekiva Study Area shall  
 3041 | protect surface and groundwater resources and be reviewed by the  
 3042 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ using best available  
 3043 | data, including the information presented to the Wekiva River  
 3044 | Basin Coordinating Committee.

3045 |         Section 109. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 369.322,  
 3046 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3047 |         369.322 Coordination of land use and water supply within  
 3048 | the Wekiva Study Area.—

3049 |         (1) In their review of local government comprehensive plan  
 3050 | amendments for property located within the Wekiva Study Area

3051 pursuant to s. 163.3184, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3052 ~~Opportunity~~ and the St. Johns River Water Management District  
 3053 shall assure that amendments that increase development potential  
 3054 demonstrate that adequate potable water consumptive use permit  
 3055 capacity is available.

3056 (3) In recognition of the need to balance resource  
 3057 protection, existing infrastructure and improvements planned or  
 3058 committed as part of approved development, consistent with  
 3059 existing municipal or county comprehensive plans and economic  
 3060 development opportunities, planned community development  
 3061 initiatives that assure protection of surface and groundwater  
 3062 resources while promoting compact, ecologically and economically  
 3063 sustainable growth should be encouraged. Small area studies,  
 3064 sector plans, or similar planning tools should support these  
 3065 community development initiatives. In addition, the Department  
 3066 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may make available best  
 3067 practice guides that demonstrate how to balance resource  
 3068 protection and economic development opportunities.

3069 Section 110. Section 369.323, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3070 to read:

3071 369.323 Compliance.—Comprehensive plans and plan  
 3072 amendments adopted by the local governments within the Wekiva  
 3073 Study Area to implement this act shall be reviewed for  
 3074 compliance by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

3075 Section 111. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 369.324,

3076 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
 3077       369.324 Wekiva River Basin Commission.—  
 3078       (1) The Wekiva River Basin Commission is created to  
 3079 monitor and ensure the implementation of the recommendations of  
 3080 the Wekiva River Basin Coordinating Committee for the Wekiva  
 3081 Study Area. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
 3082 shall provide staff support to the commission with funding  
 3083 assistance from the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.  
 3084 The commission shall be comprised of a total of 18 members  
 3085 appointed by the Governor, 9 of whom shall be voting members and  
 3086 9 shall be ad hoc nonvoting members. The voting members shall  
 3087 include:  
 3088       (a) One member of each of the Boards of County  
 3089 Commissioners for Lake, Orange, and Seminole Counties.  
 3090       (b) One municipal elected official to serve as a  
 3091 representative of the municipalities located within the Wekiva  
 3092 Study Area of Lake County.  
 3093       (c) One municipal elected official to serve as a  
 3094 representative of the municipalities located within the Wekiva  
 3095 Study Area of Orange County.  
 3096       (d) One municipal elected official to serve as a  
 3097 representative of the municipalities located within the Wekiva  
 3098 Study Area of Seminole County.  
 3099       (e) One citizen representing an environmental or  
 3100 conservation organization, one citizen representing a local

3101 property owner, a land developer, or an agricultural entity, and  
 3102 one at-large citizen who shall serve as chair of the council.

3103 (f) The ad hoc nonvoting members shall include one  
 3104 representative from each of the following entities:

- 3105 1. St. Johns River Management District.
- 3106 2. Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.
- 3107 3. Department of Environmental Protection.
- 3108 4. Department of Health.
- 3109 5. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 3110 6. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 3111 7. Department of Transportation.
- 3112 8. MetroPlan Orlando.
- 3113 9. Central Florida Expressway Authority.

3114 (5) The commission shall report annually, no later than  
 3115 December 31 of each year, to the Governor, the President of the  
 3116 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
 3117 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ on implementation  
 3118 progress.

3119 Section 112. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
 3120 373.199, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3121 373.199 Florida Forever Water Management District Work  
 3122 Plan.—

3123 (3) In developing the list, each water management district  
 3124 shall:

- 3125 (b) Work cooperatively with the applicable ecosystem

3126 management area teams and other citizen advisory groups, the  
 3127 Department of Environmental Protection and its district offices,  
 3128 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Fish  
 3129 and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Commerce  
 3130 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Transportation, other  
 3131 state agencies, and federal agencies, where applicable.

3132 Section 113. Subsection (5) of section 373.4149, Florida  
 3133 Statutes, is amended to read:

3134 373.4149 Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan.—

3135 (5) The secretary of the Department of Environmental  
 3136 Protection, the secretary of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3137 ~~Opportunity~~, the secretary of the Department of Transportation,  
 3138 the Commissioner of Agriculture, the executive director of the  
 3139 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the executive  
 3140 director of the South Florida Water Management District may  
 3141 enter into agreements with landowners, developers, businesses,  
 3142 industries, individuals, and governmental agencies as necessary  
 3143 to effectuate the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan and the  
 3144 provisions of this section.

3145 Section 114. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 3146 373.453, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3147 373.453 Surface water improvement and management plans and  
 3148 programs.—

3149 (1) (a) Each water management district, in cooperation with  
 3150 the department, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

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3151 Services, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the  
3152 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, local governments,  
3153 and others, shall maintain a list that prioritizes water bodies  
3154 of regional or statewide significance within the water  
3155 management district. The list shall be reviewed and updated  
3156 every 5 years.

3157 Section 115. Paragraph (f) of subsection (5) of section  
3158 373.461, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3159 373.461 Lake Apopka improvement and management.—

3160 (5) PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.—

3161 (f)1. Tangible personal property acquired by the district  
3162 as part of related facilities pursuant to this section, and  
3163 classified as surplus by the district, shall be sold by the  
3164 Department of Management Services. The Department of Management  
3165 Services shall deposit the proceeds of such sale in the Economic  
3166 Development Trust Fund in the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
3167 ~~Opportunity~~. The proceeds shall be used for the purpose of  
3168 providing economic and infrastructure development in portions of  
3169 northwestern Orange County and east central Lake County which  
3170 will be adversely affected economically due to the acquisition  
3171 of lands pursuant to this subsection.

3172 2. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall,  
3173 upon presentation of the appropriate documentation justifying  
3174 expenditure of the funds deposited pursuant to this paragraph,  
3175 pay any obligation for which it has sufficient funds from the

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3176 proceeds of the sale of tangible personal property and which  
3177 meets the limitations specified in paragraph (g). The authority  
3178 of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to expend  
3179 such funds shall expire 5 years from the effective date of this  
3180 paragraph. Such expenditures may occur without future  
3181 appropriation from the Legislature.

3182 3. Funds deposited under this paragraph may not be used  
3183 for any purpose other than those enumerated in paragraph (g).

3184 Section 116. Subsection (1) of section 375.021, Florida  
3185 Statutes, is amended to read:

3186 375.021 Comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation  
3187 plan.—

3188 (1) The department is given the responsibility, authority,  
3189 and power to develop and execute a comprehensive multipurpose  
3190 outdoor recreation plan for this state with the cooperation of  
3191 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the  
3192 Department of Transportation, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
3193 Commission, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and  
3194 the water management districts.

3195 Section 117. Subsection (1), paragraph (c) of subsection  
3196 (2), subsection (3), and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection  
3197 (4) of section 377.809, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3198 377.809 Energy Economic Zone Pilot Program.—

3199 (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in  
3200 consultation with the Department of Transportation, shall

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3201 implement an Energy Economic Zone Pilot Program for the purpose  
3202 of developing a model to help communities cultivate green  
3203 economic development, encourage renewable electric energy  
3204 generation, manufacture products that contribute to energy  
3205 conservation and green jobs, and further implement chapter 2008-  
3206 191, Laws of Florida, relative to discouraging sprawl and  
3207 developing energy-efficient land use patterns and greenhouse gas  
3208 reduction strategies. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
3209 Services shall provide technical assistance to the departments  
3210 in developing and administering the program.

3211 (2)

3212 (c) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
3213 grant at least one application if the application meets the  
3214 requirements of this subsection and the community has  
3215 demonstrated a prior commitment to energy conservation, carbon  
3216 reduction, green building, and economic development. The  
3217 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall provide the  
3218 pilot community, including businesses within the energy economic  
3219 zone, with technical assistance in identifying and qualifying  
3220 for eligible grants and credits in job creation, energy, and  
3221 other areas.

3222 (3) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
3223 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
3224 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 15,  
3225 2015, evaluating whether the pilot program has demonstrated

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3226 success. The report shall contain recommendations with regard to  
3227 whether the program should be expanded for use by other local  
3228 governments and whether state policies should be revised to  
3229 encourage the goals of the program.

3230 (4)

3231 (c) Upon approving an incentive for an eligible business,  
3232 the governing body that has jurisdiction over the energy  
3233 economic zone shall provide the taxpayer with a certificate  
3234 indicating the name and federal identification number of the  
3235 eligible business, the date the incentive is provided, the name  
3236 of the energy economic zone, the incentive type, and the  
3237 incentive amount. The local governing body shall certify to the  
3238 Department of Revenue or the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
3239 ~~Opportunity~~, whichever is applicable, which businesses or  
3240 properties are eligible to receive any or all of the state  
3241 incentives according to their statutory requirements. The  
3242 governing body that has jurisdiction over the energy economic  
3243 zone shall provide a copy of the certificate to the Department  
3244 of Revenue and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
3245 as notification that such incentives were approved for the  
3246 specific eligible business or property. For incentives to be  
3247 claimed against the sales and use tax under chapter 212, the  
3248 Department of Revenue shall send, within 14 days after receipt,  
3249 written instructions to an eligible business on how to claim the  
3250 credit on a sales and use tax return initiated through an

3251 | electronic data interchange. Any credit against the sales and  
 3252 | use tax shall be deducted from any sales and use tax remitted by  
 3253 | the dealer to the Department of Revenue by electronic funds  
 3254 | transfer and may be deducted only on a sales and use tax return  
 3255 | initiated through an electronic data interchange. The dealer  
 3256 | shall separately state the credit on the electronic return. The  
 3257 | net amount of tax due and payable must be remitted by electronic  
 3258 | funds transfer. If the credit exceeds the amount owed on the  
 3259 | sales and use tax return, such excess amount may be carried  
 3260 | forward for a period not to exceed 12 months after the date that  
 3261 | the credit is initially claimed.

3262 |         (d) If all conditions are deemed met, the Department of  
 3263 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Department of Revenue may  
 3264 | adopt emergency rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to  
 3265 | administer this subsection. The emergency rules shall remain in  
 3266 | effect for 6 months after the rules are adopted, and the rules  
 3267 | may be renewed while the procedures to adopt permanent rules  
 3268 | addressing the subject of the emergency rules are pending.

3269 |         Section 118. Subsection (3) of section 378.411, Florida  
 3270 | Statutes, is amended to read:

3271 |         378.411 Certification to receive notices of intent to  
 3272 | mine, to review, and to inspect for compliance.—

3273 |         (3) In making his or her determination, the secretary  
 3274 | shall consult with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3275 | ~~Opportunity~~, the appropriate regional planning council, and the

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3276 appropriate water management district.

3277 Section 119. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
3278 379.2291, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3279 379.2291 Endangered and Threatened Species Act.—

3280 (4) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

3281 (c) The commission, in consultation with the Department of  
3282 Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Commerce  
3283 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or the Department of Transportation, may  
3284 establish reduced speed zones along roads, streets, and highways  
3285 to protect endangered species or threatened species.

3286 Section 120. Subsection (18) of section 380.031, Florida  
3287 Statutes, is amended to read:

3288 380.031 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

3289 (18) "State land planning agency" means the Department of  
3290 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and may be referred to in this  
3291 part as the "department."

3292 Section 121. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
3293 380.093, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3294 380.093 Resilient Florida Grant Program; comprehensive  
3295 statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and  
3296 assessment; Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience  
3297 Plan; regional resilience entities.—

3298 (3) RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANT PROGRAM.—

3299 (d) A vulnerability assessment conducted pursuant to  
3300 paragraph (b) must include all of the following:

3301           1. Peril of flood comprehensive plan amendments that  
 3302 address the requirements of s. 163.3178(2)(f), if the county or  
 3303 municipality is subject to such requirements and has not  
 3304 complied with such requirements as determined by the Department  
 3305 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

3306           2. If applicable, the depth of:

3307           a. Tidal flooding, including future high tide flooding,  
 3308 which must use thresholds published and provided by the  
 3309 department. To the extent practicable, the analysis should also  
 3310 geographically display the number of tidal flood days expected  
 3311 for each scenario and planning horizon.

3312           b. Current and future storm surge flooding using publicly  
 3313 available National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or  
 3314 Federal Emergency Management Agency storm surge data. The  
 3315 initial storm surge event used must equal or exceed the current  
 3316 100-year flood event. Higher frequency storm events may be  
 3317 analyzed to understand the exposure of a critical asset.

3318           c. To the extent practicable, rainfall-induced flooding  
 3319 using spatiotemporal analysis or existing hydrologic and  
 3320 hydraulic modeling results. Future boundary conditions should be  
 3321 modified to consider sea level rise and high tide conditions.  
 3322 Vulnerability assessments for rainfall-induced flooding must  
 3323 include the depth of rainfall-induced flooding for a 100-year  
 3324 storm and a 500-year storm, as defined by the applicable water  
 3325 management district or, if necessary, the appropriate federal

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3326 agency. Future rainfall conditions should be used, if available.  
3327 Noncoastal communities must perform a rainfall-induced flooding  
3328 assessment.

3329 d. To the extent practicable, compound flooding or the  
3330 combination of tidal, storm surge, and rainfall-induced  
3331 flooding.

3332 3. The following scenarios and standards:

3333 a. All analyses in the North American Vertical Datum of  
3334 1988.

3335 b. At least two local sea level rise scenarios, which must  
3336 include the 2017 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
3337 intermediate-low and intermediate-high sea level rise  
3338 projections.

3339 c. At least two planning horizons that include planning  
3340 horizons for the years 2040 and 2070.

3341 d. Local sea level data that has been interpolated between  
3342 the two closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
3343 tide gauges. Local sea level data may be taken from one such  
3344 gauge if the gauge has a higher mean sea level. Data taken from  
3345 an alternate tide gauge may be used with appropriate rationale  
3346 and department approval, as long as it is publicly available or  
3347 submitted to the department pursuant to paragraph (b).

3348 Section 122. Subsection (6) of section 381.0086, Florida  
3349 Statutes, is amended to read:

3350 381.0086 Rules; variances; penalties.—

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3351 (6) For the purposes of filing an interstate clearance  
3352 order with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, if  
3353 the housing is covered by 20 C.F.R. part 654, subpart E, no  
3354 permanent structural variance referred to in subsection (2) is  
3355 allowed.

3356 Section 123. Subsection (6) of section 397.754, Florida  
3357 Statutes, is amended to read:

3358 397.754 Duties and responsibilities of the Department of  
3359 Corrections.—The Department of Corrections shall:

3360 (6) In cooperation with other agencies, actively seek to  
3361 enhance resources for the provision of treatment services for  
3362 inmates and to develop partnerships with other state agencies,  
3363 including but not limited to the Departments of Children and  
3364 Families, Education, Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and Law  
3365 Enforcement.

3366 Section 124. Subsection (5) of section 403.0752, Florida  
3367 Statutes, is amended to read:

3368 403.0752 Ecosystem management agreements.—

3369 (5) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the  
3370 Secretary of Transportation, the Commissioner of Agriculture,  
3371 the Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
3372 Commission, and the executive directors of the water management  
3373 districts are authorized to participate in the development of  
3374 ecosystem management agreements with regulated entities and  
3375 other governmental agencies as necessary to effectuate the

3376 provisions of this section. Local governments are encouraged to  
 3377 participate in ecosystem management agreements.

3378 Section 125. Subsection (6) of section 403.0891, Florida  
 3379 Statutes, is amended to read:

3380 403.0891 State, regional, and local stormwater management  
 3381 plans and programs.—The department, the water management  
 3382 districts, and local governments shall have the responsibility  
 3383 for the development of mutually compatible stormwater management  
 3384 programs.

3385 (6) The department and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3386 ~~Opportunity~~, in cooperation with local governments in the  
 3387 coastal zone, shall develop a model stormwater management  
 3388 program that could be adopted by local governments. The model  
 3389 program must contain model ordinances that target nutrient  
 3390 reduction practices and use green infrastructure. The model  
 3391 program shall contain dedicated funding options, including a  
 3392 stormwater utility fee system based upon an equitable unit cost  
 3393 approach. Funding options shall be designed to generate capital  
 3394 to retrofit existing stormwater management systems, build new  
 3395 treatment systems, operate facilities, and maintain and service  
 3396 debt.

3397 Section 126. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 3398 403.507, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3399 403.507 Preliminary statements of issues, reports, project  
 3400 analyses, and studies.—

3401 (2) (a) No later than 100 days after the certification  
 3402 application has been determined complete, the following agencies  
 3403 shall prepare reports as provided below and shall submit them to  
 3404 the department and the applicant, unless a final order denying  
 3405 the determination of need has been issued under s. 403.519:

3406 1. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 3407 prepare a report containing recommendations which address the  
 3408 impact upon the public of the proposed electrical power plant,  
 3409 based on the degree to which the electrical power plant is  
 3410 consistent with the applicable portions of the state  
 3411 comprehensive plan, emergency management, and other such matters  
 3412 within its jurisdiction. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3413 ~~Opportunity~~ may also comment on the consistency of the proposed  
 3414 electrical power plant with applicable strategic regional policy  
 3415 plans or local comprehensive plans and land development  
 3416 regulations.

3417 2. The water management district shall prepare a report as  
 3418 to matters within its jurisdiction, including but not limited  
 3419 to, the impact of the proposed electrical power plant on water  
 3420 resources, regional water supply planning, and district-owned  
 3421 lands and works.

3422 3. Each local government in whose jurisdiction the  
 3423 proposed electrical power plant is to be located shall prepare a  
 3424 report as to the consistency of the proposed electrical power  
 3425 plant with all applicable local ordinances, regulations,

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3426 standards, or criteria that apply to the proposed electrical  
 3427 power plant, including any applicable local environmental  
 3428 regulations adopted pursuant to s. 403.182 or by other means.

3429 4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
 3430 prepare a report as to matters within its jurisdiction.

3431 5. The Department of Transportation shall address the  
 3432 impact of the proposed electrical power plant on matters within  
 3433 its jurisdiction.

3434 Section 127. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 3435 403.508, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3436 403.508 Land use and certification hearings, parties,  
 3437 participants.—

3438 (3)(a) Parties to the proceeding shall include:

- 3439 1. The applicant.
- 3440 2. The Public Service Commission.
- 3441 3. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.
- 3442 4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 3443 5. The water management district.
- 3444 6. The department.
- 3445 7. The local government.
- 3446 8. The Department of Transportation.

3447 Section 128. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 3448 403.524, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3449 403.524 Applicability; certification; exemptions.—

3450 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1), construction of

3451 a transmission line may not be undertaken without first  
 3452 obtaining certification under this act, but this act does not  
 3453 apply to:

3454 (b) Transmission lines that have been exempted by a  
 3455 binding letter of interpretation issued under s. 380.06(3), or  
 3456 in which the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
 3457 predecessor agency has determined the utility to have vested  
 3458 development rights within the meaning of s. 380.05(18) or s.  
 3459 380.06(8).

3460 Section 129. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 3461 403.526, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3462 403.526 Preliminary statements of issues, reports, and  
 3463 project analyses; studies.—

3464 (2)(a) No later than 90 days after the filing of the  
 3465 application, the following agencies shall prepare reports as  
 3466 provided below, unless a final order denying the determination  
 3467 of need has been issued under s. 403.537:

3468 1. The department shall prepare a report as to the impact  
 3469 of each proposed transmission line or corridor as it relates to  
 3470 matters within its jurisdiction.

3471 2. Each water management district in the jurisdiction of  
 3472 which a proposed transmission line or corridor is to be located  
 3473 shall prepare a report as to the impact on water resources and  
 3474 other matters within its jurisdiction.

3475 3. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall

3476 | prepare a report containing recommendations which address the  
 3477 | impact upon the public of the proposed transmission line or  
 3478 | corridor, based on the degree to which the proposed transmission  
 3479 | line or corridor is consistent with the applicable portions of  
 3480 | the state comprehensive plan, emergency management, and other  
 3481 | matters within its jurisdiction. The Department of Commerce  
 3482 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may also comment on the consistency of the  
 3483 | proposed transmission line or corridor with applicable strategic  
 3484 | regional policy plans or local comprehensive plans and land  
 3485 | development regulations.

3486 |         4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
 3487 | prepare a report as to the impact of each proposed transmission  
 3488 | line or corridor on fish and wildlife resources and other  
 3489 | matters within its jurisdiction.

3490 |         5. Each local government shall prepare a report as to the  
 3491 | impact of each proposed transmission line or corridor on matters  
 3492 | within its jurisdiction, including the consistency of the  
 3493 | proposed transmission line or corridor with all applicable local  
 3494 | ordinances, regulations, standards, or criteria that apply to  
 3495 | the proposed transmission line or corridor, including local  
 3496 | comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, land development  
 3497 | regulations, and any applicable local environmental regulations  
 3498 | adopted pursuant to s. 403.182 or by other means. A change by  
 3499 | the responsible local government or local agency in local  
 3500 | comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, or other regulations

3501 made after the date required for the filing of the local  
 3502 government's report required by this section is not applicable  
 3503 to the certification of the proposed transmission line or  
 3504 corridor unless the certification is denied or the application  
 3505 is withdrawn.

3506 6. The Department of Transportation shall prepare a report  
 3507 as to the impact of the proposed transmission line or corridor  
 3508 on state roads, railroads, airports, aeronautics, seaports, and  
 3509 other matters within its jurisdiction.

3510 7. The commission shall prepare a report containing its  
 3511 determination under s. 403.537, and the report may include the  
 3512 comments from the commission with respect to any other subject  
 3513 within its jurisdiction.

3514 8. Any other agency, if requested by the department, shall  
 3515 also perform studies or prepare reports as to subjects within  
 3516 the jurisdiction of the agency which may potentially be affected  
 3517 by the proposed transmission line.

3518 Section 130. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 3519 403.527, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3520 403.527 Certification hearing, parties, participants.—

3521 (2)(a) Parties to the proceeding shall be:

- 3522 1. The applicant.
- 3523 2. The department.
- 3524 3. The commission.
- 3525 4. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

- 3526 | 5. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 3527 | 6. The Department of Transportation.
- 3528 | 7. Each water management district in the jurisdiction of
- 3529 | which the proposed transmission line or corridor is to be
- 3530 | located.
- 3531 | 8. The local government.

3532 | Section 131. Subsection (1) of section 403.757, Florida  
 3533 | Statutes, is amended to read:

3534 | 403.757 Coordination with other state agencies.—

3535 | (1) The department shall coordinate its activities and  
 3536 | functions under ss. 403.75-403.769 and s. 526.01, as amended by  
 3537 | chapter 84-338, Laws of Florida, with the Department of Commerce  
 3538 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and other state agencies to avoid  
 3539 | duplication in reporting and information gathering.

3540 | Section 132. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 3541 | 403.941, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3542 | 403.941 Preliminary statements of issues, reports, and  
 3543 | studies.—

3544 | (2)(a) The affected agencies shall prepare reports as  
 3545 | provided in this paragraph and shall submit them to the  
 3546 | department and the applicant within 60 days after the  
 3547 | application is determined sufficient:

3548 | 1. The department shall prepare a report as to the impact  
 3549 | of each proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor  
 3550 | as it relates to matters within its jurisdiction.

3551           2. Each water management district in the jurisdiction of  
3552 which a proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor  
3553 is to be located shall prepare a report as to the impact on  
3554 water resources and other matters within its jurisdiction.

3555           3. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
3556 prepare a report containing recommendations which address the  
3557 impact upon the public of the proposed natural gas transmission  
3558 pipeline or corridor, based on the degree to which the proposed  
3559 natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor is consistent with  
3560 the applicable portions of the state comprehensive plan and  
3561 other matters within its jurisdiction. The Department of  
3562 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may also comment on the  
3563 consistency of the proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or  
3564 corridor with applicable strategic regional policy plans or  
3565 local comprehensive plans and land development regulations.

3566           4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
3567 prepare a report as to the impact of each proposed natural gas  
3568 transmission pipeline or corridor on fish and wildlife resources  
3569 and other matters within its jurisdiction.

3570           5. Each local government in which the natural gas  
3571 transmission pipeline or natural gas transmission pipeline  
3572 corridor will be located shall prepare a report as to the impact  
3573 of each proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor  
3574 on matters within its jurisdiction, including the consistency of  
3575 the proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor with

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3576 all applicable local ordinances, regulations, standards, or  
3577 criteria that apply to the proposed natural gas transmission  
3578 pipeline or corridor, including local comprehensive plans,  
3579 zoning regulations, land development regulations, and any  
3580 applicable local environmental regulations adopted pursuant to  
3581 s. 403.182 or by other means. No change by the responsible local  
3582 government or local agency in local comprehensive plans, zoning  
3583 ordinances, or other regulations made after the date required  
3584 for the filing of the local government's report required by this  
3585 section shall be applicable to the certification of the proposed  
3586 natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor unless the  
3587 certification is denied or the application is withdrawn.

3588 6. The Department of Transportation shall prepare a report  
3589 on the effect of the natural gas transmission pipeline or  
3590 natural gas transmission pipeline corridor on matters within its  
3591 jurisdiction, including roadway crossings by the pipeline. The  
3592 report shall contain at a minimum:

3593 a. A report by the applicant to the department stating  
3594 that all requirements of the department's utilities  
3595 accommodation guide have been or will be met in regard to the  
3596 proposed pipeline or pipeline corridor; and

3597 b. A statement by the department as to the adequacy of the  
3598 report to the department by the applicant.

3599 7. The Department of State, Division of Historical  
3600 Resources, shall prepare a report on the impact of the natural

3601 gas transmission pipeline or natural gas transmission pipeline  
 3602 corridor on matters within its jurisdiction.

3603 8. The commission shall prepare a report addressing  
 3604 matters within its jurisdiction. The commission's report shall  
 3605 include its determination of need issued pursuant to s.  
 3606 403.9422.

3607 Section 133. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
 3608 403.9411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3609 403.9411 Notice; proceedings; parties and participants.—

3610 (4)(a) Parties to the proceeding shall be:

- 3611 1. The applicant.
- 3612 2. The department.
- 3613 3. The commission.
- 3614 4. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.
- 3615 5. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 3616 6. Each water management district in the jurisdiction of  
 3617 which the proposed natural gas transmission pipeline or corridor  
 3618 is to be located.
- 3619 7. The local government.
- 3620 8. The Department of Transportation.
- 3621 9. The Department of State, Division of Historical  
 3622 Resources.

3623 Section 134. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (3) and  
 3624 subsection (17) of section 403.973, Florida Statutes, are  
 3625 amended to read:

3626 403.973 Expedited permitting; amendments to comprehensive  
 3627 plans.—

3628 (3)

3629 (b) On a case-by-case basis and at the request of a county  
 3630 or municipal government, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3631 ~~Opportunity~~ may certify as eligible for expedited review a  
 3632 project not meeting the minimum job creation thresholds but  
 3633 creating a minimum of 10 jobs. The recommendation from the  
 3634 governing body of the county or municipality in which the  
 3635 project may be located is required in order for the Department  
 3636 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to certify that any project is  
 3637 eligible for expedited review under this paragraph. When  
 3638 considering projects that do not meet the minimum job creation  
 3639 thresholds but that are recommended by the governing body in  
 3640 which the project may be located, the Department of Commerce  
 3641 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall consider economic impact factors that  
 3642 include, but are not limited to:

3643 1. The proposed wage and skill levels relative to those  
 3644 existing in the area in which the project may be located;

3645 2. The project's potential to diversify and strengthen the  
 3646 area's economy;

3647 3. The amount of capital investment; and

3648 4. The number of jobs that will be made available for  
 3649 persons served by the welfare transition program.

3650 (c) At the request of a county or municipal government,

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3651 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or a Quick  
3652 Permitting County may certify projects located in counties where  
3653 the ratio of new jobs per participant in the welfare transition  
3654 program, as determined by CareerSource Florida, Inc., is less  
3655 than one or otherwise critical, as eligible for the expedited  
3656 permitting process. Such projects must meet the numerical  
3657 criteria for job creation specified in this subsection, but the  
3658 jobs created by the project do not have to be high-wage jobs  
3659 that diversify the state's economy.

3660 (17) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
3661 working with the Rural Economic Development Initiative, shall  
3662 provide technical assistance in preparing permit applications  
3663 and local comprehensive plan amendments for counties having a  
3664 population of fewer than 75,000 residents, or counties having  
3665 fewer than 125,000 residents which are contiguous to counties  
3666 having fewer than 75,000 residents. Additional assistance may  
3667 include, but not be limited to, guidance in land development  
3668 regulations and permitting processes, working cooperatively with  
3669 state, regional, and local entities to identify areas within  
3670 these counties which may be suitable or adaptable for  
3671 preclearance review of specified types of land uses and other  
3672 activities requiring permits.

3673 Section 135. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section  
3674 404.0617, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3675 404.0617 Siting of commercial low-level radioactive waste

3676 management facilities.—

3677 (4) The Governor and Cabinet shall consider the following  
 3678 when determining whether to grant a petition for a variance from  
 3679 local ordinances, regulations, or plans:

3680 (d) Such studies, reports, and information as the Governor  
 3681 and Cabinet may request of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3682 ~~Opportunity~~ addressing whether or not the proposed facility  
 3683 unreasonably interferes with the achievement of the goals and  
 3684 objectives of any adopted state or local comprehensive plan and  
 3685 any other matter within its jurisdiction.

3686 Section 136. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section  
 3687 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3688 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

3689 (7) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The  
 3690 secretary shall establish the Independent Living Services  
 3691 Advisory Council for the purpose of reviewing and making  
 3692 recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of  
 3693 s. 39.6251 and the Road-to-Independence Program.

3694 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by  
 3695 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory  
 3696 council must include, at a minimum, young adults who receive  
 3697 services and funding through the Road-to-Independence Program,  
 3698 representatives from the headquarters and regional offices of  
 3699 the department, community-based care lead agencies, the  
 3700 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Commerce

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3701 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Education, the Agency  
3702 for Health Care Administration, the State Youth Advisory Board,  
3703 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem  
3704 Office, foster parents, and advocates for children in care. The  
3705 secretary shall determine the length of the term to be served by  
3706 each member appointed to the advisory council, which may not  
3707 exceed 4 years.

3708 Section 137. Subsection (8) of section 409.2576, Florida  
3709 Statutes, is amended to read:

3710 409.2576 State Directory of New Hires.—

3711 (8) PROVIDING INFORMATION TO NATIONAL DIRECTORY.—The State  
3712 Directory of New Hires must furnish information regarding newly  
3713 hired or rehired employees and other individuals subject to  
3714 reporting to the National Directory of New Hires for matching  
3715 with the records of other state case registries within 3  
3716 business days of entering such information into the State  
3717 Directory of New Hires. The State Directory of New Hires shall  
3718 enter into an agreement with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
3719 ~~Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider for the  
3720 quarterly reporting to the National Directory of New Hires  
3721 information on wages and reemployment assistance taken from the  
3722 quarterly report to the Secretary of Labor, now required by  
3723 Title III of the Social Security Act, except that no report  
3724 shall be filed with respect to an employee of a state or local  
3725 agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions,

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3726 | if the head of such agency has determined that filing such a  
3727 | report could endanger the safety of the employee or compromise  
3728 | an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

3729 |       Section 138. Section 409.25996, Florida Statutes, is  
3730 | amended to read:

3731 |       409.25996 Organizations that assist noncustodial parents.—  
3732 | The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall award  
3733 | grants to organizations that assist noncustodial parents who are  
3734 | unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child  
3735 | support obligations to become self-sufficient and establish a  
3736 | successful pattern of paying child support obligations.

3737 |       Section 139. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
3738 | 409.508, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3739 |       409.508 Low-income home energy assistance program.—

3740 |       (2) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ is  
3741 | designated as the state agency to administer the Low-income Home  
3742 | Energy Assistance Act of 1981, 42 U.S.C. ss. 8621 et seq. The  
3743 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ is authorized to  
3744 | provide home energy assistance benefits to eligible households  
3745 | which may be in the form of cash, vouchers, certificates, or  
3746 | direct payments to electric or natural gas utilities or other  
3747 | energy suppliers and operators of low-rent, subsidized housing  
3748 | in behalf of eligible households. Priority shall be given to  
3749 | eligible households having at least one elderly or handicapped  
3750 | individual and to eligible households with the lowest incomes.

3751 (3) Agreements may be established between electric or  
 3752 natural gas utility companies, other energy suppliers, the  
 3753 Department of Revenue, and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3754 ~~Opportunity~~ for the purpose of providing payments to energy  
 3755 suppliers in the form of a credit against sales and use taxes  
 3756 due or direct payments to energy suppliers for services rendered  
 3757 to low-income, eligible households.

3758 (4) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 3759 adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this act.

3760 Section 140. Subsection (2) of section 409.509, Florida  
 3761 Statutes, is amended to read:

3762 409.509 Definitions; weatherization of low-income  
 3763 residences.—As used in this act, the term:

3764 (2) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3765 ~~Opportunity~~.

3766 Section 141. Subsection (2) and paragraph (f) of  
 3767 subsection (3) of section 410.502, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 3768 to read:

3769 410.502 Housing and living arrangements; special needs of  
 3770 the elderly; services.—The Department of Elderly Affairs shall  
 3771 provide services related to housing and living arrangements  
 3772 which meet the special needs of the elderly. Such services shall  
 3773 include, but not be limited to:

3774 (2) Coordinating with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3775 ~~Opportunity~~ to gather and maintain data on living arrangements

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3776 | which meet the special needs of the elderly and to disseminate  
3777 | such information to the public. Such information shall include  
3778 | types of facilities, cost of care, services provided, and  
3779 | possible sources of help in meeting the cost of care for  
3780 | indigent individuals.

3781 |         (3) Promoting, through the Department of Elderly Affairs  
3782 | staff activities and area agencies on aging, the development of  
3783 | a variety of living arrangements through public and private  
3784 | auspices to meet the various needs and desires of the elderly,  
3785 | including, but not limited to:

3786 |             (f) Retirement communities for independent communal  
3787 | living, to be developed in conjunction with the Department of  
3788 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

3789 |  
3790 | Demonstration projects must be used advisedly to test the extent  
3791 | to which these and other innovative housing and living  
3792 | arrangements do meet the basic and special needs of the elderly.

3793 |         Section 142. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section  
3794 | 413.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3795 |         413.80 Employment First Act.—

3796 |             (4) INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The following state  
3797 | agencies and organizations, and others, as appropriate, shall  
3798 | develop an interagency cooperative agreement to implement this  
3799 | act:

3800 |             (f) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

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3801 Section 143. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
 3802 subsection (2) of section 413.801, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 3803 to read:

3804 413.801 Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program.—

3805 (1) CREATION AND PURPOSE.—The Department of Commerce  
 3806 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall establish the Florida Unique  
 3807 Abilities Partner Program to designate a business entity as a  
 3808 Florida Unique Abilities Partner if the business entity  
 3809 demonstrates commitment, through employment or support, to the  
 3810 independence of individuals who have a disability. The  
 3811 department shall consult with the Agency for Persons with  
 3812 Disabilities, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the  
 3813 Department of Education, the Division of Blind Services of the  
 3814 Department of Education, and CareerSource Florida, Inc., in  
 3815 creating the program.

3816 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

3817 (a) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3818 ~~Opportunity~~.

3819 Section 144. Section 414.24, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3820 to read:

3821 414.24 Integrated welfare reform and child welfare  
 3822 services.—The department shall develop integrated service  
 3823 delivery strategies to better meet the needs of families subject  
 3824 to work activity requirements who are involved in the child  
 3825 welfare system or are at high risk of involvement in the child

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3826 welfare system. To the extent that resources are available, the  
3827 department and the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
3828 shall provide funds to one or more service districts to promote  
3829 development of integrated, nonduplicative case management within  
3830 the department, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
3831 other participating government agencies, and community partners.  
3832 Alternative delivery systems shall be encouraged which include  
3833 well-defined, pertinent outcome measures. Other factors to be  
3834 considered shall include innovation regarding training,  
3835 enhancement of existing resources, and increased private sector  
3836 and business sector participation.

3837 Section 145. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
3838 414.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3839 414.40 Stop Inmate Fraud Program established; guidelines.—

3840 (2) The Department of Financial Services is directed to  
3841 implement the Stop Inmate Fraud Program in accordance with the  
3842 following guidelines:

3843 (d) Data obtained from correctional institutions or other  
3844 detention facilities shall be compared with the client files of  
3845 the Department of Children and Families, the Department of  
3846 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and other state or local agencies  
3847 as needed to identify persons wrongfully obtaining benefits.  
3848 Data comparisons shall be accomplished during periods of low  
3849 information demand by agency personnel to minimize inconvenience  
3850 to the agency.

3851 Section 146. Subsection (6) of section 420.0004, Florida  
 3852 Statutes, is amended to read:

3853 420.0004 Definitions.—As used in this part, unless the  
 3854 context otherwise indicates:

3855 (6) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 3856 ~~Opportunity~~.

3857 Section 147. Subsection (1) of section 420.0005, Florida  
 3858 Statutes, is amended to read:

3859 420.0005 State Housing Trust Fund; State Housing Fund.—

3860 (1) There is established in the State Treasury a separate  
 3861 trust fund to be named the "State Housing Trust Fund." There  
 3862 shall be deposited in the fund all moneys appropriated by the  
 3863 Legislature, or moneys received from any other source, for the  
 3864 purpose of this chapter, and all proceeds derived from the use  
 3865 of such moneys. The fund shall be administered by the Florida  
 3866 Housing Finance Corporation on behalf of the department, as  
 3867 specified in this chapter. Money deposited to the fund and  
 3868 appropriated by the Legislature must, notwithstanding the  
 3869 provisions of chapter 216 or s. 420.504(3), be transferred  
 3870 quarterly in advance, to the extent available, or, if not so  
 3871 available, as soon as received into the State Housing Trust  
 3872 Fund, and subject to the provisions of s. 420.5092(6)(a) and (b)  
 3873 by the Chief Financial Officer to the corporation upon  
 3874 certification by the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 3875 that the corporation is in compliance with the requirements of

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3876 s. 420.0006. The certification made by the secretary shall also  
3877 include the split of funds among programs administered by the  
3878 corporation and the department as specified in chapter 92-317,  
3879 Laws of Florida, as amended. Moneys advanced by the Chief  
3880 Financial Officer must be deposited by the corporation into a  
3881 separate fund established with a qualified public depository  
3882 meeting the requirements of chapter 280 to be named the "State  
3883 Housing Fund" and used for the purposes of this chapter.  
3884 Administrative and personnel costs incurred in implementing this  
3885 chapter may be paid from the State Housing Fund, but such costs  
3886 may not exceed 5 percent of the moneys deposited into such fund.  
3887 To the State Housing Fund shall be credited all loan repayments,  
3888 penalties, and other fees and charges accruing to such fund  
3889 under this chapter. It is the intent of this chapter that all  
3890 loan repayments, penalties, and other fees and charges collected  
3891 be credited in full to the program account from which the loan  
3892 originated. Moneys in the State Housing Fund which are not  
3893 currently needed for the purposes of this chapter shall be  
3894 invested in such manner as is provided for by statute. The  
3895 interest received on any such investment shall be credited to  
3896 the State Housing Fund.

3897 Section 148. Section 420.0006, Florida Statutes, is  
3898 amended to read:

3899 420.0006 Authority to contract with corporation; contract  
3900 requirements; nonperformance.—The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic~~

3901 ~~Opportunity~~ shall contract, notwithstanding part I of chapter  
 3902 287, with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on a multiyear  
 3903 basis to stimulate, provide, and foster affordable housing in  
 3904 the state. The contract must incorporate the performance  
 3905 measures required by s. 420.511 and be consistent with the  
 3906 corporation's strategic business plan prepared in accordance  
 3907 with s. 420.511. The contract must provide that if the  
 3908 corporation fails to comply with a performance measure required  
 3909 by s. 420.511, the secretary shall notify the Governor and refer  
 3910 the nonperformance to the department's inspector general for  
 3911 review and determination as to whether such failure is due to  
 3912 forces beyond the corporation's control or whether such failure  
 3913 is due to inadequate management of the corporation's resources.  
 3914 Advances shall continue to be made pursuant to s. 420.0005  
 3915 during the pendency of the review. If such failure is due to  
 3916 outside forces, it may not be deemed a violation of the  
 3917 contract. If such failure is due to inadequate management, the  
 3918 department's inspector general shall provide recommendations  
 3919 regarding solutions. The Governor may resolve differences of  
 3920 opinion with respect to performance under the contract and may  
 3921 request that advances continue in the event of a failure under  
 3922 the contract due to inadequate management. The Chief Financial  
 3923 Officer shall approve the request absent a finding by the Chief  
 3924 Financial Officer that continuing such advances would adversely  
 3925 impact the state; however, the Chief Financial Officer shall

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3926 provide advances sufficient to meet the debt service  
3927 requirements of the corporation and sufficient to fund contracts  
3928 committing funds from the State Housing Trust Fund if such  
3929 contracts are in accordance with the laws of this state.

3930 Section 149. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
3931 420.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3932 420.101 Housing Development Corporation of Florida;  
3933 creation, membership, and purposes.—

3934 (1) Twenty-five or more persons, a majority of whom shall  
3935 be residents of this state, who may desire to create a housing  
3936 development corporation under the provisions of this part for  
3937 the purpose of promoting and developing housing and advancing  
3938 the prosperity and economic welfare of the state and, to that  
3939 end, to exercise the powers and privileges hereinafter provided,  
3940 may be incorporated by filing in the Department of State, as  
3941 hereinafter provided, articles of incorporation. The articles of  
3942 incorporation shall contain:

3943 (d) The names and post office addresses of the members of  
3944 the first board of directors. The first board of directors shall  
3945 be elected by and from the stockholders of the corporation and  
3946 shall consist of 21 members. However, five of such members shall  
3947 consist of the following persons, who shall be nonvoting  
3948 members: the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or her  
3949 or his designee; the head of the Department of Financial  
3950 Services or her or his designee with expertise in banking

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3951 matters; a designee of the head of the Department of Financial  
 3952 Services with expertise in insurance matters; one state senator  
 3953 appointed by the President of the Senate; and one representative  
 3954 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3955 Section 150. Subsection (8) of section 420.111, Florida  
 3956 Statutes, is amended to read:

3957 420.111 Housing Development Corporation of Florida;  
 3958 additional powers.—In furtherance of its purposes and in  
 3959 addition to the powers now or hereafter conferred on business  
 3960 corporations by part I of chapter 607, the corporation shall,  
 3961 subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this  
 3962 section, have the following powers:

3963 (8) To cooperate with, and avail itself of the facilities  
 3964 of, the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
 3965 Development, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
 3966 and any other similar local, state, or Federal Government  
 3967 agency; and to cooperate with and assist, and otherwise  
 3968 encourage, organizations in the various communities of the state  
 3969 on the promotion, assistance, and development of the housing and  
 3970 economic welfare of such communities or of this state or any  
 3971 part thereof.

3972 Section 151. Section 420.36, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3973 to read:

3974 420.36 Low-income Emergency Home Repair Program.—There is  
 3975 established within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~

3976 ~~Opportunity~~ the Low-income Emergency Home Repair Program to  
 3977 assist low-income persons, especially the elderly and physically  
 3978 disabled, in making emergency repairs which directly affect  
 3979 their health and safety.

3980 (1) As used in this section, the term:

3981 (a) "Grantee" means a local public or private nonprofit  
 3982 agency currently receiving funds from the department to conduct  
 3983 a weatherization assistance program in one or more counties or a  
 3984 public or nonprofit agency chosen as outlined in subparagraph  
 3985 (4)(c)4.

3986 (b) "Subgrantee" means a local public or private nonprofit  
 3987 agency experienced in weatherization, emergency repairs, or  
 3988 rehabilitation of housing.

3989 (2) A person is eligible to receive assistance if that  
 3990 person has an income in relation to that person's family size  
 3991 which is at or below 125 percent of the poverty level as  
 3992 specified annually in the federal Office of Management and  
 3993 Budget Poverty Guidelines. Eligible persons over 60 years of age  
 3994 and eligible persons who are physically disabled shall be given  
 3995 priority in the program.

3996 (3)(a) Allowable repairs, including materials and labor,  
 3997 which may be charged under the program include:

3998 1. Correcting deficiencies in support beams, load-bearing  
 3999 walls, and floor joists.

4000 2. Repair or replacement of unsafe or nonfunctional space

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4001 heating or water heating systems.

4002 3. Egress or physically disabled accessibility repairs,  
 4003 improvements, or assistive devices, including wheelchair ramps,  
 4004 steps, porches, handrails, or other health and safety measures.

4005 4. Plumbing, pump, well, and line repairs to ensure safe  
 4006 drinking water and sanitary sewage.

4007 5. Electrical repairs.

4008 6. Repairs to deteriorating walls, floors, and roofs.

4009 7. Other interior and exterior repairs as necessary for  
 4010 the health and safety of the resident.

4011 (b) Administrative expenses may not exceed 10 percent of  
 4012 the total grant funds.

4013 (c) Each grantee shall be required to provide an in-kind  
 4014 or cash match of at least 20 percent of the funds granted.

4015 Grantees and subgrantees shall be encouraged to use community  
 4016 resources to provide such match, including family, church, and  
 4017 neighborhood volunteers and materials provided by local groups  
 4018 and businesses. Grantees shall coordinate with local governments  
 4019 through their community development block grant entitlement  
 4020 programs and other housing programs, local housing partnerships,  
 4021 and agencies under contract to a lead agency for the provisions  
 4022 of services under the Community Care for the Elderly Act, ss.  
 4023 430.201-430.207.

4024 (4) (a) Funds appropriated to the department for the  
 4025 program shall be deposited in the Federal Grants Trust Fund.

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4026 Administrative and personnel costs incurred by the department in  
4027 implementing the provisions of this section may be paid from the  
4028 fund.

4029 (b) The grantee may subgrant these funds to a subgrantee  
4030 if the grantee is unable to serve all of the county or the  
4031 target population. Grantee and subgrantee eligibility shall be  
4032 determined by the department.

4033 (c) Funds shall be distributed to grantees and subgrantees  
4034 as follows:

4035 1. For each county, a base amount of at least \$3,000 shall  
4036 be set aside from the total funds available, and such amount  
4037 shall be deducted from the total amount appropriated by the  
4038 Legislature.

4039 2. The balance of the funds appropriated by the  
4040 Legislature shall be divided by the total poverty population of  
4041 the state, and this quotient shall be multiplied by each  
4042 county's share of the poverty population. That amount plus the  
4043 base of at least \$3,000 constitutes each county's share. A  
4044 grantee that serves more than one county shall receive the base  
4045 amount plus the poverty population share for each county to be  
4046 served. Contracts with grantees may be renewed annually.

4047 3. The funds allocated to each county shall be offered  
4048 first to an existing weatherization assistance program grantee  
4049 in good standing, as determined by the department, which can  
4050 provide services to the target population of low-income persons,

4051 low-income elderly persons, and low-income physically disabled  
 4052 persons throughout the county.

4053 4. If a weatherization assistance program grantee is not  
 4054 available to serve the entire county area, the funds shall be  
 4055 distributed through the following process:

4056 a. An announcement of funding availability shall be  
 4057 provided to the county. The county may elect to administer the  
 4058 program.

4059 b. If the county elects not to administer the program, the  
 4060 department shall establish rules to address the selection of one  
 4061 or more public or private not-for-profit agencies that are  
 4062 experienced in weatherization, rehabilitation, or emergency  
 4063 repair to administer the program.

4064 5. If no eligible agency agrees to serve a county, the  
 4065 funds for that county shall be distributed to grantees having  
 4066 the best performance record as determined by department rule. At  
 4067 the end of the contract year, any uncontracted or unexpended  
 4068 funds shall be returned to the Federal Grants Trust Fund and  
 4069 reallocated under the next year's contracting cycle.

4070 (5) The department may perform all actions appropriate and  
 4071 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including,  
 4072 but not limited to:

4073 (a) Entering into contracts and agreements with the  
 4074 Federal Government, agencies of the state, local governments, or  
 4075 any person, association, corporation, or entity.

4076 (b) Seeking and accepting funding from any public or  
 4077 private source.

4078 (c) Adopting and enforcing rules consistent with this  
 4079 section.

4080 Section 152. Subsection (1) of section 420.424, Florida  
 4081 Statutes, is amended to read:

4082 420.424 Definitions.—As used in ss. 420.421-420.429:

4083 (1) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4084 ~~Opportunity~~.

4085 Section 153. Subsections (9) and (13) of section 420.503,  
 4086 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4087 420.503 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

4088 (9) "Contract" means the contract between the Secretary of  
 4089 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the corporation for provision  
 4090 of housing services referenced in s. 420.0006.

4091 (13) "Department" means the Department of Commerce  
 4092 ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

4093 Section 154. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 420.504,  
 4094 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4095 420.504 Public corporation; creation, membership, terms,  
 4096 expenses.—

4097 (1) A public corporation and a public body corporate and  
 4098 politic, to be known as the "Florida Housing Finance  
 4099 Corporation," is created within the Department of Commerce  
 4100 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. It is declared to be the intent of and

4101 constitutional construction by the Legislature that the Florida  
 4102 Housing Finance Corporation constitutes an entrepreneurial  
 4103 public corporation organized to provide and promote the public  
 4104 welfare by administering the governmental function of financing  
 4105 or refinancing housing and related facilities in this state and  
 4106 that the corporation is not a department of the executive branch  
 4107 of state government within the scope and meaning of s. 6, Art.  
 4108 IV of the State Constitution, but is functionally related to the  
 4109 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in which it is  
 4110 placed. The executive function of state government to be  
 4111 performed by the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in  
 4112 the conduct of the business of the Florida Housing Finance  
 4113 Corporation must be performed pursuant to a contract to monitor  
 4114 and set performance standards for the implementation of the  
 4115 business plan for the provision of housing approved for the  
 4116 corporation as provided in s. 420.0006. This contract must  
 4117 include performance standards for the provision of affordable  
 4118 housing in this state established in the strategic business plan  
 4119 described in s. 420.511.

4120 (3) The corporation is a separate budget entity and is not  
 4121 subject to control, supervision, or direction by the department  
 4122 in any manner, including, but not limited to, personnel,  
 4123 purchasing, transactions involving real or personal property,  
 4124 and budgetary matters. The corporation shall consist of a board  
 4125 of directors composed of the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic~~

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4126 ~~Opportunity~~ as an ex officio and voting member, or a senior-  
4127 level agency employee designated by the secretary, one member  
4128 appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed  
4129 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and eight  
4130 members appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the  
4131 Senate from the following:

4132 (a) One citizen actively engaged in the residential home  
4133 building industry.

4134 (b) One citizen actively engaged in the banking or  
4135 mortgage banking industry.

4136 (c) One citizen who is a representative of those areas of  
4137 labor engaged in home building.

4138 (d) One citizen with experience in housing development who  
4139 is an advocate for low-income persons.

4140 (e) One citizen actively engaged in the commercial  
4141 building industry.

4142 (f) One citizen who is a former local government elected  
4143 official.

4144 (g) Two citizens of the state who are not principally  
4145 employed as members or representatives of any of the groups  
4146 specified in paragraphs (a) - (f).

4147 Section 155. Subsection (1) of section 420.506, Florida  
4148 Statutes, is amended to read:

4149 420.506 Executive director; agents and employees;  
4150 inspector general.—

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4151 (1) The appointment and removal of an executive director  
4152 shall be by the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, with  
4153 the advice and consent of the corporation's board of directors.  
4154 The executive director shall employ legal and technical experts  
4155 and such other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as  
4156 the corporation may require, and shall communicate with and  
4157 provide information to the Legislature with respect to the  
4158 corporation's activities. Notwithstanding s. 216.262, the board  
4159 may develop and implement rules regarding the employment of  
4160 employees of the corporation and service providers, including  
4161 legal counsel. The board is entitled to establish travel  
4162 procedures and guidelines for employees of the corporation,  
4163 subject to s. 112.061(6) and (7). The executive director's  
4164 office and the corporation's files and records must be located  
4165 in Leon County.

4166 Section 156. Subsection (30) of section 420.507, Florida  
4167 Statutes, is amended to read:

4168 420.507 Powers of the corporation.—The corporation shall  
4169 have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and  
4170 effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including  
4171 the following powers which are in addition to all other powers  
4172 granted by other provisions of this part:

4173 (30) To prepare and submit to the Secretary of Commerce  
4174 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ a budget request for purposes of the  
4175 corporation, which request must, notwithstanding the provisions

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4176 of chapter 216 and in accordance with s. 216.351, contain a  
4177 request for operational expenditures and separate requests for  
4178 other authorized corporation programs. The request must include,  
4179 for informational purposes, the amount of state funds necessary  
4180 to use all federal housing funds anticipated to be received by,  
4181 or allocated to, the state in the fiscal year in order to  
4182 maximize the production of new, affordable multifamily housing  
4183 units in this state. The request need not contain information on  
4184 the number of employees, salaries, or any classification  
4185 thereof, and the approved operating budget therefor need not  
4186 comply with s. 216.181(8)-(10). The secretary may include within  
4187 the department's budget request the corporation's budget request  
4188 in the form as authorized by this section.

4189 Section 157. Effective July 1, 2033, subsection (30) of  
4190 section 420.507, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 30 of  
4191 chapter 2023-17, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

4192 420.507 Powers of the corporation.—The corporation shall  
4193 have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and  
4194 effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including  
4195 the following powers which are in addition to all other powers  
4196 granted by other provisions of this part:

4197 (30) To prepare and submit to the Secretary of Commerce  
4198 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ a budget request for purposes of the  
4199 corporation, which request shall, notwithstanding the provisions  
4200 of chapter 216 and in accordance with s. 216.351, contain a

4201 request for operational expenditures and separate requests for  
 4202 other authorized corporation programs. The request need not  
 4203 contain information on the number of employees, salaries, or any  
 4204 classification thereof, and the approved operating budget  
 4205 therefor need not comply with s. 216.181(8)-(10). The secretary  
 4206 may include within the department's budget request the  
 4207 corporation's budget request in the form as authorized by this  
 4208 section.

4209 Section 158. Subsection (2) of section 420.511, Florida  
 4210 Statutes, is amended to read:

4211 420.511 Strategic business plan; long-range program plan;  
 4212 annual report; audited financial statements.—

4213 (2) The corporation, in coordination with the department,  
 4214 shall annually develop a long-range program plan for the  
 4215 provision of affordable housing in this state as required  
 4216 pursuant to chapter 186. In part, the plan must include  
 4217 provisions that maximize the abilities of the corporation to  
 4218 implement the state housing strategy established under s.  
 4219 420.0003, to respond to federal housing initiatives, and to  
 4220 develop programs in a manner that is more responsive to the  
 4221 needs of public and private partners. The plan shall be  
 4222 developed on a schedule consistent with that established by s.  
 4223 186.021. For purposes of this section, the Secretary of Commerce  
 4224 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her designee shall serve as the  
 4225 corporation's representative to achieve a coordinated and

4226 | integrated planning relationship with the department.

4227 |       Section 159. Subsection (6) of section 420.602, Florida  
4228 | Statutes, is amended to read:

4229 |           420.602 Definitions.—As used in this part, the following  
4230 | terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context  
4231 | otherwise requires:

4232 |       (6) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
4233 | ~~Opportunity~~.

4234 |       Section 160. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 420.606,  
4235 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4236 |           420.606 Training and technical assistance program.—

4237 |       (3) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The  
4238 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall be responsible  
4239 | for securing the necessary expertise to provide training and  
4240 | technical assistance to:

4241 |       (a) Staff of local governments, to staff of state  
4242 | agencies, as appropriate, to community-based organizations, and  
4243 | to persons forming such organizations, which are formed for the  
4244 | purpose of developing new housing and rehabilitating existing  
4245 | housing that is affordable for very-low-income persons, low-  
4246 | income persons, and moderate-income persons.

4247 |       1. The training component of the program shall be designed  
4248 | to build the housing development capacity of community-based  
4249 | organizations and local governments as a permanent resource for  
4250 | the benefit of communities in this state.

4251 a. The scope of training must include, but need not be  
4252 limited to, real estate development skills related to affordable  
4253 housing, including the construction process and property  
4254 management and disposition, the development of public-private  
4255 partnerships to reduce housing costs, model housing projects,  
4256 and management and board responsibilities of community-based  
4257 organizations.

4258 b. Training activities may include, but are not limited  
4259 to, materials for self-instruction, workshops, seminars,  
4260 internships, coursework, and special programs developed in  
4261 conjunction with state universities and community colleges.

4262 2. The technical assistance component of the program shall  
4263 be designed to assist applicants for state-administered programs  
4264 in developing applications and in expediting project  
4265 implementation. Technical assistance activities for the staffs  
4266 of community-based organizations and local governments who are  
4267 directly involved in the production of affordable housing may  
4268 include, but are not limited to, workshops for program  
4269 applicants, onsite visits, guidance in achieving project  
4270 completion, and a newsletter to community-based organizations  
4271 and local governments.

4272 (b) Designated lead agencies of homeless assistance  
4273 continuums of care which receive funding from the Department of  
4274 Children and Families to provide or secure housing, programs,  
4275 and other services for homeless persons. Such training and

4276 technical assistance, subject to a specific appropriation in the  
 4277 General Appropriations Act for that purpose, must be provided by  
 4278 a nonprofit entity that meets the requirements for providing  
 4279 training and technical assistance under s. 420.531.

4280 (4) POWERS.—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4281 ~~Opportunity~~ may do all things necessary or appropriate to carry  
 4282 out the purposes of this section, including exercising the power  
 4283 to:

4284 (a) Enter into contracts and agreements with the Federal  
 4285 Government or with other agencies of the state, with local  
 4286 governments, or with any other person, association, corporation,  
 4287 or entity;

4288 (b) Seek and accept funding from any public or private  
 4289 source; and

4290 (c) Adopt and enforce rules consistent with this section.

4291 Section 161. Subsection (5) of section 420.609, Florida  
 4292 Statutes, is amended to read:

4293 420.609 Affordable Housing Study Commission.—Because the  
 4294 Legislature firmly supports affordable housing in Florida for  
 4295 all economic classes:

4296 (5) The commission shall review, evaluate, and make  
 4297 recommendations regarding existing and proposed housing programs  
 4298 and initiatives. The commission shall provide these and any  
 4299 other housing recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce  
 4300 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the executive director of the

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4301 corporation.

4302 Section 162. Subsection (2) of section 420.622, Florida  
 4303 Statutes, is amended to read:

4304 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on  
 4305 Homelessness.—

4306 (2) The Council on Homelessness is created to consist of  
 4307 19 representatives of public and private agencies who shall  
 4308 develop policy and advise the State Office on Homelessness. The  
 4309 council members shall be: the Secretary of Children and  
 4310 Families, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Commerce  
 4311 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or his or her designee, who shall advise  
 4312 the council on issues related to rural development; the State  
 4313 Surgeon General, or his or her designee; the Executive Director  
 4314 of Veterans' Affairs, or his or her designee; the Secretary of  
 4315 Corrections, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Health  
 4316 Care Administration, or his or her designee; the Commissioner of  
 4317 Education, or his or her designee; the Executive Director of  
 4318 CareerSource Florida, Inc., or his or her designee; one  
 4319 representative of the Florida Association of Counties; one  
 4320 representative of the Florida League of Cities; one  
 4321 representative of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition; one  
 4322 representative of the Florida Housing Coalition; the Executive  
 4323 Director of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, or his or  
 4324 her designee; one representative of the Florida Coalition for  
 4325 the Homeless; the secretary of the Department of Elder Affairs,

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4326 or his or her designee; and four members appointed by the  
4327 Governor. The council members shall be nonpaid volunteers and  
4328 shall be reimbursed only for travel expenses. The appointed  
4329 members of the council shall be appointed to staggered 2-year  
4330 terms and are encouraged to have experience in the  
4331 administration or provision of resources, services, or housing  
4332 that addresses the needs of persons experiencing homelessness.  
4333 The council shall meet at least four times per year. The  
4334 importance of minority, gender, and geographic representation  
4335 shall be considered in appointing members to the council.

4336 Section 163. Subsection (6) of section 420.631, Florida  
4337 Statutes, is amended to read:

4338 420.631 Definitions relating to Urban Homesteading Act.—As  
4339 used in ss. 420.630-420.635:

4340 (6) "Office" means the Office of Urban Opportunity within  
4341 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

4342 Section 164. Section 420.635, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4343 to read:

4344 420.635 Loans to qualified buyers.—Contingent upon an  
4345 appropriation, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
4346 in consultation with the Office of Urban Opportunity, shall  
4347 provide loans to qualified buyers who are required to pay the  
4348 pro rata portion of the bonded debt on single-family housing  
4349 pursuant to s. 420.634. Loans provided under this section shall  
4350 be made at a rate of interest which does not exceed the

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4351 qualified loan rate. A buyer must maintain the qualifications  
4352 specified in s. 420.633 for the full term of the loan. The loan  
4353 agreement may contain additional terms and conditions as  
4354 determined by the department.

4355 Section 165. Section 421.001, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4356 to read:

4357 421.001 State role in housing and urban development.—The  
4358 role of state government required by part I of chapter 421  
4359 (Housing Authorities Law), chapter 422 (Housing Cooperation  
4360 Law), and chapter 423 (Tax Exemption of Housing Authorities) is  
4361 the responsibility of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
4362 ~~Opportunity~~; and the department is the agency of state  
4363 government responsible for the state's role in housing and urban  
4364 development.

4365 Section 166. Section 422.001, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4366 to read:

4367 422.001 State role in housing and urban development.—The  
4368 role of state government required by part I of chapter 421  
4369 (Housing Authorities Law), chapter 422 (Housing Cooperation  
4370 Law), and chapter 423 (Tax Exemption of Housing Authorities) is  
4371 the responsibility of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
4372 ~~Opportunity~~; and the department is the agency of state  
4373 government responsible for the state's role in housing and urban  
4374 development.

4375 Section 167. Section 423.001, Florida Statutes, is amended

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4376 to read:

4377 423.001 State role in housing and urban development.—The  
 4378 role of state government required by part I of chapter 421  
 4379 (Housing Authorities Law), chapter 422 (Housing Cooperation  
 4380 Law), and chapter 423 (Tax Exemption of Housing Authorities) is  
 4381 the responsibility of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4382 ~~Opportunity~~; and the department is the agency of state  
 4383 government responsible for the state's role in housing and urban  
 4384 development.

4385 Section 168. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
 4386 427.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4387 427.012 The Commission for the Transportation  
 4388 Disadvantaged.—There is created the Commission for the  
 4389 Transportation Disadvantaged in the Department of  
 4390 Transportation.

4391 (1) The commission shall consist of seven members, all of  
 4392 whom shall be appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the  
 4393 requirements of s. 20.052.

4394 (g) The Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of  
 4395 Children and Families, the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4396 ~~Opportunity~~, the executive director of the Department of  
 4397 Veterans' Affairs, the Secretary of Elderly Affairs, the  
 4398 Secretary of Health Care Administration, the director of the  
 4399 Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and a county manager or  
 4400 administrator who is appointed by the Governor, or a senior

4401 management level representative of each, shall serve as ex  
 4402 officio, nonvoting advisors to the commission.

4403 Section 169. Subsection (2) of section 440.12, Florida  
 4404 Statutes, is amended to read:

4405 440.12 Time for commencement and limits on weekly rate of  
 4406 compensation.—

4407 (2) Compensation for disability resulting from injuries  
 4408 which occur after December 31, 1974, shall not be less than \$20  
 4409 per week. However, if the employee's wages at the time of injury  
 4410 are less than \$20 per week, he or she shall receive his or her  
 4411 full weekly wages. If the employee's wages at the time of the  
 4412 injury exceed \$20 per week, compensation shall not exceed an  
 4413 amount per week which is:

4414 (a) Equal to 100 percent of the statewide average weekly  
 4415 wage, determined as hereinafter provided for the year in which  
 4416 the injury occurred; however, the increase to 100 percent from  
 4417 66 2/3 percent of the statewide average weekly wage shall apply  
 4418 only to injuries occurring on or after August 1, 1979; and

4419 (b) Adjusted to the nearest dollar.

4420  
 4421 For the purpose of this subsection, the "statewide average  
 4422 weekly wage" means the average weekly wage paid by employers  
 4423 subject to the Florida Reemployment Assistance Program Law as  
 4424 reported to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for  
 4425 the four calendar quarters ending each June 30, which average

4426 weekly wage shall be determined by the Department of Commerce  
 4427 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ on or before November 30 of each year and  
 4428 shall be used in determining the maximum weekly compensation  
 4429 rate with respect to injuries occurring in the calendar year  
 4430 immediately following. The statewide average weekly wage  
 4431 determined by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 4432 shall be reported annually to the Legislature.

4433 Section 170. Paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section  
 4434 440.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4435 440.15 Compensation for disability.—Compensation for  
 4436 disability shall be paid to the employee, subject to the limits  
 4437 provided in s. 440.12(2), as follows:

4438 (9) EMPLOYEE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THIS CHAPTER AND  
 4439 FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT.—

4440 (c) Disability compensation benefits payable for any week,  
 4441 including those benefits provided by paragraph (1) (f), may not  
 4442 be reduced pursuant to this subsection until the Social Security  
 4443 Administration determines the amount otherwise payable to the  
 4444 employee under 42 U.S.C. ss. 402 and 423 and the employee has  
 4445 begun receiving such social security benefit payments. The  
 4446 employee shall, upon demand by the department, the employer, or  
 4447 the carrier, authorize the Social Security Administration to  
 4448 release disability information relating to her or him and  
 4449 authorize the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to  
 4450 release reemployment assistance information relating to her or

4451 him, in accordance with rules to be adopted by the department  
 4452 prescribing the procedure and manner for requesting the  
 4453 authorization and for compliance by the employee. The department  
 4454 or the employer or carrier may not make any payment of benefits  
 4455 for total disability or those additional benefits provided by  
 4456 paragraph (1)(f) for any period during which the employee  
 4457 willfully fails or refuses to authorize the release of  
 4458 information in the manner and within the time prescribed by such  
 4459 rules. The authority for release of disability information  
 4460 granted by an employee under this paragraph is effective for a  
 4461 period not to exceed 12 months and such authority may be  
 4462 renewed, as the department prescribes by rule.

4463 Section 171. Subsections (4) and (7) of section 440.381,  
 4464 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4465 440.381 Application for coverage; reporting payroll;  
 4466 payroll audit procedures; penalties.—

4467 (4) Each employer must submit a copy of the quarterly  
 4468 earnings report required by chapter 443 at the end of each  
 4469 quarter to the carrier and submit self-audits supported by the  
 4470 quarterly earnings reports required by chapter 443 and the rules  
 4471 adopted by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or by  
 4472 the state agency providing reemployment assistance tax  
 4473 collection services under contract with the Department of  
 4474 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ through an interagency agreement  
 4475 pursuant to s. 443.1316. The reports must include a sworn

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4476 statement by an officer or principal of the employer attesting  
4477 to the accuracy of the information contained in the report.

4478 (7) If an employee suffering a compensable injury was not  
4479 reported as earning wages on the last quarterly earnings report  
4480 filed with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
4481 the state agency providing reemployment assistance tax  
4482 collection services under contract with the Department of  
4483 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ through an interagency agreement  
4484 pursuant to s. 443.1316 before the accident, the employer shall  
4485 indemnify the carrier for all workers' compensation benefits  
4486 paid to or on behalf of the employee unless the employer  
4487 establishes that the employee was hired after the filing of the  
4488 quarterly report, in which case the employer and employee shall  
4489 attest to the fact that the employee was employed by the  
4490 employer at the time of the injury. Failure of the employer to  
4491 indemnify the insurer within 21 days after demand by the insurer  
4492 is grounds for the insurer to immediately cancel coverage. Any  
4493 action for indemnification brought by the carrier is cognizable  
4494 in the circuit court having jurisdiction where the employer or  
4495 carrier resides or transacts business. The insurer is entitled  
4496 to a reasonable attorney's fee if it recovers any portion of the  
4497 benefits paid in the action.

4498 Section 172. Subsections (1), (4), and (5) of section  
4499 443.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4500 443.012 Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission.—

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4501 (1) There is created within the Division of Workforce  
4502 Services of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ a  
4503 Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission. The commission is  
4504 composed of a chair and two other members appointed by the  
4505 Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Only one  
4506 appointee may be a representative of employers, as demonstrated  
4507 by his or her previous vocation, employment, or affiliation; and  
4508 only one appointee may be a representative of employees, as  
4509 demonstrated by his or her previous vocation, employment, or  
4510 affiliation.

4511 (a) The chair shall devote his or her entire time to  
4512 commission duties and is responsible for the administrative  
4513 functions of the commission.

4514 (b) The chair has authority to appoint a general counsel  
4515 and other personnel to carry out the duties and responsibilities  
4516 of the commission.

4517 (c) The chair must have the qualifications required by law  
4518 for a judge of the circuit court and may not engage in any other  
4519 business vocation or employment. Notwithstanding any other law,  
4520 the chair shall be paid a salary equal to that paid under state  
4521 law to a judge of the circuit court.

4522 (d) The remaining members shall be paid a stipend of \$100  
4523 for each day they are engaged in the work of the commission. The  
4524 chair and other members are entitled to be reimbursed for travel  
4525 expenses, as provided in s. 112.061.

4526 (e) The total salary and travel expenses of each member of  
 4527 the commission shall be paid from the Employment Security  
 4528 Administration Trust Fund.

4529 (4) The property, personnel, and appropriations relating  
 4530 to the specified authority, powers, duties, and responsibilities  
 4531 of the commission shall be provided to the commission by the  
 4532 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

4533 (5) The commission is not subject to control, supervision,  
 4534 or direction by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 4535 in performing its powers or duties under this chapter.

4536 Section 173. Subsections (9), (42), (44), and (46) of  
 4537 section 443.036, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4538 443.036 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

4539 (9) "Benefit year" means, for an individual, the 1-year  
 4540 period beginning with the first day of the first week for which  
 4541 the individual first files a valid claim for benefits and,  
 4542 thereafter, the 1-year period beginning with the first day of  
 4543 the first week for which the individual next files a valid claim  
 4544 for benefits after the termination of his or her last preceding  
 4545 benefit year. Each claim for benefits made in accordance with s.  
 4546 443.151(2) is a valid claim if the individual was paid wages for  
 4547 insured work in accordance with s. 443.091(1)(g) and is  
 4548 unemployed at the time of filing the claim. However, the  
 4549 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may adopt rules  
 4550 providing for the establishment of a uniform benefit year for

4551 all workers in one or more groups or classes of service or  
 4552 within a particular industry if the department determines, after  
 4553 notice to the industry and to the workers in the industry and an  
 4554 opportunity to be heard in the matter, that those groups or  
 4555 classes of workers in a particular industry periodically  
 4556 experience unemployment resulting from layoffs or shutdowns for  
 4557 limited periods of time.

4558 (42) "Tax collection service provider" or "service  
 4559 provider" means the state agency providing reemployment  
 4560 assistance tax collection services under contract with the  
 4561 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ through an  
 4562 interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316.

4563 (44) "Unemployment" or "unemployed" means:

4564 (a) An individual is "totally unemployed" in any week  
 4565 during which he or she does not perform any services and for  
 4566 which earned income is not payable to him or her. An individual  
 4567 is "partially unemployed" in any week of less than full-time  
 4568 work if the earned income payable to him or her for that week is  
 4569 less than his or her weekly benefit amount. The Department of  
 4570 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may adopt rules prescribing  
 4571 distinctions in the procedures for unemployed individuals based  
 4572 on total unemployment, part-time unemployment, partial  
 4573 unemployment of individuals attached to their regular jobs, and  
 4574 other forms of short-time work.

4575 (b) An individual's week of unemployment commences only

4576 after registration with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4577 ~~Opportunity~~ as required in s. 443.091.

4578 (46) "Week" means a period of 7 consecutive days as  
 4579 defined in the rules of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4580 ~~Opportunity~~. The department may by rule prescribe that a week is  
 4581 deemed to be "in," "within," or "during" the benefit year that  
 4582 contains the greater part of the week.

4583 Section 174. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and  
 4584 subsection (3) of section 443.041, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 4585 to read:

4586 443.041 Waiver of rights; fees; privileged  
 4587 communications.—

4588 (2) FEES.—

4589 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an  
 4590 individual claiming benefits may not be charged fees of any kind  
 4591 in any proceeding under this chapter by the commission or the  
 4592 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or their  
 4593 representatives, or by any court or any officer of the court. An  
 4594 individual claiming benefits in any proceeding before the  
 4595 commission or the department, or representatives of either, or a  
 4596 court may be represented by counsel or an authorized  
 4597 representative, but the counsel or representative may not charge  
 4598 or receive for those services more than an amount approved by  
 4599 the commission, the department, or the court.

4600 (3) PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS.—All letters, reports,

4601 | communications, or any other matters, either oral or written,  
 4602 | between an employer and an employee or between the Department of  
 4603 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service  
 4604 | provider and any of their agents, representatives, or employees  
 4605 | which are written, sent, delivered, or made in connection with  
 4606 | this chapter, are privileged and may not be the subject matter  
 4607 | or basis for any suit for slander or libel in any court of the  
 4608 | state.

4609 |       Section 175. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 4610 | 443.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4611 |           443.051 Benefits not alienable; exception, child support  
 4612 | intercept.—

4613 |           (3) EXCEPTION, SUPPORT INTERCEPT.—

4614 |           (a) The Department of Revenue shall, at least biweekly,  
 4615 | provide the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ with a  
 4616 | magnetic tape or other electronic data file disclosing the  
 4617 | individuals who owe support obligations and the amount of any  
 4618 | legally required deductions.

4619 |       Section 176. Subsections (3) and (4), paragraph (b) of  
 4620 | subsection (5), and subsections (6) and (8) of section 443.071,  
 4621 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4622 |           443.071 Penalties.—

4623 |           (3) Any employing unit or any officer or agent of any  
 4624 | employing unit or any other person who fails to furnish any  
 4625 | reports required under this chapter or to produce or permit the

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4626 inspection of or copying of records as required under this  
4627 chapter, who fails or refuses, within 6 months after written  
4628 demand by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
4629 tax collection service provider, to keep and maintain the  
4630 payroll records required by this chapter or by rule of the  
4631 department or the state agency providing tax collection  
4632 services, or who willfully fails or refuses to make any  
4633 contribution, reimbursement, or other payment required from an  
4634 employer under this chapter commits a misdemeanor of the second  
4635 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

4636 (4) Any person who establishes a fictitious employing unit  
4637 by submitting to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
4638 or its tax collection service provider fraudulent employing unit  
4639 records or tax or wage reports by the introduction of fraudulent  
4640 records into a computer system, the intentional or deliberate  
4641 alteration or destruction of computerized information or files,  
4642 or the theft of financial instruments, data, and other assets,  
4643 for the purpose of enabling herself or himself or any other  
4644 person to receive benefits under this chapter to which such  
4645 person is not entitled, commits a felony of the third degree,  
4646 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

4647 (5) In any prosecution or action under this section, the  
4648 entry into evidence of the signature of a person on a document,  
4649 letter, or other writing constitutes prima facie evidence of the  
4650 person's identity if the following conditions exist:

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4651 (b) The signature of the person is witnessed by an agent  
4652 or employee of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
4653 or its tax collection service provider at the time the document,  
4654 letter, or other writing is filed.

4655 (6) The entry into evidence of an application for  
4656 reemployment assistance benefits initiated by the use of the  
4657 Internet claims program or the interactive voice response system  
4658 telephone claims program of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
4659 ~~Opportunity~~ constitutes prima facie evidence of the  
4660 establishment of a personal benefit account by or for an  
4661 individual if the following information is provided: the  
4662 applicant's name, residence address, date of birth, social  
4663 security number, and present or former place of work.

4664 (8) All records relating to investigations of reemployment  
4665 assistance fraud in the custody of the Department of Commerce  
4666 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider are  
4667 available for examination by the Department of Law Enforcement,  
4668 the state attorneys, or the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor  
4669 in the prosecution of offenses under s. 817.568 or in  
4670 proceedings brought under this chapter.

4671 Section 177. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), subsections  
4672 (2), (6), and (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of  
4673 section 443.101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4674 443.101 Disqualification for benefits.—An individual shall  
4675 be disqualified for benefits:

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4676 (1) (a) For the week in which he or she has voluntarily  
4677 left work without good cause attributable to his or her  
4678 employing unit or for the week in which he or she has been  
4679 discharged by the employing unit for misconduct connected with  
4680 his or her work, based on a finding by the Department of  
4681 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. As used in this paragraph, the  
4682 term "work" means any work, whether full-time, part-time, or  
4683 temporary.

4684 1. Disqualification for voluntarily quitting continues for  
4685 the full period of unemployment next ensuing after the  
4686 individual has left his or her full-time, part-time, or  
4687 temporary work voluntarily without good cause and until the  
4688 individual has earned income equal to or greater than 17 times  
4689 his or her weekly benefit amount. As used in this subsection,  
4690 the term "good cause" includes only that cause attributable to  
4691 the employing unit which would compel a reasonable employee to  
4692 cease working or attributable to the individual's illness or  
4693 disability requiring separation from his or her work. Any other  
4694 disqualification may not be imposed.

4695 2. An individual is not disqualified under this subsection  
4696 for:

4697 a. Voluntarily leaving temporary work to return  
4698 immediately when called to work by the permanent employing unit  
4699 that temporarily terminated his or her work within the previous  
4700 6 calendar months;

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4701           b. Voluntarily leaving work to relocate as a result of his  
4702 or her military-connected spouse's permanent change of station  
4703 orders, activation orders, or unit deployment orders; or

4704           c. Voluntarily leaving work if he or she proves that his  
4705 or her discontinued employment is a direct result of  
4706 circumstances related to domestic violence as defined in s.  
4707 741.28. An individual who voluntarily leaves work under this  
4708 sub-subparagraph must:

4709           (I) Make reasonable efforts to preserve employment, unless  
4710 the individual establishes that such remedies are likely to be  
4711 futile or to increase the risk of future incidents of domestic  
4712 violence. Such efforts may include seeking a protective  
4713 injunction, relocating to a secure place, or seeking reasonable  
4714 accommodation from the employing unit, such as a transfer or  
4715 change of assignment;

4716           (II) Provide evidence such as an injunction, a protective  
4717 order, or other documentation authorized by state law which  
4718 reasonably proves that domestic violence has occurred; and

4719           (III) Reasonably believe that he or she is likely to be  
4720 the victim of a future act of domestic violence at, in transit  
4721 to, or departing from his or her place of employment.

4722           3. The employment record of an employing unit may not be  
4723 charged for the payment of benefits to an individual who has  
4724 voluntarily left work under sub-subparagraph 2.c.

4725           4. Disqualification for being discharged for misconduct

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4726 connected with his or her work continues for the full period of  
4727 unemployment next ensuing after having been discharged and until  
4728 the individual is reemployed and has earned income of at least  
4729 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount and for not more than  
4730 52 weeks immediately following that week, as determined by the  
4731 department in each case according to the circumstances or the  
4732 seriousness of the misconduct, under the department's rules for  
4733 determining disqualification for benefits for misconduct.

4734 5. If an individual has provided notification to the  
4735 employing unit of his or her intent to voluntarily leave work  
4736 and the employing unit discharges the individual for reasons  
4737 other than misconduct before the date the voluntary quit was to  
4738 take effect, the individual, if otherwise entitled, shall  
4739 receive benefits from the date of the employer's discharge until  
4740 the effective date of his or her voluntary quit.

4741 6. If an individual is notified by the employing unit of  
4742 the employer's intent to discharge the individual for reasons  
4743 other than misconduct and the individual quits without good  
4744 cause before the date the discharge was to take effect, the  
4745 claimant is ineligible for benefits pursuant to s. 443.091(1)(d)  
4746 for failing to be available for work for the week or weeks of  
4747 unemployment occurring before the effective date of the  
4748 discharge.

4749 (2) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
4750 finds that the individual has failed without good cause to apply

4751 for available suitable work, accept suitable work when offered  
4752 to him or her, or return to the individual's customary self-  
4753 employment when directed by the department, the disqualification  
4754 continues for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after  
4755 he or she failed without good cause to apply for available  
4756 suitable work, accept suitable work, or return to his or her  
4757 customary self-employment, and until the individual has earned  
4758 income of at least 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount.  
4759 The department shall by rule adopt criteria for determining the  
4760 "suitability of work," as used in this section. In developing  
4761 these rules, the department shall consider the duration of a  
4762 claimant's unemployment in determining the suitability of work  
4763 and the suitability of proposed rates of compensation for  
4764 available work. Further, after an individual has received 25  
4765 weeks of benefits in a single year, suitable work is a job that  
4766 pays the minimum wage and is 120 percent or more of the weekly  
4767 benefit amount the individual is drawing.

4768 (a) In determining whether or not any work is suitable for  
4769 an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk  
4770 to the individual's health, safety, and morals; the individual's  
4771 physical fitness, prior training, experience, prior earnings,  
4772 length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in  
4773 his or her customary occupation; and the distance of the  
4774 available work from his or her residence.

4775 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter,

4776 work is not deemed suitable and benefits may not be denied to  
 4777 any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new  
 4778 work under any of the following conditions:

4779 1. The position offered is vacant due directly to a  
 4780 strike, lockout, or other labor dispute.

4781 2. The wages, hours, or other conditions of the work  
 4782 offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than  
 4783 those prevailing for similar work in the locality.

4784 3. As a condition of being employed, the individual is  
 4785 required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain  
 4786 from joining any bona fide labor organization.

4787 (c) If the department finds that an individual was  
 4788 rejected for offered employment as the direct result of a  
 4789 positive, confirmed drug test required as a condition of  
 4790 employment, the individual is disqualified for refusing to  
 4791 accept an offer of suitable work.

4792 (6) For making any false or fraudulent representation for  
 4793 the purpose of obtaining benefits contrary to this chapter,  
 4794 constituting a violation under s. 443.071. The disqualification  
 4795 imposed under this subsection shall begin with the week for  
 4796 which the false or fraudulent representation was made and shall  
 4797 continue for a period not to exceed 1 year after the date the  
 4798 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ discovers the false  
 4799 or fraudulent representation and until any overpayment of  
 4800 benefits resulting from such representation has been repaid in

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4801 full. This disqualification may be appealed in the same manner  
4802 as any other disqualification imposed under this section. A  
4803 conviction by any court of competent jurisdiction in this state  
4804 of the offense prohibited or punished by s. 443.071 is  
4805 conclusive upon the appeals referee and the commission of the  
4806 making of the false or fraudulent representation for which  
4807 disqualification is imposed under this section.

4808 (7) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
4809 finds that the individual is an alien, unless the alien is an  
4810 individual who has been lawfully admitted for permanent  
4811 residence or otherwise is permanently residing in the United  
4812 States under color of law, including an alien who is lawfully  
4813 present in the United States as a result of the application of  
4814 s. 203(a) (7) or s. 212(d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality  
4815 Act, if any modifications to s. 3304(a) (14) of the Federal  
4816 Unemployment Tax Act, as provided by Pub. L. No. 94-566, which  
4817 specify other conditions or other effective dates than those  
4818 stated under federal law for the denial of benefits based on  
4819 services performed by aliens, and which modifications are  
4820 required to be implemented under state law as a condition for  
4821 full tax credit against the tax imposed by the Federal  
4822 Unemployment Tax Act, are deemed applicable under this section,  
4823 if:

4824 (a) Any data or information required of individuals  
4825 applying for benefits to determine whether benefits are not

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4826 payable to them because of their alien status is uniformly  
4827 required from all applicants for benefits; and

4828 (b) In the case of an individual whose application for  
4829 benefits would otherwise be approved, a determination that  
4830 benefits to such individual are not payable because of his or  
4831 her alien status may not be made except by a preponderance of  
4832 the evidence.

4833  
4834 If the department finds that the individual has refused without  
4835 good cause an offer of resettlement or relocation, which offer  
4836 provides for suitable employment for the individual  
4837 notwithstanding the distance of relocation, resettlement, or  
4838 employment from the current location of the individual in this  
4839 state, this disqualification continues for the week in which the  
4840 failure occurred and for not more than 17 weeks immediately  
4841 after that week, or a reduction by not more than 5 weeks from  
4842 the duration of benefits, as determined by the department in  
4843 each case.

4844 (9) If the individual was terminated from his or her work  
4845 as follows:

4846 (a) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
4847 the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission finds that the  
4848 individual was terminated from work for violation of any  
4849 criminal law, under any jurisdiction, which was in connection  
4850 with his or her work, and the individual was convicted, or

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4851 entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, the individual is  
4852 not entitled to reemployment assistance benefits for up to 52  
4853 weeks, pursuant to rules adopted by the department, and until he  
4854 or she has earned income of at least 17 times his or her weekly  
4855 benefit amount. If, before an adjudication of guilt, an  
4856 admission of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere, the employer  
4857 proves by competent substantial evidence to the department that  
4858 the arrest was due to a crime against the employer or the  
4859 employer's business, customers, or invitees, the individual is  
4860 not entitled to reemployment assistance benefits.

4861  
4862 If an individual is disqualified for benefits, the account of  
4863 the terminating employer, if the employer is in the base period,  
4864 is noncharged at the time the disqualification is imposed.

4865 Section 178. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
4866 subsection (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are amended  
4867 to read:

4868 443.111 Payment of benefits.—

4869 (1) MANNER OF PAYMENT.—Benefits are payable from the fund  
4870 in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Commerce  
4871 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, subject to the following requirements:

4872 (a) Benefits are payable electronically, except that an  
4873 individual being paid by paper warrant on July 1, 2011, may  
4874 continue to be paid in that manner until the expiration of the  
4875 claim. The department may develop a system for the payment of

4876 | benefits by electronic funds transfer, including, but not  
 4877 | limited to, debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other  
 4878 | means of electronic payment that the department deems to be  
 4879 | commercially viable or cost-effective. Commodities or services  
 4880 | related to the development of such a system shall be procured by  
 4881 | competitive solicitation, unless they are purchased from a state  
 4882 | term contract pursuant to s. 287.056. The department shall adopt  
 4883 | rules necessary to administer this paragraph.

4884 |         (b) As required under s. 443.091(1), each claimant must  
 4885 | report at least biweekly to receive reemployment assistance  
 4886 | benefits and to attest to the fact that she or he is able and  
 4887 | available for work, has not refused suitable work, is seeking  
 4888 | work and has met the requirements of s. 443.091(1)(d), and, if  
 4889 | she or he has worked, to report earnings from that work. Each  
 4890 | claimant must continue to report regardless of any appeal or  
 4891 | pending appeal relating to her or his eligibility or  
 4892 | disqualification for benefits.

4893 |         (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

4894 |         (a) As used in this section, the term "Florida average  
 4895 | unemployment rate" means the average of the 3 months for the  
 4896 | most recent third calendar year quarter of the seasonally  
 4897 | adjusted statewide unemployment rates as published by the  
 4898 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

4899 |         Section 179. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 4900 | (4), and subsection (5) of section 443.1113, Florida Statutes,

4901 are amended to read:

4902 443.1113 Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits  
 4903 Information System.—

4904 (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 4905 implement an integrated, modular system hosted in a cloud  
 4906 computing service, as defined in s. 282.0041, that provides for  
 4907 rapid provisioning of additional data processing when necessary.  
 4908 The system must support the efficient distribution of benefits  
 4909 and the effective operation and management of the reemployment  
 4910 assistance program. The system may be cited as the "Reemployment  
 4911 Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System" and must:

4912 (a) Be accessible through the Internet on both mobile  
 4913 devices and personal computers.

4914 (b) Process reemployment assistance claims.

4915 (c) Process benefit payments.

4916 (d) Process and manage overpayments.

4917 (e) Perform adjudication functions.

4918 (f) Process appeals and manage appeal hearings.

4919 (g) Manage and process employer charging.

4920 (4) (a) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 4921 shall perform an annual review of the system and identify  
 4922 enhancements or modernization efforts that improve the delivery  
 4923 of services to claimants and employers and reporting to state  
 4924 and federal entities. These improvements must include, but need  
 4925 not be limited to:

4926 | 1. Infrastructure upgrades through cloud services.  
 4927 | 2. Software improvements.  
 4928 | 3. Enhanced data analytics and reporting.  
 4929 | 4. Increased cybersecurity pursuant to s. 282.318.  
 4930 | (5) By October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the  
 4931 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall submit a  
 4932 | Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System  
 4933 | report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
 4934 | Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must, at a  
 4935 | minimum, include:  
 4936 | (a) A summary of maintenance, enhancement, and  
 4937 | modernization efforts over the last fiscal year.  
 4938 | (b) A 3-year outlook of recommended enhancements or  
 4939 | modernization efforts that includes projected costs and  
 4940 | timeframes for completion.  
 4941 | Section 180. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), subsection  
 4942 | (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsection (6) of  
 4943 | section 443.1115, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
 4944 | 443.1115 Extended benefits.—  
 4945 | (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:  
 4946 | (d) "Rate of insured unemployment" means the percentage  
 4947 | derived by dividing the average weekly number of individuals  
 4948 | filing claims for regular compensation in this state, excluding  
 4949 | extended-benefit claimants for weeks of unemployment with  
 4950 | respect to the most recent 13-consecutive-week period, as

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4951 determined by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ on  
4952 the basis of its reports to the United States Secretary of  
4953 Labor, by the average monthly employment covered under this  
4954 chapter for the first four of the most recent six completed  
4955 calendar quarters ending before the end of that 13-week period.

4956 (2) REGULAR BENEFITS ON CLAIMS FOR, AND THE PAYMENT OF,  
4957 EXTENDED BENEFITS.—Except when the result is inconsistent with  
4958 the other provisions of this section and as provided in the  
4959 rules of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the  
4960 provisions of this chapter applying to claims for, or the  
4961 payment of, regular benefits apply to claims for, and the  
4962 payment of, extended benefits. These extended benefits are  
4963 charged to the employment records of employers to the extent  
4964 that the share of those extended benefits paid from this state's  
4965 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund is not eligible to be  
4966 reimbursed from federal sources.

4967 (3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENDED BENEFITS.—

4968 (a) An individual is eligible to receive extended benefits  
4969 for any week of unemployment in her or his eligibility period  
4970 only if the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ finds  
4971 that, for that week:

4972 1. She or he is an exhaustee as defined in subsection (1).

4973 2. She or he satisfies the requirements of this chapter  
4974 for the receipt of regular benefits applicable to individuals  
4975 claiming extended benefits, including not being subject to

4976 | disqualification from the receipt of benefits. An individual  
 4977 | disqualified from receiving regular benefits may not receive  
 4978 | extended benefits after the disqualification period terminates  
 4979 | if he or she was disqualified for voluntarily leaving work,  
 4980 | being discharged from work for misconduct, or refusing suitable  
 4981 | work. However, if the disqualification period for regular  
 4982 | benefits terminates because the individual received the required  
 4983 | amount of remuneration for services rendered as a common-law  
 4984 | employee, she or he may receive extended benefits.

4985 |         3. The individual was paid wages for insured work for the  
 4986 | applicable benefit year equal to 1.5 times the high quarter  
 4987 | earnings during the base period.

4988 |         (6) COMPUTATIONS.—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 4989 | ~~Opportunity~~ shall perform the computations required under  
 4990 | paragraph (1)(d) in accordance with regulations of the United  
 4991 | States Secretary of Labor.

4992 |         Section 181. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) and paragraph  
 4993 | (a) of subsection (5) of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are  
 4994 | amended to read:

4995 |         443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

4996 |         (2) APPROVAL OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION PLANS.—An employer  
 4997 | wishing to participate in the short-time compensation program  
 4998 | must submit a signed, written, short-time plan to the Department  
 4999 | of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for approval. The Secretary of  
 5000 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her designee shall

5001 approve the plan if:

5002       (a) The plan applies to and identifies each specific

5003 affected unit;

5004       (b) The individuals in the affected unit are identified by

5005 name and social security number;

5006       (c) The normal weekly hours of work for individuals in the

5007 affected unit are reduced by at least 10 percent and by not more

5008 than 40 percent;

5009       (d) The plan includes a certified statement by the

5010 employer that the aggregate reduction in work hours is in lieu

5011 of layoffs that would affect at least 10 percent of the

5012 employees in the affected unit and that would have resulted in

5013 an equivalent reduction in work hours;

5014       (e) The plan applies to at least 10 percent of the

5015 employees in the affected unit;

5016       (f) The plan is approved in writing by the collective

5017 bargaining agent for each collective bargaining agreement

5018 covering any individual in the affected unit;

5019       (g) The plan does not serve as a subsidy to seasonal

5020 employers during the off-season or as a subsidy to employers who

5021 traditionally use part-time employees;

5022       (h) The plan certifies that, if the employer provides

5023 fringe benefits to any employee whose workweek is reduced under

5024 the program, the fringe benefits will continue to be provided to

5025 the employee participating in the short-time compensation

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5026 program under the same terms and conditions as though the  
5027 workweek of such employee had not been reduced or to the same  
5028 extent as other employees not participating in the short-time  
5029 compensation program. As used in this paragraph, the term  
5030 "fringe benefits" includes, but is not limited to, health  
5031 insurance, retirement benefits under defined benefit pension  
5032 plans as defined in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act  
5033 of 1974, 29 U.S.C. s. 1002(35), contributions under a defined  
5034 contribution plan as defined in s. 414(i) of the Internal  
5035 Revenue Code, paid vacation and holidays, and sick leave;

5036 (i) The plan describes the manner in which the  
5037 requirements of this subsection will be implemented, including a  
5038 plan for giving notice, if feasible, to an employee whose  
5039 workweek is to be reduced, together with an estimate of the  
5040 number of layoffs that would have occurred absent the ability to  
5041 participate in short-time compensation; and

5042 (j) The terms of the employer's written plan and  
5043 implementation are consistent with employer obligations under  
5044 applicable federal laws and laws of this state.

5045 (3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN.—The Secretary of  
5046 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her designee shall  
5047 approve or disapprove a short-time compensation plan in writing  
5048 within 15 days after its receipt. If the plan is denied, the  
5049 secretary or his or her designee shall notify the employer of  
5050 the reasons for disapproval.

5051 (4) BEGINNING AND TERMINATION OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION  
 5052 BENEFIT PERIOD.—A plan takes effect on the date of its approval  
 5053 by the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or his or her  
 5054 designee and expires at the end of the 12th full calendar month  
 5055 after its effective date.

5056 (5) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION  
 5057 BENEFITS.—

5058 (a) Except as provided in this subsection, an individual  
 5059 is eligible to receive short-time compensation benefits for any  
 5060 week only if she or he complies with this chapter and the  
 5061 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ finds that:

5062 1. The individual is employed as a member of an affected  
 5063 unit in an approved plan that was approved before the week and  
 5064 is in effect for the week;

5065 2. The individual is able to work and is available for  
 5066 additional hours of work or for full-time work with the short-  
 5067 time employer; and

5068 3. The normal weekly hours of work of the individual are  
 5069 reduced by at least 10 percent but not by more than 40 percent,  
 5070 with a corresponding reduction in wages.

5071 Section 182. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 5072 443.1118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5073 443.1118 Employer-assisted claims.—

5074 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

5075 (a) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~

5076 ~~Opportunity.~~

5077 Section 183. Subsection (3) of section 443.1215, Florida  
 5078 Statutes, is amended to read:

5079 443.1215 Employers.—

5080 (3) An employing unit that fails to keep the records of  
 5081 employment required by this chapter and by the rules of the  
 5082 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the state agency  
 5083 providing reemployment assistance tax collection services is  
 5084 presumed to be an employer liable for the payment of  
 5085 contributions under this chapter, regardless of the number of  
 5086 individuals employed by the employing unit. However, the tax  
 5087 collection service provider shall make written demand that the  
 5088 employing unit keep and maintain required payroll records. The  
 5089 demand must be made at least 6 months before assessing  
 5090 contributions against an employing unit determined to be an  
 5091 employer that is subject to this chapter solely by reason of  
 5092 this subsection.

5093 Section 184. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), subsection  
 5094 (12), and paragraph (p) of subsection (13) of section 443.1216,  
 5095 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

5096 443.1216 Employment.—Employment, as defined in s. 443.036,  
 5097 is subject to this chapter under the following conditions:

5098 (1)(a) The employment subject to this chapter includes a  
 5099 service performed, including a service performed in interstate  
 5100 commerce, by:

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5101           1. An officer of a corporation.

5102           2. An individual who, under the usual common-law rules  
5103 applicable in determining the employer-employee relationship, is  
5104 an employee. However, whenever a client, as defined in s.  
5105 443.036(18), which would otherwise be designated as an employing  
5106 unit has contracted with an employee leasing company to supply  
5107 it with workers, those workers are considered employees of the  
5108 employee leasing company. An employee leasing company may lease  
5109 corporate officers of the client to the client and other workers  
5110 to the client, except as prohibited by regulations of the  
5111 Internal Revenue Service. Employees of an employee leasing  
5112 company must be reported under the employee leasing company's  
5113 tax identification number and contribution rate for work  
5114 performed for the employee leasing company.

5115           a. However, except for the internal employees of an  
5116 employee leasing company, each employee leasing company may make  
5117 a separate one-time election to report and pay contributions  
5118 under the tax identification number and contribution rate for  
5119 each client of the employee leasing company. Under the client  
5120 method, an employee leasing company choosing this option must  
5121 assign leased employees to the client company that is leasing  
5122 the employees. The client method is solely a method to report  
5123 and pay unemployment contributions, and, whichever method is  
5124 chosen, such election may not impact any other aspect of state  
5125 law. An employee leasing company that elects the client method

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5126 | must pay contributions at the rates assigned to each client  
5127 | company.

5128 |       (I) The election applies to all of the employee leasing  
5129 | company's current and future clients.

5130 |       (II) The employee leasing company must notify the  
5131 | Department of Revenue of its election by July 1, 2012, and such  
5132 | election applies to reports and contributions for the first  
5133 | quarter of the following calendar year. The notification must  
5134 | include:

5135 |       (A) A list of each client company and the unemployment  
5136 | account number or, if one has not yet been issued, the federal  
5137 | employment identification number, as established by the employee  
5138 | leasing company upon the election to file by client method;

5139 |       (B) A list of each client company's current and previous  
5140 | employees and their respective social security numbers for the  
5141 | prior 3 state fiscal years or, if the client company has not  
5142 | been a client for the prior 3 state fiscal years, such portion  
5143 | of the prior 3 state fiscal years that the client company has  
5144 | been a client must be supplied;

5145 |       (C) The wage data and benefit charges associated with each  
5146 | client company for the prior 3 state fiscal years or, if the  
5147 | client company has not been a client for the prior 3 state  
5148 | fiscal years, such portion of the prior 3 state fiscal years  
5149 | that the client company has been a client must be supplied. If  
5150 | the client company's employment record is chargeable with

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5151 benefits for less than 8 calendar quarters while being a client  
5152 of the employee leasing company, the client company must pay  
5153 contributions at the initial rate of 2.7 percent; and

5154 (D) The wage data and benefit charges for the prior 3  
5155 state fiscal years that cannot be associated with a client  
5156 company must be reported and charged to the employee leasing  
5157 company.

5158 (III) Subsequent to choosing the client method, the  
5159 employee leasing company may not change its reporting method.

5160 (IV) The employee leasing company shall file a Florida  
5161 Department of Revenue Employer's Quarterly Report for each  
5162 client company by approved electronic means, and pay all  
5163 contributions by approved electronic means.

5164 (V) For the purposes of calculating experience rates when  
5165 the client method is chosen, each client's own benefit charges  
5166 and wage data experience while with the employee leasing company  
5167 determines each client's tax rate where the client has been a  
5168 client of the employee leasing company for at least 8 calendar  
5169 quarters before the election. The client company shall continue  
5170 to report the nonleased employees under its tax rate.

5171 (VI) The election is binding on each client of the  
5172 employee leasing company for as long as a written agreement is  
5173 in effect between the client and the employee leasing company  
5174 pursuant to s. 468.525(3)(a). If the relationship between the  
5175 employee leasing company and the client terminates, the client

5176 retains the wage and benefit history experienced under the  
 5177 employee leasing company.

5178 (VII) Notwithstanding which election method the employee  
 5179 leasing company chooses, the applicable client company is an  
 5180 employing unit for purposes of s. 443.071. The employee leasing  
 5181 company or any of its officers or agents are liable for any  
 5182 violation of s. 443.071 engaged in by such persons or entities.  
 5183 The applicable client company or any of its officers or agents  
 5184 are liable for any violation of s. 443.071 engaged in by such  
 5185 persons or entities. The employee leasing company or its  
 5186 applicable client company is not liable for any violation of s.  
 5187 443.071 engaged in by the other party or by the other party's  
 5188 officers or agents.

5189 (VIII) If an employee leasing company fails to select the  
 5190 client method of reporting not later than July 1, 2012, the  
 5191 entity is required to report under the employee leasing  
 5192 company's tax identification number and contribution rate.

5193 (IX) After an employee leasing company is licensed  
 5194 pursuant to part XI of chapter 468, each newly licensed entity  
 5195 has 30 days after the date the license is granted to notify the  
 5196 tax collection service provider in writing of their selection of  
 5197 the client method. A newly licensed employee leasing company  
 5198 that fails to timely select reporting pursuant to the client  
 5199 method of reporting must report under the employee leasing  
 5200 company's tax identification number and contribution rate.

5201 (X) Irrespective of the election, each transfer of trade  
 5202 or business, including workforce, or a portion thereof, between  
 5203 employee leasing companies is subject to the provisions of s.  
 5204 443.131(3)(h) if, at the time of the transfer, there is common  
 5205 ownership, management, or control between the entities.

5206 b. In addition to any other report required to be filed by  
 5207 law, an employee leasing company shall submit a report to the  
 5208 Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of Commerce  
 5209 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which includes each client establishment  
 5210 and each establishment of the leasing company, or as otherwise  
 5211 directed by the department. The report must include the  
 5212 following information for each establishment:

- 5213 (I) The trade or establishment name;
- 5214 (II) The former reemployment assistance account number, if  
 5215 available;
- 5216 (III) The former federal employer's identification number,  
 5217 if available;
- 5218 (IV) The industry code recognized and published by the  
 5219 United States Office of Management and Budget, if available;
- 5220 (V) A description of the client's primary business  
 5221 activity in order to verify or assign an industry code;
- 5222 (VI) The address of the physical location;
- 5223 (VII) The number of full-time and part-time employees who  
 5224 worked during, or received pay that was subject to reemployment  
 5225 assistance taxes for, the pay period including the 12th of the

5226 | month for each month of the quarter;

5227 |       (VIII) The total wages subject to reemployment assistance

5228 | taxes paid during the calendar quarter;

5229 |       (IX) An internal identification code to uniquely identify

5230 | each establishment of each client;

5231 |       (X) The month and year that the client entered into the

5232 | contract for services; and

5233 |       (XI) The month and year that the client terminated the

5234 | contract for services.

5235 |       c. The report must be submitted electronically or in a

5236 | manner otherwise prescribed by the Department of Commerce

5237 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in the format specified by the Bureau of

5238 | Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for

5239 | its Multiple Worksite Report for Professional Employer

5240 | Organizations. The report must be provided quarterly to the

5241 | Labor Market Statistics Center within the department, or as

5242 | otherwise directed by the department, and must be filed by the

5243 | last day of the month immediately after the end of the calendar

5244 | quarter. The information required in sub-sub-subparagraphs b.(X)

5245 | and (XI) need be provided only in the quarter in which the

5246 | contract to which it relates was entered into or terminated. The

5247 | sum of the employment data and the sum of the wage data in this

5248 | report must match the employment and wages reported in the

5249 | reemployment assistance quarterly tax and wage report.

5250 |       d. The department shall adopt rules as necessary to

5251 administer this subparagraph, and may administer, collect,  
 5252 enforce, and waive the penalty imposed by s. 443.141(1)(b) for  
 5253 the report required by this subparagraph.

5254 e. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term  
 5255 "establishment" means any location where business is conducted  
 5256 or where services or industrial operations are performed.

5257 3. An individual other than an individual who is an  
 5258 employee under subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., who performs  
 5259 services for remuneration for any person:

5260 a. As an agent-driver or commission-driver engaged in  
 5261 distributing meat products, vegetable products, fruit products,  
 5262 bakery products, beverages other than milk, or laundry or  
 5263 drycleaning services for his or her principal.

5264 b. As a traveling or city salesperson engaged on a full-  
 5265 time basis in the solicitation on behalf of, and the  
 5266 transmission to, his or her principal of orders from  
 5267 wholesalers, retailers, contractors, or operators of hotels,  
 5268 restaurants, or other similar establishments for merchandise for  
 5269 resale or supplies for use in the business operations. This sub-  
 5270 subparagraph does not apply to an agent-driver or a commission-  
 5271 driver and does not apply to sideline sales activities performed  
 5272 on behalf of a person other than the salesperson's principal.

5273 4. The services described in subparagraph 3. are  
 5274 employment subject to this chapter only if:

5275 a. The contract of service contemplates that substantially

5276 | all of the services are to be performed personally by the  
 5277 | individual;

5278 |       b. The individual does not have a substantial investment  
 5279 | in facilities used in connection with the services, other than  
 5280 | facilities used for transportation; and

5281 |       c. The services are not in the nature of a single  
 5282 | transaction that is not part of a continuing relationship with  
 5283 | the person for whom the services are performed.

5284 |       (12) The employment subject to this chapter includes  
 5285 | services covered by a reciprocal arrangement under s. 443.221  
 5286 | between the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
 5287 | tax collection service provider and the agency charged with the  
 5288 | administration of another state reemployment assistance or  
 5289 | unemployment compensation law or a federal reemployment  
 5290 | assistance or unemployment compensation law, under which all  
 5291 | services performed by an individual for an employing unit are  
 5292 | deemed to be performed entirely within this state, if the  
 5293 | department or its tax collection service provider approved an  
 5294 | election of the employing unit in which all of the services  
 5295 | performed by the individual during the period covered by the  
 5296 | election are deemed to be insured work.

5297 |       (13) The following are exempt from coverage under this  
 5298 | chapter:

5299 |       (p) Service covered by an arrangement between the  
 5300 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or its tax

5301 collection service provider, and the agency charged with the  
 5302 administration of another state or federal reemployment  
 5303 assistance or unemployment compensation law under which all  
 5304 services performed by an individual for an employing unit during  
 5305 the period covered by the employing unit's duly approved  
 5306 election is deemed to be performed entirely within the other  
 5307 agency's state or under the federal law.

5308 Section 185. Subsection (1) of section 443.1217, Florida  
 5309 Statutes, is amended to read:

5310 443.1217 Wages.—

5311 (1) The wages subject to this chapter include all  
 5312 remuneration for employment, including commissions, bonuses,  
 5313 back pay awards, and the cash value of all remuneration paid in  
 5314 any medium other than cash. The reasonable cash value of  
 5315 remuneration in any medium other than cash must be estimated and  
 5316 determined in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of  
 5317 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state agency providing tax  
 5318 collection services. The wages subject to this chapter include  
 5319 tips or gratuities received while performing services that  
 5320 constitute employment and are included in a written statement  
 5321 furnished to the employer under s. 6053(a) of the Internal  
 5322 Revenue Code of 1954. As used in this section only, the term  
 5323 "employment" includes services constituting employment under any  
 5324 employment security law of another state or of the Federal  
 5325 Government.

5326 Section 186. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (a), (e), (i),  
 5327 and (j) of subsection (3) of section 443.131, Florida Statutes,  
 5328 are amended to read:

5329 443.131 Contributions.—

5330 (1) PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Contributions accrue and are  
 5331 payable by each employer for each calendar quarter he or she is  
 5332 subject to this chapter for wages paid during each calendar  
 5333 quarter for employment. Contributions are due and payable by  
 5334 each employer to the tax collection service provider, in  
 5335 accordance with the rules adopted by the Department of Commerce  
 5336 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state agency providing tax  
 5337 collection services. This subsection does not prohibit the tax  
 5338 collection service provider from allowing, at the request of the  
 5339 employer, employers of employees performing domestic services,  
 5340 as defined in s. 443.1216(6), to pay contributions or report  
 5341 wages at intervals other than quarterly when the nonquarterly  
 5342 payment or reporting assists the service provider and when  
 5343 nonquarterly payment and reporting is authorized under federal  
 5344 law. Employers of employees performing domestic services may  
 5345 report wages and pay contributions annually, with a due date of  
 5346 no later than January 31, unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday,  
 5347 or holiday, in which event the due date is the next day that is  
 5348 not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. For purposes of this  
 5349 subsection, the term "holiday" means a day designated under s.  
 5350 110.117(1) and (2) or any other day when the offices of the

5351 United States Postal Service are closed. To qualify for this  
5352 election, the employer must employ only employees performing  
5353 domestic services, be eligible for a variation from the standard  
5354 rate computed under subsection (3), apply to this program no  
5355 later than December 1 of the preceding calendar year, and agree  
5356 to provide the department or its tax collection service provider  
5357 with any special reports that are requested, including copies of  
5358 all federal employment tax forms. An employer who fails to  
5359 timely furnish any wage information required by the department  
5360 or its tax collection service provider loses the privilege to  
5361 participate in this program, effective the calendar quarter  
5362 immediately after the calendar quarter the failure occurred. The  
5363 employer may reapply for annual reporting when a complete  
5364 calendar year elapses after the employer's disqualification if  
5365 the employer timely furnished any requested wage information  
5366 during the period in which annual reporting was denied. An  
5367 employer may not deduct contributions, interests, penalties,  
5368 fines, or fees required under this chapter from any part of the  
5369 wages of his or her employees. A fractional part of a cent less  
5370 than one-half cent shall be disregarded from the payment of  
5371 contributions, but a fractional part of at least one-half cent  
5372 shall be increased to 1 cent.

5373 (3) VARIATION OF CONTRIBUTION RATES BASED ON BENEFIT  
5374 EXPERIENCE.—

5375 (a) *Employment records.*—The regular and short-time

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5376 compensation benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be  
5377 charged to the employment record of each employer who paid the  
5378 individual wages of at least \$100 during the individual's base  
5379 period in proportion to the total wages paid by all employers  
5380 who paid the individual wages during the individual's base  
5381 period. Benefits may not be charged to the employment record of  
5382 an employer who furnishes part-time work to an individual who,  
5383 because of loss of employment with one or more other employers,  
5384 is eligible for partial benefits while being furnished part-time  
5385 work by the employer on substantially the same basis and in  
5386 substantially the same amount as the individual's employment  
5387 during his or her base period, regardless of whether this part-  
5388 time work is simultaneous or successive to the individual's lost  
5389 employment. Further, as provided in s. 443.151(3), benefits may  
5390 not be charged to the employment record of an employer who  
5391 furnishes the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ with  
5392 notice, as prescribed in rules of the department, that any of  
5393 the following apply:

5394 1. If an individual leaves his or her work without good  
5395 cause attributable to the employer or is discharged by the  
5396 employer for misconduct connected with his or her work, benefits  
5397 subsequently paid to the individual based on wages paid by the  
5398 employer before the separation may not be charged to the  
5399 employment record of the employer.

5400 2. If an individual is discharged by the employer for

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5401 | unsatisfactory performance during an initial employment  
5402 | probationary period, benefits subsequently paid to the  
5403 | individual based on wages paid during the probationary period by  
5404 | the employer before the separation may not be charged to the  
5405 | employer's employment record. As used in this subparagraph, the  
5406 | term "initial employment probationary period" means an  
5407 | established probationary plan that applies to all employees or a  
5408 | specific group of employees and that does not exceed 90 calendar  
5409 | days following the first day a new employee begins work. The  
5410 | employee must be informed of the probationary period within the  
5411 | first 7 days of work. The employer must demonstrate by  
5412 | conclusive evidence that the individual was separated because of  
5413 | unsatisfactory work performance and not because of lack of work  
5414 | due to temporary, seasonal, casual, or other similar employment  
5415 | that is not of a regular, permanent, and year-round nature.

5416 |         3. Benefits subsequently paid to an individual after his  
5417 | or her refusal without good cause to accept suitable work from  
5418 | an employer may not be charged to the employment record of the  
5419 | employer if any part of those benefits are based on wages paid  
5420 | by the employer before the individual's refusal to accept  
5421 | suitable work. As used in this subparagraph, the term "good  
5422 | cause" does not include distance to employment caused by a  
5423 | change of residence by the individual. The department shall  
5424 | adopt rules prescribing for the payment of all benefits whether  
5425 | this subparagraph applies regardless of whether a

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5426 disqualification under s. 443.101 applies to the claim.

5427         4. If an individual is separated from work as a direct  
5428 result of a natural disaster declared under the Robert T.  
5429 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C.  
5430 ss. 5121 et seq., benefits subsequently paid to the individual  
5431 based on wages paid by the employer before the separation may  
5432 not be charged to the employment record of the employer.

5433         5. If an individual is separated from work as a direct  
5434 result of an oil spill, terrorist attack, or other similar  
5435 disaster of national significance not subject to a declaration  
5436 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
5437 Assistance Act, benefits subsequently paid to the individual  
5438 based on wages paid by the employer before the separation may  
5439 not be charged to the employment record of the employer.

5440         6. If an individual is separated from work as a direct  
5441 result of domestic violence and meets all requirements in s.  
5442 443.101(1)(a)2.c., benefits subsequently paid to the individual  
5443 based on wages paid by the employer before separation may not be  
5444 charged to the employment record of the employer.

5445         (e) *Assignment of variations from the standard rate.*—

5446         1. As used in this paragraph, the terms "total benefit  
5447 payments," "benefits paid to an individual," and "benefits  
5448 charged to the employment record of an employer" mean the amount  
5449 of benefits paid to individuals multiplied by:

5450             a. For benefits paid prior to July 1, 2007, 1.

5451           b. For benefits paid during the period beginning on July  
5452 1, 2007, and ending March 31, 2011, 0.90.

5453           c. For benefits paid after March 31, 2011, 1.

5454           d. For benefits paid during the period beginning April 1,  
5455 2020, and ending December 31, 2020, 0.

5456           e. For benefits paid during the period beginning January  
5457 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2021, 1, except as otherwise  
5458 adjusted in accordance with paragraph (f).

5459           2. For the calculation of contribution rates effective  
5460 January 1, 2012, and thereafter:

5461           a. The tax collection service provider shall assign a  
5462 variation from the standard rate of contributions for each  
5463 calendar year to each eligible employer. In determining the  
5464 contribution rate, varying from the standard rate to be assigned  
5465 each employer, adjustment factors computed under sub-sub-  
5466 subparagraphs (I)-(IV) are added to the benefit ratio. This  
5467 addition shall be accomplished in two steps by adding a variable  
5468 adjustment factor and a final adjustment factor. The sum of  
5469 these adjustment factors computed under sub-sub-subparagraphs  
5470 (I)-(IV) shall first be algebraically summed. The sum of these  
5471 adjustment factors shall next be divided by a gross benefit  
5472 ratio determined as follows: Total benefit payments for the 3-  
5473 year period described in subparagraph (b)3. are charged to  
5474 employers eligible for a variation from the standard rate, minus  
5475 excess payments for the same period, divided by taxable payroll

5476 entering into the computation of individual benefit ratios for  
5477 the calendar year for which the contribution rate is being  
5478 computed. The ratio of the sum of the adjustment factors  
5479 computed under sub-sub-subparagraphs (I)-(IV) to the gross  
5480 benefit ratio is multiplied by each individual benefit ratio  
5481 that is less than the maximum contribution rate to obtain  
5482 variable adjustment factors; except that if the sum of an  
5483 employer's individual benefit ratio and variable adjustment  
5484 factor exceeds the maximum contribution rate, the variable  
5485 adjustment factor is reduced in order for the sum to equal the  
5486 maximum contribution rate. The variable adjustment factor for  
5487 each of these employers is multiplied by his or her taxable  
5488 payroll entering into the computation of his or her benefit  
5489 ratio. The sum of these products is divided by the taxable  
5490 payroll of the employers who entered into the computation of  
5491 their benefit ratios. The resulting ratio is subtracted from the  
5492 sum of the adjustment factors computed under sub-sub-  
5493 subparagraphs (I)-(IV) to obtain the final adjustment factor.  
5494 The variable adjustment factors and the final adjustment factor  
5495 must be computed to five decimal places and rounded to the  
5496 fourth decimal place. This final adjustment factor is added to  
5497 the variable adjustment factor and benefit ratio of each  
5498 employer to obtain each employer's contribution rate. An  
5499 employer's contribution rate may not, however, be rounded to  
5500 less than 0.1 percent. In determining the contribution rate,

5501 varying from the standard rate to be assigned, the computation  
5502 shall exclude any benefit that is excluded by the multipliers  
5503 under subparagraph (b)2. and subparagraph 1. The computation of  
5504 the contribution rate, varying from the standard rate to be  
5505 assigned, shall also exclude any benefit paid as a result of a  
5506 governmental order related to COVID-19 to close or reduce  
5507 capacity of a business. In addition, the contribution rate for  
5508 the 2021 and 2022 calendar years shall be calculated without the  
5509 application of the positive adjustment factor in sub-sub-  
5510 subparagraph (III).

5511 (I) An adjustment factor for noncharge benefits is  
5512 computed to the fifth decimal place and rounded to the fourth  
5513 decimal place by dividing the amount of noncharge benefits  
5514 during the 3-year period described in subparagraph (b)3. by the  
5515 taxable payroll of employers eligible for a variation from the  
5516 standard rate who have a benefit ratio for the current year  
5517 which is less than the maximum contribution rate. For purposes  
5518 of computing this adjustment factor, the taxable payroll of  
5519 these employers is the taxable payrolls for the 3 years ending  
5520 June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the tax  
5521 collection service provider by September 30 of the same calendar  
5522 year. As used in this sub-sub-subparagraph, the term "noncharge  
5523 benefits" means benefits paid to an individual, as adjusted  
5524 pursuant to subparagraph (b)2. and subparagraph 1., from the  
5525 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund which were not charged to

5526 | the employment record of any employer, but excluding any benefit  
5527 | paid as a result of a governmental order related to COVID-19 to  
5528 | close or reduce capacity of a business.

5529 |       (II) An adjustment factor for excess payments is computed  
5530 | to the fifth decimal place, and rounded to the fourth decimal  
5531 | place by dividing the total excess payments during the 3-year  
5532 | period described in subparagraph (b)3. by the taxable payroll of  
5533 | employers eligible for a variation from the standard rate who  
5534 | have a benefit ratio for the current year which is less than the  
5535 | maximum contribution rate. For purposes of computing this  
5536 | adjustment factor, the taxable payroll of these employers is the  
5537 | same figure used to compute the adjustment factor for noncharge  
5538 | benefits under sub-sub-subparagraph (I). As used in this sub-  
5539 | subparagraph, the term "excess payments" means the amount of  
5540 | benefits charged to the employment record of an employer, as  
5541 | adjusted pursuant to subparagraph (b)2. and subparagraph 1.,  
5542 | during the 3-year period described in subparagraph (b)3., but  
5543 | excluding any benefit paid as a result of a governmental order  
5544 | related to COVID-19 to close or reduce capacity of a business,  
5545 | less the product of the maximum contribution rate and the  
5546 | employer's taxable payroll for the 3 years ending June 30 of the  
5547 | current calendar year as reported to the tax collection service  
5548 | provider by September 30 of the same calendar year. As used in  
5549 | this sub-sub-subparagraph, the term "total excess payments"  
5550 | means the sum of the individual employer excess payments for

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5551 those employers that were eligible for assignment of a  
5552 contribution rate different from the standard rate.

5553 (III) With respect to computing a positive adjustment  
5554 factor:

5555 (A) Beginning January 1, 2012, if the balance of the  
5556 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund on September 30 of the  
5557 calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which  
5558 the contribution rate is being computed is less than 4 percent  
5559 of the taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 as reported  
5560 to the tax collection service provider by September 30 of that  
5561 calendar year, a positive adjustment factor shall be computed.  
5562 The positive adjustment factor is computed annually to the fifth  
5563 decimal place and rounded to the fourth decimal place by  
5564 dividing the sum of the total taxable payrolls for the year  
5565 ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the  
5566 tax collection service provider by September 30 of that calendar  
5567 year into a sum equal to one-fifth of the difference between the  
5568 balance of the fund as of September 30 of that calendar year and  
5569 the sum of 5 percent of the total taxable payrolls for that  
5570 year. The positive adjustment factor remains in effect for  
5571 subsequent years until the balance of the Unemployment  
5572 Compensation Trust Fund as of September 30 of the year  
5573 immediately preceding the effective date of the contribution  
5574 rate equals or exceeds 4 percent of the taxable payrolls for the  
5575 year ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to

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5576 | the tax collection service provider by September 30 of that  
5577 | calendar year.

5578 |       (B) Beginning January 1, 2018, and for each year  
5579 | thereafter, the positive adjustment shall be computed by  
5580 | dividing the sum of the total taxable payrolls for the year  
5581 | ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the  
5582 | tax collection service provider by September 30 of that calendar  
5583 | year into a sum equal to one-fourth of the difference between  
5584 | the balance of the fund as of September 30 of that calendar year  
5585 | and the sum of 5 percent of the total taxable payrolls for that  
5586 | year. The positive adjustment factor remains in effect for  
5587 | subsequent years until the balance of the Unemployment  
5588 | Compensation Trust Fund as of September 30 of the year  
5589 | immediately preceding the effective date of the contribution  
5590 | rate equals or exceeds 4 percent of the taxable payrolls for the  
5591 | year ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to  
5592 | the tax collection service provider by September 30 of that  
5593 | calendar year.

5594 |       (IV) If, beginning January 1, 2015, and each year  
5595 | thereafter, the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Trust  
5596 | Fund as of September 30 of the year immediately preceding the  
5597 | calendar year for which the contribution rate is being computed  
5598 | exceeds 5 percent of the taxable payrolls for the year ending  
5599 | June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the tax  
5600 | collection service provider by September 30 of that calendar

5601 year, a negative adjustment factor must be computed. The  
5602 negative adjustment factor shall be computed annually beginning  
5603 on January 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, to the fifth  
5604 decimal place and rounded to the fourth decimal place by  
5605 dividing the sum of the total taxable payrolls for the year  
5606 ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the  
5607 tax collection service provider by September 30 of the calendar  
5608 year into a sum equal to one-fourth of the difference between  
5609 the balance of the fund as of September 30 of the current  
5610 calendar year and 5 percent of the total taxable payrolls of  
5611 that year. The negative adjustment factor remains in effect for  
5612 subsequent years until the balance of the Unemployment  
5613 Compensation Trust Fund as of September 30 of the year  
5614 immediately preceding the effective date of the contribution  
5615 rate is less than 5 percent, but more than 4 percent of the  
5616 taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 of the current  
5617 calendar year as reported to the tax collection service provider  
5618 by September 30 of that calendar year. The negative adjustment  
5619 authorized by this section is suspended in any calendar year in  
5620 which repayment of the principal amount of an advance received  
5621 from the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund under 42  
5622 U.S.C. s. 1321 is due to the Federal Government.

5623 (V) The maximum contribution rate that may be assigned to  
5624 an employer is 5.4 percent, except employers participating in an  
5625 approved short-time compensation plan may be assigned a maximum

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5626 contribution rate that is 1 percent greater than the maximum  
5627 contribution rate for other employers in any calendar year in  
5628 which short-time compensation benefits are charged to the  
5629 employer's employment record.

5630 (VI) As used in this subsection, "taxable payroll" shall  
5631 be determined by excluding any part of the remuneration paid to  
5632 an individual by an employer for employment during a calendar  
5633 year in excess of the first \$7,000. Beginning January 1, 2012,  
5634 "taxable payroll" shall be determined by excluding any part of  
5635 the remuneration paid to an individual by an employer for  
5636 employment during a calendar year as described in s.

5637 443.1217(2). For the purposes of the employer rate calculation  
5638 that will take effect in January 1, 2012, and in January 1,  
5639 2013, the tax collection service provider shall use the data  
5640 available for taxable payroll from 2009 based on excluding any  
5641 part of the remuneration paid to an individual by an employer  
5642 for employment during a calendar year in excess of the first  
5643 \$7,000, and from 2010 and 2011, the data available for taxable  
5644 payroll based on excluding any part of the remuneration paid to  
5645 an individual by an employer for employment during a calendar  
5646 year in excess of the first \$8,500.

5647 b. If the transfer of an employer's employment record to  
5648 an employing unit under paragraph (g) which, before the  
5649 transfer, was an employer, the tax collection service provider  
5650 shall recompute a benefit ratio for the successor employer based

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5651 on the combined employment records and reassign an appropriate  
5652 contribution rate to the successor employer effective on the  
5653 first day of the calendar quarter immediately after the  
5654 effective date of the transfer.

5655 3. The tax collection service provider shall reissue rates  
5656 for the 2021 calendar year. However, an employer shall continue  
5657 to timely file its employer's quarterly reports and pay the  
5658 contributions due in a timely manner in accordance with the  
5659 rules of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The  
5660 Department of Revenue shall post the revised rates on its  
5661 website to enable employers to securely review the revised  
5662 rates. For contributions for the first quarter of the 2021  
5663 calendar year, if any employer remits to the tax collection  
5664 service provider an amount in excess of the amount that would be  
5665 due as calculated pursuant to this paragraph, the tax collection  
5666 service provider shall refund the excess amount from the amount  
5667 erroneously collected. Notwithstanding s. 443.141(6), refunds  
5668 issued through August 31, 2021, for first quarter 2021  
5669 contributions must be paid from the General Revenue Fund.

5670 4. The tax collection service provider shall calculate and  
5671 assign contribution rates effective January 1, 2022, through  
5672 December 31, 2022, excluding any benefit charge that is excluded  
5673 by the multipliers under subparagraph (b)2. and subparagraph 1.;  
5674 without the application of the positive adjustment factor in  
5675 sub-sub-subparagraph 2.a.(III); and without the inclusion of any

5676 benefit charge directly related to COVID-19 as a result of a  
 5677 governmental order to close or reduce capacity of a business, as  
 5678 determined by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
 5679 for each employer who is eligible for a variation from the  
 5680 standard rate pursuant to paragraph (d). The Department of  
 5681 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall provide the tax collection  
 5682 service provider with all necessary benefit charge information  
 5683 by August 1, 2021, including specific information for  
 5684 adjustments related to COVID-19 charges resulting from a  
 5685 governmental order to close or reduce capacity of a business, to  
 5686 enable the tax collection service provider to calculate and  
 5687 issue tax rates effective January 1, 2022. The tax collection  
 5688 service provider shall calculate and post rates for the 2022  
 5689 calendar year by March 1, 2022.

5690 5. Subject to subparagraph 6., the tax collection service  
 5691 provider shall calculate and assign contribution rates effective  
 5692 January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, excluding any  
 5693 benefit charge that is excluded by the multipliers under  
 5694 subparagraph (b)2. and subparagraph 1.; without the application  
 5695 of the positive adjustment factor in sub-sub-subparagraph  
 5696 2.a.(III); and without the inclusion of any benefit charge  
 5697 directly related to COVID-19 as a result of a governmental order  
 5698 to close or reduce capacity of a business, as determined by the  
 5699 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, for each employer  
 5700 who is eligible for a variation from the standard rate pursuant

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5701 to paragraph (d). The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
5702 ~~Opportunity~~ shall provide the tax collection service provider  
5703 with all necessary benefit charge information by August 1 of  
5704 each year, including specific information for adjustments  
5705 related to COVID-19 charges resulting from a governmental order  
5706 to close or reduce capacity of a business, to enable the tax  
5707 collection service provider to calculate and issue tax rates  
5708 effective the following January.

5709         6. If the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Trust  
5710 Fund on June 30 of any year exceeds \$4,071,519,600, subparagraph  
5711 5. is repealed for rates effective the following years. The  
5712 Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall advise the tax  
5713 collection service provider of the balance of the trust fund on  
5714 June 30 by August 1 of that year. After the repeal of  
5715 subparagraph 5. and notwithstanding the dates specified in that  
5716 subparagraph, the tax collection service provider shall  
5717 calculate and assign contribution rates for each subsequent  
5718 calendar year as otherwise provided in this section.

5719         (i) *Additional conditions for variation from the standard*  
5720 *rate.*—An employer's contribution rate may not be reduced below  
5721 the standard rate under this section unless:

5722         1. All contributions, reimbursements, interest, and  
5723 penalties incurred by the employer for wages paid by him or her  
5724 in all previous calendar quarters, except the 4 calendar  
5725 quarters immediately preceding the calendar quarter or calendar

5726 | year for which the benefit ratio is computed, are paid;

5727 |         2. The employer has produced for inspection and copying  
 5728 | all work records in his or her possession, custody, or control  
 5729 | which were requested by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 5730 | ~~Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider pursuant to  
 5731 | s. 443.171(5). An employer shall have at least 60 days to  
 5732 | provide the requested work records before the employer is  
 5733 | assigned the standard rate; and

5734 |         3. The employer entitled to a rate reduction has at least  
 5735 | one annual payroll as defined in subparagraph (b)1. unless the  
 5736 | employer is eligible for additional credit under the Federal  
 5737 | Unemployment Tax Act. If the Federal Unemployment Tax Act is  
 5738 | amended or repealed in a manner affecting credit under the  
 5739 | federal act, this section applies only to the extent that  
 5740 | additional credit is allowed against the payment of the tax  
 5741 | imposed by the act.

5742 |  
 5743 | The tax collection service provider shall assign an earned  
 5744 | contribution rate to an employer for the quarter immediately  
 5745 | after the quarter in which all contributions, reimbursements,  
 5746 | interest, and penalties are paid in full and all work records  
 5747 | requested pursuant to s. 443.171(5) are produced for inspection  
 5748 | and copying by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 5749 | or the tax collection service provider.

5750 |         (j) *Notice of determinations of contribution rates;*

5751 *redeterminations.*—The state agency providing tax collection  
5752 services:

5753 1. Shall promptly notify each employer of his or her  
5754 contribution rate as determined for any calendar year under this  
5755 section. The determination is conclusive and binding on the  
5756 employer unless within 20 days after mailing the notice of  
5757 determination to the employer's last known address, or, in the  
5758 absence of mailing, within 20 days after delivery of the notice,  
5759 the employer files an application for review and redetermination  
5760 setting forth the grounds for review. An employer may not, in  
5761 any proceeding involving his or her contribution rate or  
5762 liability for contributions, contest the chargeability to his or  
5763 her employment record of any benefits paid in accordance with a  
5764 determination, redetermination, or decision under s. 443.151,  
5765 except on the ground that the benefits charged were not based on  
5766 services performed in employment for him or her and then only if  
5767 the employer was not a party to the determination,  
5768 redetermination, or decision, or to any other proceeding under  
5769 this chapter, in which the character of those services was  
5770 determined.

5771 2. Shall, upon discovery of an error in computation,  
5772 reconsider any prior determination or redetermination of a  
5773 contribution rate after the 20-day period has expired and issue  
5774 a revised notice of contribution rate as redetermined. A  
5775 redetermination is subject to review, and is conclusive and

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5776 binding if review is not sought, in the same manner as review of  
5777 a determination under subparagraph 1. A reconsideration may not  
5778 be made after March 31 of the calendar year immediately after  
5779 the calendar year for which the contribution rate is applicable,  
5780 and interest may not accrue on any additional contributions  
5781 found to be due until 30 days after the employer is mailed  
5782 notice of his or her revised contribution rate.

5783 3. May adopt rules providing for periodic notification to  
5784 employers of benefits paid and charged to their employment  
5785 records or of the status of those employment records. A  
5786 notification, unless an application for redetermination is filed  
5787 in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by the  
5788 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, is conclusive and  
5789 binding on the employer under this chapter. The redetermination,  
5790 and the finding of fact of the department in connection with the  
5791 redetermination, may be introduced in any subsequent  
5792 administrative or judicial proceeding involving the  
5793 determination of the contribution rate of an employer for any  
5794 calendar year. A redetermination becomes final in the same  
5795 manner provided in this subsection for findings of fact made by  
5796 the department in proceedings to redetermine the contribution  
5797 rate of an employer. Pending a redetermination or an  
5798 administrative or judicial proceeding, the employer must file  
5799 reports and pay contributions in accordance with this section.

5800 Section 187. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) and paragraph

5801 (d) of subsection (3) of section 443.1312, Florida Statutes, are  
 5802 amended to read:

5803 443.1312 Reimbursements; nonprofit organizations.—Benefits  
 5804 paid to employees of nonprofit organizations shall be financed  
 5805 in accordance with this section.

5806 (2) LIABILITY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND ELECTION OF  
 5807 REIMBURSEMENT.—A nonprofit organization that is, or becomes,  
 5808 subject to this chapter under s. 443.1215(1)(c) or s.  
 5809 443.121(3)(a) must pay contributions under s. 443.131 unless it  
 5810 elects, in accordance with this subsection, to reimburse the  
 5811 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for all of the regular  
 5812 benefits, short-time compensation benefits, and one-half of the  
 5813 extended benefits paid, which are attributable to service in the  
 5814 employ of the nonprofit organization, to individuals for weeks  
 5815 of unemployment which begin during the effective period of the  
 5816 election.

5817 (d) In accordance with rules adopted by the Department of  
 5818 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state agency providing  
 5819 reemployment assistance tax collection services, the tax  
 5820 collection service provider shall notify each nonprofit  
 5821 organization of any determination of the organization's status  
 5822 as an employer, the effective date of any election the  
 5823 organization makes, and the effective date of any termination of  
 5824 the election. Each determination is subject to reconsideration,  
 5825 appeal, and review under s. 443.141(2)(c).

5826 (3) PAYMENT OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—Reimbursements in lieu of  
 5827 contributions must be paid in accordance with this subsection.

5828 (d) The amount due, as specified in any bill from the tax  
 5829 collection service provider, is conclusive, and the nonprofit  
 5830 organization is liable for payment of that amount unless, within  
 5831 20 days after the bill is mailed to the organization's last  
 5832 known address or otherwise delivered to the organization, the  
 5833 organization files an application for redetermination by the  
 5834 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, setting forth the  
 5835 grounds for the application. The department shall promptly  
 5836 review and reconsider the amount due, as specified in the bill,  
 5837 and shall issue a redetermination in each case in which an  
 5838 application for redetermination is filed. The redetermination is  
 5839 conclusive and the nonprofit organization is liable for payment  
 5840 of the amount due, as specified in the redetermination, unless,  
 5841 within 20 days after the redetermination is mailed to the  
 5842 organization's last known address or otherwise delivered to the  
 5843 organization, the organization files a protest, setting forth  
 5844 the grounds for the appeal. Proceedings on the protest shall be  
 5845 conducted in accordance with s. 443.141(2).

5846 Section 188. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 5847 443.1313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5848 443.1313 Public employers; reimbursements; election to pay  
 5849 contributions.—Benefits paid to employees of a public employer,  
 5850 as defined in s. 443.036, based on service described in s.

5851 443.1216(2) shall be financed in accordance with this section.  
 5852 (1) PAYMENT OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—  
 5853 (b) If a state agency is more than 120 days delinquent on  
 5854 reimbursements due to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund,  
 5855 the tax collection service provider shall certify to the Chief  
 5856 Financial Officer the amount due and the Chief Financial Officer  
 5857 shall transfer the amount due to the Unemployment Compensation  
 5858 Trust Fund from the funds of the agency which legally may be  
 5859 used for that purpose. If a public employer other than a state  
 5860 agency is more than 120 days delinquent on reimbursements due to  
 5861 the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, upon request by the  
 5862 tax collection service provider after a hearing, the Department  
 5863 of Revenue or the Department of Financial Services, as  
 5864 applicable, shall deduct the amount owed by the public employer  
 5865 from any funds to be distributed by the applicable department to  
 5866 the public employer for further distribution to the trust fund  
 5867 in accordance with this chapter. If an employer for whom the  
 5868 municipal or county tax collector collects taxes fails to make  
 5869 the reimbursements to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund  
 5870 required by this chapter, the tax collector after a hearing, at  
 5871 the request of the tax collection service provider and upon  
 5872 receipt of a certificate showing the amount owed by the  
 5873 employer, shall deduct the certified amount from any taxes  
 5874 collected for the employer and remit that amount to the tax  
 5875 collection service provider for further distribution to the

5876 trust fund in accordance with this chapter. This paragraph does  
 5877 not apply to amounts owed by a political subdivision of the  
 5878 state for benefits erroneously paid in which the claimant must  
 5879 repay to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ under  
 5880 s. 443.151(6)(a) or (b) any sum as benefits received.

5881 Section 189. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and  
 5882 subsection (7) of section 443.1315, Florida Statutes, are  
 5883 amended to read:

5884 443.1315 Treatment of Indian tribes.—

5885 (4)

5886 (b)1. Services performed for an Indian tribe or tribal  
 5887 unit that fails to make required reimbursements, including  
 5888 assessments of interest and penalty, after all collection  
 5889 activities deemed necessary by the tax collection service  
 5890 provider, subject to approval by the Department of Commerce  
 5891 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, are exhausted may not be treated as  
 5892 employment for purposes of paragraph (1)(b).

5893 2. The tax collection service provider may determine that  
 5894 any Indian tribe that loses coverage under subparagraph 1. may  
 5895 have services performed for the tribe subsequently included as  
 5896 employment for purposes of paragraph (1)(b) if all  
 5897 contributions, reimbursements, penalties, and interest are paid.

5898 (7) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and  
 5899 the state agency providing reemployment assistance tax  
 5900 collection services shall adopt rules necessary to administer

5901 | this section.

5902 |       Section 190. Subsection (1) of section 443.1316, Florida  
5903 | Statutes, is amended to read:

5904 |       443.1316 Reemployment assistance tax collection services;  
5905 | interagency agreement.—

5906 |       (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
5907 | contract with the Department of Revenue, through an interagency  
5908 | agreement, to perform the duties of the tax collection service  
5909 | provider and provide other reemployment assistance tax  
5910 | collection services under this chapter. Under the interagency  
5911 | agreement, the tax collection service provider may only  
5912 | implement:

5913 |       (a) The provisions of this chapter conferring duties upon  
5914 | the tax collection service provider.

5915 |       (b) The provisions of law conferring duties upon the  
5916 | department which are specifically delegated to the tax  
5917 | collection service provider in the interagency agreement.

5918 |       Section 191. Section 443.1317, Florida Statutes, is  
5919 | amended to read:

5920 |       443.1317 Rulemaking authority; enforcement of rules.—

5921 |       (1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ~~ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY~~.—

5922 |       (a) Except as otherwise provided in s. 443.012, the  
5923 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ has ultimate  
5924 | authority over the administration of the Reemployment Assistance  
5925 | Program.

5926 (b) The department may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)  
 5927 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this chapter  
 5928 conferring duties upon either the department or its tax  
 5929 collection service provider.

5930 (2) TAX COLLECTION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The state agency  
 5931 providing reemployment assistance tax collection services under  
 5932 contract with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
 5933 through an interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316 may  
 5934 adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, subject to approval  
 5935 by the department, to administer the provisions of law described  
 5936 in s. 443.1316(1) (a) and (b) which are within this chapter.  
 5937 These rules must not conflict with the rules adopted by the  
 5938 department or with the interagency agreement.

5939 (3) ENFORCEMENT OF RULES.—The Department of Commerce  
 5940 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may enforce any rule adopted by the state  
 5941 agency providing reemployment assistance tax collection services  
 5942 to administer this chapter. The tax collection service provider  
 5943 may enforce any rule adopted by the department to administer the  
 5944 provisions of law described in s. 443.1316(1) (a) and (b).

5945 Section 192. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraph  
 5946 (a) of subsection (2), paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (3),  
 5947 and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 443.141, Florida  
 5948 Statutes, are amended to read:

5949 443.141 Collection of contributions and reimbursements.—

5950 (1) PAST DUE CONTRIBUTIONS AND REIMBURSEMENTS; DELINQUENT,

5951 | ERRONEOUS, INCOMPLETE, OR INSUFFICIENT REPORTS.—

5952 |       (b) *Penalty for delinquent, erroneous, incomplete, or*  
 5953 | *insufficient reports.—*

5954 |       1. An employing unit that fails to file any report  
 5955 | required by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
 5956 | its tax collection service provider, in accordance with rules  
 5957 | for administering this chapter, shall pay to the service  
 5958 | provider for each delinquent report the sum of \$25 for each 30  
 5959 | days or fraction thereof that the employing unit is delinquent,  
 5960 | unless the department or its service provider, whichever  
 5961 | required the report, finds that the employing unit has good  
 5962 | reason for failing to file the report. The department or its  
 5963 | service provider may assess penalties only through the date of  
 5964 | the issuance of the final assessment notice. However, additional  
 5965 | penalties accrue if the delinquent report is subsequently filed.

5966 |       2.a. An employing unit that files an erroneous,  
 5967 | incomplete, or insufficient report with the department or its  
 5968 | tax collection service provider shall pay a penalty. The amount  
 5969 | of the penalty is \$50 or 10 percent of any tax due, whichever is  
 5970 | greater, but no more than \$300 per report. The penalty shall be  
 5971 | added to any tax, penalty, or interest otherwise due.

5972 |       b. The department or its tax collection service provider  
 5973 | shall waive the penalty if the employing unit files an accurate,  
 5974 | complete, and sufficient report within 30 days after a penalty  
 5975 | notice is issued to the employing unit. The penalty may not be

5976 | waived pursuant to this subparagraph more than one time during a  
 5977 | 12-month period.

5978 |       c. As used in this subsection, the term "erroneous,  
 5979 | incomplete, or insufficient report" means a report so lacking in  
 5980 | information, completeness, or arrangement that the report cannot  
 5981 | be readily understood, verified, or reviewed. Such reports  
 5982 | include, but are not limited to, reports having missing wage or  
 5983 | employee information, missing or incorrect social security  
 5984 | numbers, or illegible entries; reports submitted in a format  
 5985 | that is not approved by the department or its tax collection  
 5986 | service provider; and reports showing gross wages that do not  
 5987 | equal the total of the wages of each employee. However, the term  
 5988 | does not include a report that merely contains inaccurate data  
 5989 | that was supplied to the employer by the employee, if the  
 5990 | employer was unaware of the inaccuracy.

5991 |       3. Penalties imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
 5992 | deposited in the Special Employment Security Administration  
 5993 | Trust Fund.

5994 |       4. The penalty and interest for a delinquent, erroneous,  
 5995 | incomplete, or insufficient report may be waived if the penalty  
 5996 | or interest is inequitable. The provisions of s. 213.24(1) apply  
 5997 | to any penalty or interest that is imposed under this section.

5998 |       (2) REPORTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, APPEALS.—

5999 |       (a) *Failure to make reports and pay contributions.*—If an  
 6000 | employing unit determined by the tax collection service provider

6001 to be an employer subject to this chapter fails to make and file  
 6002 any report as and when required by this chapter or by any rule  
 6003 of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state  
 6004 agency providing tax collection services, for the purpose of  
 6005 determining the amount of contributions due by the employer  
 6006 under this chapter, or if any filed report is found by the  
 6007 service provider to be incorrect or insufficient, and the  
 6008 employer, after being notified in writing by the service  
 6009 provider to file the report, or a corrected or sufficient  
 6010 report, as applicable, fails to file the report within 15 days  
 6011 after the date of the mailing of the notice, the tax collection  
 6012 service provider may:

6013 1. Determine the amount of contributions due from the  
 6014 employer based on the information readily available to it, which  
 6015 determination is deemed to be prima facie correct;

6016 2. Assess the employer the amount of contributions  
 6017 determined to be due; and

6018 3. Immediately notify the employer by mail of the  
 6019 determination and assessment including penalties as provided in  
 6020 this chapter, if any, added and assessed, and demand payment  
 6021 together with interest on the amount of contributions from the  
 6022 date that amount was due and payable.

6023 (3) COLLECTION PROCEEDINGS.—

6024 (f) *Reproductions*.—In any proceedings in any court under  
 6025 this chapter, reproductions of the original records of the

6026 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, its tax collection  
6027 service provider, the former Agency for Workforce Innovation,  
6028 the former Department of Labor and Employment Security, or the  
6029 commission, including, but not limited to, photocopies or  
6030 microfilm, are primary evidence in lieu of the original records  
6031 or of the documents that were transcribed into those records.

6032 (g) *Jeopardy assessment and warrant.*—If the tax collection  
6033 service provider reasonably believes that the collection of  
6034 contributions or reimbursements from an employer will be  
6035 jeopardized by delay, the service provider may assess the  
6036 contributions or reimbursements immediately, together with  
6037 interest or penalties when due, regardless of whether the  
6038 contributions or reimbursements accrued are due, and may  
6039 immediately issue a notice of lien and jeopardy warrant upon  
6040 which proceedings may be conducted as provided in this section  
6041 for notice of lien and warrant of the service provider. Within  
6042 15 days after mailing the notice of lien by registered mail, the  
6043 employer may protest the issuance of the lien in the same manner  
6044 provided in paragraph (2) (a). The protest does not operate as a  
6045 supersedeas or stay of enforcement unless the employer files  
6046 with the sheriff seeking to enforce the warrant a good and  
6047 sufficient surety bond in twice the amount demanded by the  
6048 notice of lien or warrant. The bond must be conditioned upon  
6049 payment of the amount subsequently found to be due from the  
6050 employer to the tax collection service provider in the final

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6051 order of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ upon  
6052 protest of assessment. The jeopardy warrant and notice of lien  
6053 are satisfied in the manner provided in this section upon  
6054 payment of the amount finally determined to be due from the  
6055 employer. If enforcement of the jeopardy warrant is not  
6056 superseded as provided in this section, the employer is entitled  
6057 to a refund from the fund of all amounts paid as contributions  
6058 or reimbursements in excess of the amount finally determined to  
6059 be due by the employer upon application being made as provided  
6060 in this chapter.

6061 (4) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS FOR COLLECTION OF  
6062 CONTRIBUTIONS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.—

6063 (c) Any agent or employee designated by the Department of  
6064 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service  
6065 provider may administer an oath to any person for any return or  
6066 report required by this chapter or by the rules of the  
6067 department or the state agency providing reemployment assistance  
6068 tax collection services, and an oath made before the department  
6069 or its service provider or any authorized agent or employee has  
6070 the same effect as an oath made before any judicial officer or  
6071 notary public of the state.

6072 Section 193. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraph  
6073 (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3),  
6074 paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (a) of subsection  
6075 (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and paragraph (a) of

6076 subsection (8) of section 443.151, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 6077 to read:

6078 443.151 Procedure concerning claims.—

6079 (1) POSTING OF INFORMATION.—

6080 (a) Each employer must post and maintain in places readily  
 6081 accessible to individuals in her or his employ printed  
 6082 statements concerning benefit rights, claims for benefits, and  
 6083 other matters relating to the administration of this chapter as  
 6084 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may by rule  
 6085 prescribe. Each employer must supply to individuals copies of  
 6086 printed statements or other materials relating to claims for  
 6087 benefits as directed by the rules of the department. The  
 6088 department shall supply these printed statements and other  
 6089 materials to each employer without cost to the employer.

6090 (2) FILING OF CLAIM INVESTIGATIONS; NOTIFICATION OF  
 6091 CLAIMANTS AND EMPLOYERS.—

6092 (a) *In general.*—Initial and continued claims for benefits  
 6093 must be made by approved electronic or alternate means and in  
 6094 accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Commerce  
 6095 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The department shall provide alternative  
 6096 means, such as by telephone, for filing initial and continued  
 6097 claims if the department determines access to the approved  
 6098 electronic means is or will be unavailable and also must provide  
 6099 public notice of such unavailability. The department must notify  
 6100 claimants and employers regarding monetary and nonmonetary

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6101 determinations of eligibility. Investigations of issues raised  
6102 in connection with a claimant which may affect a claimant's  
6103 eligibility for benefits or charges to an employer's employment  
6104 record shall be conducted by the department through written,  
6105 telephonic, or electronic means as prescribed by rule.

6106 (3) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

6107 (a) *Notices of claim.*—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6108 ~~Opportunity~~ shall promptly provide a notice of claim to the  
6109 claimant's most recent employing unit and all employers whose  
6110 employment records are liable for benefits under the monetary  
6111 determination. The employer must respond to the notice of claim  
6112 within 14 days after the mailing date of the notice, or in lieu  
6113 of mailing, within 14 days after the delivery of the notice. If  
6114 a contributing employer or its agent fails to timely or  
6115 adequately respond to the notice of claim or request for  
6116 information, the employer's account may not be relieved of  
6117 benefit charges as provided in s. 443.131(3)(a), notwithstanding  
6118 paragraph (5)(b). The department may adopt rules as necessary to  
6119 implement the processes described in this paragraph relating to  
6120 notices of claim.

6121 (4) APPEALS.—

6122 (a) *Appeals referees.*—

6123 1. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
6124 appoint one or more impartial salaried appeals referees in  
6125 accordance with s. 443.171(3) to hear and decide appealed

6126 | claims.

6127 |         2. A person may not participate on behalf of the  
6128 | department as an appeals referee in any case in which she or he  
6129 | is an interested party.

6130 |         3. The department may designate alternates to serve in the  
6131 | absence or disqualification of any appeals referee on a  
6132 | temporary basis. These alternates must have the same  
6133 | qualifications required of appeals referees.

6134 |         4. The department shall provide the commission and the  
6135 | appeals referees with proper facilities and assistance for the  
6136 | execution of their functions.

6137 |         (5) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.—

6138 |         (a) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
6139 | promptly pay benefits in accordance with a determination or  
6140 | redetermination regardless of any appeal or pending appeal.  
6141 | Before payment of benefits to the claimant, however, each  
6142 | employer who is liable for reimbursements in lieu of  
6143 | contributions for payment of the benefits must be notified, at  
6144 | the address on file with the department or its tax collection  
6145 | service provider, of the initial determination of the claim and  
6146 | must be given 10 days to respond.

6147 |         (6) RECOVERY AND RECOUPMENT.—

6148 |         (a) Any person who, by reason of her or his fraud,  
6149 | receives benefits under this chapter to which she or he is not  
6150 | entitled is liable for repaying those benefits to the Department

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6151 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ on behalf of the trust fund or,  
6152 in the discretion of the department, to have those benefits  
6153 deducted from future benefits payable to her or him under this  
6154 chapter. In addition, the department shall impose upon the  
6155 claimant a penalty equal to 15 percent of the amount overpaid.  
6156 To enforce this paragraph, the department must find the  
6157 existence of fraud through a redetermination or decision under  
6158 this section within 2 years after the fraud was committed. Any  
6159 recovery or recoupment of benefits must be commenced within 7  
6160 years after the redetermination or decision.

6161 (8) BILINGUAL REQUIREMENTS.—

6162 (a) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
6163 provide printed bilingual instructional and educational  
6164 materials in the appropriate language in those counties in which  
6165 5 percent or more of the households in the county are classified  
6166 as a single-language minority.

6167 Section 194. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
6168 (3), and subsection (4) of section 443.163, Florida Statutes,  
6169 are amended to read:

6170 443.163 Electronic reporting and remitting of  
6171 contributions and reimbursements.—

6172 (1) An employer may file any report and remit any  
6173 contributions or reimbursements required under this chapter by  
6174 electronic means. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6175 ~~Opportunity~~ or the state agency providing reemployment

6176 assistance tax collection services shall adopt rules prescribing  
 6177 the format and instructions necessary for electronically filing  
 6178 reports and remitting contributions and reimbursements to ensure  
 6179 a full collection of contributions and reimbursements due. The  
 6180 acceptable method of transfer, the method, form, and content of  
 6181 the electronic means, and the method, if any, by which the  
 6182 employer will be provided with an acknowledgment shall be  
 6183 prescribed by the department or its tax collection service  
 6184 provider. However, any employer who employed 10 or more  
 6185 employees in any quarter during the preceding state fiscal year  
 6186 must file the Employers Quarterly Reports, including any  
 6187 corrections, for the current calendar year and remit the  
 6188 contributions and reimbursements due by electronic means  
 6189 approved by the tax collection service provider.

6190 (3) The tax collection service provider may waive the  
 6191 requirement to file an Employers Quarterly Report by electronic  
 6192 means for employers that are unable to comply despite good faith  
 6193 efforts or due to circumstances beyond the employer's reasonable  
 6194 control.

6195 (a) As prescribed by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6196 ~~Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider, grounds for  
 6197 approving the waiver include, but are not limited to,  
 6198 circumstances in which the employer does not:

6199 1. Currently file information or data electronically with  
 6200 any business or government agency; or

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6201           2. Have a compatible computer that meets or exceeds the  
6202 standards prescribed by the department or its tax collection  
6203 service provider.

6204           (4) As used in this section, the term "electronic means"  
6205 includes, but is not limited to, electronic data interchange;  
6206 electronic funds transfer; and use of the Internet, telephone,  
6207 or other technology specified by the Department of Commerce  
6208 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider.

6209           Section 195. Section 443.171, Florida Statutes, is amended  
6210 to read:

6211           443.171 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and  
6212 commission; powers and duties; records and reports; proceedings;  
6213 state-federal cooperation.—

6214           (1) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6215 ~~Opportunity~~ shall administer this chapter. The department may  
6216 employ persons, make expenditures, require reports, conduct  
6217 investigations, and take other action necessary or suitable to  
6218 administer this chapter. The department shall annually submit  
6219 information to the state board as defined in s. 445.002 covering  
6220 the administration and operation of this chapter during the  
6221 preceding calendar year for inclusion in the strategic plan  
6222 under s. 445.006 and may make recommendations for amendment to  
6223 this chapter.

6224           (2) PUBLICATION OF ACTS AND RULES.—The Department of  
6225 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall cause to be printed and

6226 distributed to the public, or otherwise distributed to the  
6227 public through the Internet or similar electronic means, the  
6228 text of this chapter and of the rules for administering this  
6229 chapter adopted by the department or the state agency providing  
6230 reemployment assistance tax collection services and any other  
6231 matter relevant and suitable. The department shall furnish this  
6232 information to any person upon request. However, any pamphlet,  
6233 rules, circulars, or reports required by this chapter may not  
6234 contain any matter except the actual data necessary to complete  
6235 them or the actual language of the rule, together with the  
6236 proper notices.

6237 (3) PERSONNEL.—Subject to chapter 110 and the other  
6238 provisions of this chapter, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6239 ~~Opportunity~~ may appoint, set the compensation of, and prescribe  
6240 the duties and powers of employees, accountants, attorneys,  
6241 experts, and other persons as necessary for the performance of  
6242 the duties of the department under this chapter. The department  
6243 may delegate to any person its power and authority under this  
6244 chapter as necessary for the effective administration of this  
6245 chapter and may bond any person handling moneys or signing  
6246 checks under this chapter. The cost of these bonds must be paid  
6247 from the Employment Security Administration Trust Fund.

6248 (4) EMPLOYMENT STABILIZATION.—The Department of Commerce  
6249 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, under the direction of the state board as  
6250 defined in s. 445.002, shall take all appropriate steps to

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6251 reduce and prevent unemployment; to encourage and assist in the  
6252 adoption of practical methods of career training, retraining,  
6253 and career guidance; to investigate, recommend, advise, and  
6254 assist municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state  
6255 in the establishment and operation of reserves for public works  
6256 to be used in times of business depression and unemployment; to  
6257 promote the reemployment of unemployed workers throughout the  
6258 state in every other way that may be feasible; to refer a  
6259 claimant entitled to extended benefits to suitable work that  
6260 meets the criteria of this chapter; and, to these ends, to carry  
6261 on and publish the results of investigations and research  
6262 studies.

6263 (5) RECORDS AND REPORTS.—Each employing unit shall keep  
6264 true and accurate work records, containing the information  
6265 required by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
6266 its tax collection service provider. These records must be open  
6267 to inspection and are subject to being copied by the department  
6268 or its tax collection service provider at any reasonable time  
6269 and as often as necessary. The department or its tax collection  
6270 service provider may require from any employing unit any sworn  
6271 or unsworn reports, for persons employed by the employing unit,  
6272 necessary for the effective administration of this chapter.  
6273 However, a state or local governmental agency performing  
6274 intelligence or counterintelligence functions need not report an  
6275 employee if the head of that agency determines that reporting

6276 | the employee could endanger the safety of the employee or  
 6277 | compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

6278 |         (6) OATHS AND WITNESSES.—In the discharge of the duties  
 6279 | imposed by this chapter, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6280 | ~~Opportunity~~, its tax collection service provider, the members of  
 6281 | the commission, and any authorized representative of any of  
 6282 | these entities may administer oaths and affirmations, take  
 6283 | depositions, certify to official acts, and issue subpoenas to  
 6284 | compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books,  
 6285 | papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records deemed  
 6286 | necessary as evidence in connection with the administration of  
 6287 | this chapter.

6288 |         (7) SUBPOENAS.—If a person refuses to obey a subpoena  
 6289 | issued to that person, any court of this state within the  
 6290 | jurisdiction of which the inquiry is carried on, or within the  
 6291 | jurisdiction of which the person is found, resides, or transacts  
 6292 | business, upon application by the Department of Commerce  
 6293 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~, its tax collection service provider, the  
 6294 | commission, or any authorized representative of any of these  
 6295 | entities has jurisdiction to order the person to appear before  
 6296 | the entity to produce evidence or give testimony on the matter  
 6297 | under investigation or in question. Failure to obey the order of  
 6298 | the court may be punished by the court as contempt. Any person  
 6299 | who fails or refuses without just cause to appear or testify; to  
 6300 | answer any lawful inquiry; or to produce books, papers,

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6301 correspondence, memoranda, and other records within her or his  
6302 control as commanded in a subpoena of the department, its tax  
6303 collection service provider, the commission, or any authorized  
6304 representative of any of these entities commits a misdemeanor of  
6305 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
6306 775.083. Each day that a violation continues is a separate  
6307 offense.

6308 (8) PROTECTION AGAINST SELF-INCRIMINATION.—A person is not  
6309 excused from appearing or testifying, or from producing books,  
6310 papers, correspondence, memoranda, or other records, before the  
6311 Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity, its tax collection  
6312 service provider, the commission, or any authorized  
6313 representative of any of these entities or as commanded in a  
6314 subpoena of any of these entities in any proceeding before the  
6315 department, the commission, an appeals referee, or a special  
6316 deputy on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary  
6317 or otherwise, required of the person may incriminate her or him  
6318 or subject her or him to a penalty or forfeiture. That person  
6319 may not be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture  
6320 for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing  
6321 concerning which she or he is compelled, after having claimed  
6322 her or his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or  
6323 produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except that the  
6324 person testifying is not exempt from prosecution and punishment  
6325 for perjury committed while testifying.

6326 (9) STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATION.—

6327 (a)1. In the administration of this chapter, the  
6328 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and its tax  
6329 collection service provider shall cooperate with the United  
6330 States Department of Labor to the fullest extent consistent with  
6331 this chapter and shall take those actions, through the adoption  
6332 of appropriate rules, administrative methods, and standards,  
6333 necessary to secure for this state all advantages available  
6334 under the provisions of federal law relating to reemployment  
6335 assistance.

6336 2. In the administration of the provisions in s. 443.1115,  
6337 which are enacted to conform with the Federal-State Extended  
6338 Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, the department shall take  
6339 those actions necessary to ensure that those provisions are  
6340 interpreted and applied to meet the requirements of the federal  
6341 act as interpreted by the United States Department of Labor and  
6342 to secure for this state the full reimbursement of the federal  
6343 share of extended benefits paid under this chapter which is  
6344 reimbursable under the federal act.

6345 3. The department and its tax collection service provider  
6346 shall comply with the regulations of the United States  
6347 Department of Labor relating to the receipt or expenditure by  
6348 this state of funds granted under federal law; shall submit the  
6349 reports in the form and containing the information the United  
6350 States Department of Labor requires; and shall comply with

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6351 | directions of the United States Department of Labor necessary to  
6352 | assure the correctness and verification of these reports.

6353 |         (b) The department and its tax collection service provider  
6354 | may cooperate with every agency of the United States charged  
6355 | with administration of any unemployment insurance law.

6356 |         (c) The department and its tax collection service provider  
6357 | shall cooperate with the agencies of other states, and shall  
6358 | make every proper effort within their means, to oppose and  
6359 | prevent any further action leading to the complete or  
6360 | substantial federalization of state reemployment assistance  
6361 | funds or state employment security programs. The department and  
6362 | its tax collection service provider may make, and may cooperate  
6363 | with other appropriate agencies in making, studies as to the  
6364 | practicability and probable cost of possible new state-  
6365 | administered social security programs and the relative  
6366 | desirability of state, rather than federal, action in that field  
6367 | of study.

6368 |         (10) EVIDENCE OF MAILING.—A mailing date on any notice,  
6369 | determination, decision, order, or other document mailed by the  
6370 | department or its tax collection service provider pursuant to  
6371 | this chapter creates a rebuttable presumption that such notice,  
6372 | determination, order, or other document was mailed on the date  
6373 | indicated.

6374 |         Section 196. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
6375 | subsection (2) of section 443.1715, Florida Statutes, are

6376 amended to read:

6377 443.1715 Disclosure of information; confidentiality.—

6378 (1) RECORDS AND REPORTS.—Information revealing an  
 6379 employing unit's or individual's identity obtained from the  
 6380 employing unit or any individual under the administration of  
 6381 this chapter, and any determination revealing that information,  
 6382 is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
 6383 I of the State Constitution. This confidential information may  
 6384 be released in accordance with the provisions in 20 C.F.R. part  
 6385 603. A person receiving confidential information who violates  
 6386 this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,  
 6387 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. The  
 6388 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax  
 6389 collection service provider may, however, furnish to any  
 6390 employer copies of any report submitted by that employer upon  
 6391 the request of the employer and may furnish to any claimant  
 6392 copies of any report submitted by that claimant upon the request  
 6393 of the claimant. The department or its tax collection service  
 6394 provider may charge a reasonable fee for copies of these reports  
 6395 as prescribed by rule, which may not exceed the actual  
 6396 reasonable cost of the preparation of the copies. Fees received  
 6397 for copies under this subsection must be deposited in the  
 6398 Employment Security Administration Trust Fund.

6399 (2) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

6400 (a) Subject to restrictions the Department of Commerce

6401 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state agency providing reemployment  
 6402 assistance tax collection services adopts by rule, information  
 6403 declared confidential under this section is available to any  
 6404 agency of this or any other state, or any federal agency,  
 6405 charged with the administration of any reemployment assistance  
 6406 or unemployment compensation law or the maintenance of the one-  
 6407 stop delivery system, or the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the  
 6408 United States Department of the Treasury, or the Florida  
 6409 Department of Revenue. Information obtained in connection with  
 6410 the administration of the one-stop delivery system may be made  
 6411 available to persons or agencies for purposes appropriate to the  
 6412 operation of a public employment service or a job-preparatory or  
 6413 career education or training program. The department shall, on a  
 6414 quarterly basis, furnish the National Directory of New Hires  
 6415 with information concerning the wages and reemployment  
 6416 assistance benefits paid to individuals, by the dates, in the  
 6417 format, and containing the information specified in the  
 6418 regulations of the United States Secretary of Health and Human  
 6419 Services. Upon request, the department shall furnish any agency  
 6420 of the United States charged with the administration of public  
 6421 works or assistance through public employment, and may furnish  
 6422 to any state agency similarly charged, the name, address,  
 6423 ordinary occupation, and employment status of each recipient of  
 6424 benefits and the recipient's rights to further benefits under  
 6425 this chapter. Except as otherwise provided by law, the receiving

6426 | agency must retain the confidentiality of this information as  
 6427 | provided in this section. The tax collection service provider  
 6428 | may request the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States  
 6429 | to examine the correctness of any return or report of any  
 6430 | national banking association rendered under this chapter and may  
 6431 | in connection with that request transmit any report or return  
 6432 | for examination to the Comptroller of the Currency of the United  
 6433 | States as provided in s. 3305(c) of the federal Internal Revenue  
 6434 | Code.

6435 |       Section 197. Subsection (1), paragraph (c) of subsection  
 6436 | (2), and subsections (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section  
 6437 | 443.17161, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

6438 |       443.17161 Authorized electronic access to employer  
 6439 | information.—

6440 |       (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,  
 6441 | the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall contract  
 6442 | with one or more consumer reporting agencies to provide users  
 6443 | with secured electronic access to employer-provided information  
 6444 | relating to the quarterly wages report submitted in accordance  
 6445 | with the state's reemployment assistance law. The access is  
 6446 | limited to the wage reports for the appropriate amount of time  
 6447 | for the purpose the information is requested.

6448 |       (2) Users must obtain consent in writing or by electronic  
 6449 | signature from an applicant for credit, employment, or other  
 6450 | permitted purposes. Any written or electronic signature consent

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6451 from an applicant must be signed and must include the following:

6452 (c) Notice that the files of the Department of Commerce  
6453 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its tax collection service provider  
6454 containing information concerning wage and employment history  
6455 which is submitted by the applicant or his or her employers may  
6456 be accessed; and

6457 (4) If a consumer reporting agency or user violates this  
6458 section, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall,  
6459 upon 30 days' written notice to the consumer reporting agency,  
6460 terminate the contract established between the Department of  
6461 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the consumer reporting agency  
6462 or require the consumer reporting agency to terminate the  
6463 contract established between the consumer reporting agency and  
6464 the user under this section.

6465 (5) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
6466 establish minimum audit, security, net worth, and liability  
6467 insurance standards, technical requirements, and any other terms  
6468 and conditions considered necessary in the discretion of the  
6469 state agency to safeguard the confidentiality of the information  
6470 released under this section and to otherwise serve the public  
6471 interest. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
6472 also include, in coordination with any necessary state agencies,  
6473 necessary audit procedures to ensure that these rules are  
6474 followed.

6475 (6) In contracting with one or more consumer reporting

6476 agencies under this section, any revenues generated by the  
 6477 contract must be used to pay the entire cost of providing access  
 6478 to the information. Further, in accordance with federal  
 6479 regulations, any additional revenues generated by the Department  
 6480 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the state under this section  
 6481 must be paid into the Administrative Trust Fund of the  
 6482 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for the  
 6483 administration of the unemployment compensation system or be  
 6484 used as program income.

6485 (7) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 6486 not provide wage and employment history information to any  
 6487 consumer reporting agency before the consumer reporting agency  
 6488 or agencies under contract with the Department of Commerce  
 6489 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ pay all development and other startup costs  
 6490 incurred by the state in connection with the design,  
 6491 installation, and administration of technological systems and  
 6492 procedures for the electronic access program.

6493 Section 198. Section 443.181, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 6494 to read:

6495 443.181 Public employment service.—

6496 (1) The one-stop delivery system established under s.  
 6497 445.009 is this state's public employment service as part of the  
 6498 national system of public employment offices established under  
 6499 29 U.S.C. s. 49. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6500 ~~Opportunity~~, under policy direction from the state board as

6501 defined in s. 445.002, shall cooperate with any official or  
 6502 agency of the United States having power or duties under 29  
 6503 U.S.C. ss. 49-491-1 and shall perform those duties necessary to  
 6504 secure to this state the funds provided under federal law for  
 6505 the promotion and maintenance of the state's public employment  
 6506 service. In accordance with 29 U.S.C. s. 49c, this state accepts  
 6507 29 U.S.C. ss. 49-491-1. The department is designated the state  
 6508 agency responsible for cooperating with the United States  
 6509 Secretary of Labor under 29 U.S.C. s. 49c. The department shall  
 6510 appoint sufficient employees to administer this section. The  
 6511 department may cooperate with or enter into agreements with the  
 6512 Railroad Retirement Board for the establishment, maintenance,  
 6513 and use of one-stop career centers.

6514 (2) All funds received by this state under 29 U.S.C. ss.  
 6515 49-491-1 must be paid into the Employment Security  
 6516 Administration Trust Fund, and these funds are available to the  
 6517 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for expenditure as  
 6518 provided by this chapter or by federal law. For the purpose of  
 6519 establishing and maintaining one-stop career centers, the  
 6520 department may enter into agreements with the Railroad  
 6521 Retirement Board or any other agency of the United States  
 6522 charged with the administration of a reemployment assistance or  
 6523 unemployment compensation law, with any political subdivision of  
 6524 this state, or with any private, nonprofit organization. As a  
 6525 part of any such agreement, the department may accept moneys,

6526 | services, or quarters as a contribution to the Employment  
 6527 | Security Administration Trust Fund.

6528 |         Section 199. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
 6529 | 443.191, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

6530 |             443.191 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund;  
 6531 | establishment and control.—

6532 |         (2) The Chief Financial Officer is the ex officio  
 6533 | treasurer and custodian of the fund and shall administer the  
 6534 | fund in accordance with the directions of the Department of  
 6535 | Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. All payments from the fund must  
 6536 | be approved by the department or by an authorized agent. The  
 6537 | Chief Financial Officer shall maintain within the fund three  
 6538 | separate accounts:

- 6539 |             (a) A clearing account;
- 6540 |             (b) An Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund account; and
- 6541 |             (c) A benefit account.

6542 |  
 6543 | All moneys payable to the fund, including moneys received from  
 6544 | the United States as reimbursement for extended benefits paid by  
 6545 | the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, must be  
 6546 | forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, who shall immediately  
 6547 | deposit them in the clearing account. Refunds payable under s.  
 6548 | 443.141 may be paid from the clearing account. After clearance,  
 6549 | all other moneys in the clearing account must be immediately  
 6550 | deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United

6551 States to the credit of this state's account in the federal  
6552 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund notwithstanding any state  
6553 law relating to the deposit, administration, release, or  
6554 disbursement of moneys in the possession or custody of this  
6555 state. The benefit account consists of all moneys requisitioned  
6556 from this state's account in the federal Unemployment  
6557 Compensation Trust Fund. Except as otherwise provided by law,  
6558 moneys in the clearing and benefit accounts may be deposited by  
6559 the Chief Financial Officer, under the direction of the  
6560 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in any bank or  
6561 public depository in which general funds of the state are  
6562 deposited, but a public deposit insurance charge or premium may  
6563 not be paid out of the fund. If any warrant issued against the  
6564 clearing account or the benefit account is not presented for  
6565 payment within 1 year after issuance, the Chief Financial  
6566 Officer must cancel the warrant and credit without restriction  
6567 the amount of the warrant to the account upon which it is drawn.  
6568 When the payee or person entitled to a canceled warrant requests  
6569 payment of the warrant, the Chief Financial Officer, upon  
6570 direction of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
6571 must issue a new warrant, payable from the account against which  
6572 the canceled warrant was drawn.

6573 (3) Moneys may only be requisitioned from the state's  
6574 account in the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund  
6575 solely for the payment of benefits and extended benefits and for

6576 payment in accordance with rules prescribed by the Department of  
6577 Commerce Economic Opportunity, or for the repayment of advances  
6578 made pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 1321, as authorized by the  
6579 Governor or the Governor's designee, except that money credited  
6580 to this state's account under 42 U.S.C. s. 1103 may only be used  
6581 exclusively as provided in subsection (5). The Department of  
6582 Commerce Economic Opportunity, through the Chief Financial  
6583 Officer, shall requisition from the federal Unemployment  
6584 Compensation Trust Fund amounts, not exceeding the amounts  
6585 credited to this state's account in the fund, as necessary for  
6586 the payment of benefits and extended benefits for a reasonable  
6587 future period. Upon receipt of these amounts, the Chief  
6588 Financial Officer shall deposit the moneys in the benefit  
6589 account in the State Treasury and warrants for the payment of  
6590 benefits and extended benefits shall be drawn upon the order of  
6591 the Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity against the  
6592 account. All warrants for benefits and extended benefits are  
6593 payable directly to the ultimate beneficiary. Expenditures of  
6594 these moneys in the benefit account and refunds from the  
6595 clearing account are not subject to any law requiring specific  
6596 appropriations or other formal release by state officers of  
6597 money in their custody. All warrants issued for the payment of  
6598 benefits and refunds must bear the signature of the Chief  
6599 Financial Officer. Any balance of moneys requisitioned from this  
6600 state's account in the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust

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6601 Fund which remains unclaimed or unpaid in the benefit account  
6602 after the period for which the moneys were requisitioned shall  
6603 be deducted from estimates for, and may be used for the payment  
6604 of, benefits and extended benefits during succeeding periods,  
6605 or, in the discretion of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6606 ~~Opportunity~~, shall be redeposited with the Secretary of the  
6607 Treasury of the United States, to the credit of this state's  
6608 account in the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, as  
6609 provided in subsection (2).

6610 (4) Subsections (1), (2), and (3), to the extent they  
6611 relate to the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund,  
6612 apply only while the fund continues to exist and while the  
6613 Secretary of the Treasury of the United States continues to  
6614 maintain for this state a separate account of all funds  
6615 deposited by this state for the payment of benefits, together  
6616 with this state's proportionate share of the earnings of the  
6617 federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, from which no  
6618 other state is permitted to make withdrawals. If the federal  
6619 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund ceases to exist, or the  
6620 separate account is no longer maintained, all moneys,  
6621 properties, or securities belonging to this state's account in  
6622 the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund must be  
6623 transferred to the treasurer of the Unemployment Compensation  
6624 Trust Fund, who must hold, invest, transfer, sell, deposit, and  
6625 release those moneys, properties, or securities in a manner

6626 approved by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in  
 6627 accordance with this chapter. These moneys must, however, be  
 6628 invested in the following readily marketable classes of  
 6629 securities: bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of the  
 6630 United States or of the state. Further, the investment must at  
 6631 all times be made in a manner that allows all the assets of the  
 6632 fund to always be readily convertible into cash when needed for  
 6633 the payment of benefits. The treasurer may only dispose of  
 6634 securities or other properties belonging to the Unemployment  
 6635 Compensation Trust Fund under the direction of the Department of  
 6636 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

6637 Section 200. Section 443.211, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 6638 to read:

6639 443.211 Employment Security Administration Trust Fund;  
 6640 appropriation; reimbursement.—

6641 (1) EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TRUST FUND.—There  
 6642 is created in the State Treasury the "Employment Security  
 6643 Administration Trust Fund." All moneys deposited into this fund  
 6644 remain continuously available to the Department of Commerce  
 6645 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for expenditure in accordance with this  
 6646 chapter and do not revert at any time and may not be transferred  
 6647 to any other fund. All moneys in this fund which are received  
 6648 from the Federal Government or any federal agency or which are  
 6649 appropriated by this state under ss. 443.171 and 443.181, except  
 6650 money received under s. 443.191(5)(c), must be expended solely

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6651 for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the  
6652 authorized cooperating federal agencies for the proper and  
6653 efficient administration of this chapter. The fund consists of:  
6654 all moneys appropriated by this state; all moneys received from  
6655 the United States or any federal agency; all moneys received  
6656 from any other source for the administration of this chapter;  
6657 any funds collected for enhanced, specialized, or value-added  
6658 labor market information services; any moneys received from any  
6659 agency of the United States or any other state as compensation  
6660 for services or facilities supplied to that agency; any amounts  
6661 received from any surety bond or insurance policy or from other  
6662 sources for losses sustained by the Employment Security  
6663 Administration Trust Fund or by reason of damage to equipment or  
6664 supplies purchased from moneys in the fund; and any proceeds  
6665 from the sale or disposition of such equipment or supplies. All  
6666 money requisitioned and deposited in this fund under s.  
6667 443.191(5)(c) remains part of the Unemployment Compensation  
6668 Trust Fund and must be used only in accordance with s.  
6669 443.191(5). All moneys in this fund must be deposited,  
6670 administered, and disbursed in the same manner and under the  
6671 same conditions and requirements as provided by law for other  
6672 trust funds in the State Treasury. These moneys must be secured  
6673 by the depository in which they are held to the same extent and  
6674 in the same manner as required by the general depository law of  
6675 the state, and collateral pledged must be maintained in a

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6676 separate custody account. All payments from the Employment  
6677 Security Administration Trust Fund must be approved by the  
6678 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or by an authorized  
6679 agent and must be made by the Chief Financial Officer. Any  
6680 balances in this fund do not revert at any time and must remain  
6681 continuously available to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
6682 ~~Opportunity~~ for expenditure consistent with this chapter.

6683 (2) SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TRUST  
6684 FUND.—There is created in the State Treasury the "Special  
6685 Employment Security Administration Trust Fund," into which shall  
6686 be deposited or transferred all interest on contributions and  
6687 reimbursements, penalties, and fines or fees collected under  
6688 this chapter. Interest on contributions and reimbursements,  
6689 penalties, and fines or fees deposited during any calendar  
6690 quarter in the clearing account in the Unemployment Compensation  
6691 Trust Fund shall, as soon as practicable after the close of that  
6692 calendar quarter and upon certification of the Department of  
6693 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, be transferred to the Special  
6694 Employment Security Administration Trust Fund. The amount  
6695 certified by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ as  
6696 required under this chapter to pay refunds of interest on  
6697 contributions and reimbursements, penalties, and fines or fees  
6698 collected and erroneously deposited into the clearing account in  
6699 the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund shall, however, be  
6700 withheld from this transfer. The interest and penalties

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6701 certified for transfer are deemed as being erroneously deposited  
6702 in the clearing account, and their transfer to the Special  
6703 Employment Security Administration Trust Fund is deemed to be a  
6704 refund of the erroneous deposits. All moneys in this fund shall  
6705 be deposited, administered, and disbursed in the same manner and  
6706 under the same requirements as provided by law for other trust  
6707 funds in the State Treasury. These moneys may not be expended or  
6708 be available for expenditure in any manner that would permit  
6709 their substitution for, or permit a corresponding reduction in,  
6710 federal funds that would, in the absence of these moneys, be  
6711 available to finance expenditures for the administration of this  
6712 chapter. This section does not prevent these moneys from being  
6713 used as a revolving fund to cover lawful expenditures for which  
6714 federal funds are requested but not yet received, subject to the  
6715 charging of the expenditures against the funds when received.  
6716 The moneys in this fund, with the approval of the Executive  
6717 Office of the Governor, shall be used by the Department of  
6718 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for paying administrative costs  
6719 that are not chargeable against funds obtained from federal  
6720 sources. All moneys in the Special Employment Security  
6721 Administration Trust Fund shall be continuously available to the  
6722 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ for expenditure in  
6723 accordance with this chapter and do not revert at any time. All  
6724 payments from the Special Employment Security Administration  
6725 Trust Fund must be approved by the Department of Commerce

6726 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or by an authorized agent and shall be made  
 6727 by the Chief Financial Officer. The moneys in this fund are  
 6728 available to replace, as contemplated by subsection (3),  
 6729 expenditures from the Employment Security Administration Trust  
 6730 Fund which the United States Secretary of Labor, or other  
 6731 authorized federal agency or authority, finds are lost or  
 6732 improperly expended because of any action or contingency. The  
 6733 Chief Financial Officer is liable on her or his official bond  
 6734 for the faithful performance of her or his duties in connection  
 6735 with the Special Employment Security Administration Trust Fund.

6736 (3) REIMBURSEMENT OF FUND.—If any moneys received from the  
 6737 United States Secretary of Labor under 42 U.S.C. ss. 501-504,  
 6738 any unencumbered balances in the Employment Security  
 6739 Administration Trust Fund, any moneys granted to this state  
 6740 under the Wagner-Peyser Act, or any moneys made available by  
 6741 this state or its political subdivisions and matched by the  
 6742 moneys granted to this state under the Wagner-Peyser Act, are  
 6743 after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing, found by  
 6744 the United States Secretary of Labor, because of any action or  
 6745 contingency, to be lost or expended for purposes other than, or  
 6746 in amounts in excess of, those allowed by the United States  
 6747 Secretary of Labor for the administration of this chapter, these  
 6748 moneys shall be replaced by moneys appropriated for that purpose  
 6749 from the General Revenue Fund to the Employment Security  
 6750 Administration Trust Fund for expenditure as provided in

6751 subsection (1). Upon receipt of notice of such a finding by the  
 6752 United States Secretary of Labor, the Department of Commerce  
 6753 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall promptly report the amount required  
 6754 for replacement to the Governor. The Governor shall, at the  
 6755 earliest opportunity, submit to the Legislature a request for  
 6756 the appropriation of the replacement funds.

6757 (4) RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRUST FUNDS.—In connection with its  
 6758 duties under s. 443.181, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6759 ~~Opportunity~~ is responsible for the deposit, requisition,  
 6760 expenditure, approval of payment, reimbursement, and reporting  
 6761 in regard to the trust funds established by this section.

6762 Section 201. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and  
 6763 subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 443.221, Florida  
 6764 Statutes, are amended to read:

6765 443.221 Reciprocal arrangements.—

6766 (1)(a) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or  
 6767 its tax collection service provider may enter into reciprocal  
 6768 arrangements with other states or with the Federal Government,  
 6769 or both, for considering services performed by an individual for  
 6770 a single employing unit for which services are performed by the  
 6771 individual in more than one state as services performed entirely  
 6772 within any one of the states:

6773 1. In which any part of the individual's service is  
 6774 performed;

6775 2. In which the individual has her or his residence; or

6776           3. In which the employing unit maintains a place of  
6777 business.

6778           (2) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
6779 tax collection service provider may make to other state or  
6780 federal agencies and receive from these other state or federal  
6781 agencies reimbursements from or to the fund, in accordance with  
6782 arrangements entered into under subsection (1).

6783           (3) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or its  
6784 tax collection service provider may enter into reciprocal  
6785 arrangements with other states or the Federal Government, or  
6786 both, for exchanging services, determining and enforcing payment  
6787 obligations, and making available facilities and information.  
6788 The department or its tax collection service provider may  
6789 conduct investigations, secure and transmit information, make  
6790 available services and facilities, and exercise other powers  
6791 provided under this chapter to facilitate the administration of  
6792 any reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation or  
6793 public employment service law and, in a similar manner, accept  
6794 and use information, services, and facilities made available to  
6795 this state by the agency charged with the administration of any  
6796 other unemployment compensation or public employment service  
6797 law.

6798           (4) To the extent permissible under federal law, the  
6799 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may enter into or  
6800 cooperate in arrangements whereby facilities and services

6801 provided under this chapter and facilities and services provided  
 6802 under the reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation  
 6803 law of any foreign government may be used for the taking of  
 6804 claims and the payment of benefits under the employment security  
 6805 law of the state or under a similar law of that government.

6806 Section 202. Subsection (1) of section 445.002, Florida  
 6807 Statutes, is amended to read:

6808 445.002 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

6809 (1) "Department" means the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6810 ~~Opportunity~~.

6811 Section 203. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section  
 6812 445.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6813 445.003 Implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation  
 6814 and Opportunity Act.—

6815 (7) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall adopt  
 6816 rules to implement the requirements of this chapter, including:

6817 (b) Initial and subsequent eligibility criteria, based on  
 6818 input from the state board, local workforce development boards,  
 6819 the Department of Education, and other stakeholders, for the  
 6820 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligible training  
 6821 provider list. This list directs training resources to programs  
 6822 leading to employment in high-demand and high-priority  
 6823 occupations that provide economic security, particularly those  
 6824 occupations facing a shortage of skilled workers. A training  
 6825 provider who offers training to obtain a credential on the

6826 Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4) (h) may not be  
 6827 included on a state or local eligible training provider list if  
 6828 the provider fails to submit the required information or fails  
 6829 to meet initial or subsequent eligibility criteria. Subsequent  
 6830 eligibility criteria must use the performance and outcome  
 6831 measures defined and reported under s. 1008.40, to determine  
 6832 whether each program offered by a training provider is qualified  
 6833 to remain on the list. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6834 ~~Opportunity~~ and the Department of Education shall establish the  
 6835 minimum criteria a training provider must achieve for  
 6836 completion, earnings, and employment rates of eligible  
 6837 participants. A provider must meet at least two of the minimum  
 6838 criteria for subsequent eligibility. The minimum program  
 6839 criteria may not exceed the threshold at which more than 20  
 6840 percent of all eligible training providers in the state would  
 6841 fall below.

6842 Section 204. Paragraph (h) of subsection (4) of section  
 6843 445.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6844 445.004 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the state board;  
 6845 creation; purpose; membership; duties and powers.—

6846 (4)

6847 (h)1. The state board shall appoint a Credentials Review  
 6848 Committee to identify nondegree credentials and degree  
 6849 credentials of value for approval by the state board and  
 6850 inclusion in the Master Credentials List. Such credentials must

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6851 include registered apprenticeship programs; industry  
 6852 certifications, including industry certifications for  
 6853 agricultural occupations submitted pursuant to s. 570.07(43);  
 6854 licenses; advanced technical certificates; college credit  
 6855 certificates; career certificates; applied technology diplomas;  
 6856 associate degrees; baccalaureate degrees; and graduate degrees.  
 6857 The Credentials Review Committee must include:

- 6858 a. The Chancellor of the Division of Public Schools.
- 6859 b. The Chancellor of the Division of Career and Adult  
 6860 Education.
- 6861 c. The Chancellor of the Florida College System.
- 6862 d. The Chancellor of the State University System.
- 6863 e. The director of the Office of Reimagining Education and  
 6864 Career Help, who shall serve as chair of the committee.
- 6865 f. Four members from local workforce development boards,  
 6866 with equal representation from urban and rural regions.
- 6867 g. Two members from nonpublic postsecondary institutions.
- 6868 h. Two members from industry associations.
- 6869 i. Two members from Florida-based businesses.
- 6870 j. Two members from the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6871 ~~Opportunity~~.
- 6872 k. One member from the Department of Agriculture and  
 6873 Consumer Services.

6874 2. All information pertaining to the Credentials Review  
 6875 Committee, the process for the approval of credentials of value,

6876 and the Master Credentials List must be made available and be  
 6877 easily accessible to the public on all relevant state agency  
 6878 websites.

6879 3. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a  
 6880 definition for credentials of value and create a framework of  
 6881 quality. The framework must align with federally funded  
 6882 workforce accountability requirements and undergo biennial  
 6883 review.

6884 4. The criteria to determine value for nondegree  
 6885 credentials should, at a minimum, require:

6886 a. Evidence that the credential meets labor market demand  
 6887 as identified by the Labor Market Statistics Center within the  
 6888 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the Labor Market  
 6889 Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136, or meets local  
 6890 demand as identified in the criteria adopted by the Credentials  
 6891 Review Committee. The Credentials Review Committee may consider  
 6892 additional evidence to determine labor market demand for  
 6893 credentials for agricultural occupations. Evidence to be  
 6894 considered by the Credentials Review Committee must include  
 6895 employer information on present credential use or emerging  
 6896 opportunities.

6897 b. Evidence that the competencies mastered upon completion  
 6898 of the credential are aligned with labor market demand.

6899 c. Evidence of the employment and earnings outcomes for  
 6900 individuals after obtaining the credential. Earnings outcomes

6901 must provide middle-level to high-level wages with preference  
 6902 given to credentials generating high-level wages. Credentials  
 6903 that do not meet the earnings outcomes criteria must be part of  
 6904 a sequence of credentials that are required for the next level  
 6905 occupation that does meet the earnings outcomes criteria in  
 6906 order to be identified as a credential of value. For new  
 6907 credentials, this criteria may be met with conditional  
 6908 eligibility until measurable labor market outcomes are obtained.

6909         5. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish the  
 6910 criteria to determine value for degree programs. This criteria  
 6911 must include evidence that the program meets statewide or  
 6912 regional labor market demand as identified by the Labor Market  
 6913 Statistics Center within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6914 ~~Opportunity~~ or the Labor Market Estimating Conference created in  
 6915 s. 216.136, or meets local demand as determined by the  
 6916 committee. The Credentials Review Committee may consider  
 6917 additional evidence to determine labor market demand for  
 6918 credentials for agricultural occupations. Such criteria, once  
 6919 available and applicable to baccalaureate degrees and graduate  
 6920 degrees, must be used to designate programs of emphasis under s.  
 6921 1001.706 and to guide the development of program standards and  
 6922 benchmarks under s. 1004.92.

6923         6. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a  
 6924 process for prioritizing nondegree credentials and degree  
 6925 programs based on critical statewide or regional shortages.

6926           7. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a  
 6927 process for:

6928           a. At a minimum, quarterly review and approval of  
 6929 credential applications. Approved credentials of value shall be  
 6930 used by the committee to develop the Master Credentials List.

6931           b. Annual review of the Master Credentials List.

6932           c. Phasing out credentials on the Master Credentials List  
 6933 that no longer meet the framework of quality. Credentials must  
 6934 remain on the list for at least 1 year after identification for  
 6935 removal.

6936           d. Designating performance funding eligibility under ss.  
 6937 1011.80 and 1011.81, based upon the highest available  
 6938 certification for postsecondary students.

6939           e. Upon approval, the state board shall submit the Master  
 6940 Credentials List to the State Board of Education. The list must,  
 6941 at a minimum, identify nondegree credentials and degree programs  
 6942 determined to be of value for purposes of the CAPE Industry  
 6943 Certification Funding List adopted under ss. 1008.44 and  
 6944 1011.62(1); if the credential or degree program meets statewide,  
 6945 regional, or local level demand; the type of certificate,  
 6946 credential, or degree; and the primary standard occupation  
 6947 classification code.

6948           f. If an application submitted to the Credentials Review  
 6949 Committee does not meet the required standards, the Credentials  
 6950 Review Committee must provide a notice of deficiency to the

6951 applicant and the provider who was identified as the point of  
 6952 contact provided on the application by the end of the next  
 6953 quarter after receipt of the application. The notice must  
 6954 include the basis for denial and the procedure to appeal the  
 6955 denial.

6956 8. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a  
 6957 process for linking Classifications of Instructional Programs  
 6958 (CIP) to Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) for all new  
 6959 credentials of value identified on the Master Credentials List.  
 6960 The CIP code aligns instructional programs to occupations. A CIP  
 6961 to SOC link indicates that programs classified in the CIP code  
 6962 category prepare individuals for jobs classified in the SOC code  
 6963 category. The state board shall submit approved CIP to SOC  
 6964 linkages to the State Board of Education with each credential  
 6965 that is added to the Master Credentials List.

6966 9. The Credentials Review Committee shall identify all  
 6967 data elements necessary to collect information on credentials by  
 6968 the Florida Education and Training Placement Program automated  
 6969 system under s. 1008.39.

6970 Section 205. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section  
 6971 445.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6972 445.009 One-stop delivery system.—

6973 (8)(a) Individual Training Accounts must be expended on  
 6974 programs that prepare people to enter occupations identified by  
 6975 the Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of

6976 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Labor Market Estimating  
 6977 Conference created by s. 216.136, and on other programs  
 6978 recommended and approved by the state board following a review  
 6979 by the department to determine the program's compliance with  
 6980 federal law.

6981 Section 206. Subsection (5) of section 445.016, Florida  
 6982 Statutes, is amended to read:

6983 445.016 Untried Worker Placement and Employment Incentive  
 6984 Act.—

6985 (5) Incentives must be paid according to the incentive  
 6986 schedule developed by CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department  
 6987 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Department of Children  
 6988 and Families which costs the state less per placement than the  
 6989 state's 12-month expenditure on a welfare recipient.

6990 Section 207. Subsection (1) of section 445.024, Florida  
 6991 Statutes, is amended to read:

6992 445.024 Work requirements.—

6993 (1) WORK ACTIVITIES.—The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 6994 ~~Opportunity~~ may develop activities under each of the following  
 6995 categories of work activities. The following categories of work  
 6996 activities, based on federal law and regulations, may be used  
 6997 individually or in combination to satisfy the work requirements  
 6998 for a participant in the temporary cash assistance program:

- 6999 (a) Unsubsidized employment.
- 7000 (b) Subsidized private sector employment.

- 7001 (c) Subsidized public sector employment.
- 7002 (d) On-the-job training.
- 7003 (e) Community service programs.
- 7004 (f) Work experience.
- 7005 (g) Job search and job readiness assistance.
- 7006 (h) Vocational educational training.
- 7007 (i) Job skills training directly related to employment.
- 7008 (j) Education directly related to employment.
- 7009 (k) Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or in a
- 7010 course of study leading to a high school equivalency diploma.
- 7011 (l) Providing child care services.

7012 Section 208. Subsection (1) of section 445.0325, Florida  
 7013 Statutes, is amended to read:

7014 445.0325 Welfare Transition Trust Fund.—

7015 (1) The Welfare Transition Trust Fund is created in the  
 7016 State Treasury, to be administered by the Department of Commerce  
 7017 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. Funds shall be credited to the trust fund  
 7018 to be used for the purposes of the welfare transition program  
 7019 set forth in ss. 445.017-445.032.

7020 Section 209. Section 445.038, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 7021 to read:

7022 445.038 Digital media; job training.—CareerSource Florida,  
 7023 Inc., through the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
 7024 may use funds dedicated for incumbent worker training for the  
 7025 digital media industry. Training may be provided by public or

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7026 private training providers for broadband digital media jobs  
7027 listed on the occupations list developed by the Labor Market  
7028 Estimating Conference or the Labor Market Statistics Center  
7029 within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and on  
7030 other programs recommended and approved by the state board  
7031 following a review by the department to determine the program's  
7032 compliance with federal law. Programs that operate outside the  
7033 normal semester time periods and coordinate the use of industry  
7034 and public resources must be given priority status for funding.

7035 Section 210. Subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection  
7036 (4), and subsection (6) of section 445.045, Florida Statutes,  
7037 are amended to read:

7038 445.045 Development of an Internet-based system for  
7039 information technology industry promotion and workforce  
7040 recruitment.—

7041 (2) CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall coordinate with the  
7042 Department of Management Services and the Department of Commerce  
7043 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to ensure links, as feasible and  
7044 appropriate, to existing job information websites maintained by  
7045 the state and state agencies and to ensure that information  
7046 technology positions offered by the state and state agencies are  
7047 posted on the information technology website.

7048 (4)

7049 (b) CareerSource Florida, Inc., may enter into an  
7050 agreement with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~

7051 or any other public agency with the requisite information  
 7052 technology expertise for the provision of design, operating, or  
 7053 other technological services necessary to develop and maintain  
 7054 the website.

7055 (6) In fulfilling its responsibilities under this section,  
 7056 CareerSource Florida, Inc., may enlist the assistance of and act  
 7057 through the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The  
 7058 department is authorized and directed to provide the services  
 7059 that CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the department consider  
 7060 necessary to implement this section.

7061 Section 211. Section 445.056, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 7062 to read:

7063 445.056 Citizen Soldier Matching Grant Program.—The  
 7064 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall implement the  
 7065 matching grant program established by the former Agency for  
 7066 Workforce Innovation to award matching grants to private sector  
 7067 employers in this state which provide wages to employees serving  
 7068 in the United States Armed Forces Reserves or the Florida  
 7069 National Guard while those employees are on federal active duty.  
 7070 A grant may not be provided for federal active duty served  
 7071 before January 1, 2005. Each grant shall be awarded to reimburse  
 7072 the employer for not more than one-half of the monthly wages  
 7073 paid to an employee who is a resident of this state for the  
 7074 actual period of federal active duty. The monthly grant per  
 7075 employee may not exceed one-half of the difference between the

7076 amount of monthly wages paid by the employer to the employee at  
 7077 the level paid before the date the employee was called to  
 7078 federal active duty and the amount of the employee's active duty  
 7079 base pay, housing and variable allowances, and subsistence  
 7080 allowance. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 7081 implement the plan administered by the former Agency for  
 7082 Workforce Innovation.

7083 Section 212. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 7084 (3), and subsection (5) of section 445.06, Florida Statutes, are  
 7085 amended to read:

7086 445.06 Florida Ready to Work Credential Program.—

7087 (2) Training required to be eligible for a credential  
 7088 under the program may be conducted in public middle and high  
 7089 schools, Florida College System institutions, technical centers,  
 7090 one-stop career centers, vocational rehabilitation centers,  
 7091 Department of Corrections facilities, and Department of Juvenile  
 7092 Justice educational facilities. Such training may also be made  
 7093 available at other entities that provide job training. The  
 7094 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in coordination  
 7095 with the Department of Education, shall establish institutional  
 7096 readiness criteria for program implementation.

7097 (3) The program shall be composed of:

7098 (a) A comprehensive identification by the Department of  
 7099 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Department of Education of  
 7100 employability skills currently in demand by employers,

7101 including, but not limited to, professionalism, time management,  
 7102 communication, problem solving, collaboration, resilience,  
 7103 digital literacy skills, and academic skills such as mathematics  
 7104 and reading.

7105 (5) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in  
 7106 consultation with the Department of Education, shall adopt rules  
 7107 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
 7108 provisions of this section.

7109 Section 213. Subsection (1) of section 445.07, Florida  
 7110 Statutes, is amended to read:

7111 445.07 Economic security report of employment and earning  
 7112 outcomes.—

7113 (1) Beginning December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter,  
 7114 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in consultation  
 7115 with the Department of Education, shall prepare, or contract  
 7116 with an entity to prepare, an economic security report of  
 7117 employment and earning outcomes for degrees or certificates  
 7118 earned at public postsecondary educational institutions.

7119 Section 214. Section 446.41, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 7120 to read:

7121 446.41 Legislative intent with respect to rural workforce  
 7122 training and development; establishment of Rural Workforce  
 7123 Services Program.—In order that the state may achieve its full  
 7124 economic and social potential, consideration must be given to  
 7125 rural workforce training and development to enable those living

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7126 in rural areas to develop their maximum capacities and  
7127 participate productively in society. It is, therefore, the  
7128 policy of the state to make available those services needed to  
7129 assist individuals and communities in rural areas to improve  
7130 their quality of life. It is with a great sense of urgency that  
7131 a Rural Workforce Services Program is established within the  
7132 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, under the direction  
7133 of CareerSource Florida, Inc., to provide equal access to all  
7134 manpower training programs available to rural as well as urban  
7135 areas.

7136 Section 215. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
7137 (d) of subsection (2) of section 446.53, Florida Statutes, are  
7138 amended to read:

7139 446.53 Concrete masonry education.—

7140 (1) (a) The Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council,  
7141 Inc., is created as a nonprofit corporation organized under the  
7142 laws of this state and operating as a direct-support  
7143 organization of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

7144 (2)

7145 (d) In addition to the 13 voting members described in  
7146 paragraph (a), the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
7147 or his or her designee, shall serve ex officio as a nonvoting  
7148 member of the board of directors of the council.

7149 Section 216. Subsections (1), (4), (5), (6), and (8) of  
7150 section 446.71, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7151 446.71 Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community  
 7152 Employment Training Program.—

7153 (1) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in  
 7154 cooperation with the state board as defined in s. 445.002, shall  
 7155 establish the Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community  
 7156 Employment Training Program within the Department of Commerce  
 7157 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7158 ~~Opportunity~~ shall use funds appropriated to the program by the  
 7159 Legislature to provide grants to stimulate and support training  
 7160 and employment programs that seek to match persons who complete  
 7161 such training programs to nonagricultural employment  
 7162 opportunities in areas of high agricultural unemployment, and to  
 7163 provide other training, educational, and information services  
 7164 necessary to stimulate the creation of jobs in the areas of high  
 7165 agricultural unemployment. In determining whether to provide  
 7166 funds to a particular program, the Department of Commerce  
 7167 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall consider the location of the program  
 7168 in proximity to the program's intended participants.

7169 (4) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 7170 not award a grant to any given training program which exceeds 50  
 7171 percent of the total cost of the program, unless the training  
 7172 program is located within a rural area of opportunity, in which  
 7173 case the grant may exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the  
 7174 program and up to 100 percent. Matching contributions may  
 7175 include in-kind services, including, but not limited to, the

7176 provision of training instructors, equipment, and training  
 7177 facilities.

7178 (5) Before granting a request for funds made in accordance  
 7179 with this section, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7180 ~~Opportunity~~ shall enter into a grant agreement with the  
 7181 requester of funds and the institution receiving funding through  
 7182 the program. Such agreement must include all of the following  
 7183 information:

7184 (a) An identification of the personnel necessary to  
 7185 conduct the instructional program, the qualifications of such  
 7186 personnel, and the respective responsibilities of the parties  
 7187 for paying costs associated with the employment of such  
 7188 personnel.

7189 (b) An identification of the estimated length of the  
 7190 instructional program.

7191 (c) An identification of all direct, training-related  
 7192 costs, including tuition and fees, curriculum development, books  
 7193 and classroom materials, and overhead or indirect costs.

7194 (d) An identification of special program requirements that  
 7195 are not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

7196 (6) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 7197 grant up to 100 percent of the tuition for a training program  
 7198 participant who currently resides, and has resided for at least  
 7199 3 of the 5 immediately preceding years, within the Everglades  
 7200 Agricultural Area as described in s. 373.4592 and in counties

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7201 that provide for water storage and dispersed water storage that  
7202 are located in rural areas of opportunity as described in s.  
7203 288.0656.

7204 (8) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
7205 adopt rules to implement this section.

7206 Section 217. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (2) of  
7207 section 448.09, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 6 of  
7208 chapter 2023-40, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

7209 448.09 Unauthorized aliens; employment prohibited.—

7210 (2) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
7211 finds or is notified by an entity specified in s. 448.095(3) (a)  
7212 that an employer has knowingly employed an unauthorized alien  
7213 without verifying the employment eligibility of such person, the  
7214 department must enter an order pursuant to chapter 120 making  
7215 such determination and require repayment of any economic  
7216 development incentive pursuant to s. 288.061(6).

7217 Section 218. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and  
7218 paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 448.095,  
7219 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7220 448.095 Employment eligibility.—

7221 (3) ENFORCEMENT.—

7222 (a) For the purpose of enforcement of this section, any of  
7223 the following persons or entities may request, and an employer  
7224 must provide, copies of any documentation relied upon by the  
7225 employer for the verification of a new employee's employment

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7226 | eligibility:

7227 |       1. The Department of Law Enforcement;

7228 |       2. The Attorney General;

7229 |       3. The state attorney in the circuit in which the new  
7230 | employee works;

7231 |       4. The statewide prosecutor; or

7232 |       5. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

7233 |       (6) COMPLIANCE.—

7234 |       (a) In addition to the requirements under s. 288.061(6),  
7235 | beginning on July 1, 2024, if the Department of Commerce  
7236 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ determines that an employer failed to use  
7237 | the E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of  
7238 | employees as required under this section, the department must  
7239 | notify the employer of the department's determination of  
7240 | noncompliance and provide the employer with 30 days to cure the  
7241 | noncompliance.

7242 |       (b) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~  
7243 | determines that an employer failed to use the E-Verify system as  
7244 | required under this section three times in any 24-month period,  
7245 | the department must impose a fine of \$1,000 per day until the  
7246 | employer provides sufficient proof to the department that the  
7247 | noncompliance is cured. Noncompliance constitutes grounds for  
7248 | the suspension of all licenses issued by a licensing agency  
7249 | subject to chapter 120 until the noncompliance is cured.

7250 |       Section 219. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section

7251 448.109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7252 448.109 Notification of the state minimum wage.—

7253 (3)(a) Each year the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7254 ~~Opportunity~~ shall, on or before December 1, create and make  
 7255 available to employers a poster in English and in Spanish which  
 7256 reads substantially as follows:

7257  
 7258 NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES  
 7259

7260 The Florida minimum wage is \$ ...(amount)... per hour,  
 7261 with a minimum wage of at least \$ ...(amount)... per  
 7262 hour for tipped employees, in addition to tips, for  
 7263 January 1, ...(year)..., through December 31,  
 7264 ...(year)....

7265  
 7266 The rate of the minimum wage is recalculated yearly on  
 7267 September 30, based on the Consumer Price Index. Every  
 7268 year on January 1 the new Florida minimum wage takes  
 7269 effect.

7270  
 7271 An employer may not retaliate against an employee for  
 7272 exercising his or her right to receive the minimum  
 7273 wage. Rights protected by the State Constitution  
 7274 include the right to:

- 7275 1. File a complaint about an employer's alleged

7276 noncompliance with lawful minimum wage requirements.  
 7277 2. Inform any person about an employer's alleged  
 7278 noncompliance with lawful minimum wage requirements.  
 7279 3. Inform any person of his or her potential rights  
 7280 under Section 24, Article X of the State Constitution  
 7281 and to assist him or her in asserting such rights.  
 7282  
 7283 An employee who has not received the lawful minimum  
 7284 wage after notifying his or her employer and giving  
 7285 the employer 15 days to resolve any claims for unpaid  
 7286 wages may bring a civil action in a court of law  
 7287 against an employer to recover back wages plus damages  
 7288 and attorney's fees.  
 7289  
 7290 An employer found liable for intentionally violating  
 7291 minimum wage requirements is subject to a fine of  
 7292 \$1,000 per violation, payable to the state.  
 7293  
 7294 The Attorney General or other official designated by  
 7295 the Legislature may bring a civil action to enforce  
 7296 the minimum wage.  
 7297  
 7298 For details see Section 24, Article X of the State  
 7299 Constitution.  
 7300 Section 220. Subsections (2), (4), and (11) of section

7301 448.110, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7302 448.110 State minimum wage; annual wage adjustment;  
7303 enforcement.—

7304 (2) The purpose of this section is to provide measures  
7305 appropriate for the implementation of s. 24, Art. X of the State  
7306 Constitution, in accordance with authority granted to the  
7307 Legislature pursuant to s. 24(f), Art. X of the State  
7308 Constitution. To implement s. 24, Art. X of the State  
7309 Constitution, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ is  
7310 designated as the state Agency for Workforce Innovation.

7311 (4) (a) Beginning September 30, 2005, and annually on  
7312 September 30 thereafter, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7313 ~~Opportunity~~ shall calculate an adjusted state minimum wage rate  
7314 by increasing the state minimum wage by the rate of inflation  
7315 for the 12 months prior to September 1. In calculating the  
7316 adjusted state minimum wage, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7317 ~~Opportunity~~ shall use the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage  
7318 Earners and Clerical Workers, not seasonally adjusted, for the  
7319 South Region or a successor index as calculated by the United  
7320 States Department of Labor. Each adjusted state minimum wage  
7321 rate shall take effect on the following January 1, with the  
7322 initial adjusted minimum wage rate to take effect on January 1,  
7323 2006.

7324 (b) The Department of Revenue and the Department of  
7325 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall annually publish the amount

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7326 of the adjusted state minimum wage and the effective date.  
7327 Publication shall occur by posting the adjusted state minimum  
7328 wage rate and the effective date on the Internet home pages of  
7329 the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the  
7330 Department of Revenue by October 15 of each year. In addition,  
7331 to the extent funded in the General Appropriations Act, the  
7332 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall provide  
7333 written notice of the adjusted rate and the effective date of  
7334 the adjusted state minimum wage to all employers registered in  
7335 the most current reemployment assistance database. Such notice  
7336 shall be mailed by November 15 of each year using the addresses  
7337 included in the database. Employers are responsible for  
7338 maintaining current address information in the reemployment  
7339 assistance database. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7340 ~~Opportunity~~ is not responsible for failure to provide notice due  
7341 to incorrect or incomplete address information in the database.  
7342 The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall provide  
7343 the Department of Revenue with the adjusted state minimum wage  
7344 rate information and effective date in a timely manner.

7345 (11) Except for calculating the adjusted state minimum  
7346 wage and publishing the initial state minimum wage and any  
7347 annual adjustments thereto, the authority of the Department of  
7348 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in implementing s. 24, Art. X of  
7349 the State Constitution, pursuant to this section, shall be  
7350 limited to that authority expressly granted by the Legislature.

7351 Section 221. Section 450.161, Florida Statutes, as amended  
 7352 by section 400 of chapter 2011-142, Laws of Florida, is amended  
 7353 to read:

7354 450.161 Chapter not to affect career education of  
 7355 children; other exceptions.—Nothing in this chapter shall  
 7356 prevent minors of any age from receiving career education  
 7357 furnished by the United States, this state, or any county or  
 7358 other political subdivision of this state and duly approved by  
 7359 the Department of Education or other duly constituted authority,  
 7360 nor any apprentice indentured under a plan approved by the  
 7361 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, or prevent the  
 7362 employment of any minor 14 years of age or older when such  
 7363 employment is authorized as an integral part of, or supplement  
 7364 to, such a course in career education and is authorized by  
 7365 regulations of the district school board of the district in  
 7366 which such minor is employed, provided the employment is in  
 7367 compliance with the provisions of ss. 450.021(4) and 450.061.  
 7368 Exemptions for the employment of student learners 16 to 18 years  
 7369 of age are provided in s. 450.061. Such an exemption shall apply  
 7370 when:

7371 (1) The student learner is enrolled in a youth vocational  
 7372 training program under a recognized state or local educational  
 7373 authority.

7374 (2) Such student learner is employed under a written  
 7375 agreement that provides:

7376 (a) That the work of the student learner in the occupation  
 7377 declared particularly hazardous shall be incidental to the  
 7378 training.

7379 (b) That such work shall be intermittent and for short  
 7380 periods of time and under the direct and close supervision of a  
 7381 qualified and experienced person.

7382 (c) That safety instructions shall be given by the school  
 7383 and correlated by the employer with on-the-job training.

7384 (d) That a schedule of organized and progressive work  
 7385 processes to be performed on the job shall have been prepared.

7386  
 7387 Each such written agreement shall contain the name of the  
 7388 student learner and shall be signed by the employer, the school  
 7389 coordinator and principal, and the parent or legal guardian.  
 7390 Copies of each agreement shall be kept on file by both the  
 7391 school and the employer. This exemption for the employment of  
 7392 student learners may be revoked in any individual situation when  
 7393 it is found that reasonable precautions have not been observed  
 7394 for the safety of minors employed thereunder. A high school  
 7395 graduate may be employed in an occupation in which he or she has  
 7396 completed training as a student learner, as provided in this  
 7397 section, even though he or she is not yet 18 years of age.

7398 Section 222. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section  
 7399 450.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7400 450.191 Executive Office of the Governor; powers and

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7401 duties.—

7402 (1) The Executive Office of the Governor is authorized and  
7403 directed to:

7404 (j) Cooperate with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7405 ~~Opportunity~~ in the recruitment and referral of migrant laborers  
7406 and other persons for the planting, cultivation, and harvesting  
7407 of agricultural crops in Florida.

7408 Section 223. Section 450.261, Florida Statutes, is amended  
7409 to read:

7410 450.261 Interstate Migrant Labor Commission; Florida  
7411 membership.—In selecting the Florida membership of the  
7412 Interstate Migrant Labor Commission, the Governor may designate  
7413 the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ as his or her  
7414 representative.

7415 Section 224. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
7416 450.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7417 450.31 Issuance, revocation, and suspension of, and  
7418 refusal to issue or renew, certificate of registration.—

7419 (2) The department may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue  
7420 or renew any certificate of registration when it is shown that  
7421 the farm labor contractor has:

7422 (e) Failed to pay reemployment assistance taxes as  
7423 determined by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~;  
7424 or

7425 Section 225. Subsection (3) of section 468.529, Florida

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7426 Statutes, is amended to read:

7427 468.529 Licensee's insurance; employment tax; benefit  
7428 plans.—

7429 (3) A licensed employee leasing company shall within 30  
7430 days after initiation or termination notify its workers'  
7431 compensation insurance carrier, the Division of Workers'  
7432 Compensation of the Department of Financial Services, and the  
7433 state agency providing reemployment assistance tax collection  
7434 services under contract with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7435 ~~Opportunity~~ through an interagency agreement pursuant to s.  
7436 443.1316 of both the initiation or the termination of the  
7437 company's relationship with any client company.

7438 Section 226. Paragraph (i) of subsection (4) of section  
7439 551.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7440 551.104 License to conduct slot machine gaming.—

7441 (4) As a condition of licensure and to maintain continued  
7442 authority for the conduct of slot machine gaming, the slot  
7443 machine licensee shall:

7444 (i) Create and file with the commission a written policy  
7445 for:

7446 1. Creating opportunities to purchase from vendors in this  
7447 state, including minority vendors.

7448 2. Creating opportunities for employment of residents of  
7449 this state, including minority residents.

7450 3. Ensuring opportunities for construction services from

7451 minority contractors.

7452 4. Ensuring that opportunities for employment are offered  
7453 on an equal, nondiscriminatory basis.

7454 5. Training for employees on responsible gaming and  
7455 working with a compulsive or addictive gambling prevention  
7456 program to further its purposes as provided for in s. 551.118.

7457 6. The implementation of a drug-testing program that  
7458 includes, but is not limited to, requiring each employee to sign  
7459 an agreement that he or she understands that the slot machine  
7460 facility is a drug-free workplace.

7461  
7462 The slot machine licensee shall use the Internet-based job-  
7463 listing system of the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
7464 ~~Opportunity~~ in advertising employment opportunities. Each slot  
7465 machine licensee shall provide an annual report to the Florida  
7466 Gaming Control Commission containing information indicating  
7467 compliance with this paragraph in regard to minority persons.

7468 Section 227. Paragraph (e) of subsection (16) of section  
7469 553.79, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7470 553.79 Permits; applications; issuance; inspections.—

7471 (16) Except as provided in paragraph (e), a building  
7472 permit for a single-family residential dwelling must be issued  
7473 within 30 business days after receiving the permit application  
7474 unless the permit application fails to satisfy the Florida  
7475 Building Code or the enforcing agency's laws or ordinances.

7476 (e) A building permit for a single-family residential  
 7477 dwelling applied for by a contractor licensed in this state on  
 7478 behalf of a property owner who participates in a Community  
 7479 Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program administered  
 7480 by the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ must be  
 7481 issued within 15 working days after receipt of the application  
 7482 unless the permit application fails to satisfy the Florida  
 7483 Building Code or the enforcing agency's laws or ordinances.

7484 Section 228. Subsection (10) of section 570.71, Florida  
 7485 Statutes, is amended to read:

7486 570.71 Conservation easements and agreements.—

7487 (10) The department, in consultation with the Department  
 7488 of Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the  
 7489 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Florida  
 7490 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, shall adopt rules  
 7491 that establish an application process; a process and criteria  
 7492 for setting priorities for use of funds consistent with the  
 7493 purposes specified in subsection (1) and giving preference to  
 7494 ranch and timber lands managed using sustainable practices,  
 7495 lands in imminent danger of development or degradation, or lands  
 7496 within the Florida wildlife corridor as defined in s.

7497 259.1055(4); an appraisal process; and a process for title  
 7498 review and compliance and approval of the rules by the Board of  
 7499 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

7500 Section 229. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph

7501 (e) of subsection (2), subsection (3), and paragraph (a) of  
 7502 subsection (4) of section 624.5105, Florida Statutes, are  
 7503 amended to read:

7504 624.5105 Community contribution tax credit; authorization;  
 7505 limitations; eligibility and application requirements;  
 7506 administration; definitions; expiration.—

7507 (1) AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT TAX CREDITS; LIMITATIONS.—

7508 (d) Each proposal for the granting of such tax credit  
 7509 requires the prior approval of the Secretary of Commerce  
 7510 ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

7511 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

7512 (e)1. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 7513 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects that  
 7514 provide housing opportunities for persons with special needs as  
 7515 defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership opportunities for low-  
 7516 income or very-low-income households as defined in s.  
 7517 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for less than the annual tax  
 7518 credits available for those projects, the Department of Commerce  
 7519 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax credits for those  
 7520 applications and shall grant remaining tax credits on a first-  
 7521 come, first-served basis for any subsequent eligible  
 7522 applications received before the end of the state fiscal year.  
 7523 If, during the first 10 business days of the state fiscal year,  
 7524 eligible tax credit applications for projects that provide  
 7525 housing opportunities for persons with special needs as defined

7526 in s. 420.0004 or homeownership opportunities for low-income or  
 7527 very-low-income households as defined in s. 420.9071(20) and  
 7528 (30) are received for more than the annual tax credits available  
 7529 for those projects, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7530 ~~Opportunity~~ shall grant the tax credits for those applications  
 7531 as follows:

7532 a. If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 7533 projects of an eligible sponsor do not exceed \$200,000 in total,  
 7534 the credits shall be granted in full if the tax credit  
 7535 applications are approved.

7536 b. If tax credit applications submitted for approved  
 7537 projects of an eligible sponsor exceed \$200,000 in total, the  
 7538 amount of tax credits granted under sub-subparagraph a. shall be  
 7539 subtracted from the amount of available tax credits, and the  
 7540 remaining credits shall be granted to each approved tax credit  
 7541 application on a pro rata basis.

7542 2. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
 7543 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
 7544 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
 7545 special needs as defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership  
 7546 opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as  
 7547 defined in s. 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for less than  
 7548 the annual tax credits available for those projects, the  
 7549 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant tax  
 7550 credits for those applications and shall grant remaining tax

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7551 credits on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent  
7552 eligible applications received before the end of the state  
7553 fiscal year. If, during the first 10 business days of the state  
7554 fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other  
7555 than those that provide housing opportunities for persons with  
7556 special needs as defined in s. 420.0004 or homeownership  
7557 opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as  
7558 defined in s. 420.9071(20) and (30) are received for more than  
7559 the annual tax credits available for those projects, the  
7560 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall grant the tax  
7561 credits for those applications on a pro rata basis.

7562 (3) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

7563 (a) Any eligible sponsor wishing to participate in this  
7564 program must submit a proposal to the Department of Commerce  
7565 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which sets forth the sponsor, the project,  
7566 the area in which the project is located, and such supporting  
7567 information as may be prescribed by rule. The proposal shall  
7568 also contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in  
7569 which the proposed project is located certifying that the  
7570 project is consistent with local plans and regulations.

7571 (b)1. Any insurer wishing to participate in this program  
7572 must submit an application for tax credit to the Department of  
7573 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ which sets forth the sponsor; the  
7574 project; and the type, value, and purpose of the contribution.  
7575 The sponsor must verify, in writing, the terms of the

7576 application and indicate its willingness to receive the  
 7577 contribution, which verification must accompany the application  
 7578 for tax credit.

7579 2. The insurer must submit a separate application for tax  
 7580 credit for each individual contribution which it proposes to  
 7581 contribute to each individual project.

7582 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—

7583 (a)1. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 7584 adopt rules to administer this section, including rules for the  
 7585 approval or disapproval of proposals by insurers.

7586 2. The decision of the Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7587 ~~Opportunity~~ shall be in writing, and, if approved, the proposal  
 7588 shall state the maximum credit allowable to the insurer. A copy  
 7589 of the decision shall be transmitted to the executive director  
 7590 of the Department of Revenue, who shall apply such credit to the  
 7591 tax liability of the insurer.

7592 3. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 7593 monitor all projects periodically, in a manner consistent with  
 7594 available resources to ensure that resources are utilized in  
 7595 accordance with this section; however, each project shall be  
 7596 reviewed no less frequently than once every 2 years.

7597 4. The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall,  
 7598 in consultation with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and  
 7599 the statewide and regional housing and financial intermediaries,  
 7600 market the availability of the community contribution tax credit

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7601 program to community-based organizations.

7602 Section 230. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
7603 627.42397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7604 627.42397 Coverage for air ambulance services.—

7605 (1) As used in this section, the term:

7606 (c) "Reasonable reimbursement" means reimbursement that  
7607 considers the direct cost to provide the air ambulance  
7608 transportation service to the insured, the operation of an air  
7609 ambulance service by a county which operates entirely within a  
7610 designated area of critical state concern as determined by the  
7611 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and in-network  
7612 reimbursement established by the health insurer for the specific  
7613 policy. The term does not include the amount of billed charges  
7614 for the cost of services rendered.

7615 Section 231. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
7616 641.514, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7617 641.514 Coverage for air ambulance services.—

7618 (1) As used in this section, the term:

7619 (c) "Reasonable reimbursement" means reimbursement that  
7620 considers the direct cost to provide the air ambulance  
7621 transportation service to the subscriber, the operation of an  
7622 air ambulance service by a county which operates entirely within  
7623 a designated area of critical state concern as determined by the  
7624 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and in-network  
7625 reimbursement established by the health maintenance organization

7626 | for the specific contract. The term does not include the amount  
 7627 | of billed charges for the cost of services rendered.

7628 |         Section 232. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraph  
 7629 | (b) of subsection (7), and subsection (10) of section 692.203,  
 7630 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7631 |         692.203 Purchase of real property on or around military  
 7632 | installations or critical infrastructure facilities by foreign  
 7633 | principals prohibited.—

7634 |         (3)(a) A foreign principal must register with the  
 7635 | Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ if the foreign  
 7636 | principal owns or acquires real property on or within 10 miles  
 7637 | of any military installation or critical infrastructure facility  
 7638 | in this state as authorized under subsection (4) or if the  
 7639 | foreign principal owned or acquired an interest, other than a de  
 7640 | minimus indirect interest, in such property before July 1, 2023.  
 7641 | The department must establish a form for such registration  
 7642 | which, at a minimum, must include all of the following:

- 7643 |             1. The name of the owner of the real property.
- 7644 |             2. The address of the real property, the property  
 7645 | appraiser's parcel identification number, and the property's  
 7646 | legal description.

7647 |         (7)

7648 |         (b) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
 7649 | initiate a civil action in the circuit court of the county in  
 7650 | which the property lies for the forfeiture of the real property

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7651 or any interest therein.

7652 (10) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
7653 adopt rules to implement this section.

7654 Section 233. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph  
7655 (b) of subsection (7), and subsection (10) of section 692.204,  
7656 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7657 692.204 Purchase or acquisition of real property by the  
7658 People's Republic of China prohibited.—

7659 (4)(a) A person or entity described in paragraph (1)(a),  
7660 subsection (2), or subsection (5) must register with the  
7661 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ if the person or  
7662 entity owns or acquires more than a de minimus indirect interest  
7663 in real property in this state. The department must establish a  
7664 form for such registration which, at a minimum, must include all  
7665 of the following:

7666 1. The name of the owner of the real property.

7667 2. The address of the real property, the property  
7668 appraiser's parcel identification number, and the property's  
7669 legal description.

7670 (7)

7671 (b) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may  
7672 initiate a civil action in the circuit court of the county in  
7673 which the property lies for the forfeiture of the real property  
7674 or any interest therein.

7675 (10) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall

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7676 adopt rules to implement this section.

7677 Section 234. Subsection (2) of section 720.403, Florida  
7678 Statutes, is amended to read:

7679 720.403 Preservation of communities; revival of  
7680 declaration of covenants.—

7681 (2) In order to preserve a community and the associated  
7682 infrastructure and common areas for the purposes described in  
7683 this section, the parcel owners in a community that was  
7684 previously subject to a declaration of covenants that has ceased  
7685 to govern one or more parcels in the community may revive the  
7686 declaration and the association for the community upon approval  
7687 by the parcel owners to be governed thereby as provided in this  
7688 act, and upon approval of the declaration and the other  
7689 governing documents for the association by the Department of  
7690 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ in a manner consistent with this  
7691 act.

7692 Section 235. Section 720.404, Florida Statutes, is amended  
7693 to read:

7694 720.404 Eligible communities; requirements for revival of  
7695 declaration.—Parcel owners in a community are eligible to seek  
7696 approval from the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ to  
7697 revive a declaration of covenants under this act if all of the  
7698 following requirements are met:

7699 (1) All parcels to be governed by the revived declaration  
7700 must have been once governed by a previous declaration that has

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7701 | ceased to govern some or all of the parcels in the community;  
 7702 |       (2) The revived declaration must be approved in the manner  
 7703 | provided in s. 720.405(6); and  
 7704 |       (3) The revived declaration may not contain covenants that  
 7705 | are more restrictive on the parcel owners than the covenants  
 7706 | contained in the previous declaration, except that the  
 7707 | declaration may:  
 7708 |       (a) Have an effective term of longer duration than the  
 7709 | term of the previous declaration;  
 7710 |       (b) Omit restrictions contained in the previous  
 7711 | declaration;  
 7712 |       (c) Govern fewer than all of the parcels governed by the  
 7713 | previous declaration;  
 7714 |       (d) Provide for amendments to the declaration and other  
 7715 | governing documents; and  
 7716 |       (e) Contain provisions required by this chapter for new  
 7717 | declarations that were not contained in the previous  
 7718 | declaration.  
 7719 |       Section 236. Section 720.406, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 7720 | to read:  
 7721 |       720.406 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~;  
 7722 | submission; review and determination.—  
 7723 |       (1) No later than 60 days after the date the proposed  
 7724 | revived declaration and other governing documents are approved  
 7725 | by the affected parcel owners, the organizing committee or its

7726 | designee must submit the proposed revived governing documents  
 7727 | and supporting materials to the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 7728 | ~~Opportunity~~ to review and determine whether to approve or  
 7729 | disapprove of the proposal to preserve the residential  
 7730 | community. The submission to the department must include:  
 7731 |       (a) The full text of the proposed revived declaration of  
 7732 | covenants and articles of incorporation and bylaws of the  
 7733 | homeowners' association;  
 7734 |       (b) A verified copy of the previous declaration of  
 7735 | covenants and other previous governing documents for the  
 7736 | community, including any amendments thereto;  
 7737 |       (c) The legal description of each parcel to be subject to  
 7738 | the revived declaration and other governing documents and a plat  
 7739 | or other graphic depiction of the affected properties in the  
 7740 | community;  
 7741 |       (d) A verified copy of the written consents of the  
 7742 | requisite number of the affected parcel owners approving the  
 7743 | revived declaration and other governing documents or, if  
 7744 | approval was obtained by a vote at a meeting of affected parcel  
 7745 | owners, verified copies of the notice of the meeting,  
 7746 | attendance, and voting results;  
 7747 |       (e) An affidavit by a current or former officer of the  
 7748 | association or by a member of the organizing committee verifying  
 7749 | that the requirements for the revived declaration set forth in  
 7750 | s. 720.404 have been satisfied; and

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7751 (f) Such other documentation that the organizing committee  
7752 believes is supportive of the policy of preserving the  
7753 residential community and operating, managing, and maintaining  
7754 the infrastructure, aesthetic character, and common areas  
7755 serving the residential community.

7756 (2) No later than 60 days after receiving the submission,  
7757 the department must determine whether the proposed revived  
7758 declaration of covenants and other governing documents comply  
7759 with the requirements of this act.

7760 (a) If the department determines that the proposed revived  
7761 declaration and other governing documents comply with the act  
7762 and have been approved by the parcel owners as required by this  
7763 act, the department shall notify the organizing committee in  
7764 writing of its approval.

7765 (b) If the department determines that the proposed revived  
7766 declaration and other governing documents do not comply with  
7767 this act or have not been approved as required by this act, the  
7768 department shall notify the organizing committee in writing that  
7769 it does not approve the governing documents and shall state the  
7770 reasons for the disapproval.

7771 Section 237. Subsections (2) and (8) of section 943.0311,  
7772 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

7773 943.0311 Chief of Domestic Security; duties of the  
7774 department with respect to domestic security.—

7775 (2) The chief shall regularly coordinate random audits

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7776 | pursuant to s. 448.095 to ensure compliance and enforcement and  
 7777 | shall notify the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ of  
 7778 | any violations.

7779 |         (8) As used in this section, the term "state agency"  
 7780 | includes the Agency for Health Care Administration, the  
 7781 | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department  
 7782 | of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of  
 7783 | Children and Families, the Department of Citrus, the Department  
 7784 | of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Corrections,  
 7785 | the Department of Education, the Department of Elderly Affairs,  
 7786 | the Division of Emergency Management, the Department of  
 7787 | Environmental Protection, the Department of Financial Services,  
 7788 | the Department of Health, the Department of Highway Safety and  
 7789 | Motor Vehicles, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the  
 7790 | Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Legal Affairs,  
 7791 | the Department of Management Services, the Department of  
 7792 | Military Affairs, the Department of Revenue, the Department of  
 7793 | State, the Department of the Lottery, the Department of  
 7794 | Transportation, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Fish  
 7795 | and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Commission on  
 7796 | Offender Review, the State Board of Administration, and the  
 7797 | Executive Office of the Governor.

7798 |         Section 238. Paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section  
 7799 | 944.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7800 |             944.801 Education for state prisoners.—

7801 (3) The responsibilities of the Correctional Education  
 7802 Program shall be to:

7803 (h) Develop a written procedure for selecting programs to  
 7804 add to or delete from the vocational curriculum. The procedure  
 7805 shall include labor market analyses that demonstrate the  
 7806 projected demand for certain occupations and the projected  
 7807 supply of potential employees. In conducting these analyses, the  
 7808 department shall evaluate the feasibility of adding vocational  
 7809 education programs that have been identified by the Department  
 7810 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Department of Education,  
 7811 or a regional coordinating council as being in undersupply in  
 7812 this state. The department shall periodically reevaluate the  
 7813 vocational education programs in major institutions to determine  
 7814 which of the programs support and provide relevant skills to  
 7815 inmates who could be assigned to a correctional work program  
 7816 that is operated as a Prison Industry Enhancement Program.

7817 Section 239. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
 7818 945.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7819 945.10 Confidential information.—

7820 (3) Due to substantial concerns regarding institutional  
 7821 security and unreasonable and excessive demands on personnel and  
 7822 resources if an inmate or an offender has unlimited or routine  
 7823 access to records of the Department of Corrections, an inmate or  
 7824 an offender who is under the jurisdiction of the department may  
 7825 not have unrestricted access to the department's records or to

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7826 information contained in the department's records. However,  
7827 except as to another inmate's or offender's records, the  
7828 department may permit limited access to its records if an inmate  
7829 or an offender makes a written request and demonstrates an  
7830 exceptional need for information contained in the department's  
7831 records and the information is otherwise unavailable.

7832 Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:

7833 (d) The requested records contain information required to  
7834 process an application or claim by the inmate or offender with  
7835 the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security  
7836 Administration, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~,  
7837 or any other similar application or claim with a state agency or  
7838 federal agency.

7839 Section 240. Subsection (4) of section 985.601, Florida  
7840 Statutes, is amended to read:

7841 985.601 Administering the juvenile justice continuum.—

7842 (4) The department shall maintain continuing cooperation  
7843 with the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
7844 Families, the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and  
7845 the Department of Corrections for the purpose of participating  
7846 in agreements with respect to dropout prevention and the  
7847 reduction of suspensions, expulsions, and truancy; increased  
7848 access to and participation in high school equivalency diploma,  
7849 vocational, and alternative education programs; and employment  
7850 training and placement assistance. The cooperative agreements

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7851 between the departments shall include an interdepartmental plan  
7852 to cooperate in accomplishing the reduction of inappropriate  
7853 transfers of children into the adult criminal justice and  
7854 correctional systems. As part of its continuing cooperation, the  
7855 department shall participate in the planning process for  
7856 promoting a coordinated system of care for children and  
7857 adolescents pursuant to s. 394.4955.

7858 Section 241. Paragraph (w) of subsection (2) of section  
7859 1001.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7860 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

7861 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

7862 (w) Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually  
7863 thereafter, to require each Florida College System institution  
7864 prior to registration to provide each enrolled student  
7865 electronic access to the economic security report of employment  
7866 and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of Commerce  
7867 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ pursuant to s. 445.07.

7868 Section 242. Subsection (18) of section 1001.03, Florida  
7869 Statutes, is amended to read:

7870 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

7871 (18) UNIFIED STATE PLAN FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
7872 ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM).—The State Board of  
7873 Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors and the  
7874 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, shall adopt a  
7875 unified state plan to improve K-20 STEM education and prepare

7876 | students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand employment  
 7877 | in STEM and STEM-related fields.

7878 |       Section 243. Paragraphs (b), (d), and (i) of subsection  
 7879 | (5) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
 7880 |       1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

7881 |       (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

7882 |       (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
 7883 | specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
 7884 | and each constituent university, including each university's  
 7885 | contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The  
 7886 | strategic plan must:

7887 |       1. Include performance metrics and standards common for  
 7888 | all institutions and metrics and standards unique to  
 7889 | institutions depending on institutional core missions,  
 7890 | including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,  
 7891 | retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained  
 7892 | employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued  
 7893 | education, licensure passage, nondegree credential attainment,  
 7894 | average wages of employed graduates, average cost per graduate,  
 7895 | excess hours, student loan burden and default rates, faculty  
 7896 | awards, total annual research expenditures, patents, licenses  
 7897 | and royalties, intellectual property, startup companies, annual  
 7898 | giving, endowments, and well-known, highly respected national  
 7899 | rankings for institutional and program achievements.

7900 |       2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Florida

7901 Talent Development Council under s. 1004.015 and the  
 7902 Articulation Coordinating Committee under s. 1007.01, and the  
 7903 information provided by the Labor Market Statistics Center  
 7904 within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the  
 7905 Labor Market Estimating Conference.

7906 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
 7907 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited  
 7908 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

7909 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
 7910 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
 7911 demand programs of emphasis. Once the criteria are available and  
 7912 applicable to baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees, the  
 7913 Board of Governors shall adopt the criteria to determine value  
 7914 for and prioritization of degree credentials and degree programs  
 7915 established by the Credentials Review Committee under s. 445.004  
 7916 for designating high-demand programs of emphasis. The Board of  
 7917 Governors must review designated programs of emphasis, at a  
 7918 minimum, every 3 years to ensure alignment with the  
 7919 prioritization of degree credentials and degree programs  
 7920 identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

7921 5. Include criteria for nondegree credentials.

7922 (d) The Board of Governors shall annually require a state  
 7923 university prior to registration to provide each enrolled  
 7924 student electronic access to the economic security report of  
 7925 employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of

7926 Commerce Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In  
 7927 addition, the Board of Governors shall require a state  
 7928 university to provide each student electronic access to the  
 7929 following information each year prior to registration using the  
 7930 data described in s. 1008.39:

7931 1. The top 25 percent of degrees reported by the  
 7932 university in terms of highest full-time job placement and  
 7933 highest average annualized earnings in the year after earning  
 7934 the degree.

7935 2. The bottom 10 percent of degrees reported by the  
 7936 university in terms of lowest full-time job placement and lowest  
 7937 average annualized earnings in the year after earning the  
 7938 degree.

7939 (i) The Board of Governors shall match individual student  
 7940 information with information in the files of state and federal  
 7941 agencies that maintain educational and employment records. The  
 7942 board must enter into an agreement with the Department of  
 7943 Commerce Economic Opportunity that allows access to the  
 7944 individual reemployment assistance wage records maintained by  
 7945 the department. The agreement must protect individual privacy  
 7946 and provide that student information may be used only for the  
 7947 purposes of auditing or evaluating higher education programs  
 7948 offered by state universities.

7949 Section 244. Subsection (24) of section 1002.20, Florida  
 7950 Statutes, is amended to read:

7951           1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public  
 7952 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
 7953 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
 7954 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
 7955 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
 7956 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

7957           (24) ECONOMIC SECURITY REPORT.—Beginning in the 2014-2015  
 7958 school year and annually thereafter, each middle school and high  
 7959 school student or the student's parent prior to registration  
 7960 shall be provided a two-page summary of the Department of  
 7961 Commerce's Economic Opportunity's economic security report of  
 7962 employment and earning outcomes prepared pursuant to s. 445.07  
 7963 and electronic access to the report.

7964           Section 245. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
 7965 1002.395, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7966           1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

7967           (7) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM  
 7968 PARTICIPATION.—

7969           (a) A parent whose student will be enrolled full time in a  
 7970 private school must:

7971           1. Select an eligible private school and apply for the  
 7972 admission of his or her child.

7973           2. Inform the child's school district when the parent  
 7974 withdraws his or her child to attend an eligible private school.

7975           3. Require his or her student participating in the program

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7976 to remain in attendance throughout the school year unless  
7977 excused by the school for illness or other good cause and comply  
7978 with the private school's published policies.

7979 4. Meet with the private school's principal or the  
7980 principal's designee to review the school's academic programs  
7981 and policies, specialized services, code of student conduct, and  
7982 attendance policies before enrollment in the private school.

7983 5. Require his or her student participating in the program  
7984 to take the norm-referenced assessment offered by the private  
7985 school. The parent may also choose to have the student  
7986 participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.  
7987 If the parent requests that the student participating in the  
7988 scholarship program take statewide assessments pursuant to s.  
7989 1008.22 and the private school has not chosen to offer and  
7990 administer the statewide assessments, the parent is responsible  
7991 for transporting the student to the assessment site designated  
7992 by the school district.

7993 6. Approve each payment before the scholarship funds may  
7994 be deposited by funds transfer. The parent may not designate any  
7995 entity or individual associated with the participating private  
7996 school as the parent's attorney in fact to approve a funds  
7997 transfer. A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph  
7998 forfeits the scholarship.

7999 7. Authorize the nonprofit scholarship-funding  
8000 organization to access information needed for income eligibility

8001 determination and verification held by other state or federal  
 8002 agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of  
 8003 Children and Families, the Department of Education, the  
 8004 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, and the Agency for  
 8005 Health Care Administration.

8006 8. Agree to have the organization commit scholarship funds  
 8007 on behalf of his or her student for tuition and fees for which  
 8008 the parent is responsible for payment at the private school  
 8009 before using empowerment account funds for additional authorized  
 8010 uses under paragraph (6)(d). A parent is responsible for all  
 8011 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the scholarship.

8012  
 8013 An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not  
 8014 further regulate, exercise control over, or require  
 8015 documentation beyond the requirements of this subsection unless  
 8016 the regulation, control, or documentation is necessary for  
 8017 participation in the program.

8018 Section 246. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
 8019 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8020 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
 8021 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

8022 (6) The department shall establish procedures to annually  
 8023 collect data regarding the cost of care to include, but not be  
 8024 limited to:

8025 (a) Data from the Department of Commerce's ~~Economic~~

8026 ~~Opportunity's~~ Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic  
 8027 Research on the average salary for child care personnel to  
 8028 include, at a minimum, child care instructors and child care  
 8029 directors.

8030 Section 247. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
 8031 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8032 1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades  
 8033 promotion.—

8034 (1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school  
 8035 from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the  
 8036 student must successfully complete the following courses:

8037 (e) One course in career and education planning to be  
 8038 completed in grades 6, 7, or 8, which may be taught by any  
 8039 member of the instructional staff. The course must be Internet-  
 8040 based, customizable to each student, and include research-based  
 8041 assessments to assist students in determining educational and  
 8042 career options and goals. In addition, the course must result in  
 8043 a completed personalized academic and career plan for the  
 8044 student, which must use, when available, Florida's online career  
 8045 planning and work-based learning coordination system. The course  
 8046 must teach each student how to access and update the plan and  
 8047 encourage the student to access and update the plan at least  
 8048 annually as the student progresses through middle school and  
 8049 high school. The personalized academic and career plan must  
 8050 emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship and employability

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8051 skills and must include information from the Department of  
8052 Commerce's Economic Opportunity's economic security report under  
8053 s. 445.07 and other state career planning resources. The  
8054 required personalized academic and career plan must inform  
8055 students of high school graduation requirements, including a  
8056 detailed explanation of the requirements for earning a high  
8057 school diploma designation under s. 1003.4285 and the career and  
8058 technical education pathway to earn a standard high school  
8059 diploma under s. 1003.4282(10); the requirements for each  
8060 scholarship in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
8061 state university and Florida College System institution  
8062 admission requirements; available opportunities to earn college  
8063 credit in high school, including Advanced Placement courses; the  
8064 International Baccalaureate Program; the Advanced International  
8065 Certificate of Education Program; dual enrollment, including  
8066 career dual enrollment; work-based learning opportunities,  
8067 including internships and preapprenticeship and apprenticeship  
8068 programs; and career education courses, including career-themed  
8069 courses and course sequences that lead to industry certification  
8070 pursuant to s. 1003.492 or s. 1008.44. The course may be  
8071 implemented as a stand-alone course or integrated into another  
8072 course or courses.

8073 Section 248. Subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (b) of  
8074 subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 1003.491, Florida  
8075 Statutes, are amended to read:

8076 1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—  
 8077 The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to  
 8078 provide a statewide planning partnership between the business  
 8079 and education communities in order to attract, expand, and  
 8080 retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong,  
 8081 knowledge-based economy.

8082 (2) Each district school board shall develop, in  
 8083 collaboration with local workforce development boards, economic  
 8084 development agencies, and postsecondary institutions approved to  
 8085 operate in the state, a strategic 3-year plan to address and  
 8086 meet local and regional workforce demands. If involvement of a  
 8087 local workforce development board or an economic development  
 8088 agency in the strategic plan development is not feasible, the  
 8089 local school board, with the approval of the Department of  
 8090 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, shall collaborate with the most  
 8091 appropriate regional business leadership board. Two or more  
 8092 school districts may collaborate in the development of the  
 8093 strategic plan and offer career-themed courses, as defined in s.  
 8094 1003.493(1)(b), or a career and professional academy as a joint  
 8095 venture. The strategic plan must describe in detail provisions  
 8096 for the efficient transportation of students, the maximum use of  
 8097 shared resources, access to courses aligned to state curriculum  
 8098 standards through virtual education providers legislatively  
 8099 authorized to provide part-time instruction to middle school  
 8100 students, and an objective review of proposed career and

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8101 professional academy courses and other career-themed courses to  
8102 determine if the courses will lead to the attainment of industry  
8103 certifications included on the Industry Certified Funding List  
8104 pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Each  
8105 strategic plan shall be reviewed, updated, and jointly approved  
8106 every 3 years by the local school district, local workforce  
8107 development boards, economic development agencies, and state-  
8108 approved postsecondary institutions.

8109 (3) The strategic 3-year plan developed jointly by the  
8110 local school district, local workforce development boards,  
8111 economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary  
8112 institutions must be constructed and based on:

8113 (a) Research conducted to objectively determine local and  
8114 regional workforce needs for the ensuing 3 years, using labor  
8115 projections as identified by the Labor Market Statistics Center  
8116 within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the  
8117 Labor Market Estimating Conference as factors in the criteria  
8118 for the plan;

8119 (b) Strategies to develop and implement career academies  
8120 or career-themed courses based on occupations identified by the  
8121 Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of Commerce  
8122 ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Labor Market Estimating Conference;

8123 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process  
8124 for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed  
8125 core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be

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8126 considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and  
8127 relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary  
8128 education and aligned to state curriculum standards.

8129 (a) The review of newly proposed core secondary courses  
8130 shall be the responsibility of a curriculum review committee  
8131 whose membership is approved by CareerSource Florida, Inc. The  
8132 membership of the committee shall include:

8133 1. Three certified high school counselors recommended by  
8134 the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators.

8135 2. Three assistant superintendents for curriculum and  
8136 instruction, recommended by the Florida Association of District  
8137 School Superintendents, who serve in districts that operate  
8138 successful career and professional academies pursuant to s.  
8139 1003.492 or a successful series of courses that lead to industry  
8140 certification. Committee members in this category shall employ  
8141 the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the  
8142 review of proposed courses.

8143 3. Three workforce representatives recommended by the  
8144 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

8145 4. Three admissions directors of postsecondary  
8146 institutions accredited by an accrediting agency or association  
8147 recognized by the database created and maintained by the United  
8148 States Department of Education, representing both public and  
8149 private institutions.

8150 5. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee,

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8151 | who is responsible for K-12 curriculum and instruction and shall  
8152 | employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in  
8153 | the review of proposed courses.

8154 |         (b) The curriculum review committee shall review newly  
8155 | proposed core courses electronically. Each proposed core course  
8156 | shall be approved or denied within 30 days after submission by a  
8157 | district school board or local workforce development board. All  
8158 | courses approved as core courses for purposes of middle school  
8159 | promotion and high school graduation shall be immediately added  
8160 | to the Course Code Directory. Approved core courses shall also  
8161 | be reviewed and considered for approval for dual enrollment  
8162 | credit. The Board of Governors and the Commissioner of Education  
8163 | shall jointly recommend an annual deadline for approval of new  
8164 | core courses to be included for purposes of postsecondary  
8165 | admissions and dual enrollment credit the following academic  
8166 | year. The State Board of Education shall establish an appeals  
8167 | process in the event that a proposed course is denied which  
8168 | shall require a consensus ruling by the Department of Commerce  
8169 | ~~Economic Opportunity~~ and the Commissioner of Education within 15  
8170 | days.

8171 |         Section 249. Subsection (1) and paragraph (d) of  
8172 | subsection (4) of section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, are  
8173 | amended to read:

8174 |         1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-  
8175 | themed courses.—

8176 (1) (a) A "career and professional academy" is a research-  
 8177 based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum  
 8178 with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to  
 8179 priority workforce needs established by the local workforce  
 8180 development board or the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
 8181 ~~Opportunity~~. Career and professional academies shall be offered  
 8182 by public schools and school districts. Career and professional  
 8183 academies may be offered by charter schools. The Florida Virtual  
 8184 School is encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and  
 8185 professional courses as appropriate. Students completing career  
 8186 and professional academy programs must receive a standard high  
 8187 school diploma, the highest available industry certification,  
 8188 and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy  
 8189 partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in  
 8190 the state.

8191 (b) A "career-themed course" is a course, or a course in a  
 8192 series of courses, that leads to an industry certification  
 8193 identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List  
 8194 pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.  
 8195 Career-themed courses have industry-specific curriculum aligned  
 8196 directly to priority workforce needs established by the local  
 8197 workforce development board or the Department of Commerce  
 8198 ~~Economic Opportunity~~. School districts shall offer at least two  
 8199 career-themed courses, and each secondary school is encouraged  
 8200 to offer at least one career-themed course. The Florida Virtual

8201 School is encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career-themed  
 8202 courses as appropriate. Students completing a career-themed  
 8203 course must be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary  
 8204 credit if the credit for the career-themed course can be  
 8205 articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate  
 8206 in the state.

8207 (4) Each career and professional academy and secondary  
 8208 school providing a career-themed course must:

8209 (d) Provide instruction in careers designated as high-  
 8210 skill, high-wage, and high-demand by the local workforce  
 8211 development board, the chamber of commerce, economic development  
 8212 agencies, or the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

8213 Section 250. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) and  
 8214 subsections (5) and (6) of section 1004.015, Florida Statutes,  
 8215 are amended to read:

8216 1004.015 Florida Talent Development Council.—

8217 (2) Members of the council shall include:

8218 (e) The Secretary of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

8219 (5) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
 8220 provide administrative support for the council.

8221 (6) The council shall coordinate, facilitate, and  
 8222 communicate statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs  
 8223 for the state's health care workforce. Annually, by December 1,  
 8224 the council shall report on the implementation of this  
 8225 subsection and any other relevant information on the Florida

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8226 Talent Development Council's web page located on the Department  
8227 of Commerce's Economic Opportunity's website. To support the  
8228 efforts of the council, the Board of Governors and the State  
8229 Board of Education shall:

8230 (a) Provide 10-year trend information on nursing education  
8231 programs subject to the requirements of s. 464.019. The  
8232 Department of Health, the Board of Governors, the State Board of  
8233 Education, the Commission for Independent Education, the  
8234 Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, the Florida  
8235 Center for Nursing, and postsecondary institutions participating  
8236 in a state grant, fund, or performance-based incentive program  
8237 under s. 1009.89, s. 1009.8962, or s. 1009.897 shall provide  
8238 data, by institution and program, on:

8239 1. The number of student slots available.

8240 2. The number of student applications submitted, the  
8241 number of qualified student applicants, the number of students  
8242 accepted, and the number of students enrolled.

8243 3. The number of program graduates.

8244 4. Program retention rates of students tracked from  
8245 program entry to graduation.

8246 5. Graduate passage rates, as defined in s. 464.003, on  
8247 and the number of times each graduate took the National Council  
8248 of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination.

8249 6. The number of graduates who become employed as  
8250 practical or professional nurses in the state.

8251           7. The educational advancement of nurses through career  
 8252 pathways by comparing their initial degree to the highest degree  
 8253 they obtained for the preceding 10 years.

8254           8. The outcomes of students enrolled at institutions  
 8255 participating in the Linking Industry to Nursing Education  
 8256 (LINE) Fund under s. 1009.8962 or the Prepping Institutions,  
 8257 Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing  
 8258 Education (PIPELINE) Fund under s. 1009.897.

8259           9. The outcomes of graduates who have received a nursing  
 8260 student loan forgiveness repayment under s. 1009.66. Such data  
 8261 must include, for the previous 4 fiscal years, the number of  
 8262 graduates who have received a repayment, the amount repaid on  
 8263 behalf of each graduate, each graduate's employer of record for  
 8264 each repayment and the length of employment at each employer,  
 8265 and the level or levels of nursing licensure earned by each  
 8266 graduate.

8267           (b) Develop definitions for data elements and a uniform  
 8268 survey for use by the Department of Health, the Commission for  
 8269 Independent Education, the Independent Colleges and Universities  
 8270 of Florida, and postsecondary institutions participating in a  
 8271 state loan forgiveness program, grant, fund, or performance-  
 8272 based incentive program under s. 1009.66, s. 1009.89, s.  
 8273 1009.8962, or s. 1009.897 to collect data required under  
 8274 paragraph (a). The survey must include, but is not limited to, a  
 8275 student's age, gender, race, ethnicity, veteran status, wage,

8276 employer information, loan debt, and retirement expectations.

8277 Section 251. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
8278 1004.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8279 1004.46 Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable Housing.—

8280 (1) The Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable Housing is  
8281 established within the School of Building Construction of the  
8282 College of Architecture of the University of Florida with the  
8283 collaboration of other related disciplines such as agriculture,  
8284 business administration, engineering, law, and medicine. The  
8285 center shall work in conjunction with other state universities.  
8286 The Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable Housing shall:

8287 (g) Establish a research agenda and general work plan in  
8288 cooperation with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
8289 ~~Opportunity~~, which is the state agency responsible for research  
8290 and planning for affordable housing and for training and  
8291 technical assistance for providers of affordable housing.

8292 Section 252. Subsection (3) of section 1008.39, Florida  
8293 Statutes, is amended to read:

8294 1008.39 Florida Education and Training Placement  
8295 Information Program.—

8296 (3) The Florida Education and Training Placement  
8297 Information Program must not make public any information that  
8298 could identify an individual or the individual's employer. The  
8299 Department of Education must ensure that the purpose of  
8300 obtaining placement information is to evaluate and improve

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8301 public programs or to conduct research for the purpose of  
8302 improving services to the individuals whose social security  
8303 numbers are used to identify their placement. If an agreement  
8304 assures that this purpose will be served and that privacy will  
8305 be protected, the Department of Education shall have access to  
8306 the reemployment assistance wage reports maintained by the  
8307 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the files of the  
8308 Department of Children and Families that contain information  
8309 about the distribution of public assistance, the files of the  
8310 Department of Corrections that contain records of  
8311 incarcerations, and the files of the Department of Business and  
8312 Professional Regulation that contain the results of licensure  
8313 examination.

8314 Section 253. Subsection (3) of section 1008.40, Florida  
8315 Statutes, is amended to read:

8316 1008.40 Workforce Development Information System.—The  
8317 Department of Education shall:

8318 (3) Work with the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
8319 ~~Opportunity~~, the Department of Children and Families, and other  
8320 entities to define statewide education, workforce development,  
8321 and employment metrics and ensure the integrity and quality of  
8322 data being collected.

8323 Section 254. Paragraphs (c) and (f) of subsection (3) of  
8324 section 1008.41, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

8325 1008.41 Workforce education; management information

8326 system.—

8327 (3) Planning and evaluation of job-preparatory programs  
 8328 shall be based on standard sources of data and use standard  
 8329 occupational definitions and coding structures, including, but  
 8330 not limited to:

8331 (c) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

8332 (f) The Labor Market Statistics Center within the  
 8333 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~.

8334 Section 255. Subsections (2), (3), and (5) of section  
 8335 1011.76, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

8336 1011.76 Small School District Stabilization Program.—

8337 (2) In order to participate in this program, a school  
 8338 district must be located in a rural area of opportunity  
 8339 designated by the Executive Office of the Governor, and the  
 8340 district school board must submit a resolution to the Department  
 8341 of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ requesting participation in the  
 8342 program. A rural area of opportunity must be a rural community,  
 8343 or a region composed of such, that has been adversely affected  
 8344 by an extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that  
 8345 presents a unique economic development concern or opportunity of  
 8346 regional impact. The resolution must be accompanied by  
 8347 documentation of the economic conditions in the community and  
 8348 provide information indicating the negative impact of these  
 8349 conditions on the school district's financial stability, and the  
 8350 school district must participate in a best financial management

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8351 practices review to determine potential efficiencies that could  
8352 be implemented to reduce program costs in the district.

8353 (3) The Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~, in  
8354 consultation with the Department of Education, shall review the  
8355 resolution and other information required by subsection (2) and  
8356 determine whether the school district is eligible to participate  
8357 in the program. Factors influencing the determination of the  
8358 Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may include, but are  
8359 not limited to, reductions in the county tax roll resulting from  
8360 business closures or other causes, or a reduction in student  
8361 enrollment due to business closures or impacts in the local  
8362 economy.

8363 (5) Based on the availability of funds, the Department of  
8364 Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~ or the Department of Education may  
8365 enter into contracts or issue grants necessary to implement the  
8366 program.

8367 Section 256. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
8368 1011.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8369 1011.80 Funds for operation of workforce education  
8370 programs.—

8371 (2) Any workforce education program may be conducted by a  
8372 Florida College System institution or a school district career  
8373 center as described in this subsection and, if applicable, as  
8374 approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to s.  
8375 1001.03(15). Any instruction designed to articulate to a degree

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8376 program is subject to guidelines and standards adopted by the  
8377 State Board of Education under s. 1007.25.

8378 (c) A Florida College System institution or school  
8379 district offering a new workforce education program that is in  
8380 the statewide curriculum framework must be approved by the board  
8381 of trustees of the Florida College System institution or the  
8382 district school board based on criteria that must include, but  
8383 are not limited to, the following:

8384 1. A description of the new workforce education program  
8385 that includes all of the following:

8386 a. An analysis of workforce demand and unmet need  
8387 consistent with the information provided by the Labor Market  
8388 Statistics Center within the Department of Commerce ~~Economic~~  
8389 ~~Opportunity~~ for graduates of the program on a district,  
8390 regional, or statewide basis, as appropriate, including evidence  
8391 from entities independent of the technical center or  
8392 institution.

8393 b. The geographic region to be served.

8394 2. Documentation of collaboration among technical centers  
8395 and institutions serving the same students in a geographical or  
8396 service area that enhances program offerings and prevents  
8397 program duplication that exceeds workforce need. Unnecessary  
8398 duplication of programs offered by public and private  
8399 institutions must be avoided.

8400 3. Alignment of program offerings with credentials or

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8401 degree programs identified on the Master Credentials List under  
8402 s. 445.004(4).

8403 4. Articulation agreements between technical centers and  
8404 Florida College System institutions for the enrollment of  
8405 graduates in related workforce education programs.

8406 5. Documentation of alignment between the exit  
8407 requirements of a technical center and the admissions  
8408 requirements of a Florida College System institution into which  
8409 students typically transfer.

8410 6. Performance and compliance indicators that will be used  
8411 in determining the program's success.

8412 Section 257. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
8413 1011.802, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8414 1011.802 Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant  
8415 Program.—

8416 (2) The department shall administer the grant, identify  
8417 projects, solicit proposals, and make funding recommendations to  
8418 the Commissioner of Education, who is authorized to approve  
8419 grant awards for preapprenticeship or apprenticeship programs  
8420 with demonstrated statewide or regional demand that:

8421 (a) Address a critical statewide or regional shortage,  
8422 with consideration given to the information provided by the  
8423 Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of Commer  
8424 ~~Economic Opportunity~~, the Labor Market Estimating Conference,  
8425 and the Credentials Review Committee; or

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8426 Reviser's note.—Amended pursuant to the directive of the  
8427 Legislature in s. 147, ch. 2023-173, Laws of Florida, to  
8428 the Division of Law Revision to prepare a reviser's bill  
8429 for the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature to replace  
8430 references to the terms "Department of Economic  
8431 Opportunity" and "Secretary of Economic Opportunity,"  
8432 wherever they occur in the Florida Statutes, with the terms  
8433 "Department of Commerce" and "Secretary of Commerce,"  
8434 respectively.

8435 Section 258. Except as otherwise provided, this act shall  
8436 take effect on the 60th day after adjournment sine die of the  
8437 session of the Legislature in which enacted.